



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN**

The View from Gethsemane  
*(pastor's article, page 2)*

**APRIL 2023**



# HOLY WEEK

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

**Holy Week is Here! Let Us  
Remember Jesus' Path to the Cross,  
Crucifixion, and Resurrection!**

*(See page 15)*



**See Save the Dates  
for all of our ministry  
events in April!**  
*(See pages 4-7)*

**Covenant Partner  
Hazel Zachar Featured  
in Express-News**  
*(See reprinted article on  
pages 10-12)*

**Several new  
Covenant Partners  
Joined Us in March.**  
*(page 16)*

# The View from Gethsemane

REV. DR. BOB FULLER

*Mark 14:32–36 (ESV): <sup>32</sup> And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup> And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup> And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." <sup>35</sup> And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup> And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."*

One of the most meaningful events of our November trip to Israel was the morning we spent in the Garden of Gethsemane, at the foot of the Mount of Olives, just across the valley from the walls of old Jerusalem.

Our leader, Mike Fanning, showed us that from the garden one can see the "Golden" gate of the Temple Mount. It would have been from that gate that the temple guards, sent by the Sanhedrin (the Jewish high Council), left the city to go find and arrest Jesus.

From his place in the garden, directly across the valley and opposite that gate, Jesus could have watched the company of soldiers as they came. He could have seen them carrying torches, winding down the slope through the shacks and streets, making progress until eventually they reached him and his friends in the garden.



As I looked across the valley, I pondered what it might have been like for Jesus on that dark night, with the gigantic temple looming high above the valley and his destiny closing in. I imagined that as he watched the torches, the Son of God could have accurately tracked the movement of the soldiers from the moment they emerged from the temple gate, and calculated their progress until they reached him in Gethsemane: 30 minutes; 20 minutes; 10 minutes; 5 minutes, they are here.

But Jesus did not run. He knew the Father's plan and stayed so that he could fulfill his mission and save our lives for all eternity. It was the toughest thing that he ever had to do. But he did it.

I always knew that the story was **true**, but being there—even in the broad daylight—made it all very **real**.

Several years ago, my father, Bobby Fuller, shared with me a devotional he had written about

Jesus' last moments in the garden of Gethsemane.

*"What is the hardest thing you ever had to do? In the moment, EVERY difficult matter we have faced or complicated decision we've had to make may have been - or seemed to be - "the" hardest ever.*

*When Jesus neared Jerusalem and foreknew the deep meaning of all that was coming, we are told, He wept over the city (Luke 19:41). It was not weeping and wailing with dramatic gnashing of teeth in pangs of hysteria. He simply wept.*

*But His anguish was not self-absorbed, it was for and about his brothers and sisters - "us". Jesus wept for us. Every one of us. Each one of us, in particular. How powerful is that reality?*

*We might imagine that as Jesus approached Jerusalem his weeping was acknowledgment that His kingdom mission was coming to its purposed conclusion. Incarnate Jesus loved the disciples, the friends and the created world with every fiber of his humanity. All of it was as real to him as it is to any one of us, including the sadness and pain of grief. He was experiencing the human grief of impending death to this life. Jesus was not just "playing" the role of a human person, he was living a human life and acknowledging the reality of its sure and certain ending. He was not spared death.*

*But, while his tears were real, they were not tears of **defeat**, and*

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## SAVE THE DATE

*his prayer was not one of despair. Because through his death he would conquer death itself, and by his own resurrection, he would be enabling our own resurrection. The tears shed on that dark night would be replaced by tears of joy on Easter morning when the women heard the angel say, "He is not here, he is risen," and Mary, once again heard him call her by name.*

*The lyrics of a familiar hymn of encouragement embraces our belief:*

*God sent His Son they called Him Jesus,  
He came to love, heal and forgive  
He bled and died to buy my pardon  
An empty grave is there to prove My Savior lives*

*Because He lives I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future  
And life is worth the living  
Just because He lives."*

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bob



- 4** Stations of the Cross, Holy Week Services, Palm Sunday Services & Congregational Meeting, Mary Jean Rogers Memorial Concert, Prayer Training, Young Adult Social Evening, Children's Easter Eggstravaganza, Easter Morning Food & Fellowship, Flower the Cross for Easter
- 5** 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World, April Literature Circle, Young Life SA East Fundraiser, Children's Center Spring Fling Gala, Prison Ministry Volunteer Training, Confirmation Sunday, Earthquake Relief, YAC Gospel Community Gathering
- 6** Battle of the Flowers Parade, 5th Sunday Greeting Team, Children's Center Taking Registrations, Job Openings, Audio/Visual Support, YAC Gospel Community Groups, Friday Singers, Join a 2023 Mission Trip
- 7** National Day of Prayer Walk, Youth 7-11, Youth Sunday, 5th Grade Graduation, Vacation Bible School, Summer Join FPC! Class, Praying with the Ministers, FPC Library, Ushers Needed, Bake Cookies

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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** Nona Hall: **Volunteer Photographer**

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



# Save the Date

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS LENTEN PRAYER MEDITATION

**Now through Sunday, April 9**

Participate in the contemplative practice of praying through the Stations of the Cross. Depictions of scenes derived from the Gospel accounts are located through the 2nd and 3rd floors of the FPC Campus. Maps and Prayer Guides are available in Mauze Lobby and online at [fpcsanantonio.org/lent-prayer](http://fpcsanantonio.org/lent-prayer). See ad on [page 14](#).

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**April 2 - 9, 2023**

Visit [fpcsanantonio.org/holyweek](http://fpcsanantonio.org/holyweek) and [page 15](#) for information on all our Holy Week services including our evening Maundy Thursday, midday Good Friday, and Easter Sunday morning services.

## PALM SUNDAY SERVICES & CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday, April 2**

**Traditional Services | 9:30 & 11:00 AM | FPC Sanctuary**

**Modern Service | 11:00 AM | FPC Westminster Hall**

Sunday morning services celebrating Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Childcare for 0-5 available through the morning. A congregational meeting will be held following each service to elect this year's nominees for Trustees, Elders, and Deacons. For more information and to read the biographies of the nominees, visit [fpcsanantonio.org/onc](http://fpcsanantonio.org/onc).

## THE 16TH ANNUAL MARY JEAN ROGERS MEMORIAL CONCERT

**Sunday, April 2 | 4:00 PM | Sanctuary**

Join us as our Sanctuary Choir, Orchestra, and Soloists perform "Mass in Four Voices," the largest non-operatic work written by the famous opera composer Giacomo Puccini. This free one hour concert is a great opportunity to invite friends, family, and co-workers to experience a full concert of the music that inspires and enriches our worship here on Sunday mornings!

## PRAYER TRAINING WITH ONE MINISTRY

**April 5 & May 3 | 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, or however many you can attend, by contacting Lisa Snow at [lisas@fpcsat.org](mailto:lisas@fpcsat.org). Reserve childcare by emailing [childcare@fpcsat.org](mailto:childcare@fpcsat.org).

## YOUNG ADULT SOCIAL EVENING

**Wednesday, April 5 | 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**

**Backyard on Broadway**

Come out to the next Young Adult Community social! Come hang out on the large patio with friends old and new and enjoy some food and drinks. Dogs and kids are encouraged to join! This is the perfect opportunity to invite a non First Pres friend. Contact Chris Roper, 210-782-3687, [christopherdavidroper@yahoo.com](mailto:christopherdavidroper@yahoo.com).

