



FIRST PRESS

A Wealth of Events
on Deck for November
& December
(see pages 4-8)

NOVEMBER 2023



GPS

FOR THE JOURNEY

STEWARDSHIP 2024

*(see Pastor's article page 2 and feature
articles pages 10-11)*

Children led
worship and
received Bibles
(See page 12)

Local Missions Celebrates
LoveSATX & Haven for
Hope Movie Night
(see page 9)

Midday Noels, "A
Holiday Gift to the City,"
Returns in December
(see page 8)

Pastor's Article

We Are Here

REV. DR. BOB FULLER

At the beginning of the book of Acts, Jesus said,

*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)*

Ever since Kick Off Sunday back in August, you may have noticed the prominent display of a little red symbol around the church. It's a red teardrop with one end pointed down. Over the last several months, I've had several people ask me, "Bob, what is this?" "What does this symbol mean."



The symbol is called a "pin," (like a push-pin) and all kinds of map, navigation, and GPS apps use it to mark a location on a map. It means "YOU ARE HERE." Here at FPC, we have been using it to emphasize the importance of being "here," gathered together as the body of Christ at Fourth and Alamo. It's an eye-catching and memorable way to remind us that the Lord brought us together as his people in this time and in this place for a purpose

But the pin-drop can represent more than just a person's current location. It is also used by map apps to mark a destination. In other words, the pin can represent not only where we **are**, but also where we could be **going**.

It's fun to be at First Presbyterian Church right now. We have expanded to four worship services. Our nurseries are full and our children's Sunday school is surging. Our halls are filled with students from middle and high



schools from all over the city. We have become a training hub for new church planters and young church leaders and a safe place for people to come and hear the gospel for the first time. It's a place where people are equipped with the tools for personal discipleship, and marriages and families are strengthened. We are a multi-generational church where Senior Adults rub elbows with college students, and city leaders serve our homeless neighbors every day. On any given Sunday we might have a group traveling to the Dominican Republic or Mexico, or a mission partner visiting from Iran or Poland.

This is our GPS LOCATION. It's where we are. To God alone be the glory!

Where is FPC going in 2024? What is our GPS DESTINATION?

As we think about these questions and where we are going, we need to think about three factors, represented by the letters **G-P-S**.

- How is Jesus **GATHERING** us together for our growth and His Glory?

- How is Jesus **PREPARING** us for his mission to our neighbors and the nations through both challenges and opportunities?
- How is Jesus sending us to **SERVE** – both as a church and as families—by providing resources, opportunities, connections, and capabilities for his Kingdom?

In II Corinthians, chapters 8 and 9, the Apostle Paul wanted to inspire and challenge the Corinthian Christians to consider going beyond the horizon of their present success. He said,

"look at your brothers in Macedonia, who have supported the mission of the gospel beyond their means, even though they are poor and persecuted. Just imagine what God could do through you" (paraphrase, II Corinthians 8:1-4).

Paul said,

"Think about what Jesus did for us. Although the Son of God, had everything and was rich beyond our imagination, he trusted God and gave it all away for the sake of our salvation and for God's glory. In one stroke he became poor so that we could be come rich. He changed the world by giving His life away." (paraphrase, II Cor 8:9)

November is the time that we set aside to plan and make our commitment to follow Jesus where he is leading in 2024. It is a month of gratitude for recognizing where we are, but it is also a month of hope as we envision where we are going. This is a call to the church as a whole, but it is also a personal call to each disciple of Jesus Christ.

CONTENTS

Over the next few days, you will receive some information about ways that you can support the mission and ministry of FPC for 2024. I ask that you take the time to do the following

- **Pray.** Ask God to open the door for you to give generously to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Think about what the ministry of FPC means to you and what it has meant to the people and history of our city. Pray that God's love would take over our lives and challenge us to respond in this moment as never before.
- **Make a Faith Commitment and join in our service of dedication November 19.** A Faith Commitment is a plan to support the work of the church financially in 2024.
- **Get involved in a church ministry.** Find a way to serve God by serving others and sharing your faith in a hands-on way.

In 2024, the Lord is going to take us to places we never thought we could go. Right now, Jesus is calling us once again to "Follow Me," from our current location to his glorious destination. And Paul says, "I know you are ready." (II Cor 9:1)

It's time to press "go."

