



FIRST PRESS

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Classes to be
Offered at FPC this
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Fun, Fellowship,
and Learning of
Advent
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JANUARY 2023

Poinsettia Honorariums
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New Year's
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Pastor's Article

New Year's Benediction

REV. DR. BOB FULLER

Each year I, and previous pastors of First Presbyterian Church, have delivered a beautiful Christmas benediction at the end of the Christmas Eve service. It is adapted from the poem "The Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman, an American author, theologian, educator and civil rights leader. Howard Thurman was Dean of the chapels at Howard University and Boston University for more than two decades and helped found the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples in San Francisco, California, in 1944. It goes like this.

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
and the star in the sky is gone, When
the kings and princes have gone
home, and the shepherds are back
with their flock; Then the work of
Christmas begins:*

to find the lost,

to feed the hungry,

to release the prisoner,

to rebuild the nations,

to bring peace to all peoples,

to make music in the heart.

*O Lord, deliver us from all fear,
and may your will be our own this
Christmas Day and forever more. In
the name of the Father, the Son, and
the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

I have always been impressed by the beauty of this benediction, but as I prepared to say it again this year, the weight of Thurman's words impressed me in a new way. This is not just a Christmas benediction. It is a New Year's challenge.



What I have come to love about this benediction is that it takes the message of Christmas and unlocks it from the celebration of the past to unleash it as a challenge for the future. We have heard the story, and now it is time for us to respond to what we have heard.

Over the last few weeks, I have been challenging us to think about some questions raised by the Christmas story.

We read that... *Mary treasured up all these things, **pondering** them in her heart,* (Lk 2:19) leading to the question, "*what are you **Pondering**?*"

We also read that... The old man Simeon ***waiting** for the consolation of Israel,* (Lk 2:25) leading to the question, "*what are you **Waiting** for God to do?*"

The prophetess Anna was in the temple... ***worshipping with fasting and prayer** night and day,* leading to the question, "*what are you **Praying** for?*"

When Anna saw Jesus ... *that very hour she began to **give thanks** to God,*

leading to the question, "*what are you **Celebrating** and **Thankful** for?*"

Finally, we read that from that moment on Anna began... *to **tell** everyone about him,* leading to the question, "*what are you **Telling** people?*"

- Even though these are questions raised by the Christmas story, they are still holding on to me even as the New Year begins. What are you pondering, waiting for, praying for, celebrating and giving thanks for, and telling people? How are we applying these questions and this blessing in 2023?
- What are you pondering about God? About His word, and about His love, His power, and about His plan and purpose for you?
- How are you waiting for God to show-up in your life?
- What are you praying for your family?
- How are you praying for the Lord to use our church to rebuild the nations in places like Ukraine, Mexico, Morocco, the Dominican Republic, China, Indonesia and Uganda?
- How are you praying for the Holy Spirit to use our congregation to bring peace to our hungry neighbors, the unborn and struggling families, our neighborhoods and San Antonio?
- What are you celebrating, and how are you thanking Jesus

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Christ for what he has done and is doing in your life and in your relationships?

- What hope are you giving to people who are stuck in mental illness or imprisoned in their circumstances? What are you telling people who need Jesus and are lost spiritually?
- How are you making music in your heart (or a joyful noise to the Lord?)

At this time of year, the calling to every disciple of Jesus Christ is to receive the good news of the gospel message of Jesus Christ from the past, and accept it as a challenge for the future and for right now.

The last two lines of this benediction are a prayer—born of humility and the understanding that we depend on our King to renew our hearts, direct our will and empower his mission. A benediction usually marks an ending. But today, let's use this blessing to launch 2023.

*O Lord, deliver us from all fear,
and may your will be our own.....
this Christmas New Year's Day...
and forever more.*

*In the name of the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Happy New Year! Grace and peace,

SAVE THE DATE

- 4** FPC College Ice Skating, DiscoverFPC!, Financial Peace University, Young Adult Mission Trip Interest Meeting, Literature Circle, Youth Bible Studies Resume, Officer Nominations Due, Pastor's Bible Study
- 5** Women's Bible Study, DivorceCare, GriefShare, Mental Health Classes, Music with Families, Men's Ministry Retreat, YAC Gospel Community Gathering, Winter Ladies' Night Out
- 6** 5th Sunday Greeters Needed, Rodeo Boots & Pancakes, Youth Retreat, February Midday Concert, Join the Friday Singers, Praying with the Ministers, A/V Support Needed, Children's Center Hiring & Taking Registrations, Sign Up for Sanctuary Flowers, Job Openings, YAC Gospel Community Groups, FPC Library

MINISTRY ARTICLES

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- 20-21** KEYS January

FIRST CUP

- 22-23** Readings and Prayer List

BACK COVER FEATURE

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First Press is a monthly publication from the FPC Communications Team.

Want to be featured in FIRST PRESS?

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

Hank Cherry: **Director of Communications**

Dorothy Hecimovich: **Graphic Designer**

Sam Simpson: **Media Coordinator**

Nona Hall: **Volunteer Photographer**

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



Save the Date

FPC COLLEGE ICE SKATING BONANZA

Saturday, January 7 | 6:00 PM

Meet at FPC then walk to Travis Park together

Come join other college students for a fun evening together catching up followed by ice skating at Travis Park. Text Ben Henderson at 210-845-3845 to RSVP so he can purchase a ticket for you!

DISCOVER, KNOW & JOIN FPC!

DiscoverFPC! - Jan. 8 | 12:15 PM – 2:00 PM

KnowFPC! - Jan. 29 | 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Are you interested in learning more about FPC or becoming a Covenant Partner? Sign up and attend a DiscoverFPC! class where you can then decide whether you are ready to join as a Covenant Partner or wish to wait. Ready to join? Register for both the DiscoverFPC & KnowFPC classes. More info on joining FPC at fpcsanantonio.org/join. Contact Sheila Figueroa, sheilaf@fpcsat.org, 210-271-2759 to sign up or register online by going to fpcsanantonio.org/register-discover-fpc.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Sundays | 4:00 PM | Zoom | Jan. 8 - Mar. 5

Join us for the 9-week Financial Peace University class that teaches you to pay off debt, save, and invest for the future from a biblical perspective. Financial Peace University has helped nearly 10 million people discover the right way to handle money. We hope that you will join us for this FREE online group by contacting Morris Camp at morriscamp@gmail.com to register.

