



FIRST PRESS

APRIL 2020

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Difference in
our community.**

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Casablanca, COVID-19, and Easter Sunday



Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller
Senior Pastor

Casablanca is a movie classic. When we watch the movie in the year 2020, we watch it as a period piece—a story about wartime romance and courage set against the backdrop of World War II. As we watch Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, we cannot escape the knowledge that the war is over—that the Nazis were defeated, and the world was saved from an unspeakable horror.

But the original audience had a different perspective. The people who saw the movie in 1942 did not know what we know. To both the characters of the movie, and the original audience, *Casablanca* was not about history—it was about current events. In 1942, while the movie was in production, North Africa was still under control of the Nazis and their allies. The memory of Pearl Harbor was less than a

year old and the battle was raging in the Pacific. India, China and most of the eastern Pacific were under Japanese control. D-Day had not taken place. The streets of Stalingrad were running red with the blood of two million people as the Russian Red Army tried to hold against Hitler's Panzer divisions. The horrors of Auschwitz and Dachau were yet unknown to the rest of the world.

When *Casablanca* came out, the world was very violent, dark and scary. The outcome of the war was not at all certain. One of the themes of the movie was the dilemma of Humphrey Bogart's character, Rick: whether one surrenders and plays it safe in the face of evil (like Louis) or fights on and helps the resistance in the hope that freedom, justice, and goodness will prevail (like Lazlo).

To us *Casablanca* is not a scary movie because we know how the war ended. We can see the big picture. We know the whole story. But the original audience did not.

The original disciples faced a similar dilemma. On Good Friday they saw their teacher, mentor and friend falsely accused as both a heretic and a criminal, cruelly tortured and brutally executed. Even though the Lord had warned them that he would be arrested, accused, tortured and killed, they were not ready. Their hearts could not stand the truth their eyes beheld.

To them it looked like the end:

the end of their work together... the end of Jesus' new vision for a kingdom of love... the end of hope that things might get better. On that Friday, everything changed. Friday evening and Saturday they were filled with fear that the temple authorities or the Romans might come for them next. They hid wondering if it would ever be safe to go out again. Would it ever end?

It had to be the longest Saturday in history because they did not know what we know.

They did not know what we know 2000 years later. They did not know that the cross was not the end of the story. They did not understand that on that Easter Sunday God would raise Jesus Christ from the dead, body and soul in glorious victory over death and all the evil and sin that had been mustered against him.

Like the characters and audiences of *Casablanca*, the disciples thought that fear and death had won. On that Holy Saturday they were in a "new normal." They did not know that they were only in the middle of the story.

Then Easter happened. God showed them, and us, that our God is the God who keeps His promises. The Angel at the empty tomb said,

...*"Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place*

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where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead..."

(Mt:28:5-7)

Jesus warned them about his death, but he also promised them that after three days, he would rise again. On Easter Sunday, God kept that promise.

In some ways we are like the disciples—living in Holy Saturday stuck between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We don't know when the COVID-19 crisis will end, nevertheless, we will celebrate Easter and remind ourselves that it will end. We will declare to the world that fear and uncertainty are not the new normal. We will celebrate Easter to proclaim that death and sickness are broken powers and that Jesus Christ has broken the permanence of disease and death. We will celebrate Easter to declare that He has won the war.

Because the resurrection really happened, we believe that God is real, that He loves us, that He hears our prayers, that He keeps his promises, and that He has the power to save us from any pestilence that assails us. And days, weeks or months from now, when we emerge from the tomb of quarantine and crisis, we will all get together to declare "He is risen!"

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Online Weekly Service

Date/time: Sundays beginning at 11:00 AM

Location: www.fpcsanantonio.org/media

We look forward to the time when we can see you in person again. During this season we will be having one Sunday service online at 11:00 AM each week. We hope you will join us at www.fpcsanantonio.org/media to hear the message of hope and grace in Christ Jesus.

Call the Church (210) 226-0215

No one is physically at the church as we are honoring the stay in place order. However, you can still reach us by calling during our (virtual) office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

Virtually Connect with FPC's Ministries

Ministries are still happening! We want to connect with you and continue to be the body of Christ in this unique time.

