

The News

The monthly newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church Arlington



*“Be a good citizen. Insofar as there is peace and order,
it’s God’s order. So live responsibly as a citizen.”
- Romans 13:1*

July 2026

Contents

July news.....3

Prayer Ministry.....4

Build
connections.....5

June joys.....6-7

Bible studies
and groups.....8-9

Finance update.....10

Children's
Ministry.....11

Prayer list.....12

Newsletter Team

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of

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Arlington

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Deadline for the August
newsletter is July 15.

Milestones

Our nation is preparing to celebrate quite the birthday – 250! While no earthly country is perfect, Christians can exhibit both proud and grateful postures when it comes to July 4th. The denomination's General Assembly is currently meeting and a big topic of concern for them is Christian Nationalism. And I don't know if it's to be provocative or not, but they specifically target White Christian Nationalism. All I know is that I have never encountered that belief system in any of my pastoral leader circles, congregations, anywhere within our denomination, or from any of the many other Presbyterian denominations. GA is so paranoid of displaying any of those tendencies that they decided not to celebrate the fourth in any official way. I remember when I was a commissioner, celebrating the fourth was a fun activity in the midst of lots of not-fun. Personally, I think it's quite sad. But that will not curb my enthusiasm.

Like anything, I think Jesus judges our hearts and our motives. And if we, our families, our communities, decide to attend a parade, ring some bells, and give thanks to God in prayer for our country, and we do so with grateful and humble hearts, it's all good. Happy 250th, America! And thank you God for our imperfect yet wonderful country.

July 1 marks a significant milestone in my career as it marks ten years since I started my call at FPCA. I too will be celebrating that with a humble and grateful heart! I have a multitude of reasons for my gratitude, but one of them is a very generous gift the congregation voted to give me this month.

You see, our Presbytery recommends a sabbatical for pastors who have been at a call for seven years. I was not a math major in college, but I do know that ten is more than seven! Our plan was to apply for a major grant to fund a sabbatical for the summer of 2026. However, by the time we knew about the grant, the application deadline had already passed.

Therefore, we submitted a proposal for the summer of 2027 which will be in my 11th year at FPCA. To serve as a small consolation prize, and a time to relax and recharge, the church voted to give me one month off this summer. So as a heads up, I will be out of the office (and pulpit) starting on July 12 through August 9. I have secured pulpit supply from some of my friends whom I trust, and you have heard before. They always make sure to let me know how friendly and welcoming you are to them. That means so much to me. Another reason to be grateful!

This break will let me help get the kids started back to school for the fall. While we do not have any major plans, there will be a little bit of traveling and absorbing lots of Vitamin D! Thank you for this break that I know will help fuel me for, who knows, maybe another ten or more years!

Live Forever,

Pastor Chris

July news

Ulster Project Farewell Celebration July 10

The Arlington Ulster Project is sad to announce that

after 31 years of hosting teens from Belfast, Northern Ireland, the project has come to an end. To commemorate all that we have achieved over the years, we're hosting a farewell celebration in honor of our volunteers and host families. Everyone who has been involved with the project is welcome to attend. There will be a closing service, barbecue dinner, and Irish music. Beer and wine will also be provided. There will be door prizes too. No cost to attend.

Join us Friday, July 10 at 6 p.m. at St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church at 5819 W Pleasant Ridge Road in Arlington. Please scan the QR code to RSVP.

PCHAS School Supply Campaign

PCHAS has already begun our Back to School Campaign to provide school supplies to children and youth in our programs. Our goal is to serve 100 children in Hillsboro.

Most are younger (elementary age), but we want to have some items for older siblings as well. To order from the Amazon wishlist, scan the QR code.



Mobile Food Market Dates

Arlington Charities is hosting mobile food markets three times in June.

Distribution ends when the food is gone.

- July 11 at 8:30 a.m. - St. Andrews United Methodist Church at 2045 S.E. Green Oaks Blvd.

- July 16 at 9 a.m. - Tarrant County College at 2100 Southeast Parkway.

- July 23 at 9 a.m. - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 1500 California Lane.

Give God One Percent

Each Monday we will "Give God One Percent." One percent of your 24-hour day is 15 minutes. Let's take 15 minutes – from 10 to 10:15 a.m. each Monday – to be in prayer, wherever we are. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that others are praying with you at exactly that time.

Thank you for supporting VBS!