YOUNG ADULT MISSION TRIP INTEREST MEETING

Sunday, Jan. 8 | 12:15 PM | St. Andrew's Room

Interested in going with our Young Adults Community this summer to partner with Food for the Hungry in the Dominican Republic? Our trip will be June 3-10, 2023. Interest meeting after church on Sunday, January 8 for more information. Contact Carrie Everson, carriee@fpcsat.org, with any questions.

LITERATURE CIRCLE

On **January 10, 2023**, the First Presbyterian Literature Circle will meet in the Geneva Room at 1:00 PM (social) & 1:30 PM (review) for the true story of, *The Captured*, written by Scott Zesch. Presented by church member, Janet Wernli, it is a book relating to the abduction of children by Indians on the Texas frontier.

Men and women are invited to attend. The circle meets the second Tuesday of each month. Two copies of each book are available in the church library to be checked out. Delayed streaming and the full reading list are available on our FPC website: fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle

Grace Clouse, Chair

Willie Willming, Publicity

YOUTH BIBLE STUDIES RESUME

Sunday, Jan. 8 & Wednesday Jan. 11

Youth Bible Studies took a break for the holiday, and will resume the week of Jan. 8. Middle School Bible Study meets off campus on Sundays at 5:00 PM. High School Girls Bible Study meets off campus on Sundays at 7:00 PM. High School Guys Bible Study meets off campus on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. Contact Kerri Napoli, kerrin@fpcsat.org, with any questions.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS DUE

Friday, January 27

The Church Officer Nominating Committee is now seeking names to consider for nomination for service as Elders, Deacons, and Trustees. Fill out a nomination form online at fpcsanantonio.org/nc-2023-forms.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY (PBS)

Spring Session Begins

Wednesday, Jan. 11 | 6:30 PM | Covenant Hall

and Thursday, Jan. 12 | 9:30 AM | Covenant Hall

Join Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller as we study the "People and Places" of Jesus this spring. We meet in Covenant Hall on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings. Join in-person or virtually on Thursdays via live stream through the FPC app or fpcsanantonio.org. Small groups meet on campus after the main lesson Thursday mornings. Contact Lellen Lane at lellenlane@aol.com for Thursday small group placement or contact Sheila Figueroa at sheilaf@fpcsat.org for more information.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays | 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Covenant Hall
January 10 – March 7

Join us for session 1 of the Women's Bible Study with Courtney Doctor's study, *In View of God's Mercies: The Gift of God's Gospel in Romans* this winter. We will walk through Paul's letter to the Romans to discover that salvation doesn't just change our eternal future; it changes our present reality. Because of God's salvation--hope, peace, life, faith, trust, and endurance are ours. Childcare available upon request. Contact Catherine Miller at 210-394-2045 or grcjmiller@sbcglobal.net.

DIVORCECARE

Wednesdays | 6:00 PM | Room 226
January 11 – April 5

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. The video seminars are combined with support group discussions of the materials presented during the video. Please feel free to connect with Butch Gerfers at 210-862-9998 or gerfers@flash.net, if you have any questions or would like more information. Register online at www.divorcecare.org/groups/159932.

GRIEF SHARE

Wednesdays | 4:00 PM | Room 228
January 18 – April 14

GriefShare is a video seminar series that features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on grief and recovery topics as seen from a biblical perspective. The video seminars are combined with support group discussion of the materials presented during the video. Register at fpcsanantonio.org/support-groups. Questions? Contact Rev. Dr. Joe Moore, joem@fpcsat.org, 210-226-0215, ext 226.

MENTAL HEALTH SPRING CLASSES

Wednesdays | 6:30 PM | January 11 - March 1
 NAMI (The National Alliance for Mental Illness) is sponsoring a Family-to-Family and a Peer-to-Peer class at FPC this spring on Wednesday evenings. See more information on [page 15](http://page.15). Classes are open for registration at www.nami-sat.org. Contact Amy Joyce-Ponder at 210-734-3349 (ext. 102) for class information.

MUSIC WITH FAMILIES

Wednesdays | 5:15 PM – 5:45 PM | Room 135
January 18 – April 5 (No Class Mar. 15)

Music with Families is a class for parents and children 8 weeks – 3 years. This class offers parents the opportunity to play with their child in a musical setting. By singing, rocking, listening, bouncing, and playing instruments, the child's musical aptitude is being nurtured. If you would like to register you and your child, please email Rebecca Sweet at rebeccas@fpcsat.org. Please indicate your name, child's name, age, and your contact information.

MEN'S MINISTRY RETREAT

Friday - Sunday, January 20-22 | LoneHollow Ranch
 Register at bit.ly/fpcmen-retreat

A weekend together as men in the Hill Country join to sharpen one another and be with the Lord. LongHollow Ranch is a 3,000 acre property in the middle of beautiful Utopia, Texas. The cost is \$150 and includes all housing, meals, program, and content. (Please don't let cost stop you from participating in this incredible weekend, reach out to a pastor or member of the Men's Ministry committee to discuss scholarships.) Visit fpcsanantonio.org/men or contact Cody Heffron at codyheffron@yahoo.com for more information.

YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITIES GOSPEL COMMUNITY GATHERING

Monday, Jan. 23 | 7:00 – 8:15 PM (Dinner at 6:30 PM)
FPC Student Center

Join other young adults for a time of dinner, worship, biblical teaching, fellowship, and prayer. This is our monthly gathering for all of our Gospel Community Groups which meet throughout the month. Contact Carrie Everson at carrie@fpcsat.org or visit fpcsanantonio.org/gcggathering for more information.

