

# 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.

Vol. 61, No. 5

May 2024

Editor: Cathy Taylor

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Dear FPC Denton Church Family,

Pentecost Sunday is on May 19 th . I thought I'd share a little from a devotional: Text: John 20:22: "[Jesus] breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit" Reflection: "On the day of his resurrection, Jesus does what God did when Adam was created. God breathed into a human body, made from the dust of the ground, and a "living being" came into existence (Genesis 2: 7). Jesus breathes on his disciples, and the church, the Body of the risen Lord, comes into existence. On Pentecost, fifty days later, the Holy Spirit descends on those same disciples with a sound "like a strong driving wind," enabling them to proclaim the Good News. God is breath, wind, spirit. Breath, however, may be the most compelling way of speaking of the ultimately unknowable One who spoke to Moses from a burning bush and whose name in Hebrew is yod he vav he or transliterated into English as YHWH. When joined to vowels, the name God revealed to Moses can be pronounced "Yahweh." It is usually interpreted to mean something like "the One who is" or "I AM". Another explanation of the meaning of these consonants comes from the way they would sound by themselves--perhaps something like the sound of inhaling and exhaling. God's name, in other words, might simply be the sound of breathing. God is the Breath of Life. God is the Breathing Spirit of the World. We say, "I breathe," but it might be more accurate to say "I am breathed" or "my breath is God breathing in me." Breathing is really not something we do; it is something that happens of itself, usually without our being conscious of it. In a similar way, we are in God and God in us even when we don't notice it or think about it. How great is that! Prayer: "Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love the way you love, and do what you would do." (Breathe on Me, Breath of God hymn). [Daily Reflections for Easter to Pentecost/William Skudlarek] Blessings! Debbie



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### Reminder for April's First Presbyterian Church Denton Women's Lunch:

**Wednesday, April 24th**

**11:30am**

**North Point Cafe**

**2000 W. University Dr.**

**Denton, Tx. 76201**

**Parking is limited at North Point Cafe due to construction. If you'd like to carpool from the church let me know and we will meet there and drive over together. Next month:**

**The Great Egg Wednesday, May 29**

**11:30 AM**

**1800 South Loop 288**

## Love Notes from Pastor Debbie

We are getting a fair amount of rain which we need. Thank you, Lord God, for providing for your creation and creatures! The month of May will be fairly busy with Pentecost and Trinity Sunday as well as the leaving of our beloved music director, organist/pianist. We want each one of them to know how much we love them, appreciate them, thank God for them, pray for them, and look forward to hearing of all their new endeavors. God bless you!



Here are the readings for May:

May 5: Sixth Sunday of Easter. Communion. Readings: Psalm 98; John 15: 9-17; Acts 10: 44-48; 1 John 5: 1-6. Sermon Title: "Obedience" Sermon Text: 1 John 5. Theme: Obedience

May 12: Ascension Sunday. Mother's Day. Readings: Psalm 1 or Psalm 47; John 17: 6-19 or Luke 24: 44-53; Acts 1: 1-11, 15-17, 21-26; 1 John 5: 9-13 or Ephesians 1: 15-23. Sermon Title: "Testimony" Sermon Text: 1 John 5. Theme: belief in Jesus/testimony

May 19: Pentecost Sunday. Wear Red. Readings: Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b; John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15; Acts 2: 1-21; Romans 8: 22-27. Sermon Title: "The Advocate" Sermon Text: John 15. Theme: Pentecost/Holy Spirit

May 26: Trinity Sunday. Wear White. Readings: Psalm 29; Isaiah 6: 1-8; John 3: 1-17; Romans 8: 12-17. Sermon Title: "Born Again" Sermon Text: John 3 Theme: Trinity/born again



## Denton Christian Preschool 33rd Annual Mexican Supper May 2, 2024

All food needs to be pre-ordered by April 25th



FPC Bellingham from Katherine Mehaffey

Doug's Weekly Words on the recent Mission trip to Guatemala—with Katherine Mehaffey

