

AUGUST 2023

YOU *are here*
AT **FPC SAN ANTONIO**

Kickoff **SUNDAY, AUGUST 20**
2023 **SEE PAGES 10-12**

**Teaching on Discipleship at
Warsaw College of Theology
& Social Sciences**
(See pages 14-15)

**Successful Mission
Trip to Chevak, Alaska**
(See pages 16-17)

**See Save the Dates for all
the Ministries & Events
Kicking Off this Fall!**
(See pages 4-9)

Pastor's Article

Being Present

REV. DR. BOB FULLER

*¹ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! ² Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his **presence** with singing! ³ Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. —Psalm 100:1-3*

Summer is a time for everyone to slow down, relax, and restore. It is a time when we make intentional efforts to spend extra time with family, traveling and visiting. It's a time when we make memories and recharge.

Over the summer, I have tried to really learn the meaning of the word "present." I've been trying to learn what it means to really be really *present* with our family and *present* with God.

According to the late author, pastor and scholar Eugene Peterson, the heart and critical quality of prayer is *presence with God*. This does not just mean being "at church," or "in a Bible study," or "in prayer." It means to be "aware" of God, thinking about Him in the every-day routines of life, even when we are not directly involved in *religious*-type activities.

To be present to God means to be attentive to God. It's the same thing as being present to other people: to be with them, without being constantly distracted by cell phones, work pressures, memories and worries of things happening at the office. Presence means giving your attention to the Lord or the person you are with.

Distraction is the saboteur of presence. What happens if you go



out to dinner with a friend, and you are constantly interrupted by the pinging of your cell phone, or you are always looking at the other people in the restaurant, or even over the shoulder at the game on the TV above the bar?

Faith is more often undermined by distraction more than disbelief. It is easy to talk about the intentionality of being in God's presence during the summer, when our schedules change, and we all recognize the importance of a change of pace. But what happens when things get busy again and our attention turns from presence with God to work, and programs, and meetings, and deadlines, and quotas, and activities, and obligations, and responsibilities and social commitments? We trade presence for pressure.

As we begin to enter into this fall season, I want to challenge us to think about something new. Instead of getting back to the busy "normal," what if we go against the current of the calendar and commit

to focus our attention on presence with God?

Beginning on Kickoff Sunday, August 20, we will begin offering a fourth service of worship. We will now gather for both Traditional and Modern services at 9:30 AM, and two both again at 11:00 AM. The addition of the fourth service at 9:30 AM will give us:

- **Four** opportunities to worship;
- **Four** opportunities to stand together for the Lord and declare the truth of Jesus Christ;
- **Four** opportunities to introduce friends to the love of God, the fellowship of our church; and the mission of His Kingdom; and,
- **Four** opportunities to be in the Lord's presence.

(Please note that this 4444 is not an ad for a personal injury attorney!)

In addition to our new service and Sunday Schedule, we will have many new opportunities to study his word together, to serve, and to grow as a church family.

Long-time friends of mine, Bob and Suzanne, had an old pickup truck. It had a bench seat in the cab rather than bucket seats for each person.

Bob used to say that he could always tell the mood of his wife by how close she sat to him. If things were going well, she sat right in the middle next to him. But if they were

CONTENTS

in an argument, or if there was some simmering issue between them, she would sit over on the passenger side next to the window.

One day, Suzanne said, *"I feel like you are distracted from me, like you don't even want to be near me."* Bob, sitting behind the steering wheel, said, *"I haven't moved. I'm always in the exact same place."*

Bob definitely had some things to learn about relationships and emotional distance, but I do love the image of that old pickup truck with the bench seat. The Lord never moves. The question is not if God is present to us, but if we are distracted from him? He is always in the driver seat, and is always present with us, holding us, *"even till the end of the age."* (Matthew 28:20)

As you look at your schedule and routines for the fall, ask yourself, *"am I too busy, or am I setting aside time to be present with the Lord? To be present with my family and friends? To be present with my church family? To be present with my neighbors?"*

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Bob



SAVE THE DATE

- 4-6** August Dates
- 6-7** September Dates & Ongoing
- 8** Literature Circle 2023-2024
- 9** Pathways to Hope Conference & Alpha

MINISTRY ARTICLES

- 10-12** Kickoff Sunday 2023
- 13** KEYS Older Adults Ministry August
- 14-15** FPC Covenant Partner Teaches with Warsaw College of Theology and Social Sciences
- 15** High School Boys Yucatan Mission Trip
- 16-17** Alaska Mission Team Celebrates Successful Return to Chevak

FIRST CUP

- 18-19** Readings and Prayer List

BACK COVER

- 20** Congregation Photos

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**

Edwin Stephens: **Media/AV Manager**

Robynn Amy: **Media/Production Specialist**

Nona Hall: **Volunteer Photographer**

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

Save the Date

FALL MINISTRY GUIDE

COMING SOON!

