

Marriage Ministry planning
events in February and April!
(See page 12)

Midday Concert on
February 9
(See page 8)

Important 2022 Update
from the Benevolence
Oversight Committee
(See page 13)



FEBRUARY 2023 - MONTH OF PRAYER & FASTING

FASTING
Is Feasting

CONNECTING TO JESUS, SATISFIER OF OUR SOULS

[FPCSANANTONIO.ORG/FEBRUARY-FAST](https://fpcsanantonio.org/february-fast)

Thursday Prayer "Feasts"
February 2, 9, 16 & 23 (See page 10)

Upcoming Z-Talks Guest Speaker

Mark your calendars for Z-Talks!

On February 25-26, First Presbyterian Church will host the second event of the Louis H. Zbinden Legacy Speaker Series known as “Z-Talks.” This year’s speaker is The Rev. Dr. Tom Gibbs, President of Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. Many will know Tom as the founder and former Senior Pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in San Antonio. See Tom's full biography on [page 9](#). Tom will be speaking on the significance of theology in church life and the role that church planting plays in advancing the Christian faith. The schedule for that weekend is as follows:



*Rev. Dr. Louis H. Zbinden,
FPC San Antonio Senior Pastor
1971 - 2003*

Saturday, February 25 | 3:00 – 4:30pm **Zbinden Lecture Hall (third floor)**

Saturday Lecture Topic: Dr. Gibbs’ journey with church planting; principles of church planting; education for church planters.

Q/A time with audience: all members are welcome. Church officers and area church planters are especially encouraged to attend.



*Rev. Dr. Tom Gibbs, President of
Covenant Theological Seminary*

Sunday, February 26 | 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

- 9:30 AM - Worship service in Sanctuary
- 11:00 AM - Combined worship service in Sanctuary with Dr. Gibbs as our guest preacher
- 12:00 PM - Lunch in Westminster Hall. Paid registration for lunch required. Childcare will be provided by reservation.
- 1:00 PM - Sunday Lecture in Westminster Hall

Sunday Lecture Topic: Christian/theological education today, state of the field and trends right now, the need for theological education in today’s culture.

Lunch registration coming soon at
fpcsanantonio.org/z-talks-2023!

February 2023

CONTENTS

SAVE THE DATE

- 4** February Month of Prayer & Fasting, Pastor's Bible Study, February Midday Concert, Youth Retreat, Marriage Guest Sunday School, YAC LEAD, Precept Upon Precept Bible Study, Ash Wednesday, Lenten Stations of the Cross
- 5** February Literature Circle, College Scholarships, Z Talks, WOC Spring Luncheon, YAC Gathering, Virtual Prayer Room, Prayer Training, Join Friday Singers
- 6** Praying with the Ministers, YAC Groups, Join FPC, Men's Quarterly Dinner, Team World Vision Run, Spring Ladies' Night Out, Marriage Weekend, 5th Sunday Greeters, AV Support, Children's Center
- 7** 2023 Mission Trips, Sanctuary Flowers, FPC Library, Children's Easter Program, National Day of Prayer Walk, Youth Sunday, 5th Grade Graduation, Vacation Bible School, FPC Job Openings

MINISTRY ARTICLES

- 8** February Midday Concert
- 9** Z Talks: Louis Zbinden Legacy Speaker Series
- 10-11** February Month of Fasting
- 12** Marriage Ministry this Spring
- 13** Benevolence Oversight Committee Update
- 14-15** WOC Circles Schedule and President's Letter
- 16-17** KEYS February

FIRST CUP

- 18-19** Readings and Prayer List

BACK COVER

- 20** FPC Photo Collection

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**

Nona Hall: **Volunteer Photographer**

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

Save the Date

FEBRUARY MONTH OF PRAYER & FASTING

Thursday Prayer "Feasts"- February 9, 16, & 23

12:00 PM | Guthrie Bryant Chapel

Unplug from the normal distractions and feast on the connection God provides through fasting. In partnership with several other San Antonio churches, FPC will be participating in a month-long fast to deepen our experience of Jesus, His Word, His work, and His vision for our city. Visit fpcsanantonio.org/february-fast and pages ??? for more information.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY (PBS)

Wednesdays | 6:30 PM | Covenant Hall
and Thursdays | 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.

