



“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Matthew 18:19-20

September
2023

The News

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Newsletter Team

Talita Gottmann, Editor

The News is a publication of
First Presbyterian Church of Arlington
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Arlington, TX 76010

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Playing Hooky

One thing that amazes me about our temporary move into the Fellowship Hall for Sunday worship is how worship attendance has remained strong. I remember having pretty low expectations that first Sunday solely because I love the feel of the sanctuary. How could the Fellowship Hall capture that feeling of worship? The answer came in an answer I already knew. In fact, I had just preached about this just before the move. That feeling of worship does not come solely from the physical location. It's us. Our hearts. Our gathering together for a common purpose is what brings about that feeling. I did not expect some of you to share that some of these worship services have been your favorite or most impactful times of worship at FPCA. Thank you for your faithful attendance whether that is in person or online. We value each of you no matter where and how we gather together.

I know each of us has many choices on how to spend our Sundays. The cultural assumption that everyone just goes to church every Sunday ended years ago. While the world appears to infringe more and more on our precious couple hours on Sunday mornings, your commitment to regular attendance is to be commended.

Lifeway Research recently published their results on a study why and how often people are likely to miss church. While we joke about the length of a sermon, especially on Sundays when the Cowboys kickoff at noon, of the six choices, watching a favorite team or sporting event was the least likely reason someone will miss! Instead, "Most regular churchgoers say they would miss a weekly worship service at least once a year to avoid traveling in severe weather (77%), to enjoy an outdoor activity (55%), or to get some extra sleep (54%). Half (50%) would do so to meet a friend or group of friends. Fewer say they'd skip to not have to travel when it was raining (43%) or to watch a sporting event or their favorite team (42%).

We know rain has not been a factor lately when deciding whether to come to church, but the extreme heat sure has. Your health and well-being are top priority for us so if there is a reason it is unsafe to travel, that is why offer our live stream. Lastly, for what it's worth, "Denominationally, Presbyterians are among the least likely to say they'd ever miss church for any of the reasons. Meanwhile, Methodist churchgoers are among the most likely to say they would skip at least once a year for each of the six reasons." What is not surprising is that those who prioritize attendance year-round are less likely to say they'd miss for any of the six options. As summer has wound down and the new school year is here, maybe

this is the perfect time to strengthen your worship consistency. The more you do it, the more it will become your priority each week.

Pastor Chris

Finance Update

For the month of July 2023:

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$ 63,686

Expense: (\$76,959)

Income - Expense for month: **(\$13,273)**

Income - Expense for 2023 Year to Date: **(\$30,441)**



Comments:

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

- begin our new sermon series on The 12, studying the 12 disciples plus Paul.
- celebrate our very own Adrian Rodriguez, as he earns his Masters of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary.
- host for this year's protestant worship for the teens and adults participating in The Ulster Project, along with an all-church lunch with our guests and a short program.
- provide an exciting youth camp this summer at Mo-Ranch in Hunt, Texas.
- provide opportunities to serve our community by donating school supplies to families for school, and distributing food at the Arlington Charities mobile food bank.
- As of July, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$1,562,703.

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

An adult makes about 35,000 choices every day, but adults are not the only ones with choices to make. Children have their fair share of choices too—about 3,500 of them. Every. Single. Day. Should I eat this snack or that snack? Should I play with this toy or that toy? Should I do this and share or do that and keep it all for myself?

Knowing that our preschooler's 3,500 daily choices will one day turn into 35,000 daily choices is why we want to teach preschoolers that, when they have a choice between This or That, they can trust that God knows what's best for them.

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY In the Garden Genesis 1:31, 2:8-3:24	STORY FOCUS God knows what is best for me.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY Moses and the Sea Exodus 13:17-18, 14	STORY FOCUS I can trust what God says.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY Jonah * Jonah 1:1-3:10	STORY FOCUS God knows what is best for everyone.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY Naaman 2 Kings 5:1-14	STORY FOCUS I can trust God knows best even when it is hard.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"GOD . . . KNOWS EVERYTHING." 1 JOHN 3:20, NIV	WHO KNOWS WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU?	GOD KNOWS WHAT'S BEST FOR ME.
GOD LOVES ME.		

Elementary and KFC



ELEMENTARY

SEPTEMBER 2023

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW:

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

God created us for relationships. From the very beginning of the Bible, we see how important it is to have wise people in our life who help us understand how to honor God with our actions. When God sent Jesus, we were able to see the best example of friendship ever. Jesus showed us how much He loves us as He laid down His life for His friends. With His words and actions, Jesus showed friendship to everyone He met. We can reflect Jesus' love best when we take time to care for our friends.