Many ministries are still finalizing fall dates. Stay tuned at fpcsanantonio.org/ministry-guide for the updated copy coming mid-August!

AUGUST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

OFFICER INSTALLATION

Time: 9:30 AM Service
Location: Sanctuary

Sunday, August 6th we will be ordaining and installing the new Officers (Elders and Deacons) during the 9:30 AM Traditional Service, followed by a reception in their honor in the McCullough Room from 10:30 AM -11:00 AM. We invite all to come, welcome them, and thank them for their service.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

"A PRAYING LIFE" BY PAUL MILLER CHURCH-WIDE SMALL GROUP BOOK STUDY & SEMINAR

Times & Locations:

Books Available - starting August 6
Mauzé Lobby or fpcsanantonio.org

Small Group Leaders Dinner at FPC
Tuesday, August 29 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Seminar Coming March 22-23, 2024

Contact: Kim Smith, 210-771-4214
kimdcsmith@yahoo.com

Individuals and small groups of any size, existing or newly forming, are invited to read and discuss "A Praying Life" (\$10) & discussion guide (\$7). The Prayer Ministry Committee hopes/envisions that the book and guide will be used to deepen our congregation's relationships with each other and God. Dinner for small group and church leaders on Tuesday, August 29 (see date on next page for full information.) Visit fpcsanantonio.org/a-praying-life for book purchasing, dinner registration, and more info.

AUGUST

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

YOUNG OCEANS CONCERT

Time: 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM
Location: FPC Westminster Hall
Contact: Callan Brown, callanb@fpcsat.org

Don't miss out! Experience an intimate and prayerful evening of song and story with Young Oceans and special guest, Wes Taylor, on August 10 here at First Pres. Get your FREE ticket today at bit.ly/young-oceans-aug10 & take advantage of free childcare available by emailing childcare@fpcsat.org.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

Time: 9:30 AM- 12:30 PM
Location: FPC
Contact: Rebecca Sweet, rebeccas@fpcsat.org

FPC is sending you to school this year with lots of prayers and a blessing! Invite your school friends, teachers, and staff to church on August 13th (all services) for a special blessing. Bring your backpack and receive a backpack tag to remind you that God is with you and you are LOVED by all of the FPC family.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME

Time: 7:00 PM – 8:45 PM
Location: Room 318
Contact: Tom Dooling, 210-271-2717, tomd@fpcsat.org

The Sanctuary Choir sings in our traditional worship services each Sunday, for major liturgical observances, and in periodic concerts for the larger community. The Choir is always open to new members including adults, college students, and advanced high school students. The ability to read music and prior experience in choral singing is helpful.

AUGUST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

KICKOFF SUNDAY

Times: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Contact: Rev. Becky Prichard, beckyp@fpcsat.org

Plan to be at FPC as we kick off the fall semester with an amazing morning of fellowship, food, worship, and missions!

- NEW! 9:30 AM Modern Worship Service in Westminster Hall
- Sunday School classes resuming
- Coffee and beverage bar in Mauzé Lobby
- Fellowship Brunch in the McCullough Room and Nowlin Tower
- Missions service project collecting supplies for Washington Elementary School teachers.
- Join us in praying for Washington Elementary School or your local school, so we can cover all of the San Antonio schools with prayer as part of the "Lock The Shields" Prayer Event.

See the morning schedule, the teacher wish-list, and more information on the "Lock the Shields" Prayer Event at fpcsanantonio.org/kickoff2023 and [pages 10-12](#).

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, AUGUST 25-26

PATHWAYS TO HOPE CONFERENCE

Location: Tobin Center

Contact: NAMI San Antonio,
NAMI@NAMI-SAT.org

Pathways to Hope is a FREE, city-wide conference, located at the Tobin Center, bringing together mental health professionals, social workers, educators, the judicial system, law enforcement, faith community leaders, caregivers, and individuals living with a diagnosis to help improve the mental health care system. Go to www.pathwaystohope.net to register.

