

June
2021



*“and I will be your father,
and you shall be my sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty.”*

2 Corinthians 6:18 (NRSV)

The News

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Newsletter Team

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“Picking Up the Pieces”

As 2020 came to a close, I completed an exercise that I have not had to do for a few years. Before coming to Arlington, I started a discipline of mapping out the coming year’s sermon series ideas and scripture readings for nearly every Sunday of the year. Summer is a great time to really dig down into a certain book of the Bible and give it a little extra attention. Knowing that we would be in the midst of the next planning and preparation stages of our Transform capital campaign (which we are!), I thought a look at the book of Nehemiah would be relevant for our situation. That was quite a building project!

Who knew back then that the first Sunday of that series would line up with our first Sunday fully “back” at FPCA? I cannot wait for Sunday school classes to resume, to sing in worship, to receive and pass the communion elements! It is going to be a glorious day. So many things we took for granted will once again be very special.

In no way is our situation the same as those of the Israelites who endured the Exile. But on June 6th, many of us will feel like we will have returned home. Someone recently asked me what kind of toll we have taken throughout the pandemic. Some of the toll is obvious. At least one of our members died directly as a result of Covid. Others were impacted financially. Some to this day remain fairly isolated because of particular health concerns. If you had told me in March 2019 that it would take nearly 15 months to come back to a somewhat regular worship service and Sunday schedule, I think I would have had a pretty grim outlook. With all things considered, I believe we have fared the storm pretty well. But it has taken a toll on us as a church.

So here we come. We will regather, recenter, and remain persistent as we move forward where we believe God is calling us. It is time to pick up the pieces by learning from our biblical ancestors once again. The book of Nehemiah has much to teach us this summer!

Blessings,

Pastor Chris

Finance Update

For the month of **April 2021:**

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$89,356
Expense: (\$74,170)

Income - Expense for month: **\$ 15,186**
Income - Expense for 2021 Year to Date: **\$(11,330)**



Comments:

We are always so grateful for your generous donations. Because of your support we:

- Partnered with the City of Arlington to provide food to Arlington citizens.
- had the Women's Ministry sponsored "Rooted in the Word" bible study of Philippians.
- provided opportunities to serve by helping Arlington Charities distribute food.
- had the Children's Ministry Picnic/Takeout Luncheon, sharing pizzas with families.
- The Capital Campaign fund balance continues to grow. As of April, the balance is \$951,397.

We are doing well and, because of you, we are able to carry out the ministries that are calling to our FPCA family. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns, at jeanne@firstprestexas.org.

Children's Ministry

Preschool



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

Life can feel uncertain at times. The uncertainty tempts us to fear, we don't trust that things will be okay. The good news is that there is Someone we can trust in life—no matter what is happening. And, we want to make sure our preschoolers know it!

We are bringing out the music, dancing, and fun instruments to help teach our preschoolers that they can Press Play and trust God. In fact, it is so important to us that they know they can trust God, we are going to focus on it for two months! And, the Bible stories they will be hearing will give them plenty of reasons why they can trust God!

As our preschoolers grow up and life begins to feel a little uncertain, we want to make sure they know they can Press Play and trust that God loves them, has a plan for them, will use them, and has the power to do anything in their lives.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Greatest Verse Ever John 3:16	STORY FOCUS God gave us Jesus.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Jericho Joshua 5:13-6:27	STORY FOCUS We can trust God's plan.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Gideon Judges 6-8	STORY FOCUS God can use you no matter what.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Elijah and the Fire 1 Kings 18	STORY FOCUS God can do anything.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"I TRUST IN GOD I AM NOT AFRAID." PSALM 56:11, NIrV	WHO CAN TRUST GOD?	I CAN TRUST GOD.
GOD LOVES ME.		

Elementary and KFC



ELEMENTARY
JUNE 2021

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CONFIDENCE AND GOD’S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD’S BIG STORY

When it comes to confidence, we might try and base it on what we do well or what a teacher or parent might say about us. But true confidence should be built on something that lasts forever. We think that’s found in understanding how God sees us. God created us, and God loves us. Nowhere is this more evident than in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. And, when you put your confidence in Jesus, you can truly see yourself how God sees you.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY God So Loved the World John 3:16 (supporting: John 3:1-21)	BOTTOM LINE You can be confident because God loves you.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Israel Captures Jericho Joshua 5:13-6:20	BOTTOM LINE God’s plan is the best plan.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Gideon Judges 6-8	BOTTOM LINE God can use you no matter what.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Elijah and the Prophets of Baal 1 Kings 18:16-46	BOTTOM LINE God can do the impossible.

