

# *The News*

The monthly newsletter of  
First Presbyterian Church Arlington



*“Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us  
and gave himself up for us.”*

*- Ephesians 5:2*

February 2026

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## Newsletter Team

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The News is a publication of  
First Presbyterian Church  
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Deadline for the March newsletter is February 15.

# *What's Happening (and Not Happening) This Summer*

We are just three months away from the 2026 Men's Conference at MO Ranch! This has been a fun revival of a church tradition and we are looking forward to another great weekend Friday, May 1 to Sunday, May 3. Some of the highlights include wonderful Bible study, a variety of workshops to choose from, top 50 rated barbecue on the way down and back, but most of all, it is the intergenerational bonding that occurs from simple things like riding down together in a van. I confirmed I will be leading my brisket workshop once again which comes with free samples! FPCA has had a top 5 group as far as attendees from our church. With just one or two more guys, we can move up a spot this year! If you would like to register or would like more information, please send me an email.

Another opportunity FPCA has had the pleasure of participating in has been the Ulster Project. For just over 30 years, teens from Northern Ireland (Belfast specifically) have come to Arlington, TX to learn and develop lifelong peacemaking skills. I just received the notice that the Project has been canceled this year. I wish it was because the work of peacemaking has been accomplished. But this is more of just an economic reality. The financial burden for families to send their teens here had become too great. For those of us who have learned about the Project and been involved in any kind of way, this is sad news. FPCA had become one of the regular worship sites. And personally, this was the first year we would have been eligible to host a teen. I have not heard what's next or what else will occur. But if and when I do, I will be sure to pass that along.

We can all continue to pray for God's shalom to blanket that nation.

Live Forever,  
Pastor Chris

# Prayer ministry



## The Journey That Shapes Us

February brings us to the concluding weeks of *The Little Man* series, a journey that has carried us from first steps of listening to God's voice to the deeper work of shaping a life in Christ. Week by week, we have watched a simple story reveal a profound truth: transformation happens through small, faithful choices that open the heart to God.

Along the way, we have learned to listen, to obey, to do justice, to love kindness, to walk humbly, to discover blessing, and to live like Jesus. We have watched Christ pray for guidance, clarity and submission to the task and the calling of

the Father.

We now face an opportunity as we approach the season of Lent and a time of preparation of our own. What have we learned about how to prepare and respond?

These final weeks invite us to remember who leads us. Jesus declares, "I am the resurrection and the life," reminding us that every step toward Him is a step into newness, hope, and the life only He can give. And He assures us, "I am the way and the truth and the life," grounding our courage not in our own strength but in His steady, trustworthy path.

The Little Man's story has

shown us what happens when self-will gives way to God's call – when fear yields to faith, when uncertainty meets the presence of Christ, when the road ahead becomes clear because the One who walks with us is the Way Himself.

As we approach the final picture in this series, we do so with gratitude for the journey and anticipation for what God may invite us into next.

Courage is not the absence of fear but the presence of faith. Let us walk forward together, trusting the One who leads us into life as we learn better how to walk humbly with our God.

# February news

## Ash Wednesday service

The Ash Wednesday service will be held Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

## 2026 Leadership teams

### Session Teams:

#### Bequest and Planned Giving:

Judy Northup, Gala Dubois

#### Discipleship:

Clara Formusoh

#### Facilities:

Ron MacLeod, Nelson Abam, Ozzie Garza

#### Finance:

Susan Malone

#### Mission and Evangelism:

Manuel LeBlanc, Marilyn Smith

#### Personnel:

Ron MacLeod, Ozzie Garza,  
Susan Malone, Judy Northup

#### Worship:

Matt Annen, JoAnn Quick

#### Congregational Nominating Team:

Matt Annen

#### Prayer Ministry:

Jamee Shroyer

### Deacon Teams:

#### Congregational Care:

Jan Humphry, Juanice Young, Ken Floyd

#### Fellowship:

Karen Wiggs, Sandy Thomlinson, Scott May, Chelsea Campbell, Donna Vickers, Ed Ayers, Kim Cathro

#### Hospitality:

Margaret Landolt, JoAnn Nichols, Emily Ledesma, Michael Njei, Genoveva Herrera

#### Prayer Ministry:

Mason Kirbie, Sonia Ellis

## Mobile Food Market dates

Arlington Charities is hosting mobile food markets twice in December.

Distribution lines form early and distribution ends when the food is gone.

