

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. 60, No. 10

October 2023

Editor: Cathy Taylor

From a devotional book entitled: Experiencing God's Presence by Chris Tiegreen:

The Scripture reading: Job 23: 14: "He will do to me whatever he has planned. He controls my destiny."

"This statement of faith can be either extremely comforting or extremely terrifying. To Job, it was the latter. He was in a difficult season, and his pleas had not moved God. From all appearances, God's plans would continue on this dreadful course for the foreseeable future. Job's destiny appeared unalterably headed in a frightening direction.

When we are in a season of abundance and promise, Job's declaration is exactly what we want to hear. A hope-filled soul is delighted that God will follow through on His plans and unswervingly control a destiny. We want to know that nothing can thwart His good purposes, that He is keeping us from evil influences and calamitous events. If "whatever he has planned" is positive and in line with our desires, nothing could be more encouraging than His sovereignty.

It's important for our attitude toward God's sovereignty to be influenced by hope regardless of the season we're in. That's easy when we've been seeing the encouraging side of God, but it's profoundly difficult when His goodness has been obscured by a dark season like Job's. Our sense of destiny is only inspiring to us when we fully trust God's goodness. Otherwise, it can be a source of dread.

Expect good things from God—even when you haven't seen many of them lately. Know that He has given you a future and a hope. Let that hope, no matter how hard it is to envision, fill your heart with anticipation. However things look today, the future—your God-ordained future designed by His sovereign purposes—is bright."

The accompanying prayer: "Lord, fill my vision with hope—the expectation of goodness from your hand. You've given promises and offered hope even when I can't see what's ahead. Help me walk in the good purposes you've planned for me. Amen."

Blessings!

Debbie

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Back to School Luncheon

Sept 10 "Back-To-School Lunchbox Bash" with an ABC-book theme was a success. The luncheon was attended by approx. 30 people. There was lively conversation and an ABC 'Bible names' game.



The luncheon was catered from McAlister's Deli. About half the cost was donated through gifts.

Love Notes from Pastor Debbie



As I write this note, it is supposed to be the first day of Autumn—and it's 97 degrees. But then that happens in Texas. Some places in the US have already seen a first snowfall! But it is gradually getting cooler and blessedly we are getting some much needed rain. We have World Communion Sunday coming up October 1st. On October 8th, we will have an Oktoberfest luncheon after church. On October 29th, we will have a "Trunk or Treat" in the parking lot at 5:00 p.m. Sounds like a perfectly wonderful beginning of the Fall Season to me---and I hope to you too!

Here are the readings for October:

October 1, 2023: World Communion. Communion. Exodus 17: 1-7; Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16; Matthew 21: 23-32; Philippians 2: 1-13. "Truth and World Views"/Various texts.

October 8, 2023: 19th Sunday after Pentecost. Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Matthew 21: 33-46; Philippians 3: 4b-14. "The Law of the Lord"/Exodus 20 and Psalm 19 texts.

October 15, 2023: 20th Sunday after Pentecost. Exodus 32: 1-14; Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23; Matthew 22: 1-14; Philippians 4: 1-9. "The Golden Calf"/Exodus 32 and Psalm 106 texts.

October 22, 2023: 21st Sunday after Pentecost. Exodus 33: 12-23; Psalm 99; Matthew 22: 15-22; 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10. "God's Glory"/Exodus 33 text.

October 29, 2023: Reformation Sunday. Deuteronomy 34: 1-12; Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17; Matthew 22: 34-46; 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8. "Reformed and Always Reforming"/Various Texts.

Mission News

Have you ever pulled up to an intersection and seen someone with a sign requesting help? We all wonder about the right thing to do in these circumstances. We do not encourage giving cash.

The mission committee has also wondered, and did some research regarding what other congregations are doing. We have decided to adapt a plan used by a Dallas congregation that seems to be working well.

If you are interested, we ask you to join us in assembling FPC care bags. In your own home, place items useful to those in need in a gallon size plastic bag. The items suggested by the other congregation are listed below. Include a "business card" for the Little Free Pantry. These are available under the tv outside the narthex at church. Place 3 of these bags in your car, and when you come upon someone asking for help, just hand them a bag. Continue the process with 3 more bags as needed or desired. The other congregation asks families to hand out 3 bags every 3 months.

Suggestions for items in the bags:

Granola bars	Peanut butter crackers
Power bars and high protein bars	Crackers
Individual peanut butter containers	Individual pretzel packs
Fruit cups	Raisins
Power aide flavor packets to go in water	Kleenex
Antiseptic wipes	Travel toothbrushes
Female hygiene products	

We were advised not to use anything with cheese, as it does not hold up well.

If after trying this plan and finding it successful, we could expand the idea by ordering items in bulk and assembling bags at the church.

Thank you for considering this effort.

Mission News continued...

One of the worthwhile community organizations that FPC supports when possible is Stepping Stones. This is a peer group for persons with early stage Alzheimer's and other dementias. It is a volunteer organization assisted by T.W.U. occupational therapy students. Concurrent family support groups are facilitated by social workers.

A wide variety of activities provide strategies to improve quality of life.

One of our members, Linn Welborn, is a volunteer and member of the Board of Directors. A former member, Ken Royal, benefited from Stepping Stones services for 10 years while dealing with a frontal lobe dementia associated with Parkinson's Disease.

For additional information, contact Eileen Short, LVSW, 940-453-9784
www.steppingstonesdenton.org

Sunday October 8

Willkommen!

Welcome! Will you come?

