

THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

NOVEMBER 2018 | Volume 18, Number 11

ALL SAINTS' DAY SPECIAL SERVICE

First Presbyterian Church gathers for worship on Thursday, November 1 at 7 p.m. to celebrate All Saints' Day. Led by the clergy and the Chancel Choir, this service of scripture, music, prayer, and the Lord's Supper is among the most moving of our worship services offered each year. During the service First Presbyterian members who have died in the past year will be remembered by name as a bell is tolled. The Chancel Choir will offer several inspiring anthems based on early American melodies. The service concludes with the celebration of the Lord's Supper as we so powerfully remember the communion of saints that surrounds us now and eternally.

All Saints' Day was established as an opportunity to honor all the saints, remembered and forgotten, known and unknown. It has been celebrated on or around November 1 since the ninth century.... In the Reformed tradition, the emphasis on this festival is the on-going sanctification of the whole people of God. While we may give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past, we also give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of believers in this and every age. (Book of Common Worship, Westminster John Knox Press, 2018. Page 383)

Make plans to attend this special service as we join in praising God for those who have gone before us and for one another as we seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.



ALL SAINTS' DAY LABYRINTH WALK

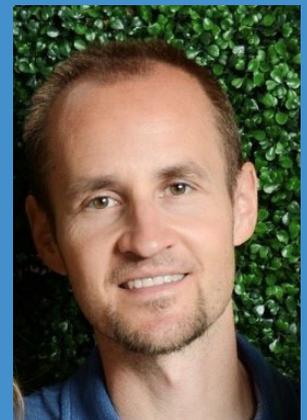
Join us on Thursday, November 1 from 3-6:30 p.m. to walk the outdoor stone labyrinth in the Memorial Garden in memory of a loved one. If you are unable to walk the labyrinth, a Labyrinth Guild member is happy to walk in your place as you sit nearby. Watching another walk in remembrance of your loved one(s) can be moving, while being less physically taxing on you. Guild members will also be available to provide information.

Note: For an indoor walking option, a canvas labyrinth will be set up in the Youth Center.

Welcome Heath Brosi Our New Director of Hospitality and Food Service

On October 29, we welcome Heath Brosi to the FPC staff. Heath began his career by earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from UTA in 2004. In 2013 he transitioned from a career in engineering to his current passion for the culinary world. He graduated from Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts in the beautiful city of Boulder, CO and has been working in the food world ever since. In the last five years he has worked for Savory Cuisines Catering and Blackbelly Catering in Colorado and Tastefully Yours Catering in Texas, as well as full time at Whole Foods Market.

Heath is married to Michelle and they have two little girls, Malina (3) and Victoria (1). When he is not working in the kitchen or playing with his girls, he loves spending time outside running, biking, hiking or doing anything active. He has run the Boston Marathon twice and hopes to run it again soon. He also loves cooking at home for his family and getting to share his love of food with others.





PASTORS' LETTER

Dear Friends,

As the calendar turns to November, the darkness comes a little earlier in the evening (don't forget the time change on November 4), the weather a little colder, the holidays a little closer. For some, this time of year comes with a mix of emotions as folks balance dynamics in families – sometimes coupled with grief for what has been and sometimes met with fatigue for what lies ahead. Added to that, we experience in our society extraordinary tensions of difference and division politically, racially, economically.

And it is in these moments that the church calendar pulls us back together to recall our shared connection in Christ and the deep-rooted hope we share. We begin the month celebrating All Saints' Day, a very ancient festival in the history of the church. The people of God have always valued memory; the scriptures abound with recollections of God's faithfulness. Walter Brueggemann calls it deep memory. People from all places and times have walked on as God's people, seeking to be faithful to the God whom we trust. And though each generation has had their own unique contributions to the journey, the race remains the same: how to be faithful and keep our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12.2). Our deep memory is connected to our exuberant hope – that God who began a good work in us will be faithful to complete it (Philippians 1.6). No matter the season of life we experience, our hope is in Christ, who gives us strength to trust God with all who we are. We remember. We hope.

And, in our memory and in our hope, we give thanks. While Thanksgiving is not a liturgical holiday per se, we celebrate the abundance of God's provision in the world. God's bounty overflows and we participate in it through our sharing of it. Gratitude is a supreme spiritual practice that draws us into the heart of a God who gives graciously and extravagantly.