Breaks are scheduled for:

- 2/1 & 2/2 for Pastors at ECO Conference,
- 2/22 for Ash Wednesday Service (2/23 still meeting),
- 3/15 & 3/16 for Spring Break

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 at fpcsanantonio.org/midday-concert and on page 8.

YOUTH RETREAT: REVIVE!

Friday - Sunday, February 10 - 12

Camp Zephyr, Sandia, TX

Registration has closed for this Middle and High School Retreat. Contact Kerri Napoli at kerrin@fpcsat.org with any questions.

MARRIAGE MINISTRY GUEST SUNDAY SCHOOL & BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 12 | 9:30 AM | Room 309

Jon Anderson, author of "The Acceptance," will teach a marriage Sunday school class at 9:30 AM on February 12. Gather for breakfast and coffee at 9:00 AM before class. All are welcome! fpcsanantonio.org/marriage

FPC YAC LEAD

Wednesday, Feb. 15 | 6:30 - 7:45 PM | 302

(Light Dinner at 6:15 PM)

Join us for an interactive, practical training time for leaders and potential leaders within the Young Adult Community! We will look at biblical principles of leadership and how to apply them in our lives, both within the church walls and without! No experience or formal leadership title is necessary – all that is required is a desire to serve!

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT BIBLE STUDY: HEBREWS

Feb. 21 - May 29 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM | Room 224

With the right tools, personal commitment, and a Bible-based discussion group, you can discover truth for yourself, but not by yourself. Visit www.precept.org for more information on the Precept method of study and visit bit.ly/fpc-hebrews23 to order the workbook for the upcoming class with Tripp Stuart, 210-685-1208.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 22 | 6:30 PM | Sanctuary

Join us February 22 for the launch of the Lenten season, with a special Ash Wednesday evening service in the FPC Sanctuary at 6:30 PM, and live online at fpcsanantonio.org. No Bible Studies that evening.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS LENTEN PRAYER MEDITATION

Wednesday, Feb. 22 - Friday, Apr. 7 | FPC Campus

Participate in the contemplative practice of praying through the Stations of the Cross. Stained glass depictions of scenes derived from the Gospel accounts are located through the second and third floors of the FPC Campus. Maps and Prayer Guides will be available in Mauze Lobby and online at fpcsanantonio.org/lent-prayer starting February 19.

FEBRUARY LITERATURE CIRCLE

On **February 14, 2023**, the First Presbyterian Literature Circle will meet in Westminster Hall at 1:00 PM (social) & 1:30 PM (review) for the true story of, *The Tigers of Bastogne: Voices of the 10th Armored Division in the Battle of the Bulge*, written by Michael Collins and Martin King. Presented by FPC's Communications Director, Hank Cherry, it is a book with firsthand interviews with veterans, bringing the reader straight into the combats of the 10th Armored, equaling the balance between the brave paratroopers and gallant tankers who, together, held off Germany's last major offensive in the West during WWII.

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

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2023-2024

Registration Deadline is February 24

Are you a Texas resident headed to or continuing college for the 2023-2024 school year and in need of financial assistance? Then you may qualify for a Campbell, Jones, or Holland scholarship. To obtain an application and for more information, check out our website at fpcsanantonio.org/scholarships-2023. You may also contact Lindsay Selli at lindsays@fpcsat.org. The guidelines for eligibility and the required document submission are noted on the Scholarship form.

Z TALKS: LOUIS H. ZBINDEN LEGACY SPEAKER SERIES

Saturday & Sunday, February 25 & 26

First Presbyterian Church will host the second event of the Louis H. Zbinden Legacy Speaker Series known as "Z-Talks." This year's speaker is Rev. Dr. Tom Gibbs, President of Covenant Seminary Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. Visit fpcsanantonio.org/z-talks-2023. See Rev. Dr. Tom Gibbs' biography on [page 9](#) and the full schedule on [page 2](#).

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH SPRING LUNCHEON

Monday, February 27 | 11:30 AM

Westminster Hall | Register by February 20.

