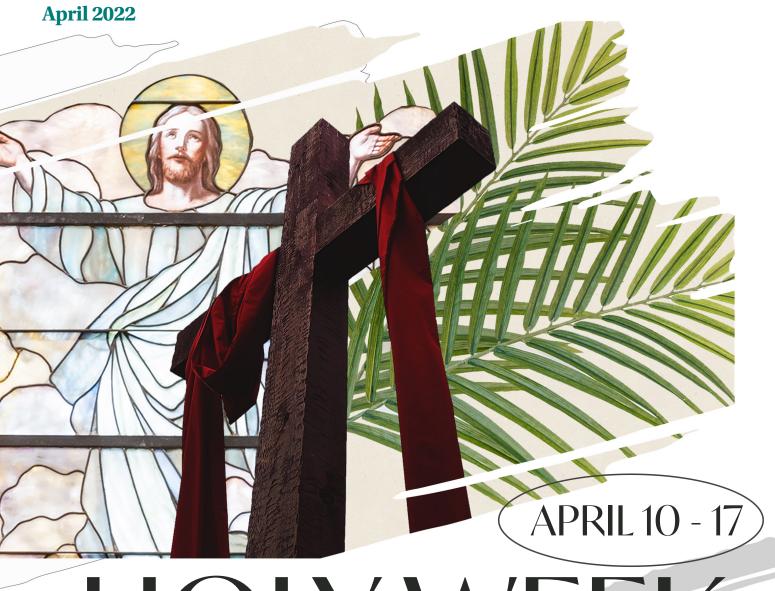


Check out our Upcoming Events!

(See article pages 4-5)



Easter at FPC (see feature article page 6)

Fiesta is here and our medals are in!

(See back page ad)

National Day of Prayer & Prayer Walk

(See article page 9)

Mission Trips 2022

(See details page 5)

#### Pastor's Article



LOVING CHRIST. LOVING ONE ANOTHER. LOVING THE CITY.

### "The Lord is with us, He is strong!"

#### **Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller** Senior Pastor

Spring is here! Fiesta decorations are everywhere, and after two years of COVID restrictions and uncertainty, it finally feels like we will have a beautiful, "normal" Easter. Halleluiah!

But, just as we were beginning to think that everything would "get back to normal," something happened. On Thursday, February 24, just as the season of Lent began, the Russian Federation invaded Ukraine. As Mark Twain once said, "History may not repeat itself, but it often rhymes," and for those of us who lived through the 1980's and survived the Cold War, the headlines and tension of the world-situation seem coldly familiar.

On behalf of the church, Irina and Aaron Villastrigo and I travelled to Poland to connect with several mission partners. Rather than cancel the trip, we felt that that God was calling us to see the situation first-hand and to encourage our partners.

While we were there, we had opportunities to worship with our mission partners, to pray with them, to counsel one another and to talk about God's vision for our shared ministry. We also had the opportunity to meet and hear their stories of a number of Ukrainians who were fleeing their country to escape the ravages of war.

In the words of Lena, a refugee from Kyiv, "Only 21 days ago we were like you - naive in our belief that that war would not start. That it was merely impossible in our times. On our land. From our neighbor."

"My country is being deliberately destroyed. My people are being mercilessly killed. The world is watching and applauding the courage, but it doesn't keep my men in Ukraine safe from the next barbarian bombing. It will not return the dead, heal the crippled, undo the trauma."

Lena's story, like so many others, is heartbreaking. But her journey out of Ukraine has also been of persevering faith. She said, "By the grace of God, we were fed twice in the church, yesterday for the first time the children were washed... The Lord is with us,

He is strong!" How do you keep going when your world and your life is spinning out of control?

The Author of Hebrews wrote: At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. 9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. (Hebrews 2:8-9)

When we ask, "What hope do we have to share with people in a desperate situation, the answer is Easter. Look again at verses 8 and 9:

"At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him." The Author of Hebrews says that there is nothing that is beyond the authority and control of Christ Jesus (verse 8, he left nothing outside his control), and yet so often our lives and our world seem utterly "out of control." Our hearts tells us that "God is in charge, and that he cares," but how do we know that when our eyes see only restless evil and reckless hate? To paraphrase, "it does not look like God is in control at all!"

"But," says the author of Hebrews, even though we see a world out of control, we also see Him. We see Jesus, who suffered death (crucifixion) but crowned with glory and honor (who was raised bodily from the dead and is now at the right hand of God in victory).