## CHILDREN'S EGGSTRAVAGANZA EASTER CELEBRATION AND HUNT

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

**Westminster Hall**

Families with children, infants through 5th grade, are invited to join us for the Easter Story followed by a traditional FPC egg hunt. Don't forget to bring a friend and your Easter basket. Contact Rebecca at [rebeccas@fpcsat.org](mailto:rebeccas@fpcsat.org). More information on [page 14](#).

## EASTER MORNING FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

**Sunday, April 9 | 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

Join us for Easter Breakfast served in Westminster Hall from 7:30 AM - 9:15 AM, or for our FPC3 time of fellowship in the McCullough Room from 9:15 AM - 12:00 PM. See the full Easter & Holy Week Schedule on [page 15](#).

## FLOWER THE CROSS FOR EASTER

**Sunday, April 9**

Everyone is invited on Easter Sunday to join the children to "Flower the Cross." Feel free to purchase flowers, bring them from your gardens or yards, or pick one up at the church to beautify the Cross in celebration of the resurrection. See the full Easter & Holy Week Schedule on [page 15](#).

## 30 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD

**March 22 - April 20**

Join the world's largest prayer event of Christians praying for the Muslim world as they enter Ramadan. Muslims will spend the month of prayer and fasting seeking a deeper awareness of Allah, and this is a powerful time for Christians to join in prayer for God to draw Muslims into the truth of salvation through Jesus Christ. For a 30-day prayer guide go to [fpcsanantonio.org/missions-prayer](http://fpcsanantonio.org/missions-prayer). Contact Lindsay Selli at [lindsays@fpcsat.org](mailto:lindsays@fpcsat.org) with any questions.

## APRIL LITERATURE CIRCLE

FPC Literature Circle will meet **Tuesday, April 11**, in the McCullough Room. Michelle & Ernesto Rocha, beekeepers, will not only share their knowledge of bees, but also review the book, "*The Honey Bus*," by author Meredith May, on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. Emotionally abandoned as a child, Ms. May spent many hours with "Grandpa" while tending to his hives of honeybees. Not only do you learn how important a pollinator the honeybee is, but also the details of care for the bee and production of honey.

Social half hour at 1:00 PM followed by the review at 1:30 PM. Bring a friend to hear a great story and be reminded of the value of books. Delayed streaming is available on our FPC website: [fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle](http://fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle)

Grace Clouse, Chair  
Willie Willming, Publicity

## YOUNG LIFE SA EAST FUNDRAISER ART IN THE GARDEN

**Wednesday, April 12 | 6:30 PM**

**SA Botanical Gardens**

Help send Young Life students to camp by participating in this unique fundraiser in the beautiful San Antonio Botanical Gardens. Featured art, more information and tickets purchasing available at [artinthegardensa.com](http://artinthegardensa.com). Contact Baylie Collins at 210-787-8207, [bayliecollins@gmail.com](mailto:bayliecollins@gmail.com).

## CHILDREN'S CENTER SPRING FLING GALA FUNDRAISER

**Friday, April 14 | 6:00 PM**

**Magnolia Gardens on Main**

A fun, grown-up evening of food, wine, music, and fun — all for a good cause. Proceeds benefit the First Presbyterian Church Children's Center. Visit [fpcsanantonio.org/spring-fling](http://fpcsanantonio.org/spring-fling) for more information on donating for the silent and live auctions, sponsoring the event, and to purchase Gala tickets.

## PRISON MINISTRY VOLUNTEER TRAINING

**Saturday, April 22 | 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Room 302**

We are fortunate to have with us Mr. Christopher Carter, Director of Rehabilitation Division, and Mr. Carlton Hazlewood, Deputy Director for Religious Programs of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for our upcoming Prison Ministry Training. Please use the church entrance on Avenue E and arrive before 8:00 AM so we can start on time. Coffee and pastries will be available. Contact Rev. Dr. Joe Moore, [jmoore@fpcsat.org](mailto:jmoore@fpcsat.org), to register.

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

**Sunday, April 23 | 9:30 AM Service (Gather at 9:00 AM)  
FPC Sanctuary**

Our Confirmation Students will be presented to the church during the 9:30 AM Worship Service. Contact Kerri Napoli, [kerrin@fpcsat.org](mailto:kerrin@fpcsat.org), or Preston Miller, [prestonm@fpcsat.org](mailto:prestonm@fpcsat.org).

## WORLD RENEW EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

First Pres is donating \$10,000 to World Renew to assist with disaster response in the wake of the massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Families and entire communities are in urgent need of life-saving essentials and protection. You are invited to join us by donating at [worldrenew.net](http://worldrenew.net) to help those affected by this disaster. Checks payable to World Renew.

## YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITIES GOSPEL COMMUNITY GATHERING

**Monday, Apr. 24 | 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](mailto:carrie@fpcsat.org) or visit [fpcsanantonio.org/gcggathering](http://fpcsanantonio.org/gcggathering) for more information.

## CHURCH CLOSED FOR THE FIESTA BATTLE OF THE FLOWERS PARADE

### Friday, April 28

Church Offices will be closed due to the parade route going by the property. KEYS Older Adult Ministry will also not meet this day.

## 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](mailto:nancyturnbull@gmail.com).

## CHILDREN'S CENTER TAKING REGISTRATIONS FOR FULL & NEW PART-TIME ENROLLMENT

New part-time care options for 3-5 year-olds available for 2, 3, or 5 days a week, Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM. Also accepting full time care enrollment for toddlers and preschoolers 2.5 - 4 years of age. Interested in a career with the FPC Children's Center? We are hiring afternoon teachers and substitutes. Contact Laura Ortiz at [laurao@fpcsat.org](mailto:laurao@fpcsat.org), visit [fpcsanantonio.org/childrens-center](http://fpcsanantonio.org/childrens-center) or call (210) 225-0960.

## CURRENT FPC JOB OPENINGS

We are currently seeking a Director of Emerging Adults & University Ministries, a Director to Youth & their Families, Caregivers, an Assistant Cook, and Audio/Visual contract support. Visit [fpcsanantonio.org/jobs](http://fpcsanantonio.org/jobs) for more details.

## 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](mailto:communications@fpcsat.org).

## 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](http://fpcsanantonio.org/gcgroups) for a full list of groups.

## 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](mailto:brittanies@fpcsat.org) or 210-271-2730 for more information.

## JOIN A 2023 MISSION TRIP!

Join in the Lord's ministry through a short term mission trip. For more info visit [fpcsanantonio.org/missions-trips](http://fpcsanantonio.org/missions-trips) or contact Lindsay Selli at [lindsays@fpcsat.org](mailto:lindsays@fpcsat.org).