- Feb. 13 at 8:30 a.m. - St. Andrews United Methodist Church at 2045 S.E. Green Oaks Blvd.

- Feb. 19 at 9 a.m. - Tarrant County College at 2100 Southeast Parkway.

- Feb. 26 at 9 a.m. - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 1500 California Lane.



## Taste Project's Spring Menu Tasting

March 6 from 6 to 8 p.m.

200 North Cooper Street, Arlington

See what Spring will bring at Taste Community Restaurant, a full-service restaurant where everyone is welcome, regardless of financial means. On March 6 from 6 to 8 p.m., Chef Jeff will prepare a series of small bites from our new menu featuring seasonal items. If you are interested in an incredible dinner that benefits the community and Taste Project's outreach to the food insecure, please contact Bob Dawson at 214.415.5396.

# Build connections

## Bible and book studies

(see full descriptions of studies on pages 6-7)

### Tuesday Morning Bible Study for Men and Women

- Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday Women's Bible Study

- Second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

### Men's Bible Study

- Wednesdays at 8 a.m. in room 204

### CWF Women's Bible Study

- Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

- **HOPE Tutoring**  
Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

## Church leadership

- **Prayer Ministry Council**  
Feb. 5 at 1 p.m.

### Team meetings

Feb. 12 at

Fellowship Team meets at 4:30 in room 210

Other teams meet at 7 p.m.  
All teams meet for ministry planning and coordination.

- **Session meeting**

Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.  
in the Parlor

The Session meets to oversee the ministry of the church, worship, budget, and other matters.

## Music Ministries

### Ring of Praise Handbells

- Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m.

### Chancel choir

- Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m.

### Children and Youth Music Ministries

- Sundays at 12:45 p.m.  
with lunch provided at 12:15

## Fellowship and community groups

- **Senior Flexibility Class**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

Come get fit with us! We meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Contact Mary Spencer at 817.689.0526 for more details.

- **Quilting group -**  
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

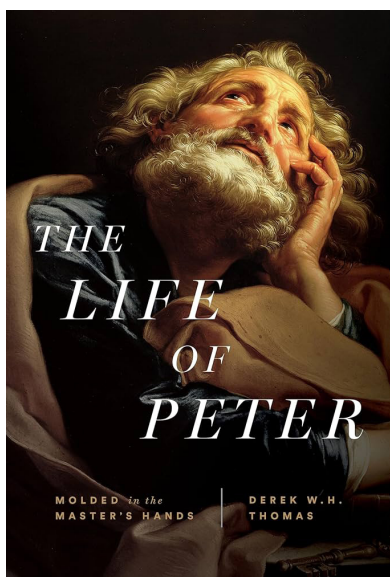
This group meets on Wednesdays to quilt, sew, knit, crochet, embroider, and just enjoy being together. Bring your project and join in! Bring a sack lunch and join the ladies for lunch at noon.

- **Saints Alive Luncheon**  
We will meet Thursday, Feb. 26 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.  
See page 7 for details

# Bible studies and groups

## Tuesday Morning Bible Study for Men and Women

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Fellowship Hall



The new study is *The Life of Peter: Molded in the Master's Hands*. In this teaching series, Dr. Derek W. H. Thomas offers an encouraging portrait of Peter from the Gospels and the book of Acts, with insights from Peter's own writings later in

life. Understanding Peter's transformation from the brash fisherman into the bold Apostle can guide us in pursuit of our own growth in grace.

The study is written by Derek W. H. Thomas who served as a senior minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, S.C. He is Chancellor's Professor of Systematic and Pastoral Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary.

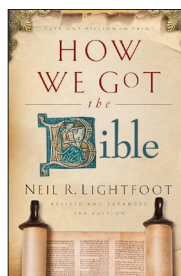
Study guides are provided. If you wish to buy one, the price is \$15.

## Book studies coming to a Sunday School class near you soon



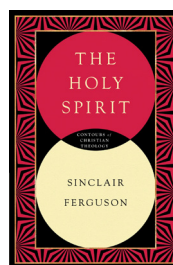
- ***Basic Christianity***  
by John Stott

Basic Christianity is a classic introduction to the Christian faith and a refresher course in Christianity's essentials. Stott explains Christian beginnings, beliefs, and behavior.



- ***How We Got the Bible***  
by Neil R. Lightfoot

A factual account of how the Bible has been preserved and handed down to our generation, including discussions on recent Bible translations.

