



FIRST PRESS

July 2022

Check out our
Upcoming Events!
(See page 3)

**Special Sunday Services Schedule
for July during Westminster repairs**
(see *Save the Date*, page 3)

VBS 2022 was
Monumental!
(see pages 10-11)

Youth Summer Mission Days
provide experience in serving
(see pages 8-9)

We are with "YOUvalde"
(see special article pages 8-9)

Pastor's Article



First Presbyterian
CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO

LOVING CHRIST. LOVING ONE ANOTHER. LOVING THE CITY.

Letter to the Congregation

Rev. Scott Simpson

Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

"But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary." (Luke 10:41-42a, ESV)

The Bible tells us that since early morning Martha had been preparing for the dinner guests by cooking, cleaning, and putting everything in order. This was her house; she was the one who issued the dinner invitation; she was in charge, and she was determined to make everything perfect. Smiling to herself she had pictured the pleased look her guest would have on His face and imagined His words of praise for all her efforts.

But now He was here. Her lovely daydreams were turning into nightmares! The table wasn't set; the drinks weren't poured; and the food was getting cold. And where was Mary, her thoughtless, lazy sister? She should be helping...but no, Mary was just sitting there listening to the guest.

"Well," she said, growing red-faced with anger, "this was not fair.."

Martha is who I am picking on in this article. She has been captivated by work; she was distracted with much serving; she was "over-doing" it.

I can hear in all the frustration Martha repeating over and over again.

Martha was a workaholic. "Workaholic" was coined by the late Dr. Wayne Oates—one of the finest Christian psychologists, professor and author.

What is a workaholic? Someone who is addicted to work; an overriding compulsion, an unhealthy consuming desire to labor incessantly. Martha, of course, was a workaholic.

Picture this scene, the Lord of the Universe in the living room of her home...and she could not stop long enough to enjoy Him!

Does this describe anyone you know?



If we are all honest with ourselves—we all have some of the workaholic Martha tendencies within us.

We have a Mary side too...but it is the Martha side that give us some trouble.

Are you a workaholic?

Do you find it difficult to become involved in activities other than your work? Does "doing nothing" drive you bonkers?

How do you view hobbies or sports? Are they a "should" or a "must" instead of a "want too?"

If you answered "yes" to these questions, then chances are you are a workaholic. Workaholism is actually not the problem itself. It is a symptom of deeper problems.

John Killinger suggests some of the root causes:

1. A deep, competitive urge, a consuming need to succeed.
2. A desire to be accepted.
3. Guilt. Work can become an atonement for your having fallen short.
4. A need to immortalize oneself.

Our Heavenly Father gives us work through the beautiful gift of His grace.

...but our work can never earn us the grace of God. This is an unhealthy misuse of work.

It is Jesus Christ's work, not yours, to give you a feeling of value and self-worth.

It is Jesus Christ's work, not yours, to give you approval and a certain feeling of being loved.

It is Jesus Christ's work, not yours, to release you from the guilty cage that we can so easily be trapped within.

It is Jesus Christ's work, not yours, to give you immortality.

What we are is God's gift to us. What we do with our gifts is our gift back to God.

We can find freedom in our work, a release from workaholism, when we receive the gifts that God has for us.

Well, back to Martha in the kitchen, distracted by serving, over-doing it. Mary, on the other hand, at the feet of Jesus...enjoying the presence of God.

What can we do to change and grow healthy? The way to change is to stop doing in some areas of our lives.

Stop trying to do Christ's work; to personally justifying your worth, earning your approval, deserving immortality.

Jesus said to Martha, "...one thing is necessary" (Luke 10:42a, ESV). What is the one thing? Receive the grace and love of Jesus Christ!

Give thanks for who you are and what you have been given by Jesus Christ before you go to work. And then you will discover not only Christ's joy in your work, but Christ's joy in your rest too.

Blessings,

Scott Simpson

JULY 2022

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BACK COVER FEATURE

New Covenant Partners! joined us in July

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**

Ross Brown: **Media Coordinator**

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

Save the Date

NOTICE: TEMPORARY JULY SUNDAY SCHEDULE

During July, the flooring is being replaced in Westminster Hall. Please note the modified July Sunday services schedule during that time:

Sunday, July 3: 9:00 a.m. Traditional Service & 11:02 Contemporary Service in Sanctuary. No 11:00 AM Traditional Service.

Sunday, July 10: 9:00 a.m. Traditional Service & 11:02 Contemporary Service in Sanctuary. No 11:00 AM Traditional Service.

Sunday, July 17: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Traditional Services in Sanctuary. 11:02 Contemporary Service is OFFSITE with church planting partner, ACC.
Time & Location: 10:30 a.m., Herman Son's Ballroom, 525 S St. Mary's St, San Antonio, TX 78205

Sunday, July 24 (Resume Regular Schedule): 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Traditional Services in Sanctuary. 11:02 Contemporary Service in Westminster Hall.

