



Now the Lord is the Spirit,
and where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17

July
2025

The News

Ulster Project 2025

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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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I'm writing this having just come home from the opening ecumenical worship service for this year's Ulster Project which was held at Frist United Methodist Church in Arlington. Our friend, Rev. Kate McGee from Westminster Presbyterian Church, preached for the gathering on the power of hospitality. It is even more interesting as we will be eligible to host a Northern Irish teen next summer if everything works out.

I'm including a picture of the pastors who participated this year. Mercifully and/or providentially, I did not get the note that we were robing up for the service. But let me tell you, all the other clergy were sinfully envious of my attire. It was a wee bit warm in the sanctuary and bulletins were doubling as fans. I'm not being snarky. Our homes, much less massive buildings and sanctuaries, can easily struggle with the Texas summer heat. I'm sure it was a nice "Welcome to Texas" moment for the 9 teens here from abroad.

As I have shared, Northern Ireland has become a beloved part of the world for our family. Nothing will top my love for Scotland. But one thing many of the Irish have is an understandable dialect! It was so nice chatting with some of the youth and leaders after the service – and one month from today, Chelsea and I will be flying for Dublin. It just got me that much more excited!



The Ulster Project is such an incredible sign of hope, especially coming from a part of the world that is still scarred and unfortunately recognized mostly for its violent times known simply as "The Troubles." Lots of places and situations around the world are quite troubling right now. But we pray and work for God's peace, grace, and mercy to work, heal, and restore those broken places. Sometimes, that process starts quite small, even wee. But often,

especially through stories in the Bible, that's how God chooses to operate – with the unlikeliest of people from the unlikeliest of circumstances. That should give us hope that nothing we do is in vain. No effort is too small for God to notice and to bless. These teens from Northern Ireland and Arlington will be together for 27 days. I hope you will pray for their time together and the kingdom work God will be launching all of them to do, near and far.

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.

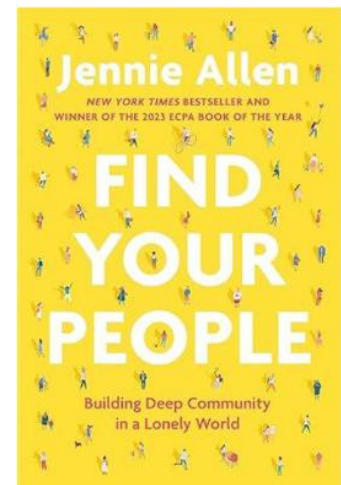
Because while the ache of loneliness is real, it doesn't have to be your reality. Join your sisters in Christ as we gather to explore Jennie Allen's award-winning book (and YES, there will be snacks!) For questions, please email womensministry@firstprestexas.org

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.



Monthly Food Bank

Join us Saturday, July 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 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.

Finance Update



General Fund for May 2025:

	Monthly	YTD
Income & Funds Released:	130,280	464,970
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>(137,517)</u>	<u>(508,600)</u>
Variance	(7,237)	(43,630)
Donors Income:	71,382	387,074
<u>Budget:</u>	<u>75,085</u>	<u>375,425</u>
Variance	(3,703)	11,649

Comments:

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

- continue our Easter season series looking at different ways to explore how we can live for Jesus, through serving, reading, and praying.
- have a wonderful time at the Hendersonville Mission Trip Fundraiser Dinner including brisket dinner, silent and live auction, and live entertainment from our own FPCA Youth.
- gather for the National Day of Prayer service and pray for our nation: its leadership; its military; its businesses; the media; the education of its children; and its churches.
- have the distinct and fun announcement of our first fruits for our Gather Campaign.
- enjoy a luncheon for families with children or youth, connecting with other families and youth and children’s ministry leaders.

As of May, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$242,259.

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.

Children's Ministry

Preschool, Elementary, and KFC



**ELEMENTARY
+ PRETEEN**
JULY 2025

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY	Forgive One Another (Jesus Forgives Peter)	Colossians 3:13
	BOTTOM LINE	Forgive one another.	(Supporting: John 13:36-38; 21:1-19)
	KEY QUESTION	What makes it hard to forgive?	
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY	Pray for One Another (The Church Prays for Peter)	1 Timothy 2:1
	BOTTOM LINE	Pray for one another.	(Supporting: Acts 12:1-19)
	KEY QUESTION	Why is it important to pray?	
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY	Care for One Another (The Good Samaritan)	Galatians 6:2
	BOTTOM LINE	Care for one another.	(Supporting: Luke 10:25-37)
	KEY QUESTION	How can you show someone you care?	
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY	Teach One Another (The Great Commission)	Romans 15:14
	BOTTOM LINE	Teach one another.	(Supporting: Matthew 28:16- 20)
	KEY QUESTION	Who taught you to live like Jesus?	

