



**FIRST  
PRESS**

Several events  
planned for  
March and April.  
*(pages 4-7)*

Character Matters,  
A Deacon's Story.  
*(pages 10-13)*

**MARCH 2024**

# STATIONS ~OF~ THE CROSS

**LET'S PRAY FPC!**  
Lenten Prayer  
Meditation,  
"A Praying Life"  
Seminar in March,  
& National Day of  
Prayer Walk in May  
*(See pages 15, 16, & 17  
respectively)*

**Focus on Marriage  
Event April 13**  
*(See page 18)*

# EASTER

**AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

- **PALM SUNDAY**
- **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
- **GOOD FRIDAY**
- **KIDS' EGG-VENTURE**
- **EASTER SUNDAY**

*(See pages 14-15)*



## Pastor's Article

# Paddle or Pray

REV. DR. BOB FULLER

<sup>7</sup> “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”—Matthew 7:7

*“The strongest one in Christ’s Kingdom is he who is the best knocker. The secret of success in Christ’s kingdom is the ability to pray.” —E.M. Bounds*

Prayer is one of the most wonderful and mysterious gifts God has given to us, and yet it seems to be one of the most difficult things to do.

One summer, my eleven-year-old son Bo and I were canoeing on a beautiful lake in the Adirondacks of New York. While we were out on the water, a storm front blew in faster than we were expecting, and in a matter of minutes, we went from blue skies and a gentle breeze to gray skies, driving rain, and gusting wind. The wind was so strong that it started to blow us backward into the middle of the lake and the middle of a thunderstorm.

We were both paddling as hard as we could, but it became clear that this sudden storm was just too big for us. There were only two things I could do—*Paddle* and *Pray*. We prayed and paddled for about 30 minutes until the weather finally calmed, almost as quickly as it had swelled. When we got back to shore, Bo and I were both cold, exhausted, and shaking.

As I think back on that situation, I wish I could say that my first instinct was to pray. But it wasn’t. My first instinct was to *paddle*. It was not



until I realized that I wasn’t strong enough to paddle us out of trouble that I began to pray.

I’ve thought about that a lot. God used that terrifying situation to rouse me to prayer, but I only turned to the Lord in desperation, not in delight. I prayed to Him in the storm, but not when the sun was shining.

That storm was a spiritual “wake-up call.” What God has exposed in me over the years is that I look to myself more than I look to Him. I rely on my own power and resources than I rely on his. I am more of a *paddler* than a *pray-er*.

If we are honest with ourselves—a lot of times we act like *paddlers* more than *pray-ers*. When engulfed by the storms of life, we are more likely to reach for a paddle (or some other useful tool) than to get on our knees. Why is that?

The truth is I am more comfortable paddling because I know how to

paddle. A paddle is a simple tool. I know how it works and I can see the results. It’s familiar and I have been taught how to use it. I’m in control. Prayer, on the other hand, seems unfamiliar and complicated, and therefore uncertain.

The lack of confidence frequently comes from a misunderstanding of prayer. Too often, we treat prayer as a *tool*—like a paddle. If I am skilled and know how to use it, it will work and I will see the results. If I am unskilled, it won’t work, or I might break something.

But in reality, prayer is a *gift*. The “power” of prayer comes from the Father to whom we pray. The skill and the love is in HIS hands, not ours.

On March 22 and 23, FPC will be hosting a seminar based on Paul E. Miller’s book, *“A Praying Life.”* Over the weekend, we will learn and walk together as we talk about God’s great gift of prayer. The purpose of the seminar is not to teach us to pray like experts, but as Miller says, to learn to “pray like children.” He writes:

*“We, like adults, try to fix ourselves up. In contrast, Jesus wants us to come to him like little children, just as we are.”*

Real prayer takes all of those things we say we believe and makes us put them on the line. Because when you pray, you are saying,

March 2024

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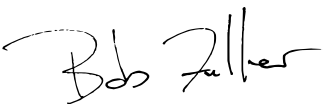
1. ... "God, you are real" (You really exist, You are really there, and there is more going on than I can see.);
2. ... "I need you" (Lord, I need help and I can't do this alone. I am empty...I am scared, I am wounded...);
3. ... "I love You" (Lord, I care about you and I know you care about me); and related to that, ...
4. ... "I trust you" (Lord, I trust you enough to expose my need to you; I can tell you whatever I need, whatever I fear, my frustrations, my deepest desires, and I know that you will receive them and still love me).

The power of prayer does not come from grabbing a tool (like a paddle). It comes from grabbing the hand of the father who is always reaching out for us. My hope for our Praying Life weekend, and for our Lenten journey is that God will change our attitude about prayer. Prayer is the way we take hold of the God who has taken hold of us.

*The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

—Philippians 4:5-6

Grace and Peace,



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 & Sadie Garza: **Media/Production Specialists**

Nona Hall: **Volunteer Photographer**

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

# Save the Date

## March

NOW THROUGH MARCH 31

### Stations of the Cross, A Lenten Prayer Meditation

Location: 2nd & 3rd floors of FPC

Description: In preparing for Easter, participate in the contemplative practice of praying through the Stations of the Cross. Prayer guides with maps in Mauzé Lobby, at each prayer station, and at [fpcsanantonio.org/lenten-prayer](https://fpcsanantonio.org/lenten-prayer). More information in the Lent & Easter feature article, [pages 14-15](#).

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

### College Scholarship Application Deadline

Contact: Marianne Ryan, [marianner@fpcsat.org](mailto:marianner@fpcsat.org)

Description: Are you headed to or continuing college for the 2024-2025 school year? A resident of Texas? In need of financial assistance? Then you may qualify for a Campbell & Jones or Holland scholarship. Applications at [fpcsanantonio.org/scholarships](https://fpcsanantonio.org/scholarships). The guidelines for eligibility and the required document submission are noted on the scholarship forms.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

### Washington Elementary Reading Buddy Training

Contact: Melanie Chaney, [melbchaney@gmail.com](mailto:melbchaney@gmail.com)  
830-570-0220

Deborah Valdez, Executive Director  
[deborah.valdez@sayl.org](mailto:deborah.valdez@sayl.org)

San Antonio Youth Literacy, 210-422-9708

Description: SAYL 2nd Grade Reading Buddy Program is an early intervention program focused on promoting the literacy skills of elementary school-aged children who are at-risk of school failure due to poor reading skills. FPC has volunteered to adopt Washington Elementary School. The first Reading Buddy training of the spring is March 2. Apply to be a Reading Buddy at [sayl.org/reading-buddy-application](https://sayl.org/reading-buddy-application)

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

### FPC Team World Vision participates in the Run the Alamo Marathon & Half-Marathon

Contact: Gordon Smith, [gordons@servicetitlesa.com](mailto:gordons@servicetitlesa.com)

Description: FPC Team World Vision is running in the Run the Alamo Marathon and Half-Marathon to raise money for clean water projects around the world. Donate at [bit.ly/fpc-run-team](https://bit.ly/fpc-run-team).