Care & Prayer

- Care and Concern Line is still active at 210-222-CARE (210-222-2273).
- Request prayer and access the church prayer list at www.fpcsanantonio.org/prayerwall.
- GriefShare & DivorceCare are meeting on Zoom on Wednesdays during their normal times. Contact Joe Moore at joem@fpcsat.org for instructions on how to connect and for more information.

Children

- Virtual content is being created for Sunday School lessons - see our Private Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2360593870898523/>) on Wednesdays and Sundays for new content.
- Watch our FPC Children's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/FPCSAChildren) and www.fpcsanantonio.org/children for updates.
- Parents, contact Rozlyn Miller at rozlynm@fpcsat.org for more information.

University

- Zoom Bible studies Sundays at 5PM and Wednesdays at 7PM.
- Alex is hanging out with new stories on Instagram @fpc_umin.
- We also have Twitter @fpc_umin & Facebook (www.facebook.com/2TenSATX).
- Email alexs@fpcsat.org if you need anything.

Young Adults

- Virtual content is being created for Sunday School lessons. Watch www.fpcsanantonio.org/ya for updates.
- Contact Carrie at carrie@fpcsat.org to get connected to the FPC Young Adult GroupMe chat.
- Contact Mitchell Moore at mitchellm@fpcsat.org or Carrie Everson at carrie@fpcsat.org for more info.

Missions

- The COVID Outreach webpage (www.fpcsanantonio.org/covid-outreach) is up and being updated regularly with how you can help locally during this time. **See page 10** for more information.
- Connect with FPC Missions on our Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/fpcmissions) for updates and ways to learn more about our Ministry Partners.
- Pray for our Global Ministry Partners who are also dealing with this pandemic in their respective countries. Visit www.fpcsanantonio.org/global-missions for the most recent updates from our partners.
- Join our 9:38 Mission Prayer Text line to receive three prayer updates a week. Email lindsays@fpcsat.org with your mobile number to join.
- Contact Lindsay Selli at missions@fpcsat.org for more information or to share ideas on how to help our community.

KEYS: Older Adults

- Connect with our KEYS Facebook page (www.facebook.com/FPC-Keys-816185838756355).
- We have started a private Facebook Group! Contact joem@fpcsat.org to get info on how to join.
- We are calling and emailing all KEYS members to check-in. If you have not received a call or email within the last week, please contact Joe Moore at joem@fpcsat.org or call the church at 210-226-0215 during our office hours of 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. We want your contact information to make sure you stay connected to FPC.

Youth

- We will be sending weekly devotions and videos for you to continue to grow in the Lord!
- Hang out with us on Instagram @fpcsayouth and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/fpcsayouth).
- Visit our FPC Youth webpage www.fpcsanantonio.org/youth for additional updates.
- Email Alex Clary at alexcc@fpcsat.org, Emily Yergler at emilyy@fpcsat.org, Mac at mccalebt@fpcsat.org, or shoot the Youth Ministry a DM to get more information.

Bob's No Fear Podcast

Date: Tuesdays & Thursdays
www.fpcsanantonio.org/media

We all need grace and encouragement in times like this. To share the good news of Jesus Christ in anxious times, Sr. Pastor Bob Fuller will be sharing a message of hope and victory through the “No Fear” podcast episodes on the FPC San Antonio Podcast Channel.

In this upbeat broadcast, he will share a short devotional passage and report on important news related to the FPC community. The podcast will be posted each Tuesday and Thursday.

Scripture & Song Podcast

Date: Two times/week
www.fpcsanantonio.org/media

Pastor Mitchell Moore and Contemporary Worship Leader Callan Brown are recording short scripture and song reflections to encourage us, and those episodes can be found on the same FPC San Antonio Podcast Channel.

Please listen, subscribe and share God's promises of strength and comfort.

Serve Your FPC Family

Volunteers Welcome for DivorceCare Ministry at FPC

DivorceCare is continuing virtually! Have you been separated or divorced? Have you learned valuable lessons and experienced healing from the hurt? Would you like to help others do the same? Then please call or email to learn more about the different volunteer opportunities with our DivorceCare ministry.

