



"I will not leave you orphaned," Jesus said.

John 14:18

**September
2020**

The News

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Doing Transitions Well

Moses and Joshua. Elijah and Elisha. David and Solomon. John the Baptist and Jesus. Peter, Paul, Timothy, John. In the history of God's people, there always have been and always will be transitions in leadership. And while transition to good leadership is critical, so also is the faithful response of God's people in those times of transition.

Jesus knew that the transition of the Church, the Body of Christ, after his ministry, death, resurrection and ascension would be a challenge for his fledgling followers, and he wanted to assure them that they would be able to continue the work he began. *"I will not leave you orphaned,"* Jesus said (Jn. 14:18). *"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you,"* (Jn. 14:25-26). *"Very truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father,"* (Jn. 14:12).

Jesus assured his followers that the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, would enable them to not only continue God's kingdom work that he had accomplished, but would enable them to do even greater things than Jesus had done! Is that even possible? It is indeed. Some 2000 years after Jesus' death and resurrection, there are about 2.4 billion Christians around the world, nearly one third of the entire planet of 7.8 billion people. Such numbers of Christians praying and serving in the name of Jesus Christ have changed the world for the better, and will continue to do so. The Christian Church continues to grow worldwide. This reaffirms our knowledge of the immense vitality of the Christian faith, and challenges us in U.S. to continue to share the gospel in word and deed with those who know little to nothing about it, and making them Jesus' disciples.

It is our strong hope that with Rich and Chris serving as Co-Pastors for three months, and then Rich's retirement at the end of the calendar year, and Chris commencing as Senior Pastor, we can continue God's kingdom work to which we are called. That includes re-opening the church after COVID, completing our 3-year commitments to the TRANSFORM Capital Campaign, and renewing our WILL YOU GROW generosity commitments for the coming year of 2021.

God has called us to renew our hearts, renew our lives, renew our building, and renew our hope in this important time, just as the

Lord has done in transitions throughout history. It will require spiritual maturity, courage and discipline on the part of every person who calls FPC Arlington their church home. We ask you to be praying, dreaming, thinking and committing yourself to do everything you possibly can to see that this important work gets done to the glory of God, by the grace of God. Your faith, courage and trust in the Lord will insure that the Lord's perfect will is done.

Thank you for your faithfulness and your prayers in the midst of this crazy year of the pandemic, when we are trying to do things we have never done before. Your discipleship to Jesus will make this transition one that the Lord directs and one of which we can be proud.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rich

Exciting New Discipleship Opportunity!

By Pastor Chris Campbell

The trend that many mainline (or former mainline) churches have counted on is that our youth go off to college, stop attending church, graduate, get married, have a child, then return to church. Relying on that pattern has become less and less reliable for many reasons – students pursuing higher education degrees beyond college; getting married later; having children later; and so on. I will say I'm thankful for those families that recognize the need for Christian community and support. But there is an important gap that churches often miss.

Thanks to some of our young church officers and leaders, we are creating a new discipleship opportunity for this important demographic. This will be for college students, young professionals, and everywhere in-between! This stage of life presents its own unique challenges that are different from our existing groups and classes. As college and graduate school resumes, this is the perfect time to launch this group. Details are still being worked out, but I wanted to let you know this is happening. If you are part of this age / life-stage group, or you know someone who needs a group to connect with, please direct them to Katherine Copeland. Her email address is kmcgrathcopeland@gmail.com and I look forward to helping get this group off to a strong start!

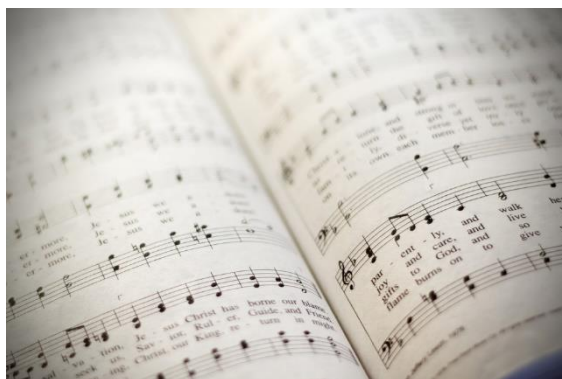
Drive-in Hymn Sing

Saturday, September 12, 6:30 p.m.

