



*You have turned my mourning into
dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy, so that my soul
may praise you and not be silent.*

*O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you
forever.*

Psalms 30:11-12 (NRSV)

May
2022

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
Arlington, TX 76010

Contact us at
thenews@firstprestexas.org

April Showers Bring May Flowers

Miracles do happen! I recently finished another season coaching our younger son's (Hudson) 7U baseball team. Only one game was rained out and it was the very first one on the schedule! Amazing. Obviously, it still rained, just not on our gamedays.

I did not inherit much of a green thumb from my parents. I cannot identify too many plants and flowers. But apart from fighting the seasonal allergies non-stop, they are pretty to look at. The variety is amazing.

The Psalms are like that. With 150 psalms in the book, there is an incredible variety. You might have your favorite like some people have a favorite flower or plant. Some are poetically beautiful. Some are painful reminders that sometimes weeds pop up and threaten our precious flowers.

During the first three Sundays in May, we will look at three different psalms in worship. Psalm 30 is a thanksgiving for recovery from a grave illness. Psalm 23 describes God as our divine Shepherd. And Psalm 67 gives a vision of the entire world praising God. These are obviously just a small sample of the human experience described in the Psalms. We have been very intentional about incorporating Psalter readings on a weekly basis and every now and then, it is important to draw upon them for preaching God's Word.

And just as a teaser, we will begin a summer book of the Bible preaching study on May 29th with the book of Acts. We will not cover every verse in the book, but we will cover most of it. More on that next month. In the meantime, take time to enjoy God's incredible creation that has blossomed all around us – with plenty of Claritin, Allegra and the sort.

Pastor Chris

Finance Update

For the month of **March 2022:**

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$73,863
Expense: (\$91,559)

Income - Expense for month: **(\$17,696)**
Income - Expense for 2022 Year to Date: **\$41,622**



Comments:

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

- Begin our Lenten journey to the cross and tomb, with a sermon series called “Moving On,” examining some of God’s work through the travels and teaching of Jesus and things we as Christians, can move on from in our spiritual walks.
- Provide opportunities to serve by distributing food to our community through the Arlington Charities mobile food bank.
- Celebrate Confirmation Sunday with our confirmands and their completion of their 8-week confirmation class.
- Offer a way to financially support the Ukrainian relief efforts through donations.
- Have Kids Night Out where children enjoy games, activities and a Bible lesson. Parents can also enjoy a little time of their own.
- As of March, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$1,257,096.

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

Preschoolers will ask questions countless times as they get to know the world around them. It's like they're beginning a lifelong Scavenger Hunt. This is the perfect opportunity for us to not only tell them what they are looking at but who made it as well. That's why we are going to add another question to their inquisitive minds. Who made everything?

Who made the red ladybug? Who made the gray rocks? The white clouds? The blue bird?

We want preschoolers to know that God made everything. We want them to think of God as they explore and get to know this wonderful, colorful world we live in. And even more, we want them to know that the same God who made everything made them and loves them.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Light and Dark; Sky and Water Genesis 1:3-8	STORY FOCUS On days one and two, God made the light and dark and sky and water.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Land, Plants, and Sea; Sun, Moon, and Stars Genesis 1:9-19	STORY FOCUS On days three and four, God made the land, plants, sea, sun, moon, and stars.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Birds and Fish Genesis 1:20-21	STORY FOCUS On day five, God made the birds and fish.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Animals and People Genesis 1:24-31	STORY FOCUS On day six, God made animals and people.
WEEK FIVE	BIBLE STORY God Rested Genesis 1:1 - 2:3	STORY FOCUS God looked at everything He made. Then, He rested.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"GOD SAW EVERYTHING HE HAD MADE. AND IT WAS VERY GOOD" GENESIS 1:31, NIV	WHO MADE EVERYTHING?	GOD MADE EVERYTHING.
GOD MADE ME.		

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Elementary and KFC



ELEMENTARY

MAY 2022

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

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

God is strong and faithful, always working in our lives. We might get knocked down from time to time, but when we put our trust in God, we find the strength we need to get back up again. Jesus showed us how to face life with resilience. No matter what happened, Jesus relied on God to help Him accomplish the mission set before Him. Because of Jesus, we can trust God no matter what. We can bounce back from whatever knocks us down and complete the mission God has for us.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Great Commission and Spread of the Gospel Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1-2	BOTTOM LINE God is always with you.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Peter and John Are Taken to the Sanhedrin Acts 3:1-4:21	BOTTOM LINE Keep going even when it gets tough.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Paul and Silas in Prison Acts 16:16-40	BOTTOM LINE You can choose joy when life gets hard.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Heroes of the Faith Hebrews 11	BOTTOM LINE Trusting God can help you get back up.
WEEK FIVE	BIBLE STORY Keep Looking to Jesus Hebrews 12:1-3	BOTTOM LINE Keep going because of what Jesus did for you.
MEMORY VERSE	"BUT THOSE WHO TRUST IN THE LORD WILL RECEIVE NEW STRENGTH. THEY WILL FLY AS HIGH AS EAGLES. THEY WILL RUN AND NOT GET TIRED. THEY WILL WALK AND NOT GROW WEAK." ISAIAH 40:31, NIRV	
RESILIENCE	Getting back up when something gets you down	

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Save the date

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

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

August 5-6: Overnight Parents and Children Camp at Riverbend Retreat Center in Glen Rose.