Grace and peace,
Bob Fuller



SAVE THE DATE

- 4-8** Upcoming Events in November, December, and Winter 2024
- 7** New Covenant Partner Joined in October
- 8** Children's Christmas Pageant & Midday Noels

MINISTRY ARTICLES

- 9** Local Missions: Love SATX & Haven for Hope Movie Night
- 10-11** Stewardship 2023
- 12** Children's Sunday and Bibles
- 13-15** WOC Circles, Letter from the President, and October Photos
- 16-17** KEYS Upcoming

FIRST CUP

- 18-19** Readings and Prayer List

BACK COVER FEATURE

- 20** Poinsettia Order Form

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

NOW - THURSDAY, FEB. 29, 2024

TRAIN TO RUN THE ALAMO WITH FPC TEAM

Dates: Training Days now through Feb. 29, 2024
Race Day: Sunday, March 3, 2024

Contact: Gordon Smith, gordons@servicetitlesa.com

Description: Run to raise money for clean water projects around the world through World Vision. Join FPC's Team for the Run the Alamo Marathon (run only) or Half Marathon (may be walked.) Training plans, on your own, take you from "couch" to race. Each Saturday morning there is an optional group run with other teams. To find out more, register, or donate, go to bit.ly/fpc-run-team.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Times: All Day

Contact: Lindsay Selli, lindsays@fpcsat.org

Description: On this day, we are invited to remember our Christian brothers and sisters all over the world who are experiencing persecution for their faithful and bold witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please spend some time in prayer for these believers on your own, with your family, or even with your small group. In your prayer time, remember our FPC Ministry Partners who work in or are equipping others in these regions. For more information to connect with or pray for our ministry partners, please contact Lindsay Selli.

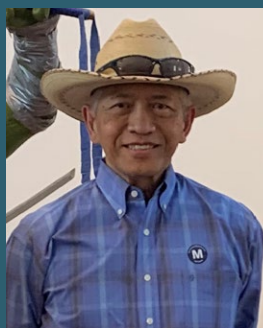
ALL SAINTS DAY SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: FPC Sanctuary

Description: Join Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller and the GriefShare Ministry in an evening service of remembrance. Grief is a complex process, and this service seeks to offer a time of remembrance, especially for those who haven't been able to properly grieve or say goodbye to those they have lost.

Historic Honor for FPC Deacon



Saturday, November 4
FPC's own covenant partner and deacon, Sichan Siv, will be the keynote presenter at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station. The Boy Scouts

of America event, co-sponsored this year by the U.S. National Archives, will focus on the Citizenship in the World merit badge. Scouts will partially complete their merit badge, and be able to have time for Q&A with Sichan, a former Ambassador to the United Nations. He is a frequent contributor to the First Press Magazine. For more information on this event visit: <https://bit.ly/sichan-siv-nov4>.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6

THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS DUE DATE

Contact: Lellen Lane, lellenlane@aol.com
or other Gift of Christmas
Committee members

Description: Share Christ's love by giving food, clothing, gifts, and/or gift cards to families referred to us by the House of Neighborly Service (HNS). Visit the table in Mauzé Lobby on Sundays, Oct. 22 - Nov. 5, for family adoption forms or to donate cash, gifts, or cards. Families will be assigned by Nov. 13. Forms are online at fpcsanantonio.org/christmas-giving.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

YOUTH FRIENDSGIVING 7-11

Time: 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM
 Location: Student Center
 Contact: Kyle Bowden, kyleb@fpcsat.org
 Kerri Napoli, kerrin@fpcsat.org
 Preston Miller, prestonm@fpcsat.org

Description: All middle school and high school students, invite your friends to an evening of free food, games, fellowship, and fun!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOEBOX MINISTRY PACKING PARTY

Time: 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
 Location: Assembly Room
 Contact: Rebecca Sweet, rebeccas@fpcsat.org

Description: Pick up a shoe box from Children's Ministry to pack yourself, or pick up supplies for our children to pack a box for you. Boxes are due back by Sunday, Nov. 12 for our Shoe Box Packing Party, where we will pray over the boxes before they are sent to children all over the world. www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

LOCAL MISSIONS SERVE WITH SAMM EMPTY BOWLS

Time: 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
 Location: Transitional Living and Learning Center
 5922 Blanco Rd. 78216
 Contact: Mike Munroe, 210-382-8331
mcmunroe@icloud.com