MONDAY, MARCH 4

### Women of the Church Spring Luncheon

Time: 11:30 AM

Location: Westminster Hall

Contact: Judy Kruger, 210-857-0122,  
[judykruger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judykruger@sbcglobal.net)

Description: All are invited to enjoy a delicious lunch and time for fellowship. Contact Judy Kruger for last minute reservations available for \$25. Childcare is available by emailing [childcare@fpcsat.org](mailto:childcare@fpcsat.org).

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

### Washington Elementary Career Day

Contact: Melanie Chaney, [melbchaney@gmail.com](mailto:melbchaney@gmail.com)  
830-570-0220

Description: Washington Elementary would like to request your assistance with their Career Day. They need guest Career speakers for the morning session, afternoon session, or both, who will rotate to different classrooms for the presentations. The purpose of this event is for students to connect their academic learning to real-world careers. Sign up to be a guest speaker at <https://bit.ly/btw-saisd-careerday>.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

### Daylight Saving Time - Spring Forward 1 Hour

#### Serve at Mission Road Chapel

Time: 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Location: Mission Road

Contact: Jacob Gray, [jacobgray67@gmail.com](mailto:jacobgray67@gmail.com)

Description: Volunteers are needed at Mission Road on Sunday, March 10 to help lead a chapel service, share a Bible story, & worship with the kids. The chapel service will end in time for you to still attend the 11:00 AM services at FPC. Mission Road serves over 650 children & adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities each day through various programs. Learn more about Mission Road at [missionroadministries.org](https://missionroadministries.org).

## SUNDAY, MARCH 10

### 2nd Sunday Young Adult Lunch

Time: 12:30 PM  
 Location: Ready Market, 203 8th St, 78215  
 Contact: Chris Roper,  
[christopherdavidroper@yahoo.com](mailto:christopherdavidroper@yahoo.com)

Description: Every 2nd Sunday, walk or drive over to Make Ready Market food hall to share lunch and fellowship. See you there! Text "YAC" to 210-981-3339 to join the YAC texting group.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 10 - SAT., MARCH 16

### Spring Break Observed

#### Several Ministries Not Meeting

Ministries Taking the Week Off: **Sunday, 3/10** - University Family Time, Middle School Bible Study, & High School Girls Bible Study; **Tuesday, 3/12** - University's The Well; **Wednesday, 3/13** - Music with Families, & High School Guys Bible Study

## TUESDAY, MARCH 12

### March Literature Circle

Time: 1:30 PM | Social at 1:00 PM  
 Location: McCullough Room  
 Description: FPC Literature Circle will continue their 50th Anniversary with Jane Hansen reviewing "*The Sandcastle Girls*," by bestselling novelist Chris Bohjalian. Visit [fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle](http://fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle) for more info.

## MONDAY, MARCH 18

### Easter Lily Form Due Date

Description: Remember a loved one or honor someone special this Easter by purchasing an Easter lily for \$15. Order forms available on [page 9](#) of this magazine, in the second floor workroom, in Mauzé Lobby, or online at [fpcsanantonio.org/easter-lilies](http://fpcsanantonio.org/easter-lilies). Return forms & payment to the Easter Lilies mailbox in the workroom or mail to the church office. Make checks out to the Sanctuary Flower Committee.

### Young Adult Monthly Gathering

Times: 6:30 PM – 8:25 PM  
 Location: FPC Student Center (Downstairs)  
 Contact: Carrie Everson, [carrie@fpcsat.org](mailto:carrie@fpcsat.org)

Description: Monthly Young Adult Gospel Community Gathering for YA's of all ages and stages. Dinner is served at 6:30 PM and program begins at 7:00 PM. Gathering will include teaching, food, fellowship, and fun! .

## TUESDAY, MARCH 19

### Womens Bible Study Session 2: Ruth

Dates: March 19 - April 30  
 Time: 9:30 AM  
 Location: Covenant Hall  
 Contact: Catherine Miller, 210-394-2045  
[grcjmillier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:grcjmillier@sbcglobal.net)

Description: Join us for an updated study from Kelly Minter as we examine Ruth's journey of unbearable loss, redeeming love, and divine legacy. See how God proves Himself faithful as the One who rescues, revives, and restores. Bring a friend! Childcare available upon request.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

### Serve with St. Philip's College Campus Ministry San Antonio's Sowers Sanctuary Event

Time: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
 Location: 525 S. Mittman St., 78203  
 Contact: Baylie Collins, [bayliedcollins@gmail.com](mailto:bayliedcollins@gmail.com)

Description: Details are still in the works, but save the date for an opportunity to support our partner The Porch Campus Ministry on the St. Philip's College campus. Possible serving opportunities may include serving food and fellowshiping with students as well as assisting in a gardening project.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 22 - SAT., MARCH 23

### "A Praying Life" Seminar

Time: Friday | 5:30 PM - 8:45 PM  
 Saturday | 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
 Location: Westminster Hall  
 Contact: Ginny Porrata, 210-508-5714  
[ginnyvan490@gmail.com](mailto:ginnyvan490@gmail.com)

Description: Come enjoy inspiring biblical and practical teaching on the foundational practice of prayer as discussed in "*A Praying Life*." Register by March 15, dinner & continental breakfast included. Additional information on [page 16](#). Visit [fpcsanantonio.org/a-praying-life](http://fpcsanantonio.org/a-praying-life) or the Sunday table in Mauzé Lobby (\$20, scholarships available). To reserve childcare email [childcare@fpcsat.org](mailto:childcare@fpcsat.org).

## FRIDAY, MARCH 22 - SUNDAY, MARCH 24

### Confirmation Retreat

Location: Camp Buckner  
 Contact: Kyle Bowden, [kyleb@fpcsat.org](mailto:kyleb@fpcsat.org)

Description: For Confirmation students only.



# March Continued

**SUNDAY, MARCH 24 - SUNDAY, MARCH 31**

## Holy Week 2024

More information on [pages 14-15](#).

### 3/24 - Palm Sunday

- 9:30 AM Modern & Traditional Services
- 11:00 AM Modern & Traditional Services

### 3/28 - Maundy Thursday

- 6:30 PM Service

### 3/29 - Good Friday

- 12:00 PM Service

### 3/30 - Children's Easter Program

- 10:00 AM - See details in the next column

### 3/31 - Easter Sunday

- 6:45 AM Sunrise Service
- 8:00 AM Easter Service
- 9:30 AM Easter Service
- 11:00 AM Easter Service

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30**

## Children's Easter Eggventure: The Hunt is On!

Time: 10:00 AM- 11:00 AM

Room: Westminster Hall

Contact: Rebecca Sweet, [rebeccas@fpcsat.org](mailto:rebeccas@fpcsat.org)

Description: All children, infants - 5th grade, and their families are welcome to join FPC's Children's Ministry as we are "On the Hunt" for an Easter Egg-venture! RSVP at [fpcsanantonio.org/children](http://fpcsanantonio.org/children). See [pages 14-15](#) for more info. DONATE CANDY by March 24 to Rebecca or Heather in the Children's Ministry