SUMMER 2022 MINISTRY GUIDE

Now updated for summer! 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 summer at FPC! Visit fpcsanantonio.org/summer2022 to view or download the Summer 2022 Ministry Guide.

GOSPEL COMMUNITY GROUPS

Study the Bible in community with other young adults so that you can grow together in knowing God and His Word. These small groups meet at least twice a month for fellowship, study, and prayer together in homes. Don't miss out on this chance to go deeper in God's Word and in relationships with other believers! Contact Carrie Everson at carrie@fpcsat.org to sign up!

KINMART

Saturday, July 23rd | 9:00-12:00 PM | Westminster Hall
Join FPC is one of the host sites for KinMart, an event designed by The Alliance to help local foster families. On July 23, we will welcome families to Westminster Hall for an enjoyable and cost-less "shopping" experience for school supplies. You can help in two ways: donate school supplies by July 18 or volunteer the day

of the event. Please visit fpcsanantonio.org/kinmart or contact Grace Morehouse (samanthagrace10@yahoo.com) or Lindsay Selli (lindsays@fpcsat.org) for more information.

LOVE SATX - LOCAL MISSION CELEBRATION

Monday, October 17 - Sunday, October 23

Join our FPC family in loving and serving San Antonio through participating in Love SATX October 17-23! We will have opportunities for everyone to participate in loving our neighbors and neighborhoods, including a dinner on Wednesday, October 19, and serving opportunities with partners on Saturday, October 22. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details to come soon!

NAMI

For family members that have loved ones that are suffering from mental illness, there is help and hope. The National Alliance for Mental Illness helps family members cope with mental illness in the family. You may contact Amy Joyce-Ponder at 210-734-3349 ext.102. Also NAMI is sponsoring classes for families coping with mental illness. These classes will be given at First Presbyterian Church. Amy can also give you information on the classes.

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://mike-fanning.com/first-pres-nov-7-16>).

PRAYING WITH THE MINISTERS

The Deacons, Elders, and Covenant Partners are encouraged to sign up to pray with the ministers before the Traditional Services. The person is to be in the Robing Room 10 minutes prior to the service (8:50 a.m. and 10:50 a.m.). To sign-up please go to this link for Praying with the Ministers: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084AA5AB22A46-praying>.

PRAYER TRAINING

Join us for a three part Prayer Training! We will be having training from May – November! Prayer Ministry will pay for anyone to take this training from ONE Training. Please call 210-508-5714 or for more information, visit fpcsanantonio.org/prayer

BIG NEWS: NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR FALL!

Beginning on August 21, 2022, FPC will have a New Worship schedule. After several months of careful study and deliberation, the Session has elected to adopt the following schedule for Fall of 2022:

9:30 a.m.: Traditional Worship and Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.: Church-wide fellowship in the McCullough Room and Mauze Lobby

11:00 a.m.: Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary and Contemporary Worship in Westminster Hall

There will also be several small groups and Sunday school classes meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings (more information to come). While the temptation may be to see the schedule simply as a return to the pre-Covid schedule, we want to approach this as an opportunity to re-engage and re-energize our congregation. Although the schedule will be familiar, the ministry leadership of the church is exploring ways to build-up and build-out this new schedule with new energy and opportunities for growth and discipleship.

KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Date: Sunday, August 22

Save the date for this fun Sunday where we come back to Kick-Off the Fall semester at FPC!

2022 NAMIWALKS YOUR WAY SAN ANTONIO

Saturday, Oct. 8 | 7:30 – 10:00 AM | San Antonio Zoo

The time is upon us again for our NAMIWalks Your Ways San Antonio 2022. NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) is excited for this year's walk to be in person for the first time since the pandemic. Our walk will be held at the San Antonio Zoo on October 8, 2022. Registration will begin at 7:30 AM. We ask that you consider joining us and help us make this year extra special. If interested, contact Jenn Borges at jennborges@hotmail.com.

ANY WOMAN CAN DONATIONS NEEDED

Our mission partner Any Woman Can's shelves are empty and in need of the following basic supplies for new families:

Diapers (size 1 & 2), wipes, new baby blankets, new baby clothes, prenatal vitamins*

(*see Amazon link: <https://amazon.com/dp/B003EPH14G/>)

Donations can be dropped off at the FPC Lobby through July 10.