Contact Butch Gerfers, (210) 862-9998, gerfers@flash.net.

Have A Need / Fill A Need Ministry

How Can You Help?

FPC is beginning a “Have a Need/Fill a Need” Ministry to support FPC members in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are in need of volunteers who can assist members with grocery and medicine shopping/delivery, phone calls and prayers, or with assistance in learning how to stay connected with FPC online.

If you can help in any of these areas, please sign up today as a volunteer at www.fpcsanantonio.org/fill-a-need. Please fill out the online form with your name, contact information, how you can help, and you will be contacted with more information. As needs come to our attention, we will be contacting you regarding your availability.

If you know of someone who could use assistance in any of these areas, please encourage them to either call the church at 210-226-0215 or use the online form, also at www.fpcsanantonio.org/fill-a-need, to let us know their needs. We hope to be able to connect volunteers to those making requests within 24 hours.

Big Bend Trip

From March 7th to 14th, the Student Ministry went camping outside Big Bend National Park in Terlingua, Texas. Five students and three adult volunteers hiked, made smores, and learned about God's goodness: how He reveals Himself through creation, and how He uses creation as examples and symbols to communicate His faithfulness to us. We also went to the McDonald Observatory through the University of Texas to see a guided tour of the stars. It was a tremendous Spring Break trip, and thank you to everyone who provided support and prayers!

Blessings,

Alex Clary



HOLY WEEK

at First Presbyterian Church



We welcome you to join us this Holy Week & Easter as we virtually gather to celebrate and experience new beginnings in Christ. We are pleased to hold a number of online events during Holy Week this April and we hope to connect with you, your family and friends during this most holy time of the year to encounter God through First Presbyterian Church! Visit www.fpcsanantonio.org/holy-week-2020 to order Easter lilies by April 6 and for the most current Holy Week information.

APRIL 5
**PALM
SUNDAY**



4/5 - Palm Sunday

Online Service | 11:00 AM

www.fpcsanantonio.org/media

Celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Join in our online worship on our website or the mobile app (www.fpcsanantonio.org/mobile-app)

APRIL 9
**MAUNDY
THURSDAY**



4/9 - Maundy Thursday

Evening Online Service | 7:00 PM

www.fpcsanantonio.org/media

We will have a special evening online service streamed from Westminster Hall and featuring our 11:02 leadership that will focus on commemorating Christ's Last Supper with his disciples.

APRIL 10
**GOOD
FRIDAY**



4/10 - Good Friday

Special Podcast Episode | 12:00 Noon

www.fpcsanantonio.org/media

Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller will release a special Good Friday podcast episode focusing on commemorating Christ's crucifixion.

APRIL 11
**CHILDREN'S
EASTER EVENT**



4/11 - Online Children's Easter Devotional

10:00 AM | FPC Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/fpcsanantonio

Families with children ages 2 years through 5th grade are invited to virtually journey through stations of the Easter story with ideas for in-home interactive fun you can incorporate into your Easter weekend. Visit our FPC Facebook page at 10:00 AM for a video and live chat with our Children's Ministry.

APRIL 12
**EASTER
SUNDAY**
AT FIRST PRES



4/12 - Easter Sunday

Online Service | 11:00 AM

www.fpcsanantonio.org/media

We offer an inspiring online service celebrating the true meaning of Easter in Christ's resurrection and victory. Join in our online worship on our website or the mobile app (www.fpcsanantonio.org/mobile-app).

AN IRRESISTIBLE CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO THE **CORONAVIRUS CRISIS**

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (**Hebrews 13:8**). This truth is in contrast to the ever-changing headlines of our culture that are leading to heartache for many losing a handle on hope. Christians must abide in the unchanging person and truths of God and His word, to live with hope from our heart and in our homes as we share hope with our world. People are looking for stability and security and Christians will be irresistible in their faith when we live securely under the headlines of Heaven.

The Church has largely accepted two realities of the current crisis. First, we must love our neighbors through seeking to flatten the curve by practicing social distancing. Second, we are definitely heading into a new normal and none of us know what to expect. For an irresistible faith in and through this storm the Church must accept a larger reality, namely that our God Reigns and He is sovereign over every detail. The wind and the waves still obey His voice.