WINTER LADIES NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, January 24 | 6:00 PM
Paloma Blanca, 5800 Broadway, 78209
 (Reservation deadline is January 17)

Treat yourself to a Ladies Night Out at Paloma Blanca! Register online at fpcsanantonio.org/woc. \$25 for dinner and a guaranteed fun time. Bring a friend, and come and make new friends! We will have lots of terrific door prizes too! If \$25 is just a little too much for your budget, we can help; just contact Ellen Meadows at 210-232-3738 or e.meadows@att.net for details. We hope you will join us!

5TH SUNDAY GREETING TEAM HELP NEEDED!

2023 5th Sundays: January 29, April 30, July 30, October 29, December 31

We are in need of a 5th Sunday Greeting Team Captain and team members ready to welcome our guests and FPC family on the rare 5th Sunday of the month. If you can help coordinate or potentially serve on one or more of the days below, please contact Nancy Turnbull at nancyturnbull@gmail.com.

RODEO BOOTS AND PANCAKES!

**Sunday, January 29 | 9:30 AM-10:30 AM
Children's Assembly Room (1st Floor)**

Y'all come and join in on January 29th for Rodeo, Boots, & Pancakes as we give the trail bosses (children's Sunday school teachers) a great big much obliged thank you. Young'uns and their families are invited to wear their cowboy best and bring a partner for breakfast, fellowship, and a Bible story. Trail bosses will mosey on up and take a seat at the table while the young'uns will cook and serve them some good ole grub! Hope to see you real soon! Contact Rebecca Sweet for more information at rebeccas@fpcsat.org.

YOUTH RETREAT: REVIVE!

**Friday - Sunday, February 10 - 12
Camp Zephyr, Sandia, TX**

This is a time to REVIVE and refresh through fun, fellowship and Bible study! Middle School and High School will meet separately in small groups throughout the weekend and gather together for worship, group activities and meals! Go to fpcsanantonio.org/youth to register. Contact Kerri Napoli at kerrin@fpcsat.org with any questions.

FEBRUARY MIDDAY CONCERT

Thursday, February 9 | 12:00 - 12:45 PM | Sanctuary
Following the success of our yearly Midday Noels Concert Series, FPC Music Ministries is proud to present the University of Wyoming Collegiate Chorale in concert at FPC this February. Grab and go box lunches will be available for purchase (\$5) after the concert. More details coming soon!

JOIN THE FRIDAY SINGERS

Sing favorite hymns and songs to retirement and rehab communities this spring. Friday Singers continues through May. Contact Brittanie Salazar at brittanies@fpcsat.org or 210-271-2730 for more information.

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, Room 227, 10 minutes prior to the service (9:20 AM and 10:50 AM). A short prayer with the Pastors starts when all are present or the Pastor gives the go-ahead. To sign-up please go to this link for Praying with the Ministers: bit.ly/ministers-prayer-spring23.

AUDIO/VISUAL SUPPORT NEEDED!

We are currently looking for contract and volunteer support for our Audio/Visual efforts on Sundays and for events. If you are interested, please contact Sam Simpson at sams@fpcsat.org.

FPC CHILDREN'S CENTER HIRING & TAKING REGISTRATIONS

Accepting toddlers and preschoolers (2.5 - 4 years of age). Hiring afternoon teachers and substitutes. Contact Laura Ortiz at laurao@fpcsat.org, call (210) 225-0960, or visit fpcsanantonio.org/childrens-center.

SIGN UP FOR SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Looking for a meaningful way to celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one? Consider donating flowers for the Sanctuary. Please contact Elizabeth Kreager at 210-885-9550 or lizzieannkreager@hotmail.com to donate during the month of February. It is an easy process.

FPC JOB OPENINGS

We are currently seeking the following full-time positions. Details can be found at fpcsanantonio.org/jobs.

- **Director of Emerging Adults & University Ministries**
- **Director to Youth & their Families**

YAC 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. Visit fpcsanantonio.org/gcgroups for a full list of groups.

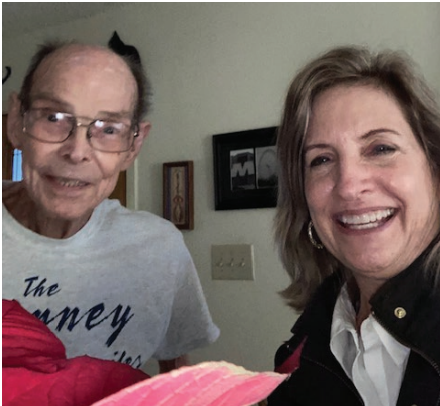
CHECK OUT THE FPC LIBRARY!

Our church library is blessed with over 14,000 volumes including fiction, nonfiction, biographies, reference, periodicals, and much more. The library is free to all covenant partners, adults and children alike.

Deacons' Christmas

Visits & Poinsettias Lift Spirits

The Deacons were busy in December sharing Christmas cheer! Over 100 poinsettias were delivered throughout the city to our at-home members on behalf of First Presbyterian. These poinsettia gifts are an annual tradition for the Deacons and a time of visiting and fellowship that everyone looks forward to. Many thanks to our Deacons for their time, care and consideration for our church congregation!