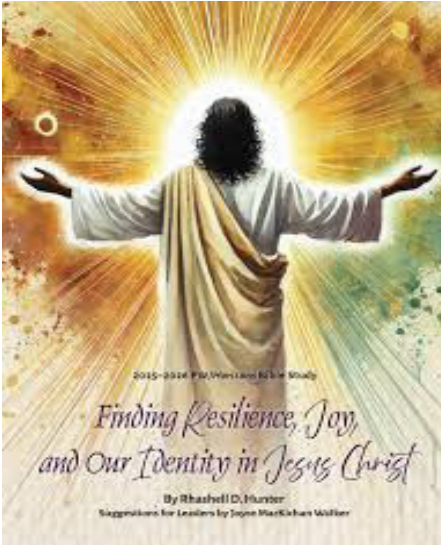


- ***Who Is the Holy Spirit?***  
by Sinclair B. Ferguson

A theological work that explores the identity and role of the Holy Spirit, focusing on the "who" of the Spirit as much as the "what" and "how" of His work. It aims to help readers understand the Holy Spirit as a person, tracing His presence and work throughout scripture from creation to the redemption of believers today.

# Bible studies and groups

## Wednesday Women's Bible Study Second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall



The Wednesday Women's Bible Study resumes their Bible Study meetings. The study is the Horizon's Presbyterian Women's study *Finding Resilience, Joy, and our Identity*

*in Jesus Christ*. In this Bible study, we will explore resilience modeled for us by several biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, and Jesus. The Bible study is also about finding joy in a chaotic world. Trusting in God when we are in trying times can fill us with glorious joy and peace. We will also seek to rediscover our identity in Jesus Christ.

We welcome all women. The group meets monthly on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Questions? Please reply to Debbie Richardson (817.675.2867) or der817@gmail.com or Sheri Quick (sheriq@aol.com).

## Men's Bible Study Wednesdays at 8 a.m. in room 204

The Men's Bible Study group meets every Wednesday morning at 8 a.m. in room 204. Men of all ages meet and enjoy a time of fellowship, study, and prayer. The group is currently studying *The History of Israel: Deuteronomy to Kings*. All men are invited to join this study.

## CWF Women's Bible Study Wednesdays at 7 p.m. online

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

## Saints Alive Luncheon Thursday, Feb. 26 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Come one, come all: Please come and join with us for Saints Alive! We will have a Saints Alive potluck lunch and fellowship Thursday, Feb. 26. Saints Alive is a bring-your-favorite-dish luncheon at 11:30. (Come early if you'd like to visit before lunch.)

# January joys

1. FPCA hosted the MLK Hubert Moss Ecumenical Service on Sunday, Jan. 18 with messages, music, and worship from faith leaders throughout Arlington.



2. Women's Ministry launched 2026 with a "New Year, New Beginnings" brunch Jan. 17. The event taught members about the discipline of service.



3. More than 150 households streamed a recorded worship service online Jan. 25 when FPCA was closed due to winter weather.



4. Officers elected to serve in 2026 were ordained and installed during worship service Jan. 11.

# Community outreach

## Arlington Life Shelter Needs:

- **Food**

**Donation Pick Up Helper:** We need someone who can travel to food establishments in the area to pick up food items and deliver them to the shelter.

- **Provide a**

**Meal:** Grab a team, faith group, or your family and friends and cook a meal for residents. We need Food Team Volunteers to purchase, prepare, and serve meals. Email [alice.morris@arlingtonliveshelter.org](mailto:alice.morris@arlingtonliveshelter.org) for meal guidelines and available dates.

- **PALS:** Partners of Arlington Life Shelter is an auxiliary group that raises funds for the shelter and provides special events such as birthday and holiday parties for the residents.

For more information on how to volunteer, please contact [alice.morris@arlingtonliveshelter.org](mailto:alice.morris@arlingtonliveshelter.org).

## Arlington Charities Needs:

We need your help! Rain or shine. We will be packing and distributing food for our drive-through mobile food markets. Please review the available slots below

Volunteers need to arrive an hour before distribution start time. Please dress for the weather as this is an outdoor event. Visit [arlingtoncharities.org](http://arlingtoncharities.org) to sign up.



## Mission Arlington Needs:

Community Service volunteers are a blessing to Mission Arlington, and they form a substantial team to help us accomplish what we do here every day. Visit [missionarlington.org](http://missionarlington.org) for

specifics.