The last Sunday in November is Christ the King Sunday, and we end the month recognizing the lordship of Christ who is head of the church, despite all that threatens to divide us as God's people. We remember. We hope. We give thanks. We trust in Christ who is making all things new.

May the month of November shape our discipleship beyond mere calendar days to see the scope of God's kingdom among us, breaking through, even in the ordinary.

Peace be with you,

Robyn

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the DECEMBER issue of the Penn Street Letter are due Wednesday, NOVEMBER 14. Submissions for the weekly Penn Street Online emailed newsletters are due the Wednesday prior to each week's issue.

Please send to Kathryn Breitbarth at kbreitbarth@fpcfw.org or bring by the church office.

PUBLISHER INFO

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Editor: Kathryn Breitbarth

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A Special Thank You to Richard Sperry

Thank you to church member Richard Sperry for his generous ministry of hospitality. For many, many years Richard has quietly provided the much-loved donut holes on Sunday morning! In addition to purchasing 40 dozen donut holes every Sunday, he also provided donuts to the Chancel Choir, the youth, and the front office. His gift each week included picking them up at 6:40 a.m. every Sunday morning and placing them around the building before volunteering to coordinate several details for the 8 a.m. service, including operating the soundboard. Richard would then volunteer in the front office from 9 a.m. – 12 noon, answering the phone and helping support other Sunday morning volunteers in worship and Christian Education. What an inspiring disciple!

As Richard retires from his Sunday morning ministries, we give thanks to God for such an example of inspiring discipleship humbly and quietly offered. For all the years of your gift of such generous hospitality and service, Richard, we say "THANK YOU!"



BE INSPIRED...

Below are some upcoming opportunities for being inspired into a life of discipleship through church events in the coming weeks.



MOMS Schedule

MOMS is a ministry of First Presbyterian Church for all mothers. Gather with other mothers for support, encouragement, Bible study, fellowship, and friendship. For working moms, stay-at-home-moms, and all moms in between! Come as your schedule allows, no need to attend every meeting or the whole meeting -- let MOMS fit your busy life.

This year (Fall 2018-Spring 2019) we are studying and discussing women of the Bible.

New! In addition to our 1st Thursday and 3rd Wednesdays lunch MOMS, we now have a weekend MOMS (second Sunday) and a Mid Cities MOMS (second Monday). To see all dates and times, and to register, go to our website at www.fpcf.org/moms.

Bring a friend! Questions? Contact Robyn Michalove.

Chili Cookoff

Sunday, November 4 following the 11 a.m. Worship Service in the 3rd Floor Concourse. Chili, Cornbread, and Salad will be provided for the main meal.

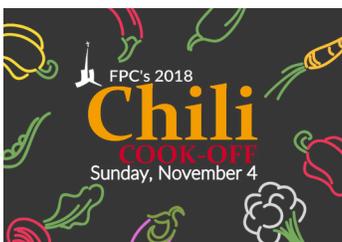
Chili entries will be offered as taste-test samples for contest vote.

Lunch is \$5/person, \$20 max per family. Come eat and vote for your favorite chilis. Want to enter the cook-off with your favorite recipe?

Signup at www.fpcf.org/chili

Deadline: Wednesday, October 31

We request that your chili be delivered to the 3rd floor concourse by 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 4 to help minimize distraction to those worshipping in the Great Hall.



Turkey Bowl: Youth/ Adults Flag Football

The annual Youth Group Turkey Bowl will take place Sunday, November 11 from 1-3 p.m. at Game On ARENA Sports (not to be confused with their Sports Complex). The indoor turf field is located at 251 Settlement Plaza Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76108. This Youth vs. Parents/Adults Turkey Bowl is a non-tackle flag football game. We will have a middle school (grades 6-8) game and a high school (grades 9-12) game. No cleats allowed, participants must wear tennis or turf shoes. A refreshments stand will be available. Please bring a personal water container. A Game On "Release Form" is required for all participants (youth and adults). Paper or electronic releases are available. Turkey Bowl warm-up begins at 1 p.m. and the game begins approximately at 1:20 p.m.



Book People

Book People will meet next on Monday, November 12, from noon to 1 p.m.

in Room 226. We will discuss *Train to Estelline* by Jane Roberts Wood.