We must first acknowledge the remaining uncertainty: How severe will the crisis become? Will our healthcare system be sustainable? How severe will the downstream implications be for families, the economy, and our society? Acknowledging the uncertain nature of our times strengthens the transformation coming from believing in God's unchanging nature that must rule the hour.

.....
**Grace and promise in crisis
and calamity. Read Isaiah
52:1-10**

Isaiah's original audience was a people in exile with potential to panic, uncertain of their future, and devastated by a rapid change of the landscape of life. In this oddly identifiable historical context we see the shaping power of the headlines of Heaven which publish peace—Our God reigns. The reality of this revelation is a theme of Scripture and **Isaiah 52:1-10** shows us why it should be the theme of our song.

Grace awakens God's people. Like the prodigal son who came to his senses and returned to the Father (Luke 15), God's people are to "shake off the dust and arise," to awaken (52:1-2). The presence of the Lord empowers God's people. The Lord shows up in the midst of uncertainty, fulfilling His covenant promise with His presence, saying "Here I am." (52:3-6) God is not practicing social distancing. God is with us and His grace and presence empowers us to sing of his already accomplished but not yet fully applied salvation.

Isaiah 52:7-10 are lyrics to a song and God's people are commanded to sing in current circumstances (vs 8-10). There is broad participation in the song of salvation: messengers (7), watchmen (the prophets, 8), the city (9), and the ends of the earth (10). Paul picks up on the power of this passage in Romans 10:14-17, a portion of Scripture the Church uses to encourage God's people toward faithful participation in God's global mission. When we see this chorus sung along with Angels who sing with sinners who come home (Luke 15:10), we understand that participation in the song of salvation is cosmic in scope- will you join the choir?

..... Heavenly headline offering hope: "Your God Reigns!"

The substance of the song will be what carries Christians along through the current coronavirus crisis: YOUR GOD REIGNS (52:7). Believing this from our heart will come from preaching this to ourselves again and again, messengers with beautiful feet who publish peace and bring good news when the headlines of our world lead to hopelessness: YOUR GOD REIGNS. Living these lyrics with our lives will lead to contagious faith in our communities.

When the power of nations is paralyzed we must proclaim, OUR GOD REIGNS! When the supremacy of the economy is neutralized we must proclaim, OUR GOD REIGNS! When the fear of the unknown is crystalized we must proclaim, OUR GOD REIGNS! In our sickness and our sorrow, in our questions for tomorrow, we must proclaim that OUR GOD REIGNS! When we are parked on a powder keg of panic we must plug into the power of God's promise through proclaiming, OUR GOD REIGNS. Our creator God is on the throne, working all things according to the council of His will, for the good of those who love Him and for His own glory. OUR GOD REIGNS, and what the enemy intends for evil our God will work for good.

..... SHARE HOPE! Evangelism in crisis comes from believing the headline

There has been a lot of good writing on grabbing the rope of Christian heritage and running towards plagues with healing and (re)learning to love our neighbors. But what does it look like to believe the Heavenly headline from our hearts and live in hope and peace both in our homes and for those longing for hope?

Hunger for life- An elder in our congregation is in the highest category of vulnerability to COVID19. After our session meeting last week he said, "If I catch the virus I have a fourteen percent chance of dying. That also means I have an eighty-six percent chance of living- I want to live the eighty-six percent right now!" A hunger for life comes from an eternal perspective and will feed the hunger of our culture looking for life - OUR GOD REIGNS!

Stability & Security- I have a friend who works in finance and has every earthly reason to panic like his un-believing colleagues. This week I asked how I could pray for and encourage him and he said, “Please pray for my co-workers to ask me how I can remain calm when the markets are in turmoil. I want to share with them the security I have in the sovereignty of God.” My friend believes the headlines of heaven and is joining the chorus of salvation- OUR GOD REIGNS! I never thought I would say this but his feet are beautiful! (see 52:7) And so are all feet sharing the good news, publishing peace through proclaiming “Our God Reigns.” Feet stewarded for gospel proclamation show character and grit, communicating the urgency of a hopeful heart. Look at the feet pictured below: those feet belong to souls in Southeast Asia who are seeking to know and share the Good News.



