

*Rejoice always,  
pray without ceasing,  
give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus  
for you.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**



November  
2022

# The News

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### Newsletter Team

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# “Barbecue may not be the road to world peace, but it’s a start.”

– Anthony Bourdain

Last month, a group of guys headed to the #1 ranked bbq joint in all of Texas, as awarded by Texas Monthly. We didn’t have to drive to Lockhart, Lexington, or Austin. We took a short drive to nearby Kennedale to hit up Goldee’s BBQ. While waiting in line, we had a great time hanging out and discussing the menu. When we sat down, we had trays full of brisket, sausage, monster beef ribs, pork ribs, smoked chicken, homemade bread, all the sides and dessert.

Friday is a tough day for some to get out for something like this, but for those that could, it was great. I can guarantee it was the first time some of us had all hung out at the same time! We hope to do it again sometime soon.



The overall experience was a sampler what is coming up next May when we’ll attend the Men’s Conference at MO Ranch (May 5-7). We’ll pile in a comfortable van, hit up some bbq, and renew this tradition. (A few spots are still available. Contact me to sign up or to ask questions!)

There is something special about sitting around a table with friends and family, enjoying food, and just being together. That's what we do every November at Thanksgiving. But I encourage you to find times to do this regularly throughout the year. There is a reason Jesus spent so much time eating at tables with friends, followers, and some people who were very different from him. Find the time, set the date, and pick a great spot. It doesn't even have to be bbq, but it helps!

Still full but ready for another go,

Pastor Chris

[chris@firstprestexas.org](mailto:chris@firstprestexas.org)

## Finance Update

### For the month of September 2022:

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$110,309

Expense: (\$94,675)

Income - Expense for month: **\$15,635**

Income - Expense for 2022 Year to Date: **\$37,336**



### Comments:

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

- welcome our new pastoral intern - Adrian Rodriguez! He also serves as our Director of Youth Ministry.
- enjoy a wonderful Fall Festival lunch as we welcomed Brian Trowbridge who is our partner in OneCOP.
- kick-off our Monday Night Women's Bible Study, along with our Women's Ministry Bible Study on Tuesdays.
- renew our Fall outreach opportunity with HOPE Tutoring on Tuesday evenings.
- resume our Music Ministries this Fall with our Chancel Choir, Ring of Praise handbells, Youth Music Ministries, and Children's Music Ministries.
- provide opportunities to serve our community and distribute food at the Arlington Charities mobile food bank.
- As of September, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$1,301,250.

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](mailto:jeanne@firstprestexas.org).

# Children`s Ministry

## Preschool



### MONTHLY OVERVIEW

Sometimes we get so excited about the gift that we forget to remember the giver. So, this month we will take some time to look around at the wonderful gifts God has given us and teach our preschoolers that God is good!

We want our preschoolers to know that all of the good things they see in the world are good gifts from a very good God Who loves them. And we can say "thank you, God!" Everywhere we look we see good gifts that God has given us, like friends and family, people who help us, and yummy food. . . like donuts! But DONUT forget to thank God because God is good!

<b>WEEK ONE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Every Good and Perfect Gift James 1:17; Genesis 1	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> I can thank God for God is good.
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Elijah and the Widow 1 Kings 17:7-16	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> I can thank God for food.
<b>WEEK THREE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Aaron and Hur Help Moses Exodus 17:8-13	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> I can thank God for family and friends.
<b>WEEK FOUR</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Nehemiah Repairs a Wall Nehemiah 1-3	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> I can thank God for people who help me.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD." PSALM 107:1, NIV	WHO IS GOOD?	GOD IS GOOD.
<b>GOD MADE ME.</b>		

## Elementary and KFC



**ELEMENTARY**

NOVEMBER 2022

### MONTHLY OVERVIEW

#### GOD VIEW:

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

As we continue our journey through God's Big Story, we take a closer look at the lives of significant people in the Jewish Scriptures: Joshua and Caleb, David, Daniel, and Esther. Each of them trusted God and found courage to face difficult circumstances. They also represent major time periods in Israel's history—from entering the land of Canaan, the United Kingdom, and Exile.

Like these people we read about in the Old Testament, God may ask us to take a risk or do something we might not feel prepared to do. But God will also give us the courage we need to face that challenge. We can also look to Jesus. He faced the biggest challenge of all: death on the cross. Still, He chose to be brave and follow God's plan.