# April

**FRIDAY, APRIL 5**

## FPC Sanctuary Choir, soloists, & orchestra present Joseph Haydn's "Creation" in concert

Times: 7:30 PM

Location: FPC Sanctuary

Contact: Tom Dooling, 210-271-2717,  
[tomd@fpcsat.org](mailto:tomd@fpcsat.org)

Description: Our choir and orchestra present Haydn's musical retelling of the Genesis "Creation" story through choral music, solos, and instrumental music.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7**

## Interested in Joining? DISCOVER First Pres!

Times: 12:15 - 2:00 PM

Contact: Sheila Figueroa, 210-271-2717,  
[sheilaf@fpcsat.org](mailto:sheilaf@fpcsat.org)

Description: Interested in joining FPC as a Covenant Partner (member)? There are two required classes offered each season. Spring 2024 includes DiscoverFPC! on April 7 (light lunch will be provided) and KnowFPC! on April 21. More information and registration at [fpcsanantonio.org/register-discover-fpc](http://fpcsanantonio.org/register-discover-fpc).

**TUESDAY, APRIL 9**

## April Literature Circle

Time: 1:30 PM | Social at 1:00 PM

Location: McCullough Room

Description: FPC Literature Circle will continue their 50th Anniversary with "Valley of Shadows," by Rudy Ruiz and reviewed by the author. Visit [fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle](http://fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle) for more info.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 12**

## The Gray Havens Tour Concert at FPC

Time: Doors Open 7:00 PM | Concert 7:30 PM

Location: Westminster Hall

Join us at FPC for The Gray Havens 10-Year Anniversary Tour featuring Antoine Bradford, sponsored by the International Justice Mission. Visit [bit.ly/gray-havens-fpcsatx24](http://bit.ly/gray-havens-fpcsatx24) for \$30 advance tickets, \$40 at the door. VIP packages available for purchase separately. For more information about IJM, visit [www.ijm.org](http://www.ijm.org).

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13**

## Focus on Marriage Event with Redemptive Parenting's Kristen & Pete Hatton

Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Westminster Hall

Contact: Downie Mickler,  
[downie.mickler@gmail.com](mailto:downie.mickler@gmail.com)

Description: Event focused on marriage with Kristen and Pete Hatton. Kristen is a Christian counselor, writer, and speaker, while Pete is the Family Minister at Park Cities Presbyterian Church. They will share their wisdom and ignite excitement in our marriages, covering topics such as Christian marriage today and the intersection of parenting and marriage. RSVP for lunch at [fpcsanantonio.org/marriage](http://fpcsanantonio.org/marriage). Email [childcare@fpcsat.org](mailto:childcare@fpcsat.org) to reserve free childcare for the event (please pack a lunch for children).

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14****Confirmation Sunday**

Time: 9:30 AM  
 Location: Sanctuary  
 Contact: Kyle Bowden, [kyleb@fpcsat.org](mailto:kyleb@fpcsat.org)

Description: Confirmation Students will be recognized during Worship.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14****2nd Sunday Young Adult Lunch**

Time: 12:30 PM  
 Location: Ready Market, 203 8th St, 78215  
 Contact: Chris Roper,  
[christopherdavidroper@yahoo.com](mailto:christopherdavidroper@yahoo.com)

Description: Every 2nd Sunday, walk or drive over to Make Ready Market food hall to share lunch and fellowship. See you there! Text "YAC" to 210-981-3339 to join the YAC texting group.

**University Ministries Progressive Dinner**

Time: 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM  
 Location: TBD  
 Contact: Ben Henderson, 210-845-3845,  
[benh@fpcsat.org](mailto:benh@fpcsat.org)

Description: Join other students for a fun evening as we move from house to house for dinner!

**TUESDAY, APRIL 16****Women of the Church Ladies' Night Out Fiesta**

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
 Location: Home of Sharon Seal, 134 Cave Ln., 78209  
 Contact: Jill Peavy, 210-667-0525

Description: All FPC women are invited to fiesta with friends at the spring Women of the Church Ladies Night Out. Wear your favorite fiesta garb, grab a friend, and join us for a fun night of food and fellowship. See the invitation on [page 23](#) for more information. Sign up online at [fpcsanantonio.org/lno-rsvp](https://fpcsanantonio.org/lno-rsvp) or in Mauzé Lobby on Sundays.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19 - SUNDAY, APRIL 21****Love Reboot: Marriage Repair Weekend**

Time: Friday – Saturday | 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
 Sunday | 1:30 PM – 7:00 PM  
 Room: FPC Student Center

Description: Rekindle love and intimacy with your spouse by investing in a weekend specifically designed for couples facing distance and conflict, offering the best opportunity to mend what is broken. Visit [www.growinglovenetwork.org/courses](http://www.growinglovenetwork.org/courses) for registration and more information.

**MONDAY, APRIL 22****Young Adult's Fiesta River Parade**

Times: 6:30 PM  
 Location: FPC Ave E Parking Lot  
 Contact: Chris Roper,  
[christopherdavidroper@yahoo.com](mailto:christopherdavidroper@yahoo.com)  
 Carrie Everson, [carrie@fpcsat.org](mailto:carrie@fpcsat.org)

Description: Join us at the Fiesta River Parade! Tickets are discounted at \$20. Meet at FPC Ave E Parking Lot at 6:30 PM sharp to walk over to the River. Deadline to sign up is March 10 .

**FRIDAY, APRIL 26****Church Closed for Battle of the Flowers Parade****UPCOMING 2024 DATES AT-A-GLANCE****May**

- May 2: National Day of Prayer Walk
- May 5: Youth Sunday
- May 8: Women of the Church May Coffee
- May 10: Youth 7-11 Evening
- May 10: FPC Children's Center Spring Fling Luau  
 Tickets at [bit.ly/fpcc-spring-fling-24](https://bit.ly/fpcc-spring-fling-24)
- May 19: 5th Grade Graduation

**June**

- Jun. 1-8: Dominican Republic Mission Trip
- Jun. 13-24: Uganda Mission Trip
- Jun. 17-21: Vacation Bible School

**July**

- Jul. 13-20: High School Yucatan, Mexico Mission Trip

**August**

- Aug. 18: Kickoff Sunday
- Aug. 23: FPC Children's Center Golf Tournament  
 Register at [fpcsanantonio.org/fpcc-golf](https://fpcsanantonio.org/fpcc-golf)



## GIFTS & TALENTS INVENTORY

Be a part of the congregational inventory of skills, resources, relationships, connections, and spiritual gifts the FPC family has to advance God's kingdom locally and globally. Understand your unique gifts and how you can serve for God's glory. Complete the FPC Gifts and Talents Inventory at [fpcsanantonio.org/gifts-survey](https://fpcsanantonio.org/gifts-survey). For more information, please contact [lindsays@fpcsat.org](mailto:lindsays@fpcsat.org).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Young Adult Community and 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](https://fpcsanantonio.org/gcgroups) for a full list of groups.