Christmas Poinsettias 2022

Given by... In honor of

Jenny and Vince Andermatt

- **Will, Jess and Violet Jette**
- **The Koehler Andermatt Family**

Alison and Steve Barker

- **Michele and Jonathan Barker**

Michele and Jonathan Barker

- **Our parents**
- **Our Pathways**
- **Sunday School Group**

Kay Beth and David Barr

- **Our children**
- **Our grandchildren**

Shelley and John Bass

- **Whitley Ann Bass**

Mary and Mike Benedum

- **Elaine Dunlap**

Alethea and Bruce Bugg

- **Our marriage and our sons**

Jane and Bill Burnett

- **Kay Case**

Hon. and Mrs. James S. Chapman

- **Mr. and Mrs. William D. Chandler**

Children's Ministry Committee

- **Rebecca Sweet**

Deacon classes of 2023, 2024, 2025

- **Lisa Snow**
- **Rev. Scott Simpson**
- **Rev. Joe Moore**

Susan and Dirk DeKoch

- **Our children and grandchildren**

Jeannie and Bobby Dullnig

- **Our children and grandchildren**

Sheila Figueroa

- **Laura Johnstone**
- **Janet Bauerle Anderson**
- **Kathy Serrano**

FRIENDS

- **Sheila Figueroa**

Morgan and Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller

- **Our wonderful FPC Congregation**

Charlotte and George Gates

- **Our children**

Myna Gathers

- **Happy Cowboys Varsity Football Team**
- **Marching on towards state championship!**

Joella Gordon and Giselle

- **Linda and Richard Delano**

Lilly and Alan Gretzinger

- **Lillian Ann Lehr**
- **Janie and Jim Worth**

Sallie and Tom Guy

- **Morgan and Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller**

The Handbell Choir

- **Dr. Jae Ha**

The Harrell Family

- **Martha and Gordon Smith**

Mrs. T. Maxey Hart, Jr.

- **My seven grandchildren**

Janet and Boxy Hornberger

- **The Casey Fry Family**
- **The Kyle Palmer Family**
- **The Charles J. Hornberger Family**

Her Bible Study Group

- **Robin Hudnall**

Paula and Clyde Johnson

- **Our children and grandchildren**

Elizabeth Kreager

- **Ned and Lillian Gretzinger**

Judy and Barry Kruger

- **Elise and Wesley Kruger**
- **Janis Kruger**

Your Texas Family

- **Jeanne Lundren**

Martha McCulloch

- **The Taylor Family**

Her Family

- **Martha McCulloch**

Liz and Christopher Medley

- **Our children and grandchildren**
- **Major Gen. T.P. Pre Ball, Our HERO**

Kristen and Benjamin Morales

- **Sandra Sturch, our mother**

Emily Peeples

- **My PBS Group Friends**

Her Thursday Morning Group

- **Emily Peeples**

Blair Perry

- **Paige and Peyton**

Paige, Peyton and Ryan

- **Blair Perry**

Kris and Bruce Petersen

- **Bryce and Caroline Petersen Family**
- **Dane and Morgan Petersen Family**

Sharon and Stuart Seal

- **Virginia and Michael Myers**
- **Marianna Seal**

Rath and Fred Shussler

- **Our grandchildren, Baker and Ada**

Debra and Stuart Smith

- **Laurel and Maarten Verheul**
- **Sammy and Hunter Verheul**
- **Lacey Verheul**

The Gordon Smith Family

- **Bob Collins**
- **Marshall Harrell**

Kathy Timberlake

- **Annabelle, Ladd, Evan & Camilla**

Jane Watson

- **Callan and Yaz Brown**
- **Tom Dooling and Dr. Jae Ha**

Sidney and Kaye Wilkins

- **Our ministers and staff**

Your kids and grandkids with love

- **Mary and Dan Wofford**

Mrs. Jess Womack

- **Mrs. George Kampmann**
- **My children and grandchildren**

Women of the Church

- **President Linda Delano**

Holly and David Youngquist

- **Our parents**
- **June Sargent and Jimmy Youngquist**

Their Life Group

- **Holly and David Youngquist**

The Zbinden Children

- **Kip Zbinden**

Given by... In memory of

Jenny and Vince Andermatt

- **Victoria and Alvin Koehler**

Janet and Greg Anderson and Family

- **Dr. James E. Bauerle**
- **Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Anderson**
- **Mrs. Hazel Dyer**
- **Mr. Raymond Figueroa**
- **Mr. Kim Anderson**
- **Mr. and Mrs. Clark Munroe**

The Archer Family

- **Robert R. Archer**
- **Anita N. Lindsay**
- **Pearl N. Nordan**

Michele and Jonathan Barker

- **Our grandparents**

Shelley and John Bass

- **Our parents and grandparents**

Mary and Mike Benedum

- **Our parents**

Beth and Louis Benke

- **John Pickard (father)**

Grandsons, John and Zach Benke

- **John Pickard**

Peggy Berry Betts

- **Jack and Sally Martindale Berry, my parents**
- **George and Katherine Gee Martindale, my grandparents**

Dana and Jeff Bourland

- **Loretta Bourland**
- **Sally and Duard Brooks**

Debby and J.D. Bowen

- **Dr. and Mrs. Richard G. Ryan**

Yvonne, Shane, Heather and Shelby

- **Michael S. Brennan**

Alethea and Bruce Bugg

- **Norma and Jim Bugg**
- **Frances and Tommy Swann**

Laura Moore Brusenhan

- **My beloved husband, Harry**
- **My wonderful parents, Estella and Charles Moore**

His loving Family

- **John Buchek**

Ann and Chuck Bunn

- **Mary and Charles Bunn**
- **Ralph Lehr**

Jane and Bill Burnett

- **Dr. George Case**
- **Dan Davidson**

Carr and Weir Family

- **Jarrett “Bear” Carr**

George Case Family

- **George Dewar Case, MD**

Kay and Pat Cowles

- **Lucille and Alvin Cowles**
- **Joan and Bob Jackson**

Kelly and Jim Daniell

- **Arthur T. Stieren**
- **Barbara E. Stieren**
- **Barbara W. Daniell**
- **Richard and Cora Correll Wilson**

Laura A. Davis

- **Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Davis, Jr.**

The Dirk DeKoch Family

- **Rev. John McCullough**

Jeanne Douglas

- **Gary E. Douglas**
- **George A. Knapp**

Jeannie and Bobby Dullnig

- **Our parents**
- **Don Beeler**

Mrs. Walter C. Dunlap

- **My husband, Walter C. Dunlap**

Eva and Jim Eckburg

- **Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Eckburg**
- **Mrs. and Mrs. Hans C. Wiedemann**

The Robert Heydenreich Family

- **Patricia Heydenreich**

Debby Elson Neighbarger

- **Dean and Lois Elson, my parents**
- **Dean Elson, II, my brother**

Her daughters and their families

- **Sallie W. Embs**

His daughters and their families

- **Lowell D. Embs**

FPC Friend Friends

- **John “Hans” White**

Ellen E. Frazier

- **My parents**
- **My husband, Donald**

Joella Gordon

- **John R. Gordon**

Lilly and Alan Gretzinger

- **Ralph Lehr**

Marshall Harrell

- **Shelly Harrell**

Leslie Harrell

- **Shelly Harrell**

Marshall Harrell, III

- **Shelly Harrell**

Virginia Harrell

- **Shelly Harrell**

Marshall Harrell, IV

- **Shelly Harrell**

Mrs. T. Maxey Hart, Jr.