Vacation Bible School served more than 30 children June 1 through 5 who grew in their faith while having fun and fellowshiping. Thank you to all our volunteers and to those who provided snacks and water!

Welcome CMF July 19

FPCA will dedicate and inaugurate a chapter of Christian Men of Faith during worship Sunday, July 19. Please join us in celebrating these men who gather in fellowship to deepen their faith.

Prayer Meetings Begin in August

Join us in the Chapel for monthly meetings of focused prayer. Look for details on dates and times in the bulletin and

Prayer ministry



The How-to of Prayer: Where do we begin?

The Little Man is still with us in the Fellowship Hall hallway. His story hasn't gone silent. The question is simple: is he finished with you? His journey has always been about discovery that awakens the heart and reshapes a life. And yes, this absolutely speaks to prayer.

Every disciple begins somewhere, but the beginning is never the end. The Christian walk opens with a glimpse of truth, but it must lead to revealing, which leads to surrender, which leads to transformation, which leads to praise. That is the arc of The Little Man and of every believer who chooses to follow Christ as Lord.

The Little Man's story ultimately leads us there: to praise as the first word, the last word, and the truest word of a life with God.

When we look at our own life's journey,

as we look at The Little Man's, do we see it culminating in true presence, in true understanding, in true praise? It is also a beginning of a lifestyle of prayer that begins the day, carries us through the day, and gives fresh meaning each day. Begin your day with a prayer of praise; praise Him continually for what He is doing; praise Him every day for what He has done.

Below are some inspired prayers of praise directly to God. Learn to use them to inspire your own.

"I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable." (Psalm 145:1-3 Also, Psalm 63:1-4; Psalm 86:8-10; Psalm 92:1-4)

Build connections

Bible and book studies

(see full descriptions of studies on pages 8-9)

Tuesday Morning Bible Study for Men and Women

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

Women's Ministry Book Study

- Mondays this summer at 6:30 p.m. See page 9 for more information

Men's Bible Study

- Wednesdays at 8 a.m. in room 204

CWF Women's Bible Study

- Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Church leadership

Team meetings

Teams will not meet in July. Meetings will resume in August for ministry planning and coordination.

- **Session meeting**

Session will not meet in July. Meetings will resume in August to oversee the ministry of the church, worship, budget, and other matters.

Music Ministries

Chancel choir

- Chancel choir will not have Wednesday evening rehearsals in July.

Ring of Praise Handbells and Children and Youth Music Ministries will not rehearse during summer.

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 Sarah Wright at 972.345.6402 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.

- **The Naomi Group** -
Every third Sunday after worship

The Naomi Group is a fellowship of church widows who go to lunch after worship each third Sunday. Contact Jim Shroyer at jim@firstprestexas.org with questions.

June joys

1.



1 through 4. Youth and Children's Music Ministries produced "What's Up, Zak?" June 6 in the sanctuary. The musical was based on the Biblical story about Zaccheus. More than 30 children and youth rehearsed for several months to prepare for the performance. The musical was directed by Laura Farnell and Sonia Ellis, with lots of help from parents and volunteers.

2.



3.



4.





5. Lesigah Formusoh and Zora Anyambod enjoy the Spring Into Summer luncheon, sponsored by the Fellowship Team. The luncheon, held June 14, kicked off FPCA's summer season.

6. FPCA members serve at the Arlington Night Shelter June 12. The Mission and Evangelism Team organizes a group each month to purchase food, prep, and serve at the shelter.

7. Holland and Kennedy VanderVeen check in for Vacation Bible School, a time of fun, joy, learning, and growing in faith.

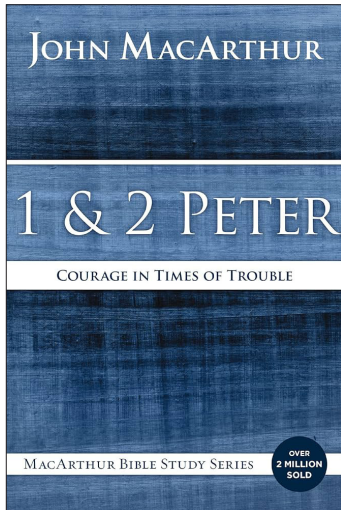


8. FPCA hosted Vacation Bible School June 1 through 5. Youth Ministry students assisted with songs, games, and play for the campers.

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 *First and Second Peter* by John MacArthur.