## 2023 MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

### High School Boys Summer Mission Trip

Dates: May 27 – June 3 - **Team is Full**

Location: Yucatan, Mexico

Bobby Mickler, [bobby@siteworkstx.com](mailto:bobby@siteworkstx.com)

Jacob Cole, [alamoheightsyounlife@gmail.com](mailto:alamoheightsyounlife@gmail.com)

Lindsay Selli, [lindsays@fpcsat.org](mailto:lindsays@fpcsat.org)

### Food for the Hungry Summer Mission Trip

Dates: June 3-10 - **Team is Full**

Location: Dominican Republic

Carrie Everson, [carrie@fpcsat.org](mailto:carrie@fpcsat.org)

Lindsay Selli, [lindsays@fpcsat.org](mailto:lindsays@fpcsat.org)

### Chevak, Alaska Vacation Bible School Mission Trip

Dates: July 6 - 17

Rev. Joe Moore, [joem@fpcsat.org](mailto:joem@fpcsat.org), 201-226-0215 x226

### Uganda Mission Trip

Dates: TBD Fall

Ellen Meadows, [e.meadows@att.net](mailto:e.meadows@att.net)

Mike Meadows, [m\\_j\\_meadows@yahoo.com](mailto:m_j_meadows@yahoo.com)

Lindsay Selli, [lindsays@fpcsat.org](mailto:lindsays@fpcsat.org)

See article on [page 13](#).

### Poland Mission Trip

Dates: TBD

Irina Villastrigo, [irina4727@hotmail.com](mailto:irina4727@hotmail.com)

Lindsay Selli, [lindsays@fpcsat.org](mailto:lindsays@fpcsat.org)

### Yucatan Peninsula Ministries Mission Trip

Dates: TBD

Rich Delano, [rich.delano@outlook.com](mailto:rich.delano@outlook.com)

Lindsay Selli, [lindsays@fpcsat.org](mailto:lindsays@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](mailto:eva.eckburg@yahoo.com). See article on [page 17](#).

## 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](mailto:kerrin@fpcsat.org), or Preston Miller, [prestonm@fpcsat.org](mailto:prestonm@fpcsat.org).

## YOUTH 7-11

**Friday, May 12 | 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM**

### FPC Student Center

Join us for Free Food, Games, Fellowship, and Fun... All 5th grade, middle school, and high school ages welcome! Contact Kerri Napoli, [kerrin@fpcsat.org](mailto:kerrin@fpcsat.org), or Preston Miller, [prestonm@fpcsat.org](mailto:prestonm@fpcsat.org).

## 5TH GRADE GRADUATION

**Sunday, May 21 | 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM**

### High Five Sunday School Classroom

All 5th graders along with their families are invited to a special morning dedicated to our students. We want to honor the 5th Graders for completing elementary school and moving on to middle school. It will be a special morning of prayer, testimony, fellowship, and food. Enjoy cake and punch as you and your parents explore the Youth Center with the youth students, Kerri, Interim Director of Youth, and Preston, Interim Youth Associate. Contact Rebecca Sweet, [rebeccas@fpcsat.org](mailto: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's light to the world. Registration is open to children 4 years old to 5th grade at [fpcsanantonio.org/vbs](http://fpcsanantonio.org/vbs). Cost for VBS is \$20.00 per child which includes a t-shirt, digital music card, bag, and a week of fun! 6th grade and older children are considered teen helpers. If you wish to volunteer as an adult or teen for VBS, please contact Rebecca Sweet, [rebeccas@fpcsat.org](mailto:rebeccas@fpcsat.org). (Childcare available for volunteers).

## SUMMER DISCOVER, KNOW, JOIN FPC!

**Sunday, June 25 | 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM**

### Geneva Room

Are you interested in learning more about FPC or become a Covenant Partner? Sign up and attend this summer class offered as a special "last chance" for this academic year for people to complete the program prior to joining FPC. This class will be a combination of the two classes, DiscoverFPC! and KnowFPC! Register for the Summer Class and learn more about joining FPC at [fpcsanantonio.org/join](http://fpcsanantonio.org/join). You may also contact Sheila Figueroa, [sheilaf@fpcsat.org](mailto:sheilaf@fpcsat.org), 210-271-2759 to sign up.

## 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 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](http://bit.ly/ministers-prayer-spring23).

## 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](mailto:mw.fuller4@comcast.net).

## 9:30 AM USHERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY!

We are in need of Usher Team Members and Team Captain for the 9:30 AM Traditional Services for the quarter that includes the months of March, July and November as we currently do not have anyone currently serving! You do not have to be present each month in order to serve during this time. We hope to build a team with at least 12 people for these months so that we are covered during vacations or illnesses. This is a great role for those who have recently joined the church or who would like to get to know other FPC family members better while serving the church during worship. Please contact Adam Sharpe, Usher Captain, at [adam1980@pobox.com](mailto:adam1980@pobox.com) for more information or to sign up! Training will be provided for this easy, yet critical role.

## SERVE BY BAKING COOKIES!

Help is needed to provide cookies for our FPC<sup>3</sup> Fellowship each Sunday. If baking is your thing, follow the link to sign up for one or more Sundays! Sign up at [bit.ly/sunday-cookie-signup](http://bit.ly/sunday-cookie-signup).



We are pleased to share some reflections by our Covenant Partner Sichan Siv in honor of Former First Lady Barbara Bush, who left us in April 2018. He gave her the acronym, Barbubles, which stands for "BARbara BUsh BLESSings." A deacon at FPC, Sichan served under Mrs. Bush's husband George (41) as deputy assistant to the President at The White House, and under her son George W. (43) as an ambassador to the United Nations.

# BARBUBLES

## Barbara Bush Blessings



*Walker's Point, Summer 2017. Photo by Doro Bush Koch.*

*"...you will never regret not having passed one more test, not winning one more verdict or not closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a husband, a friend, a child or a parent."*

*"Libraries have always seemed like the richest places in the world to me, and I've done some of my best learning and thinking thanks to them. Libraries and librarians have definitely changed my life and the lives of countless other Americans."*

Barbara Pierce Bush, 1925-2018

Martha's hometown of Pampa at the Top of Texas is where *wheat grows, oil flows, wind blows*. Since my first visit in 1982, I developed enormous admiration, affection and appreciation for the Texas Panhandle. We got married there on Christmas Eve 1983. It was 7 degrees below with 12 inches of snow and 20 mph wind. After Martha lifted off to be at Peace in Heaven with the Lord on December 14, 2016, I spent my first Christmas there without her. Even with the love and comfort of the Brainard family and others,

it was the most painful holiday. But things got better. On December 1 (Martha's birthday), 2017, her alma mater, The University of Texas School of Information, dedicated its Doctoral Student Lounge to her. On December 20, Pampa High School, where Martha was valedictorian and a Hall of Famer, named its library reading area for her. On January 22, 2018 the City of Pampa adopted a resolution naming its children's library in honor of Martha. We set the dedication for April 20, exactly four months after Pampa High's.

April 15, I left home at 02:20 AM and arrived in Pampa in time for the 10:45 service at First Presbyterian. For most of the eight-hour trip, I was the only person on the road, with plenty of time to pray for family and friends, especially the Bushes (41 and BPB). I transported the first shipment of books I gifted to Lovett Memorial Library where Martha read 100 books every summer. The Tea & Talk Book Club wanted to make *Golden Bones* its 100th book in May. But I would be in Washington for the National Celebration of Reading, hosted by the Barbara Bush Foundation, which I was privileged to address in May 2017. I spoke to the Club and to Pampa High students, and organized contests for the Martha Pattillo Siv Prize. At the dedication of the Martha Pattillo Siv Children's Library on April 20, 2018, Mayor Pingel and I thanked each other for the opportunity to honor Martha, the girl who made it from Pampa to the pinnacle of our society, by following her dreams.

I hesitated at the beginning to drive from Pampa to Houston (600 miles) all night for the celebration of former First Lady Barbara Bush's life. I could hear: *Sichan, if you die for trying to get to my funeral, I will kill you!* But God provides. My good friend Benny stepped in. After traveling through the night, he left me at Hobby to fly to Amarillo and return to Pampa.