LITERATURE CIRCLE READING LIST 2022-2023

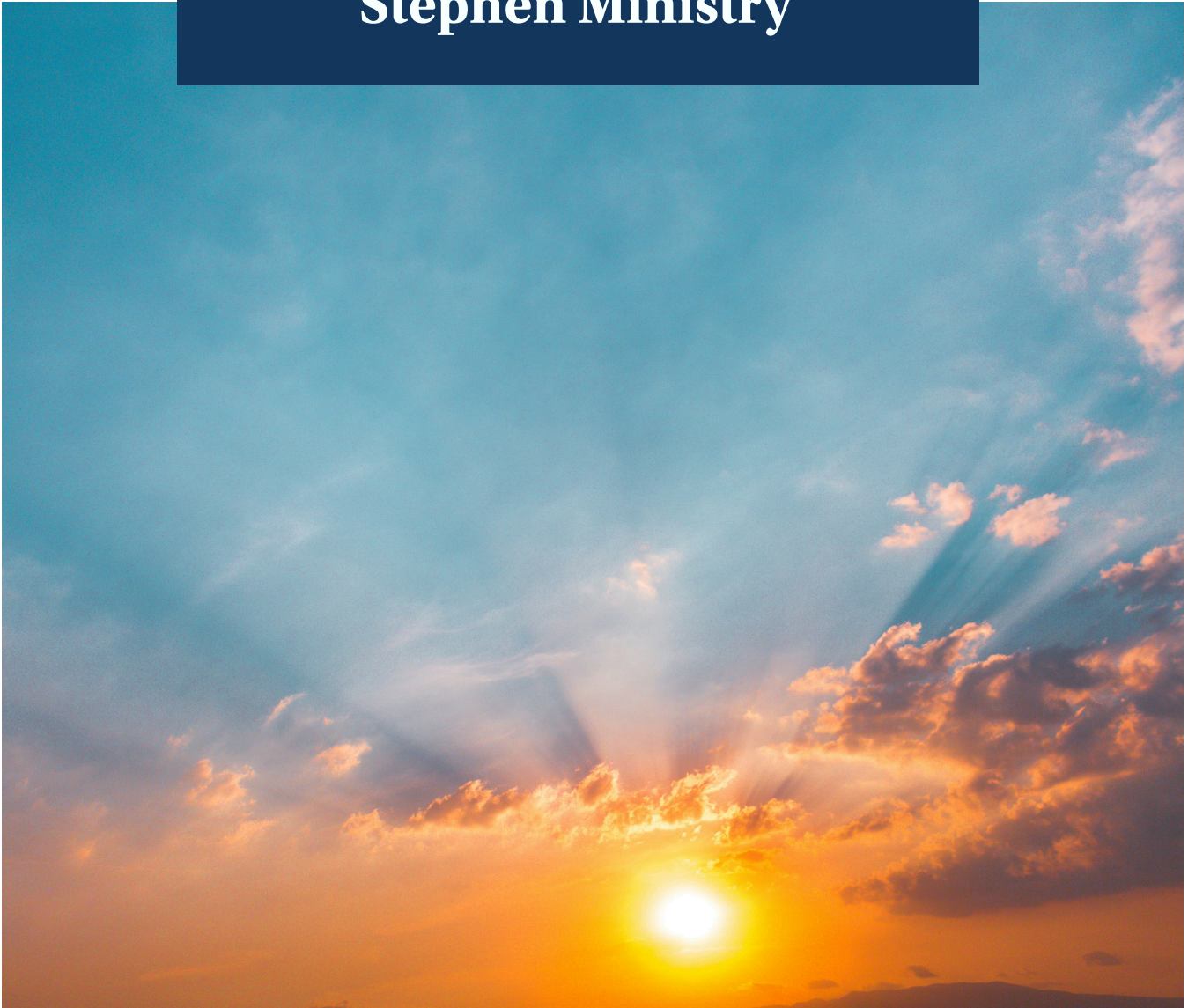
"I love books. I adore everything about them. I love the feel of the pages on my fingertips. They are light enough to carry, yet so heavy with worlds and ideas. I love the sound of the pages flicking against my fingers. Print against fingerprints. Books make people quiet, yet they are so loud."

Author: Nnedi Okorator

Date	Book	Reviewer
September 13	<i>The Resurrection of Fulgencio Ramirez</i> by Rudy Ruiz	Rudy Ruiz
October 11	<i>The President and The Freedom Fighter</i> by Brian Kilmeade	Martha Smith
November 8	TBD	Bill Hensley
December 13	<i>The Leopard is Loose</i> by Stephen Harrigan	Rev. Scott Simpson
January 10	<i>The Captured</i> by Scott Zesch	Janet Wernli
February 14	<i>The Tigers of Bastogne, Voices of the 10th Armored Division in The Battle of The Bulge</i> by Michael Collins and Martin King	Hank Cherry
March 14	<i>The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek</i> by Kim Michele Richardson	Jane Hanson
April 11	<i>The Honey Bus</i> by Meredith May	TBD
May 9	<i>These Precious Days</i> by Ann Patchett	Ann Smith

The circle meets the second Tuesday of each month. Two copies of each book are available in the church library to be checked out. For more information please visit fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle

Stephen Ministry



GOOD GRIEF

Most people associate that saying with something exasperating. However, the grief I'm talking about is the grief most all of us will encounter at some point in our lives. Loss can show up unannounced in a variety of ways. Loss of job, health, friendship, divorce and death. Our culture tends to deny loss and the grief that accompanies it. Anyone who has been in the valley of the shadow of death knows this is unrealistic and unhealthy!