*Greetings friends,*

At 1 Wednesday AM our team of FPC ambassadors got home from Guatemala. It was a rich and full week. We were able to get a very clear picture of the situation in Chitul. We met with their key leaders, the FH staff, and were able to enter into the homes of all the kids the 10 of us sponsored. We were able to see clearly how important the relationship with our church to this community is as we were welcomed and sent off with two well coordinated community events. As well we were able to see the health of the church that ministers to this community. We are excited to share this experience with the church body, we plan to share more in depth on Cinco de Mayo, May 5th after the church service. I am aware that Cinco de Mayo has nothing to do with Guatemala, but it was the most logical Sunday and I can't miss the chance to share the most common Spanish phrase in our culture. Here is a little taste of some of what we will be sharing:

One of the things we did every night is ask the question, "Where did you experience God today?" It was an easy question to answer every night, and it was an encouragement to hear where others saw God. Here is the reality though....I don't think God is more active in Guatemala than God is in Bellingham. I just think we are less aware of it. When we're out of the country, we were looking and open to God on the move. God though, is on the move all around us. We tend to get so caught up in the mundane elements of doing life that we are in the habit of missing it.

I was asked Monday to offer a devotion for the FH (Food for the Hungry) Staff. As we met with this staff of 50 here was what I was lead to share Since it was Eastertide I spoke on the Emmaus Road story in Luke 24. One of my favorite resurrection appearances.

I focused on the part of the passage:

*13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village call Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them. "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.*



Here is the part of the passage that I have never noticed until it was pointed out to me this year by my friend Susan Philips. The disciples are walking along talking about important things, working on matters of the day. Jesus comes near to them... but they do not recognize him....Then the mic drop moment in verse 17– they stood still...other versions say the stopped. This feels so significant to me. I wonder what would have happened had they not stopped and stood still. Maybe we would be without one of the great resurrection appearances of the gospels.

One of the blessings of a trip like the one we just took... it has an element of standing still. We are away from our daily chores and to-do lists. As we stood still, we began to see how near Jesus truly is. We were able to sit in the goodness that is Jesus, even amidst a place of poverty and injustice. Especially there. We saw Jesus all around us, at work in ways we might have missed if we hadn't stopped...Then we shared it with our fellow pilgrims. It was holy ground.

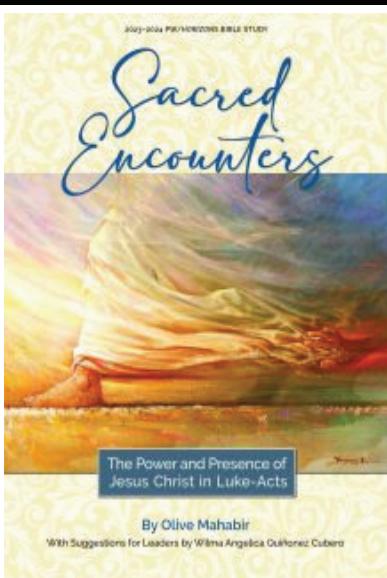
Right now, stand still. Don't do something, just stand there. Breathe in, do it again. What can you notice? Where is God in this moment right now? How is Jesus drawing near? Now do that again later on...and again. Keep stopping, keep returning...If you notice something, figure out a way to share it with your fellow pilgrims.

I wonder if one of the reason that we do not recognize Jesus at work amongst us is our constant busyness. Our deep sense of responsibility. My charge to our performance oriented souls—stop...Stand still. This is the life of the Benedictines. Work hard, then stop seven times a day to pray and worship. Work, then stop and stand still. Work and stop. Eat together and then sleep. Wake and repeat...It is an ancient and powerful prescription for spiritual formation.

Jesus is drawing near to us...

Let us pay attention

Pastor Doug



## Women of the Church - May 7 *Sacred Encounters*

Conference room at 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

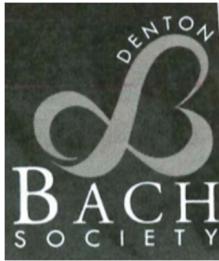
*Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*

By Olive Mahabir

Lesson Nine "People Encounter Jesus through the Work of the Disciples"

Scripture: Acts 9:36-43

The community of faith relies on the power of Jesus Christ in times of crisis.



**Sunday May 5 4PM FPC Sanctuary**

"Showcase Concert" for the 2024 Winners of the Denton Bach Society Young Musicians Competition

After the winners perform, The Women of the Denton Bach Choir and friends will present several songs that "Welcome, Spring!" with guest conductor Tawny Rybowicz. Tawny is music director at Trinity Methodist Church and Harpool Middle School, but "way back in the day" she sang at FPC as a scholarship fellow!!!