### Check out the FPC Library!

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

### Praying with the Ministers

Sign up at <https://bit.ly/pastor-prayer-spring24> to pray with the ministers ten minutes before each Traditional Service (9:20 AM and 10:50 AM) in the Robing Room (227). A short prayer with the Pastors starts when all are present or the pastor gives the go-ahead.

### FPC Job Opening

We are currently seeking a Director of Emerging Adults (Young Adults) Ministries. Details can be found at [fpcsanantonio.org/jobs](https://fpcsanantonio.org/jobs).



Please contact Lindsay Selli ([lindsays@fpcsat.org](mailto:lindsays@fpcsat.org)) for more information about FPC Missions Trips & Ministry.

### Connect with FPC Missions

Text "Missions" to 210-981-3339 to receive updates about ongoing and upcoming opportunities to connect and serve with our FPC Mission Partners. You may also visit [fpcsanantonio.org/missions-serve](https://fpcsanantonio.org/missions-serve).



### Monthly Local Missions Service Opportunities

Love our city alongside our Local Mission Partners. Stay updated about how to participate—contact Lindsay Selli, visit our website at [fpcsanantonio.org/missions-serve](https://fpcsanantonio.org/missions-serve), and join our Missions Texting Alerts. March Projects: Donate to Washington Elementary Reward Store, Mission Road Chapel, & The Porch.



### Summer 2024 Mission Mentorships

Do you feel that God might be inviting you into exploring how to use your gifts in cross-cultural missions service? We'd love to connect you with summer mentorship & internship opportunities through ECO, Josiah Venture, and more!

## FPC SUMMER MISSION TRIPS 2024

### Dominican Republic Mission Trip 2024

Dates: June 1-8  
Contact: Carrie Everson, [carrie@fpcsat.org](mailto:carrie@fpcsat.org)  
Danielle Couch, [Daniellem.couch@gmail.com](mailto:Daniellem.couch@gmail.com)

Description: Serving with Food for the Hungry in El Circadillo, Dominican Republic. Live in the community, build relationships, and serve alongside locals in community projects. Share faith through VBS, Gospel talks, and worship.

### JUNE 13-24

### Uganda Mission Trip 2024

Dates: June 13-24  
Contact: Ellen Meadows, [e.meadows@att.net](mailto:e.meadows@att.net)  
Mike Meadows, [m\\_j\\_meadows@yahoo.com](mailto:m_j_meadows@yahoo.com)

Description: This team will connect and serve with FPC Global Mission Partners: Operation Uganda, EMI, and Rescue One More.

### JULY 13-20

### High School Yucatan, Mexico Mission Trip 2024

Dates: July 13-20  
Contact: Kyle Bowden, [kyleb@fpcsat.org](mailto:kyleb@fpcsat.org)

Description: Serve with The Yucatan Peninsula Mission (YPM) and Armor Ministries in Quintana Roo in Leona Vicario, Mexico. Share the hope of the gospel through construction projects, after-school VBS, sports ministry, and participating in worship at a local church.



# *Flowers at First*

We look forward to Easter at First Presbyterian Church when the Sanctuary will be filled with Easter lilies. This form is for everyone to use as they remember loved ones with an Easter lily for the Sanctuary. Any additional revenue received from the donations for Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies over the years have enabled the Sanctuary Flower Committee to make special gifts to the church. Special gifts to the church include the antique candlesticks on the altar, the cross in the Griffith Chapel, the portrait of Louis Zbinden in the Zbinden Lecture Hall, antique chests in the Mauze Lobby, rugs in the McCullough Room and Narthex, chandeliers in the Geneva Room, new stoles for the ministers, new Bibles for worship and many other gifts.

If you are considering giving flowers for the Sunday traditional services, the names of the flower committee are listed below. You may call them for information for the month you desire. Telephone numbers are in the church directory. It is never too early to reserve the Sunday you prefer, so please call as soon as possible. The listings must be available to the church staff one month prior to the committee member's designated month. We are extremely grateful for the many members who have given flowers to enhance our beautiful church. Thank you.

## *Sanctuary Flower Committee*

January .....	Shelley Bass
February .....	Elizabeth Kreager
March .....	Diana Morehouse
April .....	Lilly Gretzinger
May .....	Paula Johnson
June .....	Mary Wilde
July .....	Joyce Mayfield
August .....	Nancy Rice
September .....	Manette Owen
October .....	Chaney Stuart
November .....	Ann Bunn
December .....	Special Events Committee

# *Easter Lilies*

**\$15 PER PLANT - PLEASE PRINT WHEN FILLING OUT FORM**

Each year the congregation has an opportunity to remember a loved one or honor an individual by purchasing an Easter lily to be placed in the Chancel. If you would like to participate, the cost is \$15 to reserve a plant for one individual or one couple. Your check should be made payable to the Sanctuary Flower Committee. Completed forms & payment may be mailed to: First Presbyterian Church, c/o Sanctuary Flower Committee, 404 North Alamo, San Antonio, 78205-1918, or placed in the Sanctuary Flower mailbox in the workroom. **Requests received later than March 18, 2024 will miss the insert printing deadline.**

**GIVEN BY** (30 Character Limit)

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

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# EMAIL

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## PHONE

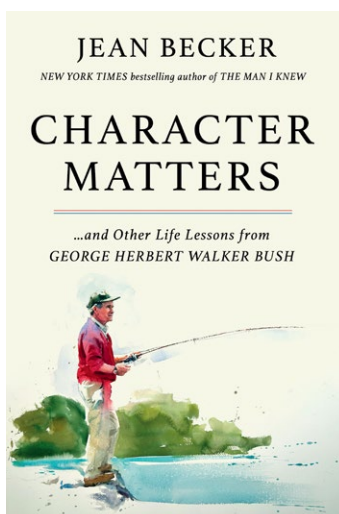
## ADDRESS

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# Deacons

*Sichan Siv has been an active covenant partner, deacon and volunteer at First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio since 2015, a frequent contributor to First Press Magazine, and is committed to the mission and vision of FPC. He is also actively involved in FPC's Prison Ministry outreach, and a member of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice. On November 30, 2023, he became the first to have visited all 100 units in the Department's 175-year history. We are blessed and grateful for his testimony and for sharing part of his inspiring life story here.*

## Character Matters



In celebration of the centennial of our 41st President, George H. W. Bush, the George and Barbara Bush Foundation is hosting a series of 41@100 Events at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, including the dedication of a new pavilion housing a Marine One Helicopter and the Locomotive 4141. "Character Matters" by Jean Becker (President Bush's Chief of Staff post White House until his death), is due for publication on April 16, 2024, and available for purchase. It is a collection of essays by some 150 people who have known the president well.

If you would like a bookplate signed by Jean Becker to accompany your book purchase, please send your name and address to Sichan at [goldensiv@gmail.com](mailto:goldensiv@gmail.com). Jean would be happy to mail you one.

