



*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

July
2023

The News

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Newsletter Team

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Hearing God

I'm trying my hardest not to make every sermon illustration, anecdotal story, or every piece of conversation related to our visit to Ireland and Northern Ireland. But it truly was such an exciting and fulfilling trip for all of us. There is one experience I want to share because it connects so strongly with a prevalent theme this year at FPCA.

Prayer has been a major focus of study and effort, whether that was through our study of Prayer 101 and the organization of prayer team ministry. We often forget that prayer is supposed to be a two-way conversation. Too often, we (definitely including myself here!) pray and share with God requests, maybe how we are feeling, and wrap it up with an Amen. Those are all good things. I believe God wants us to share with him our concerns, our celebrations, and the things on our hearts. But have you ever been talking with someone who won't let you get a word in edgewise? Maybe they are talking at 100 mph. Whatever the reason, it can feel like they don't really care what you might have to say, they don't want to hear anything back, even though that probably is not their intention. Does God ever feel that way being on the receiving end of our prayers? Do we treat God, unintentionally, as someone who is there to just do what we want, when we want? Do you think God sometimes thinks, "I hear you and I understand how you are feeling. But I am already at work in this situation." It is important to leave space for God in our prayer life.

Our friends from Northern Ireland, Roger and Abigail, told us one of the hikes we needed to make was a place called Slemish. Slemish comes from the Irish name which means "Mis' mountain." I don't know how Mis was. But this place was so special, it is where Roger proposed! That's a good strategy, guys! Most people are familiar with Saint Patrick, one of the patron saints of Ireland. He spent six years as a slave herding swine on Slemish and the story goes that it was up on Slemish that he found God. He would look out from the top of the mountain and pray for the people, pray for God's work there.





When we got to the top, we discovered two crosses. I wish I could say we instantly had a worshipful experience. In all honesty, it was a little bit of a panic making sure neither of our boys accidentally fell off the mountain! They were excited and running around which made me a bit anxious – worthy of praying about! But before we descended, I called them over, we held hands, and we prayed atop Slemish. We thanked God for speaking to Saint Patrick and we thanked God that he speaks to us. We prayed that we would be better listeners because we need to hear what God has to say

to us. And we prayed for a safe trip down! God is speaking to you. Remember to leave that space in your prayers and your life to be attentive.

Pastor Chris



Finance Update

For the month of May 2023:

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income:	\$102,788
Expense:	(\$83,468)



Income - Expense for month: **\$19,320**

Income - Expense for 2023 Year to Date: **\$18,759**

Comments:

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

- continue the Easter Close Up sermon series where we examined how Jesus is close up with us today.
- commemorate together the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday.
- enjoy a great time of fellowship at our Spring Lunch followed by a UTA baseball game with our guests from PCHAS - Itasca and Waxahachie.
- celebrate our graduating seniors at First Pres. and the faithful work they have put in towards this joyous accomplishment. Not only their accomplishments in the classroom but also how they have represented Jesus Christ to their peers and the world.
- send a great group of cross-generational men to a men's conference at MO Ranch.
- As of May, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$1,563,765.

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

We have been talking A LOT about how Jesus wants to be our friend forever. It is THAT important!

Jesus is a gift for everyone, everywhere. And we want preschoolers to know they can move here, there, and everywhere telling people that Jesus, God's Son, wants to be their friend forever. And when we are friends with Jesus, He helps us love others in the same way He loves us. And that is worth going here, there, and everywhere so that everyone can be with Jesus...forever.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Salvation Is God's Gift Ephesians 2:8-9	STORY FOCUS Jesus is a gift for everyone.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Paul and Silas Are Thrown Into Prison Acts 16:16-40	STORY FOCUS Jesus helps us choose joy.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Paul Is Shipwrecked Acts 27:1-28:10	STORY FOCUS Even when it is hard, we can love like Jesus.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY The Church Hebrews 10:23-25; Acts 2:42-47	STORY FOCUS We can love just as Jesus loves us.
WEEK FIVE	BIBLE STORY Heaven John 14:3; Revelation 21:3-5	STORY FOCUS Jesus is preparing a place for us.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"WALK IN THE WAY OF LOVE, JUST AS CHRIST LOVED US." EPHESIANS 5:2, NIV	WHO WANTS TO BE YOUR FRIEND FOREVER?	JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

