



Peace I leave with you;  
**MY PEACE I GIVE YOU.**  
I do not give to you as the world gives.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled and  
**DO NOT BE AFRAID.**

JOHN 14:27 NIV

June  
2025

# The News

# First Fruits, First Actions

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### Newsletter Team

Talita Gottmann, Editor

The News is a publication of  
First Presbyterian Church of Arlington  
1200 South Collins  
Arlington, TX 76010

Contact us at  
[thenews@firstprestexas.org](mailto:thenews@firstprestexas.org)

On May 18th, Susan Malone and I had the distinct and fun announcement of our first fruits for our Gather Campaign. Because of our giving, we have already made several significant accomplishments. In case you missed it, the session prioritized four objectives to achieve with first fruits giving. First, we will execute our first contract to begin the schematic design process with our project manager and architect. Second, we will retire the PILP loan for our former flat roof. Third, we will reimburse our general budget for campaign expenses and loan payments. And fourth, we will retire the second PILP loan from the Transform project.

Overall, at the end of May, we have received 109 commitments to Gather totaling \$1,679,606! Let that soak in for a moment. This is simply incredible. In the beginning of this three-year giving phase, we have already received \$424,485 in contributions! Let THAT sink in for a moment... What does that mean as far as the plan the session approved?

- 1) We are moving forward with our contract with Goff Companies. The contract has undergone our Trustee and legal review. We anticipated a contract cost of around \$77,000 and it was actually \$49,698.50. That means the difference can be applied to other goals!
- 2) Zero. This article features lots of numbers, but this zero is perhaps my favorite. That is our balance on our flat roof PILP loan! It's gone! Our monthly payments built into our general budget are also gone.
- 3) We have enough to fully reimburse our general budget for campaign expenses and loan payments. That was not an insignificant amount that our budget was carrying for the beginning of this year. So, this provides some much needed breathing space in our budget.
- 4) With the first three objectives achieved, that means everything else can be applied to our second PILP loan. We will be reducing that balance by more than \$110,000!

So, we are well on our way to get the ball rolling on the renovation portion of Gather and aggressively paying off our obligations. I will never tire of saying thank you. We continue to shatter the mold and expectations for a church our size. That is not possible without incredible commitment and incredible faith. Thank you!

# Finance Update



**General Fund for April 2025:**

	Monthly	YTD
Income & Funds Released:	65,455	334,640
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>(77,802)</u>	<u>(370,934)</u>
Variance	(12,347)	(36,294)
Donors Income:	59,889	316,143
<u>Budget:</u>	<u>75,085</u>	<u>300,340</u>
Variance	(15,196)	15,803

**Comments:**

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

- journey through Holy Week with meaningful services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, all culminating with the worship and celebration of Easter Sunday.
- enjoy a great time of fellowship with our annual church-wide breakfast on Easter morning, sponsored by the Fellowship Team.
- have a ton of fun with the Spring Festival provided by our Children’s Ministry Team for the kids of our church and neighborhood.
- provide the opportunity to donate to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering.
- have an exciting Commitment Sunday, concluding our Gather Capital Campaign.

As of April, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$150,349.

We are doing well and, because of you, we can 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, Elementary, and KFC*



## ELEMENTARY

JUNE 2025

### MONTHLY OVERVIEW

<b>WEEK ONE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b>	Live Like Jesus	<b>Philippians 2:5</b>
	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b>	Live like Jesus.	<b>(Supporting: Philippians 2:1-8)</b>
	<b>KEY QUESTION</b>	How can we live like Jesus?	
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b>	Live in Peace With One Another (Saul and Barnabas)	<b>Romans 12:18</b>
	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b>	Live in peace with one another.	<b>(Supporting: Acts 9:1-28)</b>
	<b>KEY QUESTION</b>	What does it mean to live in peace?	
<b>WEEK THREE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b>	Look Out for One Another (Jesus Heals on the Sabbath)	<b>Philippians 2:4</b>
	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b>	Look out for one another.	<b>(Supporting: Luke 6:6-11)</b>
	<b>KEY QUESTION</b>	Who's looking out for you?	
<b>WEEK FOUR</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b>	Encourage One Another	<b>Hebrews 10:24-25</b>
	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b>	Encourage one another.	
	<b>KEY QUESTION</b>	When has someone encouraged you?	
<b>WEEK FIVE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b>	Accept One Another (Peter and Cornelius)	<b>Romans 15:7</b>
	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b>	Accept one another.	<b>(Supporting: Acts 10)</b>
	<b>KEY QUESTION</b>	How does it feel to be accepted?	