#### WEEK ONE

**BIBLE STORY**  
Joshua and Caleb  
Numbers 13-14

**BOTTOM LINE**  
You can do what you should even when others are afraid.

#### WEEK TWO

**BIBLE STORY**  
David Anointed / Goliath  
1 Samuel 16:1-13 and 1 Samuel 17:1-51

**BOTTOM LINE**  
You can do what you should even when things seem impossible.

#### WEEK THREE

**BIBLE STORY**  
Daniel Is Thrown Into a Den of Lions  
Daniel 6

**BOTTOM LINE**  
You can do what you should because God is with you.

#### WEEK FOUR

**BIBLE STORY**  
Esther  
The Book of Esther

**BOTTOM LINE**  
You can do what you should even when you don't know what will happen.

#### MEMORY VERSE

"BE STRONG AND BRAVE. DO NOT BE AFRAID. DO NOT LOSE HOPE. I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD. I WILL BE WITH YOU EVERYWHERE YOU GO."  
JOSHUA 1:9B, NIRV

#### COURAGE

BEING BRAVE ENOUGH TO DO WHAT YOU SHOULD DO, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE AFRAID.

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### Save the date:

November 4-Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

November 18-Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

November 27-Children's Ministry Luncheon for children and their families along with youth in the FPCA Youth Music Ministry

# Youth Ministry

## *Dads: What We Do Matters*

by Brandon Janous

### **Our children see, hear, and emulate all that we do.**

And to be honest . . . yes, at times this can be a really scary realization.

A few years ago, I began a tradition in our family called “*Dadurday*.” This is an entire day where Mommy gets a day for herself, and I get a day with the kids. More often than not, it starts with donuts and ends with ice cream. And in between those super-unhealthy staples, we just have a ton of fun. Sometimes the day includes a movie, sometimes the park, sometimes a ball game, sometimes fishing, sometimes all of the above. But the important thing is the kids know that Dadurday is an all-day adventure with Daddy.

I’m a recent widower and I’m a daddy of three—two girls (Hadley and Cooper) and one boy (Macklin). We still have Dadurdays, but once their mommy passed away, Dadurdays turned into every day. I promised their mommy that each day would be an adventure, but we’ve had to pump the breaks on the donuts and ice cream.

Dadurdays came with a simple but big realization: Each kid has different needs, different dreams, different desires, and different personalities. I know this isn’t a surprise to any parent, but if we’re being honest . . . it’s just easier to group them together and do things all together, all the time. It’s harder, often more expensive, and for sure more time-consuming, to make space for each of them to have their own time.

So, from our original Dadurdady tradition . . . a new tradition was born. Now Dadurdays are a time when I proactively set aside individual days for each kid. The girls call them “Date Days with Daddy,” and Macklin calls our days, “Dude Days.”

Recently, during one of my Dude Days with Macklin, we were discussing what it means to respect women. We talked about things like opening their doors, and always being kind. We also talked about how we should protect them and make sure they always feel safe. In the middle of this chat with Macklin, he interrupted me and said, “*Daddy, I know this, because I watch you.*”

For a split second I thought to myself, “*Look at me. I’ve done it. I’m the man. I’ve mastered this and my kids are spectacular because I’m spectacular.*”

But those thoughts only lasted about five seconds because I immediately wondered if he was also watching me when I lost my patience with his sisters earlier that morning. Or if he was watching that time when I got annoyed at lunch because our food took forever to show up. Or if he happened to catch me saying something not-so-nice under my breath to the car that cut me off yesterday.

You see, **our kids want to be who we are.** They want to talk like we talk. They want to act like we act. And whether we like it or not, they will do as we do. So, coming out of that moment with Macklin, I began writing down all the things I want to make sure I teach him. Not by just telling him, but by showing him, each and every day. Here are just a few of the things that made the list:

- 1) I want to show him how to treat people kindly. All people. Not just some people. All people. I want to show him that kindness can make someone's day. And that it can turn a bad day into a good one and a good day into a great one.
- 2) I want to show him to find out what the people in his life love to do and to go do those things with them even if they aren't his favorite things.
- 3) I want to show him how to have fun. No matter how hard the day is, no matter what obligations or obstacles he has, it's important to put those things aside for at least a moment to go have fun.
- 4) I want to show him that the closer he gets to Jesus, the more he will stand out and it's pretty cool to stand out.
- 5) I want to show him to give his very best every single day. His best help. His best advice. His best knowledge. His very best to all he encounters.
- 6) I want to show him how to ask people how their day was and then to actually listen to what they say. I want to show him how to ask a follow-up question. No one expects a follow-up question. It's amazing what you can learn about someone with a follow-up question.
- 7) I want to show him that he must always protect his sisters, his Mimi, his Grandma, and any other woman who comes into his life. I want to show him that it's not okay to fight, but that if someone messes with a woman in his life, he can go all-out Batman on their butts.
- 8) I want to show him that it's never okay to pass a lemonade stand and that he should always overpay.
- 9) I want to show him how to make friends. I want to show him that he will never regret asking someone: "Will you be my friend?"
- 10) I want to show him to always believe. I want to show him that anything is possible. I want to show him that, "yes, of course, you can be superman," because if he's not going to be, someone else will be.