From left to right

Kate Stedman~soprano, Christopher Rodriguez~bass, Morgan Minear~soprano, Brian Di Stefano~ bass-baritone, Michelle Augsten~ soprano, Dr. Jacob Augsten~music director, Ezechiel Daos~organist, Tristino Ali~ tenor, Mayia Williams~ alto and Brandon Veazey~ tenor. Not pictured are Kori Miller~soprano and Chandler Hall~ baritone.

Choir Update and fond farewells! They all have expressed their gratitude to the FPC family for our love and support, (and Irene's tacos!) over the past two years+ with us. The bonds of friendship and music-making they have created here will last a lifetime. Their final day with us, as a choir at least, is May 26. Please come to a picnic in their honor on Sunday May 19, 5-8 at Mike and Beverly's home 3819 Monte Carlo Ln, Denton, TX 76210

# May 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM	2 DCP 33rd Annual Mexican Supper-food needs to be preordered	3 Grief Share 2:00 PM	4
5 Birthday: Loretta Norton Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Bach Society "Showcase Concert" 4PM  	6	7 Birthday: Pat Reed  Women of the Church Bible Study 10 AM  Lesson 9	8 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM	9	10 Grief Share 2:00 PM	11 Anniversary: Jim and Glenna Kirkpatrick
12 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Mother's Day	13	14	15 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM	16 Anniversary: Chris and Keely Briggs	17	18
19 Pentecost Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Mission 12:15 PM Musicians Farewell - Mike and Beverly's 5-8 PM	20	21 Session 7:00PM	22 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM	23	24	25
26 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Deacons 10:30 AM Worship 11 AM Celtic Cross Deadline	27	28	29 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM Women's Luncheon 11:30 AM	30	31	

## Mission News



The Mission Committee is hosting a Pet Blessing on the lawn on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Our Daily Bread collection will be delivered in May. Different items were needed this time by the facility staff/workers. Items such as dish soap, cooking supplies, etc. for the preparing of the meals served 3 times a day.

Mission funds were recently sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the wild fires in the Texas Panhandle.

Upcoming event needs. Interfaith Ministries will be collecting monetary donations so they can purchase Back to School Back Packs for students in need.

Committee members, Judy and Sally, have updated/ refreshed the bulletin board in the hallway. Many thanks to them.

\*\*\*Reminder, May 19<sup>th</sup> Special Offering is Pentecost.

Linn Welborn

### Session

Class of 2024

Class of 2025

Class of 2026

Terry Nobles (T)

Beverly Hoch

Carolyn Smith (T)

Vacant

Carol Nance (T)

Jim Welborn

### Diaconate

Linn Welborn

Marlene Nobles (M)

Scott Starkweather

Diana Shenberger

(T) Trustee

(M) Moderator

Join us Sunday

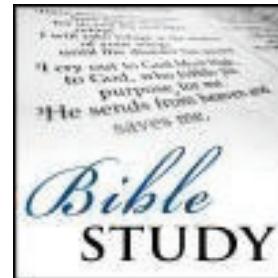
Mornings at 9:30

We have just begun a 22 lesson study of Matthew using the Life Guide Bible Study Guide.

On Wednesday mornings at 10 AM

In the conference room, we are studying Romans using the Life Guide Bible Study Guide

May 12th



### 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

#### Green Rice

(page 104)

- 2 c. rice, cooked in chicken broth
- 1 beaten egg
- $\frac{3}{4}$  c. milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$  c. cheese, grated
- 1 Tbsp. grated onion
- $1\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. salt
- $1\frac{1}{3}$  c. chopped parsley
- 1 box frozen chopped spinach, thawed
- 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire
- $\frac{1}{4}$  c. melted butter



Combine all ingredients in greased baking dish. Bake at 375° for 45 minutes. Serves 6.

Janice Carr

Here are some updates from/about our musicians:

**Katherine Stedman** will receive her Bachelor of Music Education/Choral Emphasis degree from UNT on May 10th. Kate, who has filled positions in the soprano and alto sections for us, is interviewing for teaching positions in elementary and middle school settings. Besides relaxing this summer, she plans to pursue her level 1 Kodály training.