**MEMORY VERSE** "AS YOU DEAL WITH ONE ANOTHER, YOU SHOULD THINK AND ACT AS JESUS DID."  
PHILIPPIANS 2:5, NIRV

**LIVE IT OUT** WITH JESUS WE CAN HELP CHANGE THE WORLD



**ELEMENTARY**

JUNE 2025

## MONTHLY OVERVIEW

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### **GOD VIEW:** THE CONNECTION BETWEEN LIVE IT OUT AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

Living and loving like Jesus sounds great in theory, but may be a little hard in practice. However, with the help of God's Spirit, we don't have to do it alone. When we follow Jesus, God's Spirit transforms us, shaping us every day into who God has called us to be and how God is calling us to live. Live It Out is not JUST a theme, but a call to action. It encourages kids to actively live out their faith through their words and interactions with others. And the more we become like Jesus, the more we can make a true difference in this world and in the lives of those around us.

### **CORE INSIGHT:** The theological foundation for LIVE IT OUT

#### **Transformation** by the power of God's Spirit

God's Spirit is transforming my unique and imperfect life into the character of Jesus.

Jesus is the greatest example of what it looks like to value others. Through the way He lived His life, Jesus taught us how to value one another. And when we follow Jesus, God's Spirit helps us to live like Jesus—transforming not only us but the world around us.

### **HEADS UP:** IDEAS TO KEEP IN MIND AS YOU TALK ABOUT LIVE IT OUT WITH KIDS

This whole summer you get to lead kids through nine amazing weeks of discovering what it looks like to love like Jesus. Each week will break down a "one another" statement from the Bible. God designed us to be in community with one another even when it's challenging, and we'll need God's Spirit to help guide us as we do. In these nine weeks, kids will learn about difficult concepts such as living in peace with one another or forgiving one another. Invite kids to bring open and honest conversation but be sure to create a safe space for them to process what makes some of those things challenging to do. Some kids may be in situations that make it hard for them to trust, forgive, be at peace with, or even pray for those who have mistreated or hurt them in some way. Be open to listening and hearing their needs and let them know you are here for them. Always be sure to bring the correct people into any conversation that involves the safety of a child.

### **LIVE IT OUT:** with Jesus we can help change the world

As you deal with one another, you should think and act as Jesus did. Philippians 2:5, NIRV

## *Save the Date*

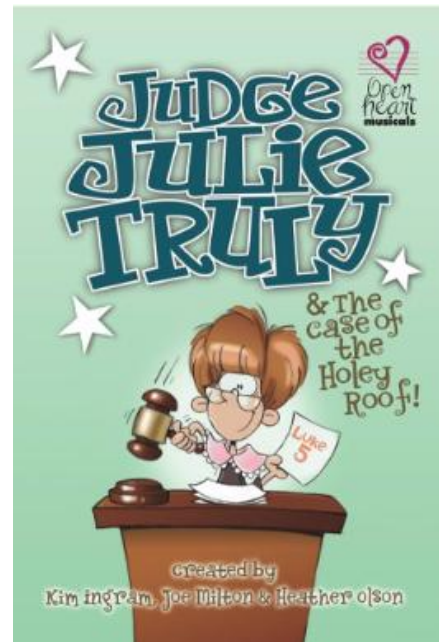
**June 2-6** Vacation Bible School for children 4 years old to sixth grade from 9:00 a.m. to noon

# Youth Ministry

## Youth & Children's Musical "Judge Julie Truly"

Saturday, June 7 at 2:30 p.m.