Our guest speaker is local author and daughter of Max Lucado, Jenna Lucado Bishop. \$25/person. Register in-person or online at fpcsanantonio.org/woc-lunch. Checks & cards accepted. Contact Susan DeKoch at susandekoch@gmail.com or 210-508-7127. Reserve childcare by emailing childcare@fpcsat.org.

YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITIES GOSPEL COMMUNITY GATHERING

Monday, Feb. 27 | 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.

QUARTERLY VIRTUAL PRAYER ROOM

Wednesday, Mar. 1 | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Zoom

We have our very own FPC Virtual Prayer Room. Fill in the registration form at fpcsanantonio.org/virtual-prayer-room to receive the ZOOM meeting link & phone number. Zoom Meeting ID: 826 9365 7302 | Password: 727274. Please don't hesitate to ask for prayer. You can call or login to receive and offer prayer.

PRAYER TRAINING WITH ONE

Wednesday, Mar. 8 | 6:00 PM | Room 304

Prayer changes everything! The ONE team leads this practical prayer class and is committed to helping people live wholeheartedly, connected to God and each other. Register for all three trainings on the first Wednesday of the month during March, April, & May or however many you can attend. Register for any and all classes by contacting Lisa Snow (210-226-0215 or lisas@fpcsat.org). Childcare is available by emailing childcare@fpcsat.org to register.

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.

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.

DISCOVER, KNOW & JOIN FPC!

DiscoverFPC! - March 5 | 12:15 PM – 2:00 PM

KnowFPC! - March 26 | 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.

MEN'S MINISTRY QUARTERLY DINNER

Sunday, March 5 | 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM | The Pigpen

Join us as men of all ages come together for food, fellowship, and a message from our guest speaker. Register for dinner at fpcsanantonio.org/men-dinner. Contact Cody Heffron at codyheffron@yahoo.com or Trebes Sasser at tsasser@rpitx.com.

TEAM WORLD VISION (RUN THE ALAMO)

Race March 5, 2023

Marathon & half-marathon to raise funds for clean water projects. Register &/or donate at bit.ly/FPC-runthealamo. Contact Gordon Smith at gordons@servicetitlesa.com

SPRING LADIES NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, March 28 | 6:30 PM

Home of Wendy Garcia, 132 Parklane Drive

Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship at the lovely home of Wendy Garcia. We will have drinks and refreshments and enjoy lots of good company. All women are welcome, and there is no charge for this event. Contact Ellen Meadows, 210-232-3738, e.meadows@att.net.

"MY LOVE LASTS" MARRIAGE RETREAT

Friday & Saturday, March 31 & April 1

First Presbyterian Church Westminster Hall

"My Love Lasts," featuring guest speaker, author Jon Anderson, is a marriage retreat that is designed for couples to learn how to make marriage wonderful. Couples can stay in a hotel downtown or at home. Couples registration is \$150: includes meals, materials, and childcare (parents must pack meals for their own kids.) Register now to reserve your spot! Visit fpcsanantonio.org/marriage to register. See [page 12](#) for more information. Contact Bobby and Downie Mickler, 210-284-1497, rmickler@gmail.com.

5TH SUNDAY GREETING TEAM HELP NEEDED!

2023 5th Sundays: 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.

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 communications@fpcsat.org.

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.

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 27 – June 3

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

Chevak, Alaska Vacation Bible School Mission Trip

Dates: July 6 - 17

Rev. Joe Moore, joem@fpcsat.org, 201-226-0215 x226

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 Diana Morehouse at 210-824-6116 or dianamorehouse@gmail.com to donate during the month of March. It is an easy process.

CHECK OUT THE FPC LIBRARY!

Our church library is free to all covenant partners, adults and children alike. Volunteer work in the library is welcomed. Please contact Suzanne West at 210-525-1499 or Morgan Fuller at mw.fuller4@comcast.net.

CHILDREN'S EASTER PROGRAM

Saturday, April 8 | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Westminster Hall

All children, babies through 5th grade, and their families are welcome to attend FPC's Annual Easter Program and Egg Hunt! Bring a basket and invite a friend! Contact Rebecca Sweet, rebeccas@fpcsat.org.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER WALK

Thursday, May 4

Please join us for our 3rd annual Prayer Walk to the National Day of Prayer gathering at Main Plaza. For more details or volunteer opportunities, contact Eva Eckburg at eva.eckburg@yahoo.com.

