

*"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

**John 16:33**



March  
2023

# The News

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## Newsletter Team

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## “...pray without ceasing...”

Three simple words can sometimes give us the greatest challenge. This reminds me of when confirmands are asked to memorize a Bible verse and explain its significance to them. We always joke that “Jesus wept,” is the shortest verse. No one has chosen that yet but I can make a strong case for its significance especially after this February we endured. I won’t lie. It was a very challenging month. We experienced a number of deaths in a relatively short time span; hospitalizations; families dealing with some incredible challenges. And that was just here at FPCA. Train derailments, war, earthquakes, and more continued to affect our world. If there was ever a time to pray without ceasing, this has been it.

Over the month of February, I was thanked numerous times for the prayers of our church, and I want to pass that onto you. Prayer has been powerful. And while prayer does not always equate to getting what we want, when we want it, exactly how we ask for it, it is still important. So, I want to encourage you to keep it up because we need you.

In the midst of this grief, there have been many wonderful, even miraculous things going on that I look forward to sharing and hearing about in our worship services in March. We have much to rejoice about and we will do so faithfully. In the meantime, pray, pray, pray.

Blessings,  
Pastor Chris

# Finance Update

**For the month of January 2023:**

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income:       \$94,457  
Expense:       (\$78,698)

Income - Expense for month:                   **\$15,759**

Income - Expense for 2022 Year to Date:   **\$15,759**



## **Comments:**

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

- journey through our sermon series on renewal and learn what that means in our lives of faith.
- celebrate 2022 which was an excellent year in many ways as we heard and read more about that at our annual meeting.
- take joy in the ordination and installation of new officers - an exciting moment in the church's life, and exciting for the kingdom.
- enjoy fellowship with our sisters in Christ in a Women's Ministry-sponsored event and luncheon called New Year, New Beginnings exploring how to begin the new year right and learning about the discipline of worship.
- have a great time at Kid's Night Out, a time for kids to have fun playing, eating pizza, connecting with one another, and having a short Bible lesson.
- provide opportunities to serve our community and distribute food at the Arlington Charities mobile food bank.
- As of January, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$1,508,680.

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

Preschoolers love trying to do things like grown-ups. They like to press buttons on computers and jump high to throw the basketball or stir the food to make something yummy to eat. Being able to say they can do things like Mommy or Daddy is a big deal!

This month, we are teaching preschoolers something else they can do that's a really big deal. They can love like Jesus! We want preschoolers to know that they can love like Jesus, and when they love like Jesus, it's like tossing confetti everywhere! Serving others, showing kindness, helping and loving everyone—these are things that even our youngest children can do. And when they do, they love like Jesus.

<b>WEEK ONE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Jesus Washes His Friends' Feet John 13:3-7, 34-35	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> I can love like Jesus.
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Jesus Is Gentle Mark 5: 25-34	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> I can be kind like Jesus.
<b>WEEK THREE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Jesus Helps John 6:1-13	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> I can share like Jesus.
<b>WEEK FOUR</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Jesus Loves Everyone The Gospels	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> I can love everyone like Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES." PROVERBS 17:17, NI-V	WHO CAN LOVE LIKE JESUS?	I CAN LOVE LIKE JESUS.
JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.		

## Elementary and KFC



**ELEMENTARY**  
MARCH 2023

### MONTHLY OVERVIEW

#### GOD VIEW:

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

No matter how much we mess up, God will always forgive us. Jesus even chose to forgive those who were crucifying Him. Because God forgives us, we should work hard to forgive others. We can decide that someone who has wronged us doesn't have to pay. With God's help, we can free ourselves from the weight of anger and bitterness, while giving the other person an opportunity to rewrite the story.

#### WEEK ONE

**BIBLE STORY**  
A Woman Anoints Jesus' Feet  
Luke 7:36-50

**BOTTOM LINE**  
Everyone needs forgiveness.

#### WEEK TWO

**BIBLE STORY**  
Zacchaeus  
Luke 19:1-10

**BOTTOM LINE**  
When you forgive others, it can change them.

#### WEEK THREE

**BIBLE STORY**  
The Story of the Unmerciful Servant  
Matthew 18:21-35

**BOTTOM LINE**  
Forgive others because God forgives you.

#### WEEK FOUR

**BIBLE STORY**  
The Story of the Lost Son  
Luke 15:11-32

**BOTTOM LINE**  
God will always forgive you.

#### MEMORY VERSE

"PUT UP WITH ONE ANOTHER. FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER IF YOU ARE HOLDING SOMETHING AGAINST SOMEONE. FORGIVE, JUST AS THE LORD FORGAVE YOU." COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIRV

#### FORGIVENESS

DECIDING THAT SOMEONE WHO HAS WRONGED YOU DOESN'T HAVE TO PAY.

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## Upcoming Children's Ministry Activities

March 10-Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

March 24-Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

March 26-Children's Ministry Luncheon for Families with Children in 6th Grade and Younger and YMM.

April 1-Spring Festival from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

# Youth Ministry

## *How I'm Praying For My Kids Now That They're Older*

by Autumn Ward

I'm a "fix it" mama. Sibling argument? I'm there to mediate. Upset stomach? I have medicine for that. Shoes have a hole? No problem. I can buy new ones. Difficult homework? We can figure it out together (*thanks to YouTube tutorials*).

Yep. I was pretty good at the whole "Mom to the rescue" thing up until my kids entered their preteen / teen years, and then it all came to a screeching halt. For the first time, I was faced with things I had zero power to fix.

