

# 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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October 2024

Editor: Cathy Taylor

Dear FPC Denton Church Family,

This is the balance of the prayer that I used in my sermon on August 25, 2024. The first part of seven prayers was in last months CC., Repent, Redeem & Restore.

## **The Seven R Prayer**

### **Revive:**

Psalm 23: 1-2a: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures."

The position for this and the next is still one of "asking". We are dependent upon God, our Great Shepherd, for all our provision. We pray in the Lord's Prayer: "Give us this day our daily bread."

Food revives us, doesn't it? If you are hungry, a scrap of bread and maybe a piece of fish will give you strength just as it did those 5,000 that Jesus fed with five loaves of bread and two fish.

And what is our "bread"? Psalm 119: 107 says: "I am exceedingly afflicted; Revive me, O Lord, according to thy word." Psalm 19: 7: "the law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul, the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." The Word of God is our bread and reading it, studying it, and meditating on it will revive us." We have this declaration from Jesus: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35).

Prayer: "Thank you for giving us your words of life found in the Holy Bible. Thank you for sending Jesus to give us your abundant life. Revive me, Lord. I pray for revival in others, in our community, and in the world, Lord." Amen.

### **Refresh**

Again, I turn to Psalm 23: 2b-3a: "He leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul." Not only is God concerned about our physical bodies, he is also concerned about our souls.

Doesn't a nice shower seem to refresh you? A cold cup of water in the summertime heat? Water refreshes us and fire purifies us. This makes me think of two Scriptures: Luke 3: 16: "John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." John's baptism with water symbolized the washing away of sins. Jesus' baptism with fire includes the power needed to do God's will.

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Join us Second Annual Trunk or Treat, Church members will gather in the front parking lot to welcome all for a safe Tric or Treat experience. You may participate by either distributing goodies or bringing your children.

### September 29,

Welcome Jeffrey Snider, guest music leader and Matthew McNeill returning after his "Keyboards of Praise" recital last Sunday in Carrollton, Georgia! Welcome back.

Love Notes from Pastor Debbie

My calendar says fall is here! I'm still not in sweaters yet—unless I'm freezing from the AC! Also, we are now in the last 100 days of the year!

Our Trunk or Treat is on Sunday, October 27! Come join in the fun!

Chandler and I had an interesting experience recently—read Chandler's CHEESE story elsewhere in this newsletter. When I recounted the story for the Mission Committee, Judy Royal said that the outcome was "Cheese Well Spread!" That would be a good title, wouldn't it? God is always at work!

I've had lots of people in need in many different ways. The In-As-Much fund could use some donations if anyone is able. Thank you!

My daughter Jackie, Katherine Mehaffey and I went to see the fifth God's Not Dead movie "In God We Trust". It was good though not as impactful as the first one that premiered in 2014. But the statistics they showed at the end of the movie had to do with the importance of Christian's voting. Our vote, our voice matters as it is Christian values for which we want to vote and be in office! I'll be working the polls again. Remember this: Vote early. You can vote anywhere in Denton County. On Election Day, you must vote at your precinct. My precinct has changed due to increased population in the area. Yours may have changed too. For those that might have difficulty walking or standing, you can do "curbside voting". When you get to the voting precinct, the sign out front should tell you to call and they will send out poll workers to help you vote in the comfort of your vehicle. What a blessing!

Here are the readings for October:

October 6, 2024: 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/World Communion Sunday. Communion. Readings: Psalm 26. Job 1:1; 2: 1-10. Mark 10: 2-16. Hebrews 1: 1-4; 2: 5-12. Sermon Title: "Job is Tested" Sermon Text: Job 1, 2. Theme: Righteousness.

October 13, 2024: 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. Psalm 22: 1-15. Job 23: 1-9, 16-17. Mark 10: 17-31. Hebrews 4: 12-16. Sermon Title: "Why?" Sermon Text: Job 33 and Psalm 22. Theme: Why?

October 20, 2024: 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: Psalm 104: 1-9, 24, 35c. Job 38: 1-7, 34-41. Mark 10: 35-45. Hebrews 5: 1-10. Sermon Title: "God Answers Job" Sermon Text: Job 38. Theme: God/Creation/Glory of God.

