

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FPC Global Missions
welcomes the Blaine
Family back to USA.

[See article on pages 12-13]

Love One Another.

We are REUNITING
at on-site Sunday
Services.

*[See Pastor's Letter pages
2-3 and article pages
10-11]*

Children's Ministry
celebrated social-
distanced 5th Grade
Graduation.

[See Children's Ministry article page 6]

Virtual VBS
is Coming
July 27-31!

*[See Children's
Ministry article
page 7]*



JUNE 2020

Reunion Letter to the Congregation



Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller
Senior Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For the last few months you have received communications from me and the leadership of the church encouraging you, asking for your prayers and describing FPC's operations in response to the "Stay Home, Work Safe" orders issued by the civil authorities. Today it is my pleasure to inform you that our current season of dispersal is quickly coming to an end.

We held our first public worship service at Fourth and Alamo on Pentecost **Sunday, May 31**. Pentecost Sunday was the day that the church, newly empowered by the Holy Spirit, took the Lord's mission into the world. We believe that this was a perfect Sunday for

us to renew our public worship together.

The Session has adopted a staged plan allowing us to resume worshiping together while remaining safely distanced within the building. For this season, we will hold **two services (one traditional at 9:30 a.m., and one contemporary at 11:02 a.m.)**. In addition to our on-site services, we will continue to offer live-streamed and recorded services so that all of our congregation will have access to worship.

To love one another and to protect the health of our congregation, it is important that our services comply with public health and social distancing recommendations of both the CDC and the state of Texas. We will observe the following

- **Social Distancing**—In the services, it will be necessary for us to spread out to maintain social distancing within the Sanctuary and Westminster Hall. As families and individuals arrive, they will be seated by ushers to ensure proper spacing. Families living in the same home may sit together in worship and will be appropriately spaced from other congregants. Unfortunately, we cannot offer childcare during the worship services and children will sit with their families.
- **Face Masks**—The Session is

strongly recommending that we adhere to the governor's guidelines to wear facemasks in public. We ask that everyone please bring your own facemask to use while on campus.

- **Pre-Notification**—To prepare our facility for worship, we will be asking you to fill out an online Attendance Planning Form at fpcsanantonio.org/reunion designed to let us know if you will attend worship, and if so, which service and how many will be joining you from your immediate family. This is not a reservation. All seating will be first-come, first-served, in the Sanctuary, Westminster Hall or in our overflow room.
- **At-Risk Worshippers**—In consideration of the health of our members, we recommend that the most vulnerable in our congregation please wait for overall conditions to improve. The state and CDC recommend that those 65 and older and those at high risk[1] refrain from returning to on-site worship until public health conditions are more stable. We encourage all who are unable or uncomfortable to join us in-person to join us for worship online.

Although we are moving toward gathering for worship, we are not yet ready to resume our regular Sunday school and Christian education programs. Those

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ministries will be phased in as restrictions ease and as we adapt to new short-term health practices. We encourage all of our small groups and Sunday school classes to continue meeting remotely.

The reopening of our daily Children's Center will be coordinated with the staff, leadership and families of the Center. Children's Center operations will be coordinated with the ministries of the church but will follow a customized timeline.

During the week, the church facilities will remain closed to the public. Covenant partners wishing to meet with staff or to enter the church facilities should contact the church so that accommodations can be made. Group meetings will continue to be held remotely.

This reopening plan was adopted after long discussion and consultation with our covenant partners, committee leaders and staff. We have also consulted a number of other churches in our area and have borrowed heavily from their wisdom. There is more information yet to come and we will continue to update you with additional details as our procedures are refined. I

ask you to remember that these provisions are for the short term and not forever. The more safely and wisely we act in the short term, the sooner we will return to more open conditions for the long term.

Please join me in celebrating our homecoming. Our services will necessarily adapt to accommodate the best practices available so that we can join together while we protect one another. Thank you for your faithfulness and patience in yet another season of transition. As we move forward, we want to make sure that we are wise, compassionate and courageous in our reopening so that our coming together demonstrates our deep love for Jesus Christ, for one another and for the city.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

BOB FULLER,
Sr. Pastor, FPC San Antonio

[1] "At-Risk" is defined as those who are 65 or older, especially those with chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma; chronic heart disease; severe obesity; diabetes; chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis; liver disease; or weakened immune system.

- 4 Loving One Another: Stay Connected & Upcoming Weekly Services, How to Connect with FPC's Ministries, Have a Need?, Support Groups, Encouraging Podcasts, Pray with FPC, WOC Cookbook, Literature Circle Schedule**
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First Press is published monthly by the First Presbyterian Church San Antonio Communications Team. Deadline to submit content: the 15th of the previous month.

Hank Cherry: **Director of Communications**
Dorothy Hecimovich: **Graphic Designer**
Ross Brown: **Media Coordinator**
Richard Flores: **Production Coordinator**

Questions? Contact:

Hank Cherry (210-271-2728/hankc@fpcsat.org)

Weekly Sunday Services

Traditional Service: 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary

Contemporary Service: 11:02 AM in Westminster Hall

Online Service: 11:00 AM at 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 two on-site services: Traditional at 9:30 AM and Contemporary at 11:02 AM. We will continue to have one service online at 11:00 AM each week at fpcsanantonio.org/media. As we transition into REUNITING in person, please visit fpcsanantonio.org/reunion for the details we are observing to keep one another safe. However you decide to worship with us, we want you to hear the message of hope and grace in Christ Jesus.

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.