I pulled into the parking lot of Second Baptist at 07:00 AM on April 21, four hours before the service began at St. Martin's Episcopal: *Let us pray to God that he will raise her to perfection in the company of the saints.*

For 13 years, I kept on my desk Mrs. Bush's handwritten note of March 6, 2005:

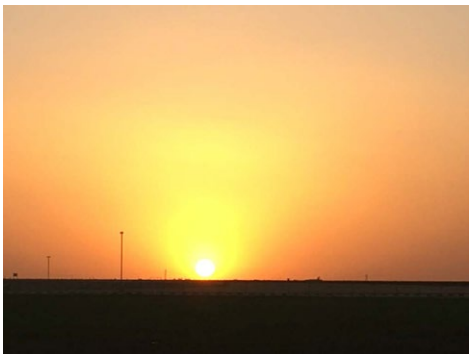
*Dear Martha and Sichan, George brought home the lovely candle snuffer that you designed. It is really perfect and will go to Maine where we use candles every night. I am so thrilled to have this lovely piece. You have been so nice to Doro over the years and her father and I are so grateful to you. Warmly, Barbara Bush.*

Her December 16, 2016 note touched me the most:

*Dear Sichan, Doro told me today the very sad news about your precious wife. We are so sad for you and the world. As I believe in heaven, I know we will all see her again. God bless you, dear friend. Affectionately, George and Barbara Bush*

I also believe in heaven. As I savored the last rays of the setting sun from Martha's Lounge at her alma mater, I summoned the beautiful memories of an extraordinary life that had touched all of us. Everybody was a mourner who had now lost something and someone dearest. I envisioned Martha welcoming Barbara at the Pearly Gates: *Let me show you around!* And off they went, hand in hand, two women I have always loved and respected, and will forever do: a librarian and a literacy champion and First Lady of the Greatest Generation. They have gone to *that undiscovered country, from whose bourn no traveler returns, to that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.* I know we will all see them again.

I thank God for Martha and Barbara!



*Pampa, Apr 17, 2018 The day BPB lifted off.*

***Blessed be the day you were born;  
Blessed be the day we met;  
Blessed be the days we are together;  
In person or in spirit;  
Yesterday, today, tomorrow, forever!***



*The University of Texas iSchool, Austin, April 22, 2018.  
The day after the celebration of BPB's life.*

*Surely, I am with you always to the end of the age. Matthew 28:20*

*Sichan Siv*, UT iSchool, April 22, 2018

## THE DEACON REPORT

The following story is a reprint courtesy of the San Antonio Express-News about our own Covenant Partner, Hazel Zachar. Please get to know one of our church members!

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# The secret to living to 101? Retired San Antonio military nurse says it's making other lives better.

By Sig Christenson, Express-News Staff Writer  
January 29, 2023



*Retired Army Lt. Col. Hazel Zachar, who served as commander of the Army Health Nurse Program, just turned 101.*  
Billy Calzada / Express-News Staff photographer

As the big day neared, Hazel Zachar was thinking about staying up until midnight Friday just to mark the milestone, and why not?

Making it to 101, after all, is something of a big deal — just 100,000 Americans had done it as of last year.

But staying up late was about as much excitement as she wanted. A low-key way to celebrate her second century of living struck Zachar as just the right approach.

There will be no big party, unlike her 100th birthday, only dinner with friends Friday night and perhaps some thinking later on about a long and consequential life.

“I keep saying I’m surprised to be here. But I have no idea,” Zachar said, referring to why she’s lived so long. “Most of my family died in their early 70s. One sister lived to 84, so there was no hint that I would be 101. And I have a little joke about who in the world would want to be 101 — well, someone who’s 100.”

Long retired, Zachar is clearheaded, upbeat and has done a few things of note.

She was among the first women to reach lieutenant colonel after the Army’s promotion list was opened to females in 1967, said San Antonio historian John Manguso, a neighbor of Zachar’s in the Towers, a high-rise just outside Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

It was a time of profound change and upheaval. The Civil Rights and Voting Rights acts had only been on the books a few years, and the Vietnam War was raging.

Personal freedoms were growing, with some combat arms jobs opened for the first time to women in the early 1970s, Manguso said, recalling a female training in his advanced artillery class at Fort Sill, Okla.

Zachar also helped drive the decision to place nurses in every Department of Defense school overseas.

She had spent time in 17 schools as a nurse and examined thousands of children when she decided it was an impossible job. Zachar wrote a paper arguing that the system should place nurses in each school to better care for those kids, all dependents of American troops.

Her idea won approval.

That wasn’t the last time Zachar did something to make life better in the world — a thing she says just might be the secret to her longevity. She was working in a ward during the 1950s at Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Denver when doctors performed their first successful heart operations on children.

If common now, those procedures were relatively new in that era, when Dwight D. Eisenhower was president.

“I would care for each child during the lengthy pre-op period and send the child to surgery on the day of their operation,” she told the Women In Military Service for America Memorial. “They didn’t return. This happened for several children.

“At last, two young boys successfully lived through

the surgical procedure and thrived. It was such a momentous event. The hospital released a detailed report to the local media.”

She also helped create a scholarship for academic achievers at Jefferson High School in Iowa, where she graduated as the class valedictorian in 1939.

“I just think if you can help somebody, it helps you, too,” she explained.

Zachar grew up on a 200-acre farm northwest of Des Moines. Her parents, Arthur and Bertha Brown, grew corn and oats and raised pigs, cows and chickens.

It was perhaps in the solitude of the Midwest that the desire for traveling first took root, but the potential for seeing different places and people became apparent after she met Capt. Bert Young in Anchorage, Alaska, where he was posted, and she worked in a hospital and a construction company dispensary.

He went there on orders. She simply decided to go there.

“I wanted to see something else, saw an ad for Alaska and just went — didn’t know anybody.”

Zachar was widowed in 1953 and working at a hospital in Rochester, Minn., when she decided to join the Army the following year. She had seen life as a military wife, enjoyed the occasional moves and saw the practical side of putting on the uniform — a better retirement plan.

“At first, I thought I’d try it and see what I think,” she said. “Well, I tried it for 20 years.”

When you talk with Zachar, she often talks of “challenges,” not problems. It’s a military way of looking at a world full of imperfections.

None of what she endured in the Cold War military ruffled her feathers much, including the time a group of Marines and sailors got into a brawl on Okinawa, Japan. They were treated at the local hospital for a variety of fractures, and still so drunk doctors didn’t need to use anesthetics.

The work of a nurse could be hard, particularly when staffing was thin. On Okinawa, for example, there was no backup nearby, so medical personnel made do. At one point a pediatric nurse, Zachar later moved into public health and saw that as a break.

“It was helping them stay well,” she explained.

The thrust of that job was preventive medicine,



starting with teaching women to examine their breasts for signs of cancer. It wasn't unusual for young mothers to feel overwhelmed, and the nurses in her program could ease that a bit. When women brought their newborns to the clinic, it was easier to diagnose problems well before they festered.

"Usually, the first baby, we would visit the home to make sure everything was going all right. We had well-baby clinics two or three times a week," Zachar said. "I just felt like we were helping them keep healthy."

Another challenge was the second-class status of women for much of her career.