- **T. Maxey Hart, Jr.**

Patrice and Bill Hensley

- **Patricia and Bob Hollingsworth**

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Howell

- **Caitlin Burns Howell**

Robin and Clayton Hudnall

- **I.E, Lila and Candace Clark**

The Jenné Family

- **Dewease Lee Day**

Len Martin

- **Mary Ann Martin**

Patricia and Richard McCleary

- **Our beloved parents**

Karen and Ritchie McCulloch

- **Carolyn and Stan Cobbs**

Martha McCulloch

- **Jim McCulloch, my husband**

His Family

- **Jim McCulloch**

Milt McFarland

- **Dr. Charles W. Robinson**

Liz and Christopher Medley

- **Patty Ball**
- **Rosie and Dave Medley**

Charlotte Milner

- **Martha and Dick Bell**
- **Andrew Palmer**

Diana Morehouse

- **Loved ones**

Pat O'Neill and Family

- **Clara and Tony Samsel and siblings**

Martha Spencer O'Neill

- **Judith Bondurant Spencer**
- **Dr. W. W. Bondurant**

Laura, Clay, Darden & Josie Page

- **John Buchek**

David A. Peeples

- **Rev. Robert and Elizabeth Bullock**

Emily and David Peeples

- **Parents Sarah and Bob Bullock**
- **Anne and Paul Smith**

Dolores Perrine

- **Robert Perrine**

Louise and Loren Peters

- **Christine Lee**

Kris and Bruce Petersen

- **Dorothy Petersen**
- **Leroy and Pat Wiese**

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Peterson

- **Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Hines**
- **Mr. Warner Hines**

The Philbin Family

- **Donald R. Philbin, III**

Becca Price

- **Bob Price**
- **David Price**

Nancy Puckett

- **Glenn Puckett**
- **Dr. Charlie Robinson**
- **Vi Sparks**
- **Dr. George Case**

Nancy Rice

- **Nancy & Ashby Rice, my parents**
- **Christopher P. Bommer**

Linda and Mark Rittenhouse

- **Dr. and Mrs. Norman H. Jacob, Jr.**

Connie Rodriguez

- **Refugia Kutnic**

Linda and Bill Ruhmann

- **Brad Ruhmann**

Anne and Ron Scates

- **Anna Elizabeth Scates**

Molly and Eric Schluter

- **Beverly Slimp**

Kathy Serrano

- **Marie Fisher**

Sichan Siv

- **Martha Pattillo Siv**
- **Martha and George Washington**
- **Adrienne and Marquis de Lafayette**
- **Barbara and George Bush**

Charley, Darrell and Holly

- **Jack Sargent, our father**

Martha Smith

- **Shirley Kline**

The Gordon Smith Family

- **Betty Collins**
- **Shelly Harrell**

Marie and Paul Smith

- **Anne and Paul Smith**

Hillary Stevenson

- **Betty Frost**

The Tripp Stuart Family

- **Martha and Brad Pigeon**
- **John Hansford White, III**

Linda Stultz

- **Mr. and Mrs. James R. Stultz, Jr.**

Sandy Sturch

- **Rev. George T. Sturch**

Suzanne and John Thomas

- **Thomas Burns**
- **Elaine and Carroll Thomas**
- **Hank Hadigian**

Kathy Timberlake

- **Patricia & Martin Allday**

The Troy Family

- **Col. And Mrs. Malcolm Norton**

Nick Tummers

- **Liesje Tummers**

Jane, Robert and Liam Warren

- **Spence Warren**
- **Bryan Warren**

Jane Watson

- **Raymond Figueroa**
- **Laura Ohr Watson**

Carol and David West

- **Olive and Bond Davis**
- **Margarite and W.G. West**

Willie Willming

- **Ed Willming**

Mrs. Jess Womack

- **Mrs. Helen Williamson**
- **Mr. and Mrs. Clark Munroe**
- **Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Stumberg, Sr.**
- **Mr. Jess Y. Womack, II**
- **Mr. Henry Stumberg**
- **Mr. H. E. Stumberg, Jr.**

Holly and David Youngquist

- **Our parents**
- **Jack Sargent and Jerry Youngquist**

The Zbinden Children

- **Rev. Dr. Louis H. Zbinden, Jr.**

Sights and Songs of the Season







Spring Semester Mental Health Classes

Classes open for registration at www.nami-sat.org



Wednesdays, Jan. 11 - Mar. 1
6:30-9:00 PM | Room 308

Registration closes Jan. 17 or once the course reaches capacity.

NAMI Family-to-Family is a free, 8-session education program specifically for family members, partners, and friends of adults (18+) who live with mental illness. The course is designed to facilitate a better understanding of mental illness, increase coping, and empower participants to become advocates for their family members.

NAMI Family-to-Family not only provides critical information and strategies for taking care of the person you love, but you'll also find out that you're not alone. Recovery is a journey, and there is hope. In this program you'll learn about:

- How to manage crises, solve problems, and communicate effectively
- Taking care of yourself and managing your stress
- Developing the confidence and stamina to provide support with compassion
- Up-to-date information on mental health conditions and how they affect the brain
- Current treatments, including evidence-based therapies, medications, and side effects
- The impact of mental illness on the entire family



Wednesdays, Jan. 11 - Mar. 1
6:30-8:30 PM | Room 310

Registration closes Jan. 17 or once the course reaches capacity.