After a quick review of the history of the Bible, we will begin our study of first and second Peter by John MacArthur and video by David Guzik.

"In the first letter, Peter reminded be-

lievers of the many blessings available to them because of their sufferings," MacArthur writes. "In the second letter, he warned them against false teachers who were invading their churches and teaching deceptive doctrines."

Study guides are provided and available for purchase for \$8.

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.

Wednesday Women's Bible Study

Meets the second Wednesday of each month, except during summer

****Order your books now for Fall****

All women welcome! Join us for learning, fellowship and service.

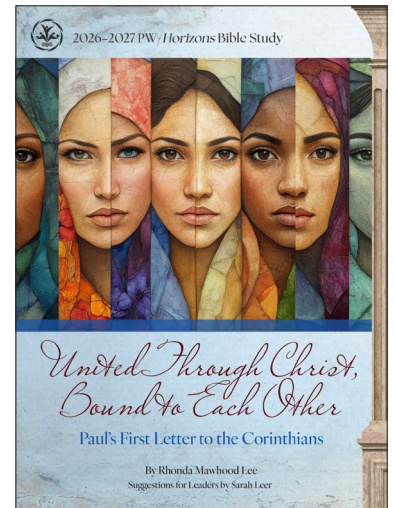
Order your study guide this month. Books are \$15 each to be paid when you pick up the book.

Please contact Debbie Richardson (der817@gmail.com or 817.675.2867) if you have questions.

This Fall's book is *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians*.

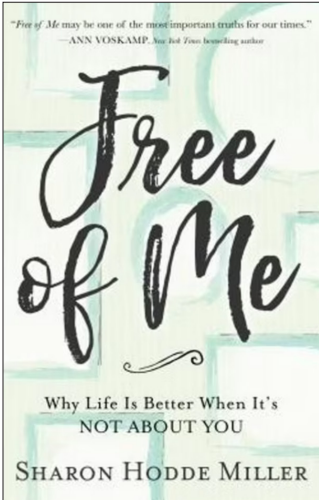
Paul wrote at a time when Christians expected Jesus' imminent return; he challenged his friends to be ready. Two thousand years later, the church is still waiting, still affirming that Jesus will return, and still proclaiming that this world has been transformed by God's life-giving love. Our challenge remains to live in ways that demonstrate our trust in the resurrection.

This Bible study will raise many questions while providing few direct answers. Those, you will seek yourself through prayerful reading, thinking, and discussion. This study hopes that unity in Jesus Christ will guide the group and inspire you, together, to do everything in love.



Bible studies and groups

Women's Ministry Book Study Meets Mondays this summer at 6:30 p.m.



We had so much fun last year that we're going to do it again! You're invited to the Summertime Literary and Potato Chip Snack Society. As we continue in this year's pursuit to develop a heart for service, join your sisters in Christ as we

gather to explore Sharon Hodde Miller's book, *Free of Me*.

We will learn how to move from living a life based on the world's vision, which focuses on self, into a bigger, Jesus-centered vision, guiding toward true fulfillment and purpose.

Our first night will be our book club Kickoff Party Potluck--bring your favorite dish and let's celebrate the start of summer! (We'll provide snacks the rest of the summer.)

You can find the book on Amazon, Christianbook.com, Mardel, or anywhere books are sold. Please register so we know you're coming under the Ministries tab at firstprestexas.org. For questions and meeting locations, please email womensministry@firstprestexas.org

Our remaining meeting dates:

Monday, July 13, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, July 27, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, August 10, 6:30 p.m.

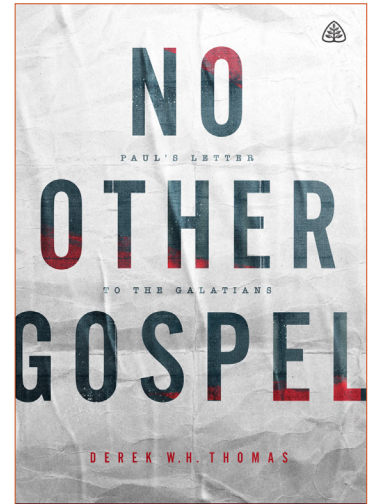
Friendship Sunday School Class

Meets Sundays at
9:45 in room 214

Beginning the first week of June, the Friendship Class will study the book of Galatians.