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ELEMENTARY
JULY 2023

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

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

Since the beginning, God has always been deeply involved in the world. We see God's handiwork on display in creation. We see God's love on display through Jesus, who came to rescue us. We respond to God in faith, believing in what we can't see because of what we can see. When we focus on what we know to be true about God and the world God created, we can have faith in what we can't see or fully understand. We put that faith into action as we follow Jesus and show His love to the world.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY Salvation Is God's Gift Ephesians 2:8-9	BOTTOM LINE Jesus is a gift for everyone.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Paul and Silas Are Thrown Into Prison Acts 16:16-40	BOTTOM LINE God can help you find joy.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Paul Shipwrecked Acts 27:1-28:10	BOTTOM LINE When bad things happen, God is with you.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY The Church Hebrews 10:23-25	BOTTOM LINE Our faith is stronger together.
WEEK FIVE	BIBLE STORY Heaven Revelation 21:3-5a	BOTTOM LINE God will make everything right in the end.

MEMORY VERSE	"GOD'S GRACE HAS SAVED YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST. YOUR SALVATION DOESN'T COME FROM ANYTHING YOU DO. IT IS GOD'S GIFT." EPHESIANS 2:8, NIRV
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FAITH	TRUSTING IN WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU CAN SEE
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Youth Ministry

Stop Freaking Out, Mom and Dad!

I don't gamble, but if I did, I'm confident I would lose the house, the car, and maybe the kids in about 32 seconds.

Why?

As my friends and family have told me all my life, I have a terrible poker face. I just don't hide my emotions well.

It's not that I'm an emotional person...it's just that people can tell what I'm thinking. Instantly. My face tells far too much of a story. And when I try to hide it, I apparently look either frustrated or constipated. At least this is what people tell me.

Which has given me a distinct parenting disadvantage.

How about you? Do you hide your emotions well as a parent?

It may be more important than you think.

This isn't about lying or even being something you're not. Not at all.

But as Shaunti Feldhahn has so aptly put it, how you react to what your kids tell you matters a lot, especially as they get become teens.

Shaunti references a national survey showed that 75% of all teens agree with this statement "If I knew my parents wouldn't freak out, I would really like to share certain things with them."

Did you hear that?

Your kids would tell you things if they could be sure that you wouldn't freak out.

And you know what my challenge is as a parent? I freak out when my kids tell me things.

I think it's because I live in a hypocritical universe.

I may have done some things when I was a kid/teen/young adult that would cause the current me to freak out, but one of the main goals of parenting is to ensure my kids made none of the mistakes I made.

Wait, we can do better, can't we? Isn't the purpose of parenting that your kids make no mistakes?

Okay maybe not.

But parents, freaking out shuts down the dialogue.

You know it. I know it.

I mean even as adults, we withhold information from people in our family or even at work when we suspect they're going to lose it on us. It may not be right, but it's true. We're human.

And so are your kids.

So what's the best way to respond?

Listen. Don't judge. As Shaunti says, if you're going to freak out, freak out on the inside.

Meanwhile, on the outside, just listen...and pretend it's perfectly normal. Which it probably is, even if it is disappointing.

The goal, of course, is not to condone what just happened, but to create a relationship of trust. Not to mention open and honest communication.

Kara Powell has also done a national study of teenagers and discovered that the reason kids who grew up believing in Jesus walk away from their faith as young adults is not because they have doubts, but because they have unexpressed doubts.

What teens need is a safe place to ask the big questions. When your 16-year-old daughter comes home and says she is not sure she trusts the Bible as an authority, freaking out on her only makes it worse, not better.

She's really just looking for a place to question, to probe, to be honest. And if she can't have that conversation with you or other Christian adults who don't freak out, who will she have it with?

If you have a wider circle of adults your child trusts who have also learned not to freak out, you're in great shape.

But if you—and all your friends—shut down discussion as soon as it starts, you know what's going to happen, right?

Your kids are going to talk to someone about it at some point. And it will likely be with someone who doesn't share your faith convictions or value system.

So this week, stop freaking out. As hard as it may be. Just stop.

And maybe...just maybe...you'll have more influence in your child's life as a result.

Blessings in Christ,

Adrian

Monthly Food Bank

Join us Saturday, July 8, 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.



A Technicolor Promise youth and children's musical

In early June, twenty three youth and children presented "A Technicolor Promise". The performers, ranging in age from rising first graders to high school graduates, came together to learn and present the story of Noah and the ark, as well as the story of God's love, to members of the congregation and the community. In addition to several after-church rehearsals in April and May, the participants also spent the afternoons following morning VBS working to bring the show to life. The efforts of these amazing children paid off in two wonderful performances in the FPCA chapel on June 10th, and we are so proud of all they learned.