You're invited to attend FPCA's youth and children's musical, "Judge Julie Truly" based on the biblical story about the friends who lowered their friend through the roof to be healed by Jesus. The free performance is Saturday, June 7th at 2:30 in the FPCA sanctuary and should end by 3:15. Please make plans to attend the show to support these fantastic performers in their performance and in their faith journey!



# A 4-Session Book Club for Women

## Summertime Literary and Potato Chip Snack Society

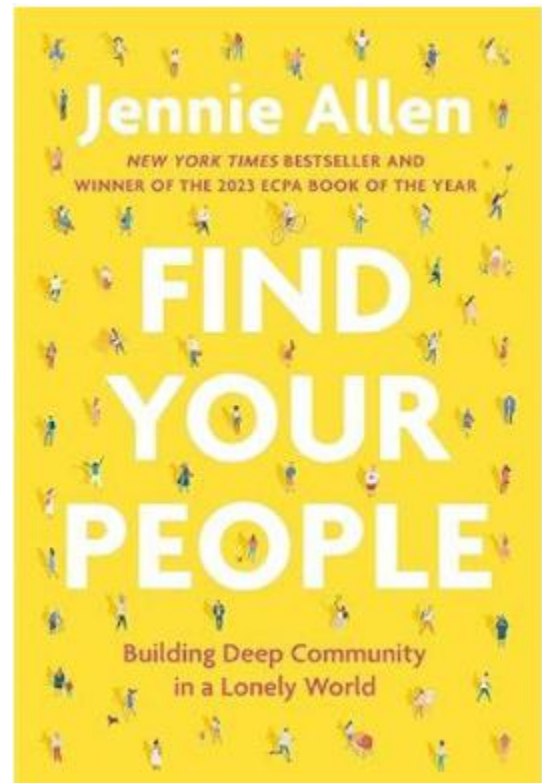
You were created to play, engage, adventure, and explore—with others. In *Find Your People*, you'll discover exactly how to dive into the deep end and experience the full wonder of community. Because while the ache of loneliness is real, it doesn't have to be your reality. Join your sisters in Christ as we gather to explore Jennie Allen's award-winning book (and YES, there will be snacks!) For questions, please email [womensministry@firstprestexas.org](mailto:womensministry@firstprestexas.org)

Session Dates:

- Monday, June 23, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, July 7, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, July 21, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, August 4, 6:30 p.m.

First session to be held at: 2807 Zinfandel Ln. Arlington, TX 76001

Books can be purchased wherever books are sold. Please bring yours to each meeting.



# Fall Women's Bible Study

**September 10**

The Women's Wednesday Bible Study will begin their new study September 10, 2025. This group meets the second Wednesday of each month, September - May at 1 p.m. At FPCA. Currently meeting in the Fellowship Hall, but this could change. Members volunteer to lead a lesson and/or bring a snack.

This will be the 25th anniversary of this group meeting. It is open to all women. The Study guides will be ordered on July 15, so if you would like to join and have a book, please reply to Debbie Richardson (der817@gmail.com) or Sheri Quick (sheriq@aol.com). Cost is \$14 plus \$1 to help defray the cost of shipping. When the order arrives, an email will be sent on where to pick up your book and make payment (a check or cash).

Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

by Rhashell D. Hunter

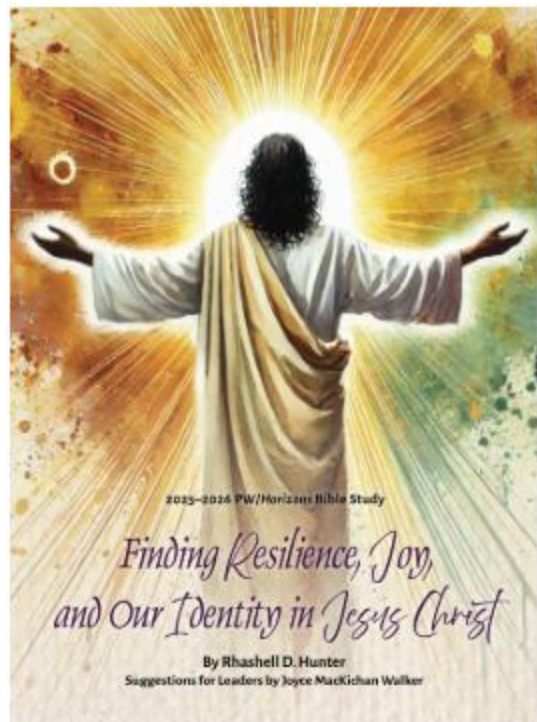
In this Bible study, we will explore resilience. This is modeled for us by several biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, as well as Jesus. So, what exactly is resilience?

Resilience is the ability to spring back into shape and to adapt well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or stress—such as from family, relationships, health, workplace, and financial stressors. People who survive and thrive well in change are resilient.

The Bible study is also about joy. How do we find joy in a chaotic world? Christian joy may be different from how a lot of people define joy.

Joy is sometimes confused with happiness. For Christians, joy can occur while we are in the midst of difficult circumstances. Joy is the second fruit of the spirit, preceded by love and followed by peace (Gal 5:22-23). Trusting in God when we are in trying times can fill us with glorious joy and peace. We have joy in our suffering, because ultimately our joy is found in Jesus Christ.

We will also seek to rediscover our identity. Identity is more than who we are or who we show ourselves to be. At its core, it points to our humanity. Our core identity is not found in our titles, our positions, our spouses, our partners, or our possessions. For Christians, our identity is found in Jesus Christ.



# Summer Word Search



Q E V J R H Y T L Z P F B I K I N G X S  
 W D C S E M A G N S U O S H S K O O B C  
 F A O I C E C R E A M T O V E P I J Z I  
 X N T B K G W L P H R Q E L R U T D R N  
 P O T E L O C S M A N B Y L I M A F E C  
 U M A V R I Z D W J G S R O F Q C X L I  
 C E G N S M O B R I Y N G T N H A S K P  
 H L E P F U E Q D L M C I Z O J V G N W  
 N I O T M R E L A X O M Y L B S N E I D  
 G P K Z R A J K O B H V I W E I Q F R A  
 S T M I X E C Y A N L D H N D V C O P U  
 D K E Q N O F R Z Q A J W A G B A H S G  
 N S L A M G B V E Y C A E X I D M R Z U  
 E J E M H E T C S M F R Q K T A P W T S  
 I D A L C S E I R O M E M R A Y I B N T  
 R H J U Z W T M A K B U I C V L N Q E X  
 F B E G A Z N S T R O P S D U R G L Y M  
 V A K R B X U W Q H S G N I E O N A C L  
 M G Y L U J D P S E N Z B E A C H I F R

August	canoeing	holidays	pool	sprinkler
barbecue	cottage	ice cream	popsicles	strawberries
beach	family	July	puzzles	summer camp
biking	friends	lake	reading	swimming
bonfires	games	lemonade	relax	traveling
books	hammock	memories	road trips	vacation
camping	hiking	picnics	sports	watermelon



# Monthly Food Bank



Join us Saturday, June 14, 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 is 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.

# Leave a Lasting Legacy



Texas Presbyterian  
Foundation

**Date: Sunday, June 1**

**Time: 12:30 p.m.**

**Location: Fellowship Hall**



On

Sunday, June 1, following the 11:00 service, the Fellowship Team will serve lunch and welcome you to hear from Stefanie Marsden of the Texas Presbyterian Foundation. She will educate FPCA members on legacy and planned gifts.

Now is the time to create a lasting legacy that can inspire future generations, support the ministry of our church, and remain steadfastly woven into the hearts of others. YOU can make a difference.