When I turned 33, my world as I knew it was about to be changed forever. I went through four deaths and a divorce in five years. I had a two year old son at the time and wondered how will I endure this season of loss alone. The good news: I was never alone. Our church carried, fed and loved me through this dark night of the soul. Jesus was always there for me.

Grief is hard work. Yet, I believe grief is a gift from God. If we allow ourselves in our woundedness to be open to Jesus and what he wants to teach us and reveal to us in our losses, healing and wholeness will come. It doesn't happen overnight, but

healing and wholeness are on the horizon. Jesus knows all too well about suffering and it brings me great comfort to know how much Jesus loved Lazarus, and being fully human Jesus experiences the agony of sin's wages in the death of his friend.

Loss is never easy, and even in healing and wholeness we will carry the wounds with us always. In giving our wounds to Jesus, he will use them to refine us in the furnace of transformation. He will turn our ashes into something beautiful, making us new. This is the gift of good grief: the Potter will shape and reshape us on his wheel so that we will become the vessel that glorifies him and is fit to love and comfort others as he has done so with us.

Out of my losses, Jesus has called me to be a Stephen Minister. As a Stephen Minister, our role is to provide a safe and confidential place to listen, love and support those in need with compassion and dignity and with Christ at the center. Stephen Ministers offer hope in times of despair, acceptance just as you are, the love of Jesus as his hands and feet and light in your darkness.

In closing, Jesus promises all of us:

I will never leave you or forsake you

A bruised reed he will not break, nor a dimly burning wick, he will not quench.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.

But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I have been to the bottom and it is sound. Our great physician will come to you in your brokenness and ask, "Do you want to get well?" It is the One voice we must answer, yes Lord make it so.

Marti Seal

Stephen Minister



Stephen Ministers are truly God's hands reaching out with care and love to help friends through a difficult journey.

If you feel called to become a Stephen Minister and are interested in joining the Stephen Ministry Training class in the fall, please contact Scott Simpson.

If you feel that a Stephen Minister might help you in your journey through grief, please contact Jim Carssaw at 512-423-3424.

LOVING THE WORLD

We are with YOUvalde!



80 miles west of San Antonio lies historic and lovely Uvalde, home town of former Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe, and FDR's first Vice President James Nance Garner, who described his office as "not worth a bucket of warm spit." On November 22, 1963, on his 95th birthday, Garner received well wishes from JFK, who would be assassinated a few hours later.

Uvalde was chosen twice for the site of the World Gliding Championship. The weather is perfect in July and August with moisture in the air forming cumulus clouds at the top of thermals where the lift is located. The thermals can keep gliders in the air for hours. I rode my motorcycle to watch the 2012 competition and later inserted the event into my political thriller *Golden State: Love and Conflict in Hostile Lands* (page 274), with a Lithuanian and Ukrainian as winners. I drove through Uvalde many times on the way to and from Big Ben.

On September 15, 2021, I flew there (Garner Field-KUVA) with a buddy to commemorate the 44th anniversary of my meeting Martha in New York in 1977. We ate at Hangar 6 with a menu full of items named after classic aircrafts: I had The T6 Texan.

The last week of May 2022 brought a tragic chapter to the wonderful community of 15,000, the rest of Texas, and the whole United States.

On May 24, always happy to share the American Dream Story, I gave a keynote address to some 200 librarians at a conference in San Antonio. Like our Senior Pastor Bob Fuller and President George W. Bush, I have been married up to a Texan Librarian. At the end, three participants became winners of the Martha Pattillo Siv Prize that was established at the George Bush Presidential Library in College Station in February 2018. It was a joyful event. Suddenly, I received the horrific news from an Indonesian and a German friend. Bob immediately sent a letter to our congregation on the tragic subject. At our Men's Prayer Breakfast Bible Study group, he led us in prayers for the people of Uvalde.

On May 28 (235th anniversary of the death of Leopold Mozart, the father of Wolfgang Amadeus) I joined a group of Christian Motorcyclists to comfort and support the people and volunteers in Uvalde. I drove instead of riding for I had to carry bottled water. I stopped in Castroville to get goodies from a French bakery. In Hondo, I smiled at the sign "This is God's Country. Don't drive through it like hell." Then I began to choke up when seeing portraits of recent high school graduates lining Route 90

on the right side. I love these beautiful small towns USA, especially their churches and court houses. They are so proud of their communities. Each has a special personality.