When we can't see God's hand, we look to his Son. The Easter message is that even when it looks like the world is out of control, He is with us. "We see him," or as Lena put it, "the Lord is with us, He is strong!" He is stronger than bombs, stronger than guns, stronger than thirst, stronger than politics and stronger than death.

On Good Friday, it looked like death and evil had won. To the disciples, it looked like God had lost control. Their beloved teacher was dead. They were fugitives in fear of their lives, and their hope for a brighter future was smashed. But then on Easter morning God

raised Jesus Christ from the dead and won the greatest victory ever won, defeating the one opponent that has stalked humanity since the garden of Eden. The resurrection is our proof that all things are subject to him, even life and death.

The Easter message is that even when the world is out of control, He is with us. "We see him," or as Lena put it, "the Lord is with us, He is strong!" One of the most important things that we can do for people in a time of tragedy or crisis is to "show up." Sometimes it is not the things we say that give the most comfort for people, but more simply our presence. Our willingness to be there with them when things are hard.

Easter is the climax of the whole story of God "showing up" to be with his people. It is about the God who understands us because He became flesh and endured every heartbreak and challenge we face— even death. We believe in God who showed-up for his people.

The Easter message is a crisis message. It is the critical news that even though we do not yet see everything in subjection to him (war, cancer, poverty, mental illness, addiction), that we see Him, trust that he is real, he loves us, he cares and has the power to save us, even if we die. While we do pray for a real-time relief from suffering and tragedy and restoration, our hope is in the resurrection. Our hope is eternal. Our inheritance is unfailing, kept in heaven for us. (1 Peter 1:3–9)

He proved his love for us by sending his son to give his life on the cross. And he proved his power to make a difference in our lives, now and forever, by raising Jesus from the dead. "At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him."

Because Jesus is alive, our hope is alive. The Resurrection is proof that "The Lord is with us, He is strong!"

Grace and Peace,

#### FIRST PRESS - APRIL 2022

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First Press is published monthly by the First Presbyterian Church San Antonio Communications Team.

Want to be featured in FIRST PRESS?

Deadline to submit content: the 15th of the previous month.

Hank Cherry: Director of Communications

Abigail Ensley: **Graphic Designer** Ross Brown: **Media Coordinator** 

Questions? Contact: Hank Cherry (210-271-2728/hankc@fpcsat.org)

## Save the Date

#### **SPRING 2022 MINISTRY GUIDE**

Now updated for spring! Check out all of our Sunday school classes, Bible Studies, programs and many more ways to get connected at FPC. We look forward to seeing you this winter at FPC! Visit fpcsanantonio. org/spring2022 to view or download the Spring 2022 Ministry Guide.

#### LITERATURE CIRCLE

#### Tuesday, April 12 | 1:00 PM | Westminster Hall

The Literature Circle introduces the Rev. Mark Doty, Ph.D. as the guest reviewer of the book, BENEATH A SCARLET SKY, by author Mark Sullivan, on Tuesday, April 12, in the McCullough Room. It is a story of a forgotten Italian hero during the second World War. The story describes the horrors of war with bombed & burned homes and buildings, refugees fleeing those causing death & destruction. Then ways in which the enemy sometimes becomes the savior. Social half hour at 1 PM & review at 1:30 PM. Men & women of all ages & faiths are invited to attend or view at fpcsanantonio. org/lit.circle

#### **WOMEN'S SPRING GATHERING**

#### Tuesday, April 26, 2022 | Paloma Blanca | 6 PM

Join us at Paloma Blanca for the Women's Spring Gathering! Your \$25 is your reservation. Cash bar. Pay online or check/cash to FPC WOC Spring Gathering. All women are invited to attend. Any questions: Susan DeKoch: susandekoch@gmail.com, 210-508-7127 or Meredith Park: meredithpark17@gmail.com, 210-373-8180 For more info: fpcsanantonio.org/springgathering

#### RESET GATHERING

#### Monday, April 25 | 1:00 PM | Westminster Hall

Join other young adults for a time of worship, biblical teaching, fellowship, and prayer. The RESET Gathering is a place for us to reset our hearts, minds, and lives on knowing Jesus personally, following Jesus wholly, worshipping Jesus corporately, and serving Jesus globally.