"When false teachers were distorting the gospel among the churches in Galatia, the Apostle Paul wrote an impassioned letter in order to defend the message of God's grace in Christ."

In the study *No Other Gospel*, Dr. Derek Thomas walks us through the background, teaching, and importance of the letter to the Galatians. "He encourages Christians to stand firm and rest in Christ



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.

No Saints Alive in Summer

Join us again in September when we renew our potluck fellowship lunches.

Finance update



FINANCE UPDATE

General Fund for May 2026:

	Monthly	YTD
Income & Funds Released:	123,304	460,321
Expenses:	(68,088)	(367,132)
Variance	55,216	93,189
Donors Income:	119,907	432,496
Budget:	75,338	376,690
Variance	44,569	55,806

Comments:

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

- beautifully explore through our sermons, the identity of the Church as “Living Stones,” a family, a body, and a Spirit-led community, concluding with an encouraging look at “What Comes After Pentecost?”
- come together in joyful anticipation, on Pentecost Sunday, adorned in red, as we celebrate the enduring presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- host a Spiritual Gifts Assessment and Ministry Fair on to help members discover their unique talents, and to connect those gifts with service opportunities at FPCA.
- 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.
- celebrate our graduating seniors at FPCA, and the way they have been a representation of Jesus Christ to their peers and the world.
- kick off summer with an end-of-the-school year party for youth members and friends, enjoying games, food, friends, and swimming.

As of May our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$326,006.

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

July KFC Overview

Nothing brings a family together – or stirs up some friendly drama – like a family game night! Just like in games, family life can have its own ups and downs, whether it's with our given or chosen families. In this four-week series, kids will explore how Abraham's family navigated challenges and blessings while learning how we can care for our families, serve them well, and remember that we're all part of God's family.

As they do, kids will learn that we can believe God's promises, we can pray for our families, we can trust God to provide, and we're all welcome in God's family.

Weekly Curriculum Summaries

July 5: The Bible passages are Genesis 12:1-5, Genesis 13:1-18, and Psalm 145:8-14. This week, kids hear how God called Abram to move away from home to Canaan with his family. A new board game promises family fun, but only if everyone gives it a fair shot!

This week, we'll hear how God made a big promise to Abraham, asking him to faithfully step into the unknown. This promise was for his whole family and future generations, including us, so even when we don't know what's ahead, we can believe God's promises.

July 12: The Bible passages are Genesis 18:20-33, Genesis 19:15-29, and Psalm 65:1-8. This week, kids hear how Abram asked God to spare Lot's family instead of rolling the dice. Game night starts off great until someone suddenly "forgets" the rules, and before you know it, it's game over!

This week, we'll see how Abraham still cared for Lot and prayed for his safety, even after they parted ways. His story reminds us that a way to love our family is by talking to God about them because we can pray for our families.



July 19: The Bible passages are Genesis 21:1-6, Genesis 22:1-14, and Psalm 139:1-12. This week, kids hear how God gave Abraham and Sarah a son named Isaac and it was their turn to show faith in God. Waiting your turn is tough, especially when you want to win.

This week, we'll see how Abraham and Sarah waited a long time for God to give them a son and how Abraham later showed great faith in a difficult moment. Their story reminds us that God knows our needs and cares for us, so we can trust God to provide.

July 26: The Bible passages are Genesis 25:19-34, Genesis 27:1-33, and Romans 8:31-39. This week, kids hear how Jacob and Esau always made moves to win against each other. Family game night can get messy when people play favorites or don't treat each other fairly.

This week, we'll hear how Jacob and Esau's family had their own set of problems, like trickery, favoritism, and jealousy. But God's plan for them was bigger than their mistakes, and the same goes for us because we're all welcome in God's family.

Memory Verse:

"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love."
- Ephesians 5:1-2a

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, Kimberly Davis, Cyprain Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Ken Floyd, Bobbie Fowler, Ivone Franzolin, Marshall Gesner, Jay and Susan Graham, Nancy Guerry, Joann Hanson, Elaine Keefer, Bob and Beverly Koch, Pat May, her son Tim Karnes, and her son-in-law Coleman Rabourn, Mathias Mbeng Ndip, Cathy Osbourn, Richard Price, JoAnn Quick, Carole Ray, Judy Reck, Lisa Scrabeck, Tonya Scrabeck, 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, Lila Glenn, Jay and Susan Graham, Teresa Hanson, Marcia Rober, 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.