Our Deacon Sichan Siv, who was a Bush presidential assistant at The White House, is one of the contributors. He has participated in many programs at the Library since its opening in 1997. Recently, in October 2022 he re-dedicated the U.N. exhibit by placing a new "France" plaque, after planting a tree he named "George" in Navasota, Texas. In November 2023, he announced the publication of "Character Matters" honoring the 35th anniversary of Bush's election, at the Library in his address to the Boy Scouts' World Citizenship program that President Bush himself started at the Library.



"George" planted in Navasota, Texas in honor of Presidents George Washington, George H. W. Bush, and George W. Bush, and for God's glory. (Photo by Robert Holzweiss)



Placing of the France plaque at the October 2022 re-dedication of the U.N. exhibit at the George Bush Presidential Library & Museum. Photo Courtesy of Siv Collection



To honor the 100th anniversary of George H.W. Bush's birth, the George & Barbara Bush Foundation has launched the centennial commemoration, **41@100: A Celebration of George H.W. Bush**. The centennial will run from June 12, 2023, through December 31, 2024, and will culminate on what would've been President Bush's 100th birthday on June 12, 2024.



## Exerpts from "Character Matters," Jean Becker, Editor

Sichan Siv, White House staff:

That I made it from the Killing Fields to The White House in thirteen years is a tribute to George Bush.

In the spring of 1975, while he was the U.S. envoy to China, I was working in dangerous situations in Cambodia, trying to save thousands of people fleeing the war-torn countryside. The United States, aware of Communist reprisals, told me when the time came, I would have only one hour to report to the embassy to be airlifted out of Phnom Penh. It was April 12, 1975. Despite the flawless evacuation by the Ford Administration (not one life was lost), I missed the helicopter by 30 minutes. I was meeting a provincial governor trying to feed some 3,000 stranded families.

*Top & bottom right: CIA Director Bush, photos courtesy of the George Bush Presidential Library*

*Bottom left photo: Killing fields survivor, photo courtesy of the Siv Collection*



*Continued...*



Five days later, the Communist Khmer Rouge turned the country into a land of blood and tears, killing everyone who had not been with them in their so-called revolution. My mother gave me her wedding ring, a scarf, and a bag of rice and told me to run. "No matter what happens, never give up hope," she said.

I rode a bicycle for three weeks across Cambodia but was captured near the Thailand border. Put in forced labor camps, I worked eighteen hours a day on a bowl of rice. I wondered if I would survive, but I prayed daily that I would see freedom.

On February 13, 1976, thirteen days after George Bush became CIA Director, I jumped off a truck and ran, walked, crawled for three days having nothing to drink or eat; nothing to guide me except the sun, the stars, and the moon. I was severely wounded in a booby trap, but managed to limp to Thailand where I was jailed.

After teaching English to fellow refugees, I managed to immigrate to America, arriving in Connecticut with my mother's scarf, an empty rice bag, and two dollars. I picked apples there, then in 1977 went to New York to drive a taxi.

I later learned that my mother, sister, brother, and their children – fifteen family members altogether -- were killed by the Communists.

In 1981, George Bush became vice president, and I graduated from Columbia University. On July 13, 1988, as a dais guest of President Reagan in the Rose Garden, I met George Bush for the first time. The thought never crossed my mind that a few months later I would work for him, and he would become the most influential person in my life.

On February 13, 1989, exactly thirteen years from the day I jumped off that truck in the Cambodian jungle, I started working for the 41st president of the



Stamps: Courtesy of the Siv Collection

Top photo: "Blessed Together - The World War II Veteran and Genocide Survivor were also UN Ambassadors and White House Colleagues."

Bottom photo taken in Birmingham AL in 2005 reflects the likeness of President Bush in U.S. postage stamps. 41 and Sichan Siv standing with Alabama flag: photo courtesy of the Business Council of Alabama



***"Thanks for your life, love, and leadership. Until we meet again, I am blessed you are beside me." - Sichan Siv***

United States. While my mother gave me life and my wife Martha gave me love, 41 taught me about leadership and how to be a complete person.

I learned mainly from watching him. For example, I was impressed how he managed to keep communications open with Beijing after the Tiananmen Square massacre on June 4, 1989; yet he received the Dalai Lama at the White House.

He quickly digested the eighty-two page report on Iraqi atrocities in occupied Kuwait I sent him on December 14, 1990, and did not stop talking about it.

He was among the first to congratulate me after his son George W. Bush asked me to represent America at the United

Nations. He started calling me Mr. Ambassador.

In October 2018, Jean Becker informed David Bates, Shirley Green, Fred McClure, Chase Untermeyer, and myself that when President Bush died, we would accompany "41" on Air Force One for his last earthly journey to Washington.

The flight with President George W. Bush, Secretary James Baker, and of course "41," was quite emotional. I realized I was the only person not born in the United States.

He once wrote to me:

When we think of you, we think about an outstanding leader and public servant; we think about honor, decency, and integrity; we think about service to others.

I would say back to him: "Thanks for your life, love, and leadership. Until we meet again, I am blessed you are beside me. Whether or not each other we can see, I always feel your spirituality. In serving God and Country, I give thanks in my prayers for thee."

Sichan escaped from Cambodia's Killing Fields in 1976 after missing the US evacuation helicopters the year before. He served as a deputy assistant to President Bush at the White House and as an ambassador to the United Nations under President George W. Bush. The author of several books, Sichan lives in San Antonio and was married to Martha Pattillo Siv from Pampa, Texas, for thirty-three years until her liftoff to heaven in 2016.

*Excerpts reprinted by permission, Jean Becker, Twelve Press.*



Once we were four with a Christmas tree,  
Then we were three by a shining sea,  
Now I'm alone, but not lonely;  
For God is with us, with you and me,  
Soon we will be again together,  
This time, it will be forever,  
Together, forever through eternity

"Love never ends" 1 Corinthians 13:8

"Once we were four": "The emotional flight on Air Force One on December 3, 2018 inspired Deacon Siv to pen this poem." (Artwork by NASA Engineer Ted Ricker!) Top left photo courtesy of the George Bush Presidential Library, bottom left photo taken by Doro Bush Koch, right photo taken by William Canary.



# EASTER

## AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3/24

### PALM SUNDAY

**9:30 & 11:00 AM Services**  
Traditional & Modern worship styles offered at both times.\*\*

3/28

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

**6:30 PM Service**  
Remember Jesus's Last Supper with His followers, in the FPC Sanctuary.\*\*

3/29

### GOOD FRIDAY

**12:00 PM Service**  
Remember Christ's crucifixion, in the FPC Sanctuary.\*\*

3/30

### SATURDAY EGG HUNT

**10:00 AM Program & Egg Hunt**  
FPC's Children's Ministry is "ON THE HUNT" for an Easter Eggventure! All children, infants - 5th grade, & their families are welcome to attend! Bring a basket & invite a friend!