**Christopher Rodriguez** will receive his doctoral hood on May 12. His DMA is in Musical Arts, Vocal Performance with related field of Vocal Coaching. In a busy summer ahead, Christopher will debut with Opera America in a new work *New York Stories* by Robert Patterson. In June, he has a fellowship with Mostly Modern Festival in Saratoga, NY, then returns in July to Czechia, singing Folk music of the country. He is considering a wide range of possibilities for performing and teaching.

**Morgan Minear** graduated last December with a Master's in Vocal Performance from UNT and is applying soon for various professional choral ensembles around the DFW area, but eventually wants to fulfill her goal of being accepted into one of the Army/Military choirs. She also has a desire to move to the east coast to check out the music scene there. "The best thing about FPC for me has been the steady camaraderie and support from parishioners and my dear chancel choir friends. What a joy it has been to sing with so many kind, hard-working musicians. Even when school and life got tough, FPC has been a place I could share music and laughs and was often the highlight of my week over the last two years."

**Brian Di Stefano** will be in their fifth year at UNT next fall pursuing a double degree of Bachelor of Music Education and Vocal Performance. Singing with the Barbershop Chorus Prism in Cleveland this summer is on the docket for Brian.

**Jacob Augsten** will receive his doctoral hood on May 12<sup>th</sup> in Choral Conducting. He and **Michelle** are moving to the Atlanta area, back home, essentially, where Jacob will lead choral studies program at Reinhardt University in Waleska, GA, known as "a serene place to learn and grow." Jacob will be hooded with his DMA on May 12th. Michelle will continue her work in data analysis for a nationwide pediatric dentistry conglomerate. This summer they plan to regroup, relax, settle in and see what God has for them to do next!

**Ezechiel Daos** has completed his master's degree in Organ Performance, with the graduation date of May 10. He has accepted a position at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Atlanta, GA as a recipient of a prestigious Jerry Hancock Internship. He will enjoy some extensive travelling and relaxation this summer.

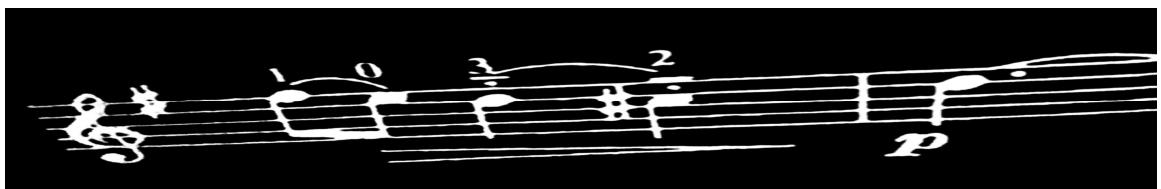
**Tristino Ali** will receive his Bachelor of Music Education/Choral Emphasis degree from UNT on May 10. This summer is rest-time, perhaps singing with "Brothers in Song." Interviews are beginning for teaching positions in elementary or middle schools, and possibly a return to his roots in the San Antonio area. He says a big thank you to FPC, that "becoming involved here as been the best professional decision of my musical life so far."

**Mayia Williams** has one more year left on her Artist Certificate in Vocal Performance at UNT. Meanwhile, this summer finds her first in Charleston, SC at the Spoleto Festival as a Choral Fellow from late May through June. Then she heads to the famous Seagle Music Colon Festival in the gorgeous Adirondacks for the remainder of the summer on the 2024 Roster of Emerging Artists. She will sing Meg Brockie in *Brigadoon*, understudy Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* and portray Lucinda in the new opera *Cold Mountain*.

**Brandon Veazey** will receive his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance on May 10th. He has been accepted to the Program for Dramatic Voices in Berlin this summer. He plans to move back to the Houston area and pursue his music making.

**Kori Miller** is already in Europe with the marvelous acapella group *Voces 8*. Rehearsals in London and performances in Sweden are underway, and a European tour will fill most of the summer.