The main difference between men and women in the military for her was that she wasn't on the same promotion schedule as her male counterparts. It wasn't something Zachar thought much about because gender discrimination was baked into federal law.

Still, the system bothered her when she learned of a married woman who had joined the Army. Her husband also had intended to join, but he was declared unfit for military service because of high blood pressure.

While the spouse of a male soldier and her children qualified for military benefits, he didn't.

"I did not think that was fair," she said. "It was a real sacrifice for them."

Zachar was settling into a master's in nursing program at UCLA when a letter came in the mail identifying her as "Lt. Col. Hazel Zachar." Wondering

what that was about but no longer posted on a military installation while at UCLA, she got resourceful and picked up the phone.

"I was in a civilian situation, so I called the recruiting office in Santa Monica and asked if they had a recent Army Times and was there a list of promotions for nurses and lieutenant colonels. They looked and, yes, there was and, yes, my name was on it. So I was one of the first to be promoted after the law changed," she said. "That was a surprise."

Before she closed out her career as a brigadier colonel, Zachar served as chief of Fort Sam's Army Health Nurse Program at Brooke Army Medical Center, a post she held from 1970-74.

Over the decades, she's developed a point of view that's carried her through 101 years. It's founded in one of the dark chapters of her days, a time when her second husband, Martin Zachar, suffered from Alzheimer's.

At one point, she recalls being clinically depressed.

"And after he died and everything was taken care of, I just said, 'I'm tired of being overcome by the problems.' I chose to live a happy life, and I said with friends, 'If you do agree, welcome aboard, and if not, it's been nice knowing you,'" she said, laughing like a pirate.

"So I really try and see the positive, no matter what the situation, and I like to help people. That's very rewarding to me."



**30 DAYS**  
**OF PRAYER**  
**FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD**  
**MAR 22 - APR 20, 2023**

SCAN FOR THE PRAYER GUIDE



# Loving Orphans Locally and Globally



## South Texas Alliance for Orphans and L.O.V.E. Initiative Visit FPC



## Bartons Visit FPC from Operation Uganda



SOUTH TEXAS  
**ALLIANCE**  
FOR ORPHANS

Six years ago, First Presbyterian Church gave the seed money for the launch of the South Texas Alliance for Orphans (STAFO), an organization aiming to empower the Church to fulfill the biblical call to care for children and families impacted by the foster care system. Now STAFO is working with almost 100 churches in the San Antonio area and they are setting their sights on a major goal: Empowering the Church to end the foster care crisis in San Antonio by the end of 2025. Jennifer Smith, founder and CEO of STAFO, joined FPC in worship on Sunday, March 19. Scan the QR code for more information



on opportunities to get involved with STAFO and our FPC L.O.V.E. Initiative team. You can also contact Molly Schluter at [mollymschluter@gmail.com](mailto:mollymschluter@gmail.com).



operation uganda

FPC welcomed the Barton Family, from Operation Uganda on Sunday, March 26. Uganda is one of the poorest nations on the planet with over 2 million orphaned children. Russell and Jenny Barton have a clear vision to empower communities in Uganda and help end the cycle of poverty, one child at a time, one community at a time. Learn more about Operation Uganda at [operationuganda.org](http://operationuganda.org), FPC is planning a Fall Mission Trip in partnership with Operation Uganda. Contact Ellen Meadows at [e.meadows@att.net](mailto:e.meadows@att.net) or Lindsay Selli at [lindsays@fpcsat.org](mailto:lindsays@fpcsat.org) for more details as they become available and to get connected with how you can partner with Operation Uganda.

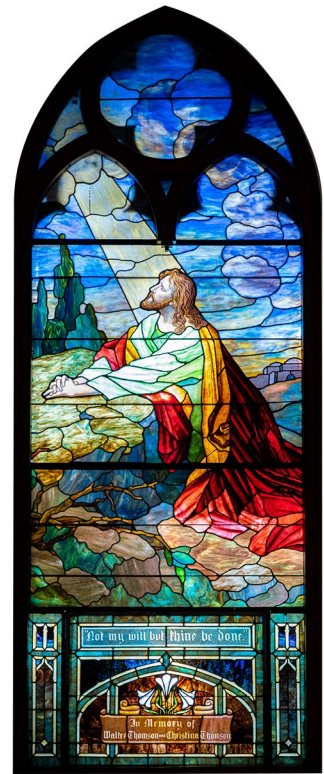
# STATIONS OF THE CROSS

## TAKE TIME TO PRAY THIS LENTEN SEASON

[fpcsanantonio.org/lent-prayer](http://fpcsanantonio.org/lent-prayer)

During this last part of the Lenten season, we invite you to take time to pray for our congregation and community using the stations of the cross. Depictions of scenes derived from the Gospel accounts are located through the 2nd and 3rd floors of the FPC Campus. Maps and Prayer Guides are available in Mauze Lobby and online.

This is a perfect, simple family or small group activity which can be done at any time the church building is open. We ask that when you reach Station 9, you register your completion of the stations in the book provided or online.



## FPC EGGSTRAVAGANZA CHILDREN'S EASTER CELEBRATION & HUNT



**Saturday, April 8 | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**  
**Westminster Hall**

**Families with children, infants through 5th grade,  
are invited to join us for the Easter Story  
followed by a Traditional FPC Egg Hunt.**

**Contact Rebecca at [rebeccas@fpcsat.org](mailto:rebeccas@fpcsat.org)**







# HOLY WEEK

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

We welcome you to join us in-person or online this Holy Week and Easter, from April 2-9, as we gather to celebrate and experience new beginnings in Christ.



[FPCSANANTONIO.ORG/EASTER](http://FPCSANANTONIO.ORG/EASTER)

4/2

## PALM SUNDAY

**9:30 & 11:00 AM | FPC Sanctuary**  
Traditional services

**11:00 AM | FPC Westminster Hall**  
Modern service

Celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

4/8

## SATURDAY CHILDREN'S EASTER PROGRAM

**10:00 AM | FPC Westminster Hall**

Eggstaviganza Easter Story & Hunt! Children ages 0 years old thru 5th grade are invited with their parents to join the FPC Children's Ministry for music, an egg hunt, and hear the story of Jesus' resurrection. Don't forget your basket!

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

4/6

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

**6:30 PM | FPC Westminster Hall \*\***

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

4/7

## GOOD FRIDAY

**12:00 PM | FPC Sanctuary \*\***

A noon service commemorating Christ's crucifixion.