October 27, 2024: 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. Readings: Psalm 34: 1-8, 19-22. Job 42: 1-6, 10-17. Mark 10: 46-52. Hebrews 7: 23-28. Sermon Title: "Job is Restored" Sermon Text: Job 42. Theme: God's Healing, Redemption, Restoration.

# Say Cheddar!



## Nothing Can Get Cheddar Than This:

### First Presbyterian Receives Surprise Donation of... Cheese!

What would *you* do with 360 lbs. of cheese? Between processing invoices and making the service bulletin, I received an unexpected and surprising call: "I heard about your food pantry... I'm with Corcoran Trucking and we have some surplus cheese that Win-Co can't take. Can we bring it to you?" What a dilemma! Anyone who has tried to fit a sheet cake into the Sybil Hopper fridge knows that we can hardly accommodate a fellowship lunch let alone a truckful of cheese! And yet, we here at First Presbyterian know about the great need for food in our community. You "Cheddar" believe that I accepted the donation, and soon we had an eighteen-wheeler stationed at the back door. Together, the driver, Pastor Debbie, and I unloaded a quarter pallet of shredded mild Cheddar cheese—360 lbs. in total! Working quickly to find a home for this perishable food, we immediately handed some off to a man in need as he walked by. Denton Christian Preschool took another 100 lbs. to use in the children's lunches, and we took 80 lbs. to dole out for those visiting the Little Food Pantry. Our Daily Bread took the rest, and we have now established a relationship with them to pick up perishable food that is dropped off here. When there's a will, there's a way!

-Chandler Hall, 13 September 2024

#### A Word from Worship

FPC Family and Friends in Faith,

Prepare your palate for God's weekly Sabbath Feast

What's for Dinner? ...11 AM Worship, that is...

Check your email each Saturday

for a Preview of the Menu! ...The Bulletin, that is...including how the music connects with the sermon title and scripture passages

want your email to be added? Contact [beverlyhoch@hotmail.com](mailto:beverlyhoch@hotmail.com)

**On Sunday September 8, the Honorary Life Member Award was given to Carol Nance. She has served as the Women's Bible Study teacher for many years as well as being an Elder. Her life has shown her faith in teaching and outreach to others as well as family.**



## Mission News

The Mission/Growth and Outreach Committee is again sponsoring a Trunk or Treat activity in the parking lot of the church. The event will be held on Sunday October 27 from 5-6:30 P.M. Church members and friends are encouraged to come to the parking lot to ensure a safe and fun experience for the participants. Decorating your trunk is also encouraged and adds to the festive atmosphere. The church has purchased candy for distribution and will have special "branded" bags for the trick-or-treaters to collect their candy. Come join in the fun and invite your friends and neighbors!

Again this year we will be collecting needed items for Our Daily Bread. A collection box will be in the narthex during October and will be delivered in November. The items needed for the winter collection are:

Travel size tissues, shampoo, body wash, deodorant, shave cream and toothpaste  
Bar soap, chapstick, packaged toothbrushes—Tube socks, gloves, hand warmers, plastic ponchos, knit caps and blankets—Dish soap, ketchup, mustard, bbq sauce, syrup, cooking oil, brown sugar—Spices such as cinnamon, chili powder, garlic salt, Italian seasonings

A convenient list will be available at the church to make shopping easier.

The Little Free Pantry is being well used by those in need and contributors from the community. The distribution of emergency food bags by the pastor and church members is also going well. If you would like to participate in either of these mission projects please contact a member of the committee. We would be happy to share information with you!