Youth Ministry

Five Boundaries to Put in Place for Your Kids' New Technology

By Parent Cue

On Christmas Day, kids across the world rushed to their living room to find a nondescript, squarish box with their name on it waiting under the tree. The device they've been waiting, begging even, for. (Cue angelic, four-part harmony fit for the heavens.)

Ah, technology. The thrill of it is quite unmatched as are the possibilities. For some parents, devices promise a cup of hot coffee or another simple pleasure that has gotten infinitely more complicated with kids underfoot. For other parents, devices serve as a tutor, an outlet for creative expression, and a family reunion all rolled into one. We can't begin to wrap our brains around what life would look like without the versatile power and influence technology has in our families. We don't even want to.

But as parents, we've been charged with keeping our kids safe, and technology is included in that. If your kids got a new device recently, it's important everyone is clear on how and when the device will be used. Here are some things to keep in mind when setting boundaries with your kids' new technology:

Set clear expectations. Technology is fun, but kids need to understand that with it comes a lot of responsibility. No matter the phase your kid is in, boundaries help them feel safe. Setting up safeguards and expectations for how their new device should be used may elicit complaints, but clearly communicating what you expect now is better than confusion later. Be very specific when setting expectations.

Set parental controls right away. Technology opens doors your kids might not be old enough or mature enough to walk through. Before giving them access to their new devices, get familiar with the device yourself and set up those parental controls before giving your kids access—limit their app purchases, set up kids' versions of their apps, and get alerts sent to your device to monitor their activity.

Set time limits on use. Your kids could spend hours on their devices, but that doesn't mean they should. Decide how much time your kids should be spending on their devices and communicate that clearly to them. If necessary, enforce screen time limits with an app's help.

Check in regularly about what your kids are seeing online. Even with all of our intentionality, sometimes things slip through and our kids end up seeing and interacting with something they shouldn't. Ask your kids regularly if they've run into anything unexpected while on their device. Make sure you stay calm when they're talking to you—you want them to feel comfortable coming to you about this topic.

Consider weekly tech breaks. Devices are scientifically designed to be habit-forming—research shows the same parts of the brain fire when someone is on a device as when they're experiencing pleasure of some kind. Make sure to factor in consistent, weekly breaks from technology (this is something that could be helpful for you too). And while you're taking a much-needed pause, plan an alternative to how that free time will be spent.

Blessings, Adrian Rodriguez

Pentecost Offering

This year our Pentecost Offering is received officially on the Day of Pentecost, June 5 2022. As with all Special Offerings, times before and after this date are appropriate for donations also. On Pentecost Sunday, we join Christians around the world to celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit to the church.



The Pentecost Offering unites us to support young people in Christ. Forty percent of the offering stays locally and this year will go to HOPE Tutoring as decided by the Mission and Evangelism Team with Session approval. The other percentage will support General Assembly ministries for youth development.

Stay up to date on the Pentecost Offering on www.pcusa.org/pentecost, twitter.com/pcusa or facebook.com/specialofferings.

Offering envelopes are available outside the chapel and sanctuary several weeks before the offering and after for several weeks. Please use the Pentecost envelopes or designate on your check or other envelope if you are giving to the Pentecost Offering.

Please help aid youth programs in our church as well as our country and world. The Pentecost Offering helps our youth begin life with a strong start and a solid foundation of faith from childhood through young adult. The theme this year is Building a Life of Faith. The Bible verse is from Jeremiah 29:11, "I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, to give you a future with Hope".

Monthly Food Bank-Arlington Charities

Join us Saturday, May 14, 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.



Congregational Luncheon – Sunday, May 15 at 12 noon

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss out on the all-congregation and visitors lunch following the worship service May 15 in the Fellowship Hall.

Not only will we have special food - thank you as always Fellowship Team, but we'll be hosting special guests. More details to follow.

Seen around the Church



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, June 16, at 7:00 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night*

Thursday, May 12, at 7:00 p.m., all teams for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting*

Thursday, May 26, 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 June issue of The News is May 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Apana Agha, Christine Apperson, Jack Bos, James (Andrew) Bridges, Carol Browning, Vannah Caylor, Billie Jo Campbell, 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, Mark Moore, the Mooers Family, Christopher & Victorine Ngochi, Jim L. Quick, Jillian Reynolds, Joan Reynolds, Beth Rotert, Kathy Rotert, Tonya Scrabeck, Jamee Shroyer, 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.