YOUTH SUNDAY

Sunday, May 7 | 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Traditional & Modern Worship Services

Join us as we lead worship in all three services at FPC! Roles include leading liturgy, joining the choir in performing, helping with audio/video equipment, and more. Open to all students grades 6-12. Contact Kerri Napoli, kerrin@fpcsat.org.

5TH GRADE GRADUATION

Sunday, May 21 | 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Children's Assembly Room (1st Floor)

All 5th graders along with their families are invited to a special morning dedicated to our students. Graduates will receive a devotional, Certificate, and a personal tour of the Youth Center! Refreshments will be served. Contact Rebecca Sweet, rebeccas@fpcsat.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday - Friday, June 19 - 23 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

This year, kids will be launched on a cosmic quest where they will have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. Ages 4 years old thru 5th grade completed (Childcare available for volunteers). More information and registration coming soon! Contact Rebecca Sweet, rebeccas@fpcsat.org.

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**

First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio Presents



FEBRUARY MIDDAY CONCERT

Performed By
WYOMING COLLEGIATE CHORALE

Thursday, February 9, 2023

12:00 PM - 12:45 PM

FREE ADMISSION

\$5 Grab and Go Box Lunches

Available for Purchase After the Concert

210-226-0215

music@fpcsat.org

www.fpcsanantonio.org



TALKS

LOUIS H. ZBINDEN LECTURE SERIES



GUEST LECTURER

Saturday & Sunday, February 25 & 26

Rev. Dr. Thomas C. Gibbs

President, Covenant Theological Seminary

[FPCSANANTONIO.ORG/Z-TALKS-2023](https://fpcsanantonio.org/z-talks-2023)

The Zbinden Legacy Forum honors Rev. Dr. Louis Zbinden, former senior pastor of FPC. The forum brings expert theologians to FPC on a periodic basis.

Dr. Tom Gibbs became the sixth President of Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri in July 2021 after serving as a pastor for 24 years. Previously, Dr. Gibbs served as the Senior Pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in San Antonio, Texas, the church he planted and pastored for 19 years. Before planting Redeemer, he also planted a Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) campus ministry at Baylor University and had served as a youth director in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dr. Gibbs brings a commitment to organizational leadership and church planting to his experience in ministry. In addition to planting Redeemer Presbyterian Church and Baylor RUF, he oversaw numerous church plants through his role as the chairman of the Southwest Church Planting Network, a network encompassing more than 60 churches across four states. He also served as a church planting assessment director for Mission to North America, the Presbyterian Church in America's church-planting agency, and founded and led Reach South Texas, an organization focused on strategic church planting in South Texas.

He has degrees from Auburn University (BChE) and Covenant Seminary (MDiv, DMin). He and his wife Tara have four children: Anna Catherine, Thomas, Lucy and Caroline.



FEBRUARY 2023 - MONTH OF PRAYER & FASTING

FASTING

Is Feasting

CONNECTING TO JESUS, SATISFIER OF OUR SOULS

[FPCSANANTONIO.ORG/FEBRUARY-FAST](https://fpcsanantonio.org/february-fast)

Unplug from the normal distractions and feast on the connection God provides through fasting. In partnership with several other San Antonio churches, FPC will be participating in a month-long fast to deepen our experience of Jesus, His Word, His work, and His vision for our city.

Thursday Prayer “Feasts”- February 2, 9, 16, & 23 | 12:00 PM | Guthrie Bryant Chapel

For those available, we will be praying in the Guthrie Bryant Chapel from Noon – 1:00 PM on Thursdays. Feast on the Lord’s presence by praying with us from wherever you are during the Thursday lunch hour.

Fasting is an opportunity to respond to God’s grace through humbling ourselves before God’s throne, prioritizing hunger for Jesus, His word, His people, and His work over the hungers of our lives and culture. Jesus said “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...” (**Mt 5:6**) and His grace invites us to “Seek first the Kingdom of God.” (**Mt 6:33**) Please join our FPC family through a personal commitment & for prayer during lunch on Thursdays!