Our hours are Monday through Saturday: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. No appointment necessary. Please come in whenever it works best for you. You will be working with the administration of food, clothes, household items and furniture – sorting, separating, carrying, and distributing.

Please wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty, and come with a flexible spirit, ready to work wherever you are needed.

## North Texas Food Bank Needs:

We have volunteer opportunities available in many areas including food sorting, mobile pantry distribution, nutrition services, and senior food box distribution. We are also in need of volunteers who can work virtually or work with social media as ambassadors. For more information on opportunities, visit [ntfb.org/get-involved/volunteer](http://ntfb.org/get-involved/volunteer).

# Finance update



## FINANCE UPDATE

### General Fund for December 2025:

	Monthly	YTD
Income & Funds Released:	150,219	1,190,209
Expenses:	(95,738)	(1,119,462)
Variance	54,481	70,747

Donors Income:	119,992	938,395
Budget:	75,085	901,020
Variance	44,907	37,375

### Comments:

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

- celebrate the coming of the Savior with a wonderful Advent Festival featuring our choirs of children, youth, adults, and handbells, along with readings and congregational carols.
- have a beautiful and meaningful Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.
- share ways to serve and help families, along with our homebound members through our Mitten Tree and Dove Tree ministries.
- provide several ways to give through Gifts of Hope, Christmas Joy Offering, and the Christmas Eve Offering for Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services.
- host a great time at our Christmas Party for our children and youth, celebrating all that God has done for our children and youth, throughout the year.
- enjoy fellowship with our sisters in Christ, at the Merry and Bright Night, hosted by the Women's Ministry Team, celebrating the start of Advent and the Christmas season.

As of December, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$64,329. As mentioned last month, we were able to pay off the PILP loan in December, funded by donations. We are debt-free!

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



February 8: The Bible passages will be Matthew 5:13-20 and Colossians 3:12-17. We'll learn how Jesus taught that we're like salt and light—helping others see God's goodness and inviting others to glorify God. Through our good deeds and the way we shine God's love, let's show others the way to God!

## February KFC overview

During KFC in February we will be continuing to learn from the ways that Jesus lived His life and how He did ministry. Jesus' teachings and way of life often went against the grain of what people expected, showing us a whole new way to live and love. While blazing new trails, Jesus never wavered from the path of following God, and he paved the way for us to follow his lead.

## Weekly Curriculum Summaries

February 1: The Bible passages will be Matthew 5:1-12 and James 1:2-12. We'll hear how Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount with a series of blessings for things that seem contrary to what we might naturally want to do. Even when following God's path feels hard, it leads to something greater, so let's trust Jesus even when it's not easy.

February 15: The Bible passages will be Matthew 5:43-48 and Psalm 99:1-5. We'll hear how Jesus taught us to love others—even those who might be unkind—by showing kindness without expecting anything in return, just like God loves us unconditionally. When it's hard to respond with love, we can choose to follow God's example and let God's love take the lead!

February 22: The Bible passages will be Matthew 6:5-15 and Psalm 32:1-7. We'll learn how Jesus taught us to talk to God through the Lord's Prayer, showing that prayer isn't about fancy words or routines but about a real connection with God. By following Jesus' example, let's pray the way Jesus prayed!

## Memory verse:

"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior." - Psalms 25:5a

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

## *Prayer ministry*

### **Prayers for those with health and other concerns:**

Charles Arnold, Carol Browning, Jimmy Chefor, Judy Crowell, Cyprain Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Ken Floyd, Bobbie Fowler, Ivone Franzolin, Marshall Gesner, Jay and Susan Graham, Nancy Guerry, Elaine Keefer, Bob and Beverly Koch, Lisa Landolt, Margaret Landolt, Shawn LeBlanc, Pat May, her son Tim Karnes, and her son-in-law Coleman Rabourn, Richard Price, Carole Ray, Judy Reck, Debbie Richardson, Lisa Scrabeck, Tonya Scrabeck, David Spencer, Drew Stephenson, Susie Thurston, Donna Vickers, John Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Patrick Welborne, Sherry and Shelby Wolfe, Danny Womble

### **Prayers for family in the armed forces:**

Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Wolfgang Van Wie, Christopher Young

### **Prayers for our home-bound members:**

Bettye Burdett, Madge Casselman, Judy Crowell, Margaret Fite, Bobbie Fowler, Lila Glenn, Jay and Susan Graham, Teresa Hanson, Ann Scarr, Becky Speck, Leonard and Mary Jane Tibbetts, Dee Uhri, Biddie Walker

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.