The third of our "set in Texas" books, *Train to Estelline* tells the story of Lucinda Eliza Richards who applies to teach school in Estelline in 1911. Told through a series of letters written to various family members and her diary, Lucy recounts her first year of teaching 12-15 students in grades one through ten for the salary of \$42 per month. Returning folks and new members are always welcomed. Please direct questions to Elizabeth Johnson Pense at ejpense@me.com.

Mark your calendars for our four spring meetings - February 11, March 11, April 8, and May 13. Books to be read and discussed will be available in November.

Christmas Toy Store

The Christmas Toy Store is gearing up for another year of serving our families at Community Crossroads. Starting November 3rd, please come by the Toy Store table outside of the worship areas and pick up stars and purchase toys, books and games for the age and gender on the stars. You may also donate money and we'll do the shopping for you (checks may be made out to FPC with toy store in the memo line).

There are a couple of changes this year. We are not providing socks, underwear, diapers or any clothing. We also are asking for toys for age 3 to 11.

We have an increase in families registering this year so we anticipate we will need 900 toys, 450 books and 120 games. We provide two toys and one book per child and one game per family. As we have in the past, we'll have a suggestion list based on our experience in past toy stores.

Thanks in advance for helping with this very meaningful and valuable program.



A Buck for Mission

In October, we began a major new program called A Buck for Mission!

The idea: children and youth participate in worship and generosity by dropping a dollar bill in the offering plate. Each month, we'll highlight a different ministry. In October, every \$1 bill in the offering plate will help buy art supplies for The Art Station, an organization which works with our guests at Community Crossroads. For more information about The Art Station, click <https://www.theartstation.org/>. Parents, teach generosity to your kids by sharing a \$1 bill for this valuable ministry.

ENGAGE THE WORLD...

Below are some upcoming opportunities for engaging the world through church outreach mission efforts in the coming weeks.



Save the Date

Join TEAM FPC for our final race of the year, The Jingle Bell Run on December 1 at 4 p.m. at the Shops at Clearfork. More info available November 1 in the online newsletter, on the website at www.fpcf.org, on Facebook, and in the bulletin. Join the team for this very enjoyable event benefiting the Arthritis Foundation.

Carter Blood Drive

The Carter BloodCare Bus will be parked at FPC on Sunday, November 18 from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Please consider being a part of something great, something LIFE giving! Sign up to donate blood by going to the FPC website at www.fpcf.org/blooddrive and clicking on the link there or contact Patty O'Brien at pobrien@fpcf.org. Or you may call the church office for more details.

Save the Date

PW Christmas Celebration will be held Tuesday, December 11.

10:30 a.m. Wassail Fellowship

11 a.m. Worship Service

12 p.m. Lunch

Invitations with complete details will be mailed to women of the church.

Planning for Retirement

Sunday, November 4, 2018

4:30 p.m. in the Small Media Room

Go to fpcf.org/planning-for-retirement/ to RSVP today!

The Planned Giving Committee invites you to hear:

Helen Stephens, CFP with Aspen Wealth Management, who will share her more than 20 years experience in the field of financial services as she addresses the need to plan ahead for retirement. You can learn more about Helen at <https://www.aspenwealth-mgmt.com/team/helen-stephens-cfp>.

Room in the Inn

Orientation and Training for Winter Season

For more than a decade, First Presbyterian Church has partnered with other local congregations and DRC Solutions to provide overnight shelter for those without homes during months of the harshest weather (July-August, December-February).

Every Monday evening during these months, FPC provides 14 guests with a space to relax, a family-style dinner, games/cards/books, hot shower, bed for undisturbed sleeping, hot breakfast, and a sandwich lunch to take with them. Above all, FPC RITI volunteers provide a warm welcome, friendly conversation, and service with dignity. Please consider being a part of this ministry this winter season. Come to an orientation and training lunch (complimentary with advance registration) on Sunday, November 11 from 12 - 1:30 p.m. in Room 310. RSVP to Robyn at robynm@fpcf.org.

3 Myths about Room in the Inn Volunteers:

MYTH 1: Room in the Inn has enough volunteers.

FACT: We need people to greet guests as they arrive, do laundry of bedding during the week, serve as innkeepers, among many other wonderful opportunities to serve.