Dads, we are our sons' first hero and our daughters' first love. With that comes a ton of pressure. I'm here to tell you that we are going to fail over and over again. But the important thing is that we admit it, learn from it, and talk it out when we mess up. Oh, and I've got really good news, our kids forgive us super-quickly and they love us super-hard. To be honest, I bet we could learn a thing or two from simply watching them.

Speaking of watching them, I have a confession. Those ten things that I wrote above? I actually learned them all from watching him. It's true. Read them again, you'll see what I mean. Turns out, I just want to be more like him. I want to act like he acts and I want to do as he does. And a major reason I was able to learn these lessons was because a few years ago I decided to make Dadurdays a thing. When we simply unplug from what we think is important so we can actually start paying attention to what truly is.

# Monthly Food Bank

Join us Saturday, November 12, starting at 8:30 a.m. to distribute food, or bring your neighbors to receive food, at the Arlington Charities mobile food bank.

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church

2045 SE 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.



# 12 Hours of Prayer



**The power of a praying church is the result of a praying people.**

**We invite you to be part of an event that will help set the course of our church BEYOND anything we can think or imagine!**

**BEYOND 12 Hours of Prayer!**  
**Wednesday, November 16, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.**  
**FPCA Chapel**

## **WHAT?**

- 12 Hours of Prayer
- Set aside 30-minutes or more to pray starting at a time that fits your schedule.
- Prayer focus sheet provided for each participant.
- Attendants will be on duty throughout the day.
- While others may be praying quietly at the same time, you will be praying individually.

## **WHERE?**

- FPCA Chapel \*
- Use the north entrance door (church office door) to enter. An attendant will let you in.
- Park in the north parking lot.

## **WHEN?**

- November 16
- 7 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Please contact Jamee Shroyer at [jameeshroyer@gmail.com](mailto:jameeshroyer@gmail.com) to sign up for the time you will arrive at the Chapel to begin your time of prayer.

*\*If you are unable to come to the Chapel for your selected segment, you can choose to pray at home. Please register with Jamee at the above email.*



# This Month

Some activities are postponed until further notice. 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 Monday, September 19. The 2022-2023 study is *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*. Questions? Contact Debbie Richardson at 817.675.2867 or Sheri Quick at [sheriq@aol.com](mailto:sheriq@aol.com).

### Tuesday Morning Bible Study \*

Men and women of all ages are invited to meet in the Brides Room every Tuesday morning at 10:30a.m.

### CWF Women's Bible Study\*

Meet virtually every Wednesday at 7 p.m. EXCEPT the last Wednesday of the month they meet at FPCA in the Parlor.



## 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 handbell ensemble every on Wednesday, at 6 p.m.

### Youth Choir\*

The youth choir every Sunday, from 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

### Children's Music Ministries\*

The children's choirs every Sunday, from 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.



## Church Leadership

### Deacon Meeting \*

Thursday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

### Team Meeting Night \*

Thursday, November 3, at 7:00 p.m., all teams meet for ministry planning and coordination.

### Session Meeting \*

Thursday, November 17, 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.



## 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!

### 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 December issue of The News is November 15!**

## Prayer Ministry

**Prayers for those with health and other concerns:** Apana Agha, Jack Bos, Carol Browning, Tony Burdett, Vannah Caylor, Billie Jo Campbell, Frank Coburn, Edna Collins, James Ditto, Cyprian Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Bunny Floyd, Joe and Lila Glenn, Grady Herzog, the Hydock Family, Tim Karnes (Pat May's son), Gary Lindley, Pat May, Jim L. Quick, Tonya Scrabeck, Esther Teboh, John and Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, and Danny Womble.

**Prayers for our family serving in the armed forces:** Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Amie Murtha, Stephen O'Neil Sosa, Colin Peden, Ryan Powell, 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, 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.