Description: SAMM Ministries, a mission partner of First Presbyterian Church that prevents homelessness in San Antonio, is looking for volunteers from our church to help with their annual Empty Bowls fundraising event. Pottery artists, woodcrafters, and soup-makers will all come together to raise funds to support at-risk families. Would you consider helping out? Visit www.samm.org/emptybowls for more information on Empty Bowls.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

NOVEMBER LITERATURE CIRCLE

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

Description: Featuring a review of "Brackenridge: San Antonio's Acclaimed Urban Park" by the author, Lewis F. Fisher. He will be with us to review his book AND will be selling/autographing his book after his review. This month's book is "the first comprehensive look at the fascinating story of this unique park." Visit fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

PRACTICAL PRAYER TRAINING WITH ONE

Times: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
 Location: Room 226
 To Register: Lisa Snow, lisas@fpcsat.org
 Questions: Pamela Young, 210-896-0455,
pyoung141@gmail.com

Description: Did you know that prayer can be a two-way conversation? We will practice together in this class, taught by ONE Ministry.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

FALL CONCERT FEATURING SON OF CLOUD, CALLAN BROWN, AND YAZ WILLIAMS

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

Description: A listening room experience featuring Jonathan Seale, a music maker and multi-disciplinary artist who goes by Son of Cloud. We will also hear from our own Callan Brown and Yaz Williams. Free evening concert at FPC. RSVP at <http://bit.ly/fpc-fall-concert23>. Free childcare available. Learn more about our featured artist at www.sonofcloud.com.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Description: As an act of **Gathering, Preparing,** and **Serving** in response to God's generous gifts and by faith, we set aside this Sunday to commit to support the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio for the next year. Please prayerfully fill out the Commitment Card and bring it with you to our Worship Services. You may also visit fpcsanantonio.org/give to fill out your commitment card online.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, NOV. 23-24

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Description: First Pres church offices will be closed Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Regular Sunday Worship Services will be held on Sunday, November 26 and office hours will resume Monday, November 27.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

KEYS SERVE AT ELF LOUISE

Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Lunch afterward)
Location: 333 Morris Witt Street, 78226
Contact: Rev. Dr. Joe Moore, joem@fpcsat.org

Description: Our older adult ministry is scheduled to help wrap gifts with the annual Elf Louise Christmas Project. A shuttle will be available, leaving FPC at 9:15 AM. We will all go together for lunch after the project is finished.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Location: Student Center
Contact: Kyle Bowden, kyleb@fpcsat.org
Kerri Napoli, kerrin@fpcsat.org
Preston Miller, prestonm@fpcsat.org

Description: Celebrate the end of the school year and kick off the holiday season by joining us for our Youth Christmas Party! Students will make Christmas crafts, play games, and participate in a White Elephant gift exchange.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

ADVENT FESTIVAL

Time: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Location: Westminster Hall
Contact: Rebecca Sweet, rebeccas@fpcsat.org

Description: Free event for all ages! Come explore the sights and sounds of Christmas as FPC hosts the annual Advent Festival. Childcare available for babies through 3 years by reservations.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

CALLAN AND FRIENDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Time: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Location: Westminster Hall
Contact: Carrie Everson, 210-226-0215
carriee@fpcsat.org

Description: Come celebrate Christmas with other young adults! Food, fun, and music from Callan and friends!

THURSDAYS, DECEMBER 7, 14, 21

MID-DAY NOELS

Time: 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM
Location: FPC Sanctuary
Contact: Tom Dooling, 210-271-2717
tomd@fpcsat.org

Description: Save the dates for this beloved holiday concert tradition and join us for our musical "gift to the city" during Advent.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

(Mandatory rehearsal on Saturday, December 9)

Time: 11:00 AM Traditional Service
Location: Sanctuary
Contact: Rebecca Sweet, rebeccas@fpcsat.org

Description: A Savior has been born! He is Christ the Lord! Come hear the story of God's love told through our FPC children during the 11:00 AM Traditional Service.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

DECEMBER LITERATURE CIRCLE

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

Description: Featuring a review by Tripp Stuart of "Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty." "The Commodore's [Cornelius Vanderbilt's] great-great-great-grandson, Anderson Cooper, joins with historian Katherine Howe to explore the story of his legendary family, their outsized influence, and the triumphs and tragedies of an American dynasty unlike any other." Visit fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

SUNDAY MORNING & CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

9:30 AM 4th Sunday of Advent Traditional Service – Sanctuary
 11:00 AM 4th Sunday of Advent Modern Service – Westminster Hall
 2:30 PM Christmas Eve Lord's Supper Worship Service – Sanctuary
 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Worship Service – Sanctuary
 7:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service – Sanctuary
 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service – Sanctuary

JANUARY 19 - 21, 2024

MEN'S RETREAT 2024

Location: LoneHollow Ranch

Description: Join us for an incredible weekend in the Texas Hill Country together to kick off the year! You'll enjoy vibrant worship, rich community with other men in the FPC family, and a great speaker who will lead us through the weekend as we grow together in the Lord. For more information and to register go to fpcsanantonio.org/men-retreat.