MYTH 2: Volunteers have to stay the entire duration of Room in the Inn.

FACT: Volunteers can serve at times that fit their schedules. And, this ministry is perfect for those who are unable to volunteer during daytime hours because of their work schedule! We need volunteers to prepare the beds Monday afternoon, offer hospitality Monday evening, and wash laundry and write thank you cards on their own time.

MYTH 3: Homelessness is on the decline in our community.

FACT: Those experiencing homelessness in Fort Worth increased by 17% from 2017. Room in the Inn provides a needed ministry in our community, especially during times of extreme weather conditions when shelter beds are overflowing.



BASKET PROJECT

Donations Collected
November 4-18

*In Partnership with the
South Central Alliance of Churches*

As in past years, FPC invites you to help prepare and contribute to food bags with items for a Thanksgiving meal to those in need.

Please bring donations to the red grocery carts outside the Great Hall from November 4-18. The last day to turn in groceries is November 18. Any donations after that date will go to Community Crossroads food pantry.

Monetary donations will be accepted and are warmly appreciated to help defray the cost of the turkeys. Checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church with "Thanksgiving Baskets 2018" in the memo.

In addition, we need volunteers on Monday, November 19 to transport the bags brought to FPC to South Central Alliance of Churches from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Please contact Robyn Michalove if you can help with this. Also, we welcome volunteers to help with the distribution of the turkeys and food bags on Tuesday, November 20 from 2 - 4 p.m. Contact Opel at 817.923.0486 or email Opel at office@fwscac.org.



PENN ST. ARTS CONCERT SERIES



Advent Afternoon Concerts Wednesday, December 5, 12, 19, 2018 12:30 p.m.
(30 minute concert after the noon service) - Sanctuary

December 5 Adam Pajan, Instructor of Organ at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK
December 12 Beverly Howard, Professor Emeritus of CA Baptist University, Riverside, CA
December 19 Jillian Gardner, Organ & Chandler Fadero, Violin, Master of Music Candidates,
Baylor University, Waco, TX



Westminster Choir of Princeton, NJ Friday, January 18, 2019 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary

Organ & Choir The Fellowship Choir, The Chancel Choir, and Organist, Ahreum Han Congdon,
Sunday, January 27, 2019 3:30 p.m. - Sanctuary



Penn St. Arts Festival with Jazz & Organ, Jazz band, organist, and a vocalist:
Saturday, February 16, 2019 5-7:30 p.m. Art Show & Concert - Sanctuary
(co-hosted with Fellowship Committee)

5 - 6:30 p.m. - Visual Art Show - West Concourse
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Jazz & Organ Concert - Sanctuary



Ken Cowan Professor of Organ, Rice University, Houston, TX
Sunday, March 3, 2019 2:30 p.m. - Sanctuary

Lent Afternoon Concerts Organists: Wednesday, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 2019 12:30 p.m.
(30 minute concert after the noon service) - Sanctuary

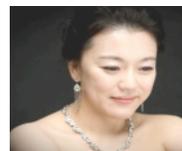
March 13 Ahreum Han Congdon, Director of Music/Organist First Presbyterian Church,
Fort Worth, TX
March 20 Rebecca Sawyer, Music Associate First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth, TX
March 27 Dalaie Choi, Music Director/Organist Concordia Lutheran Church, Wilmington, DE
April 3 Yoonmi Lim, Organ professor Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary,
Fort Worth, TX
April 10 Joe Butler, Associate Dean, College of Fine Arts; Professor of Music and University
Organist, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX

Special Services

All Saints Service Thursday, November 1, 2018 7 p.m. - Great Hall
Advent Musical Offering Sunday, December 9, 2018 11 a.m. - Sanctuary
Good Friday Tenebrae Friday, April 19, 2019 7 p.m. - Sanctuary

Special Workshops

Area 9 Handbell Musicians of America Spring Ring
Saturday, April 6, 2019 - Great Hall



SANCTUARY AND ROOF RENOVATIONS IN PICTURES

Under Construction, Overwhelmed by Blessing

The Sanctuary Renovation project has been underway since early April. Here are some photos of the progress thus far. Also, great progress is being made daily on the roof replacement. We give thanks for those working hard on this exciting renovation!