MEMORY VERSE	<p>“I REMAIN CONFIDENT OF THIS: I WILL SEE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.”</p> <p>PSALM 27:13, NIV</p>
CONFIDENCE	LEARNING TO SEE YOURSELF THE WAY GOD SEES YOU

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Children’s Ministry Dates to Remember

July 26-30: Virtual Vacation Bible School

Youth Ministry

End of School Year: How to Prepare for the Next Phase

By Leah Jennings

Desks empty. Locker doors slammed—and lock combinations forgotten—for the last time. School-issued laptops returned to the front office. Color-coded, structured homeschool schedules loosened up a bit. Ah, yes. Summer is here.

School may be out for your kids, but it's a perfect time to lean into new ways to support them as they grow, change, and enter into new phases. Because they will change, you know. The days may feel long, but the years are short, my friend. Your kids will not be the same next school year—their needs will be different, their worldviews will change, and the way they see themselves and others will undergo a transformation.

So, instead of getting caught by surprise when your kid morphs into someone completely different, first, know this is completely normal and to be expected. Second, you can equip yourself now with the tools you'll need to make sure your kid is living in an environment that is safe for them to explore, make mistakes, and test boundaries.

For preschool parents, you can anticipate your kids continuing to push boundaries as they learn how to do things on their own, who they can trust, and if they're safe. This is a time to reinforce they're loved—even when you're annoyed with their behavior—despite their choices and emotional outbursts. Resist the urge to interpret meltdowns as a weak spot in your parenting. It's your kid's job to learn what the boundaries are by testing them, and it's your job to hold those boundaries steady with patience and understanding.

Elementary school parents, you'll start to notice your kids are using their newfound skills they developed in the earlier phases and combining them with what they know now about how the world works to achieve their goals. It's during this time between kindergarten and fifth grade that your kids are looking for you to engage their interests, notice them, and reinforce the idea that they are accepted and loved the way they are.

During the middle school years, parents start to really notice a battle of wills—your kid seems to fight you on everything these days, which can be quite frustrating. Just know your kid isn't the only one—it's during this phase kids will start to really focus on who they are and where they fit in. It'll be a struggle for parents, but don't lose heart: your kid is battling some tough stuff like insecurity and self-consciousness and they need you to affirm them positively.

Newly-minted and seasoned high school parents alike, listen up: Almost everything you'll go through in the next four years—and it will be a lot—will have a purpose. Promise. This phase is all about finding community and purpose, so your high schooler will test the waters to see where they fit in and what they believe in, and maybe in some maddening, unconventional ways. Your kid will have the desire to belong somewhere and to be a part of something bigger. The best thing you can do is make sure they have a place to belong right at home, and be a safe place for them to express themselves, even if their ideas differ from your own.

It's always nice when you get a heads up in parenting, isn't it? While you will encounter your own, personalized experience, hopefully, you'll find yourself a bit more prepared for what's to come.

Children`s Ministry Pictures

Spring Festival



KFC



Monday Night Women's Bible Study

The Monday Night Women's Bible Study will resume meeting the third Monday of each month except December, June, July and August, beginning September 20, 6-7:30 p.m. in the Church Parlor.

The 2021-2022 study will be the Horizon's study ***What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus.***

This group rotates facilitating the lessons as well as providing a light meal each month. All women invited! Questions? Contact coordinators Debbie Richardson (der817@gmail.com) or Sheri Quick (sheriq@aol.com). Books will be available this summer and announced when and where to pick them up. Study guides are \$10-12 each.



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 will resume meeting the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. beginning September 20.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study*

Men and women of all ages are invited to meet in the Parlor 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 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. *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, Aug 5, at 6:30 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night*

Thursday, June 10, at 7:00 p.m., all teams for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting*

Thursday, June 24, 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 July issue of The News is June 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Apana Agha, Jack Bos, James (Andrew) Bridges, Janet Birkhoff (Ann Turney's daughter), Carol Browning, Vannah Caylor, Frank and Allena Coburn, 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, 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, Jeanne Malone, 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.