AUGUST

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29

SMALL GROUP LEADERS DINNER

Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Location: TBD by number of registrations

Contact: Kim Smith, 210-771-4214
kimdcsmith@yahoo.com

The Prayer Committee invites all small group and church leaders to a time of training, encouragement, and dinner with guest speaker, Adam Barker of Paul Miller's SeeJesus Ministries. Dinner registration is \$10. RSVP by August 14 at fpcsanantonio.org/a-praying-life or at the table in Mauze Lobby on Sunday mornings.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

CHILDREN'S CHOIR FALL 2023

Time: 5:00 PM - 5:45 PM

Location: Assembly Room

Contact: Kathy Jamison, kathyj@fpcsat.org

Join us for some musical fun on Wednesdays starting August 30. Children ages 4 years - 5th grade are invited to join the fall Children's Choir each week. Rehearsals will be from 5:00 PM - 5:45 PM in the First Floor Assembly Room. Then, a light dinner will be served from 5:45 PM - 6:30 PM in the Nutrition Center. Register online at fpcsanantonio.org/childrens-choir.

SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

ALPHA COURSE COMING THIS FALL!

Dates: Wednesdays, Sept. 6 - Nov. 22

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: McCullough Room

Contact: Elizabeth Crites, 713-822-0222
crcrites@aol.com

Have you ever wondered what life and faith mean? Now is your chance to explore them both in an open and informal environment with Alpha! Alpha is a free 11-week course offered worldwide that provides a safe space to discuss the big questions that we ask about Christianity. And we have something special for you too - free dinner and childcare are provided with registration! Visit fpcsanantonio.org/alpha for more information and to register. Invite your friends, neighbors, or coworkers!

SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 & 7

PBS - PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY FALL 2023

Times: Wednesdays, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Thursdays, 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Small Groups, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Teacher: Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller
Location: Covenant Hall
Contact: Sheila Figueroa, 210-226-0215
sheilaf@fpcsat.org

Fall Bible Study with Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller to resume Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings September 6 & 7. You may also join the 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM portion of the study virtually via live stream on Thursday mornings through the FPC app or fpcsanantonio.org. Watch fpcsanantonio.org/pbs for updated information and weekly notes and discussion guides through the fall. Contact Lellen Lane at lellenlane@aol.com for Thursday small group placement.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPT. 16-17

LOVE SATX WEEKEND

Contact: Lindsay Selli, 210-226-0215
lindsays@fpcsat.org

All the details for this year's local missions Love SATX Weekend are coming soon! Start praying about where God would have you serve to show his love to our city!



SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

USHER & GREETER SAFETY TRAINING

Time: After 11:00 AM Services
Location: TBD
Contact: Wendy Garcia, wendygg@fpcsat.org

This is a general information and FPC safety training for our Sunday greeters and ushers. Jeff Carawan will lead us in an active shooter and other emergency safety training. Lunch will be served. More information coming soon.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

NEW COVENANT PARTNER GATHERING

Time: 5:00 - 6:30 PM
Location: Off Campus
Contact: Wendy Garcia, wendygg@fpcsat.org

We will be hosting a New Covenant Partner Gathering to welcome those who have joined FPC since January 2023. The event will take place off campus at a location to be determined. Stay tuned!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

INTERESTED IN JOINING FPC? SAVE THE DATES FOR FALL 2023

Dates & Times:

Sunday, September 24 | 12:15 PM - 2:00 PM
Sunday, October 15 | 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Contact: Sheila Figueroa, sheilaf@fpcsat.org

Interested in joining FPC as a Covenant Partner (member)? Save the dates now for the Fall Discover, Know, JoinFPC! Program. The two required classes will be held on Sunday, September 24 from 12:15 – 2:00 PM and Sunday, October 15, from 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM. Register for this or our other upcoming programs at fpcsanantonio.org/register-discover-fpc.

ONGOING

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH SERVICE CIRCLES

WOC has a variety of women's circles which meet September through May. Some circles meet in homes, others at church, and many of them have lunch as part of their meeting. Some are Bible study circles, one circle knits and crochets prayer shawls, and another is just for young moms. The Service Circles 18 & 20 provide service all year long and would love for additional volunteers to help provide meals for families with new babies or those recovering from surgery or to assist in organizing and serving memorial receptions held at the church.

Circle of Concern - Circle 18

Small home baked cookies always needed for receptions. Volunteers for help with receptions needed.

Contact: Char-An Witten, Chair (210-341-1856)
Pat Brodeen, (pat@brodeen.com)

Circle of Service - Circle 20

Volunteers to make/take meals when needed.