JOYS & CONCERNS

The following prayer concerns are those we have received as of October 17. In an effort to respect the privacy of those listed below, names are only printed once permission from the individual is obtained. Are you in the hospital? Let us know by contacting Parish Visitors Jennifer Pettey or Jennifer Regen.

Our loving sympathy to...

Family and friends of **Janie Burnett** who died October 5. Surviving FPC family: husband, **Jimmy Burnett**.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Bob Wilson, Brent McCartney, Jerry Brownlee, David Nation, Paula Robertson, and Judy Gasch, who are recovering from surgery or injury. **Marilyn Love, Roger Parsons, Jane Watson, Rush Hart, Marilyn Wilson, Vera Kendall, Phyllis Propes, Emma Coley, Marjorie Lewis, Corinna Nation, Lisa Shiner, Marge Shiner, Elizabeth Bean, Frances Blake, Nancy Nelson, and Dalia Scott**, who are dealing with illness or undergoing treatment.

Our caring prayers for extended family include...

Melba Matthews (mother of **Paula Robertson**); Marta Ukropina (daughter of Martha Zaborowski), Bill Neil (brother of **Marilyn Love**), Janet Laminack (cousin of **Julie Sphar and Vance Laminack**), John DeMore (son-in-law of **June Sprott**), Lisa Koenig (niece of **Clark Williams**), Kathy Kline (**Maxine Kruse's** daughter), Marty Kinard (**Larry and Bettye Kinard's** daughter-in-law), and Susan Chenault (**Frances Chenault's** daughter).

Prayers for peace in our world, for the safety of Nathan Gunter (**Russell and Vivian Norment's** nephew) who is stationed in Korea. Also for the safety of **Diego A. Saldivar**, who is serving in the US Navy; Diego is the son of **Becky and Rene Saldivar**.

Our congratulations and best wishes to ...

Sam and Sarah Wallace on the birth of a daughter, Mary Aglaya, on September 29.

CALENDAR

Below are a few highlighted events in November.
More at fpcf.org/calendar.

SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER

- 8 a.m. Worship in Chapel
- 9 a.m. Worship in Great Hall
- 10 a.m. Church School
- 11 a.m. Worship in Great Hall

WEDNESDAYS IN NOVEMBER

- 5:30 p.m. Worship On Wednesdays (+ dinner, classes) at Community Crossroads
- 6 p.m. Fellowship Choir rehearsals
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsals

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

- 3 p.m. All Saints Labyrinth Walk
- 7 p.m. All Saints Worship Service

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

- 12 Noon Chili Cookoff

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

- All Day 2nd Sunday: Shoes on Sunday
- 1 p.m. Annual Youth Turkey Bowl

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

- 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast
- 1 p.m. Beacons Birthday Bash

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

- All Day 3rd Sunday: Peanut Butter Sunday
- 6:30 p.m. Taize Worship Service

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

- Thanksgiving Church Office Closed

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23

- All Day Church Office Closed

Safety Training for All

Fire, Tornado and Active Shooter training has been scheduled at FPC for Saturday, November 17 from 9-11 a.m. in the Small Media Room.

Officer Paula Gibson of the FWPD will lead this safety program. In the midst of chaos, anyone can play an integral role in mitigating the impact of an emergency. This training aims to enhance preparedness through a whole community approach to help you prepare for and respond to a safety incident. The Property Committee is inviting and encouraging as many church members as possible to attend this presentation.

Questions? Contact Dana Fickling at dfickling@fpcf.org or call the church office.



First Presbyterian Church
1000 Penn Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

**PERIODICALS
POSTMASTER:**

Send address changes to
The Penn Street Letter,
1000 Penn Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Church Office
Ph: 817.335.1231
Fax: 817.335.5663

WWW.FPCFW.ORG

ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

In Honor & Memory of Loved Ones

This Christmas, the FPC Worship & Music Committee will be placing live poinsettia plants in worship spaces from December 14– 30. You may purchase a plant in honor or memory of loved ones using the form below and turning it in, with a check made out to First Presbyterian Church and “Poinsettias” marked in the memo line. Cost is \$20 per plant.

Forms are due in the church office by December 10. Plants may be taken home after worship on December 30. Those not picked up will be given to homebound members. Thank you!



Given in Honor / Memory (please circle one) of:

Given by:
