

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. 62, No. 8

August 2025

Editor: Joshua Cossette

Dear FPC Denton Church Family,

This month we will take a look at Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit in The Apostles' Creed. Adam Hamilton wrote a book called *Creed—What Christians Believe and Why—Exploring the Apostles' Creed*. Let's review this part of the creed:

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit," (and yes, just like with The Lord's Prayer, there are some differences in words).

Here are some points Mr. Hamilton lifts up:

- ♦ Sources of information about Jesus: "The earliest and most extensive information we have concerning Jesus comes from the 27 documents of the New Testament, nearly all of which were written between A.D. 50 and 95, including the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John."
- ♦ What Christians believe about Jesus: "Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary" gives many people pause in their ability to accept this belief. This was foretold by the prophets and was fulfilled by God.
- ♦ Jesus—Savior, Messiah, God's only Son: "If you struggle to explain or make sense of the Incarnation or the deity of Christ, you are in good company. The church wrestled with these questions for nearly 300 years until finally, at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., they settled on language clarifying what the majority of the church believe." It took time and a lot of "discussion" to come to a consensus. But the basis of the Apostles' Creed was already written by God given through the Holy Spirit to the apostles.
- ♦ Some people have difficulty with the "descended to the dead": "The idea is that Jesus experienced what we experience when we die. But there was more than just his experiencing the realm of the dead. The church also came to believe that Jesus, during the time between his death and resurrection, offered salvation to those in death's clutches since the beginning of the world."

Cont'd on pg. 2

Celtic Cross Index

ITEM	Page
Cover Article	1-2
Pastor Debbie's Love Notes	3
Property Improvements	4
Worship, Bluegrass and BBQ	5
Calendar	6
DCP Garage Sale	8
Mission News	9
In the Kitchen	9
Households for Prayer	10
Staff	10
Prayers and Concerns	11
Birthdays and Anniversaries	11
Bible Readings	12

Cont'd from pg 1.

- ◆ "On the third day, he rose again": "The resurrection of Jesus is a difficult thing for people to believe. The disciples and the early church did not simply proclaim that Jesus was dead and lived on in heaven and in their hearts; rather, they pointed to an empty tomb and noted that Jesus' body was gone. Further, they claimed not only to have seen him but to have touched him and eaten with him at various times during a period of several weeks. The disciples were radically changed by their experiences with Jesus following his resurrection. These men, who had fled when Jesus was arrested and had been hiding behind locked doors the day after his death, became bold and courageous, risking their own lives to proclaim what they had seen."
- ◆ The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament: "There are 80-90 references to the Spirit of God in the Old Testament. In some cases the Spirit of God is said to be what gives each human being life. In several cases the Spirit is clearly the source of creative and artistic gifts. Sometimes the Old Testament teaches that the Spirit is the source of wisdom and leadership."
- ◆ The Holy Spirit in the New Testament: "The New Testament describes a veritable outbreak of the Spirit's work. It starts in the stories of both Jesus' and John the Baptist's conceptions in Luke's Gospel and explodes across the pages of the Acts of the Apostles, as the Spirit falls upon all believers."
- ◆ The Holy Spirit and the Doctrine of the Trinity: "Christians believe in one God. We also believe the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. Christians spent more than 400 years seeking to clarify what they believed and articulating it in the creeds. While the idea of the Trinity is implicit in the New Testament, the word Trinity doesn't appear explicitly until the second and third centuries, in the writings of Tertullian, a Christian author, thinker, and theologian. What is apparent is that the human mind cannot fully comprehend the nature of God."

Is your appetite whetted to learn more? Stay tuned for "I believe...in the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen." next month!
 Blessings! Debbie

Love Notes from Pastor Debbie:

I'm writing this on our first day of 100 degree heat! It's HOT! But this, too, shall pass, and we will soon be into the fall season. I see posts on Facebook longing for the "-BER" months (September, October....) God designed our earth to have seasons for planting, growing, harvesting, and resting—and He meant for us to enjoy all the seasons!

COME BEAT THE HEAT!! Join us in our **4th ANNUAL SUNDAE SUNDAY** with lunch after service featuring ice cream and 'dogs'!