We will have a drive-in hymn sing in the South parking lot of the church on Saturday evening, Sept. 12. You may be asking yourself, “what is a drive-in hymn sing?” People will park in designated spaces and remain in their cars. Our old 1990 Presbyterian hymnals will be provided, and you will be able to keep the hymnal for home use!

Shina Heo (in person home) will play for us, group to help lead the

The music will be broadcast so that you radio and sing along. event, so we encourage car with your windows others around you, or hot! This is a wonderful gather and worship



and Cheryl Harris (from and there will be a vocal singing.

amplified on speakers and can listen on your car This will be a participatory you to sing along in your open, so that you can hear windows closed if it is too and safe way to be able to together in song.

Finance Update

For the month of **July 2020:**

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$ 60,641
Expense: (\$ 71,683)

Income - Expense for month: **(\$ 11,042)**
Income - Expense for 2020 Year to Date: **\$ 18,910**

Comments:

Total Operating Income is under budget for the year by (\$70,573).

Funds Released is under budget for the year by (\$26,129).

Donors – Under budget for the year by (\$31,077).

Total Expenses were under budget for the year by (\$99,556).

Session Discretionary Funds (not designated or reserved) - \$ 17,573
Cost to operate church for one month - \$ 93,320



Children's Ministry

Preschool



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

We have been reminded over the past several months just how important it is to believe that God has a plan for me. Our world has changed. Everything we had planned changed. Hurt, disappointment, fear, loss, sickness... all of it has left us wondering, what will happen next? And, while we won't ever truly know what will happen next in any given situation, God does, because God has a plan for you, and God has a plan for me.

This month, we are going to use the super sweet theme of Ice Cream Sundae, along with the life of Joseph, to teach preschoolers that God has a plan for them. When we put all of the parts of Joseph's story together—just as with an ice cream sundae—it gives us a sweet reminder that we can trust that God has a plan for me, and it is always best. We just have to wait until God is done putting all of the parts together.

Our hope this month is that preschoolers will begin to understand that God loves them, and He has a plan for them—a plan they can trust is always best, no matter what.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Joseph Gets a Coat and Goes to Egypt Genesis 37; Jeremiah 1:5	STORY FOCUS God has a plan for me.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Joseph in Jail Genesis 39–40	STORY FOCUS I can trust God's plan even when it's hard.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Joseph Saves the Grain Genesis 41	STORY FOCUS God's plan has good things for me to do.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Joseph Forgives Genesis 42–45	STORY FOCUS God's plan is always best.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU SAYS THE LORD." JEREMIAH 29:11, NLT	WHO HAS A PLAN FOR YOU?	GOD HAS A PLAN FOR ME.
GOD LOVES ME.		

Elementary and KFC



ELEMENTARY
SEPTEMBER 2020

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN FRIENDSHIP AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus showed us the greatest example of love when He laid down His life for His friends. With His words and actions, He showed friendship to everyone He met. We can reflect Jesus' love best when we treat one another with friendship.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Two people are better than one Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	BOTTOM LINE Choose your friends carefully.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY David and Jonathan 1 Samuel 20 (Supporting: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8)	BOTTOM LINE Friends love one another.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Elijah and Elisha 1 Kings 19:14-21; 2 Kings 2:1-15	BOTTOM LINE Friends encourage one another.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Jesus Forgives Peter John 21:1-19 (Supporting: John 18:1-27)	BOTTOM LINE Friends forgive one another.