NAMI Peer-to-Peer is a free, eight-session educational program for adults with mental health conditions who are looking to better understand themselves and their recovery. Taught by trained leaders with lived experience, this program includes activities, discussions, and informative videos. However, as with all NAMI programs, it does not include recommendations for treatment approaches.

NAMI Peer-to-Peer is a safe, confidential space. The course provides an opportunity for mutual support and growth. Experience compassion and understanding from people who relate to your experiences. This is a place to learn more about recovery in an accepting environment.

NAMI Peer-to-Peer helps you:

- Set a vision and goals for the future
- Partner with health care providers
- Develop confidence for making decisions
- Practice relaxation and stress reduction tools
- Share your story
- Strengthen relationships
- Enhance communication skills
- Learn about mental health treatment options

www.fpcsanantonio.org

Youth Ministries Advent Season



The FPC Youth had a lot going on this Advent season! Our High School Girls Bible Study group took a nostalgic trip to Build-a-Bear creating some stuffed animals to donate to children in need this Christmas. Our Annual Youth Christmas Party brought us all together for great food and fellowship, fun Christmas games, and of course our infamous white elephant gift exchange. Continuing a new Sunday School Advent tradition, each Sunday of Advent we gathered before class to light the Advent wreath, discuss its meaning, and pray in anticipation for the birth of Christ. As we enter a new year, we are excited for even more opportunities, so keep an eye out for all the things to come! Merry Christmas!

Kerri Napoli

Assistant Director to Youth and their Families



Missions Ministries

UPCOMING

Sunday, January 8

Mission Trip Interest Meeting | 12:15 PM | St. Andrew's Room

For those interested in going with our Young Adults Community this summer, June 3-10, to partner with Food for the Hungry in the Dominican Republic.

Sunday, January 15

Global Missions Partner from Pars Theological Centre speaking in 9:30 AM Traditional & 11:00 AM Modern Services.

Sunday, January 22

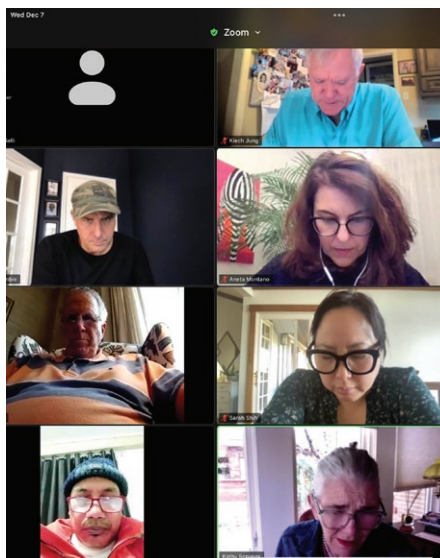
Sanctity of Human Life Sunday observed in all services. Learn about our ministry partners who work with us to stand for life and be inspired to participate.



Don Test (covenant partner and member of our FPC LMC, specifically as the champion for our partnership with NAMI) delivered a batch of warm cookies as a gift from First Presbyterian Church and the Local Missions Committee to the nine employees of NAMI as a token for the work that they do.



After the hard work of our Washington Elementary team during our LOVE SATX weekend (top pictures) another organization came in to finish the garden area we started. FPC joyfully collaborates to care for schools in our community!



On Wednesday, December 7, FPC hosted a Global Missions Virtual Prayer Gathering with over 20 people, including Covenant Partners and Global Missions Partners from at least eight different ministries representing countries as close as Mexico all the way to Europe, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Many more Global Missions Partners have shared prayer needs with FPC during this Christmas Season. Download the prayer guide at fpcsanantonio.org/global and join in supporting our Global Missions through prayer.

2023 MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

Yucatan Peninsula Ministries

Mission Trip

Dates: TBD

Rich Delano, rich.delano@outlook.com

Lindsay Selli, lindsays@fpcsat.org

Poland Mission Trip

Dates: TBD

Irina Villastrigo, irina4727@hotmail.com

Lindsay Selli, lindsays@fpcsat.org

Uganda Mission Trip

Dates: TBD

Ellen Meadows, e.meadows@att.net

Mike Meadows, m_j_meadows@yahoo.com

Lindsay Selli, lindsays@fpcsat.org

High School Boys Summer Mission Trip

Dates: May 26 – June 2

Location: Yucatan, Mexico

Bobby Mickler, bobby@siteworkstx.com

Jacob Cole, alamoheightsyounglife@gmail.com

Lindsay Selli, lindsays@fpcsat.org

Food for the Hungry Summer Mission Trip

Dates: June 3-10

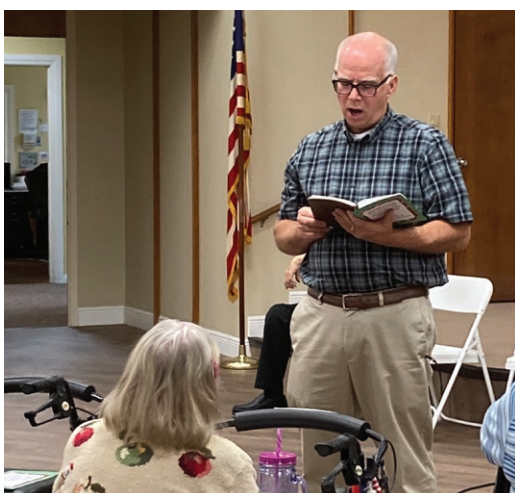
Location: Dominican Republic

Carrie Everson, carrie@fpcsat.org

Lindsay Selli, lindsays@fpcsat.org

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Jan. 2023



Circle Chairs & Bible Moderators

(Circles meet September through May, except for Circles 18 & 20, who provide service all year)

