

“They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the king of Israel!””

John 12:13

March
2021

The News

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Newsletter Team

Talita Gottmann and Tina Paulk,
Editors

The News is a publication of
First Presbyterian Church of Arlington
1200 South Collins
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Transform Update

As we move closer and closer to spring, I want to update you on what's happening with our facility renovation. First of all, your gifts to the Transform capital campaign are coming in at an incredible rate. Thank you, thank you, thank you! It is extremely helpful to have a solid amount to help get aspects of the project off the ground. One of those aspects involved a site visit in February with Tim Cool from Cool Solutions and representatives from Blueline – an architecture firm from Houston. They created the fly-through video we shared at the roundtable events. (Remember those long ago?!) After a virtual meeting with our ministry leaders in January, the walk-through served as our rediscovery phase. This is the time to reexamine our ideas and make sure they are still in line as we approach a post-Covid world.

Blueline is in the process of creating new digital 3-D floorplans and will present updated ideas for the staff and session to consider. We have a virtual meeting planned for mid-March with staff and then they will join our March session meeting. It was important to introduce our newer staff since we began this project – primarily Mannie Owings, our facilities manager, and Dana Jefferson, our preschool director. Dana provided great feedback from the preschool board that we are looking to address within our bigger ministry plans for the facility.

Randy, from Blueline, asked me how the congregation was feeling at this point. And my answer was that we are ready and excited! Let's gooooo! But in doing so, we are being very prudent to make sure we are not spending money twice, or making significant adjustments later down the road. Thank you for your patience, your prayers, and your excitement. This is going to be a very exciting year!

Blessings,
Pastor Chris

March Preaching Calendar:

We will wrap up our current series, “We Wish to See Jesus” on Palm Sunday. Below are the scriptures and titles for each week.

3/7 How Do We See Others? – Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 24:34-40

3/14 How Do We Respond to Wrongs? – Ephesians 4:25-32; Matthew 5:38-39, 43-45

3/21 How Do We Engage the World? – Luke 6:32-36; Colossians 3:1-2, 8-14

3/28 How Do We Engage our Community? Romans 12:14-20; 1 Peter 4:8-10

Finance Update

For the month of **January 2021:**

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$61,055
Expense: (\$84,070)

Income - Expense for month: **\$ (23,015)**
Income - Expense for 2020 Year to Date: **\$ (23,015)**



Comments:

Total Operating Income is under budget for the year by (\$23,765).

Funds Released is over budget for the year by \$2,308.

Donors – Under budget for the year by (\$22,347).

Total Expenses were under budget for the year by (\$4,579).

Capital Campaign Fund balance	\$793,361
Session Discretionary Funds (not designated or reserved) -	\$ 20,270
Cost to operate church for one month -	\$ 87,536

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

The One Great Hour of Sharing(OGHS) Offering is received during the season of Lent at FPCA. This is one of four Special Offerings collected during our church year. Offering envelopes are provided outside the chapel and sanctuary or designate OGHS on the memo portion of your check.

Posters are located around the church halls.

Presbyterians worldwide have participated in this offering for over 60 years and give about as much as all other denominations put together.

The offering gifts are divided between three programs- Self Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

One Great Hour of Sharing serves individuals and communities in need and provides us with a way to share God's love in over 100 countries.

For a list of how these gifts were used in previous years or for more information, see www.pcusa.org/oghs.2021

February 17 - April 4, 2021

One Great Hour of Sharing

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.

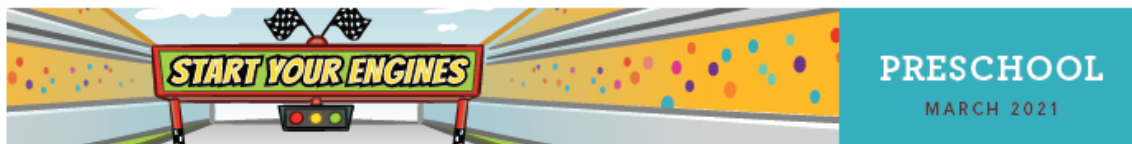
in a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression

**Millions of people lack
access to sustainable food
sources, clean water,
sanitation, education, and
opportunity.**

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Children's Ministry

Preschool



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

When race car drivers hear the call to “start your engines,” the mission is clear, and they are ready to go, go, go! The same can be said for those of us who follow Jesus. Jesus is calling each of us to start our engines and go do what He has prepared us to do. His call is to “love each other the way I have loved you.” Yes, the mission is clear, and it’s time for us to help our preschoolers get ready to go, go, go and love, love, love—like Jesus!

And, how do we love like Jesus? We put others first and are a good friend. We share with others, help others, and say kind words to each other. When we do these things, our light shines bright and the love of Jesus shines through us.

Preschoolers want to show everyone that, “I can do it. I can put on my shoes. I can make my bed. I can carry heavy things.” Let’s help them add, “I can love like Jesus,” to that list. Now, start your engines!

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Light of the World Matthew 5:14-16	STORY FOCUS When you love like Jesus, you will be a light.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Washing Feet John 13:3-17	STORY FOCUS When you love like Jesus, you can be a good friend.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Love One Another John 13:34-35	STORY FOCUS When you love like Jesus, you can love everyone.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Palm Sunday Matthew 21:1-16	STORY FOCUS We can celebrate Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
“LOVE EACH OTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.” JOHN 15:12, NIV	WHO CAN LOVE LIKE JESUS?	I CAN LOVE LIKE JESUS.

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

Elementary and KFC



ELEMENTARY

MARCH 2021

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

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

Waiting is a part of life. Thankfully, we don't have to wait on our own. God can help us experience the patience we need to wait well. After all, God is patient. God is in control and knows what's best for us. Even though God's people had been waiting for years for the promised Savior, at just the right time, God sent Jesus. As we're created in God's image, we can reflect His patience in our lives. We can be patient when we remember what God has done and trust God no matter what.