Children

- Join the Private Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2360593870898523/>).
- Zoom Bible Studies: High Five (5th Grade) on Wednesdays at 2PM and 1st-4th Grade on Thursdays at 2PM
- Parents, contact Rozlyn Miller at rozlynm@fpcsat.org.

University

- Zoom Bible studies Sundays at 5PM and Wednesdays at 7PM.
- Instagram @fpc_umin., Twitter @fpc_umin & Facebook (www.facebook.com/2TenSATX).
- Email alexs@fpcsat.org.

Young Adults

- 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.

KEYS: Older Adults

- 11:00 AM Friday KEYS meeting on Zoom.
- KEYS Facebook page (www.facebook.com/FPC-Keys-816185838756355)
- Private Facebook Group: contact joem@fpcsat.org to get info on how to join.
- Contact Joe Moore at joem@fpcsat.org for more information

Youth

- Instagram @fpcsayouth and Facebook (www.facebook.com/fpcsayouth)
- FPC Youth webpage www.fpcsanantonio.org/youth
- Email Alex Clary at alexc@fpcsat.org, Emily Yergler at emilyy@fpcsat.org, or Mac at mccalebt@fpcsat.org.

Missions

- COVID Outreach webpage (www.fpcsanantonio.org/covid-outreach)
- FPC Missions Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/fpcmissions)
- Visit www.fpcsanantonio.org/global-missions for the most recent updates from our Local & Global Ministry Partners.
- Contact Lindsay Selli at missions@fpcsat.org for more information.

Call the Church (210) 226-0215

The Church Offices remained closed to the public to help maintain a healthy and safe environment. However, you can still reach us by calling (210) 226-0215 during our (virtual) office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM or by emailing your ministry leader.

Have A Need ?

Need help grocery shopping?
Need someone to pray with you?
Want someone to call? Need help accessing worship services or classes online? Volunteers with FPC's Have a Need/Fill a Need program are ready to help:

- Pick up and deliver your groceries or medicines (you can reimburse us when we leave them at your door)
- Call you pray with you
- Call you just to talk
- Help you download the mobile App, log-on to hear a Podcast or watch online Worship.

You are not alone. Your FPC Family is here for you. Let us help! Go to fpcsanantonio.org/fill-a-need/ to sign-up and a volunteer will contact you shortly.

Want to make a difference in our neighborhood and community? Sign up for our COVID Outreach at <https://bit.ly/2XXYLqI>.

Virtual Prayer Room Wednesdays at 11:00 AM

Also, we have created our very own FPC Virtual Prayer Room. You guessed it! Below is the ZOOM link & phone number you can call to receive prayer every Wednesday. Please don't hesitate to ask for prayer.

Here is the log in information for the **FPC Virtual Prayer Room** each Wednesday from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Join Zoom Meeting <https://bit.ly/2S1jS7X> | Meeting ID: 826 9365 7302 - Password: 727274

Podcasts:

www.fpcsanantonio.org/media

Bob's No Fear Podcast

Date: Tuesdays

Sr. Pastor Bob Fuller shares a message of hope and victory through the "No Fear" podcast episodes on the FPC San Antonio Podcast Channel. He shares a short devotional passage and reports on important news related to the FPC community.

Scripture & Song Podcast

Date: One time/week

Pastor Mitchell Moore and Contemporary Worship Leader Callan Brown record a weekly short scripture and song reflection to encourage us.

Music @ First Podcast

Date: Wednesdays

Podcast host and Director of Music for FPC, Tom Dooling, explores the background and inspiration of the music used in worship at FPC. Released occasionally on Wednesdays, this podcast will both inform and inspire all that listen!

Calling All Kitchen Chefs and Weekend Grilling Warriors—We Need You!

Women of the Church will be publishing a cookbook to celebrate the 175th anniversary of our wonderful Church. After all, we Presbyterians like to gather around food!

What better way to celebrate our wonderful heritage than with family favorites from your kitchen or grill. It is our hope that this will become a well-loved family treasure!

We encourage you to share those wonderful recipes that are heavily splattered from years of preparing them for your weeknight family meals, holiday dinners or small group gatherings. If that particular recipe is under lock and key, then perhaps you

Support Groups at FPC

DivorceCare

Dates: Wednesdays, May 20 – August 12 | 6:00 PM

DivorceCare is a video seminar series featuring some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on divorce and recovery topics as seen from a biblical perspective. Please feel free to connect with Butch Gerfers at 210-862-9998 or gerfers@flash.net, if you have any questions.

GriefShare

Dates: Wednesdays, May 13 - August 5 | 10:30 AM & 6:30 PM

A weekly video and online support group to help you find and offer hope and healing for the hurt of losing a loved one. Contact Joe Moore at joem@fpcsat.org for instructions on how to connect and for more info.

- Sign Up for DivorceCare tiny.cc/fpc-divorcecare
- Sign Up for Evening GriefShare tiny.cc/fpc-griefsharePM

have others you are willing to share. There are no limits to the number of recipes submitted, provided we don't have ten of the same dish!

For those who have found tasty ways of cooking/baking using no "controlled substances" such as salt and gluten, please send your creations our way.

All we ask is that you review your quantities, your edits, and make sure the instructions are clear. Above all else, don't wait to submit! Please direct your wonderful creations to our wonderful Cookbook Chair, Judy Kruger at: judykruger@sbcglobal.net.

Pray at Noon

Today, take a moment to set your phone alarm to sound at NOON everyday and label it PRAY. Follow @fpcsanantonio on Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter for the daily prayer from members of the PMC. It will give you words to say when you don't have any right at that moment.