Excerpts from "How to Start Fasting," from *Habits of Grace* by David Mathis

Fasting is hard. It sounds much easier in concept than it proves to be in practice. It can be surprising how on-edge we feel when we miss a meal. Many an idealistic

new faster has decided to miss a meal and only found that his belly drove him to make up for it long before the next mealtime came.

Fasting sounds so simple, and yet the world, our flesh, and the Devil conspire to introduce all sorts of complications that keep it from happening. In view of helping you start down the slow path to good fasting, here are six simple pieces of advice. These suggestions might seem pedantic, but my hope is that such basic counsel can serve those who are new at fasting or have never seriously tried it.

1. Start Small

Don't go from no fasting to attempting a weeklong. Start with one meal; maybe fast one meal a week for several weeks. Then try two meals, and work your way up to a daylong fast. Perhaps eventually try a two-day juice fast. A juice fast means abstaining from all food and beverage, except for juice and water.

2. Plan What You'll Do Instead of Eating

Fasting isn't merely an act of self-deprivation, but a spiritual discipline for seeking more of God's fullness. Which means we should have a plan for what positive pursuit to undertake in the time it normally takes to eat. One significant part of fasting is the time it creates for prayer and meditation on God's word.

Before diving headlong into a fast, craft a simple plan. Connect it to your purpose for the fast. Each fast should have a specific spiritual purpose. Identify what that is and design a focus to replace your eating time.

3. Consider How It Will Affect Others

Fasting is no license to be unloving. It would be sad to lack concern and care for others around us because of this expression of heightened focus on God. Love for God and for neighbor go together. Good fasting mingles horizontal concern with the vertical.

4. Try Different Kinds of Fasting

The typical form of fasting is personal, private, and partial, but we find a variety of forms in the Bible: personal and communal, private and public, congregational and national, regular and occasional, absolute and partial. In particular, consider fasting together with your family, small group, or church.

5. Fast from Something Other than Food

Fasting from food is not necessarily for everyone. Some health conditions keep even the most devout from the traditional course. However, fasting is not limited to abstaining from food, as we saw from Martyn Lloyd-Jones: "Fasting should really be made to include abstinence from anything which is legitimate in and of itself for the sake of some special spiritual purpose."

If the better part of wisdom for you, in your health condition, is not to go without food, consider fasting from television, computer, social media, or some other regular enjoyment that would bend your heart toward greater enjoyment of Jesus.

6. Don't Think of White Elephants

When your empty stomach starts to growl and begins sending your brain every "feed me" signal it can, don't be content to let your mind dwell on the fact that you haven't eaten. If you make it through with an iron will that says no to your stomach but doesn't turn your mind's eye elsewhere, it isn't true fasting.



THE ACCEPTANCE
WHAT BRINGS AND KEEPS LIFELONG LOVE
JON R. ANDERSON

FPCSANANTONIO.ORG/MARRIAGE

Featuring Jon R. Anderson, author of
"The Acceptance – What Brings and Keeps Lifelong Love"

FPC Marriage Ministry Presents:

MY LOVE & LASTS MARRIAGE WEEKEND

FRIDAY, MARCH 31 | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM &

SATURDAY, APRIL 1 | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - WESTMINSTER HALL



COUPLE
\$150

Registration includes meals, materials, & childcare
(parents must pack kids' meals)

Unlike conventional marriage retreats, "My Love Lasts" goes beyond providing relationship and communication tools, to actually instilling concepts that change the way we behave toward each other, by transforming the heart and rewiring the head toward healthy ways of thinking.

Register Online at fpcsanantonio.org/marriage-weekend

BREAKFAST & MARRIAGE MINISTRY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Sunday, February 12 | 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM | Room 309 | FREE Event

If you haven't read "The Acceptance" by author Jon Anderson yet – now is the time! Jon will teach a marriage Sunday school class at 9:30 AM on February 12.

Gather for breakfast and coffee at 9:00 AM before class. All are welcome!

2022 Update

Benevolence Oversight Committee

First Presbyterian Church has been blessed with a rich heritage of Ministry Partnership that the Lord has worked through to transform lives and advance the gospel in San Antonio and among the nations. Most of our benevolences are now funded through the Local and Global Missions Committees. The focus and priorities for the Benevolence Oversight Committee is and has been providing stop-gaps, emergency funds, first-time requests that can later move to Local and Global Partnerships, unique gifts (i.e. Persian translations and Spanish Bibles), capital expenditures, capital gifts, etc.