New Covenant Partner! Joined us in October



Francoise Furaha

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9 -

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024

HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

Time & Location: TBD

Contact: Kyle Bowden, kyleb@fpcsat.org
 Kerri Napoli, kerrin@fpcsat.org
 Preston Miller, prestonm@fpcsat.org

Description: All students and friends of students grades 9-12 are invited to join us for a fun weekend for our annual Retreat! Activities will include team building exercises, good food and snacks, fellowship, and so much more.

ADDITIONAL 2024 UPCOMING DATES

Mar. 22-23 - "A Praying Life" Churchwide Seminar



Children's Christmas Pageant - December 10, 2023 11:00 AM Traditional Service

 The graphic features a yellow background with a diagonal piano keyboard. The keys are white with black accents. Several gold Christmas ornaments are scattered across the keyboard. Green pine branches with gold ornaments are in the top left and bottom right corners.

Midday Noels

Concert Series

A Seasonal Celebration of Merry Melodies and Holiday Harmonies
Thursday, December 7, 14, & 21 | 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM

Once again, FPC offers its holiday 'gift to the city' with a variety of creative musical offerings. In addition to in-person seating, all three concerts will be streamed live at fpcsanantonio.org/noels and will be available for viewing on our YouTube channel after the concert. Following the concert, we will be offering a hot lunch (\$15) in Westminster Hall or 'Grab and Go' lunches (\$5), available in the sanctuary narthex. For more details about this free concert series, please visit fpcsanantonio.org/noels.

- **Thursday, December 7 - 'Hear the Bells Ring and Hear Voices Sing!'**
FPC Music Ministry Handbell Choir and Chamber Singer Ensemble
- **Thursday, December 14 - 'A European Christmas with Bronwyn White'**
Opera singer and recitalist Bronwyn White, member of FPC Sanctuary Choir when not traveling to perform in opera and symphony concerts around the country.
- **Thursday, December 21 - 'Shimmering Brass with the Castle Brass Quintet'**
Castle Brass Quintet, a brass quintet featuring some of the finest freelance professional musicians in the San Antonio area. The ensemble is comprised of two trumpets, French horn, trombone, tuba, and percussion and is led by Jeff Castle, a United States Air Force veteran and trumpet teacher at The University of Texas San Antonio and Trinity University.

Love SATX

GOD'S MISSION. OUR CITY.

FPC Witnesses Love SATX Efforts in October



Celebrating Haven for Hope Movie Night

In partnership with the GoodHood, we were able to serve families over 250 rootbeer floats or ice cream sundaes, provide a blanket and popcorn to each family, and share in fellowship with them. It was such a sweet time to bless the families who are at Haven For Hope, and we look forward to other opportunities to serve there!

Meanwhile, if anyone would like to receive updates about upcoming and ongoing ways to serve locally and globally, they should join our text group by texting "Missions" to 210-981-3339.



fpcsanantonio.org/local-missions

www.fpcsanantonio.org



GPS

FOR THE JOURNEY

What is the GPS of First Presbyterian Church? What is our personal GPS?

This Fall, 2023, as we have looked at the book of 1st Corinthians, our focus has been on various aspects of the Gospel Solution—Paul’s directions to the church at Corinth, encouraging and correcting them, as they found their way as disciples. The Gospel—the good news in Jesus Christ, was their solution—their GPS for the journey.

How are we called as we journey into 2024?

At First Presbyterian Church, we’ve identified three aspects of our Gospel Solution. Our mission is to help people find their way as disciples by:

Loving Jesus Christ
Loving One Another
Loving the City (and beyond)

During this season, we are asking many questions to make sure we are on the right path. Are we fueled by gratitude? Do we acknowledge God’s goodness and generosity to us? Do we encourage one another? Build up one another towards the goals God intends? Who do we help, how, where, and with whom? How do we bring praise to God for all of this?