*\*Allergy-friendly goodies will be available.*

3/31

### EASTER SUNDAY

**6:45 AM Sunrise Service**  
Modern style worship in the outside courtyard.

**8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 AM Services**  
Traditional style worship in the historic FPC Sanctuary.\*\*

4/5

### FRIDAY HAYDN CONCERT

**7:00 PM Concert**  
Join the FPC Sanctuary Choir, soloists, & orchestra in the FPC Sanctuary as they present Joseph Haydn's "Creation," a musical retelling of the Genesis creation story.

## WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE

[FPCSANANTONIO.ORG/EASTER](https://fpcsanantonio.org/easter)



» SCAN ME! 📱

**\*\*Childcare is available during the Maundy Thursday & Good Friday Services for birth - 5 years by emailing [childcare@fpcsat.org](mailto:childcare@fpcsat.org). On Sunday mornings childcare for birth - 5 years is available starting 15 minutes before each service (except the 6:45 AM Service on Easter.)**



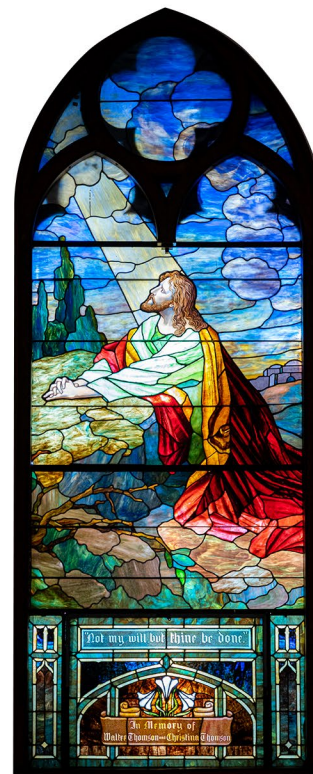
# STATIONS OF THE CROSS

TAKE TIME TO PRAY  
THIS LENTEN SEASON

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

During this Lenten season, we invite our members and guests 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.



## EASTER EGG-VENTURE

THE HUNT IS ON!

**March 30, 2024**  
**10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**  
**Westminster Hall**

**For Infants thru 5th Grade & Their Families**  
**Bring a Friend & Your Easter Basket!**

For more info, please contact [rebeccas@fpcsat.org](mailto:rebeccas@fpcsat.org)

**"SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND." - MATTHEW 7:7**



# A PRAYING LIFE

## Seminar

LEARNING TO PRAY IN A DISTRACTING WORLD

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, MARCH 22-23, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio | Westminster Hall

Contact Ginny Porrata with questions: [ginnyvan490@gmail.com](mailto:ginnyvan490@gmail.com) or 210-508-5714

Many of us are quietly discouraged in our private prayer lives. We've tried praying, but it just doesn't seem to work. So we feel a combination of frustration and guilt. In this seminar, we will learn step-by-step how to begin a private life of prayer in fellowship with our heavenly Father. This seminar is not just for victorious Christians, but Christians who often find themselves defeated in the trenches. It deals with such practical questions as...

- How do you stay focused when you are distracted with so much to do? How do you pray longer than five minutes?
- How do you pray when your own life is messed up?
- How do you ask when you've tried it before and it doesn't work?

### KEY ELEMENTS TO LEARN WITH PRAYER

- Learn to talk like a child to your Father in heaven.
- Prayer as relationship • Problems in prayer
- Prayer as conversation • Prayer as tension

### SEMINAR LEADER

After reading *A Praying Life* years ago, Adam Barker began to see a new chapter unfolding in God's story. He engaged in a Pastor's Cohort and continued to grow in his realization that coming to God helpless was freeing. It changed the way, not just how he prayed, but how he did ministry, how he saw people, and how he poured into leaders. After 22 years of being a pastor, he now serves full-time with "A Praying Life Ministries" as the Southwest Coordinator, and loves to pour into people and pastors. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Mandy, and they love sharing life with their three teenagers and one needy golden retriever in Texas.

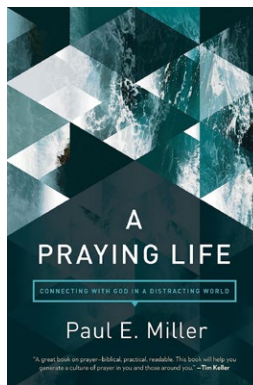
### COST & REGISTRATION

- \$20/per person
- Cost includes materials, dinner, continental breakfast and refreshments.
- Childcare provided (please indicate your needs when registering).
- Scholarships available
- Register at <https://bit.ly/FPC-praying-life24> or scan the QR Code.



### SCHEDULE

- FRIDAY, MARCH 22  
5:30 PM Check in & Dinner  
6:00 - 8:45 PM Seminar
- SATURDAY, MARCH 23  
8:00 AM Continental Breakfast  
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM Seminar



*"The 'A Praying Life Seminar' is the most practical training in prayer possible. I highly recommend it."*

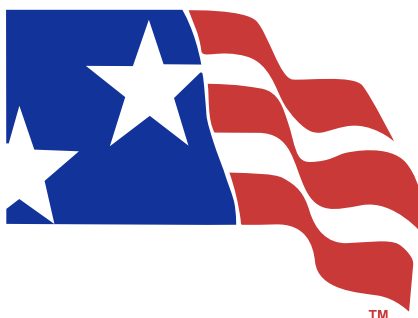
- Tim Keller

Redeemer Presbyterian Church, NYC

a *see Jesus*® seminar



# NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



## National Day of Prayer & Prayer Walk Pray Fervently In Righteousness and Avail Much



Thursday, May 2, 2024 will mark San Antonio's 39<sup>th</sup> consecutive observance of the National Day of Prayer (NDP). Pastors, ministry leaders, city leaders, civil servants, students, military and folks from all segments of San Antonio society will gather as one voice, in the Main Plaza across from the courthouse. 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 AM.**

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 AM** 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.

### CONTACTS

Eva Eckburg  
[eva.eckburg@yahoo.com](mailto:eva.eckburg@yahoo.com)  
210-488-1939

Lisa Snow  
[lisas@fpcsat.org](mailto:lisas@fpcsat.org)  
210-226-0215

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

### National Day of Prayer Walk on May 2, 2024

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) in the Ave E Entrance
- 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.



FPC MARRIAGE MINISTRY PRESENTS

# Focus

ON MARRIAGE

WITH REDEMPITIVE PARENTING'S

**KRISTEN & PETE HATTON**

**Saturday, April 13, 2024 • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
**First Presbyterian Church • Westminster Hall**

Reserve your spot for FREE by April 5 at [fpcsanantonio.org/marriage](https://fpcsanantonio.org/marriage)  
Headcount needed for lunch complimentary of the FPC Marriage Ministry.  
Email [childcare@fpcsat.org](mailto:childcare@fpcsat.org) to reserve free childcare

Group Sessions - *"Biblical Marriage Today" & "Parenting and Marriage"*  
Breakout Sessions - *"For Men Only: Being Her Husband" and*  
*"For Women Only: Being His Wife"*



## MEET THE SPEAKERS

**Kristen Hatton**, MA, LPC-Associate, is a counselor and author passionate about helping families. Her books include "Parenting Ahead," "Get Your Story Straight," "Face Time," and "The Gospel-Centered Life in Exodus for Students." She lives with her pastor-husband, Pete, in Dallas, Texas, and together they have three young adult children and a son-in-law.