MEMORY VERSE

**"OUR GOD IS A GOD WHO STRENGTHENS AND ENCOURAGES YOU. MAY HE GIVE YOU
THE SAME ATTITUDE TOWARD ONE ANOTHER THAT CHRIST JESUS HAD."**

ROMANS 15:5, NIRV

LIVE IT OUT

WITH JESUS WE CAN HELP CHANGE THE WORLD



**ELEMENTARY
+ PRETEEN**
JULY 2025

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

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

Our God is a God who strengthens and encourages you. May he give you the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had. Romans 15:5, NIV

Youth Ministry

Hendersonville N.C. Mission Trip

Our group is back from the Hendersonville N.C. Mission Trip, and it was an incredible experience! We had some very long, hard working days, lots of fellowship, and had the opportunity to see God's work first-hand. Prayers were answered and we were able to witness that in multiple ways. Praising God for reaffirming His existence when we seek Him in all that we do! We also took some time to celebrate our hard-working week with a trip to Yogi Bear State Park and a road trip to see some falls. Overall, it was a very successful, God-driven week. We would like to express a heartfelt thank you to the entire congregation for their love, support, and generosity to this trip. Not only did it impact the lives of those who attended, but we were told over and over again how the Hendersonville community could see God working through our presence there.

****Save the Date! July 20th, after service in the fellowship hall for a recap and testimonies from our trip!****



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

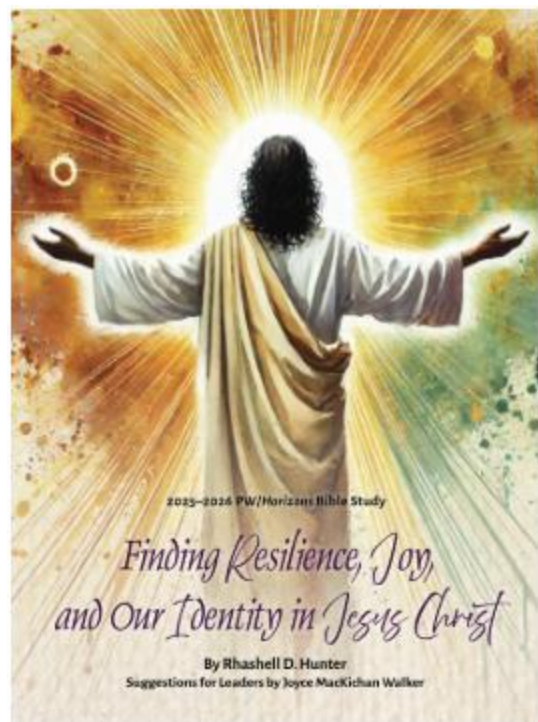
In this Bible study, we will explore resilience. This is modeled for us by several biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, as well as Jesus. So, what exactly is resilience?

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.



Judge Julie Truly and the Case of the Holey Roof

Thanks to everyone who attended "Judge Julie Truly and the Case of the Holey Roof" on Saturday, June 7th! This show was FPCA's third annual youth and children's musical in recent years and was based on the Biblical story of the friends who lowered their friend through the roof to be healed by Jesus. The talented youth and children in the show included many members of our FPCA congregation, as well as several children and youth from the community. The participants rehearsed a few Sunday afternoons in April and May, then spent the afternoons of June 2nd-6th working hard to bring the show to life. The musical leadership team (including volunteers Sonia Ellis, Laura Farnell, Emily Ledesma, Matthew Stringer, Lucia Bitner, Shannon Annen, Bonnie Daniel, as well as church staff Russell Farnell and Shina Heo) is so grateful to FPCA for the support and prayers!



Word search

Independence Day

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

Stars and Stripes	Waterballoon Toss	Independence Day	National Anthem
Fourth of July	American Flag	CrackerJacks	Firecrackers
Hamburgers	Fireflies	Fireworks	Patriotic
Sparklers	Barbeque	Baseball	Veterans
Cookout	Friends	Hotdogs	Peanuts
Sunsets	Family	Smores	Summer

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.

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 August 6th Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Chancel Choir.

Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble

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

Youth Choir

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

Children's Music Ministries

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



Church Leadership

Deacon Meeting

Thursday, September 4, the Diaconate meets.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, August 14, at 7:00 p.m., all teams meet for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting

Thursday, August 28 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 August issue of The News is July 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: The family of Glenda Gould, Charles Arnold, Nancy Brown, Carol Browning, Judy Crowell, Cyprain Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Ken Floyd, Bobbie Fowler, Ivone Franzolin, Joe and Lila Glenn, Chuck Herda, Margaret Landolt, Charlie Laney, Shawn LeBlanc, 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 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.

