



# Celtic Cross

The *Celtic Cross* is published once a month. News items intended for a specific issue should be submitted by noon on the Sunday prior to the last Wednesday of each month.

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Editor: Chandler Hall

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**Dear FPC Denton Church Family,**

Some months I find more than one message I want to share with you—and that is the case for this month.

From our Wednesday morning Bible Study on the Book of Isaiah, here is a “gem” to ponder: “In accomplishing humanity’s salvation it was God who would suffer the violence of humanity, rather than humanity who would suffer the violence of God!”

This little “gem” is from Louise Kraft based on 1 Corinthians 15:

Absent from the body  
Present with the Lord!  
Absent from our pain  
Limitations and frustrations  
Present with the Lord!  
Absent from our worries  
Confusion and sorrows  
Present with the Lord!  
Where tears are wiped away  
Joy is restored  
And ALL is well!!!



My last “gem” comes from my *One Good Word a Day* devotional: The word of the day is BUT. “But for God, my life would look nothing like it does now. Whether we’ve known God our whole lives or just started a relationship with him recently, we can all appreciate his mercy and love that meet us every day. The truth is we were all dead because of our sins, but because of Jesus, we now have life. And hope. Each of us has had turning points where God changed us, and grew us, bringing us from death to life.”

Blessings! Debbie

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**A “Shrove Tuesday” Celebration—On Sunday!**  
Prepare our hearts, minds, and *stomachs* for Lent



# Love Notes from Pastor Debbie

This week has been COLD! Evening temperatures in the TEENS! But spring is coming! I know that Punxsutawney Phil said six more weeks of winter—but what does he know about Texas weather---that can throw off temperature numbers like lottery numbers: 61, 24, 71, 19, 50, 42. We have something to be PROUD of—we collected 861 units of food for the Denton Christian Preschool for the students and their families. That is AWESOME! We want to THANK Cheryl Briggs for sending out prayer requests on the prayer chain for many, many years. THANK YOU! And THANK YOU to Katherine Mehaffey for taking over sending out those precious prayer requests! March begins with PANCAKES FOR BREAKFAST on March 2. On March 5, is our ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE. And—there is more—check out the rest of the Celtic Cross! Welcome to DR. MALCOLM MATTHEWS who is adding so much to our worship music!

## Here are the readings for March:

**March 2, 2025:** Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday. Communion. Readings: Psalm 99. Exodus 34: 29-35. Luke 9: 28-43a. 2 Corinthians 3: 12-4:2. Sermon Title: “Glory Reflected” Sermon Text: Exodus 34. Theme: Glory of God, Worship.

**March 5, 2025:** ASH WEDNESDAY. Readings: Psalm 51: 1-17. Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17. Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21. 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10. Sermon Title: “Return to Me!” Sermon Text: Joel 2. Theme: Repentance

**March 9, 2025:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent. Readings: Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16. Deuteronomy 26: 1-11. Luke 4: 1-13. Romans 10: 8b-13. Sermon Title: “Temptations” Sermon Text: Luke 4. Theme: temptations.

**March 16, 2025:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent. Readings: Psalm 27. Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18. Luke 13: 31-35. Philippians 3: 17-4:1. Sermon Title: “Our Citizenship”. Sermon Text: Philippians 3. Theme: Citizenship.

**March 23, 2025:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent. Readings: Psalm 63: 1-8. Isaiah 55: 1-9. Luke 13: 1-9. 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13. Sermon Title: “Thirst for the Lord” Sermon Text: Psalm 63. Theme: Discipleship, Thirst for God.

**March 30, 2025:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent. Readings: Psalm 32. Joshua 5: 9-12. Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32. 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21. Sermon Title: “Forgiven”. Sermon Text: Psalm 32. Theme: Sin and Forgiveness.



## Souper Bowl of Caring Final Score

Thanks to your generous donations, First Presbyterian Church donated **861** food items to Denton Christian Preschool for our annual food drive through Souper Bowl of Caring. With nonperishable items ranging from macaroni and cheese to soup, each student was able to take home a large tote bag stuffed to the brim with food.

The students took a mini fieldtrip to the narthex, where Pastor Debbie taught them about the purpose of the Souper Bowl of Caring. As they headed back to their class, the student teachers and preschool volunteers helped carry food down to the education wing, where the food was packed into bags.

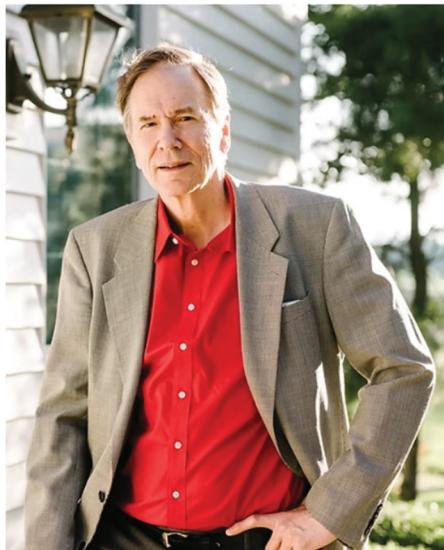
Each student received approximately 39 food items. Thank you again for your generosity!