The musical was directed by volunteer Sonia Ellis, with a leadership team including volunteers AJ Baker, Bonnie Daniel, Laura Farnell, and Emily Ledesma. Additionally, staff members Russell Farnell and Shina Heo put in many extra hours to help bring the show to life. Special thanks to Ian Ellis for his work designing and creating the set, Lucia Bitner for the chapel entrance and Fellowship Hall decorations, and to Kyle Terwilliger and VBS team members for their help and support. Thanks also to Matt and Shannon Annen, Jennifer Mount, Jane Leatham, Sandy Thomlinson, Karyn Flynn, Melina Pena, Cheryl Harris, Will Farnell, the Arredondo family, all the parents of the musical participants, and everyone who shared their time, talents, and resources. Finally, thank you to the FPCA church family for attending the show! Your support of the ministries of the church

helped plant the truths of God's word in the hearts of the participants and of all those who attended the musical.



The Arlington Ulster Project

The Arlington Ulster Project
would like to thank
First Presbyterian Church
for hosting our
Protestant Worship Service
Sunday, July 9th
at 11:00 AM.

After a 3 year pause,
we are excited to once again share the
good news about the Ulster Project
with our supporting churches!

Please welcome our
Northern Irish teens
and their American hosts!

Learn about our 3 week program



Presbyterian Children's Home and Services



School Supply List for 2023-2024:

Please deliver on or before Wednesday, July 19

Drop off will be in any of the 3 gray donation bins in FPCA hallways

Please contact Marge or Bob Dawson if you have any questions

Email: mdawsonarltx@gmail.com

Phone: 817-980-6825

Pre-K and Kindergarten:

- Baby wipes
- Diapers size 3-6
- Small Child Back Packs
- Toddler crayons (packs with 8 large crayons)
- Water color paints
- Refillable water bottles
- Paper Towels
- Facial Tissues

Elementary School:

- 1-Inch 3-Ring Binder
- 12" Ruler
- Backpack
- Ballpoint Pens
- Colored Pencils
- Crayons
- Dry Erase Markers
- Dry Erasers
- Glue Sticks
- Hand Sanitizer
- Highlighters
- Index Cards
- Pencil Pouch w Zipper
- Pencils - #2
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Pocket Folders Without Fasteners
- Protractor
- Scissors (Blunt Tip)
- Spiral Notebooks
- Composition Books
- Subject Dividers
- Tissues
- Washable Markers
- Wide Ruled Loose Leaf Paper
- Lunch Box
- Paper Towels
- Facial Tissues

Middle and High School

- 1 ½ Inch 3-Ring Binder
- Backpack
- Ballpoint Pens
- Graph Calculator (TI-84 Plus CE)
- Dry Erase Markers
- Dry Erasers
- Glue Sticks
- Graph Paper
- Hand sanitizer
- Highlighters
- Index Cards Markers
- Pencil Pouch
- Pencils - No. 2
- Pencil Sharpener
- Pocket Folders
- Protractor
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Spiral Notebooks
- Composition Books
- Subject Dividers
- White-Out
- Wide Ruled Loose-Leaf Paper
- USB Memory stick
- Earbuds (headphones)

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.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

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

Will resume on Wednesdays August 9 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, Aug , at 7:00 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, July 13, teams meet for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting

Thursday, July 27, 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 10:30 a.m. to quilt, sew, knit, crochet, embroider, and just enjoy being together. Bring your project and join in! Bring a sack lunch and join the ladies for lunch at noon.

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 August issue of The News is July 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Sue Lavender, Grace Broekhuizen, Bonnie Daniel, Angela Macleod, Jack Bos, Carol Browning, Bettye Burdett, Edna Collins, Cyprian Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Mary Lou Garrison, Joe and Lila Glenn, Jo Ann Hanson, Gary Lindley, Pat May and her son Tim Karnes, Graciela Lopez Montero, Bill and Helen Moulton, Mathias Mbeng Ndip, Tonya Scrabeck, Esther Teboh, Susie Thurston, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Patrick Welborne, Danny Womble.

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

Prayers for our homebound members: Polly Baugh, Madge Casselman, Lucy Cleaver, Barbara Hughes, Betty Snowden, Dee Uhri, Richard Whitenight, 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.

