



"We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him."

Romans 6:9 (NRSV)

April
2022

The News

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Newsletter Team

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Spring Has Sprung

We did it! We survived the worst night (in my opinion) of the year! That is the night we sprang forward into Daylight Savings Time. As someone with a sleep deficit I that will never overcome, losing yet another hour never helps. But with it comes many wonderful things.

Spring is one of them – minus the seasonal allergies. Plants, flowers, and trees are showing renewed signs of life. It is nice having a little more daylight in the afternoons and evenings. The baseball strike is over and the Rangers are working through spring training. (Hopefully we'll see some renewed signs of life from the lineup this year!) Hope springs eternal, right?

It is also a lively and spiritually moving time of year as well. April will bring a close to our Lenten journey as we journey through Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. We will have worship services for each of those. Palm Sunday will be our regular Sunday service time of 11am in the sanctuary. The Maundy Thursday service will be on Thursday April 14th at 7pm in the chapel. And the Good Friday service will be on Friday April 15th at 7pm in the sanctuary. These are all meaningful services that we hope you can attend as we approach Easter Sunday.

Be sure to check out the details for our Spring Festival happening on April 16th at 3pm. This is provided by our children's ministry team and is always fun for the kids of our church and neighborhood.

All of this worship and celebration of course culminates on Easter Sunday. Big thanks to our Fellowship Team who will be providing a church-wide breakfast that morning beginning around 9:00. Sunday School classes are off for this day so we can all enjoy breakfast together. There will be some activities for children but it will be come-and-go. And then our Easter Sunday worship service will begin at 11am in the sanctuary. These are all such special events and I want to express my sincere gratitude for the members and staff who go above and beyond at this time of year to make this so meaningful. We look forward to worshiping and celebrating with you!

Pastor Chris



Holy Week

April 10 - 17

Palm Sunday Service	11:00 AM
Maundy Thursday Communion in the Chapel	7:00 PM
Good Friday Choral Service	7:00 PM
Easter Sunday Service	11:00 AM

Finance Update

For the month of **February 2022:**

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income:	\$100,561
Expense:	(\$ 79,931)

Income - Expense for month:	\$20,630
Income - Expense for 2022 Year to Date:	\$59,317



Comments:

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

- Continue our sermon series on Authentic Worship, and praising the Lord, which may very well be the Word we need from God in these times.
- Host a “Baby Shower” to help provide baby supplies to clients of the pregnancy clinic of the Metroplex Women’s clinic.
- Help our youth ministry to partner with the Souper Bowl of Caring organization, in order to “tackle” hunger in our city. We collected canned food donations for Arlington Charities.
- Enjoy a time of fellowship with our church family at the Souper Bowl Sunday Lunch hosted by the Fellowship Team.
- Have Kids Night Out on alternate Fridays where children enjoy games, activities and a Bible lesson. Parents enjoy a little time of their own.
- As of February, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$1,245,204.

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

Have you ever called someone your BFF? Maybe just the sound of it has you thinking of someone right now. BFF—Best Friend Forever. It's hard to be a BFF, even with the best of intentions. It's hard for you and me, but not for Jesus.

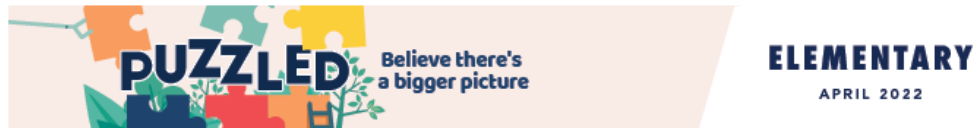
Jesus is the one friend that not only wants to be our friend forever, but He can actually keep up His end of the promise. And, He went through a lot to make it possible. That's why, this month, we are sharing the Good News with preschoolers that Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Your friend. My friend. Their friend. Everyone's friend—forever!

The best things that go together are my friend, Jesus, and me. And nothing, not even death, can come between us and His promise, because we go together forever and ever.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Walking On Water Matthew 14:22-33	STORY FOCUS Our friend, Jesus, is always with us.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Palm Sunday Matthew 21:1-11, 15-16	STORY FOCUS We celebrate our friend, Jesus.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Easter Matthew 26:21-30; 27:1-2; 28:1-7	STORY FOCUS Our friend, Jesus, is alive!
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Breakfast on the Beach John 21:1-14	STORY FOCUS Jesus wants to be our friend forever.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS." MATTHEW 28:20, NIV	WHO WANTS TO BE YOUR FRIEND FOREVER?	JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.
JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.		