At the Uvalde Civic Center, a friend and I distributed bottled water and bakeries to fellow volunteers and anybody who needed them. While the Christian music blasted in the background with Jesus te ama (Jesus loves you), we prayed that the Lord would put his healing hands on the people of Uvalde, wipe out their tears, keep them strong...

By 2 p.m it was 100 degrees! I had another mission: finding the house of one of our Sunday School teachers Paul Kacsur, who lived there before answering the call to ministry some 40 years ago. Eureka! I found it in 13 minutes. Then, First Presbyterian Church in Uvalde, where I said a prayer. Last stop: Garner Field, Hangar 6... The nearby Aviation Museum and Uvalde Police Department parking lots were full of Police cars from all over Texas. On the way back to San Antonio, I praised the Lord for another opportunity to serve.

It is a good thing to give praise to the Lord. Psalm 92

Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4

Before they call I will answer. While they are still speaking, I will hear. Isaiah 65:24

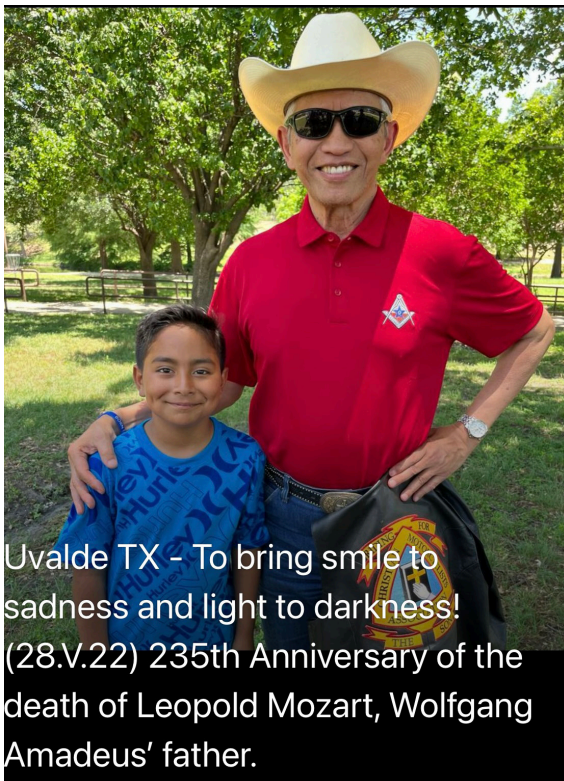
"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it." John 1:5

Sichan Siv

Deacon of First Presbyterian Church San Antonio

"Early June, I visited the George Bush Library and Presidential Grave Site. For 41 minutes, I reflected thankfully on three important anniversaries: my 46th Freedom Day (I arrived in America on June 4, 1976), First Lady Barbara Bush's 97th Birthday (June 8, 1925), President Bush's 98th Birthday (June 12, 1924); on 46 years of blessings, including Martha and my services to God and Country.

As we gather to celebrate our 246th Independence Day, we praise the Lord for our lives in our great nation where we have the right to dream and turn our dreams into realities; where we can have a happy home with faith, family, friends."



VBS 2022 was Monumental!

You may have felt transported into the desert when you walked into Westminster if you attended on June 20th!

Our VBS team again transformed the worship space and downstairs first floor into Monument Valley for the 2022 Vacation Bible school week! The preparations done by Catherine Whitsett and various members of the Children's Committee as well as volunteer parents gave life to our theme "Monumental, Celebrating God's greatness!"

During the week, over 130 children and 60 volunteers walked through the story of Joseph. The lessons taught this week was that God loves us no matter what, that He is everywhere, that He is in charge, He is stronger than anything, and He is surprising! Seeing the kids jump around in worship and sing the songs about Jesus gives my heart hope for the future of the world we live in.

The week was full of blessings and fellowship, and it could not have been done without the tremendous help from so many who stepped up behind the scenes and on the front lines as teachers, station leaders and youth helpers. To say thank you is not enough, your reward will be sweet in Heaven!

Grace,

Rozlyn Miller

Ministry Director to Children
and their Families





Missions at VBS

FPC Missions had a GREAT week at VBS! Throughout the week, the children who attended VBS learned about several ways the Lord is working in and through our FPC Mission Partnerships in San Antonio and around the world. As they learned, they used their own creativity to serve through our ministry partners!

They created bookmarks to share the hope of Jesus with our neighbors in the KRL. They also made a banner and worry stones to encourage students who attend Young Life Club on the east side of San Antonio. Their projects are even sharing encouragement and hope globally as they made beautiful watercolor cards for a mission trip team to share as they serve with YWAM North Africa.

As these children spent all week learning about our mighty and loving God, they spent time thinking about how God has uniquely created them to serve. They began to think about their own gifts and the ways they might use them to share the good news of Jesus with others.

We pray that these children will continue to learn about the incredible love of Jesus as they seek to steward their gifts for God's glory!