Media on Mission- Consider another friend, a mom, who used her social media to share the lyrics of the *Song of Salvation*. After sharing a joyful picture of her children on Instagram she offered a short reflection on having joy in all circumstances, followed by an invitation for people to direct message her, to call to talk, and to pray. My mom-friend believes the headline of heaven- OUR GOD REIGNS! And her beautiful

feet are seen through inviting her followers to know the substance of the song- OUR GOD REIGNS!

Peace or Panic? Lord, help us with our unbelief!

Will the world witness secure hope in your heart and home? The grace of God awakens us and the person of God meets us, demonstrating the covenant faithfulness of the Lord to His promises. Our unchanging Lord Jesus rules over all that is seen and unseen (Colossians 1:15-20) so pick yourself up from the dust and despondency of the day and return to His love!

The world needs to see a people who believe the Heavenly Headline, OUR GOD REIGNS! Your neighbors may not realize it, but they long to join the choir of Christians who sing the song of salvation with our lips and our lives. The banner of the Lord’s sovereignty will give peace to our homes and hope to our neighbors when we believe. SHARE HOPE! And when you find yourself face down in the dust of despondency realize the grace and person of God are inviting you to arise, awaken, and to join the chorus of God’s song of salvation- OUR GOD REIGNS!

Jesus is on the throne, and He is making all things new. (Revelation 21:1-6)

MORE MERCY.

Rev. A. Mitchell & Lisa Moore

COVID OUTREACH

www.fpcsanantonio.org/covid-outreach

During this time of social distancing, we are given great opportunity to be the Church outside of the walls of FPC. Our community has great needs, but God has a greater plan for His kingdom. We are able to partner with God in this unique time by giving, volunteering, and praying. Even if you are not comfortable going to the store or delivering items, or you are sick or quarantined, please find out how you can creatively serve. Part of our mission as a church is to Love our City: learn below about ways you may serve, and check our continually updated list of opportunities at www.fpcsanantonio.org/covid-outreach.

- Childcare for Medical Professionals:

Many medical professionals are in need of childcare solutions as schools and childcare centers have had to close their doors. If you would like to serve through babysitting the children of medical professionals, please contact Rick at SWG Hosptial 210-413-6230, who is working to coordinate babysitters to help their employees.

- Pray for Neighbors and Ministry Partners:

Sign up by emailing missions@fpcsat.org to receive email updates with specific prayer requests submitted by our ministry partners, so you can include our neighbors and ministry partners in your prayers.

- Get to Know our FPC Ministry Local Partners:

Listen to our podcast SA Stories to learn more. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/sa-stories/id1458639220>

- Devotions for our Underserved Neighbors:

We continue to see a need to provide encouragement, hope, and the truth through God's Word to our homeless and underserved neighbors. You are invited to write one or more devotionals that we can provide to our ministry partners who are on the frontlines serving our neighbors. We are looking to provide 2-3 single page devotionals per week. If you would like to provide a devotional, please contact missions@fpcsat.org.

- Donate to Underserved Neighbors through CAM:

The biggest need for our ministry partner, Christian Assistance Ministry, is funding to buy things for our neighbors like groceries, hygiene items, baby items, etc. You may also physically donate items. Go to christianassistanceministry.org for a full list of needs and to provide donations.

- Volunteer with CAM:

There are several ways to continue serving with CAM. A list of updated ways to serve can be found on christianassistanceministry.org. Current volunteer needs include making sandwiches, putting together hygiene kits and 14-day bags of groceries, helping with mobile showers, and help answering the phones.

- Feed a Family Pizza with SA Heals:

Make a donation to SA Heals at www.saheals.com to buy a pizza through local East Side business, Tanks Pizza, to feed a family during this time. Their goal is to provide 100 families with a free pizza every week. #tankspizza4families

- Fill Emergency Needs on the East Side:

Partner with La Luz en El Barrio and Servant Partners by contacting mark.cloherty@servantpartners.org to coordinate hygiene & cleaning supply donations for dispersal to our East Side neighbors.



FPC Team Supports Clean Water, YPM Programs in Yucatan



- Adopt a Teen Mom & Her Family:

Contact YoungLives Coordinator, Christina Via, at christinavia@gmail.com or 678-993-6146 to be paired with a teen mom. Help provide encouragement through a card or letter and/or help supply her family's custom needs through groceries, food delivery, and/or care packages.

- Help FPC's New Foster Family:

Help provide home school supplies and other needs for our new Foster Family by buying from their Amazon Wishlist. Contact tbmccaleb@gmail.com for more information about providing items & meals.

On February 16th, 2020, a group of nine men from First Presbyterian Church traveled to Mexico to spend a week serving with The Yucatan Peninsula Mission (YPM), in Leona Vicario, Quintana Roo, Mexico. The men on the team were Bobby Mickler, Carlos Codina, Mitchell Moore, Brian Anderson, Don Ryan, Maarten Verheul, Ron Scheibe, Chris Morse, and Noble Gilmour.

Upon arrival, the men were eager to work, share in fellowship, and work some more. On this trip they contributed to something larger than what they were able to see during their week on site: This project will result in a pure water distribution system, providing greater access to clean water for the community.

In addition to construction work on the clean water building, the team was able to participate in the new "Come and See" program through YPM. The program works to connect mission teams with the local community as they complete small projects to improve the living conditions of families. The FPC team poured a concrete floor in the home of a local family, which will allow the mother, father, and three daughters to live in a space that is much cleaner than before. The team reported that time spent working with this family was minuscule, but the gift and resulting relationships built were not.

Before departing the Yucatan, the team visited the YPM Institute where they had the privilege of being introduced to several students

and professors. As they were leaving the university, one of the professors came to the van to say something that was on her heart. As she began to cry, she expressed her gratitude for the work being done in Leona Vicario. She noted that it was a great outward expression of the gospel and that for the locals, it means hope.



While the men on this team were able to serve the people of Leona Vicario, the people served the FPC team as well. Each of them walked away from this trip with new friends, stories to tell, and success worth celebrating. That being said, it's far from over. We are looking forward to continuing to deepen our relationship with YPM, and opportunities throughout this year to go and serve.

For more information about YPM and future trips with the Clean Water Project in the Yucatan, contact Lindsay Selli (lindsays@fpcsat.org).

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH COVID RESPONSE

JUDY KRUGER

President, Women of the Church



SCHEDULE CHANGES

As many of you are aware, the Session has prayerfully decided to close our church facility until the end of April to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus. Therefore, all WOC activities, meetings, and events that were scheduled through April 30 have been cancelled. These include:

- March 18 Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- March 23 Spring Luncheon
- April 6 Council Meeting
- April 7 Ladies Night Out
- April 11 Easter Egg Hunt and Program
- Various Circle Meetings

We hope to reschedule the Spring Luncheon; however, since the situation with COVID-19 is changing daily, we must wait to set a new date or make any plans. If it is safe to gather in a few months, we will reschedule the luncheon and will transfer all reservations to the new date. If we are unable to reschedule the luncheon, we will certainly issue refunds for all reservations. I ask for your patience as we wait to see how the church continues its response to COVID-19. If you purchased a ticket and are not comfortable waiting to see if/when the luncheon can be rescheduled, please contact Julie Hill (julie-harper@sbcglobal.net or 210-827-7692) for your refund.

CARE FOR EACH OTHER

Our church is working to help church members who have needs during this time of "social distancing." For those of you in Circles, I have no doubt that you are checking on each other and helping your members who need it...because that is what Circles do so well. Other church members who are not part of groups may also need help during this pandemic. We are working with the new Have A Need / Fill A Need Ministry (see page 5) and Deacons to best meet these needs. If you know church members who need assistance (grocery shopping, meal delivery, prayer, phone calls, etc.) please let me know. Also, if you are interested in helping church members who request assistance, please fill out a form online at www.fpcsanantonio.org/fill-a-need or contact me (judykruger@sbcglobal.net or 210-857-0122) or Betsy Zachry (betsyz@swbell.net or 210-262-1236) for more information.

THANKS & RECOGNITION

I would like to recognize and thank our Bible Moderators who faithfully teach our current study, *The Promised One: Seeing Jesus in Genesis* by Nancy Guthrie. Our sincere appreciation is extended to Barbara Winship, who serves

as Moderator Chairman; Becky Prichard, who adapts and teaches the study material; and to the Bible Moderators, who attend the monthly meetings and then teach the members of their Circles. Thank you all for teaching Scripture and encouraging women to spend time in God's word.

I would also like to feature the Literature Circle, where members and guests are treated to a wonderful book review every month. They meet in the **McCullough Room on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM**. At their next meeting (hopefully on May 12) the Circle will feature *Dear and Glorious Physician: A Novel about Saint Luke*, reviewed by our own Rev. Becky Prichard. The group includes both men and women, and all visitors are welcome. Their delicious refreshments are a fabulous bonus!

ENCOURAGEMENT

Even though we may feel isolated for a while, our powerful God never leaves us. Coronavirus is not too hard for the Lord—**nothing** is too hard for Him! (Jeremiah 32:17) In His power and with His presence, we will continue to love Jesus, love each other, and love our city.

LITERATURE CIRCLE

Due to the Coronavirus, the Literature Circle will not be meeting April 14. If the virus subsides and the church is able to resume activities once more, the book, *Dear and Glorious Physician*, will be reviewed by the Rev. Becky Prichard on **Tuesday, May 12 at 1:00 PM in the McCullough Room**. In that case *Daughter of a Daughter of a Queen* will be rescheduled to next fall.

There may be several that attend Literature Circle that do not use a computer. If you are in contact via the phone with them, please remind members or guests of the above information.

I will be in touch with you via e-mail if there are any changes to the information. If you have any questions or concerns, please notify me or Grace Clouse, our Literature Circle Chair.

It is important to stay in touch with family and friends while confined to our homes--especially for those who live alone. Phone others to bring comfort to their lives and know that God is walking by our side and will never leave us, as noted in Isaiah 41:10.

Blessings,
Willie Willming, Publicity

FIRST CUP READINGS APRIL, 2020

Dear Family in Christ,

First Cup is designed to assist you in the habit of daily Bible reading and prayer. The name is to remind you that as you reach for your first cup of morning coffee or tea, reach also for your Bible and prayer list. The prayers at the beginning of each week are taken from hymns, sometimes found in obscure hymnals in my library. They are intended to be read as your beginning prayer, to focus your mind on the daily readings that follow. May this spiritual discipline strengthen you as you face each day.

Blessings and love in Christ, Sandy Sturch



Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.— Psalm 143:8

- 1 Mark 14:1-16
- 2 Mark 14:17-42; John 13
- 3 Mark 14:43-15:47
- 4 Matthew 16:21-28; 27:62-66; 28:11-15

I know that my Redeemer lives! What joy the blest assurance gives! He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my everlasting Head! He lives to bless me with His love; He lives, to plead for me above; He lives, my hungry soul to feed; He lives, to help in time of need. He lives, all glory to His name; He lives, my Savior, still the same; What joy, the blest assurance gives; I know that my Redeemer lives! (The Methodist Hymnal, #445)

- 5 Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-35; John 20:1-23
- 6 John 20:24-31
- 7 John 21
- 8 Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11; John 14
- 9 Psalm 109:1-8 Acts 1:12-26
- 10 Acts 2
- 11 Acts 3; Deuteronomy 19:15, 18-19; Romans 1:16

Holy Spirit, breathe on me until my heart is clean. Let sunshine fill its inmost part, with not a cloud between. Holy Spirit, breathe on me; my stubborn will subdue. Teach me in words of living flame what Christ would have me do. Holy Spirit, breathe on me; fill me with power divine. Kindle a flame of love and zeal within this heart of mine. Breathe on me, breathe on me, Holy Spirit, breathe on me. Take Thou my heart; cleanse every part. Holy Spirit, breathe on me. (Worship in Song, #272)

