

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH *of San Angelo*

**Know God**  
fpcsanangelo.org

**Love God**

**Share God**  
Newsletter for January 2023

Dear Friends and Family of First Presbyterian:

Well, as it happens every year, the holiday season is behind us and the New Year beckons. And like many of you, I'm thinking of how I might rid myself of some of the extra holiday poundage that I've accumulated around my mid-section. Oh the freedom that holidays bring to eat and drink with wild abandon! But now... the scale shows the consequences! How can I re-engage in the disciplines of temperance and perseverance, both to limit what I eat and drink as well as to exercise consistently? It seems an annual tradition...

But as your pastor, I always have other things on my mind. The physical challenges that most of us share are always combined with spiritual challenges that should concern all of us. How will we re-engage with spiritual disciplines that will help us to grow in our faith and freedom in Jesus Christ?

And in this New Year, I wonder how our church might become stronger in our acts of service, both to one another and in our community.

In his book, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, Eugene Peterson writes about the Psalms of Ascent (120-134). Each Psalm of Ascent – the songs that pilgrims would sing on their way up to Jerusalem – becomes an opportunity for us to practice “discipleship in an instant society.”<sup>1</sup> Chapter 5 studies Psalm 123, a song that teaches us about service:

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us. Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Our soul has had more than enough of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

Peterson emphasizes the position of the servant, looking up to God, “The servant assumes a certain posture, a stance. If he or she fails to take that posture, attentive responsiveness to the master’s commands will be hard.”<sup>2</sup> As we are called to be servants of God, we must remember to look to God as the One who both provides all we need while giving us the commands that we must endeavor to complete.

While Jesus came from heaven to earth to serve his people:

God is not a servant to be called into action when we are too tired to do something ourselves, not an expert to be called on when we find we are ill equipped to handle a specialized problem in living.... God is not a buddy we occasionally ask to join us at our convenience or for our diversion. God did not become a servant so that we could order him around but so that we could join him in a redemptive life.<sup>3</sup>

Peterson continues. “Too often we think of religion as a far-off, mysteriously run bureaucracy to which we apply for assistance when we feel the need. We go to a local branch office and direct the clerk (sometimes called a pastor) to fill out our order for God. Then we go home and wait for God to be delivered to us according to the specifications that we have set down.”<sup>4</sup>

When we are first looking to have our own needs met, rather than looking to serve one another through faith, we pervert the love and service of Christ. All too often we think that others exist to serve us, to meet our needs. And when we treat others as our servants, when we break the bonds of service to others, when we think we are above serving others first, Peterson argues that we actually lose out on the freedom that Jesus desires for us. “Freedom is on everyone’s lips. Freedom is announced and celebrated. But not many feel or act free. Evidence? We live in a nation of complainers and a society of addicts.”<sup>5</sup> Prioritizing our desires, we become slaves to our own sins.

A note from the Pastor continued...

But the Psalm sings of a different way.

“Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us!”

And as we ask God for mercy, we must extend mercy to others. And how better to show mercy than to serve? If God chooses to serve us, should we not then learn better how to serve others?

Peterson writes, “The Christian is a person who recognizes that our real problem is not in achieving freedom but in learning service under a better master. The Christian realizes that every relationship that excludes God becomes oppressive. Recognizing and realizing that, we urgently want to live under the mastery of God.”<sup>6</sup>

Our church is learning this lesson.

I am so pleased that so many of you are involved in our ministry of service to the poor and to the homeless of our community. Let me be the first to say that this ministry is not easy nor is it simple. But in the complexities of learning to love the least of these, we will always be confronted with the complications of loving those who are often, by the world’s standards, unlovable. Many questions and challenges remain: Why do we serve those who choose not to work? How can we address mental illnesses? How do we protect the vulnerable while confronting patterns of violence and addiction? I don’t know the answers to these questions, but in our service to others, we are growing in our understanding of how God loves and serves us.