FPC Literature Circle

Books for 2020-2021

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Sept. 8 | <i>A Woman Of No Importance</i> by Sonia Purnell, Reviewer: Jane Hansen |
| Oct. 13: | <i>Dear And Glorious Physician</i> by Taylor Caldwell, Reviewer: Rev. Becky Prichard |
| Nov. 10: | <i>The Dutch House</i> by Ann Patchett, Reviewer: Jan Clayton |
| Dec. 8: | <i>Before We Were Yours</i> by Lisa Wingate, Reviewer: TBA |
| Jan. 12: | <i>The Secrets We Kept</i> by Lara Prescott, Reviewer: Martha Smith |
| Feb. 9: | <i>Love Deeper Than A River: My Life in San Antonio</i> by Lila Cockrell, Reviewer: Bill Hensley |
| Mar. 9: | <i>Homer's Odyssey</i> by Gwen Cooper, Reviewer: Jane Hansen |
| Apr. 13: | <i>Daughter Of A Daughter Of A Queen</i> by Sarah Bird, Reviewer: Ann Smith |
| May 11 | <i>Becoming Mrs. Lewis</i> by Patti Callahan, Reviewer: Martha Smith |

The Literature Circle meets the second Tuesday of the month from Sept. through May at 1:00 PM in the McCullough Room. Men & women are invited.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

PRAISE & PRAYERS

Every year, children from all over Texas are anxious to run into their Summer break: spend more time just relaxing and being home, traveling with family, or playing more games. They run and jump and say, "I hope this never ends!!" This year, however, looks mvery different for our kids. They haven't been on a break, but the perpetual never-ending downtime due to the Covid-19 pandemic has cast a shadow on the summer. For so many, they feel as if they can't take one more day of not seeing other peers. As Pastor Becky preached on May 17th, God is with us. We are not alone and the grief of this time is real for all students. Please allow me to ask you as a church family to pray for the following things and follow up with some praises that show how awesome God is!



Please Pray with Us:

- Pray for the parents at home who have been thrown into a homeschooling situation overnight and now must take the summer to keep the momentum for their families to stay active, healthy and as peaceful as possible

- Pray for Students - these kids want hope and they will search for glimmers anywhere. Pray that they hear the Word of God and see His goodness so that they can grab onto something that is lasting. Pray that the Lord would keep them from temptation
- Pray for our schools and administrators. Pray that they are guided by wisdom and the right choices are made for the Fall.

"The Lord inhabits the Praises of His people!" – Let us praise Him for His goodness!

5th Grade Graduation

Our 5th graders gathered in the Ave E parking lot on May 16th. These students were greeted by myself and welcomed to take a picture with their family after receiving their certificate and gifts. Alex Clary, Director to Youth and their Families was on Campus to introduce himself to these students as they will promote in the Fall. Pastor Becky Pritchard was on hand as well to cheer these students on as this was a special day for her too, Becky has known these graduates since Kinder. A special thanks goes out to our incredible High Five teachers, Mary Henderson and Nina Jordan. These ladies were also there to cheer kids on and pray for them. What a blessing to have such godly leaders in our student's lives!





Virtual VBS is Coming July 27-31!

Over the last 3 months, several discussions by the team of Christian Educators and Children's Committee for FPC have been speaking about summer programming for kids, mainly our annual on campus Vacation Bible School. We have been committed to making a formal announcement only after all the discussions that need to happen over all factors have taken place. There are many moving parts and VBS alone involves an entire church effort. Additionally, because we are in uncharted territory, and VBS in any given average year takes a great deal of planning and vision, we took all major factors and scenarios into consideration given the health pandemic and its risks to our church family. In saying this, after a unanimous vote by Children's committee, FPC will launch an **Online Version of VBS 2020** this summer. This unique and first time approach has my full support. Please understand that I am fully aware of the differing opinions on how our summer programming should flesh out, and be assured that in the end, although the city is opening up again slowly, we as a committee are not willing to rush into full, on campus, activities this summer. We take this approach in order to protect not only our kids and the family members they go home to, but also the volunteer adults who typically serve them during VBS week. I'm excited to see what the Lord does this summer through our families and kids. To give you a snap shot, kids can **sign up now to register!** They will receive a VBS kit to go through their week and the material will be launched online to follow July 27 -31! Additionally, kids will report daily to church using K-FPC news format! God is good, great things are going to happen and our mission is to spread the gospel and make it alive to kids!

ROZLYN MILLER

Ministry Director to Children and their Families

LOVING ONE ANOTHER

We have had four new babies to celebrate with First Pres! Our church is happy to welcome two lovely ladies and two handsome little fellas! Pray for these new families as they grow! If you wish to send these new babies a card or gift please **contact Rozlyn Miller** and she will let you know what is on their wish list!



Spencer Zayne Miller
Born 04/16/2020 | 7 lbs 3 oz



Olivia Joyce Buster
Born 04/06/2020



Norah Nabila Montgomery
Born 03/20/2020 | 7 lbs 13 oz



Kaleb Alejandro Salazar-Rosales
Born 5/23/20 | 6 lbs 2 oz

LOVING
THE CITY

Shut Down But Not Shut Out!

ANY WOMAN CAN

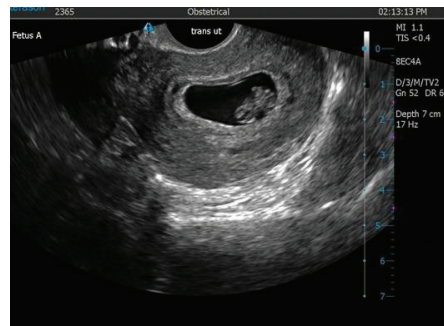


Just as we were hitting our stride with full appointment schedules, the pandemic struck. So, while our medical services for pregnancy and STIs were limited, the AWC counselors were going gangbusters with telehealth counseling through FaceTime and Zoom. Here is a glimpse of what's been going on!