- Circle 1/12 Suzanne Thomas, Chair (210-846-3240)
Grace Labatt, Moderator
JANUARY 23, 4th Monday due to MLK Holiday, 11:30 am, Geneva Room (with meal)
- Circle 5 Kay Weber, Co-Chair (210-288-5290)
Mary Fruge-Medford, Co-Chair (210-823-7054)
SHAWL MINISTRY
JANUARY 18, Third Wednesday, 1:00 pm, Room 228
- Circle 6 Jean Parsons, Chair (210-240-7483)
Members of Circle, Moderators
JANUARY 17, Third Tuesday, 1:30 pm, McCullough Room
- Circle 7 Mary Ellen Mauze, Chair & Moderator (210-844-5549)
JANUARY 17, Third Tuesday, 11:30 am, in member homes
Jane Ann Temple's home, 414 Cave Lane, 78209
- Circle 8 Nancy Turnbull, Chair (210-606-5420)
Members of Circle, Moderators,
Circle for mothers of young children
JANUARY 27, Fourth Friday, 11:45 am, St. Andrews Room
(byo lunch or buy at KEYS)
- Circle 9 Grace Clouse, Co-Chair (734-718-7057)
Janice Wilson, Co-Chair (210-492-0333/210-260-4157)
Ann Smith, Moderator
JANUARY 17, Third Tuesday, 10:00 am, Breakfast Room
- Circle 11 Jean Swanson, Chair (210-826-0766)
Members of Circle, Moderators
JANUARY 23, Fourth Monday, 12:30 pm,
Suzanne Sturdivant 13503 Hollow View St. 210-861-5658
- Circle 13 Grace Clouse, Chair (734-718-7057)
LITERATURE CIRCLE
JANUARY 10, Second Tuesday, 1:00 pm, Geneva Room
(room changed due to memorial service)
- Circle 14 Karen Carawan, Chair (210-213-4589)
Suzie Simpson, Moderator
JANUARY 23, 4th Monday due to MLK Holiday, 12:00pm,
St. Andrews Room (with meal)
- Circle 18 Char-An Witten, Chair (210-341-1856)
Pat Brodeen, Email Contact (pat@brodeen.com)
CIRCLE OF CONCERN
Small home baked cookies always needed for receptions
Volunteers for help with receptions needed
- Circle 20 Muffin Camp, Chair (210-789-1808)
CIRCLE OF SERVICE - volunteers to make/take meals
when needed

President's Letter Jan. 2023

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."
Jeremiah 29:11

I hope all of you enjoyed Christmas and New Year's spending time with loved ones. It is always a busy time, but so much fun!

Women of the Church were their typical "elf" selves, and spread lots of Christmas cheer at the Morningside Manor Christmas parties, the Christmas Eve reception, and delivering gifts to the Gift of Christmas families. Please enjoy the pictures of these events. Grateful thanks to the many hands who made all of these events possible, especially those that were in charge of organizing them. I would like to extend a special thank you to Karin Gabrielson who has hosted the Christmas Eve reception for the staff and musicians for many years. It has always been a lovely gesture to keep our pastors, choir, musicians, and others fed with a delicious meal during their very long evening of serving. This was her last year, as she has decided to "retire." Thank you, Karin! Your beautiful smile and gracious hospitality will be missed!

I hope that all women will want to come to our **Ladies Night Out on Tuesday, January 24th at 6:00 PM at Paloma Blanca.** It promises to be a

fun evening of fellowship, delicious food, and fun! Please make your reservations by Friday, January 17, either online or in person at the registration table in the Mauze Lobby on Sunday mornings. We want all women to attend, and if the cost of \$25 is too much for your budget, please contact Ellen Meadows at e.meadows@att.net or 210-232-3738. She can help!

Please mark your calendars for our annual **Spring Luncheon which will be held on Monday, February 27th at 11:30 AM in Westminster Hall.** Jenna Lucado Bishop will be our guest speaker. She is an author of several books and the daughter of Pastor Max Lucado. Much of her writing and speaking has been focused on helping teen girls find their worth in the love of God. You won't want to miss this! Look for more information later in January, and plan to attend with a friend.

As we start the New Year, may you be filled with hope and expectation for good things to come!

In Christ's Love,

Linda Delano

President, Women of the Church



KEYS

KEEPING EVERYONE YOUNG IN SPIRIT

fpcsanantonio.org/keys



Happy New Year!! We are excited to begin another year of KEYS. We ended the year strong with our Christmas Party and our trip to the Woodlawn Theater to see White Christmas. Our Christmas family was excited to go shopping with the gift cards and cash that we gave them. They promised to send me pictures of their family Christmas. I will share them with you!

Our January birthday lunch will be at a favorite restaurant, La Hacienda de los Barrios! Representatives from the Food Bank will be with us as well as Rev Dr. Kristin Huffman, who has history and legacy with First Presbyterian Church. We will also hear from our KEYS friends who were on the Israel Trip.

Praying that the Year will be Blessed for all of us and that we will be used for God's Kingdom purposes!!

Blessings!

Rev. Dr. Joe Moore

Assistant Pastor for Older Adults and Congregational Care



Friday Fitness

Friday Fitness will continue via Zoom. Join Jacqueline Crow at 9:30 AM. 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 your email address to joem@fpcsat.org. You will be sent a link to join the Zoom Meeting. There is a TV in room 224 so that you can participate in the fitness group and also make it to KEYS at 11:00 AM.

KEYS Upcoming:

January 2023

Jan. 6	Food Bank
Jan. 13	Rev. Dr. Kristin Huffman
Jan. 20	Birthday Lunch
Jan. 27	Israel Trip Report

February 2023

Feb. 3	Rodeo
Feb. 10	Birthday Lunch
Feb. 17	Rick Cavender

All onsite KEYS lunches begin with our speaker at 11:00 AM, followed by lunch at Noon. On-campus lunch cost is \$13, off-site birthday lunches cost \$15. Make your reservations by signing up at the front desk, calling into the church office, or emailing Alice Morales at alicem@fpcsat.org.

January 6, we will learn about how to eat healthy on a budget from Xavier Vara of the San Antonio Food Bank.

January 13, we will hear from former FPC associate pastor, and Rev. Becky Prichard's mom, Rev. Dr. Kristin Huffman.