In December, the Benevolence Oversight Committee met to continue this work of stewarding resources for ministry in several partnerships. Gifts totaling \$155,000 were approved to support the following:

- \$5,000 to support long-time Global Mission Partners and former First Presbyterian Church members, George and Anne Harper, as they work to reduce their mortgage in preparation for retirement from being full-time missionaries for most of their adult lives.
- \$5,000 for the current Morningside Ministries capital campaign to build stand-alone cottages for elder care.
- \$5,000 to fund a designated American professor to teach one course at the seminary program in Warsaw, Poland.
- \$10,000 to the Outreach Foundation, a designated Global Mission Partner of ECO, to support their work globally and especially with the church in Iraq.
- \$10,000 to Frontier Fellowship, another designated Global Mission Partner of ECO, as they empower believers to take the gospel to places where it is not yet known.
- \$10,000 to PARS Theological Centre to assist their work in translating Christian theology and living resources into the Persian language, to be used, in part, by the leaders of the underground church in Iran who PARS is training.
- \$10,000 was given to STCH Ministries to support their work in Christian counseling in San Antonio. This is a much needed resource, especially coming out of the pandemic, and we are thankful for the work they do in our city and on our FPC Campus. Please know that STCH is available on campus for any Covenant Partners, family member or friends who are in need of Christian counseling and that their services are offered free of charge.
- In response to the shooting in 2022, the Session of FPC directed \$150,000 to Benevolence Oversight to be allocated to Christian ministries serving Uvalde. Earlier in the year, the Committee sent \$50,000 to Youth For Christ Uvalde. In December, the Committee sent \$50,000 to Young Life and \$50,000 to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes as they work to hire staff and grow their ministries in Uvalde. It is truly a blessing to see how these ministries want to work together and complement one another as they pour into the Uvalde community. The Committee will be receiving regular updates from these three ministries to confirm how these ministries are progressing and how we can all pray for them going forward.

The Benevolence Oversight Committee is thankful for the opportunity to empower the work of these ministry partners through these gifts. In addition, our FPC Family is encouraged to continue praying for these various ministries and that the Lord will work through these resources as they are stewarded for His glory.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Feb. 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
FEBRUARY 20, Third Monday, 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
FEBRUARY 15, Third Wednesday, 1:00 pm, Room 228
- Circle 6 Jean Parsons, Chair (210-240-7483)
Members of Circle, Moderators
FEBRUARY 21, Third Tuesday, 1:30 pm, McCullough Room
- Circle 7 Mary Ellen Mauze, Chair & Moderator (210-844-5549)
FEBRUARY 21, Third Tuesday, 11:30 am, FPC Room 302
- Circle 8 Nancy Turnbull, Chair (210-606-5420)
Members of Circle, Moderators,
Circle for mothers of young children
FEBRUARY 24, 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
FEBRUARY 21, Third Tuesday, 10:00 am, Breakfast Room
- Circle 11 Jean Swanson, Chair (210-826-0766)
Members of Circle, Moderators
FEBRUARY 20, (changed due to WOC Luncheon)
Third Monday, 12:30 pm, home of Rosemary Bolte, 775 Burr Rd, 78209, 210-710-9599
- Circle 13 Grace Clouse, Chair (734-718-7057)
LITERATURE CIRCLE
FEBRUARY 14 Second Tuesday, 1:00 pm, Westminster Hall
- Circle 14 Karen Carawan, Chair (210-213-4589)
Suzie Simpson, Moderator
NO MEETING in February
- 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 Feb. 2023

"For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' - Galatians 5:14

February is a month where we designate a special day just for love – Valentine's Day! I hope that everyone will not only take the opportunity to share love with others, but to also remember how much Jesus loves us. He loves us with a love that is radical and all-encompassing, and that should bring us joy! We love because God first loved us, so bask in His love for you! And tell someone you love them this month!