For more of Kristen's work, visit her website [www.kristenhatton.com](https://www.kristenhatton.com), and the @Redemptiveparenting Instagram account.

**Pete Hatton**, MABS, is the family pastor at Park Cities Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas. Prior to his recent move back to Dallas, Pete planted and served as the senior pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Edmond, Oklahoma. He has also served college students at Baylor University as the Reformed University Fellowship pastor. Pete is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary with an undergraduate degree from his beloved Penn State University. He has been married to Kristen for 28 years and they have three adult children.



theGrayHavensMusic.com

PRESENTED BY  
**THE GRAY HAVENS**  
 WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
**ANTOINE BRADFORD**

**APRIL 12**

**7:30 PM (DOORS 7 PM)**

\$30 ADVANCE / \$40 DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
 404 N ALAMO STREET, SAN ANTONIO TX 78205

Tickets at <https://bit.ly/gray-havens-fpcsatx24>



## MEMORIAL RECEPTIONS MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Do you enjoy hosting gatherings? Do you enjoy setting an inviting table? Are you interested in being a part of a long-time ministry of First Presbyterian Church that cares for fellow church members and their families going through a time of grief?

If so, have you ever thought about being on a team that hosts memorial receptions taking place after funeral services at the Church?

The commitment is one month per year as you join your team to assist with any receptions that may be scheduled for that specific month. This is a meaningful time of fellowship while sharing the love of Jesus Christ with our covenant partners and their families and friends.



*Learn more about this volunteer opportunity and how to be a part of this important ministry. Call Shelley Bass at (210)861-6996 or Nancy Scheifele at (210)315-1618 with Women of The Church.*

## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

**Mar. 2024****Circle Schedule  
and Chairs &  
Bible Moderators**

- Circle 1/12** Suzanne Thomas, Chair (210-846-3240)  
Grace Labatt, Moderator  
March 18, 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  
March 20, Third Wednesday, 1:00 pm, Room 228
- Circle 6** Jean Parsons, Chair (210-240-7483)  
Members of Circle, Moderators  
March 19, Third Tuesday, 1:30 pm, McCullough Room
- Circle 7** Mary Ellen Mauze, Chair & Moderator (210-844-5549)  
March 19, Third Tuesday, 11:30 am, at Cynthia Robinson's,  
7902 Woodridge Dr. 78209
- Circle 8** Susan DeKoch, Coordinator (210-508-7127)  
Members of Circle, Moderators  
Circle for mothers of young children  
Sunday, March 3, 5:00 pm, contact Susan DeKoch for location
- Circle 9** Grace Clouse, Co-Chair (734-718-7057)  
Janice Wilson, Co-Chair (210-260-4157)  
Ann Smith, Moderator  
March 19, Third Tuesday, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm,  
Breakfast Room
- Circle 11** Jean Swanson, Chair (210-826-0766)  
March 25 Fourth Monday, 12:30 pm,  
at Nancy Beeson's, 12803 Kings Forest St. 661-312-1524
- Circle 13** Grace Clouse, Chair (734-718-7057)  
LITERATURE CIRCLE  
March 12, Second Tuesday, 1:00 pm, McCullough Room  
Book Review: *The Sandcastle Girls* by Chris Bohjalian  
Reviewed by Jane Jansen
- Circle 14** Karen Carawan, Chair (210-213-4589)  
Suzie Simpson, Moderator  
Studying *Ten Women of the Bible*,  
*One by One They Changed the World*  
March 18, Third Monday, 12:00 pm, St. Andrews Room  
(meal with reservation to Karen Carawan by Wednesday prior)
- Circle 18** Char-An Witten, Chair (210-341-1856)  
Pat Brodeen, Email Contact for members ([pat@brodeen.com](mailto: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 Mar. 2024

Welcome to spring and this Lenten season! This month is a special time of prayer and reflection as we prepare our hearts for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. Be sure to note the events, dates and services for Palm Sunday and Holy Week on the First Presbyterian Church calendar.

While Women of The Church has several springtime events to look forward to, we are still thinking back on the fun winter "Ladies Night Out" gathering held on January 30 at Paloma Blanca. The accompanying photos capture a festive evening with 100 women attending and enjoying a delicious dinner, surprise door prizes and a wonderful fellowship time with one another. Thank you to our planning committee of Jill Peavy, Ellen Meadows, Sabrina Rios, Alison Thomas and Savannah Schatte for handling all the details to make this evening a great time for all!

We hope you are planning to attend the annual **WOC Spring Luncheon scheduled for Monday, March 4**. The doors open at 11:00 AM and the lunch will begin at 11:30 AM. An informative discussion on "Loving The Youth in Our City" with Gilbert Hernandez (CEO South Texas Youth for Christ) Annie Mays (Regional Director for Young Life in South Texas) and Kyle Bowden (FPC Director to Youth & Their Families) will provide insight of youth initiatives and programs happening in the San Antonio area. Last minute reservations are available so please contact [JudyKruger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:JudyKruger@sbcglobal.net) for registration information. Colorful centerpieces to decorate the room, created by Leah Butler, Martha Smith and Nancy Williams, will be available for purchase!

Virginia Beeler, Mary Wilde and Pat Johnson are busy organizing our **Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, March 6**. A Fiesta lunch is planned to honor and express our gratitude to our wonderful church staff - whose support we depend on for all that we do. A buffet lunch with homemade desserts is on the menu. Please contact one of these ladies if you would like to provide a dessert or to stop by to assist!

Speaking of Fiesta, the Ladies Night Out committee is planning a Fiesta with the next **"Ladies Night Out" event on Tuesday, April 16 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM at the home of Sharon Seal (134 Cave Lane)**. Be sure to wear your favorite Fiesta attire and mark your calendar to kick off this celebratory week. More details will follow, but you won't want to miss this opportunity to meet and fellowship with women of all ages. RSVP online at [fpcsanantonio.org/lno-rsvp](https://fpcsanantonio.org/lno-rsvp) so we can have a headcount for the evening.

It is never too late in the year to visit a Circle meeting to learn more about these monthly Bible study gatherings. See the March calendar to the left for days and times. This spring, Circles are "digging deeper" into the current sermon series on Genesis and *"The God Who Keeps His Promises."* With study guides available and the sermon videos on-line it is easy to join one of these groups and we look forward to welcoming you!

Christ The Lord is Risen Today!