Elementary and KFC



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

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

Life can sometimes feel like a giant puzzle. All we can see is the piece we're experiencing right now, and we're not sure where it fits into the greater picture the is forming. We can't always understand why some things happen to us or those we love. Yet, despite our confusion, we can have hope. God has kept promises throughout history. We can believe that God will continue to be with us through what we face now. Even in the toughest times, we can have hope because we know God is always working and can make something good out of something bad.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Lazarus Raised John 11:1-45	BOTTOM LINE Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Palm Sunday John 12:9-16 (supporting: Matthew 21:1-11)	BOTTOM LINE Whatever happens, remember God is still working.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Crucifixion and Resurrection John 18:1-20:18	BOTTOM LINE Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Jesus Appears to Thomas John 20:19-29	BOTTOM LINE Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.

MEMORY VERSE	"IN THIS WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE. BUT BE ENCOURAGED! I HAVE WON THE BATTLE OVER THE WORLD." JOHN 16:33B, NIRV
HOPE	BELIEVING THAT SOMETHING GOOD CAN COME OUT OF SOMETHING BAD

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Save the date

April 8: Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00 for children 6th grade and younger.

April 16: Spring Festival from 3:00-4:00.

April 22: Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00 for children 6th grade and younger.

June 6-10: Vacation Bible School from 9:00- Noon.

Youth Ministry

Cues for Every Family Rhythm

By Parent Cue

Every family has a rhythm.

For some families, morning is crazy. It just is. You have some people who are ready for the day, and others you have to drag into it.

Dinner may happen all together, or you may have one parent who works at night.

Or sports or other activities may have you running in different directions.

Bedtime for some families is, well, crazy.

In other words, your family may look different than another family because of schedules or basic wiring.

But if you look closely at what your family does and when, you may find there are consistent things that happen every day or week.

You get up.

You are on the go.

You eat.

You sleep.

So instead of trying to add one more thing onto the list of things you already do, what if you simply made a little bit more of the times you already have?

We believe that you can leverage specific times you already have to build habits of connection, encouragement, and faith.

These may seem super-basic, but the reality is that for most of us parents, there are so many things happening that it's easy to look back at a moment and realize you could have been more intentional in it than to look ahead at one.

Here are some possible times that may be a part of your family's rhythm either every day or in the span of a week.

Morning Time (any kid, any age): Start your child's day with an encouraging word—even if they are grumpy or don't respond well.

Feeding Time (for babies): Use this time to reflect on what's most important.

Cuddle Time (for preschoolers): Pray for your baby, toddler, or preschooler.

Bath Time (for preschoolers): Talk about Bible stories and the character of God.

Drive Time: Use this time to connect with your kid/teen and get to know what's going on in their life and what's important to them.

Meal Time: Talk about faith and character.

Bed Time: Pray for your elementary-age kid, preteen, middle schooler, or high schooler.

Their Time: Be accessible when your high schooler wants to connect—whenever that is.

Your family may have other times as well. For example, families with kids with special needs may even have additional times like therapy or doctor visits.

Build habits during these times. Repeat them. For example, send your kids off every day with encouragement. You may not do this well every day—but every new day is another chance.

Whatever your family rhythm looks like, see if there's a way you can look at things you are already doing, and do one simple thing to connect with the heart of your child instead of merely getting through it. In the process, you'll build habits that will build connection, faith, and character.

Blessings,

Adrian Rodriguez

Reception of confirmands



What a Joyful Sunday
celebrating our new
members:

Valerie Akosu

Blessing Akosu

Greenlea Lucile Smith



Monthly Food Bank-Arlington Charities

Join us Saturday, April 9, starting at 8:30 AM to distribute food or bring your neighbors to receive food to the Arlington Charities mobile food bank.

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church
2045 S.E. Green Oaks Blvd,
Arlington, TX, 76018

It's just east of New York Ave, so if you're coming from the west, make a U-turn at Sherry St. Volunteer parking is just south of the church and food is distributed on the west side of the church.



A Praise and Prayer from the Shidellers

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Hebrews 12:1-2a

Dear Kim and FPCA Family,

Thank you for praying for us last month! God faithfully answered each prayer as Brett, in Africa, along with the team he was with, had the energy to persevere through their jam-packed days, and Marla, who remained home, managed to stay [fairly] well caught up with her responsibilities.