Contact: Muffin Camp, Chair (210-789-1808)

Please refer to fpcsanantonio.org/woc to find the dates and times each circle meets, as well as contact information for each circle leader. Visitors are always welcome! FPC

ONGOING

FPC CHILDREN'S CENTER SATURDAY SITTING SERVICE FUNDRAISER

Saturdays, Jul. 15 - Oct. 28 | 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
\$60 Per Child | Ages 6 Weeks - 10 Years

Our FPCC teachers are offering childcare on Saturdays through October 28. We encourage parents to bring a light lunch and snack for their children. Sign up at the First Floor Children's Center Front Desk (cash preferred.) Proceeds go toward teachers attending the annual TXAEYC Conference in Round Rock this November. Contact Laura Ortiz, the Children's Center Director, at laurao@fpcsat.org.

CHILDREN'S CENTER TAKING REGISTRATIONS

We are enrolling for our regular toddler and preschool (2.5 - 4 years of age) classrooms both part time (2-, 3-, 5-day 8:30-2:30pm) and full time (M-F 7am-6pm). Contact Laura Ortiz at laurao@fpcsat.org, visit fpcsanantonio.org/childrens-center or call (210) 225-0960. Get on the wait list for other age classrooms by filling out the form at bit.ly/fpccc-waitlist-form.

WE ARE
HIRING!
JOIN OUR TEAM

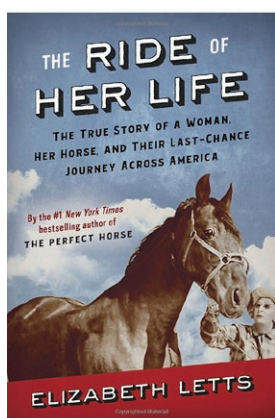
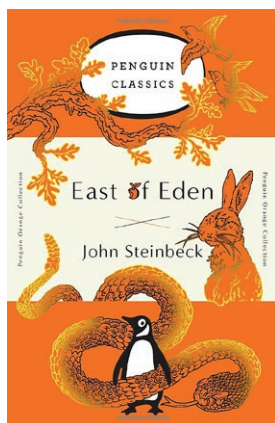


- ✓ **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TO
CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES**
- ✓ **CONTRACT AUDIO/VIDEO
TECHNICIAN**
- ✓ **CHILDREN'S CAREGIVER**



VISIT FOR MORE INFO: fpcsanantonio.org/jobs
APPLICATION & RESUME TO: janets@fpcsat.org

LITERATURE CIRCLE 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR, 2023-2024

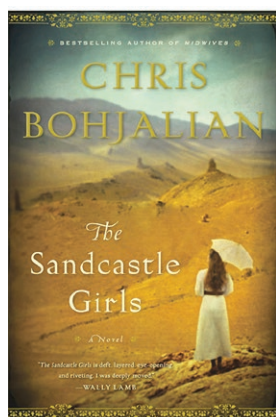
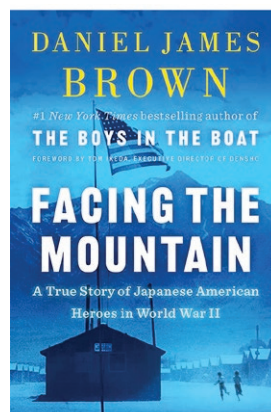
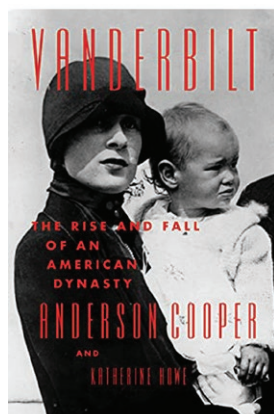
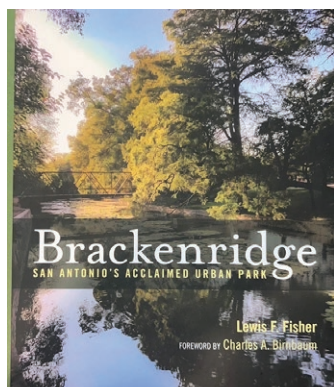


Time: 1:30 PM (Social begins at 1:00 PM)
 Location: McCullough Room
 Contact: Grace Clouse, Chair,
grace.clouse42@gmail.com

FPC Literature Circle will meet **the second Tuesday of each month from September - May** in the McCullough Room. This upcoming year is the 50th anniversary of the Circle 13 Literature Circle at FPC! Get started on the reading list this summer and plan to join us for the reviews throughout the year.