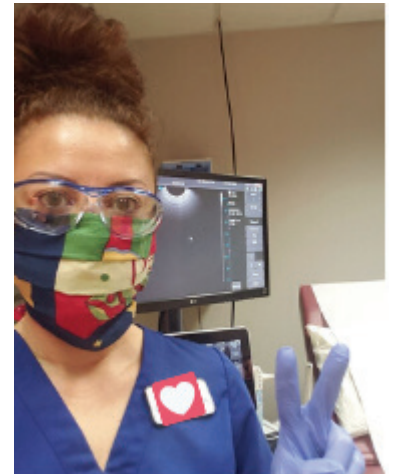
The counseling appointments look very different for us during the shelter-in-place order, but in spite of that, our counselors are keeping up with 69 of their regular clients and added 27 new clients. All six (three of whom work out of the KRL) collectively logged 528 hours of telehealth counseling during March and April.

When she saw the need for more support among her mom clients who are struggling to balance working from home and taking care of their families, one of our counselors, Christi, started an online group called

Mom Moments. Any given week there are at least eight moms who seek community and encouragement through Mom Moments. This is our first group to have organically sprung up and be completely Zoom – and it may stay that way – since moms have the hardest time finding time for themselves.



While our medical appointments were extremely limited during the quarantine, our nurse, Denise, was always on call, and there were at least a couple of sonograms each week. In March and April, 75% of the abortion-minded clients chose life!



Any Woman Can is hoping to open back up for business in the KRL on May 24. Thank you, First Presbyterian Church for your support, generosity, and confidence as we move forward – impacting lives for Jesus Christ one person at a time.

PRAYER IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY

Does this time of uncertainty call us to pray more? Martin Luther once said, “*To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.*”

We know that prayer connects us with God, the creator of the universe and father of our Lord Jesus Christ. How do we know God is listening? What are some ways we know He answers our prayers? Mining the Scriptures for prayers and their effects gives us clues. If we examine a few of the prayers of the people of God, we see the realities of answered prayer. God’s relationship with his followers throughout history is vibrant with prayer. One spectacular example is in Daniel 9.

Daniel is lamenting in prayer about the ways Israel has not followed God. The chapter describes Daniel’s cries that the people have not listened, and have acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from God’s commandments and rules. He further declares with God that they deserve the shame they feel, as all of Israel has let God down! All that God did during their delivery from captivity in Egypt is also recounted in the chapter. After asking Him to forgive all of Israel, he asks God not to delay in answering. While Daniel is still praying, Gabriel appears to Daniel and brings an answer!

How great would that be to have the angel Gabriel come to us as he did Daniel “in swift flight, at the time of the evening service,” to assure us that God heard our prayer and He is answering it. What Gabriel did was to tell God’s servant that at the beginning of his pleas for mercy, “a work went out”—an answer was coming. He assured Daniel that he is greatly loved. The angel then led him through an amazing vision.

This prayer was instrumental in the restoration of Israel to God.

Does prayer change people? The prayers of Cornelius, the Roman Centurion, are noted in Acts 10: “About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision, an angel of God come in and say to him, ‘Cornelius.’ And he stared at him in terror and said, ‘What is it, Lord?’ And he said to him, ‘Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter.’ Then, Peter arrived at Cornelius’ home, after praying and getting a puzzling vision of his own! All who were assembled there heard Peter preach the Gospel, and they were all saved according to Acts 10:45-48. Prayer changed those people; in fact, it changed their eternity.

Does prayer change circumstances? In the story of Peter in prison, the church was praying for his release. In Acts 12:5, the church people were gathered and praying when Peter knocked at the outer entrance. Surely, the church’s faith was strengthened as they saw Peter at their door during fervent prayer.

Elijah, “prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth”.

Prayer changes us when God answers our prayers and also by what appears to be unanswered prayer. God knows what is better for us than we do, for we don’t always know what to pray for. Paul writes in Romans 8:26, “... the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.” Paul continues in Romans 8:28 that “all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”

In Luke 22:42, while in the Garden of Gethsemane before the Crucifixion, Jesus said, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will, but yours be done.” Jesus knows the Father better than we do, and He went to Him daily. He knew that prayer makes a difference—it keeps us connected to God and changes us.

Our heavenly Father loves us and has already offered us forgiveness for our sins and eternal life with Him. He has given us the gift of prayer, which is the ability to communicate directly with the Holy Trinity.

Do you believe God hears and answers every prayer?

Kelly O’Dell Stanley, the author of *Praying Upside Down* and *Designed To Pray*, says that we can safely trust in His good and perfect will and know that when we approach Him in prayer, He will begin to align our will with His.

In this time of uncertainty, our prayer lives can be rich pools into which we bathe in God’s Grace, His will and His sovereignty. We can trust His answers. Let us pray!