*****WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK/DO OUTREACH AT THESE LOCATIONS AND TIMES COMING UP:**

Lake Forest Village Coffee Lounge, July 30, 10-10:45 AM

Denton Village Dining Room, August 14, 10:30 AM. **RSVP NEEDED**

Lake Forest Village Coffee Lounge, August 20, 10-10:45 AM

Here are the readings for August:

August 3: 8th Sunday after Pentecost. Communion. Psalm 107: 1-9,43. Hosea 11:1-11. Luke 12: 13-21. Colossians 3: 1-11. *"The Prophecies of Hosea"* Hosea 1: 2-10 and Hosea 11; 1-11 texts. Theme: **God used Hosea to "literally" show the people how unfaithful they were and how God pursues us to return to Him!**

August 10: 9th Sunday after Pentecost. Psalm 50: 1-8, 22-23. Isaiah 1: 1, 10-20. Luke 12: 32-40. Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16. *"The Prophecies of Isaiah"* Isaiah 1: 1, 10-20 and Isaiah 5: 1-7 texts. Theme: **Looking at Jesus as: Divine King, Suffering Servant, Coming Conqueror!**

August 17: 10th Sunday after Pentecost. Psalm 80: 1-2, 8-19. Isaiah 5: 1-7. Luke 12: 49-56. Hebrews 11: 29-12:2. *"Interpreting the Present Time"*. Luke 12: 49-56 text. Theme: **Jesus/Return and Reign.**

August 24: 11th Sunday after Pentecost. Psalm 71: 1-6. Jeremiah 1: 4-10. Luke 13: 10-17. Hebrews 12: 18-29. *"The Prophecies of Jeremiah"* Jeremiah 1: 4-10 and Jeremiah 2: 4-13 texts. Theme: **Words of Hope and Restoration from Jeremiah 29-32.**

August 31: 12th Sunday after Pentecost. Psalm 81: 1, 10-16. Jeremiah 2: 4-13. Luke 14: 1, 7-14. Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16. *"Never Will I Leave You"* Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16 text. Theme: **God's faithfulness and compassion.**



We're excited to share that our new signs are up at First Presbyterian Church—and they look fantastic! These beautiful additions brighten our property and make our church even more welcoming to members and visitors alike.

Thoughtfully designed, the colors closely match our original signage to preserve the legacy and rich history of our congregation. It's a small change with a big impact, helping to connect the past with the present as we continue to grow in faith and community.

The updated look complements our grounds and reflects the warmth we strive to offer inside and out. Come by and see for yourself!

Top Left: The new sign in front of the church, showing our regular Sunday schedule as well as an upcoming events section

Bottom Left: The new sign outside Erwin Hall

Right: The new sign outside of the Prayer Garden





Top: Singing along with Blue Grassfire during Sunday Worship service

Bottom: More toe-tapping with Blue GrassFire (Becca Maxwell, bass ; Rachel Yeatts, mandolin and vocals ; Ethan Hope, guitar)



The July 13th service at First Presbyterian Church was filled with joy as Blue Grassfire brought their Bluegrass sound and toe-tapping gospel to worship. It was a morning of heartfelt music, clapping hands, and a few spontaneous "Amen!"

Afterward, we gathered for an incredible and delicious BBQ luncheon. It was so good, in fact, that no one remembered to snap a single photo! The laughter, good conversation and full plates said it all.

We're grateful to Blue Grassfire for sharing their talents and to everyone who made the day such a memorable celebration of faith, fellowship, and food. We hope to welcome them back again soon!

August 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Worship 11 AM					1 Grief Share 2:00 PM	2
3 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM 	4	5	6 Bible Study 10:00 AM B.K. Schlesinger Birthday	7	8 Grief Share 2:00 PM	9
10 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Terry and Marlene Nobles Anniversary	11	12 Session 7:00 PM	13 Bible Study 10:00 AM	14	15 Grief Share 2:00 PM	16
17 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	18	19	20 Bible Study 10:00 AM	21	22 Grief Share 2:00 PM	23
24 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Deacons 10:30 AM Worship 11 AM Celtic Cross Deadline	25	26 Beverly Hoch Birthday	27 Bible Study 10:00 AM Women's Lunch 11:30 AM @ North Point Café	28	29 Grief Share 2:00 PM	30
31 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Chris Briggs Birthday						



Big thanks to everyone who helped make the Denton Christian Preschool Garage Sale a success! From donated treasures to shopping support, your generosity helped raise over \$2,000 to support the work of DCP.

It was a fantastic community effort, and the preschool staff is beyond grateful for all who sorted, hauled, priced, and purchased. Funds will go toward classroom needs, supplies, and enriching learning experiences for our little ones.

Top: Organizing everything in Erwin Hall for the DCP Garage Sale

Bottom Left: More stuff for the DCP Garage Sale!

Bottom Right: Back of sign in front of church, emblazoned with the fish logo and the Greek lettering.