**Chandler Hall** chimes in: Greetings from Tennessee! I am working towards my MS-LS with a concentration in Music Librarianship as well as my PhD in Musicology. This summer, I'll be in Washington, DC at the archives of the National Cathedral conducting research for my dissertation, which is on services and events of national commemoration held at the Cathedral. The dissertation explores (through music) the changing attitudes and relationship between the Cathedral and the federal government. I should graduate with my masters in May 2025 and my PhD in May 2026. It has been such a treat being part of the FPC family these last three years. It has been incredibly meaningful to be able to express myself musically for such a supportive congregation, and I will cherish these wonderful times. ~Chandler



# Households for Prayer

Let us continue to uphold our households in prayer with these members for

May 2024  
John Pinder  
Hal and Pat Reed  
Don Richards  
Christopher Rodriguez  
Irene Rodriguez  
Judy Royal  
B.K. Schlesinger  
Ron and Diana Shenberger

The next Celtic Cross deadline is May 26. Send your news and articles to [Newsletter@fpcdenton.org](mailto:Newsletter@fpcdenton.org). Please call if you have questions or need to make sure an article gets published

## CHURCH STAFF

*Rev. Debbie H. Spangler, Pastor  
Pat Edell, Church Secretary*

*Jacob Augsten, Director of Music - Ezechiel Daos, Organist  
John Pinder, AV Technician - Irene Rodriguez, Church Caretaker*

Office Hours: Administrative Secretary, Mon/Wed/Fri 9—2 PM  
Pastor Tues/Thurs 9—2 PM  
Emergencies/after hours: 940-300-9748 (Elder Mike Steinle)  
CCLI #1859917

## Friend us on Facebook

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

facebook

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

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





## Prayer Concerns

**Health Concerns:** Cheryl B, Gerald B, Helen B, Jim C, Jan C, Lynda E, Gene F, Mary F, Pat H, Jim K, Louise K, Pat M, Martha M, Don R, Irene R, Judy R, Jann S, Michael S. Price and Margaret B, Shirley and Mike C, Brenda C, Larry C, Sherman C, Kevin F, Bob H, Bob I, BL J, Sandy L, Clarice M, Robin and Alana, Linda T, Carol W, Craig W, Gladden and Lydia W, Pat M, Pat R, Annemarie V

**Safety** DCP Children, military personnel and first responders

## May Birthdays

5 Loretta Norton

7 Pat Reed



Pentecost May 19  
Special offering

## Anniversaries

11 Jim and Glenna Kirkpatrick

16 Chris and Keely Briggs



Communion  
May 5

Session meeting—Tuesday, May 21st at 7 PM

Mission meeting—Sunday, May 19 at 12:15 PM

Deacons meeting—Sunday, May 26th at 10:30 AM



## Bible Readings

May 2024

- 1 Matt. 6:19–24
- 2 Matt. 6:25–34
- 3 Matt. 7:1–12
- 4 Matt. 7:13–21
- 5 Luke 12:13–21
- 6 Matt. 13:1–16
- 7 Matt. 13:18–23
- 8 Matt. 22:41–46
- 9 Matt. 28:16–20
- 10 Matt. 7:22–27
- 11 Matt. 7:28–8:4
- 12 Luke 10:17–24
- 13 Matt. 8:5–17
- 14 Matt. 8:18–27
- 15 Matt. 8:28–34
- 16 Matt. 9:1–8
- 17 Matt. 9:9–17
- 18 Matt. 9:18–26
- 19 John 4:19–26
- 20 Matt. 11:1–6
- 21 Matt. 11:7–15
- 22 Matt. 11:16–24
- 23 Matt. 11:25–30
- 24 Matt. 12:1–14
- 25 Matt. 12:15–21
- 26 John 1:29–34
- 27 Matt. 12:22–32
- 28 Matt. 12:33–42
- 29 Matt. 12:43–50
- 30 Matt. 13:24–30
- 31 Matt. 13:31–35

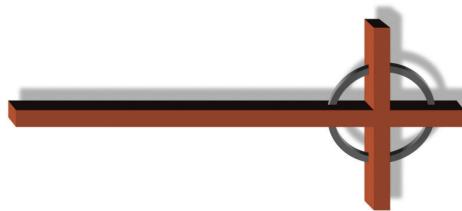
Source: PC(USA) Common  
Lectionary

### Aerobics

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

### Office Hours

Secretary M/W/F - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Pastor T/Th 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
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