OktoberFest Feast at First

Featuring Bierocks

(Say, what?) Bierocks. Oh. Ja. Ja. Ja.



Join us in the Sybil Hopper room after worship for bierocks. Catered event.

Donations welcomed. Fellowship and fun.

October 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM 	2	3 Women of the Church Bible Study 10 AM Conference Room Grief Share 1:00 PM Conference Room	4 Bible Study and Prayer 10:30 AM	5	6	7
8 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM OcktoberFest Feast 12:15PM	8	10 Grief Share 1:00 PM Conference Room	11 Bible Study and Prayer 10:30 AM	12	13 Anniversary: Jim and Linn Welborn	14
15 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Mission 12:15 PM	16	17 Grief Share 1:00 PM Conference Room Session 7:00PM Birthday: Charlie Briggs	18 Bible Study and Prayer 10:30 AM	19	20	21 Birthday: Valorie Frederico
22 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Deacons 10:30 AM Worship 11 AM Celtic Cross Deadline Linda and Bill Cassidy anniversary Theater outing: "The Play That Goes Wrong"	23	24 Grief Share 1:00 PM Conference Room	25 Bible Study and Prayer 10:30 AM	26	27	28
29 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	30	31 Grief Share 1:00 PM Conference Room				

Women of the Church - October 3
Sacred Encounters
The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts
By Olive Mahabir
Conference room at 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM



"The Play That Goes Wrong"

Join us October 22 for the matinee showing of "The Play That Goes Wrong" at the Campus Theater. We will meet for lunch at Cartwright's Ranch House restaurant for lunch right after worship. Contact Beverly Hoch for ticket information. If we get 10 or more, we get a group rate for the tickets.

Trunk or Treat

Join together October 29th in the front parking lot to distribute goodies for Halloween. Help us provide a safe environment for children in the area. You may participate by either distributing goodies or bringing your children or grandchildren.



Upcoming Events

- “The Sacred Veil” November 12, 2023 7:30 PM
Staff Appreciation Luncheon November 19, 2023 12:15 PM
Chime and Dime Luncheon December 10, 2023 12:15 PM



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

Broccoli-Garlic Cheese Dip (page 17)

- 1½ sticks margarine
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 pkg. frozen chopped broccoli
- 1 (6 oz.) stick Kraft garlic cheese
- 1 can mushroom soup



Sauté onion in melted margarine. Place frozen broccoli in onion mixture and heat until it can be broken apart with a fork. Add the garlic cheese (cut into chunks) and the mushroom soup. Stir just to mix and cook, covered, on low flame for approximately 20 minutes or till cheese melts.

Cookbook Committee

Households for Prayer

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

October 2023

Judy Royal
B.K. Schlesinger
Diana and Ron Shenberger
Carolyn and Steve Smith
Debbie Spangler
Scott Starkweather
Kate Stedman
Mike Steinel and Beverly Hoch

Mission Meeting
Sunday October 15
at 12:15 PM

Session Meeting
Tuesday October 17
7:00 PM

Deacons Meeting
Sunday October 22
at 10:30 AM

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>





Prayer Concerns

Health Concerns: Helen B, Cheryl B, Gerald B, Lynda E, Gene F, Pat H, Jim K, Louise K, Pat M, Don R, Pat R, Irene R, Diana S, Michael S. Price and Margaret B, Brenda C, Sam C, Mike C, Sherman C, Connie D, Kevin Falconberry, Bob I, Kathy K, Sandy L, Jackie S, Tammy S, Ann S, Robin and Alana, Gladden and Lydia W, Craig White, Annemarie V, Clarice M,

Safety DCP Children, military personnel and first responders

October Birthdays

- 17 Charlie Briggs
- 21 Valorie Frederico



Anniversaries

- 13 Jim and Linn Welborn
- 22 Linda and Bill Cassidy



The November Celtic Cross deadline is October 22. Please send your news and articles to: newsletter@fpcdenton.org. Call the church office at 940-387-3894 if you have questions or need to make sure an article gets published.

Communion Sunday, October 1



Bible Readings

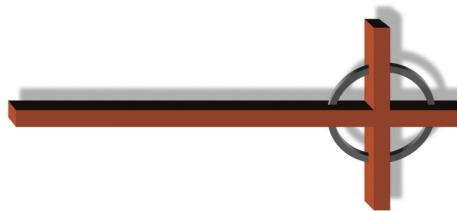
October 2023

- 1 Luke 5:1–11
- 2 Matt. 6:25–34
- 3 Matt. 7:1–12
- 4 Matt. 7:13–21
- 5 Matt. 7:22–29
- 6 Matt. 8:1–17
- 7 Matt. 8:18–27
- 8 Luke 7:11–17
- 9 Matt. 8:28–34
- 10 Matt. 9:1–8
- 11 Matt. 9:9–17
- 12 Matt. 9:18–26
- 13 Matt. 9:27–34
- 14 Matt. 9:35–10:4
- 15 Luke 7:36–50
- 16 Matt. 10:5–15
- 17 Matt. 10:16–23
- 18 Matt. 10:24–33
- 19 Matt. 10:34–42
- 20 Matt. 11:1–6
- 21 Matt. 11:7–15
- 22 Luke 10:1–12, 17–20
- 23 Matt. 11:16–24
- 24 Matt. 11:25–30
- 25 Matt. 12:1–14
- 26 Matt. 12:15–21
- 27 Matt. 12:22–32
- 28 Matt. 12:33–42
- 29 Luke 10:25–37
- 30 Matt. 12:43–50
- 31 Matt. 13:1–9

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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