# Community Lenten Observance at First Presbyterian

## *Experience the Drama of Scripture!*

MARCH 23, 4:00 PM



Dr. Allan Mosher presents the Lenten portion of The Gospel of Mark by memory, Ch 9-16 In the majestic, enduring King James Version of 1611

*"My purpose for presenting dramatic recitations is twofold: to help people familiarize themselves with The Greatest Story Ever Told, while also experiencing the words of Scripture in an imaginative and memorable way. My prayer is that the Bible will come alive for the listeners."* - Dr. Allan Mosher

Dramatic Biblical recitation: using only the Word of God, the text is expressed in various "voices" with gesture and staging.

### Select Reviews

*"Dr. Mosher's presentations of scripture are not only amazing recitations, but also insightful and thought-provoking experiences that almost seem to place you in the room with the authors of the books as they are inspired to write the Word of God."*

– Stephen West, Church Music Minister | Cortland, Ohio

**Dr. Mosher will also present the letter of 2 Peter during the morning worship service, 11:00 am.**

*"Peter urges us to stand firm in the teachings and grow in our faith, love and service to God."*

*"Allan is not only an actor, he conveys his heart-felt devotion to The Word of The Lord with an engaging presentation. He has been a blessing to this church and he will also be to yours."*

– Pastor Frederick H. Gilbert,  
Independent Methodist Church  
New Castle, Pennsylvania

# March 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Pancake Luncheon 12 N Transfiguration of the Lord 	3	4 Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM Saved, Chapter 12 & 13	5 Bible Study 10:00 AM Ash Wednesday 7PM	6	7 Grief Share 2:00 PM	8
9 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship Lent 1 11 AM	10	11 Session 7:00 PM	12 Bible Study 10:00 AM	13	14 Grief Share 2:00 PM	15
16 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship Lent 2 11 AM	17	18	19 Bible Study 10:00 AM	20	21 Grief Share 2:00 PM	22
23 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Deacons 10:30 AM Worship Lent 3 11 AM Celtic Cross Deadline Dramatic Bible Recitation 4PM	24	25	26 Bible Study 10:00 AM Women's Luncheon, The Great Egg 11:30 AM	27	28 Grief Share 2:00 PM	29
30 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship Lent 4 11 AM	31					



A series of room signs and wayfinding signs are gradually being installed throughout the main building and Erwin Hall. In addition to helping visitors locate important spaces such as the restrooms, these signs will help clarify the spaces used by the many wonderful groups who share our facility.

## We Welcome Our Interim Organist Dr. Malcolm Matthews!



Malcolm Matthews, who earned a doctoral degree in organ performance from the Eastman School of Music, is one of only four organists to have been awarded the prestigious Artist's Certificate in Eastman's century-long history. In addition to his organ studies with David Higgs, he earned a master's degree in harpsichord performance under William Porter and pursued a minor in collaborative piano with Jean Barr.

Dr. Matthews comes to UNT most recently from the faculty of the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee where he served as Adjunct Artist Teacher of Organ and Harpsichord. He also served as associate organist and choirmaster at Christ Church Cathedral in

Nashville. Matthews enjoys collaborative work and often accompanies ensembles and soloists across a broad repertoire. He has performed as a soloist with the Oak Ridge Symphony Orchestra, Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, and Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. A featured artist at national conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society, his accolades include first place at the 2013 Westfield International Organ Competition, second place at the 2012 National Young Artist's Competition in Organ Performance, semi-finalist at the 2016 International Bach Competition, second place at the 2016 OSM Manulife Competition, first place at the 2005 Southeastern Region IV Young Organists Competition and semi-finalist at the 2009 Concours international d'orgue de Lyon.

The Denton Bach Treble Chorale performance "Celebrate Love" was a success! Mission Committee distributed nearly all of the scriptural bookmarks and lollipops, and after enjoying the music, the audience shopped till they dropped at the Valentine's themed mini market.



## In the Kitchen

In 2002, Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church published the revised edition of "In the Kitchen," their favorite recipes. The first edition was published in 1993. The ladies of the church, and some men, provided their favorite recipes.

I hope you enjoy looking back at these glimpses of times past.

Jim Welborn

### Grandmother's Corn Bread (page 187)

1 c. corn meal (yellow preferred)  
1 c. flour  
4 tsp. baking powder  
2 Tbsp. sugar  
pinch salt  
1 c. milk plus  $\frac{1}{4}$  c. water to rinse milk from cup  
1 egg



Mix dry ingredients. Make a well in this mixture and add milk, water, and egg. Grease a 9X9 inch pan heavily. Pour in the mixture and cook at 425° for 25 minutes. The pan may be greased with bacon drippings for extra flavor.