PRAYER COMMITTEE

of First Presbyterian Church San Antonio

Sources:

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/prayer/can-prayer-change-god-s-will.html>

Kelly O’Dell Stanley, Crosswalk.com
Contributing Writer

Holy Bible NRSV & ESV



For well over two months, we have been eager to return to FPC for Sunday worship. Beginning May 31, we resume in-person services during the following times:

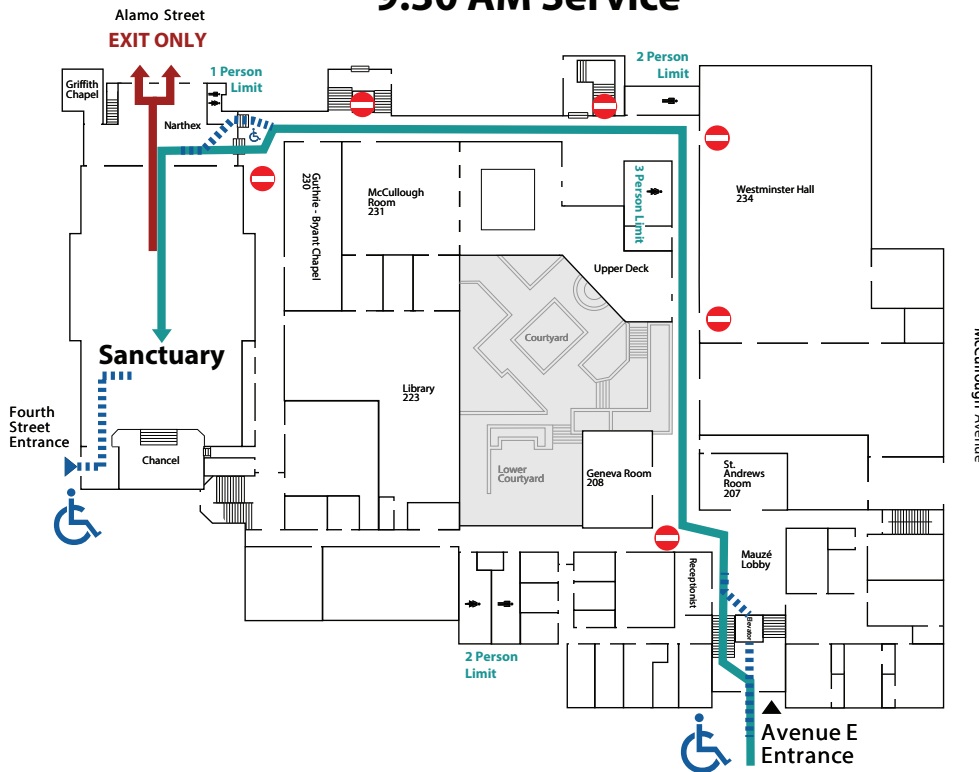
Traditional: 9:30 AM, Sanctuary

Contemporary: 11:00 AM, Westminster Hall

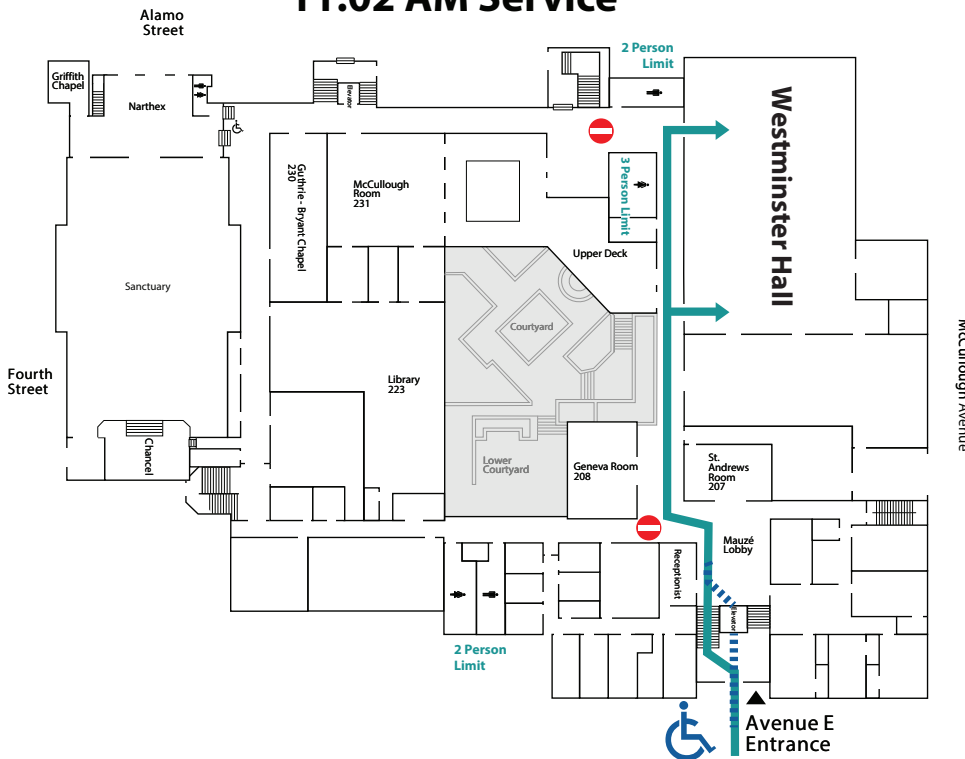
The following are our basic guidelines for in-person attendance:

- All congregants are encouraged to use the main parking lot at Avenue E and McCullough Ave.
- Entry will be through the Avenue E entrance only, with the exception of those with mobility issues who will have the option of entering the sanctuary through the 4th Street entrance.
- Observe all signs posted for safety and social distancing and follow the direction of volunteers and staff for entering, seating and exiting.
- Masks are strongly recommended. Greeters, ushers and staff will be required to wear masks. Extra masks will be available at the Avenue E entrance should you forget yours.
- Seating capacity will be limited due to reduced capacity with distancing. We ask for your patience, and willingness to continue to experience our online streaming service if unable to attend in person. Our online worship will continue at 11:00 AM at fpcsanantonio.org/media.
- Congregants will be seated by ushers on a first-come, first-serve basis, and we encourage you to let us know if you plan to attend by going to fpcsanantonio.org/reunion.
- Children will sit with their families. No childcare will be available until further notice.