## Fellowship Opportunities

Sunday October 13, "Celebrate Oktoberfest" Sanctuary 4PM  
Denton Bach Treble Chorale and Autumn Mini Mart  
featuring Greg Klugiewicz, accordionist Tickets at the door.  
(no Second-Sunday Luncheon in October)



October 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM Chapter 2	2 Bible Study 10:00 AM	3	4 Grief Share 2:00 PM	5
6 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Pentecost/World Communion 	7	8	9 Bible Study 10:00 AM	10	11 Grief Share 2:00 PM	12
13 Anniversary: Jim and Linn Welborn Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM "Celebrate Oktoberfest" Sanctuary 4PM	14	15	16 Bible Study 10:00 AM	17 Birthday: Charlie Briggs	18 Grief Share 2:00 PM	19
20 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	21 Birthday: Valorie Frederico Session 7:00 PM	22 Anniversary: Linda and Bill Cassidy	23 Bible Study 10:00 AM	24	25 Grief Share 2:00 PM	26
27 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Deacons 10:30 AM Worship 11 AM Celtic Cross Deadline Trunk or Treat 5-6:30 PM	28	29	30 Bible Study 10:00 AM Women's Lunch 11:30 AM	31		

John 7: 37-39a: “On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow within him. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.” Prayer: “Merciful Lord, unite me to that fountain, that there I may drink of the living spring of water of life and be refreshed in body and in soul. You, O God, are that fountain ever and ever again to be desired and consumed. Always give me this water so that I may never be thirsty again.” Amen.

### Revere

Time to be up on your feet with heads, eyes and hands lifted up in praise.

Psalm 150: 6 simply says “Let everything that has breath (a soul) praise the Lord.”

Chaim Bentorah in his Hebrew Word Study book 2 says that “Hebrew tradition teaches that the Hebrew words for “soul,” *neshamah*, and “breath,” *neshimah*, are related. The soul fills the entire body, and when a person sleeps, it “rises” to draw down life from above. Similarly, with each and every breath that a person takes—as his breath leaves him from below and returns to him from above—he should praise God, because God renews our breath every minute, not just when we are asleep.”

Prayer: “Heavenly Father, I praise you for your infinite greatness and goodness. You are the Creator of heaven and earth, the source of all life and breath. You are the author of life and I am in awe of your creation. You are the Savior of the world and I am amazed at your grace. You are unconditional love. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I worship you!” Amen.

### Rejoice

Ready to get up and dance?

Philippians 4: 4: “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” Ultimate joy comes from Christ dwelling within us. Christ is near, and at his second coming we will fully realize this ultimate joy. He who lives within us will fulfill his final purposes for us.

These notes come from Chaim Bentorah’s Hebrew Word Study book 1; “There are over fifteen words in Hebrew for “rejoice” or “joy.” They reflect various types of joy such as: the joy of the Lord, joy in performing religious ceremony, joy that is expressed outwardly, an inward feeling of joy not expressed, joy that comes from playing, joy in the success of someone else, joy in victory, joy in being with friends or family, shouting for joy, joy expressed by spinning around in a circle.”

“Jesus wants us to bring the message of his love and the cleansing power of his blood to other people. But he also wants us to put down our work and take a little time to just dance with him. Our dancing and rejoicing with Jesus in the beauty of his creation brings just as much joy to him—perhaps more—as the work we do for him.”

Prayer: “Father God, I choose to rejoice and be glad. I rejoice in you always. Thank you for loving me and rejoicing over me. I am redeemed. I come with singing, and praising, and dancing, Lord.” Amen.

May this prayer be a blessing!

Blessings! Debbie

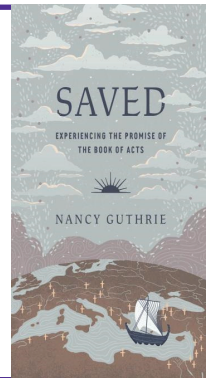
## **SAVED** by Nancy Guthrie

10/1 Women's Bible Study: "Saved," 10:00 AM

Chapter 2 / *Will Pour out my Spirit* pp 27-39

Acts 2:1-47

Questions may be directed to either Beverly Hoch or Carol Nance



### November Fellowship Opportunities

Sunday November 3 "Barefoot in the Park" 2PM

Theatre Denton~ Starring our own Terry Nobles!

10 tickets have been reserved. Want one?? contact Beverly 940-597-8106

Lunch at Cartwright's after church, before the show.

\*\*\*\*\*

All Saints Sunday is November 3

Please submit the names of loved ones

who have passed into glory since November 1, 2023



### **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

### **Spiced Pecans**

(page 11)

- 1 c. pecan halves
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- ½ Tbsp. garlic salt



In a cake pan, melt butter in oven. After butter is melted, add pecans, mixing well. Add garlic salt and Worcestershire sauce. Cook under broiler, stirring often. Drain on paper towel when pecans are golden brown.