And at the same time, we must learn to better serve each other. And we serve each other best when we worship well together. As Peterson writes, “The word *latreia* means ‘service,’ the work one does on behalf of the community. But it also is the base of our word *liturgy*, the service of worship that we render to God. And it is precisely that service that is logical, reasonable. The service we offer to God (in worship) is extended into specific acts that serve others.”

When we worship well together, we learn how to serve one another. And when we serve one another, we will worship well together.

As this new year begins, let us learn that freedom does not consist in doing whatever it is we want whenever we want to do it. As my waistline can attest, there are consequences when one doesn’t respect limits. True freedom, however, exists when we learn to serve God and serve others.

Let 2023 be a year of freedom.

For the Joy!

<sup>1</sup>Eugene H. Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2000), 12.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., 61.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., 62.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., 62.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., 65.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., 65.



# WEIRD TRUE

A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.

A shrimp's heart is in its head.

Wearing headphones for just an hour could increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times.

The "sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick" is believed to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language.

It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.

If you sneeze too hard, you could fracture a rib.

Some lipsticks contain fish scales.

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing (when using the proper position of the hands on the keyboard; Hunting and pecking doesn't count!).

A shark is the only known fish that can blink with both eyes.

"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

Maine is the only state that has a one-syllable name.

## Stewardship News!

If you haven't turned in your commitment cards, please do that as soon as you can.

## Children's Ministry



## Youth Ministry NEWS

### Sunday Morning Youth Connect Group Donuts, Bible Study, and Games

Starting January 8th youth will meet in the Commons after the 9 O'clock worship service and then walk over to the youth building together. Please watch your remind app for updates and upcoming plans.

Contact Morgan Moore with questions or for more information [morganhealeymoore@gmail.com](mailto:morganhealeymoore@gmail.com)



# Upcoming EVENTS

Jan. 2nd Church Office Closed  
 Jan. 4th Choir and Handbells Start Back  
 Jan. 8th Two Service Start  
 1st Service 9:00 am  
 Sunday School 10:15 am  
 2nd Service 11:15 am  
 Nursery Available 8:45 am  
 Jan. 15th Ordination of new Elders  
 Feb. 22nd Ash Wednesday Service  
 Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Service

THANK YOU

First Presbyterian Church;

Thank you for the beautiful sanctuary flowers you sent us last week! It was such a sweet surprise, and we enjoyed our visit with Lanee! Thank you for thinking of us!  
 Liz & Devin

First Presbyterian Family;

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Thanksgiving lunch, you helped make it a success! Merry Christmas!  
 Love, The Deacons

Dear FPC;

Thank you for supporting West Texas Counseling & Guidance as we continue to serve more individuals and families here in our community, across the Concho Valley and beyond. We cannot do this important work without you.  
 Your Friends at WTCG

Dear FPC neighbors;

We want to thank you for your support this past year! Your participation with our Navigation Days has been so helpful. We look forward to another great year!  
 Happy Holidays! Mike Burnett CVCAA

Dear First Presbyterian Church;

Thank you! The Christmas season is a time to remember all that we are thankful for, and YOU are one of them. Thank you for ALL you do for us! You are wonderful people! With Love, Tent City ~ Red, 'Lil Bit, KO, Dustin, Chevy, Melody, Big Mike, Mike, Jimmie, Elly, Charles, Dianna, Todd, Tabitha, Lalo, Brandon, Richard, Jose, Krystal, Victoria, Becca, Joe, Shone, Kenneth & Kaleb.