4/9

## EASTER SUNDAY

**6:45 AM | FPC Courtyard**

Outdoor modern sunrise service

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

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

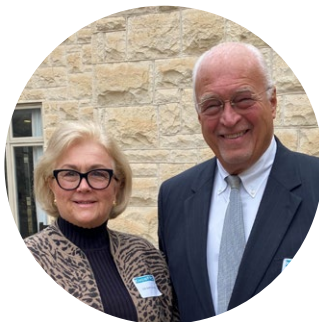
*\*\*We hope to see you, your family and friends during this most holy time of the year. Childcare available for 5 years and under by reservation. Please contact [childcare@fpcsat.org](mailto:childcare@fpcsat.org).*

# New Covenant Partners!

## Joined us in March 2022



**Denise Barnes**



**Lexi and Ed Bartolomei**



**Lisa Duke**



**Rachel and Daryll Gremillion**



**Elizabeth and John Hudson**



**Jamey McDowell**



**Emily Miketinac**



**Spencer Newsom**



**Chris Roper**



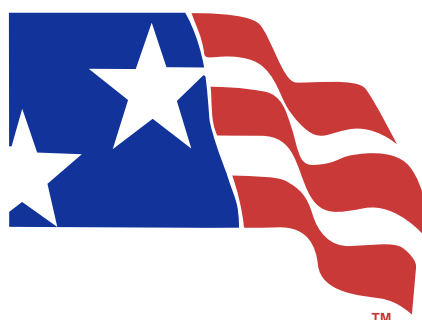
**Katherine Stewart and Kent Woodard**



# National Day of Prayer & Prayer Walk

## Pray Fervently In Righteousness and Avail Much

# NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



### CONTACTS

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 Coordinator, San Antonio City  
 Observance of National Day of  
 Prayer [SANationaldayofprayer@gmail.com](mailto:SANationaldayofprayer@gmail.com)

In 1982 a conservative evangelical Christian organization called the “National Prayer Committee” was formed to coordinate annual events. In his 1983 declaration, President Reagan said, “From General Washington’s struggle at Valley Forge to the present, this Nation has fervently sought and received divine guidance as it pursued the course of history. This occasion provides our Nation the opportunity to further recognize the source of our blessings, and to seek His help to the challenges we face today and in the future.” (“Proclamation 5017-National Day of Prayer, 1983”, Reagan.utexas.edu. Retrieved May 3, 2012).

Thursday, May 4, 2023 will mark San Antonio’s 38th consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer. The observance begins **at Noon** with Mayor Nirenberg reading the National Day of Prayer City Proclamation as the chimes ring from the San Fernando Cathedral. Celebration and Praise precedes the event **at 11:30.** Prepare your hearts with a Prayer Walk from First Presbyterian Church (FPC) to the Main Plaza, across from the Courthouse. This year’s theme is “The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” (James 5:16) We will begin at **10:00** with opening remarks and prayers at FPC and join fellow prayer warriors as we walk to Travis Park for additional prayers, scripture and music. We will then proceed to the Main Plaza to participate in NDP worship and exaltation of our Lord.

### National Day of Prayer Walk on 4 May 2023

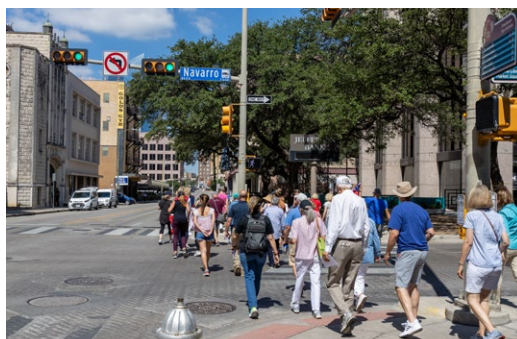
All Ages—Walk or Ride Shuttle (walking impaired) to each destination

- 10:00 Gather and Pray at First Presbyterian Church (404 N. Alamo, SATX 78205-1918)
- 10:45 Gather and Pray at Travis Park
- 11:30 Gather and Worship at Main Plaza across from the courthouse
- 12:00 San Antonio’s National Day of Prayer observance with Mayor Nirenberg’s proclamation

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

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

This month, let’s prepare our hearts by praying for our business community, our educational community, the body of Christ, and our Nation. (Other concerns can be found in the March Newsletter).



# National Day of Prayer Guide

## Part 2

### PRAYING FOR THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

**“I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. He is a master craftsman, expert in working ...” (Exodus 31:3-4)**

*Pray for leaders in our community to influence our government, schools and community with the highest integrity. May righteous leaders speak up on our behalf and conduct business with the utmost uprightness, imparting ideas and resources to open principled businesses, especially in areas that need an economic boost. (Psalm 132:15)*

#### WHY PRAY?

Since the beginning of time, divisions of labor and trade of goods and services has been a consistent occupation for people across every era and time period. A workplace is anywhere work is performed-both outside and within the home. We see in Scripture that Moses was a government leader, Deborah was a judge, Paul was a tentmaker and Mary and Martha were homemakers. Each of these heroes of the faith boldly followed the call of the Lord even in their different positions. There is not an exclusive job title necessary to be used by God. It is a JOY, not a JOB, to be obedient to God to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, love our neighbor as ourselves, and go into the world, making disciples of all nations. (Matthew 22:37; 28:19-20)

Each person is created in the image of God and holds inherent dignity and, as His creator, God calls each person to work as if working as a representative of Christ. Therefore, both our place of work and our heart's position at work need to reflect our dignity and obedience to God. A God-honoring business can be a great benefit to employees and the community, and a person who honors God in each task through the day speaks a testimony of faith. We need to cover our workplace in prayer to see hearts changed for the Kingdom of God!

#### HOW TO PRAY

Pray the Father's heart. To do this, seek scripture for the divine design and wisdom concerning righteous ways to conduct business and honor God while working. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God.

These verses are good starting places to see God's design and purpose for righteous working practices:

*“Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” (Colossians 3:17) NASB*

*“It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice” (Psalm 112:5) ESV*

*“Give her the reward of her labor, and let her works praise her at the city gates.” (Proverbs 31:31) HCSB*

*“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?” (Luke 16:10-11) NIV*

#### WHAT TO PRAY

- May each business leader be of great character: integrity, humbleness of spirit and heart, honest in speech and actions, empathetic and vulnerable.
- Develop a workforce that is filled with a spirit of excellence and unity.
- Dispel any false belief that a person's value comes from his job title-let the truth ring out that a person is valuable because they are image bearers of God, their Creator.
- Pour out a spirit of generosity onto the mountain of business like never before.
- May the gifts of the work of their hands be a great blessing to family and community.
- Open the hearts of business leaders to be soul-searching, to cast out any greed, selfish ambition or idols and lay them on the altar of repentance.
- Give shift leaders the hearts to be genuinely concerned with the overall wellbeing of their workers.

# PRAYING FOR THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

**“If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” (Proverbs 2:3-6)**

*Pray for a safe atmosphere conducive to learning both in school and at home*

*Pray for excellent educators (Exodus 18:20-21)*

*Pray for equal opportunities for every student to achieve his full potential (Philippians 1:9)*

## WHY PRAY?

God created our minds to learn, with the greatest abilities to increase brain growth occurring before the age of twenty-five. Education is not just about memorizing a series of facts-it is growing in knowledge about the world, learning beneficial interactions with others and applying these things to live in the calling of Christ.

Education is an investment into the future, and a unifying connecting point for each person. The Apostle Paul used this universal fact to convey the spiritual truth of ‘growing up’ in Christ-like wisdom and letting go of childish ways. (1 Corinthians 13:11)

There are endless avenues for young people to receive an education: public school, private school, homeschool, and formats that mix elements of each. Not to mention the many opportunities for extra-curricular activities. Parents and caretakers need wisdom from the Lord to make the right choice for their children to receive education that aligns with the truth of Scripture and helps them fulfill the plans the Lord has for them. Students need to know they were created by God with value and that their Creator has a purpose for them. Instructors need endurance to faithfully teach pupils in God-honoring lessons.

