



*“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

**John 13:34-35**

February  
2021

# The News

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### Newsletter Team

Talita Gottmann and Tina Paulk,  
Editors

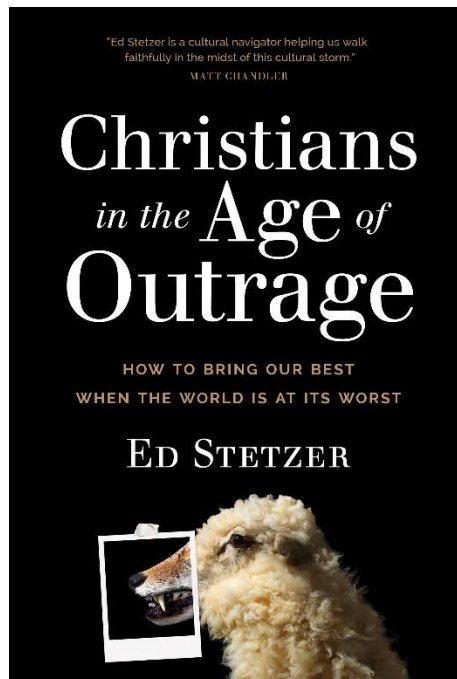
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First Presbyterian Church of Arlington  
1200 South Collins  
Arlington, TX 76010

Contact us at  
[thenews@firstprestexas.org](mailto:thenews@firstprestexas.org)

# Christians at Our Best

You might think with the election behind us, everything (and everyone) might just calm down and everyone could just be cool for a moment. But nope! And by this point, I just expect it. News and entertainment seem to be on a daily, hourly, or moment-by-moment mission to provoke us. And do we ever fall for it. Granted, there are some things worth being outraged over. But the challenge for us is, how do we channel our emotions and reactions? Pick any social media platform and they are full of rants and rage. If you do not use social media, read the letters to the editor or listen to the “viewers voice” on the local news. Although I have to say I expect the world to behave that way, it makes me sad when I see fellow Christians act like this and here is why. I think it genuinely hurts our witness. I have been personally wrestling with this the past few years. I use social media to share pictures of our kids, events at church, and my BBQ adventures. I have formally retired from Facebook debating over most things and I can say my life is better off for it. But even that can send mixed messages. Not commenting or posting about certain events will bring the question, or accusation, of being complicit, even supporting something heinous. So perhaps while I have chosen a path that has worked best for me, I am questioning has that worked best for the kingdom?

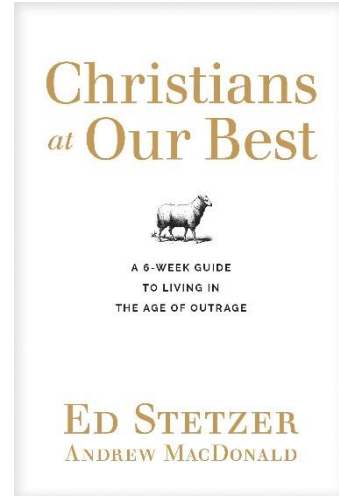
The line is fine, friends. At the last Fellowship Community event in



Tulsa, those of us who attended heard some great keynote addresses by Ed Stetzer. He is a pastor, author, speaker, researcher, church planter, while serving as the Billy Graham Distinguished Chair of Church, Mission, and Evangelism at Wheaton College as well as the Executive Director of the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College. Of his many and worthy reads, he published *Christians in the Age of Outrage: How to Bring our Best When the World Is at its Worst* in late 2018 and guess what – it is still mightily relevant.

Stetzer wrote the book, “to help Christians think through the unique challenges of this age [of outrage].”

I thought this was most appropriate for Lent where some take up the practice of giving something up. I think we, as a faith, would be much better off, more impactful, more fruitful, if we gave up acting outrageously online and/or in our relationships. So, drawing off the biblical foundations of this book and the accompanying 6-part study, *Christians at Our Best*, I will be preaching and teaching on this subject. You can purchase copies of these from Amazon or elsewhere. Some Sunday school classes may choose to fully dive in and do the study together. Others may not and that is okay. My plan is to hold some virtual group studies and discussions. Days and times are still being worked out so stay tuned! Keep the faith!



## Finance Update

For the month of **December 2020:**

### **Budget (Operating and Funds Released)**

Income:       \$ 116,395  
Expense:      (\$ 105,299)

Income - Expense for month:                               **\$ 11,095**  
Income - Expense for 2020 Year to Date:                       **\$ (5,909)**



**Note:** Our Paycheck Protection Program Loan amount of \$174,900 was forgiven in December. This amount was used to cover the church and preschool payroll. The church portion was credited below the line (Net Income - Expense) on the Income Statement resulting in an overall net income of \$112,695 Year to Date.

### **Comments:**

**Total Operating Income is under budget for the year by (\$132,357).**

**Funds Released is under budget for the year by (\$32,948).**

**Donors – Under budget for the year by (\$41,600).**

**Total Expenses were under budget for the year by (\$125,947).**

**Session Discretionary Funds (not designated or reserved) -       \$ 17,583**  
**Cost to operate church for one month -                               \$ 93,320**

# Children's Ministry

## Preschool



PRESCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2021

### MONTHLY OVERVIEW

God made us for love—the greatest love. He made that clear when He sent His Son, Jesus, to show us how to give and receive His love.