Ushers &  
Greeters  
MINISTRY

## Fabulous January Ushers

**January 1**

*Dennis Grafa  
 Lane & Lacy Allison*

**January 8**

*Don & Bette Allison  
 James Huffman  
 Doran Reynolds*

**January 15**

*Mike & Carin Taylor  
 Ronny Hooker*

**January 22**

*Devin Albert  
 Mary Boster  
 Vic Choate*

**January 29**

*Gabriella Spraggins  
 Pat Reagan*

**We Appreciate YOU!**



We are looking for more ushers and greeters for Sunday mornings. Please contact the church office at 325-655-5694 for more information.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>* Communion 8:30a Sunday Morning Prayer 9:15a Connect Group 9:15a Connect Group Youth 10:30a Worship 12p Sack Lunch 5p Young Adult Connect Gp 6p Children's Music 7p Connect Group ~ Cargile</p>	<p>2</p> <p>No MDO 3p Basket ball 5p Basketball</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3p Basketball 5p Basketball</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6a EMBS 8:30a Angel Academy 12p Kairos Group 2p staff meeting 3p Basketball 4:15p handbells 5p Praise Team 5:15p Choir 6p Volleyball</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10a Thursday Bible Study 3p Basketball 5p Basketball 5:15p Worship Committee Mtg</p>	<p>6</p> <p>3p Basketball 5:30p Basketball 7p Volleyball</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9a Scouts ~ Youth Bldg</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30a Sunday Morning Prayer 9a Worship (Traditional) 10:15a Connect Group 10:15a Connect Group Youth 11:15a Worship (Contemporary) 12p Sack Lunch 5p Young Adult Connect Gp 6p Children's Music 7p Connect Group ~ Cargile</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8a Angel Academy 3p Basketball 5p Basketball</p>	<p>10</p> <p>3p Basketball 5p Basketball 5:15p Diaconate Mtg</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:45a EMBS 8:45a Angel Academy 11a Soup Kitchen ~ Tina 12p Kairos Group 3p Basketball 4:15p Handbells 5p Praise Team 5:30p Chancel Choir 6p Volleyball 7p Basketball</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10a Thursday Bible Study 3p Basketball 5p Basketball</p>	<p>13</p> <p>3p Basketball 5:30p Basketball 6p Volleyball</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30a Sunday Morning Prayer 9a Worship (Traditional) 10:15a Connect Group 10:15a Connect Group Youth 11:15a Worship (Contemporary) 12p Sack Lunch 5p Young Adult Connect Gp 6p Children's Music</p>	<p>16</p> <p>No MDO 3p Basketball 5p Basketball 5:15p Stewardship</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8a SAF Filming-Chapel 3p Basketball 5p Basketball 5:15p Session</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:45a EMBS 8:45a Angel Academy 11a Soup Kitchen ~ Tina 12p Kairos Group 3p Basketball 4:15p Handbells 5p Praise Team 5:30p Chancel Choir 6p Volleyball 7p Basketball</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10a Thursday Bible Study 11a M.E.T.S. Lunch 3p Basketball 5p Basketball</p>	<p>20</p> <p>3p Basketball 5:30p Basketball 7p Volleyball</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9a Scouts ~ Youth Bldg</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30a Sunday Morning Prayer 9a Worship (Traditional) 10:15a Connect Group 10:15a Connect Group Youth 11:15a Worship (Contemporary) 12p Sack Lunch 5p Young Adult Connect Gp 6p Children's Music 7p Connect Group ~ Cargile</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:30a Angel Academy 9a Soup Kitchen 3p Basketball 5p Basketball</p>	<p>24</p> <p>3p Basketball 5p Basketball 5:15p Session</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:45a EMBS 8:30a Angel Academy 3p Basketball 4:15p Handbells 5p Praise Team 5:30p Chancel Choir 6p Volleyball 7p Basketball</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10a Thursday Bible Study 3p Basketball 5p Basketball</p>	<p>27</p> <p>3p Basketball 5:30p Basketball 7p Volleyball</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30a Sunday Morning Prayer 9a Worship (Traditional) 10:15a Connect Group 10:15a Connect Group Youth 11:15a Worship (Contemporary) 12p Sack Lunch 5p Young Adult Connect Gp 6p Children's Music 7p Connect Group ~ Cargile</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:30a Angel Academy 9a Navigation Day ~ Tina Church van 3p Basketball 5p Basketball</p>	<p>31</p> <p>3p Basketball 5p Basketball</p>				