MISSION PARTNER SUPPORT



KINGDOM
RESTORATION
COLLABORATIVE



Our global missions team serving with YWAM in front of the Center preparing to travel to North Africa.

We Need YOU!



Donations Due by July 20th

We are inviting over 600 Kinship Families, who have stepped in to care for the children of their family and friends, to a unique, fun-filled back to school shopping experience!

- We want to STUFF THE STORE with new, unopened school supplies and/or \$10 Gift Cards.
- These events will be held at First Presbyterian Church and UUMC

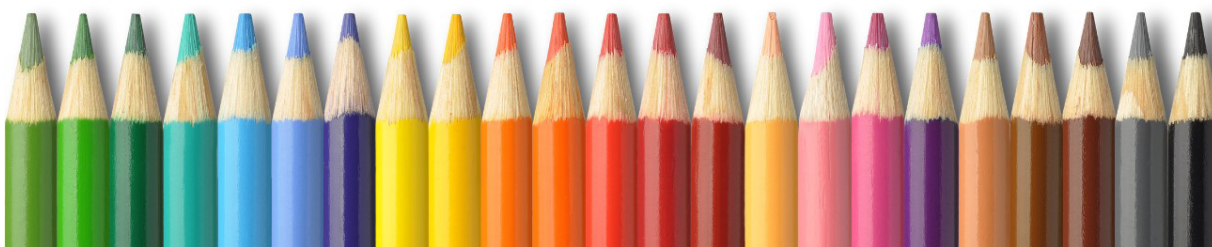


Items Needed

- Full Size Backpacks
- \$10 Walmart Gift Card
- \$10 Target Gift Card
- Classic markers
- 24 count Crayons
- Scissors
- Elmers Glue
- Tissue Boxes
- Hand Sanitizer
- Clorox Wipes
- Box of #2 Pencils
- Wide Ruled Spiral Notebooks
- College Ruled Spiral Notebooks
- Wide Ruled Notebook Paper
- College Ruled Notebook Paper

Quality over Quantity.

**Don't have time to purchase your donation in person?
No problem! You can go to our Amazon Wishlist and
purchase online.**



Youth Summer Mission Days

On Monday, June 6th we were blessed with the opportunity to serve at Mission Road. While there, we worked with adults with varying intellectual disabilities. The youth, along with smiles and enthusiasm, assisted the adults with daily activities including academic worksheets and crafts. We were honored to have one of the adults sing "I Believe I Can Fly" to us complete with the classroom microphone!

On Tuesday, June 7th we spent time fellowshiping with one another at Chicken N Pickle. We had the opportunity to chat about the previous day's experiences while some of us learned how to play pickle ball and others competed for the title "Pickle Ball Champs" (better luck next year Pastor Bob!). As we ended the day, we left looking forward to meeting again in the morning to serve another part of our community!

On Wednesday, June 8th the KRL graciously invited us to come and learn about who they are and the people they serve. We were all amazed at all the KRL does for the community, and we got to help them by washing down walls, packing snack bags, and writing encouraging notes for those who visit the facility. We were inspired by the stories we heard and the heart of those who dedicate their time to serving others!



A Pastoral Letter from Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller & Pastor Mitchell

June 24, 2022

Today, the United States Supreme Court overturned the “Roe vs. Wade” decision of 1973. Just as the original decision provoked deep, passionate reactions, so too has this decision. As pastors we recognize that this is a complex issue, and that there are strong and deeply held beliefs on both sides of this debate—even within our congregation. But we, as pastors representing our entire pastoral team, must make a clear declaration of our position. We are pro-life and we are pro “all of life.”

We recognize that overturning Roe vs. Wade in the Supreme Court is not the finish line for the pro-life movement. Legislative victories will not carry the pro-life agenda to God’s ultimate goals. Legislative milestones are significant to celebrate, but we must move our hopes and efforts beyond the marble halls of government authority to harness the power Christ provides through the Church. We must all do what is necessary to cultivate a pro-life culture.

Pro-choice groups have created a well-funded and organized system, aggressive in social media marketing and tireless in their efforts to get women to other states where they can have an abortion. This week another young woman came into our KRL/Any Woman Can clinic seeking an ultrasound as the “proof of pregnancy” required for an abortion. She was preparing to travel to Colorado to have the abortion, funded by a pro-choice group working around the Texas Heartbeat Bill. This happens almost weekly. However, in the KRL she met loving partners and volunteers who want to provide care for the baby and mother, and who will cultivate connection with the father. She and her child now have resources and options she never knew they had.

Pro-choice advocates have re-invented themselves and appear poised for guerilla warfare. We are seeing a well-funded, highly organized, and aggressive ground-game promoting abortion in surprising and sickening ways. Chemical abortion pills are being promoted beyond description—a toxic choice for women and a deadly prescription for the baby.