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY
Two People Are Better Than One
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

BOTTOM LINE
Choose your friends carefully.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY
David and Mephibosheth
1 Samuel 19-20; 2 Samuel 9

BOTTOM LINE
Friends keep their promises.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY
Barnabas and Saul
Acts 9:26-30

BOTTOM LINE
Friends stand up for one another.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY
Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

BOTTOM LINE
Friends forgive one another.

MEMORY VERSE

"A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES. THEY ARE THERE TO HELP WHEN TROUBLE COMES." PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV

FRIENDSHIP

USING YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS TO SHOW OTHERS YOU CARE.

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Save the date.

September 8: Kids Night Out from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

September 22: Kids Night Out from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

September 24: Luncheon for families with children or youth.

Youth Ministry

Make the Most of Mornings

by Sarah Anderson

Time is a tricky thing. As kids, we have more than we know what to do with. But as adults—especially once we have kids of our own, it never feels like we have enough. So, when it comes to utilizing the time we have with our kids, learning to handle it well is essential.

It can be hard work to make the time we have count, especially when you are reminding your kid to put on their shoes and pack their backpack for the 18th time. But as our kids grow up, we must take advantage of the time we already have with them within the rhythm of our day to talk about what matters most.

We'll start with:

Morning Time.

Your Role: Coach

Communication: Encouraging Words

Goal: Instill purpose

Mornings can be rough. With babies, it generally starts earlier than any parent wants. With kids, getting the school projects, show and tell, lunches, and child itself out the door is a task of epic proportions. With teenagers, the actual waking them up part is enough to rob you of joy for the rest of the day.

But maybe part of what makes mornings hard is we try to get through them more than we try to use them. If we had a goal—like instilling purpose, and a mode of accomplishing it, like encouraging words, we could change the look and feel of our day.

My husband literally treats morning like a coach with his team—giving our two boys a pep talk before he heads out the door. It's like a motivational speech—which is the point: to encourage and inspire the boys for the day ahead. He tells them how he knows they are going to be kind to each other, treat each other in a loving way and give their mama no drama. Some days it feels like a “name it and claim it”—like if he puts the idea in their head, there's a better chance of it actually happening.

Sometimes it works. Other times it doesn't.

But the point is to start the day that way because it gives kids, even in an indirect way, a really crucial understanding. Every day is fresh. Every day is new. Every day is the chance to do this all again, and to do better maybe even than we did last time. Mornings are where forgiveness and lack of grudges can show up best.

So, what are some practical morning time tips?

- Communicate ideals for the day, in conduct and behavior with hope—not demands. Let your kids know you want them to win for the day.

- Learn your kid's schedules and what they have coming up. Tests? Try outs? The dreaded mile-run in PE? Show them you care, by being in the know about what's going on in their life.
- Tell your kids how proud you are of them, how much you believe in them, and the potential you see in them. No matter how old they are, they will never outgrow the need for encouraging words.
- Reserve at least five minutes for yourself, before your kids get up. It's hard to instill purpose in others if you feel depleted.
- Set the tone for your home. Don't let your kids' emotions steer the ship. How do you want the mornings to feel? Then do everything you can to make them feel that way.

Morning time can be chaos, but it also has the potential to be one of the most important times of connection with your kid.

Blessings in Christ,

Adrian

Monthly Food Bank

Join us Saturday, September 9, 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.



Nominations for Elder, Deacon, Trustee, or Congregational Nominating Team

We are accepting Nominations for Elder, Deacon, Trustee, or Congregational Nominating Team (CNT). You can put your selections in the nomination box outside of fellowship hall, place them in the offering plate, bring your nominations to the church office, or you can email your nominations to Suzie McCoy at: smccoybelize@gmail.com.

PCHAS Summer Update

Dear Friends,

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services has so much to be grateful for as we celebrate 120 years of ministry to children and families. In the Fort Worth and North Texas area summer has been filled with fun things!

The Prairie Valley Legacy Fund of Grace Presbytery and First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth provided scholarships for 23 kids in our care and programs to attend summer camp at Camp Gilmont. Their generosity provides 100% scholarships. And this year they have offered to provide continuing scholarships for PCHAS "legacy kids" . . . those who attend camp while in our care and have now returned to their families. They want to be sure they can continue to church camp!



Phyllis, the Community Life Coordinate provided me with these quotes from kids at the Foster Care Village who went to Camp Gilmont this summer:

13 year old boy: The best part of Camp Gilmont was the zipline and the pool!

I met lots of friends and I liked my camp counselor.

Food was good. I liked the Bible study time.