Our GPS directs us to:

Gather	We come together to worship God and love and support one another.
Prepare	We learn and grow through Biblically-relevant teaching.
Serve	We love the city and the world through sacrificial service & multiplying mission.

May it be so.

In gratitude,
 Your FPC Stewardship & Finance Committee

GATHER

Come together to worship God and love and support one another.

We **Gather** to worship God and love one another in numerous ways. Fellowship is key to encouraging and supporting one another along our journey to learn, know, and love God and His people. We have Gospel-centered communities for any age and stage in life, including Gospel Community Groups, Children's and Youth events, Young Adults socials, & KEYS Older Adults luncheons.

PREPARE

Live and grow through Biblically-relevant teaching.

We **Prepare** by learning and growing through biblically-relevant teaching. We now offer four worship services to teach the Word of God each Sunday. We also have an immense lineup of Sunday Schools for all ages, Bible Studies, Prayer Trainings, and theologically-focused events to facilitate growing in knowledge and discipleship. In addition, we are now launching *The Center for Theological Study & Discipleship*, a new school offering free educational courses for those entering the ministry or want to go deeper into God's Word.

SERVE

Love the City and the World through sacrificial service and multiplying mission.

We **Serve** by going out into the city and the world and sharing the Gospel. An example of serving our city in recent years can be found in our church planting efforts. Since 2016, FPC has been involved in planting several new churches, including ACC Downtown, The Church of the Hills in Boerne, and The Garden, with more efforts ongoing. Our outreach to the unchurched in our community continues with our recently launched Alpha program which introduces the Gospel in a unique, welcoming way. Our Global and Local Missions efforts are strong, and offer a wealth of opportunities to be involved and make a difference in our community and world.

Commitment Sunday is November 19, 2023
Please prayerfully fill out the Commitment Card and bring it with you to our Worship Services. You may also visit fpcsanantonio.org/give to fill out your commitment card online.

COMMITMENT CARD

As an act of **Gathering, Preparing, and Serving** in response to God's generous gifts and by faith, I/we intend to support the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio with the following gift to its 2024 budget:

☐ Committing to the following gift for the 2024 budget

\$ _____ PER (Please check one)

☐ WEEK ☐ MONTH ☐ YEAR ☐ OTHER _____

FOR ANNUAL TOTAL OF: \$ _____

☐ Committing to pray for the missions and ministry of the church.

☐ Committing to take the Spiritual Gifts Survey at fpcsanantonio.org/gifts-survey and get involved in a Church Ministry.

☐ I/we have already submitted our commitment card online or by mail.

PLEASE PRINT NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____



Children's Sunday Celebration

Features Workshops and New Bibles

What an exciting time we had for this year's Children's Sunday.

During the 9:30 a.m. Sunday school hour, the parents of 2-3-year-olds joined together for a Bible workshop and discussion on how to introduce their young child to the Lord and His word – the Bible. At the end of the class, Pastor Scott awarded each child *The Rhyme Bible Storybook* by L.J. Sattgast.

The 3rd graders and their parents also attended a Bible workshop led by Pastor Becky. During the 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service, Pastor Bob presented them with the *Adventure Bible for Early Readers*.

In all four services, there was a cute and fun welcoming video done by the children. This was followed by children leading worship as liturgists in all four services.

It was an amazing Sunday and one in which the children thoroughly enjoyed serving and receiving from the church.

Rebecca Sweet
Director of Children's Ministry



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Nov. 2023 Circle Meetings



(Circles meet September through May, except for Circles 18 & 20, who provide service all year)
 *Bible Study Circles Studying Digging Deeper A Study of Corinthians

*Circle 1/12 Suzanne Thomas, Chair (210-846-3240)
 Grace Labatt, Moderator
 November 14, 2023, Third Monday, 11:30 am,
 Geneva Room (lunch optional)

Circle 5 Kay Weber, Co-Chair (210-288-5290)
 Mary Fruge-Medford, Co-Chair (210-823-7054)
 SHAWL MINISTRY
 November 15, 2023, Third Wednesday, 1:00 pm, Room 228



*Circle 6 Jean Parsons, Chair (210-240-7483)
 Members of Circle, Moderators
 November 14, 2023, Third Tuesday, 1:30 pm, McCullough Room

*Circle 7 Mary Ellen Mauze, Chair & Moderator (210-844-5549)
 November 14, 2023, Third Tuesday, 11:30 am, 207 Hillview, S.A. 78209