#### ISRAEL TRIP

In November of 2022, join Bob and Morgan Fuller on a pilgrimage of faith and adventure to Israel. The trip will be led by Dr. Mike Fanning. Those who have traveled

with Mike know about his passion and expertise for introducing men and women of faith to the places where God met, challenged, and blessed his people. The group will leave San Antonio on November 7, 2022, and return on November 16, 2022. If you are interested, please check out the Detailed trip and registration information available through MBF Enterprises Inc (https://mikefanning.com/first-pres-nov-7-16).

#### CONFIRMATION RETREAT

#### Friday, April 22 - Sunday, April 24 | Off Campus

If your student is participating in Confirmation, come join us for a fun overnight trip of study, games, and challenges to our faith. Contact Alex Clary at alexc@fpcsat. org for more info.

#### MEN'S SPRING RETREAT

#### Saturday, April 23 - 24 | Mo-Ranch

Join the men of FPC at Mo-Ranch for an in depth time of faith exploration and relationship building this Spring. We have lots of fun, prayer, worship and fellowship packed into just two days that you don't want to miss. You will leave with greater connection to your FPC brothers in Christ and re-energized in your faith journey. Look for opportunities to register on the FPC website and through social media soon. Contact Eugene Garcia at eugenegarcia@satx.rr.com to sign up!

#### SPRING FLING

#### Friday, April 29 | 6:30 PM | Magnolia Gardens

After two years, The First Presbyterian Church Children's Center will once again be having their in-person event at the Magnolia Gardens located at 2030 N. Main Ave, San Antonio, Tx. 78212. We will be honoring our founder and legacy of this school, Carolyn Harte! We will be celebrating our most valuable and honorary guests.... our TEACHERS! We ask for your support in making this celebration a successful event for them, who after two years of going through the storm of a heavy pandemic are still standing strong and are an inspiration. To RSVP visit fpcsanantonio.org/childrens-center



# AFRICA TRIP

# INFORMATION MEETING APRIL 10 | 2:15 PM | GENEVA ROOM

PLEASE CONTACT ELLEN MEADOWS E.MEADOWS@ATT.NET OR SIGN UP FOR THE TRIP AT FPCSANANTONIO.ORG/UGANDA





# SPAIN MISSION TRIP

**June 24 - July 2** 

Please contact Mitchell Moore at mitchellm@fpcsat.org or Lindsay Selli at lindsays@fpcsat.org for more details.

Deadline to sign-up is April 30!

Visit fpcsanantonio.org/spain to sign up

APRIL 10 - 17

# HOLYWEEK

We welcome you to join us in-person or online this Holy Week & Easter as we gather to celebrate & experience new beginnings in Christ.



# Encounter Christ at First Presbyterian Church this upcoming Holy Week and Easter!



#### **PALM SUNDAY**

9:00 & 11:00 AM | FPC Sanctuary Traditional services.

11:02 AM | FPC Westminster Hall

Contemporary service.

Celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.



#### **MAUNDY** THURSDAY

6:30 PM | FPC Sanctuary \*\*

An evening service commemorating Christ's Last Supper with his disciples.



#### **GOOD** FRIDAY

12:00 PM | FPC Sanctuary \*\*

A noon service commemorating Christ's crucifixion.

\*\*We hope to see you, your family and friends during this most holy time of the year. Childcare available for 5 years and under by reservation. Please contact childcare@fpcsat.org.



### SATURDAY **FASTER PROGRAM**

10:00 AM | FPC Westminster Hall

"HE IS RISEN, GO!" Children ages 0 years old to 5th grade are invited with their families to join the FPC Children's Ministry for an egg hunt, music, crafts, and to hear the story of Jesus' resurrection. Bring a friend and a basket for a fantastic morning!

\*allergy friendly goodies will be available to kids who cannot eat traditional holiday candy



#### **EASTER SUNDAY**

6:45 AM | FPC Courtyard

Outdoor contemporary sunrise service.

Breakfast in Westminster Hall 7:30-9:15 AM

8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 AM FPC Sanctuary

We offer three inspiring traditional services celebrating the true meaning of Easter in Christ's resurrection and victory.



# WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE fpcsanantonio.org/easter

# Children's Easter Program

#### Saturday, April 16 | 10:00 AM | Westminster Hall

Children ages 0 years old to 5th grade are invited with their families to join the FPC Children's Ministry for an egg hunt, music, crafts, and to hear the story of Jesus' resurrection. Bring a friend and a basket for a fantastic morning!