Broken heart? I couldn't mend that. Hard time making friends? I couldn't produce friends like a new pair of shoes. Poor body image? Have you ever tried to change the way a person views themselves? I was at a loss on that one too.

Then there was the time he didn't make the team,  
she didn't feel pretty enough,  
she was searching for purpose,  
he/she drove away by themselves for the first time (*and every time after that*),  
she saw the mass on the Cat-scan,  
he suffered from anxiety,  
she felt depressed,  
he/she was living in the consequences of a bad choice,  
she was processing hurtful words from a person I had no control over . . .

*(deep exhale)*

At some point I took my "Super Mom" cape off and embraced the fact that life had suddenly become a lot bigger than Band-Aids and notes in their lunchbox—a lot bigger than what I could easily fix.

The teen and young adult years aren't just hard on kids. They're hard on moms and dads too. They can leave us feeling as left out and as inadequate as they do our kids. And because now we can't always provide a quick remedy we can feel like we're failing as a parent. It's clearly a wrong way to think, but I have felt it nonetheless.

For these reasons, I have never prayed more for my kids, and for myself, as I have during their teen and young adult years. Prayers that in the past I would keep to myself, I now share with close friends and ask them to pray with me. (*Boy does it help to know others are going through the same thing.*)

My prayers have become more desperate—a heart crying out because it needs God to do what only He can do.

My prayers have become a continuous conversation. (*That whole "pray without ceasing" thing. . . yeah, I get it now.*) I pray as I'm falling asleep. I pray in my car. Sometimes, I drive by their school, just to

pray. I pray on my front porch as they're leaving on dates. (*Watching my son drive off with someone else's baby girl or my daughter with a boy I'm just getting to know triggers intense prayer time!*)

Sometimes I text my kids what I am praying for them because the days of kneeling by their bedsides are slowly fading.

I will always pray what our family has said since they were preschoolers that they would "Love God. Love people." These words have hung over our front door for the last fifteen years. It's what I would say to my kids when I dropped them off at school. But as they have grown, now ages 20, 18 and 15, so has the prayer list.

I now pray for . . .

healthy friendships

the person each of them will marry

guidance as they pursue college and jobs,

protection for their minds and hearts as they live in the world, but not of the world,

courage to be who God made them to be.

wisdom in their choices,

trust in a bigger plan when things aren't going "right,"

joy in the midst of confusion and hurt.

Along with my prayers, I continue to encourage my kids to talk to God. When I see their hearts are heavy I'll mention something like, "Why don't you drive down to the lake and spend some time with God?" Or I'll ask, "Have you talked to God about it?"

I know that as important as it is for me to pray for my kids, it's just as important that they go to God on their own behalf.

I'll also share with my kids what I'm experiencing as a parent. I'll tell them I wish I could fix it but I can't. But what I can do is pray, and I am praying.

If you find yourself in a place where "all you can do" is pray for your kids, know you are doing something very powerful. It's not always a quick fix like what we could do when our kids were younger, but our words are being heard by the Creator of all things, the One who loves our children more than we do, the One who has the power to heal, mend, restore, defeat, resurrect, provide, protect, guide, counsel, and change.

Keep **praying**, mom and dad.

Keep **sharing** your prayers with those closest to you.

Keep **talking** to your kids about what you are praying.

Keep **encouraging** them to pray.

Keep **trusting** that in God's time, He will have His way.

Blessings,

Adrian

# Volunteers Needed!

We are thrilled to announce that FPCA will produce a youth and children's musical depicting the story of Noah and the flood, called A TECHNICOLOR PROMISE. The musical is June 10th, and we need people of all ages to bring this story to life! If you are crafty, handy, can sew, paint, or just want to be an extra set of hands, starting in March we are going to need help to begin building this show.

Please contact Sonia Ellis at [SONIAJUSTL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SONIAJUSTL@GMAIL.COM) or call the church office for more information or to volunteer.

# Monthly Food Bank

Join us Saturday, March 11, 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.



# 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. OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

The offering gifts are divided between three programs- Self Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. For a list of how these gifts were used in previous years or for more information, see [www.pcusa.org/oghs](http://www.pcusa.org/oghs).



# This Month



## 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

Meets on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.

### Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble

Meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

### Youth Choir

Meets on Sundays, from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m.

### Children's Music Ministries\*

Meets on Sundays, from 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.



## Church Leadership

### Deacon Meeting

Thursday, April 20, at 7:00 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

### Team Meeting Night

Thursday, March 9, teams meet for ministry planning and coordination.

### Session Meeting

Thursday, March 23, 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 April issue of The News is March 15!**

## Prayer Ministry

**Prayers for those with health and other concerns:** Jim and Jamee Shroyer, the family of Frank Coburn, Bettie Burdett, Jack Bos, Carol Browning, Billie Jo Campbell, Edna Collins, Cyprian Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Bunny Floyd, Mary Lou Garrison, Joe and Lila Glenn, the Hydock Family, Tim Karnes (Pat May's son), Gary Lindley, Pat May, Mathias Mbeng Ndip, Jim L. Quick, Tonya Scrabeck, Esther Teboh, John and Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Patrick Welbourne, Danny Womble, Beverly Johnson.

**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:** Barbara Hughes, Charlene Miller, Betty Snowden, Dee Uhri, Richard Whitenight, Mary Jane Wright, Polly Baugh, Lucy Cleaver, Madge Casselman, Elizabeth Harris.

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.