## HOW TO PRAY

Pray the Father’s heart. To do this, seek scripture for the divine design and wisdom about children growing in knowledge and wisdom. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God. These verses are a good starting place to see God’s design and purpose for the sphere of education:

*“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” (Proverbs 22:6) NIV*

*“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7) ESV*

*“And whoever receives one such child in My name, receives Me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and he be drowned in the depths of the sea.” (Matthew 18:5-6) NASB*

## WHAT TO PRAY

- Stir the hearts of parents to take an active role in the academic, spiritual, and emotional formation of their children.
- Guide school boards to be wise in choosing curriculums that uphold the truth of the Word.
- Move the hearts of funding leaders to prioritize the needs teachers and students have for classroom materials.
- Give Christian parents a missionary mindset to minister to teachers in their children’s lives.
- Draw near to teachers in the classroom and teach them to rely on the Holy Spirit throughout the day rather than their own strength.
- Set young people free from the hopelessness, despair, depression, anxiety, loneliness and substance abuse.
- Bless teachers with an outpouring of grace and endurance of such magnitude it overflows onto their students, their schools, and their communities.
- Turn the hearts of students to see their worth and value in their Creator and Savior, rather than test scores, athletic performance or social media following.
- Pour out discernment on older students and their parents in order to know what path God has set for them as they transition into adulthood.

## PRAYING FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

**“So then, just as you received Jesus Christ as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” (Colossians 2: 6-8)**

*“The church would find a new zeal and commitment to the mission and purpose of Jesus Christ” (Matthew 22:37)*

*“Unity with and among churches that reveal God’s love to the world” (John 17:23)*

*“Integrity—that God’s people look and act differently from the world” (1 Peter 2:11; 1 Corinthians 13:6)*

### WHY PRAY?

Jesus established the church to continue the work He had begun on earth. Christ’s ministry established a lifestyle of caring for needs, praying in relationship with the Father, and sharing the Gospel message of salvation.

The church unites all believers in the proclamation of faith in Christ Jesus. There are many denominations and practices, but one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all. (Ephesians 4:5-6)

A healthy church is a powerful tool God uses to bring people into salvation and a community that continues to spurn one another on in the faith. We need to cover our churches in prayer, because there are many distractions that can prevent a church from living in the fullness of God’s design. Is a church too focused on perceived image and a single leader, or on making Christ known above all? Is a church ignoring issues, or addressing challenges with humble hearts seeking Biblical healing and justice? Are the church members actively living out a missional lifestyle and engaging in intergenerational discipleship or is church just a weekly event?

The church needs our prayers!

### HOW TO PRAY

Pray the Father’s heart. To do this, seek scripture for the divine design and wisdom concerning challenges within the Church. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God. These verses are good starting places to see God’s design and purpose for the Church:

*“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28: 18-20) ESV*

*“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually members one of another.” (Romans 12:4-5) ESV*

*“Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.” (Hebrews 13:3) NIV*

### WHAT TO PRAY

- Use the church as a beacon of light and joy to a world that is searching for answers.
- Give pastors keen wisdom and insight that is in tune with the Holy Spirit so they would never lose sight of the mission of the church.
- Open hearts in the church to care for people outside the church, to be praying for them and to become visibly and tangibly concerned in helping them with needs and struggles.
- Bring a focus for exalting God above all else as pastors and lay leaders.
- Stir the Holy Spirit among the body to actively participate in witnessing to one another.
- Burden the church with urgency to share the Gospel with passion and the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Remind us to eagerly look for ways to use our time, talents, and treasures to build up the Body of Christ.



## PRAYING FOR FAMILIES

**“If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.” (Mark 3:25)**

*“Establish unity and love in individual families that reach out in hospitality toward others” (Romans 12:9-13)*

*“Establish healthy relationships between parents and children” (Malachi 4:5-6)*

### WHY PRAY?

God established families at the foundation of the world, creating Eve from Adam’s rib and growing children from their union. Later in the scripture, we see the formation of tribes along kinship lines. Family sets the foundation for understanding our experiences and the world around us. Scripture even records God using the term ‘father’ to help our finite human minds begin to understand the relational nature of our omnipotent and all-powerful God. (Exodus 4:22)

The family is the first place where we learn about God and create expectations for how to form relationships. Healthy families provide a strong foundation for children to grow into mature adults and model the love of Christ by sacrificially serving one another.

When the foundation of family is shaken through tragedy, trauma or broken trust, the foundation of life is shaken right along with it. Divorces, work/life imbalance and lack of loving support can profoundly shape the rest of a person’s life, even if the painful event occurred decades prior. Christ shared in the sufferings of family troubles while He walked on earth. The leaders of Nazareth rejected Him as the Son of God, refusing to see Him as more than “Joseph’s son.”

There are timeless challenges such as joining lives as a married couple and raising children, and there are the new challenges of navigating family dynamics in an age of the social media barrage of opinions and connections. Families need our prayer!

### HOW TO PRAY

Pray the Father’s heart. To do this, seek scripture for the divine design and wisdom concerning challenges within the Church. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God. These verses are good starting places to see God’s design and purpose for the Church:

Pray the Father’s heart. To do this, seek scripture for the divine design for families and wisdom on cultivating a healthy family life. Meditating on scripture before beginning prayer puts our hearts into a position of submission to the will of God. These verses are good starting places to see God’s design and purpose for families:

*“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.” (Exodus 20: 12) NIV*

*“Listen to counsel and receive instruction so that you may be wise later in life.” (Proverbs 19:20)*

*“And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.” (Ephesians 4:32) HCSB*

*“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4) NLT*

### WHAT TO PRAY

- Pray for wisdom in choosing a spouse; to be equally yoked together in faith.
- Grant us humility, and with that humility bring stability and peace to families.
- Give husbands and wives the grace to consider each other before self.
- Endurance for single parents or grandparents stepping in as parents.
- Comfort for families moving forward through grief.
- Strengthen families who also serve as caretakers for medically fragile family members.
- Give empty-nest parents comfort in transition and the vision to grasp their new role as full-time intercessors for adult kids.
- Harmony in blended families.
- Create a means of escape and healing from harmful family dynamics.

## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

# Apr. 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  
APRIL 17, 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  
APRIL 19, Third Wednesday, 1:00 pm, Room 228
- Circle 6 Jean Parsons, Chair (210-240-7483)  
Members of Circle, Moderators  
APRIL 18, Third Tuesday, 1:30 pm, McCullough Room
- Circle 7 Mary Ellen Mauze, Chair & Moderator (210-844-5549)  
APRIL 18, Third Tuesday, 11:30 am, in member homes  
Home of Tina Lyons, 720 Castano, 78209
- Circle 8 Nancy Turnbull, Chair (210-606-5420)  
Members of Circle, Moderators,  
Circle for mothers of young children  
NO APRIL OR MAY MEETINGS, will resume in fall  
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  
APRIL 18, Third Tuesday, 10:00 am, Breakfast Room
- Circle 11 Jean Swanson, Chair (210-826-0766)  
Members of Circle, Moderators  
APRIL 24, Fourth Monday, 12:30 pm,  
home of Nona Hall, 4120 Little Glen, 78261, 210-274-2643
- Circle 13 Grace Clouse, Chair (734-718-7057)  
LITERATURE CIRCLE  
APRIL 11, Second Tuesday, 1:00 pm, McCullough Room
- Circle 14 Karen Carawan, Chair (210-213-4589)  
Suzie Simpson, Moderator  
APRIL 17, Third Monday, 12:00 pm,  
St. Andrews Room (with meal)
- Circle 18 Char-An Witten, Chair (210-341-1856)  
Pat Brodeen, Email Contact ([pat@brodeen.com](mailto: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 Apr. 2023

Women of the Church enjoyed another Ladies' Night Out in March, this time at the beautiful home of Wendy Garcia. We had a terrific turnout! It was fun to have an evening with ladies of all ages enjoying good food and good conversation. Thank you to Ellen Meadows and her team for organizing such a wonderful event, and thank you to Wendy Garcia for graciously hosting us in her home.