If you plan on attending, please let us know your child's name and age by going to fpcsanantonio.org/holyweek. If you forget to sign up, that's ok, you can still join us!



### PRAYER WALK

#### NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

THURSDAY, MAY 5 | 10:00 | FPC TO MAIN PLAZA

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for our nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. The National Day of Prayer has great significance for us as a nation as it enables us to recall and to teach the way in which our founding fathers sought the wisdom of God when faced with critical decisions. It stands as a call for us to humbly come before God, seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people. We invite you to join with thousands of others across our nation to participate in this year's **70th National Day of Prayer** (NDP)!

Thursday, May 5, 2022 will mark San Antonio's 37th consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer. Pastors, ministry leaders, city leaders, civil servants, students, military and folks from all segments of San Antonio society will gather as one voice, in the Main Plaza across from the courthouse. The observance begins at Noon with Mayor Nirenberg reading the National Day of Prayer City Proclamation as the chimes ring from the San Fernando Cathedral. Celebration and Praise precedes the event at 11:30.

Prepare your hearts with a Prayer Walk from First Presbyterian Church (FPC) to the Main Plaza, across from the Courthouse. This year's theme is "Exalt the Lord who has established us." (Colossians 2:6-7). We will begin at 10:00 with opening remarks and prayers at FPC and join fellow prayer warriors as we walk to Travis Park for additional prayers, scripture and music. We will then proceed to the Main Plaza to participate in NDP worship and exaltation of our Lord.

All Ages—Walk or Ride Shuttle (walking impaired) to each destination

**10:00** Gather and Pray at First Presbyterian Church (404 N. Alamo, SATX 78205-1918)

10:45 Gather and Pray at Travis Park

**11:30** Gather and Worship at Main Plaza across from the courthouse

**12:00** San Antonio's National Day of Prayer observance with Mayor Nirenberg's proclamation

Shuttles will run from 10:00-1:30 pm—First Presbyterian Church to Travis Park to Main Plaza

Things you might want to bring: water bottle, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, good walking shoes

#### Contacts:

Eva Eckburg: eva.eckburg@yahoo.com, 210-488-1939

Lisa Snow: lisas@fpcsat.org, 210-226-0215.

Suzanne Dollar, Coordinator,

San Antonio City Observance

National Day of Prayer:

SAnationaldayofprayer@gmail.com

NDPsanantonio.org

#### LOVING ONE ANOTHER

#### WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

### **Circle Chairs & Bible Moderators**

Circle 1/12 Circle 9

Suzanne Thomas, Chair (210-846-3240) Ann Smith, Chair (210-822-2440)

> Grace Labatt, Moderator Members of Circle, Moderators

Third Monday, 11:30 am, Geneva Room (with meal) Third Tuesday, 10:00 a.m., St. Andrew's Room

> Circle 5 Circle 11

Kay Weber, Co-Chair Jean Swanson, Chair (210-826-0766)

(210-288-5290) Members of Circle, Moderators

Mary Fruge-Medford, Co-Chair Fourth Monday, 6:30 pm, in the home

> (210-823-7054) of Karin Gabrielson

SHAWL MINISTRY Circle 13

Circle 6

Circle 7

Third Wednesday, 1:00 pm, Room 228 Grace Clouse, Chair, Moderator (734-718-7057)

Circle 14

LITERATURE CIRCLE

Second Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., McCullough Room Jean Parsons, Chair (210-240-7483)

Members of Circle, Moderators

Third Tuesday, 1:30 p.m., McCullough Room

Karen Carawan, Chair (210-213-4589)

Char-An Witten, Chair (210-341-1856)

Third Monday, 12:00 pm, St. Andrew's Room (with meal)

Suzie Simpson, Moderator

Mary Ellen Mauze, Chair (210-844-5549)

Third Tuesday, 11:30 am, in the home of Sheila Murray

Pat O'Neill, Moderator

Circle 18

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Circle 8

Young Mothers

Circle 20 Members of Circle, Chairs and Moderators

Fourth Friday, 11:45 am, St. Andrews Room

Call Nona Hall for information (210-274-2643)

Muffin Camp, Chair (210-789-1808)

CIRCLE OF SERVICE

"Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender grass."