9:30 AM Service



11:02 AM Service



Guidelines Continued

- The congregation will exit worship at the direction of our ushers, releasing the congregation by row or section. For those leaving our Traditional Service, please exit out the Alamo Street doors of the sanctuary, returning to your car via the sidewalk on 4th Street. For those leaving our Contemporary Service, please exit out the Avenue E doors. If possible, we ask that you not congregate in the lobby or hallway areas of the building in order to maintain social-distancing during entry and exit.
- We ask that those 65 and older or high health-risk individuals refrain from returning to on-site worship until public health conditions are more stable.
- All other activities, including Sunday school and Bible studies, will continue to be held online.

For more details to help you prepare for your return to worship:

fpcsanantonio.org/reunion

For more information on decisions and plans from the Session:

fpcsanantonio.org/session

GLOBAL MISSIONS

WELCOME BACK BLAINE FAMILY

We arrived in Cambodia in 2012 with a desire to see God's Kingdom come in both word and deed. As we thought and prayed about where we would join God in His work around the world, the Lord kindly led us to the country of Cambodia.

Today's Cambodia is like a coin with two sides. In many ways the country is starting to emulate the success of its neighbors Thailand and Vietnam. Hurlled forward by big brother China, many young Cambodians are experiencing unprecedented opportunities and hope for the future. New roads, nicer buildings, and even iPhones stand as signs of the times in the capital Phnom Penh. That's the heads side of the coin.



Then there's the tails side of the coin. Behind the newly painted facades lies a world very much the same. Under pressure from ministries like IJM, the trafficking industry is changing from a tourist attraction to a decentralized underground network. In downtown Phnom Penh, the government displaces whole communities from their homes in the name of progress. Just outside the city, families struggling to live on two dollars a day face malnutrition, poor education, and murky prospects for the future. Without hope, some are desperate enough to consider their children as revenue generators. Poorly run orphanages are shuttering to make way for a new foster care system experience growing pains. In every alleyway, the marginalized are falling through the cracks. In the village, people are protesting the destruction of their land by international companies taking advantage of illegal land consignments. The list goes on and on.

Spiritually, the church in Cambodia limps forward at under 1% of the population. And even within the church many remain uneducated, uncommitted and undisciplined.



The rest of the population struggles to make sense of a highly religious past, filled with folk Buddhism and idol worship, and a new consumer reality.

Within all of this, there lies a great opportunity for the gospel. As the country lurches forward, new openings are forming in caring for orphans and building the church in Cambodia. 1 John 2:8 says, "...darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining." That is why we exist, and what we hope to continue to see happen in this country!

During our time in Cambodia, we were able to serve in two capacities. For our first four years, we engaged with a local ministry named Children In Families. The ministry works to help place orphaned and vulnerable children in loving families. Once the children are

placed with the families, our teams of dedicated staff members work with the families and local churches to promote healing, nurture, and long-term growth of each child.

What started as a “mom and pop” type ministry quickly began to grow with new staff members, funding, systems, and even international attention as a model for helping children to heal and thrive in loving families. By happenstance, the internal database that we developed to help organize our services has now become the main database for all child protection programs in the country of Cambodia!



More importantly, we worked hard to maintain our founding values of dependence on God, seeing children as God’s beloved and not just “cases”, and seeking to fully engage both the church and the public sector in helping these children to grow and thrive. God blessed the ministry and today it has over 35 staff and has helped hundreds of children and families

around the country. We’ve also seen churches engaged in this wonderful work of caring for vulnerable children.

As our second main capacity, and for the four final years in Cambodia, we served in helping to re-plant a city church named Church of Christ Our Peace. Founded in 1993 the church was one of the first Christian churches in the city once the country re-opened to foreigners. After growing for a decade, the church membership sadly diminished as the city of Phnom Penh grew and developed. The original congregation of urban poor were displaced and no longer able to be a part of the church, and the church essentially needed a re-plant.

We were able to serve on both the English and Khmer side with Jesse as a pastor and Sarah as a super hero community builder and homeschool mom! During our time at the church, the Lord guided us to engage in outreach to draw new believers, hire and develop new local pastoral staff members, and help to build a growing and



healthy congregation. They brought us people to baptize and others seeking a renewal of their faith. We were able to engage in service to the poor as well as engage with the growing Cambodian middle class.

We are most excited about the fact that we leave behind a church with strong Cambodian leadership that, Lord willing, is established to bear fruit for years. May the Lord continue to bless and guide His church!

Thank you all again, and we hope to be able to connect with you soon.

In Him,
Jesse, Sarah, Clara, Adelai,
Ridley



COVID OUTREACH

www.fpcsanantonio.org/covid-outreach

We continue to be given the 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. Part of our mission as a church is to **Love our City**: learn about ways you may serve at www.fpcsanantonio.org/covid-outreach.

OUTREACH IS ONGOING

Ongoing support areas are included in the list below with details on the COVID-Outreach website. Sign Up at tiny.cc/outreach-form or email Lindsay Selli at missions@fpcsat.org if you would like to participate or have new ideas for city outreach during this time.

- Pray for Local Missions during COVID-19

- Sew & Craft Masks to Love Our City

- Serve Medical Professionals

- Serve FPC's New Foster Family

- Serve through Prayer and Sharing the Word

- Love Our Neighbors through ministry at CAM

- Serve our Neighbors on the East Side

FPC'S COVID OUTREACH IMPACT:

The need is great, but through God's grace, FPC is continuing to live out our mission by Loving Christ, Loving One Another, and Loving the City. Throughout the COVID pandemic, we as a church have given, served, and prayed and we know our FPC family is participating in many more ways all over the city. We wanted to include a record of your faithfulness to God's call.