This month we have several pressing prayer requests to present as March feels like one long marathon.

Brett, who returned home on 27 February, required a full week to recover from jetlag and exhaustion...but this trip isn't done with him and the team. He leaves Thursday, 10 March, for additional meetings in the US. The team will meet for four days to process and organize the information they gleaned during their time in Africa. It will be another series of full days. Please pray:

- For safe and on-time flights.
- For sound processing and decision-making.
- That God will be honored in all decisions that are made.

Brett returns to Washington on Tuesday, 15 March, where he has three days to wash his laundry and repack his suitcase before leaving on Saturday, 19 March for Germany. There he will meet with other HR staff from SIL areas and partner organizations worldwide to deepen ongoing Global HR processes and staff care. Please pray:

- For travel mercies for all attendees as they travel in from various countries and locations.
- That all participants would be sensitive to one another, would listen well, and be led by the Holy Spirit in all discussions.

Brett returns to Washington on Saturday, 26 March, in time to greet Marla, who carries the baton in the next leg of the March Marathon. Marla leaves on Sunday, 27 March, for Orlando, where she will meet with the other Associate Directors and the Director of the team on which she serves. Together they will discuss topics to help their team better serve Wycliffe members in their various roles and locations throughout the US and overseas. This will be our first face-to-face meeting since the advent of COVID, so we're all looking forward to being together again. Please pray:

- For safe and on-time flights.
- That we will connect well and deeply in our discussions.
- That the Holy Spirit would keep us in tune with one another, guide our discussions and all decisions, and that our fellow Wycliffe USA members would be served well as a result.

Marla will travel to Tallahassee on Friday afternoon, 1 April, to spend five days with our son Adam, wonderful daughter-in-law Christina, and sweet grandson Edward. As it's been two years since she's seen them, she's excited! Please pray:

- For sweet connections, fun times, and memories that will be made together.

Marla returns to Washington on Wednesday, 6 April, after which she and Brett will hope to stay home and recover from a busy month!

We truly cannot do what we do without you. We are most humbly grateful for your prayers, partnership, friendship, and encouragement.

Blessings, Brett and Marla

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

1 Corinthians 9:24-25

Spring 2022 Bible Study for Women



Spring 2022 Bible Study for Women

Tuesday, April 19, to Tuesday, May 10

7:00 p.m. in the Parlor

Come enjoy this 3-week course where we will learn about using the Psalms as a guide for prayer, no matter what our current circumstances may be. The study guide costs \$15, which you can pay online, or at the first meeting.

Online registration:

- FPCA Website → Our Ministries → Adult Ministries
- Scroll down to Women's Ministry and register

Women's Ministry Team

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 meet in the parlor the third Monday of each month at 6:30p.m.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study*

Men and women of all ages are invited to meet in the Brides Room every Tuesday morning at 10:00a.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 Choir Room. *Nursery care is provided if requested.*



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, April 21, at 7:00 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night*

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

Session Meeting*

Thursday, April 28, at 7:00 p.m., the Session meets in person in the Parlor 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 817-522-2080) 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.

Senior Flexibility Class *

Come get fit with us! The Senior Flexibility Class will meet each week on Tuesday and Friday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

If interested, contact Mary Spencer at 817-689-0526 for more details.

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

Deadline for the May issue of The News is April 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Apana Agha, Jack Bos, James (Andrew) Bridges, Carol Browning, Vannah Caylor, Edna Collins, Lloyd Counts, Cyprian Engwenyi, the Farnell Family, Don Farrell, Joe and Lila Glenn, the Gottmann Family, Andrew Hydock, Tim Karnes (Pat May's son), Jade Leathem, Gary Lindley, Pat May, Barbara Mooers, Christopher & Victorine Ngochi, the Pacot Family, Jim L. Quick, Jillian Reynolds, Joan Reynolds, Beth Rotert, Kathy Rotert, Tonya Scrabeck, John and Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, and Danny Womble.

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

Prayers for our homebound members: Esther Albright, Tom and Bobbie Fowler, Barbara Hughes, Jeanne Malone, Charlene Miller, Betty Snowden, Connie Taylor, 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 either Pastor Chris Campbell or Parish Pastor Jim Shroyer at 817-274-8286.