In January the Women of the Church held a Ladies Night Out at Paloma Blanca. It was a wonderful night of fellowship and fun! Lots of ladies were able to come out and enjoy a delicious dinner, meet new people and connect with old friends, and go home with a door prize! Thank you to Paloma Blanca for hosting us again this year. We love gathering at such a fantastic restaurant. And many thanks to the Ladies Night Out Committee, headed up by Ellen Meadows, along with Sabrina Rios, Savannah

Schatte, Jill Peavy, and Paige Mackenzie. They did a wonderful job organizing a fabulous event! Look for the next Ladies Night Out to be held at the home of Wendy Garcia on March 28th.

All are invited to attend our annual Spring Luncheon which will be held on Monday, February 27th at 11:30 in Westminster Hall. Jenna Lucado Bishop will be our featured speaker. She is an author, speaker, and the daughter of Max Lucado. She has a real heart for Bible teaching, and I know you won't want to miss this! Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the tables in the Mauze Lobby or online at www.fpcsanantonio.org/woc-lunch. The deadline for purchasing tickets is February 19th.

Enjoy this happy month of love!

In His perfect love,

Linda Delano

President, Women of the Church



KEYS

KEEPING EVERYONE YOUNG IN SPIRIT

fpcsanantonio.org/keys



January has been a great start to the New Year!! We enjoyed hearing from the Food Bank on Eating on a Budget. Rev. Dr. Kristin Huffman challenged us to believe older adults have a lot to contribute. Our birthday lunch at La Hacienda was amazing, and we enjoyed seeing and hearing about the recent trip to Israel.

February is shaping up!! Be sure to visit the sign-up table or to call the church office to reserve your spot in upcoming events!

Blessings!

Rev. Dr. Joe Moore

Assistant Pastor for Older Adults and
Congregational Care



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.



Friday Fitness

Friday Fitness continues 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:

February 2023

February 3rd - Stock Show & Rodeo. Rodeo Ambassador Cheryl Jewell will accompany our speakers, Egan Little and Melissa Mahula, Stock Show and Rodeo Ticket Committeemen. We always enjoy visitors from the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo.

February 10th - Nancy Wallace from the Women's Storybook Project of Texas. Nancy is a retired educator, who spent 9 years in the classroom and 25 years as an elementary school librarian. "Best job in the world!" She is married to Dan and their blended family consists of 4 grown children, a precious daughter-in-law, and 3 grandchildren, who live in Oregon. She has been volunteering with Storybook since 2004. An amazing program that connects incarcerated mothers with their children through literature. She is excited to share Storybook Project with us.

February 17th - Rick Cavender. Rick needs no introduction to FPC. He has been visiting KEYS with his band for over 20 years. It is a joy to witness his connection with the audience and to watch everyone singing along with him.

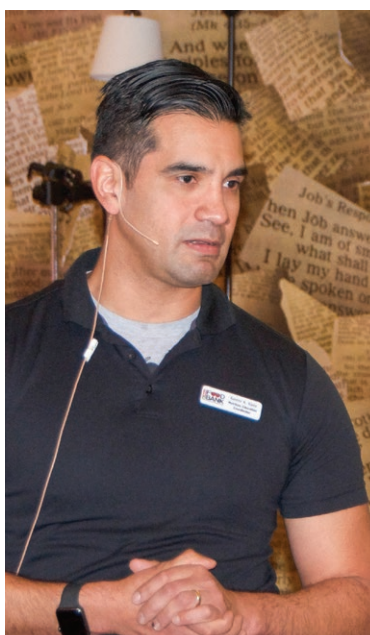
February 24th - Birthday Lunch. We will celebrate February's Birthday Lunch at the Menger Hotel. Shuttling from FPC to the Menger will begin at 10:45am. Free Lunch for February Birthdays, \$15 for everyone else.

Save the date: March 26, 2023 - "Grease" on stage at the Woodlawn!!

Mahjong & Bridge

Mahjong players are meeting on the 2nd & 4th Fridays in the Geneva Room, immediately after lunch. 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!

Calling all Bridge Players!! We are hoping to rekindle the Bridge Games on the 2nd and 4th Fridays. If you want to join in on the games call Suzanne West at 210-525-1499. You need to reserve a seat at the table as I have been told you need a full table of 4 to play!!