The battle is real and our congregation is on the front lines, needing prayer and participation from every covenant partner. Here is the truth: The Church of Jesus Christ has more resources, a better network, more locations, and a better hope than the pro-choice movement. We must organize as a congregation and mobilize the Church in our city. As stated above, we are pro “all of life” and we have the track-record to prove it. With partners like Any Woman Can, Young Lives and One by One, we have engaged more and more deeply in providing networks of support for those in crisis.

Christians have a solid foundation for hope as the historic basis for Christianity is revelation of how God redeems unplanned and unwanted pregnancy. When Mary’s hopes of marriage and social status were dashed by the news of her



pregnancy, God did not rely on government action to support His servant. Rather, God shared the recipe for a pro-life culture that would sustain our Savior and that will strengthen Christians for the next leg of our pro-life race, creating a pro-life culture for women, children, fathers, and families.

Luke tells us that Mary moved from struggle to song through Elizabeth's service, an older woman committed to walk with Mary (Luke 1:26-47). Likewise, Matthew reveals how the commitment of Joseph helped move Mary from the burden of bearing to birthing and raising the King of kings (Matthew 1:18-21). Simply stated, God's ingredients for a pro-life culture include faith in His revealed purposes, mentors like Elizabeth, father figures like Joseph, and family. Only the Church of Jesus Christ has all the needed ingredients for a sustainable pro-life culture.

The nation will soon be divided by states as we have not seen since the civil war. The Church of Jesus must unite to care for babies, women, fathers, and family. Women who used to be directed to abortion clinics for answers and procedures are turning to other places (like pro-life pregnancy centers) to find help for an unwanted pregnancies. This is a critical opportunity for the Church. Now is God's time for us to come together to create a pro-life culture.

This is a time for mercy, understanding, and compassion for those considering abortion and even those who have been through it. Every Christian has a role and every church must engage this Divine appointment. What can you do?

1. All Christians must pray. Our battle is not against flesh and blood but against powers of this present darkness. We must "pray at all times in the Spirit, with prayer and supplication." (Ephesians 6:10-19). Our weapons for war are not of the flesh (2 Corinthians 10:4).

2. Christians must realize that there are more with us than

who are against us (2 Kings 6:16) and that God's covenant faithfulness that will not forsake us. If God is for us then who can stand against the Church? (Romans 8:31) Now is the time for Christians to get engaged in the KRL, specifically with our pro-life partners like Any Woman Can, Young Lives, One by One, among others. We must compel partner congregation to lean into established networks like Care-Net and lock arms as a net of care to strengthen women, fathers, and families. Walking forward from God's promised presence we must become the life we want to see.

3. Every Christian is equipped by grace for the good works Jesus has prepared for us to do (1 Peter 4:10). The Church alone has the gospel of Jesus that fuels faith, women's groups who have multiple Elizabeths, men's groups with dozens of Josephs, and the Church who is the family of God.

4. As pastors, we and our colleagues are committed to orient the hearts of our people to God's sovereign grace, with patience. All of us need to discern how God has called us and equipped us to engage. To save babies and strengthen families for the next generation the church must truly become Christ's Church, an assembly of disciples imitating God, walking in love as Christ has loved us and gave Himself for us (Ephesians 5:1-2). Every life matters and every Christian has a role in creating a pro-life culture in the next leg of the pro-life race.

May the Lord Bless you and Keep You; May the Lord make his Face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller, Senior Pastor

Pastor Mitchell, Associate Pastor



Any Women Can's "Man 2 Man Breakfast," held June 16 at FPC, featured speakers Coach Jeff Traylor and Roland Warren, who spoke of the importance of men being involved in pro-life decisions.



KEEPING EVERYONE YOUNG IN SPIRIT

Summer is for making lemonade, Summer is for poolside meeting, Summer is for popsicles, Summer is for strawberry pies, and Summer is for fun. Our summer came in hot and is getting hotter!! Got to Love South Texas!

We could not have asked for a better end of our KEYS year than Night Watch. I never imagined the fullness of a woodwind ensemble and their ability to play a march. Who says you need tubas and drums to pull off a parade.

I am excited for our July Birthday lunch at Max & Louie's New York Diner on July 15. Check out their website and get ready for a great lunch, maxandlouiesdiner.com. Meet at the restaurant at 11:30 a.m., or ride the shuttle from FPC at 10:30 a.m.. Call Alice or Brenda to make your reservations at 210-226-2015. Cost is \$15 (or what ever you can afford) unless you have a July Birthday, then its Free!

Friday Fitness will continue through the summer via Zoom. Join Jacqueline Crow at 9:30 a.m. Jacqi has been a champion for us and everyone loves the time with her. If you want to be included on the email notifications, send you email address to joem@fpcsat.org. You will be sent a link to join the Zoom Meeting.