#### Deuteronomy 32:2

Waiting for spring to come has taught me a great deal of patience. My mother always planted bulbs in the fall, mostly cannas and daffodils. I watched the planted plot daily for a long time and then gave up for other pursuits. Starting in mid March my mom would remind me about them, and I would watch in wonder as the bulbs became tiny plants and then bloom beautifully. It was always a surprise! As I have aged, planted my own bulbs with my children and grands, I sort of miss the surprise. But it has been replaced by expectation-I know those flowers will appear if I care for them properly. My prayer life has been similar. For many years I was surprised at blessings from prayers. As I study God's word daily, my expectation is answered prayer. My patience is still faulty, and I have to remind myself that God has heard my prayers and wants good for me and mine. God's promises come just like the flowers of spring bloom.

In Christ Alone,

Tanet Wernli

President





#### LOVING ONE ANOTHER

Happy Spring!! Viva Fiesta!! Happy Easter!! We are excited to celebrate Fiesta at First with King Antonio, Fiesta Snacks, Mariachi Las Alteñas and an April Fiesta Birthday Lunch together. All this excitement leads us into Easter, He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed. Join us at FPC for a full Holy Week of Activities ending with Easter Sunday.

There will be no KEYS on Battle of Flowers Parade Day or Good Friday. We will come back together on April 21st for Philly Cheese Steaks & A Movie, how about a Rocky marathon.

April 29th Lauren Prescott from Oasis will be sharing with us the Silver Connect program along with continuing education opportunities.

Rev. Dr. Toe Moore

Assistant Pastor for Older Adults and Congregational Care

April Events				
April 1st	Fiesta at First Presbyterian with a special visit from King Antonio			
April 8th	Battle of Flowers Parade - Church Closed- No KEYS			
April 15th	Good Friday service at Noon - No KEYS			
April 22nd	Philly Cheese Steak & A Movie			
April 29th	Lauren Prescott from Oasis San Antonio			

#### **Live Streaming**

We are now live streaming the KEYS speakers. Watch for the link via email.

#### Friday Fitness with Jacqi Crow

Friday Fitness will continue via Zoom. This makes it easier for those who are not venturing out to continue participating and is easier for Jacqi to manage. She will send a reminder email each week with the link to the zoom room. There is also a room at the church set up with a computer that will be connected in so you don't have to rush to participate in KEYS.

#### **Luncheon Costs**

You have noticed that our cost for lunch has increased to \$13. This is not an attempt to make a profit, but is due to increased costs of providing meals. All meals at FPC for all events have been increased. However, we do not want the cost of a meal to keep anyone from joining in with the fellowship of KEYS. Please talk to Joe Moore if the cost is keeping your from joining KEYS on Fridays; we can work something out for you.

#### **Alaska Mission Trip**

Although the State of Alaska has opened up, the Native Villages have not. I am disappointed to report that there will be no Alaska Mission Trip this year. I have been keeping in touch with friends in Chevak and in Anchorage. I hope that we will be able to return next year. I have been to Chevak 8 times over the last 10 years. Believe me when I say a big piece of my heart is in Alaska. I look forward to the day that we can return to the village and connect with ECO friends in Anchorage. Pray for the people of Alaska!!

If you would be interested in a future Mission Trip to Alaska, connect with Pastor Joe Moore, joem@fpcsat.org.













Blessings and love in Christ,

Sandy Sturch

#### 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.

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
- 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 4:1-5:11; Leviticus 19:11; John 8:44-45; Colossians 3:5-10
- 13 Acts 5:12-6:7: I Corinthians 12
- 14 Acts 6:8-8:3; Galatians 1:13, 23
- 15 Acts 8:4-40; Isaiah 56:4-8
- 16 Acts 9:1-31; Galatians 1:11-24
- 17 Acts 9:32-11:30; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
- Acts 12:1-14,28; 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).

DATE	NAME OF PERSON	REQUEST	GOD'S ANSWER

### **NEW COVENANT PARTNERS!** JOINED US IN MARCH







**Grace and Thomas Morehouse** 



Scott and Cheryl Waughtal



Fiesta is here and our medals are in! Get yours on Sunday in the Mauze Lobby during the month of April.



### **LOVING CHRIST.** LOVING ONE ANOTHER. **LOVING THE CITY.**

404 N. Alamo Street

San Antonio, Texas 78205

210-226-0215

fpcsanantonio.org







@fpcsanantonio



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