FIRST CUP READINGS

FEBRUARY, 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

- 1 Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Genesis 38; Matthew 1:1-6
- 2 Genesis 39; Proverbs 2
- 3 Genesis 40; Psalm 105:16:22
- 4 Genesis 41; Daniel 1:17-20; Acts 2:17-18;
Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; Colossians 3:16

*Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Evermore His praises sing;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King. Praise Him for
His grace and favor to our fathers in distress; Praise Him still the
same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in His faithfulness. Father-like He tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame He knows; In His hands He gently bears
us, Rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet His
mercy flows. Angels, help us to adore Him; ye behold Him face to
face; Sun and moon, bow down before Him, dwellers all in time
and space. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.
(The Hymnbook, No. 31)*

- 5 Genesis 42-43; Matthew 6:12-15; 18:21-35; Psalm 25
- 6 Genesis 44:1-46:7; Romans 8:28-39; Psalm 16
- 7 Genesis 46:26-47:31; Psalm 65; Proverbs 3
- 8 Genesis 48-49; Acts 7:2-26; Hebrews 11:21;
Isaiah 46:3-4; Psalm 116:15
- 9 Genesis 50; Hebrews 11:22; Deuteronomy 33:13-17;
Proverbs 22:1; Psalm 116:15
- 10 Exodus 1; Acts 7:17-19; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-3
- 11 Exodus 2; Hebrews 11:24-26; Psalm 5

*Now Israel may say, and that in truth, If that the Lord had
not our right maintained, If that the Lord had not with us
remained, When cruel men against us rose to strive, We surely
had been swallowed up alive. Yea, when their wrath against us
fiercely rose, The swelling tide had o'er us spread its wave, The
raging stream had then become our grave, The surging flood, in
proudly swelling roll, Most surely then had overwhelmed our
soul. Blest be the Lord, who made us not their prey; As from the
snare a bird escapeth free, Their net is rent and so escaped are we;
Our only help is in God's holy name, Who made the earth and
all the heavenly frame. (The Hymnbook, No. 357).*

- 12 Exodus 3; Romans 8:31-39
- 13 Exodus 4; Acts 7:20-22; Matthew 10:19-20;
1 Corinthians 2:4-5
- 14 Exodus 5; Matthew 10:32-39; 1 Peter 2:19
- 15 Exodus 6:1-7:7; Romans 9:14-18
- 16 Exodus 7:8-24; Psalm 2
- 17 Exodus 8; Psalm 142
- 18 Exodus 9; Proverbs 16:4; Jeremiah 10:1-16

*O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame, A
light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb! Return,
O holy Dove, return, sweet messenger of rest! I hate the sins that
made Thee mourn and drove Thee from my breast. The dearest
idol I have known, what-e'er that idol be, Help me to tear it
from Thy throne, and worship only Thee. (The Hymnbook, No.
319)*

- 19 Exodus 10; Psalm 105
- 20 Exodus 11-12; Deuteronomy 16:1-8; Psalm 103
- 21 Psalm 139
- 22 Exodus 13; Hebrews 11:24-29
- 23 Exodus 14; Ephesians 6:10-18
- 24 Exodus 15:1-21; Ephesians 5:19-20
- 25 Exodus 15:22-16:35; Matthew 6:28-34;
1 Timothy 6:6-10

*Most perfect is the law of God, restoring those that stray; His
testimony is most sure, proclaiming wisdom's way. The precepts
of the Lord are right; with joy they fill the heart; The Lord's
commandments all are pure, and clearest light impart. The fear
of God is undefiled and ever shall endure; The statutes of the Lord
are truth and righteousness most pure. The words which from my
mouth proceed, the thoughts within my heart, Accept, O Lord,
for Thou my Rock and my Redeemer art. (The Hymnbook, No.
257)*

- 26 Exodus 17; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; 1 Timothy 2:8
- 27 Exodus 18; Acts 6:1-4; 1 Timothy 3:1-12
- 28 Exodus 19; Psalm 24

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).

www.fpcsanantonio.org



MUSIC WITH FAMILIES



MEN'S RETREAT AT LONEHOLLOW RANCH



**LOVE CHRIST.
LOVE ONE ANOTHER.
LOVE THE CITY.**

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