Events like this remind us what's possible when our community comes together. Thank you for making a difference!



Mission News:

The church is preparing for a back-to-school collection to support Denton Christian Preschool, with a list of needed items to be provided soon. In addition, a donation was made to Interfaith Ministries to assist in purchasing backpacks for students returning to school.

Visitor packets containing information about the church have been assembled and are available to be shared with newcomers. Church members are also asked to submit any updates for the church directory to Josh, after which labels will be created to update the current version.

Looking ahead to the holiday season, plans are in place to set up a Christmas card board during Advent. Members are encouraged to participate by sharing a card with their church family. In other mission efforts, Session approved a \$2,500 donation from the Mission Memorial Fund to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to support flood relief efforts in Texas. The recent Pentecost offering raised \$240.

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

Taco Casserole

(page 116)

- 2 lb. lean ground beef
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 can evaporated milk
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 c. enchilada sauce
- 1 can pinto beans
- 1 4 oz. can green chiles
- 1 11oz bag tortilla chips
- 4 c. grated cheese



Brown beef and onion in skillet. In saucepan, heat milk, soups, enchilada sauce, and green chiles until bubbly. Add beans. Crush tortilla chips and spread half into a lightly greased 9X13 inch casserole dish. Cover with half the meat, half the sauce, and half the cheese. Repeat layers. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes or until bubbly.

Cheryl Briggs

Households for Prayer

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

August 2025

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

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Debbie H. Spangler, Pastor
Joshua Cossette, Office Manager
Beverly Hoch, Music Director
Dr. Joan Hubbard, Organist
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

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, Valorie F, Pat H, Larry H, Jim K, Martha M, Loretta N, Irene R, David S, Jann S; Benny, Dennis and Lorri, Dirk, Emma, Jess, Sarah C, Shirley and Mike C, Kristin C, Lisa C, Larry C, Sherman C, Mr. Cox, Mary F, Mary G, Maya M, BL J, John K, Sandy L, Clarice M, Brad S, Charles and Sharon V

Safety for DCP Children, military personnel and first responders. For those who have lost loved ones, their homes, and other belongings as a result of the recent extreme weather. For those traveling for business and pleasure.

Birthdays *Anniversaries*

6 B.K. Schlesinger
26 Beverly Hoch
31 Chris Briggs



10 Terry and Marlene Nobles

Session

Class of 2025

Beverly Hoch

Carol Nance (T)

Class of 2026

Carolyn Smith (T)(C)

Jim Welborn

Class of 2027

Paul Mehaffey

David Storrie (T)

Diaconate

Marlene Nobles (M)

(T) Trustee

Scott Starkweather

(M) Moderator

Katherine Mehaffey

(C) Clerk of Session

Bible Readings
August 2025

- 1 Mark 7:24–37
- 2 Mark 8:1–10
- 3 John 1:43–51
- 4 Mark 8:11–21
- 5 Mark 8:22–33
- 6 Mark 8:34–9:1
- 7 Mark 9:2–13
- 8 Mark 9:14–29
- 9 Mark 9:30–41
- 10 John 3:22–36
- 11 Mark 9:42–50
- 12 Mark 10:1–16
- 13 Mark 10:17–31
- 14 Mark 10:32–45
- 15 Mark 10:46–52
- 16 Mark 11:1–11
- 17 John 5:30–47
- 18 Mark 11:12–26
- 19 Mark 11:27–12:12
- 20 Mark 12:13–27
- 21 Mark 12:28–34
- 22 Mark 12:35–44
- 23 Mark 13:1–13
- 24 John 8:12–20
- 25 Mark 13:14–27
- 26 Mark 13:28–37
- 27 Mark 14:1–11
- 28 Mark 14:12–26
- 29 Mark 14:27–42
- 30 Mark 14:43–52
- 31 John 8:47–59

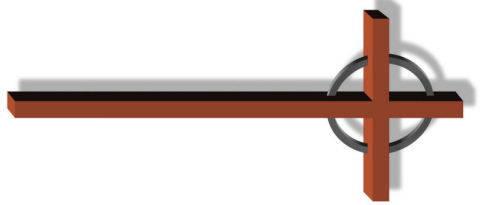
Source: PC(USA) Common
Lectionary

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
Office Phone - 940.387.3894
Fax - 940.387.3877
Emergency - 940.300.9748
Web: www.fpcdenton.org
Email: info@fpcdenton.org



First Presbyterian Church
1114 West University Drive
Denton, Texas 76201
(940) 387-3894

Or current resident