Circle 8 Susan DeKoch, Coordinator (210-508-7127)
 Members of Circle, Moderators,
 Circle for mothers of young children
 November 5, 5:00-7:00 pm,
 Home of Lynn Thompson, 7619 Vinewood Court, 78209



Circle 9 Grace Clouse, Co-Chair (734-718-7057)
 Janice Wilson, Co-Chair (210-260-4157)
 Ann Smith, Moderator
 November 21, 2023, Third Tuesday, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Breakfast Room

*Circle 11 Jean Swanson, Chair (210-826-0766)
 November 27, 2023, Fourth Monday, 12:30 pm,
 Home of Nona Hall, 4120 Little Gem, 210-274-2643

Circle 13 Grace Clouse, Chair (734-718-7057)
 LITERATURE CIRCLE
 November 14, 2023, Second Tuesday, 1:00 pm, McCullough Room

Circle 14 Karen Carawan, Chair (210-213-4589)
 Suzie Simpson, Moderator
 Studying *Ten Women of the Bible, One by One They Changed the World*
 November 14, 2023, Third Monday, 12:00 pm, St. Andrews Room (with meal)



Circle 18 Char-An Witten, Chair (210-341-1856)
 Pat Brodeen, Email Contact for members (pat@brodeen.com, 210-383-3083)
 CIRCLE OF CONCERN - Members set up, serve, and clean up for memorial
 receptions. (Small home baked cookies are always appreciated for receptions)

Circle 20 Muffin Camp, Co-Chair (210-789-1808) Mary Ann Smith, Co-Chair (817-933-9124)
 CIRCLE OF SERVICE - volunteers to make/take meals or snacks when needed.

President's Letter Nov. 2023

"Enter His gates with Thanksgiving." Psalm 100:4

Welcome to November! What a wonderful month as autumn breezes in and we prepare our hearts and homes for Thanksgiving gatherings with family and friends.

This time of year is also full of activity for WOC. The fall staff appreciation luncheon was a fun day as our pastors and staff were honored with a delicious BBQ luncheon complete with colorful fall decorations. Many thanks to Virginia Beeler, Mary Wilde, Pat Johnson, and all who contributed to extending our gratitude to our wonderful FPC staff.

WOC celebrated our annual fall "Ladies' Night Out". Thank you to Brooke Peacock for her gracious hospitality in opening her lovely home to host our gathering. Jill Peavy and her committee of Ellen Meadows, Sabrina Rios, Alison McLean, and Savannah Schatte planned a great evening of fellowship, fun, and good food. We are grateful to them and those who brought appetizers and beverages for us to enjoy. It was a memorable evening with old and new friends!

By the time you read this, WOC will have enjoyed a wonderful day at the Fall Legacy Luncheon with Deborah and David Rogers sharing about "The Legacy of The H.E. Butt Foundation". Many friends joined together for this traditional fall celebration for WOC. Photos and details will follow in next month's article.

As we prepare for the Christmas season we look forward to being a part of the "Gift of Christmas" ministry. Kim

Smith, Lellen Lane, Susie Patterson, and Liz Medley have been working with House of Neighborly Service to identify families to partner with and assist. This is an opportunity for individuals, classes, Circles, and small groups to show the love of Christ by adopting families in need. Details and information are now available with November 6th being the registration deadline.

WOC will soon be revealing the 2023 Christmas ornament which will go on sale in November! We are pleased to again be offering this keepsake item so be looking for the big reveal. Thank you to artist Stuart Seal and designer Anne Folkes for giving their time and talents in making this project possible.

As the saying goes "A picture is worth a thousand words" so please enjoy these photos of WOC in action. Much appreciation goes to Nona Hall for being the WOC photographer and historian this year and capturing many memories.

I am very thankful for First Presbyterian and for the dedicated women in this church who volunteer tirelessly, serving the Lord and caring for others. May you and your loved ones enjoy a blessed Thanksgiving!