- Sept. 12 – "East of Eden" by John Steinbeck
(This book was reviewed in Sept. 1973)
- Oct. 10 – "The Ride of Her Life" by Elizabeth Letts
- Nov. 14 – "Brackenridge: San Antonio's Acclaimed Urban Park" by Lewis F. Fisher
- Dec. 12 – "Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of An American Dynasty" by Anderson Cooper
- Jan. 9 – "Facing the Mountain" by Daniel James Brown
- Feb. 13 – "The Second Life of Mirelle West" by Amanda Skenandore
- Mar. 12 – "The Sandcastle Girls" by Chris Bohjalian
- Apr. 9 – "Valley of Shadows" by Rudy Ruiz
- May 14 – (To be determined later)

Bring a friend to hear a great story and be reminded of the value of books. Delayed streaming is available each month on our FPC website: fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle



Join Us
FOR A
COMMUNITY-WIDE CONVERSATION ON
MENTAL HEALTH

PATHWAYS TO hope

MOVING TOWARDS MENTAL WELLNESS
Body*Mind*Spirit*Community

**AUGUST
25 & 26**

REGISTER NOW
PathWaysToHope.net

**FREE EVENT
FREE CEU'S**

**SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOP
PRESENTERS
INCLUDE**

JUDGE PETER SAKAI-
HONORABLE JUDGE YOLANDA HUFF-
MAYOR RON NIRENBERG-
BISHOP VASHTI MURPHY MCKENZIE-
REV. DR. QUE ENGLISH-
RAWLE ANDREWS JR.-
KARA ALLEN-

TOBIN CENTER®
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
100 AUDITORIUM CIR, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78205

STAY CURIOUS

TryAlpha

Alpha

Curious about faith?

Join a series of group conversations that freely explore the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. At each Alpha session, you watch an episode on a different question of faith - then have a chance to share your thoughts and hear what others think. You can say anything you like, or nothing at all.

Everyone's welcome. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs. It's free and there's no pressure to come back.

Date & Time: Starts 9/6
Wednesdays | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Location: McCullough Room
FPC San Antonio, 404 N. Alamo

fpcsanantonio.org/alpha

Contact: Elizabeth Crites
[crites@aol.com](mailto:crcrites@aol.com) | 713-822-0222

YOU are here

AT FPC SAN ANTONIO

Kickoff 2023

We hope you will join us on Sunday, August 20, 2023, for our Kickoff Sunday at First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio. Whether you are a long-time Covenant Partner at FPC or a first-time visitor, we want to connect you into the life of the church as you find opportunities to love Christ through worship and study, love one another in fellowship, and love the neighborhoods and the nations through service and outreach.

On Kickoff Sunday, we will be starting a BRAND NEW Modern Worship service at 9:30 AM in Westminster Hall in addition to our regular service offerings (see schedule for details). In addition, all of our Christian education classes will kick off that morning for children, youth, college, and adults. Check out our website or the fall ministry guide, fpcsanantonio.org/ministry-guide, for more information on all of the classes being offered, both at 8:30 AM and at the 9:30 AM Sunday school hour.

Throughout the morning on Kickoff Sunday we will have FREE brunch appetizers in the Nowlin Tower and McCullough Room (aka "The Cookie Room") and a beverage bar in the Mauzé Lobby. Enjoy these delicious treats as you meet new and old friends and reconnect after the summer.





Lock the Shields

Cover Our Schools with Prayer

FPC San Antonio is adopting Booker T. Washington Elementary School as part of the Lock the Shields Prayer Event on Kickoff Sunday. Plan to gather with a friend or your family outside Washington Elementary anytime on Sunday, August 20 and PRAY. You can also choose to adopt a school closer to you and meet up there to pray sometime during the day - maybe on your way home from church! A prayer guide is available at locktheshields.com.



If you are searching for a place to belong, we hope that you will find community here at FPC and we encourage you to bring friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers to join us as we worship our Lord.

At FPC you've found a place for faith, fellowship, growth, and service.

For more detailed information about class offerings, visit www.fpcsanantonio.org or download the FPC App to your device.

We can't wait to see you HERE!

Plan to be at FPC as we kick off the fall semester with an amazing morning of fellowship, food, worship, and service from 8:30 AM until 12:00 PM!

KICKOFF SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:15 AM - 11:00 AM

Coffee & Beverage Bar - Mauzé Lobby

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Early Classes & Small Groups - Classrooms

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Fellowship Brunch

- McCullough Room & Nowlin Tower

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary

Sunday School for All Ages - Classrooms

NEW! Modern Worship Service

- Westminster Hall

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary

Modern Worship Service - Westminster Hall





Kickoff Local Missions Project

Sunday, August 20, 2023

During the morning of Kickoff Sunday, we have the opportunity to share Jesus' love with the local Booker T. Washington Elementary School.