## January Birthdays

1/02	Kristen Byrd	1/15	Megan Timerman	1/23	Brian Treadwell
	Michaela Zimmerman	1/16	Bub Williams	1/25	Brendan Byars
1/04	Layne Futvoye	1/17	Sarah Grafa		Cathy Cobb
	Warner Phillips		Chelsea Sturm		Gordy Day
1/05	Chris Kappelmann		Lydia Uherik	1/26	Sherri Jones
	Katherine Lauer	1/18	Robert Coffey		Cherry Beth Luedtke
1/06	David Pascoe		Billy Craddock	1/27	Katie Dahl
1/08	Natalie Craddock		Barbara Rogers	1/28	Angela Day
1/09	Jackson Moore		Phillip Schneemann		Macy Massey
1/10	Todd Henderson		GeNelle Willis	1/29	Susie Gibson
1/11	Randy Holt	1/19	Rachel Clark	1/30	Bridget Scott
1/12	Elizabeth Little		Jim Cobb		Deborah Smith
	Mike Taylor	1/20	Lauren Bell	1/31	Amy Hill
1/15	Cody Scott		Brady Winn		Janet Phillips
	Keith Swiderski	1/20	Troy Bradley		

## February Birthdays

2/2	Georgia Hart	2/12	Albert Allred		Joseph Cortese
	Allison Hooker		Kay Kneisler		Emery Holt
	Leslie Mackie	2/13	Richard Crisp		David Reilly
	Michaela Pascoe	2/15	Penny Roberts	2/22	Drew Darby
	John Rigdon	2/16	Sterling Cole		Bill Proctor
2/4	James Huffman		Stella Craddock	2/23	Bruce Baxter
2/5	Jamie Akin		Landon Halfmann		Catherine Palmer
	J.D. Cook		Jane Samuelson		Doran Reynolds
2/6	Kerbey Johansen		Nancy Short		Shawn Sellers
	Watt Lasater		Taylor Winn	2/24	Kirby Dahl
	Joe Smith		Lincoln Wall		Barby Easley
2/7	Dennis Grafa	2/17	John Cargile		Margot Giesecke
	Rod Winn		Leslie Lasater		Bill Vanoss
2/8	Karys Albert	2/18	Chandler Smrkovsky	2/25	Wes Langerhans
	Rhonda Clark		Vincent Ward		Lillian Smrkovsky
2/9	Renae Barnett	2/19	Mark Woods	2/26	Graham Zipper
	Judith Hirschfeld	2/20	Julie Quam	2/27	Devin Albert
	Kendall Mull		Gabriel Welch	2/28	Dessie Davis
2/10	Mikel Doyle	2/21	Don Allison	2/28	Rick Hooker
2/11	Galen Akin		Mark Cooper		



# **ATTENTION**

## **NEW SERVICE AND TIMES SUNDAYS**

**1st Service 9:00 am**

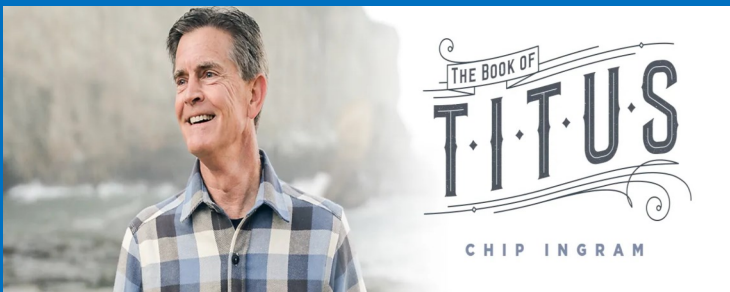
**Sunday School 10:15 am**

**2nd Service 11:00 am**

**Nursery available @ 8:45 am**



## **Upcoming Connect Group Opportunities**



Thursday Morning Connect Group ~ New Study  
Starting January 5th @ 10 am in the Parlor. We will study the short but powerful book of Titus, with Chip Ingram, a strong Bible teacher. Everyone is invited to join us. We want women and men of all ages to come have a great fellowship with us, helping one and all learn more about the Word.  
For more Information email [glenda.kunath@gmail.com](mailto:glenda.kunath@gmail.com)