"Praise To The Lord the Almighty"

Shelley Bass

President, Women of the Church

Bass.Shelley6@gmail.com





KEYS

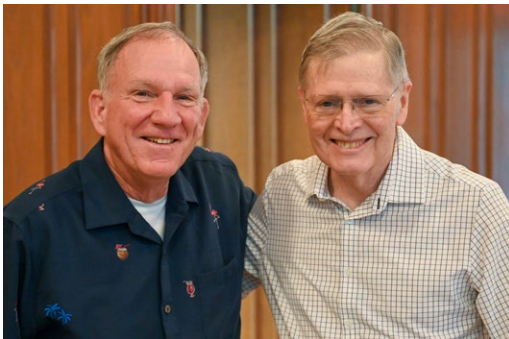
KEEPING EVERYONE YOUNG IN SPIRIT

fpcsanantonio.org/keys



We have had many great speakers and events so far this year. The Mayor shared his vision for the city. Dr. Kevin Bieniek helped us to see the value of the Brain Bank and his research. It was humorous when he said, “I’m not here today to collect any brains.” Our October Birthday lunch was well attended and appreciated by all, even though it was hot and the cruise was a little longer than expected. Special thanks to all who contributed to the success of that trip.

In November, we will hear a report from the **Alaska Mission Trip, celebrate our Veterans**, and enjoy a Thanksgiving Birthday Lunch together.



The **Elf Louise Christmas Project** is back in full force this year and we are scheduled to wrap gifts on Thursday, November 30, from 10:00AM to Noon. Following our wrapping time, we will go out for lunch together.

KEYS events on-site at FPC begin at 11:00 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. The cost for lunch is \$13. **The November Birthday lunch** will be prepared by our own Kitchen Staff led by Chef Maurilio Garza. We will begin at 11:00 AM with a Thanksgiving Trivia Quiz and other fun and games. Lunch will be served at Noon.

To RSVP for KEYS Meetings and/or Lunches: Contact the church front desk at (210) 226-0215 or email keys@fpcsat.org.



Rev. Dr. Joe Moore

Assistant Pastor for Older Adults
and Congregational Care

November:

3 - Alaska Mission Trip Report

10 - Veterans' Day Program with Cheryl Zeise-Jewell. We met Cheryl as a San Antonio Ambassador last year. She is also active in Veteran affairs.

20 - Thanksgiving-themed Birthday Lunch at FPC

24 - No KEYS - Happy Thanksgiving

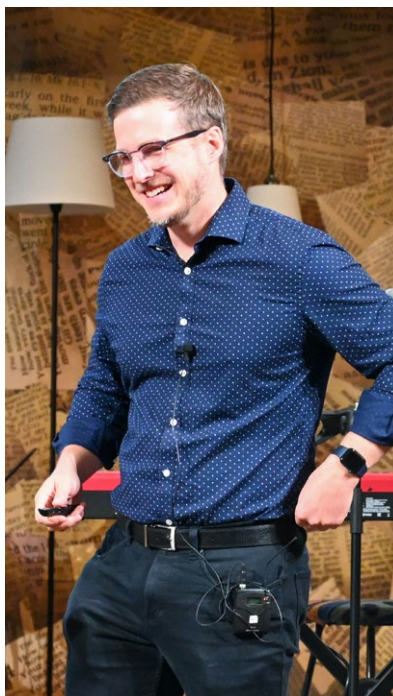
30 - Elf Louise Christmas Project



December:

1 - Anne Krause

- Co-Founder, President & Executive Director of the Hemisfair Conservancy
- San Antonio Business Journal's 2023 *Woman of the Year*



8 - Christmas Party

10 - "Meet Me in St. Louis" at the Wonder Theater (previously the Woodlawn Theater) 10 Tickets reserved, \$26 each. Shuttle from FPC at 2:00 PM, show at 3:00 PM.



Friday Fitness

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



Mahjong & Bridge

Mahjong & Bridge meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays at 1:00 PM 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!





FIRST CUP READINGS

NOVEMBER, 2023

Blessings and love in Christ,

Sandy Sturch

Dear Family in Christ,

First Cup is designed to assist you in the habit of daily Bible reading and prayer. The name is to remind you that as you reach for your first cup of morning coffee or tea, reach also for your Bible and prayer list. The prayers at the beginning of each week are taken from hymns, sometimes found in obscure hymnals in my library. They are intended to be read as your beginning prayer, to focus your mind on the daily readings that follow. May this spiritual discipline strengthen you as you face each day.