Linda Cassidy

# Households for Prayer

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

October 2024

Insook Melton

Pat Miller

Carol Nance

Alexandria Nicholson

Terry and Marlene Nobles

Loretta Norton

John Pinder

Hal and Pat Reed

Coffee and Visiting 10:30

Thank you, Jim and Linn for the treats you provide each Sunday

Extra fill-in-a-goodie opportunities:

Fellowship Committee, Weeks 1, 3, (5) Everyone else, Weeks 2 and 4

## CHURCH STAFF

*Rev. Debbie H. Spangler, Pastor*

*Chandler Hall, Office Manager*

*Beverly Hoch, Music Director*

*Matthew McNeill, Pianist/Organist*

*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

## 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, Jim C, Jan C, Lynda E, Gene F, Mary F, Pat H, Larry H, Jim K, Louise K, Pat M, Martha M, Loretta N, Don R, Irene R, Judy R, Jann S, Michael S. Price and Margaret B, Shirley and Mike C, Lisa C, Brenda C, Larry C, Sherman C, Kevin F, Bob I, BL J, Sandy L, Clarice M, Robin and Alana, Linda T, Craig W, Gladden and Lydia W.

**Sympathy:** Family of Samantha Hunter

**Continued prayers** for those in long-term care residences: Pat M (McKinney), Pat R (Austin), Annemarie V (Fla).

# Birthdays *Anniversaries*

17 Charlie Briggs

21 Valorie Frederico

13 Jim and Linn Welborn

22 Linda and Bill Cassidy



World Communion  
October 6th



Fall Back—Time  
change  
November 3

*Celtic Cross* deadline is October 27 for publication on October 30th. Please send your news and articles to [Newsletter@fpcdenton.org](mailto:Newsletter@fpcdenton.org)

### Advent banner

Recently while cleaning a closet, a number of quilt blocks were discovered made in past years. Many of the people who made these blocks have now died or moved on, but they are still dear to our hearts. We decided to assemble them into an advent hanging for the narthex of the church. We would like to have all in the church participate by making a 9" block to be included. The design can be stitched, drawn, glued, embroidered, whatever you would like. Supplies are available on a table across from the bulletin board at the church—including the 9" blocks. You may also use your own supplies. Blocks previously made are on display for inspiration. Please complete your block and give to Judy Royal by November 1 to allow time for assembly.

**Bible Readings**  
**October 2024**

- 1 Luke 5:12–26
- 2 Luke 5:27–39
- 3 Luke 6:1–11
- 4 Luke 6:12–26
- 5 Luke 6:27–38
- 6 Matt. 14:1–12
- 7 Luke 6:39–49
- 8 Luke 7:1–17
- 9 Luke 7:18–35
- 10 Luke 7:36–50
- 11 Luke 8:1–15
- 12 Luke 8:16–25
- 13 Matt. 15:21–28
- 14 Luke 8:26–39
- 15 Luke 8:40–56
- 16 Luke 9:1–17
- 17 Luke 9:18–27
- 18 Luke 9:28–36
- 19 Luke 9:37–50
- 20 Matt. 16:13–20
- 21 Luke 9:51–62
- 22 Luke 10:1–16
- 23 Luke 10:17–24
- 24 Luke 10:25–37
- 25 Luke 10:38–42
- 26 Luke 11:1–13
- 27 Matt. 18:15–20
- 28 Luke 11:14–26
- 29 Luke 11:27–36
- 30 Luke 11:37–52
- 31 Luke 11:53–12:12

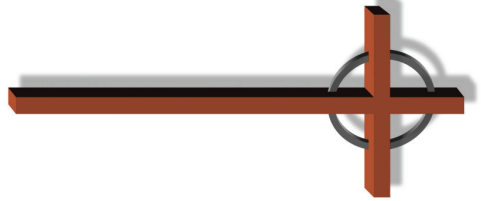
Source: PC(USA) Common  
Lectionary

**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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