FPC has been able to serve at Washington over the last several years through serving staff appreciation meals, providing care boxes for the staff, and even participating in mentoring and reading with students. We look forward to being able to serve teachers at the school by providing some needed items for their classrooms!

We are asking our congregation to bring in supplies to help stock up needed items for the classroom teachers. There is an [Amazon Wishlist](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08K9L9L9L) at [amzn.to/3KigVLm](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08K9L9L9L) that covers the full list of items the teachers said would be helpful. You can purchase and have items shipped to FPC, or plan to bring everything to FPC on Kickoff Sunday as part of our celebration.



Teachers' Classroom Wishlist:

- Kid's Headphones
(The ones with microphones are a plus. Need to fit elementary-aged students.)
- Dry Erase Markers
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Tissues
- Composition Notebooks
(some wide-ruled and some with dotted lines for the smaller kids learning to write.)





KEEPING EVERYONE YOUNG IN SPIRIT

Older Adult Ministry

fpcsanantonio.org/keys



Our regular offering of a speaker and lunch on Fridays will resume in September. However, we still have our August Birthday Lunch. August 18 we will enjoy the famous burgers (or other food) at Chris Madrids at 1900 Blanco Road. We will meet at the restaurant at 11:30 AM, or you may take the shuttle from FPC that will leave at 10:45 AM. Off-site birthday lunches cost \$15. The lunch at Milano Ristorante Italiano at 11802 Wurzbach, has been rescheduled for September 15. Make your reservations by signing up at the front desk, calling the church office at 210-226-0215, or emailing Alice at alicem@fpcsat.org or Marissa at marissab@fpcsat.org.

We have had a great year of events in 2023 and our planning committee is committed to bringing in relevant speakers beginning in September. If you have suggestions for speakers please let me know. Praying that you have a great rest of your summer with opportunities to connect with family and friends.

Blessings,

Joe

KEYS Upcoming:

August 18

Birthday Lunch at Chris Madrids

September 15

Birthday Lunch at Milano

Friday Fitness

Friday Fitness will continue this Summer 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.

Mahjong & Bridge

Mahjong & Bridge will meet this Summer on various Fridays in the Geneva Room. If you want to join in on the games call Suzanne West at 210-525-1499 or email Nancy Black at whythere@icloud.com for more information. 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!

My Experience Teaching on Discipleship for Warsaw College of Theology and Social Sciences

**By Dr. Jonathan King,
FPC Covenant Partner**

Last year I was approached by our Sr. Pastor Bob Fuller along with members of FPC's Missions Ministry about teaching online for Warsaw College of Theology and Social Sciences located in Warsaw, Poland. While a decent portion of its students attend classes onsite in Poland (residential studies), the rest of the students reside around the world and attend classes online (distance studies). The college also serves as a seminary, offering a degree in Ministry and Theological Studies, otherwise known as the MATS program. In my own ministry work, I serve as the Executive Director of Family Discipleship Ministries Institute (FDMI), overseeing its online training program and coordinating its international outreach. My ministry focus has been on training pastors and other leaders in Christian ministry across different cultures in the strategy, principles and implementation of Christian discipleship in the church and in the home, especially in the areas of marriage and parenting. The goal is for these pastors/ministry leaders to be well-equipped and inspired to teach others these things in their own languages and cultural contexts. So when I was asked to teach seminary students in the MATS program I was happy to accept this opportunity, especially since I was given the latitude to propose whatever course I wished to teach. I knew it would serve as a wonderful extension of what I'm already doing.

The course I proposed was Discipleship for Marriage & Family, which the college approved for me to teach in the 2023 Spring semester, a total of 15 weeks of classes. I started teaching in February and for the first five classes I provided an overview on God's foundational design for marriage and family as given in Genesis 1-3, followed by relevant teaching in the Old and New Testaments.



In the remaining ten weeks of the semester I covered a variety of topics such as (a) God's purposes for marriage; (b) establishing a foundation for a healthy godly marriage; (c) a biblical understanding of love; (d) understanding God's design for how marriage serves the companionship needs unique to husbands and to wives; and (e) biblical instruction and principles for Christian parenting.

Since this was a seminary level course in the MATS program, the students were expected to be tested, assessed, and given a final grade for the course. A significant part of their final grade had to do with how much thought and reflection each student gave to answering the multiple forum questions I posted at the beginning of each week. As you would expect, every question had to do with getting them to think through the biblical instructions, examples, and principles regarding how we should understand Christian discipleship in the context of marriage and family. Our class Q&A time was always a lot of fun as the students regularly peppered me with their questions, always asking my thoughts on various scenarios they brought up.