The only thing I didn't like was at meal time you have to wait for your cabin to be called to get in line for food. I don't like waiting!

7 year old girl: The best part was the pool. I liked doing crafts. Food was good, cheeseburgers, chicken nuggets.

I made some friends. We sang a lot of songs and learned about Jesus. There was not anything bad about camp.

8 year old boy: The best part of camp was the pavilion, we played carpet ball, gaga ball, basketball and ping pong.

I met lots of friends, Miles, Elliot and Sam were my good friends.

The food was good. I liked singing the songs and learning about Jesus. I really loved camp.



Given the summer heat, it has been a blessing to have the pool at Itasca up and running after \$24,000 worth of major repairs.

At the end of July we enjoyed the **Summer Olympics** at Itasca! The kids started early and had a fun morning discovering who could swim the most laps, playing on the obstacle course and enjoying other challenges. They completed the morning with lunch together!

And before we know it, it is almost time for school to start!

Shoe Buddies provided a new pair of shoes for children in our Foster Village and our single-parent families at Waxahachie. We are just wrapping up our Back-to-School Backpack drive. This year we

provided over 100 backpacks to school-age children in the Fort Worth and North Texas area. Congregations have also generously provided gift cards so that students can have a new outfit for school or meet other needs. We are so grateful for the generosity of so many!

We are also looking forward to opening a sixth home at the Foster Care Village at Itasca. The Foster Care Village provides a supportive community for parents as well as a unique opportunity for large sibling groups to be placed together. If you would like to visit the Itasca campus, please give me a call. I'd love for you to see this amazing community supporting foster parents.

At Presbyterian Childrens Homes and Services, we are so grateful for the donors, congregations and organizations that support our work with children and families. It is not possible without you! We thank you! Our children thank you! Our families thank you!

Grace and Peace,

Maria Shupe

Presbyterian Children`s Homes and Services

Thanks for getting Students started RIGHT!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

School is starting, and you have helped so many children get started on the right foot! Thank you so much for all of your support for our Back to School Drive to provide new backpacks filled with supplies for all the school-age children served by Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services!

This year we provided Back to School backpacks to over 100 children served by PCHAS in the Fort Worth and north Texas area. Thank you so much for making this possible!

I hope that you will share our deep gratitude with the Session, the Mission Committee and the congregation! Our ministry is possible only because of congregations like yours. Thank you!!!

Grace and Peace,

Maria Shupe



Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services Itasca Youth Is A TV Star

PCHAS Itasca Youth Is A TV Star



James was WFAA Wednesday's Child 8/23/23

We took a UTA autographed baseball to him last week. Cute kid!

Wednesday's Child 8-year-old James` dreams of being adopted and... a WFAA meteorologist

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HJccOXqIJA>

In mid-October PCHAS is planning to have a Harvest Party called "A Gathering of Gratitude" and we're invited for a 3-5 pm, light supper, either Saturday, October 14th or Sunday, October 15th or Sunday, October 22nd.

Let Marge or Bob Dawson know if you would like more information, want transportation or have a preference date.

Blessings,

Marge - mdawsonarltx@gmail.com txt 817-980-6825

Bob - rdawsonarltx@gmail.com txt 214-415-5396

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 Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study will resume September 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the parlor. 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 parlor 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 Fellowship Hall.

Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble

Will resume on Wednesdays September 6 at 6 p.m. in room 106.

Youth Choir

Meets on Sundays, from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. (starting Sept 10)

Children's Music Ministries

Meets on Sundays, from 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. (starting Sept 10)



Church Leadership

Deacon Meeting

Thursday, Oct 19, at 7:00 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, Sep 14, teams meet for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting

Thursday, Sep 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.



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 October issue of The News is September 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: ack Bos, Grace Broekhuizen, Carol Browning, Bettye Burdett, Edna Collins, Bonnie Daniel, Jennyfer Delgado, Cyprian Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Ivone Franzolin, Mary Lou Garrison, Joe and Lila Glenn, Jo Ann Hanson, Sue Lavender, Gary Lindley, Pat May and her son Tim Karnes, Jamie Mickelson, Graciela Lopez Montero, Bill and Helen Moulton, Mathias Mbeng Ndip, Aileigh Rodriguez, Tonya Scrabeck, David Spencer, Alecia Street, Esther Teboh, Susie Thurston, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Patrick Welborne, Danny Womble, Carlos Zamora.

Prayers for our family serving in the armed forces: Amie Murtha, Colin A. Peden

If you are a member with a family member who is on active duty in the armed services, please contact the church office at info@firstprestexas.org with the name and their relationship to you.

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.