January 8th the Sunday Morning  
Connect Group will start a new study on

**COLOSSIANS**

**10:15 - 11:00 am**

**in the Parlor, all are welcome!**

Contact Yvonne Kappelmann @  
[ykappelmann@gmail.com](mailto:ykappelmann@gmail.com) or  
Nancy Cargile @ [johncargile3@gmail.com](mailto:johncargile3@gmail.com)  
for additional information.

# Connect Groups

*Let's do life together!*

*Definition of discipleship: Our intentional response to Jesus' invitation to "Come follow me." Growing in our relationship with Jesus (Loving God) Joining Jesus on His mission (Loving others) So that...  
We become Jesus followers who make Jesus followers.*

Sunday Morning, 10:15 - 11:00 am - Church Parlor - Yvonne Kappelmann and Nancy Cargile are leading. Contact Yvonne at [ykappelmann@gmail.com](mailto:ykappelmann@gmail.com) or Nancy at [johncargile3@gmail.com](mailto:johncargile3@gmail.com).

Sunday Morning, 10:15 - 11:00 am - Youth Center - David Welch, Billy Craddock, and Morgan Moore leading. We will be going through the books of the Bible, learning how the whole Biblical narrative points to Jesus. Please contact Morgan Moore at [morganhealeymoore@gmail.com](mailto:morganhealeymoore@gmail.com)

Sunday Evening, 5:00 - 7:00pm - At FPC - David & Kirsten Welch leading. Contact David at [davidrwelch13@gmail.com](mailto:davidrwelch13@gmail.com).

Cargile Connect Group This group will meet at the Cargile home Sunday evenings at 6:00pm Please contact John or Nancy Cargile at [johncargile3@gmail.com](mailto:johncargile3@gmail.com) for more updated information. All are welcome!

Women's Bible Study - 10:30 - 12:00 Noon - Every other Tuesday. We do various studies in conjunction with Christian Fellowship Baptist Church. Contact Yvonne Kappelmann at [ykappelmann@gmail.com](mailto:ykappelmann@gmail.com).

Men's Wednesday Morning Connect Group meets Wednesday, 6:45am in Rm 210 under the teaching of Ross Dawkins, this men's group digs into Scripture and enjoys meaningful fellowship. Contact Lee Puckitt at [lwp@wcc.net](mailto:lwp@wcc.net).

BEMA discussion Group: Will resume in January. Stay tuned for more information. You can also contact Morgan Moore at [Morgamhealeymoore@gmail.com](mailto:Morgamhealeymoore@gmail.com).

Thursday Morning, 10:00 - 11:30am - Church Parlor - Glenda Kunath leading. FMI contact Glenda at [glenda.kunath@gmail.com](mailto:glenda.kunath@gmail.com).

Mets Connect Group This fellowship group meets on the third Thursday of every month in the Commons for lunch. In addition, this fun group goes on outings together occasionally, to see the wildflowers, enjoy a wine tasting, or gather at Painting with a Twist. Contact the church office at 325-655-5694 FMI.

***Sponsorships  
have opened for  
2023 Chancel Flowers.***

Reserve your Sponsorship today at:  
[fpcsanangelo.org](http://fpcsanangelo.org)  
or [church.office@fpcsanangelo.org](mailto:church.office@fpcsanangelo.org)  
or  
Call 325-655-5694