Yucatan Mission

FPC & Young Life SA Partner in Missions Trip for High School Guys

Of 19 total students, half were single and the other half already married. The international mix of the class included students from Poland, India, Africa, Pakistan and Venezuela. As the semester started off I could tell that the students were fairly skeptical about how valuable this course would be for them. In their mind, they were already learning from many good theology classes and biblical studies, so how would a course on marriage and parenting teach them anything more valuable and important or more relevant for Christian ministry? As you might expect, it was especially gratifying for me to see that as the semester went on, these same students began to realize more and more just how essential these core biblical truths on family discipleship are. By the end of the semester both the single and married students expressed to me how much this course equipped them with the biblical concepts and principles for practicing family discipleship in the home as well as teaching and encouraging these things in the local church. What became crystal clear to them is this: one's calling in Christian ministry must never be pursued at the expense of tending to the spiritual nurturing and relationship with the Lord within one's marriage and in the lives of one's children. I was very much blessed by teaching these seminary students and I believe most of them considered the class a blessing to them as well. All glory and thanks to the Lord!

By God's grace the seeds we are sowing now will reap a harvest unto the Lord. Please pray for the Lord to be glorified through these international outreach efforts, and bring a revival of discipleship in these and many other countries.



**By Jacob Cole,
Director of Young Life San Antonio**

Acts 4:20 says "For we cannot help but speak about all we have seen and heard God do."

This rings especially true for our trip to the Yucatán back in May. We got to take 16 young men who had just finished their sophomore year of High School to work their tails off in an effort to serve God and the people of Leona Vicario. I was so proud to watch this counter cultural demonstration of love from these guys. What a way to start their summer break! Each night we got to open up God's word and talk about how to know Him, love Him, and serve Him better with our lives. I believe this was a significant trip spiritually for many of the guys, and am excited to see how this trip impacts their walk with the Lord and each other for the rest of High School.

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news." Romans 10:15

Alaska Mission Trip

Successful Return to Chevak, Alaska

By Rev. Dr. Joe Moore, Assistant Pastor for Older Adults & Congregational Care

God pulled together a diverse team to accomplish His purpose for our week in Chevak, Alaska. We were disappointed to lose one of our team to illness early on. While we were flying from Anchorage to Bethel, our FPC Interim Youth Associate, Preston Miller, was flying from Anchorage to San Antonio. We were thankful for his help at Costco, shopping for our food before his departure.

Our team of nine continued the mission and were able to get our 12 bins of supplies and food safely to Chevak. We had two days to get settled into our tight accommodations at Sacred Heart Church. We quickly familiarized ourselves to our surroundings and prepared for a week of Vacation Bible School.

We had great attendance for VBS in every area. We reconnected with many older alumni through the teen group and the woman's group. We enjoyed sampling native foods when we were invited for meals.

At VBS, the kids participated 100% in the singing, were attentive to the Bible Stories, and learned a Bible verse each day.

It was a blessing being able to visit the town and renew relationships after several years away.

If you are interested in joining our 2024 team contact joem@fpcsat.org.





"I received a text from a young man from Chevak when I returned home. He asked if he could call me, I told him for sure! He texted me again to say that he could not get through, so I called him. He answered the call in tears, as he told me he was so thankful that our team had come to Chevak. He told me he had been reading the Bible every day since we left and was headed to a friend's house to read the Bible with him. Thank you for praying with me that we can have regular conversations in the days and weeks ahead." - Rev. Dr. Joe Moore



FIRST CUP READINGS

AUGUST 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 1 Cor. 6:12-20; Rom. 6; 1 Peter 1:13-23; Gal. 5:16-25
- 2 1 Corinthians 7; Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Peter 3:1-7
- 3 1 Cor. 8; Isaiah 44:9-20; Romans 14:1-8;
Psalm 135:15-21
- 4 1 Corinthians 9; Phil. 4:10-20; Luke 10:1-23
- 5 Exodus 16:1-17:7; 32; Heb. 2; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13;
James 1:12-15

Behold th' amazing gift of love the Father hath bestowed on us, the sinful sons of men, to call us sons of God! Concealed as yet this honor lies, by this dark world unknown, a world that knew not when He came, even God's eternal Son. Our souls, we know, when He appears, shall bare His image bright; for all His glory, full disclosed, shall open to our sight. A hope so great, and so divine, may trials well endure; And purge the soul from sense and sin, as Christ Himself is pure. (The Hymnbook, No. 120)