*Shelley Bass*

President, Women of the Church  
[Bass.Shelley6@gmail.com](mailto:Bass.Shelley6@gmail.com)












**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN OF THE CHURCH**

# **Ladies Night Out**

**FIESTA WITH FRIENDS!**

**All FPC women are invited!**  
Sign up online at  
[fpcsanantonio.org/lno-rsvp](http://fpcsanantonio.org/lno-rsvp)  
or in Mauzé Lobby on Sundays

**Tuesday | 6:00 PM | Fiesta  
April 16 | to 8:00 PM | Attire**

HOME OF SHARON SEAL • 134 CAVE LANE, 78209

**Questions?  
Contact Jill Peavy  
210-667-0525**





# KEYS

KEEPING EVERYONE YOUNG IN SPIRIT

## Older Adult Ministry

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



In February we enjoyed presentations from the San Antonio Rodeo Ambassadors, the Threshold Choir, and of course one of our favorites, Rick Cavender. Our February Birthday Lunch at the Menger Hotel was a good as ever.

*Rev. Dr. Joe Moore*

Assistant Pastor for Older Adults and  
Congregational Care

## KEYS Upcoming:

### March 1 - Leslie Kingman

Leslie is the Founder of Snack Pak 4 Kids San Antonio. She initiated the first Snack Pak program at Lamar Elementary in 2012 with the help of her church, Grace Northridge. When SP4KSA moved to a warehouse model in 2015, she became the Volunteer Executive Director, serving in that position until 2021. She still participates as part of the Staff team, as well as serving on the Board as the Chair of Fundraising.



### March 8 - 1st Annual Mini-Golf Tournament

Our planning team has decided to go out on a limb and try some new and different things. Indoor Mini Golf was the top of our list. A 9-hole course will be set up around the building and teams of four will compete to see who comes up with the lowest score. Practice putting begins at 10:30 AM, Tee time is 11:00 AM. Lunch will be served at Noon, followed by an awards ceremony. All equipment is supplied. You can bring your own lucky putter if you like.





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 [keys@fpcsat.org](mailto:keys@fpcsat.org).

### March 15 - Birthday Lunch

Join us at La Hacienda de Los Barrios, 18747 Redland Rd, at 11:30 AM or take the shuttle from FPC at 10:45 AM. The menu is Tex-Mex cost is \$10-20.

### March 22 - Misty Lenox Krkosa

Misty is the owner of Misty Acres Flower Farm and Floral Design.

### March 29 - Good Friday

No KEYS today. Join us for the Good Friday Service at FPC

### 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

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!







# FIRST CUP READINGS

## MARCH, 2024

*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 Mark 4:35-41; 2 Samuel 22; Psalm 65
- 2 Mark 5:1-20; Matt. 4:23-24; 8:16-17; Acts 19:11-20; Revelation 20:1-10
- 3 Mark 5:21-43; Psalm 103

*Savior, like a Shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care; In thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our us Thy folds prepare: Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be; Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free: Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still; Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still. (The Hymnbook, No. 380)*

- 4 Mark 6:1-29; Luke 9:7-9; 14:25-33; Acts 21:10-14
- 5 Mark 6:30-56; Ephesians 3:20-21; Psalm 37
- 6 Mark 7:1-23; Jeremiah 17:9; Micah 6; James 1:21-27
- 7 Mark 7:24-8:10; Colossians 1:15-23; Eph. 1:2-23
- 8 Mark 8:11-38; John 10
- 9 Mark 9:1-13; Malachi 4:5-6; Matt. 11:7-15; 17:1-13
- 10 Mark 9:14-29; James 5:13-20; Phil. 4:6-7; Eph. 6:18

*Work, for the night is coming, Work through the morning hours; Work while the dew is sparkling, Work mid springing flowers; Work when the day grows brighter, Work in the glowing sun; Work, for the night is coming, when man's work is done. Work, for the night is coming, under the sunset skies; while their bright tints are glowing, work for the daylight flies. Work till the last beam fadeth, fadeth to shine no more; Work while the night is darkening, when man's work is o'er. (The Hymnbook, No. 297)*

- 11 Mark 9:30-41; Numbers 11:26-30; Matthew 18:1-9
- 12 Mark 9:42-50; 1 Corinthians 5; 1 Peter 1:13-25
- 13 Genesis 2:18-25; Mark 10:1-16; 1 Corinthians 7; 1 John 1:9-10
- 14 Mark 10:17-31; 2 Chron. 1:1-12; Prov. 11:24-28; 1 Tim. 6:17
- 15 Mark 10:32-45; Phil. 2:1-18; John 13:1-17
- 16 Mark 10:46-52; Hebrews 11:6; Matt. 7:7-12; Luke 19:1-10; Psalm 27
- 17 Mark 11:1-19; Jeremiah 7; Romans 12:12; Col. 4:2

*Saviour, teach me, day by day, Love's sweet lesson, to obey; Sweeter lesson cannot be, Loving Him who first loved me. With a child's glad heart of love, at Thy bidding may I move, Prompt to serve and follow Thee, Loving Him who first loved me. Teach me thus Thy steps to trace, strong to follow in Thy grace, Learning how to love from Thee, Loving Him who first loved me. (The Hymnbook, No. 457)*

- 18 Mark 11:20-33; Luke 17:1-4; Matt. 5:21-24; Matt. 18:21-35
- 19 Mark 12; Prov. 25:14; Matt. 6:1-4; Psa. 37:25-26; 112; Prov. 11:25
- 20 Matthew 23; Proverbs 6:16-19; Micah 6:8
- 21 Mark 13; Isaiah 13:9-11; Revelation 6:12-17
- 22 Matthew 24; Revelation 16:15
- 23 Matthew 25
- 24 1 Thessalonians 4-5:11

*All glory, laud, and honor, To Thee, Redeemer, King, To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring! The people of the Hebrews with palms before Thee went; Our praise and prayer and anthems before Thee we present. Thou art the king of Israel, Thou David's royal Son, Who in the Lord's name comest, The King and blessed One! To Thee, before Thy Passion, they sang their hymns of praise; To Thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. All glory, laud and honor to Thee, Redeemer, King, To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring! (The Hymnbook, No. 187)*

- 25 John 10
- 26 John 11
- 27 John 12:1-19; Deuteronomy 15:1-11
- 28 Matthew 21:1-17; John 12:12-19
- 29 John 12:20-13:18
- 30 Mark 14:1-42; John 17; Mark 14:43-72
- 31 Mark 15

*I know that my Redeemer lives! What joy the blest assurance gives! He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my everlasting Head! He lives to bless me with His love; He lives, to plead for me above; He lives, my hungry soul to feed; He lives, to help in time of need. He lives, all glory to His name; He lives, my Savior, still the same; What joy, the blest assurance gives; I know that my Redeemer lives! (The Methodist Hymnal, No. 445)*

*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. (Romans 8:26).*

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# New Covenant Partners!

## Joined us in February 2024



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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
**CHILDREN'S CENTER**



**First Presbyterian Church Children's Center**  
**7th Annual Spring Fling Luau!**  
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For more info contact Midea Leija at [mideame@fpcsatx.org](mailto:mideame@fpcsatx.org)



**FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2024**  
**FPCC GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
SUPPORTING THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SAN ANTONIO CHILDREN'S CENTER  
Olmos Basin Golf Course  
7022 McCullough Ave, San Antonio, TX 78216  
Check-In 7:45 AM • Shotgun Start 8:30 AM

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