We are planning a trip to see Driving Miss Daisy on Sunday, July 31, 2022, at 2:30 p.m. A shuttle will leave the church at 1:00 p.m, we will stop for a quick lunch on the way to Krause House Theater, 1300 Bulverde Rd, Bulverde, TX. Costs is \$18.80 for seniors. Call in your reservation 210-226-2015.

Enjoy Your Summer!!

Rev. Dr. Joe Moore

Assistant Pastor for Older Adults and Congregational Care

**July, and August, we will only meet on the 3rd Friday to celebrate Birthdays.
If you have a suggestion for a restaurant please connect with Joe Moore.**





FIRST CUP READINGS

JULY, 2022

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 Jeremiah 31:27-34; Romans 11
- 2 Lamentations 1; Isaiah 1; 2 Chronicles 7:13-14
- 3 Lamentations 2; Matthew 23; 2 Timothy 4:1-5
- 4 Lamentations 3:1-36; Matthew 5:39; 2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Psalm 123
Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father! There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not: As Thou has been Thou forever wilt be. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide. Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Hymns for the Family of God, #98)
- 5 Lamentations 3:37-66; Job 30; Psalm 37
- 6 Genesis 19:1-29; Lamentations 4; Jeremiah 19:9; Matthew 24:1-35
- 7 Lamentations 5; Isaiah 49; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11
- 8 Luke 1:1-25; John 1:1-34
- 9 Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56; Genesis 17:19; Psalm 132:11-18; Galatians 3:16
- 10 Luke 2:1-20; Colossians 1:15-23; Isaiah 43:1-3; 45:22
- 11 Leviticus 12; Luke 2:21-40; Isaiah 42:1-9; 8:13-17; John 10:11; Psalm 23
Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free. From our sins and fears release us; Let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart! Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King, Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne. (Worship in Song, #181)
- 12 Micah 5:1-5; Matthew 2
- 13 Luke 2:41-52; Proverbs 3:1-6
- 14 Luke 3:1-22; Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:1-11; 16:15-16; Acts 1:5, 2:38-41
- 15 Luke 3:23-4:13; Deuteronomy 6:13-19; Hebrews 2:10-18; 4:14-16; 1 Peter 5:5-10
- 16 Isaiah 40:1-11; 52:7; 61:1-3; Luke 4:14-21; John 16:13-15
- 17 Luke 4:22-30; 10:13-16; John 1:9-14; 15:18-16:4
- 18 Luke 4:31-37; Deuteronomy 32:17; Isaiah 14:12-15; Luke 10:18; John 12:27-50
Out in the highways and byways of life, Many are weary and sad. Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife,

- Making the sorrowing glad. Tell the sweet story of Christ and His love; tell of His power to forgive. Others will trust Him if only you prove True every moment you live. Give as 'twas given to you in your need; Love as the Master loved you. Be to the helpless a helper indeed; unto your mission be true. Make me a blessing: Make me a blessing. Out of my life may Jesus shine. Make me a blessing, O Saviour, I pray. Make me a blessing to someone today. (Worship in Song, #342)
- 19 Luke 4:38-44; Psalm 103
- 20 Luke 5:1-11; John 12:20-26; 1 Peter 2:11-15; Psalm 32
- 21 Numbers 12; 2 Kings 5; Luke 5:12-26; Psalm 147:3
- 22 Luke 5:27-32; John 15:18-27; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; James 4:4; 1 John 3:13-15
- 23 Luke 5:33-39; Leviticus 16:29-31; Joel 2:12-14; Nehemiah 9:1-3; Matthew 6:16-18
- 24 Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 16; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Matthew 5:17-20; Luke 6:1-11
- 25 Psalm 7; Luke 6:12-36; Proverbs 16:7; Romans 12:17-21
Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore; Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power; He is able, He is able, He is willing; doubt no more. Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream; All the fitness He requireth is to feel your need of Him: This He gives you, this He gives you; 'Tis the Spirit's glimmering beam. Come, ye weary, heavy laden, bruised and mangled by the Fall; If you tarry till you're better, You will never come at all; Not the righteous, not the righteous; Sinners Jesus came to call. (The Baptist Hymnal, #241)
- 26 Luke 6:37-45; Romans 2; 14; James 4:11-12; Matthew 18:15-35
- 27 Luke 6:46-49; James 2:14-26; John 15:1-17
- 28 1 Kings 17; 2 Kings 4:1-37; Luke 7:1-17; Jeremiah 32:17-27; Psalm 107:20-22
- 29 Psalm 38; Luke 7:36-50; Psalm 32
- 30 Luke 8:1-18; Psalm 119:1-16; 89-112; James 1:22-25
- 31 Psalm 119:33-88; Luke 8:19-21; John 14:15-21

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).

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NEW COVENANT PARTNERS! *JOINED US IN JULY*



Sam and Elaine Bright



Debra Cox and Nick Tummers



Bob and Donna Moncrief



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