MEMORY VERSE	"A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES. THEY ARE THERE TO HELP WHEN TROUBLE COMES." PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV
FRIENDSHIP	USING YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS TO SHOW OTHERS YOU CARE

Youth Ministry

A Checklist for a Successful Socially-Distanced School Year

by Holly Crawshaw

Maybe you're one of those parents who has cherished more "together" time with family during the Covid pandemic quarantine. Or maybe you're one of those parents who has kept a calendar of when the kids would *hopefully* return to school and counted down the days since Day #1 of summer.

Probably for most of us, it's a mixture of both. We're anxious about our kids' safety and health, but we also know it's time to return to "normal" life as much as possible. No matter where you land, we want to help make the transition as smooth as possible for you and your family!

Below is a checklist you can use as a guide to prepare for the coming school year—which is sure to be like no other before it.

1. Establish a schedule before the first day of school.

Waking up early after weeks of sleeping in is no fun for anyone. Before school starts, start waking up your family and sending them to bed at the same time you will during the school year. This will save a ton of yawns that first week back.

2. Create a weekly check-in.

Choose a time during the weekend to huddle around a calendar with your family. Maybe it's Sunday night after dinner—everyone shares their plans for the week and discusses any changes from the regular routine. Who has practice? Who has carpool duty? Who has a doctor's appointment? Does everyone have enough masks to get through the week?

3. Create a rhythm of table conversation.

Try to eat dinner together as many times a week as possible. Establish a habit of asking each other, "What was the best part of your day?" and, "What was your least favorite part?"

4. Choose a designated space for daily supplies.

Where will the bookbags go? Shoes? Lunch boxes? Grab a few hooks and a couple of baskets and create a go-to spot for collecting items your kids will take with them every day. Add a bottle of sanitizing spray to the area to keep everyone as germ-free as possible. This will help you get out the door faster and eliminate the potential for frustration.

5. Set up a distraction-free homework area.

Determine what the rules about homework are. Will you require your student to begin their homework immediately? Give them an hour of downtime? Allow them to wait until after dinner? Make a plan for whatever works best for your family. Then, create an area free of TVs, gaming systems, clutter, etc.

6. Talk it out.

Starting a new school year can give a kid of any age anxiety—especially this year. Make your child's favorite lunch or dinner before the first day of school and talk about the upcoming year. Encourage

them. Let them ask questions—especially about what may be different in light of Covid. Remind them of their wins last year, and discuss your expectations for the new school year.

7. Reach out to your student's teacher.

This is especially helpful for parents of younger students. Send in some supplies—tissues or markers or hand sanitizer—and attach a note that introduces you and your kid. Offer your help and support. Ask them what their favorite treat is, and then surprise them with it a few times during the year.

8. Start each day right.

The best way to start your kid's day of school is with some daily encouragement. Send them off to school with words that fill their heart.

"I've already been praying for you this morning."

"You look beautiful/handsome/sharp this morning!"

"I love starting my day with you!"

9. Create clear parameters.

Be clear and consistent with the rules about homework and bedtimes and the consequences for not following them. Define a reward system, whether it's extra screen time or a later curfew.

10. Pray, pray, pray.

Gather your family (and other families, if you want!) and pray for the new school year. Reassure your child that you'll continue to pray for them as the upcoming year progresses.

Blessings in Christ,

Adrian

North Texas Giving Day

North Texas Giving Day is coming up soon on September 17, 2020. This is an 18-hour online giving event designed to empower every person to give back to their community by supporting local nonprofits and causes they care about. As we have all witnessed, the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in financial strain for nonprofits as they try to assist those in need. Below is a list of organizations supported by FPCA:

- Arlington Charities
- Arlington Life Shelter
- HOPE Tutoring
- First Presbyterian Preschool
- New Day Arlington
- Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services

If you are able, we hope you will show your financial support to these organizations or any others you support. For more information or to make a donation on September 17, visit www.northtexasgivingday.org.

This Month

All activities are postponed until further notice.



Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study group meets every Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. in the parlor. Men of all ages meet and enjoy great fellowship and a prayer session. All men are invited to join this study.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Monday Night Bible study is open to all women. The next meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, in the parlor.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Men and women of all ages are invited to meet in the Bride's Room every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Music Ministries



Chancel Choir

This is the primary worship leadership ensemble for the 11:00 service. The choir also sings for special services around Christmas and Holy Week. It is more than just a great choir; it is a caring fellowship. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. *Nursery care is provided during rehearsals.*

Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble

This intergenerational handbell group rehearses Wednesday evenings from 6:15 until 7:15 p.m. If you are interested in ringing, please contact Russell Farnell (fpcamusic@yahoo.com or 817-274-8286).

Youth Choir

During the school year, this group of youth in grades 6 to 12 meets on Sunday, 12:45 to 1:45 p.m., in the choir room.

Children's Music Ministries

The children's choirs meet from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. on Sundays during the school year. Children ages 4 (when school starts) through grade 5 participate in activities including music/singing and bells/chimes, instruments, and listening activities. There are two sections, divided by age, and both participate in the 11:00 worship service twice per year, usually in December and April.



Church Leadership

Deacon Meeting

Thursday, , at 6:30 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, , at 6:45 p.m., all teams meet for worship in the chapel with subsequent gathering into respective teams for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting

Thursday, , at 7:00 p.m., the Session meets in the parlor to oversee the ministry of the church. The work of the Diaconate, church administration, and all Discipleship, Worship, Facility Management, and Mission and Evangelism ministries will be discussed.

Discipleship



Library Team

The library team works the first Wednesday of each month, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Anyone interested is welcome. No particular skill is required, the work is easy, and we always have a good time as we process books to be added to our inventory. If you would like to be involved in library work but cannot come at that evening time, please contact Sandy Thomlinson (at 817-460-8050) and special daytime work sessions can be arranged.



Fellowship

Happy Quilters

This group meets Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. to quilt, sew, knit, crochet, embroider, and just enjoy being together. Bring your project and join in!

Saints Alive!

Church seniors will meet for a potluck lunch on Thursday, , at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a casserole, salad, or dessert and enjoy a fun and interesting afternoon.

Contact Bev Koch (817-261-3202) for details.



First Presbyterian Church
1200 S. Collins Street
Arlington, TX 76010

Deadline for the October issue of The News is September 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Apana Agha, Elaine Bahn, Jack Bos, James (Andrew) Bridges, Carol Browning, Vannah Caylor, Frank and Allena Coburn, Edna Collins, Cheri Evans and family, the Farnell Family, Don Farrell, Yvette Fielder, the Gifford Family, Joe and Lila Glenn, Olivia Gottmann, Beth Henkel, Andrew Hydock, Bob Johnson, Tim Karnes (Pat May's son), Gary Lindley, Pat May, Mary Ellen Miller, Barbara Mooers, Bodil Overtree, Robert and Tina Paulk, Jim L. Quick, Jillian Reynolds, Joan Reynolds, John and Donna Vickers, and Nancy Welborne.

Prayers for our family serving in the armed forces: Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Austin Curran, James Dailey, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Mike Mancini, Amie Murtha, Stephen O'Neil Sosa, Colin Peden, Jason Polk, Ryan Powell, Ryan Regalado, Peyton Steeno, Christopher Young, and Robbie Wallace

Prayers for our homebound members: Esther Albright, Suzette Armstrong, Shirley Bragg, Tom and Bobbie Fowler, Jack Gray, Marge Harrand, Barbara Hughes, Barbara Kraemer, Jeanne Malone, Allen and Charlene Miller, Cary Moore, Carrie and Cosme Pacot, Ann Pitstick, Jack and Betty Snowden, Dee Uhri, Richard Whitenight, and Mary Jane Wright

Pray for those who do not know Christ!

If you have any congregational care needs, please contact Pastor Rich McDermott at 817-274-8286.