LOCALLY:

Financial Gifts

- CAM
- Pay It Forward
- Daily Bread Ministries
- Faith Based Institute
- SA Heals

Serving

- With Threads of Love for Local Frontline Workers (masks)
- SW Baptist Hospital – cookies and cards
- Methodist Hospital – chocolates and Callan Brown mini concert
- CAM, SA Hope, Catholic Worker House – 3-4 devotionals a week for their clients
- The Lindsay Family – caring for our FPC Foster Family through the FPC L.O.V.E Initiative
- Young Life/YoungLives – connecting with students in a variety of ways

Meals

- SA Hope Center
- CAM
- Pay It Forward
- SA Heals
- Wiatrek's Meat Market food give away

Prayer

- Virtual Prayer Room hosted a time of prayer with several ministry partners and for Local Mission Partners and our City

GLOBALLY

Financial Gifts

- Pastor Lian Thang – gift in memory of Will Carter – not COVID specific
- The Blaine Family – gift to thank them for their service – not COVID specific
- YWAM Budapest – The Johnson Family
- YWAM N. Africa – The Abdou Family
- RPC Haiti – The Delfils Family
- Cristina Inchaustegui – AMO Latin America
- World Renew
- YPM
- Chris and Francelia McReynolds – AMO Mexico
- Food for the Hungry (DR and international)
- Genesis EPC (Mission South Partnership)
- 3 Mexican Seminaries and several Pastoral Partnerships in Mexico and along the border through the FPC Mission South Taskforce

Serving

- Zoom calls to care for:
 - » Proyecto Amistad
 - » YPM
 - » RPC Haiti
 - » YWAM Budapest
 - » YWAM N Africa
 - » Tolle Lege
 - » Chris and Francelia McReynolds
 - » Cristina Inchaustegui
- Upcoming Virtual Mission Trip to the DR with Food for the Hungry

Prayer

- Hosted a Zoom Prayer Room with several mission partners to pray with and for them and their ministries

In some way, every single one of our mission partners has been reached out to and cared for through the work of our Committees and other members of the church. Locally and Globally, there has been connection with all of our Missions Partners to care for them, understand their needs, and come up with solutions to help where we can.

- Join 9:38 Mission Text Line: email your number to lindsays@fpcsat.org to receive up to three prayer updates a week, as we pray with and for our ministry partners (local and global) and the city.

- Get to Know our FPC Ministry Local Partners: Listen to our podcast SA Stories to learn more. <https://apple.co/3aufDrN>

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC VIRTUAL MISSION TRIP



Join us for our very first Virtual Mission Trip! We will gather (virtually) on **Wednesday, June 10 from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM** with Food for the Hungry (Dominican Republic). We will connect with the leaders of Food for the Hungry in the DR to learn more about the ministry and their work in the community of El Cercadillo. We will have interactive activities, testimonies from local leaders, and a video with recent footage of the community so you can get a glimpse of what life is like there! To help us get into the DR Spirit, you will be sent a recipe for a traditional Dominican dinner that you can prepare ahead of time as we share in a meal, fellowship and fun. We hope you will join us!

To RSVP for the Virtual Mission Trip, please sign up at bit.ly/VirtualMissionTripDR. If you'd like more information, please contact carrieefpcsat.org or lindsays@fpcsat.org.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH JUNE UPDATE

JUDY KRUGER

President, Women of the Church



"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now..."

- Philippians 1:3-5

Thanks be to God for the women of First Presbyterian Church! Their deep love for Jesus and their faithful service to Him have inspired me all during my year as President of Women of the Church. They always do what they promise to do, they do it on time, and they do it with excellence. I have been privileged to witness their faith in action.

Since partnering with Threads of Love a few weeks ago, a group of women from our church sewed over 200 masks that were given to hospital employees, first responders, and several other organizations in our city. Another group of women in our church helped by donating fabric, cutting fabric and ribbons, and picking up and delivering sewing supplies and completed masks. Well done, ladies!

Plans to publish our WOC cookbook this fall are progressing. Thank you to those who have submitted recipes. We need many more favorite, tried-and-true recipes! Please send them to me at judykruger@sbcglobal.net.

It has been an honor to serve as President of Women of the Church this year. Normally new officers would already be installed and beginning to make plans for the upcoming year; however, our "normal" has changed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We are working to find a date to install the new President, Betsy Zachry, and her officers. The last part of my term did not go according to my plans; however, I know that the Lord was not taken by surprise. I trust that His plan is perfect even when I do not understand. The women of this church will continue to serve the Lord faithfully and joyfully. Please join me in praying for Betsy and all who will serve with her on Council next year. We will love and support them, for *"he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 1:6.)

Judy Kruger

KEYS UPDATE

REV. DR. JOE MOORE
Minister for Older Adults and
Congregational Care

KEYS has enjoyed staying connected via Zoom over the last two months. We began with a "KEYS Coffee Hour" and then progressed into having speakers in May. We enjoyed time with Peggy Brown, Ed Cross, The Night Watch woodwind ensemble from the Air Force Band of the West, and Chris and Kathy Scruggs.