January 20, the birthday lunch will be at La Hacienda de los Barrios - 18747 Redland Rd San Antonio, TX 78259. Meet at the restaurant at 11:30 am or join us on the shuttle from FPC leaving at 10:30 AM.

January 27, several travelers from the church's Israel trip will share their experiences and pictures.

Mahjong & Bridge

Mahjong players are meeting on the 2nd & 4th Fridays in the Geneva Room, immediately after lunch. We are also recruiting Bridge Players as well. You don't have to be a seasoned player and if you have a game you would like to play, let us know and we will make room for you!





FIRST CUP READINGS

JANUARY, 2023

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

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

Morning has broken like the first morning, Blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word! Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, Like the first dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, Sprung in completeness where His feet pass. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning Born of the one light Eden saw play! Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day! (The Hymnbook, No. 464)

- 1 Genesis 1-2; John 1:1-14; Colossians 1:15-20
- 2 Genesis 3; Romans 1:18-32; Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28
- 3 Genesis 4; Hebrews 11:1-4; 1 John 3
- 4 Genesis 5-6; Psalm 14; 53:1-3; Hebrews 11:7; Romans 3:9-31
- 5 Genesis 7; Psalm 36; 1 Peter 3:8-22; 2 Peter 2
- 6 Genesis 8; Jeremiah 5; Psalm 111
- 7 Genesis 9; Isaiah 54; Luke 17:20-37

The God of Abraham praise, all praised be His name, Who was, and is, and is to be, for aye the same! The one eternal God, ere aught that now appears; The First, the Last: beyond all thought His timeless years! He hath eternal life implanted in the soul; His love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll. Praise to the living God! All praised be His name Who was, and is, and is to be, for aye the same! (The Hymnbook, No. 89)

- 8 Genesis 10-11; Jeremiah 17:9; Luke 1:51; James 3:1-12
- 9 Genesis 12-13; Hebrews 11:8-10; Psalm 105
- 10 Genesis 14; Hebrews 7-8:13
- 11 Genesis 15-17; Hebrews 11:11-16; Romans 4
- 12 Genesis 18:1-15; Jeremiah 32:17; Jeremiah 1
- 13 Genesis 18:16-33; Lamentations 3:21-26
- 14 Genesis 19:1-29; Romans 1:18-32; Romans 6

I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord; No other voice but Thine can peace afford. I need Thee every hour; stay Thou nearby; Temptations lose their power when Thou art nigh. I need Thee every hour; teach me Thy will, And Thy rich promises in me fulfill. I need Thee every hour, Most Holy One; O make me Thine indeed, Thou blessed Son. I need Thee, O I need Thee, Every hour I need Thee! O bless me now, my Saviour—I come to Thee! (The Hymnbook, No. 324)

- 15 Genesis 19:30-38; Leviticus 18:6-18; 20:11-12; Hebrews 13:4

- 16 Genesis 20; Psalm 36
- 17 Genesis 21-22; Hebrews 11:17-19; 6:13-20
- 18 Genesis 23; Psalm 116:15
- 19 Genesis 24; Isaiah 65:24; Psalm 61
- 20 Genesis 25; Hebrews 11:8-19; Psalm 40
- 21 Genesis 26; read again Genesis 17

Far off I see the goal—O Saviour, guide me; I feel my strength is small—be Thou beside me; With vision ever clear, with love that conquers fear, and grace to persevere, O Lord, provide me. When-e'er Thy way seems strange, go Thou before me; And, lest my heart should change, O Lord, watch o'er me; But, should my faith prove frail, and I through blindness fail, O let Thy grace prevail, and still restore me. Should earthly pleasures wane, and joy forsake me, And lonely hours of pain at length o'ertake me, My hand in Thine hold fast till sorrow be o'er past, And gentle death at last for heaven awake me. There, with the ransomed throng who praise forever The love that made them strong to serve forever, I too would seek Thy face, Thy finished work retrace, And magnify Thy grace, redeemed forever. (The Hymnbook, No. 337)

- 22 Genesis 27-28:9; Hebrews 12:14-17
- 23 Genesis 28:10-22; Deuteronomy 26
- 24 Genesis 29:1-30:24; Psalm 127
- 25 Genesis 30:25-43; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Ephesians 3:21
- 26 Genesis 31; Psalm 25; 85
- 27 Genesis 32-33; 1 Chronicles 16:7-18; Psalm 20
- 28 Genesis 34; Leviticus 19:18; Romans 12:17-21

O Lord, my God, most earnestly my heart would seek Thy face, Within Thy holy house once more to see Thy glorious grace. Apart from Thee I long and thirst, and nought can satisfy; I wander in a desert land where all the streams are dry. The loving kindness of my God is more than life to me; So I will bless Thee while I live and lift my prayer to Thee. In Thee my soul is satisfied, my darkness turns to light, and joyful meditations fill the watches of the night. My Saviour, 'neath Thy sheltering wings my soul delights to dwell; Still closer to Thy side I press, for near Thee all is well. (The Hymnbook, No. 327)

- 29 Genesis 35; Ruth 4:11-17; Micah 5:1-9; Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 1:46-55
- 30 Genesis 36:1-8; Isaiah 34; Jeremiah 49:7-22; Ezekiel 25:12-14; Malachi 1:4
- 31 Genesis 37; 1 John 2:9-10; 4:19-21; John 8:44

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 December 2022



Julie and Bobby Goudge



Stephanie and Preston Hill

New Covenant Partner Gathering

FPC's newest family members were invited to attend a New Covenant Partner Gathering coordinated by the Connections Committee and held at the home of Eugene and Wendy Garcia in December. They enjoyed food, fellowship and an opportunity to get to know each other as well as members of the FPC staff and pastors. We are excited to have had 68 people join FPC as Covenant Partners in 2022. If you are ready to join the FPC Family or know someone who may be interested go to fpcsanantonio.org/join. The winter Discover, Know, JoinFPC! Program begins January 8.



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