- 6 Deut. 32:16-21; 1 Cor. 10:14-22; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1
- 7 1 Cor. 10:23-11:1; Romans 14:1-15:13; 1 Tim. 4:4-8
- 8 Exodus 12:1-28; Matt. 26:26-30; 1 Cor. 11:2-34;
Colossians 3:1-17
- 9 Acts 1:6-8; Romans 1:11; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31;
Ephesians. 4:1-7; Romans 12
- 10 1 Corinthians 13; 1 John 3; Matt. 5:43-48
- 11 Genesis 11:1-9; Mark 16:14-20; 1 Corinthians 14;
1 John 4:1-6; Ephesians 4:8-16
- 12 Matt. 27:57-28:20; John 20:19-31; 1 Cor. 15:1-11;
Acts 22:2b-21

Jesus lives, and so shall I! Death, thy sting is gone forever! He for me hath designed to die; Lives the bands of death to sever. He shall raise me from the dust; Jesus is my hope and trust. Jesus lives and by His grace, vict'ry o'er my passions giving, I will change my heart and ways. Ever to His glory living. Me He raises from the dust; Jesus is my hope and trust. None of all His saints is lost: Jesus is my hope and trust! (Christian Gellert, 1715-1769)

- 13 1 Cor. 15:12-34; 2 Tim. 2:1-13; Micah 4:1-5;
1 Thess. 4:13-18
- 14 1 Cor. 15:35-58; Genesis 1:1-2:3; Ezekiel 37:1-14;
Philippians 3:7-11
- 15 1 Cor. 16:1-4; Deut. 15:7-11; Acts 4:32-35;
2 Corinthians 8:16-21
- 16 1 Corinthians 16:5-24; John 15:1-17
- 17 2 Corinthians 1:1-11; Psalm 71; 34
- 18 2 Cor. 1:12-2:11 (see 1 Cor. 5); 1 John 2:1-11, 3:7-10;
1 Peter 5:8-11; Psalm 130

- 19 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 2:12-16;
John 3:16-18, 5:24; Romans 5:12-21

Standing on the promises of Christ, my King! Through eternal ages let His praises ring. "Glory in the Highest!" I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God. Standing on the promises that cannot fail! When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God. Standing on the promises of Christ, the Lord, bound to Him eternally by loves' strong cord, Overcoming daily with the Spirit's Sword, standing on the promises of God. (Worship in Song, No. 472)

- 20 2 Corinthians 2:17-3:18; Exodus 34:1-28;
Jeremiah 31:31-37; Hebrews 8
- 21 2 Corinthians 4; Hebrews 11:1, 6; Romans 8:18-27
- 22 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15;
Romans 14:10-12; Colossians 1
- 23 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2; Romans 5:1-6:14, 4:7-8
- 24 2 Cor. 6:3-7:1; Eph. 5:1-21; 1 Cor. 5:9-13; Psalm 1
- 25 2 Corinthians 7:2-16; Proverbs 28:13-14; Psalm 32
- 26 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; Phil. 4:10-20; James 2:14-17;
Matt. 6:25-34

Be not dismayed what-e'er betide: God will take care of you. Beneath His wings of love abide; God will take care of you. Through days of toil when heart doeth fail; God will take care of you. When dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you. All that you need, He will provide; God will take care of you. Nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you. God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way. He will take care of you. (Worship in Song, No. 450)

- 27 2 Corinthians 8:16-9:15; Proverbs 11:24-25; 22:9;
Luke 6:38
- 28 1 Corinthians 1:20-31; 2 Corinthians 10;
Jeremiah 9:23-24; Galatians 6:14
- 29 2 Corinthians 11:1-15; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5;
Matthew 7:15-20; 2 Peter 2:1-3
- 30 2 Corinthians 11:16-12:10; Hebrews 11:32-34;
Romans 8:26-39; Phil. 3
- 31 2 Corinthians 12:11-21; Eph. 5:1-21; Gal. 5:13-26;
Colossians 3:5

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

Congregation Summer Photos



www.fpcsanantonio.org



First Presbyterian
CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO

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

404 N. Alamo Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205
210-226-0215
fpcsanantonio.org



@fpcsanantonio



First Presbyterian Church SATX



@First Pres & @fpcsanantonio



**CONNECT
WITH US!**

Interested in receiving
the First Press magazine
digitally? Want to get the
weekly newsletter email?

Sign-Up at:
[www.fpcsanantonio.org/
comm-connect](http://www.fpcsanantonio.org/comm-connect)

Download the free
FPC San Antonio App