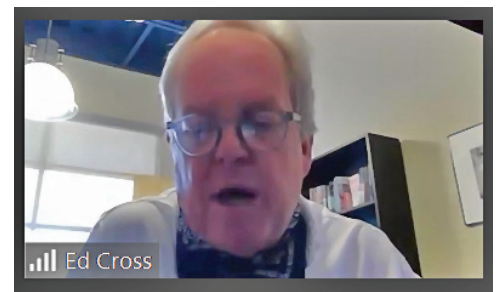
We will continue pushing through this pandemic via Zoom. We will meet in June even if we do not have a speaker. Working on Maple Sugaring in Vermont, Monarch Butterflies, Hemisfair, and a few

others. If you have suggestions for potential Zoom speakers please let us know.

Keep connected to FPC through the online services that will continue even after our services begin on site.

Be safe and be smart as you decide to venture out as things begin to open up.

- Joe Moore



FIRST CUP READINGS JUNE, 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 Luke 11:29-32; Jonah 1; Psalm 89:9; 107:29
- 2 Jonah 2; Jeremiah 10:1-16; Psalm 88
- 3 Jonah 3; Jeremiah 18:1-11; Isaiah 29:16;
Romans 9:19-26
- 4 Jonah 4; Joel 2:12-14; Psalm 72
- 5 Jeremiah 1:1-10; 5:14; Exodus 4:10-12;
Isaiah 51:12-16; Mark 10:17-20;
John 12:47-50
- 6 Jeremiah 1:11-19; Micah 4:1-7; Romans 2:5-16;
John 4:27-42; Matthew 9:35-38

If my people's hearts are humbled, if they pray and seek my face; if they turn away from evil, I will not withhold my grace. I will hear their prayers from heaven; I will pardon every sin. If my people's hearts are humbled, I will surely heal their land. Then my eyes will see their sorrow, then my ears will hear their plea. If my people's hearts are humbled, I will set their nation free. (Australian Hymn, No. 278)

- 7 Jeremiah 2:1-13; 2 Kings 17:1-23; Isaiah 44:6-23;
Romans 1:18-22; Psalm 51:1-17
- 8 Jeremiah 3:6-25; Psalm 16; Colossians 1:9-23;
Romans 1:28-2:16; 1 Peter 1:3-9
- 9 Jeremiah 4; Amos 5; Malachi 4:1-6
- 10 Genesis 6:1-8; Genesis 18:16-33; Jeremiah 5:1-19;
1 Peter 3:8-22
- 11 Jeremiah 5:20-31; Isaiah 59:1-15;
Ecclesiastes 7:27-29; Psalm 94;
Hebrews 10:26-31
- 12 Jeremiah 6; Deuteronomy 32:1-47; Isaiah 42:18-25;
2 Timothy 4:1-5
- 13 1 Kings 9:1-9; Jeremiah 7:1-20; Ezekiel 18:29-32;
Romans 7:1-8:4

O God, our Help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our Shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal Home: Under the shadow of Thy throne, still may we dwell secure; Sufficient is Thine arm alone and our defense is sure. Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame, From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same. O God, our Help in ages past, our hope for years to come, Be Thou our Guide while life shall last, And our eternal Home. (Worship in Song, No. 14)

- 14 Jeremiah 7:21-8:3; 2 Kings 21:1-15; 2 Kings 23:1-25;
1 Corinthians 3:16-17

- 15 Jeremiah 8:4-9:6; Isaiah 1:1-20; Matthew 21:18-22;
Mark 11:12-17; Matthew 7:15-20
- 16 Jeremiah 10:1-16; Isaiah 40:21-31; John 1:1-14;
Colossians 1:15-23
- 17 Deuteronomy 29-30; Jeremiah 11:1-17
- 18 Exodus 20:1-21; Deuteronomy 12-13; Jeremiah 13
- 19 Jeremiah 14; 17:1-10; Deuteronomy 28:15-24;
Ezekiel 34:20-31
- 20 Jeremiah 16:10-21; 1 Kings 9:6-9;
Psalm 106:40-45; Psalm 107

Before the Lord we bow, the God who reigns above, And rules the world below, boundless in power and love. Our thanks we bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise to heaven's high king. Earth, hear thy Maker's voice, thy great Redeemer own. Believe, obey, rejoice, and worship Him alone. Cast down thy pride, thy sin deplore, and bow before the Crucified. (Lutheran Worship, No. 500)

- 21 Jeremiah 17:19-27; Exodus 20:2-17; Isaiah 56;
Matthew 12:1-14; Hebrews 4:1-13
- 22 Jeremiah 18:1-11; Isaiah 29:13-16; 64:8-12;
Romans 9:14-21
- 23 Jeremiah 22:13-23; Jeremiah 33:14-16;
Zechariah 9:9-17; Matthew 7:15-25
- 24 Jeremiah 23:1-8; Isaiah 53:1-7; Acts 7:51-53;
Psalm 43
- 25 Jeremiah 23:9-15; Micah 2:6-11; Ezekiel 13;
1 John 4:1-6; 2 Peter 2:1-3
- 26 Jeremiah 23:16-40; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; 2 Peter 2;
James 3:1
- 27 Jeremiah 24; Romans 9; James 2:14-26

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Thou art the Potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me After Thy will, While I am waiting, Yielded and still. Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Search me and try me, Master, today. Whiter than snow, Lord, Wash me just now, As in Thy presence Humbly I bow. Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own Way! Fill with Thy Spirit Till all shall see Christ only, always Living in me! (The Hymnbook, No. 302)

- 28 Jeremiah 25:1-14; Psalm 28; 94
- 29 Jeremiah 25:15-38; Psalm 44; 71
- 30 Jeremiah 29:1-14; Romans 10

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]

NEW COVENANT PARTNERS



Nancy Beeson



Kristen Bell



Josh Bell



Muffin and Morris Camp



Tom Hawkes



John McMillan



Debra Salge



Donna Smith



Mike and Kati Smith



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