Thanks too to Virginia Beeler and Mary Wilde for treating our fabulous pastors and staff to a luncheon in their honor last month. The delicious food was from Paloma Blanca, with homemade desserts provided by several of our bakers. Celebrating our staff is important to us because they are instrumental in making every single meeting and event happen for Women of the Church. We can't thank them enough for all that they do! We depend on them to encourage and support all of our activities and mission work, and we appreciate how they do it all with such dedication and professionalism. We serve the Lord together!

April 2023 is a month for major celebrations. As Christians, Easter is the very highlight for us,

since Jesus became the sacrifice that secured our redemption. We are joyful knowing He was raised from the dead and lives forever! Hallelujah! Fiesta is also a major holiday for San Antonio, so the celebrations will just continue throughout the month of April!

Please put the **WOC May Coffee on your calendar for May 3rd, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at the home of Lellen Lane, 268 Geneseo Rd. 78209.** It will be our final gathering for Women of the Church for the 2022-2023 year. We will be celebrating our past president's and accepting donations to benefit CAM and the KRL. It will be a lovely way to close out our year. All women are welcome! Bring a guest! Valet parking will be available as well. Hope to see you there!

Jesus is Risen! Hallelujah!

In His Love,

*Linda Delano*

President, Women of the Church



# KEYS

KEEPING EVERYONE YOUNG IN SPIRIT

## Older Adult Ministry

[fpcsanantonio.org/keys](http://fpcsanantonio.org/keys)



**Luke 24 :1-9 The Resurrection** *But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. <sup>5</sup> And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” <sup>8</sup> And they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup> and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.*



April is a month of celebration!! First and foremost, we celebrate The Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!! He Has Risen is our greeting, He is Risen Indeed, is our response. May you experience God's Blessing as you gather with family and friends.

April is also Fiesta!! Viva Fiesta!! We look forward each year to a visit from King Antonio, music by Mariachi's, and of course the Margarita Machine. Join us on April 21 beginning at 10:30 in the courtyard (weather permitting) for Fiesta Snacks.

On April 14th we will visit The Children's Bereavement Center for lunch and a tour.

KEYS will not meet on April 7th, Good Friday, or April 28th, Battle of Flowers Parade.

*Rev. Dr. Joe Moore*

Assistant Pastor for Older Adults and  
Congregational Care





## KEYS Upcoming:

**April 7** - Good Friday, No KEYS

**April 14** - Tour and Lunch at the Children's Bereavement Center

**April 21** - KEYS Fiesta Celebration with King Antonio, begins at 10:30 AM

**April 25** - Hill Country & Wine Tasting Excursion, including stops at James Avery Artisan Jewelry Original Store and Museum in Kerrville; Lunch at The Cafe at the Ridge, which includes a garden center, bakery, gift shop as well as a restaurant; and finally Becker Estate Windry & Vineyards. Shuttle leaves at 9:15 AM and returns at 6:30 PM

**April 28** - Battle Of Flowers Parade, No KEYS

**May 19** - Birthday Lunch at Comfort Cafe, cost is \$15 cash

**May 26** - Memorial Day Speaker, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Sewell

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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!!

All on site 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](mailto:alicem@fpcsat.org).





# FIRST CUP READINGS

## APRIL 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 Jeremiah 23:9-15; Romans 9:1-18; John 6:60-71

*O Love of God most full, O Love of God most free, Come warm my heart, come fill my soul, Come lead me unto Thee! Warm as the glowing sun so shines Thy love on me, It wraps me round with kindly care, it draws me unto Thee. The wildest sea is calm, The tempest brings no fear, The darkest night is full of light, Because Thy love is near. O Love of God most full, O Love of God most free, Thou warmest my heart, Thou fillest my soul, With might Thou strengthenest me. Amen. (The Hymnbook, No. 118)*

2 Jeremiah 23:16-32; 1 Corinthians 9:19-27;  
Mark 8:31-9:1

3 Jeremiah 24:1-10; Romans 9:19-33; John 9:1-7

4 Jeremiah 25:8-17; Romans 10:1-13; John 9:18-41

5 Jeremiah 25:30-38; Romans 10:14-21; John 10:1-18

6 Jeremiah 26:1-16; Romans 11:1-12; John 10:19-42

7 Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14; Romans 11:13-24; John 11:1-27

8 Jeremiah 31:27-34; Romans 11:25-36; John 11:28-44

*Hosanna, loud Hosanna, the little children sang; through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang; To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to His breast, the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best. "Hosanna in the Highest!" that ancient song we sing, For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of Heaven our King. O may we ever praise Him with heart and life and voice, and in His blissful presence eternally rejoice! (The Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 89)*

9 Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19

10 Matthew 21:12-22; Mark 11:12-19

11 Matthew 21:23-27; Mark 11:27-12:44; Luke 20:1-8

12 Matthew 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:1-6

13 Matthew 26:17-29, 36-46; Mark 14:12-42;  
Luke 22:7-46; John 13:1-38

14 Matthew 27; Mark 14:43-15:15; Luke 22:37-23:25;  
John 18:2-19:16

15 Isaiah 53; Psalm 22

*Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand.—The shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land; A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noonday heat, and the burden of the day. Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see the very dying form of One Who suffered there for me: And from my stricken heart with tears*

*two wonders I confess—the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness. (The Hymnbook, No. 190)*

16 Matthew 28:1-15; Luke 24:1-49; Matthew 16:19

17 John 20; John 3:16-18, 14:6

18 John 21; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19

19 Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:9-20; Luke 24:50-52;  
Acts 1:1-11; Matthew 16:24-28

20 1 Corinthians 15; John 5:24

21 Hebrews 1; John 1:1-14; Galatians 3:26-4:4; Psalm 103

22 Hebrews 2; Philippians 2:1-11; 2 Timothy 1:8-12

*Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne; Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own: Awake my soul and sing of Him who died for thee, and hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity. Crown Him the Lord of love; behold His hands and side, rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified: All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou hast died for me: Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity. (The Hymnbook, No. 213)*

23 Hebrews 4:1-13; Exodus 20:8-11; Ephesians 2:8-10;  
Romans 4:1-8

24 Hebrews 4:14-5:10; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Romans 6

25 Hebrews 5:11-6:6; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Corinthians 3:1-4;  
Matthew 7:21-23, 26:47-49

26 Hebrews 6:7-20; Isaiah 5:1-7, 44, 55:10-13;  
Matthew 13:1-30

27 Genesis 14:17-20; Psalm 110; Hebrews 7;  
Romans 8:26-27

28 1 Peter 2; Revelation 1:4-6, 5:6-10, 20:4-6

29 Hebrews 8 (see Exodus 25-31); Jeremiah 31; 2  
Corinthians 5:17

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh what a foretaste of heaven divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood. Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of rapture now burst on my sight; angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Saviour all the day long. (The Hymnbook, No. 139)*

30 Hebrews 9:1-10; Exodus 40; Leviticus 16;  
Romans 3:21-26

*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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