When Jesus walked the Earth, He was God's love in the flesh. Jesus showed us time and time again that He loves us. That's why our focus this month is the powerful truth Jesus loves me. We were all made for His love! And that is why we chose *The Big Sandbox* for the theme. We want every child to know that Jesus is their friend and He is inviting them—all of them—to join Him, because He loves them. Everyone can play in *The Big Sandbox*!

In a world where people and circumstances can easily make a person feel unloved, it is our desperate prayer that we can equip our preschoolers with the powerful truth that Jesus loves me. We want our preschoolers to live life knowing and believing—never doubting—that they are loved by the greatest love, and nothing will ever change that. After all, this is what they were made for—they were made for His love.

WEEK	BIBLE STORY	STORY FOCUS
ONE	Jesus and the Children Luke 18:15-16	Jesus loves me.
TWO	Mary and Martha Luke 10:38-42	Jesus wants to spend time with me.
THREE	The Centurion Matthew 8:5-13	Jesus wants to help me.
FOUR	The Thankful Woman Luke 7:36-50	Jesus loves me no matter what.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES." PROVERBS 17:17, NIV	WHO LOVES YOU?	JESUS LOVES ME.
JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.		

# Elementary and KFC



**ELEMENTARY**

FEBRUARY 2021

## MONTHLY OVERVIEW

### GOD VIEW:

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

God was kind to us even when we didn't deserve it. Because of His love for us, we can be kind to everyone. Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit. And when you show kindness to others, you give them a glimpse into the heart of God, and how much God loves them. Kindness should be a characteristic of people who follow Jesus. Not only did Jesus model kindness, but He also commanded it. He taught us to treat others the way we want to be treated.

<b>WEEK ONE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> God Was Kind to Us Ephesians 4:32	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> Be kind to others because God is kind to you.
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Ruth and Boaz Ruth	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> Be kind to your family and friends.
<b>WEEK THREE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Go the Extra Mile Matthew 5:41	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> Be kinder than you have to be.
<b>WEEK FOUR</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> Be kind to people who are different from you.

MEMORY VERSE

**"YOU ARE GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE. YOU ARE HOLY AND DEARLY LOVED. SO PUT ON TENDER MERCY AND KINDNESS AS IF THEY WERE YOUR CLOTHES. DON'T BE PROUD. BE GENTLE AND PATIENT."**  
COLOSSIANS 3:12, NIRV

KINDNESS

SHOWING OTHERS THEY ARE VALUABLE BY HOW YOU TREAT THEM

# Youth Ministry

## High school girls – it's time for There{4} Teen Conference 2021!

This year's event will be live-streamed February 19-20 and we will gather in the Fellowship Hall at FPCA to worship. We will be making the necessary preparations to keep everyone as safe as possible.

There{4} connects high school girls with great speakers. The mission of There{4} is to inspire the next generation of girls to boldly live out their identity in Christ. This year's theme is Abide based on John 15:5, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." We hope each attendee will grow to understand in applicable ways what it means to Abide in Christ.

Schedule of events will be Friday night, February 19 6:30pm-8:00pm and Saturday 8:30am – 2:45pm. Snacks will be provided as well as breakfast and lunch on Saturday. There is no cost for attendees. Our High School Girls Group sponsors, Talita Gottmann and Kristi Carlisle, will be hosting this event.

To sign up, please email [thewellfpc@gmail.com](mailto:thewellfpc@gmail.com) by February 15. Visit [www.there4gathering.com](http://www.there4gathering.com) for more information.



# This Month

Some activities are postponed until further notice. The Activities marked with \* are happening.



## 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 Monday Night Women's Bible study is currently not meeting. Normal meeting time is the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m.

### 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, not in December, at 6:30 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

### Team Meeting Night

(Mostly Online) Thursday, December 3 & 10, at 7:00 p.m., all teams for ministry planning and coordination.

### Session Meeting

(Two nights, off-schedule) Wednesday, December 2, and Monday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m., the Session meets online to oversee the ministry of the church. Indoor worship, Budget, Generis, and other matters. 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 March issue of The News is February 15!**

## Prayer Ministry

**Prayers for those with health and other concerns:** Apana Agha, Jack Bos, James (Andrew) Bridges, Carol Browning, Vannah Caylor, Frank and Allena Coburn, Jeanne Chin, Edna Collins, Lloyd Counts, the Farnell Family, Don Farrell, Yvette Fielder, the Gifford Family, Joe and Lila Glenn, Andrew Hydock, Bob Johnson, Liana Leathem (Jane Leathem's granddaughter), Tim Karnes (Pat May's son), Gary Lindley, Pat May, Barbara Mooers, Bodil Overtree, Jim L. Quick, Jillian Reynolds, Joan Reynolds, Beth Rotert, Kathy Rotert, 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 Pacot, Ann Pitstick, 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 Chris Campbell at 817-274-8286.