- 12 Acts 4; 10:43; 1 Timothy 2:5
- 13 Acts 5; John 15:20-21; Ephesians 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 20:10
- 14 Acts 6-8:1a; Luke 21:10-19; Psalm 31
- 15 Acts 9:32-11:18; Romans 10:1-13
- 16 Acts 11:19-12:25; Jeremiah 20:11-13; Proverbs 12:7
- 17 Acts 13; 1 Peter 4:12-19
- 18 Acts 14; 9:15-16; 2 Timothy 3; Job 36:15

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood! Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me to Him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, should die for me? He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace! Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race. 'Tis mercy all, immense and free! For, O my God, it found out me. Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God should die for me? (Worship in Song, #221)

- 19 Acts 15:1-35; Romans 1:1-6; 3:21-31
- 20 Acts 15:36-16:40; 2 Corinthians 11; Hebrews 10:32-39; 13:3; Revelation 2:10
- 21 Acts 17; 1 Thessalonians 2-3
- 22 Acts 18; Romans 16:3-5a; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 1 Peter 1:22
- 23 Acts 19; Exodus 34:10-17; Leviticus 19:4; Psalm 135
- 24 Acts 20; 2 Timothy 2:1-13; 4:1-5
- 25 Acts 21-23:11; Matthew 5:10-12; Psalm 119:153-160

"Almost persuaded" now to believe; "Almost persuaded" Christ to receive; Seems now some soul to say, "Go, Spirit, go Thy way. Some more convenient day on Thee I'll call." "Almost persuaded," come, come today. "Almost persuaded," turn not away. Jesus invites you here; Angels are lin-g'ling near; Prayers rise from hearts so dear. O wanderer come! "Almost persuaded," harvest is past! "Almost persuaded," doom comes at last! "Almost" cannot avail; "Almost" is but to fail! Sad, sad, that bitter wail, "Almost," but lost! (Worship in Song, #233)

- 26 Acts 23:12-24:27; Psalm 91
- 27 Acts 25-26; Psalm 7
- 28 Acts 27-28:10; Psalm 69
- 29 Acts 28:11-31; 2 Corinthians 11:21b-12:10; Romans 5:1-5; 2 Timothy 1:8-2:13
- 30 Colossians 1:1-14; John 3:16-21; 8:12; 12:44-46; Ephesians 5:8-20; Psalm 112

FIRST CUP PRAYER LIST

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. (Romans 8:26).

[illegible]

ONLINE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

During this time of social distancing, we are offering online opportunities for Christian Education. Connect with one of our online small groups or Sunday School classes. Children's Ministry has a Private Facebook Group, where Sunday School content is posted Sundays at 9:30 AM. There are also mid-week Bible studies on Zoom for 5th grade on Wednesday's at 2:00 PM, and for 1-4th grade Thursdays at 2:00

PM. Youth has Zoom meetings for high school girls Tuesdays at 8:00 PM, high school guys Wednesdays at 8:00 PM, and middle school at Wednesdays at 5:00 PM. Watch for our weekly email and social media for the most up-to-date offerings.

For more info about Christian Education at FPC contact Becky Prichard (beckyp@fpcsat.org).

Adult Sunday Schools on ZOOM

For your Zoom meeting information please contact your class teacher, view our weekly church email, or call the church.

Young Couples Class

- Meets 8:30-9:30 AM
- Led by Jim & Janie Worth

Foundations

- Meets 9:30-10:30 AM
- Led by Court & Amy Allen

First Class

- Meets 10:00-11:00 AM
- Taught by Chuck Bunn

Connections

- Meets at 10:00-11:00 AM
- Led by Trebes Sasser & Boxy Hornberger
- For more info contact Charlotte Milner at charlottebellmilner@gmail.com

The Uncomfortables

- Meets at 10:00-11:00 AM

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Easter Lily Orders are still happening!

Please consider ordering a plant in honor or memory of a loved one to be displayed in the Sanctuary during our Easter online worship service. Cost is \$15 per plant. The deadline for receiving orders is Monday, April 6. A printed version of the form was published in last month's First Press magazine on page 16. Online and printable versions of the form can be found at www.fpcsanantonio.org/holy-week-2020. Checks can still be mailed to the church office c/o Sanctuary Flower Committee.



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