# Pentecost Offering - June 8



This year our Pentecost Offering is received officially on the Day of Pentecost, June 8, 2025. 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. Pentecost is usually represented with the color red, which symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit.

The Pentecost Offering unites us to support young people in Christ. Forty percent of the offering stays locally, and this year will go to H.O.P.E. 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](http://www.pcusa.org/pentecost), [www.x.com/pcusa](https://www.x.com/pcusa), or [www.facebook.com/specialofferings/](https://www.facebook.com/specialofferings/).

Offering envelopes are available outside the sanctuary several weeks before and after the offering. [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.

## A Cup of Connection

### *Celebrating the Blessings of Community*

The Women's Ministry Team invites you to enjoy lunch with your sisters in Christ as we treasure our time together. Space is limited, so please be sure to register early!

**Date:** Saturday, June 14, 2025  
**Time:** 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Rose Garden Tea Room at Gracie Lane  
4720 South Cooper  
**Registration:** \$20 Online

- FPCA Website ([www.firstprestexas.org](http://www.firstprestexas.org)) → Ministries → Adult Ministries
- Scroll down to Women's Ministry and register



# This Month



## *Bible Studies*

### **Men's Bible Study**

The Men's Bible Study group meets every Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. in room 204. 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 Women's Bible Study resume on the second Wednesday of September at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. 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 Fellowship Hall every Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m.

### **CWF Women's Bible Study**

The CWF Women's Bible Study group meets virtually every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. EXCEPT the last Wednesday of the month when the group meets at FPCA in the parlor.



## *Music Ministries*

### **Chancel Choir**

Resume September 7<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Chancel Choir.

### **Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble**

Resume September 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, at 6:00 p.m. in the Handbell room.

### **Youth Choir**

Resume September 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday, from 12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. (lunch for participants 12:15 p.m.).

### **Children's Music Ministries**

Resume September 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday, from 12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. (lunch for participants 12:15 p.m.).



## *Church Leadership*

### **Deacon Meeting**

Thursday, June 12, the Diaconate meets.

### **Team Meeting Night**

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

### **Session Meeting**

Thursday, June 26 at 7:00 p.m., the Session meets 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 on 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 Thursday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

If interested, contact Mary Spencer at 817-689-0526 for more details.

### **Saints Alive**

This will be a recurring luncheon on the last Thursday of each month- January to May; and September to December. We will take the months of June, July, and August off.

We look forward to seeing you in Fellowship Hall.

Jodie Schenck and Becki Briggs, Co-Chairs.

First Presbyterian Church  
1200 S. Collins Street  
Arlington, TX 76010

Deadline for the July issue of The News is June 15!

## Prayer Ministry

**Prayers for those with health and other concerns:** The family of Mary Lou Garrison, the family of Lorna Snyder, the family of Kathy Moore, the family of Lucy Cleaver, Sandra Cook and family, Hendersonville, N. C., mission trip team, Carlos and Jennyfer Zamora and newborn Theodore, Eric and Talita Gottmann and newborn Clark Gustave, Shawn LeBlanc, Charles Arnold, Nancy Brown, Carol Browning, Judy Crowell, Cyprain Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Ken Floyd, Bobbie Fowler, Ivone Franzolin, Joe and Lila Glenn, Joanne Kirven, Margaret Landolt, Charlie Laney, Pat May and her son Tim Karnes, Brendan and Dannielle McWalters, Judy Reck, Lisa Scrabeck, Tonya Scrabeck, David Spencer, Susie Thurston, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Patrick Welborne, Sherry and Shelby Wolfe, Danny Womble.

**Prayers for our family serving in the armed forces:** Christopher Young, Wolfgang Van Wie.

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](mailto:info@firstprestexas.org) with the name and their relationship to you.

**Prayers for our homebound members:** Bettye Burdett, Madge Casselman, Ann Scarr, Betty Snowden, Leonard & Mary Jane Tibbetts, Dee Uhri, Richard Whitenight.

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.