<p>WEEK ONE</p>	<p>BIBLE STORY Simeon Waits for the Messiah Luke 2:25-35</p>	<p>BOTTOM LINE When you have to wait, remember God is with you.</p>
<p>WEEK TWO</p>	<p>BIBLE STORY Golden Calf Exodus 32:1-35</p>	<p>BOTTOM LINE When you have to wait, remember what's true.</p>
<p>WEEK THREE</p>	<p>BIBLE STORY Esau's Impatience Genesis 25:24-34</p>	<p>BOTTOM LINE If you don't wait, it could cost you.</p>
<p>WEEK FOUR</p>	<p>BIBLE STORY Palm Sunday Matthew 21:1-11</p>	<p>BOTTOM LINE You can celebrate even when you're waiting.</p>

<p>MEMORY VERSE</p>	<p>"WAIT FOR THE LORD. BE STRONG AND DON'T LOSE HOPE. WAIT FOR THE LORD." PSALM 27:14, NIRV</p>
<p>PATIENCE</p>	<p>WAITING UNTIL LATER FOR WHAT YOU WANT NOW</p>

Children's Ministry Dates to Remember

March 7: Children's Ministry Luncheon

March 28: Zoom for children at 4:00 p.m.

April 3: Spring Festival

April 11: Children's Ministry Luncheon

April 25: Zoom for children at 4:00 p.m.

July 26-30: Virtual Vacation Bible School

Youth Ministry

2021 Mental Health Goals for Every Parent

By Stephanie Thomas

Last year did a number on us all, didn't it?

For parents, 2020 delivered a one-two punch: Work from home. Wear masks. Reduce your social circle. And do it all with little ones in tow.

You're familiar with little ones, right?

They crave wide open spaces and the opportunity to go nuts for a bit. They're loud. (Even the quiet ones). They want to eat—like, all the time—and they need pals to pal around with. And apparently, they have to learn. Life lessons, sure, but also how to read and add numbers and maybe even work through complex issues in essay form.

All of this to say: If you found yourself worn down, worried or even an apathetic parent in the past few months, you're not alone. We've all been there. But we don't have to stay there.

We can't say for sure when the outside world will return to normal. So we thought it might be best to focus on the inner world of mental health. Today, let's talk through a few goals we might carry into the new year to bolster us as parents and people.

Bonus: these are worthwhile goals for non-pandemic times as well.

- **Mental Health Goal 1: Take care of yourself every day.**

Raise your hand if you missed a few showers last year. Eww, okay, put your hand down. We're kidding, of course.

Zoom meetings and toddler tantrums might mean the basics took a back seat.

So let's take the basics back. Do something that makes you feel cared for every day. If you're thoroughly clean (you're awesome, we get it) maybe you'll set aside time to workout, paint your nails, fix your hair or shave your face. The toddler will be okay.

- **Mental Health Goal 2: Create a safe space in your home.**

Weeks ago, your first-grader set up a living room Legoland to play with during breaks from virtual school. And your four-year-old's Magnatiles creations regularly spill out from his room into the hallway and beyond.

You're all for relaxing a bit during these times, but the kid stuff is starting to take over!

Okay, grab some figurative caution tape and declare a spot (or a whole room!) in your home completely off-limits. While you're at it, give your kids a deadline for creativity, saying something like, "Every Saturday, we'll do a clean sweep!"

- **Mental Health Goal 3: Establish a rest-time routine.**

Everybody needs a little time away—and now more than ever. Choose a specific time of day and call it rest time for all ages.

Rest time looks like this: Each person in the family gets a room to themselves and an hour (or two) to engage in their interests without interruption. You might set out a few favorite toys and play a podcast or audiobook for younger kids. Older kids and teens might read, draw, listen to music or work on a project or hobby.

If your kids are some of the lucky few attending in-person school, go ahead and institute rest time on the weekends. You can thank us later.

- **Mental Health Goal 4: Accept that the negative emotions aren't about you.**

If we adults are struggling to keep a smile on our faces, we can only imagine how hard it must be for kids to cope. After all, they've encountered the same changes we have with less understanding and less skills to work through what they're feeling.

So the next time your kid inexplicably falls apart, your middle schooler slams a door or your teen looks at you with eyes that can only mean, "YOU DO NOT GET IT," repeat the following helpful phrase to yourself: "This is not about me."

Then, when you're calm and ready, you might approach your child—young or old—with arms outstretched and say, "Would you like a hug? Talk to me about what's going on."

It's also a good idea to set some healthy boundaries. Let your kids know they are welcome to have big, uncomfortable feelings, but they're not allowed to treat you unkindly. Listen, talk and move on.

- **Mental Health Goal 5: Replace magic with moments.**

Here's a message that's hard for our parenting generation to hear: Your kids don't need a magical childhood. **They simply need moments of connection with you.**

We can get there with Pinterest-parenting, sure. But we don't have to. We can also get there by making the most of a few moments throughout the day.

Ask questions to get to know your kid better. Read books together while cuddled up on the couch. Play a quick game, take a short walk or give a high five in passing.

Dig into what they're into (my husband knows how to make the most of YouTube. He'll take a two-minute-break from work to watch a video with our boys about animals, outer space and everything in between).

You might even craft it up or bake it up or party it up—Instagram style. So long as you're doing so with no obligation and lots of opportunity for connection.

Our hope is that you'll find a few doable mental health goals you can latch onto for the coming year. **After all, we're better parents to our kids when we take care of ourselves.**

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, March 4, 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, March 11, at 7:00 p.m., all teams for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting

Thursday, March 25, 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 April issue of The News is March 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.