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.— Psalm 143:8

- 1 Judges 1-2; Deuteronomy 4:1-14, 6:10-7:6; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18
- 2 Judges 3; Deuteronomy 8-9; Psalm 50
- 3 Judges 4-5; Psalm 89
- 4 Judges 6; Exodus 34:10-14; Ezekiel 13:13-23; Colossians 3:5-11; Ephesians 5:3-6

Depth of mercy! can there be mercy still reserved for me? Can my God His wrath forbear? Me, the chief of sinners, spare? I have long withstood His grace, long provoked Him to His face; Would not hearken to His calls, grieved Him by a thousand falls. Still for me the Saviour stands, shows His wounds, and spreads His hands; God is love! I know, I feel; Jesus weeps, and loves me still. (The Hymnbook, No. 273)

- 5 Judges 7-8; Deuteronomy 20:8; Psalm 76; 2 Corinthians 4:7-18
- 6 Judges 9; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 6:15-23
- 7 Judges 10-12; Deuteronomy 20:1-4; Psalm 69
- 8 Judges 13-14; Proverbs 12:4, 16:9, 18:22, 20:24, 22:6; Jeremiah 10:23
- 9 Judges 15-16; Proverbs 6:20-26, 34, 14:1, 16:4, 9, 31:30; Ecclesiastes 7
- 10 Judges 17; Exodus 20:4, 23; Deuteronomy 4:16
- 11 Judges 18; Psalm 18

O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling, To tell to all the world that God is Light; that He who made all nations is not willing one soul should perish, lost in shades of night. Proclaim to ev'ry people, tongue, and nation That God, in whom they live and move, is love. Tell how He stooped to save His lost creation, and died on earth that man might live above. Publish glad tidings, Tidings of peace; Tidings of Jesus, Redemption and release. (Worship in Song, No. 356)

- 12 Judges 19; Romans 1
- 13 Judges 20; Psalm 78
- 14 Judges 21; Deuteronomy 12:8-14
- 15 Deuteronomy 31:30-32:47; Isaiah 65
- 16 Psalm 103; Exodus 34:5-7; Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 150
- 17 Ruth 1; Psalm 88; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
- 18 Ruth 2; Leviticus 19:9-10; Romans 12:9-21; James 2:14-26

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things hath done, in whom His world rejoices; Who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today. Oh may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us; And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed, And free us from all ills in this world and the next. (Worship in Song, No. 88)

- 19 Ruth 3; Proverbs 31:10; Psalm 37
- 20 Leviticus 25:23-25; Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Ruth 4; Matthew 1:1-17; Psalm 56:3-4
- 21 Psalm 145; Matthew 6:19-34; Philippians 4:4-20
- 22 Psalm 107; 115
- 23 Psalm 100; Colossians 3:1-17
- 24 Psalm 84; Matthew 10:29-31; Proverbs 3; Psalm 56:3
- 25 Psalm 106; Revelation 7:9-17

While passing thro' this world of sin, and others your life shall view, Be clean and pure without, within, let others see Jesus in you. Your life's a book before their eyes, they're reading it thro' and thro'; Say, does it point them to the skies, do others see Jesus in you? Let others see Jesus in you, let others see Jesus in you; Keep telling the story, be faithful and true, let others see Jesus in you. (The Baptist Hymnal, No. 348)

- 26 James 1:1-8; Romans 5:1-5; Job 28:20-28; Psalm 90:12; Proverbs 1:7; 8; 21:30
- 27 James 1:9-11; Psalm 49; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 18:18-30; 1 Timothy 6:6-10; 17-19
- 28 James 1:12-18; Matthew 6:9-13; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 10:12-13; Galatians 6:1-16
- 29 James 1:19-27; Psalm 4:4; Ephesians 4:17-32; Proverbs 15:1; 29:11
- 30 James 2:1-13; Leviticus 19:15; Proverbs 3; 14:21; Luke 10:25-37

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

Each year during the Advent season the congregation has an opportunity to remember a loved one, honor an individual or recognize an occasion by purchasing a poinsettia to be placed in the Chancel by the Sanctuary Flower Committee. If you would like to participate, the cost is \$15 to reserve a plant for one individual or one couple. Proceeds have enabled the Sanctuary Flower Committee to make many special gifts to beautify the church over the years. Your check should be made payable to the Sanctuary Flower Committee. Mail to First Presbyterian Church, c/o Sanctuary Flower Committee, 404 North Alamo, San Antonio, 78205-1918, or place in the Sanctuary Flower mailbox in the workroom. **Requests received later than December 10, 2023 will miss the insert printing deadline.**

GIVEN BY (30 Character Limit)

[illegible]

(CHECK ONE) ☐ **IN HONOR OF** ☐ **IN MEMORY OF (30 Character Limit)**

[illegible]

EMAIL

PHONE

CONCLUSIONS

ADDRESS



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
fpccsanantonio.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**

Download the free
FPC San Antonio App