This is a good basic corn bread for making turkey dressing.

Henry G. Huey

# Households for Prayer

**Let us continue to uphold our households in prayer with these members for March 2025:**

Louise Kraft  
Lynelle McConnell  
Martha Meeks  
Paul and Katherine Mehaffey  
Insook Melton  
Carol Nance  
Alexandria Nicholson  
Terry and Marlene Nobles

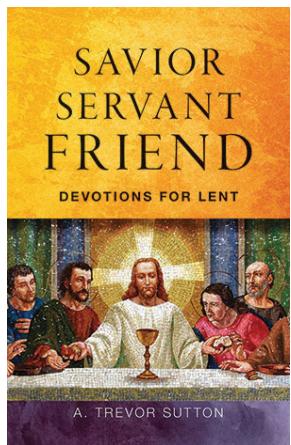
## CHURCH STAFF

*Rev. Debbie H. Spangler, Pastor  
Chandler Hall, Office Manager  
Malcolm Matthews, Organist  
Beverly Hoch, Music Director  
Mike Steinel, Trumpeter  
John Pinder, AV Technician  
Irene Rodriguez, Church Caretaker*

Office Hours: Office Manager, Mon-Fri 9—2 PM  
Pastor Tues/Thurs 9—2 PM

Emergencies/after hours: 940-300-9748 (Elder Mike Steinel)  
CCLI #1859917

**Lenten Devotional  
Coming Soon**



Lent provides us with a perfect chance to explore the extraordinary attributes of our Savior, Servant, Friend, who is Jesus, and marvel at the blessings we receive from his suffering, death, and resurrection. Devotions in this daily devotional for Lent dwell upon what it means to have such a close relationship with such an amazing Lord.

## Friend us on Facebook

FPC: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FPCDentonTX/>

FPC Presbyterian Women: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PWDentonFPC/>

Find us on the web: <http://www.fpcdenton.org>

facebook





## Prayer Concerns

**Health Concerns:** Cheryl B, Gerald B, Helen B, Jan C, Lynda E, Gene F, Pat H, Larry H, Jim K, Martha M, Loretta N, Don R, Irene R, Jann S, Michael S Beverly W; Brian, Mr. Cox, Deloris, Lisa C, Larry C, Mike C, Sherman C, Mary F, Harriet H, BL J, Jane J, John K, Sandy L, Clarice M, Brad S, Linda T, Gene T.

**Continuing Prayers** for those in long-term care residences: Pat and Hal R (Austin), Annemarie V (Fla).

**Sympathy** for the family and friends of Don Richards.

**Other Prayer Needs:** Michael and Sara.

## A poem read at the funeral of Lessley Boyd last month:

“He is Gone” by David Harkins

You can shed tears that he is gone  
Or you can smile because he has lived  
You can close your eyes and pray that he'll come back  
Or you can open your eyes and see all he's left  
Your heart can be empty because you can't see him  
Or you can be full of the love you shared  
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday  
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

## Birthdays



- 5 Larry Harberson
- 8 Linn Welborn
- 10 Chandler Hall
- 15 Kim Tate
- 19 Hal Reed
- 21 Martha Meeks
- 25 Keely Briggs
- 29 John Pinder

## Bible Readings March 2025

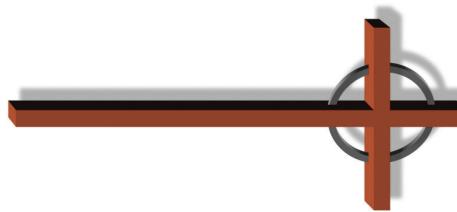
- 1 Matt. 6:1-6
- 2 John 12:27-36a
- 3 John 1:1-18
- 4 John 1:19-28
- 5 Luke 18:9-14
- 6 John 1:29-34
- 7 John 1:35-42
- 8 John 1:43-51
- 9 Mark 2:18-22
- 10 John 2:1-12
- 11 John 2:13-22
- 12 John 2:23-3:15
- 13 John 3:16-21
- 14 John 3:22-36
- 15 John 4:1-26
- 16 Mark 3:31-4:9
- 17 John 4:27-42
- 18 John 4:43-54
- 19 John 5:1-18
- 20 John 5:19-29
- 21 John 5:30-47
- 22 John 7:1-13
- 23 Mark 5:1-20
- 24 John 7:14-36
- 25 John 7:37-52
- 26 John 8:12-20
- 27 John 8:21-32
- 28 John 8:33-47
- 29 John 8:47-59
- 30 Mark 8:11-21
- 31 John 6:1-15

Source: PC(USA) Common  
Lectionary

**Aerobics**  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
Erwin Hall - 8:30 am

### Office Hours

Office Manager M-F - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Pastor T/Th 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
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