

# The Chimes

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH



## PASTOR'S COLUMN

Summertime! I love the summer. It still (even decades past school) feels like a time for vacation, for a break from the regular schedule, for going out and playing. This summer, of course, has shadows over it—a shadow from COVID-19 and how we should care for our neighbors through this time, and a renewed shadow from our legacy of pain, racism, and inequality. As the Chimes goes out we are reeling from the shocking riots in downtown Salt Lake at the end of May.

What do we, as the Body of Christ along the Wasatch Front, do in the face of all this? In both cases, it is the same steps:

First, we **pray**. Pray for God's wisdom, God's protection, God's guidance. If you find yourself reacting reflexively to these shadows, consider whether your reaction is shaped by God or by something else. For me, I need to keep returning to my knees and spending time with God to focus on HIS agenda instead of my own.

Second, **get informed**. Regarding COVID, your Session has wisely formed a task force that is developing recommendations about how and when we open up, based on input from public health officials, church leaders, theological considerations, and more. Our focus for ALL of our gatherings, both in person and on line, is to draw us closer to Jesus. At the same time, we want our in person gatherings to be safe and to provide excellent worship experiences. Similarly, as we see neighbors crying out in pain, frustration and anger—we should want to learn more about the reasons for that before jumping to conclusions about their experiences. Pastor Chris and I will be offering some suggestions about ways we can learn more and listen better regarding the poison of racism in our lives.

Third, **act** in our local context. Both of these shadows reinforce our need for renewed connections with our physical neighbors. That is why we have gotten the "Neighbor Helping Neighbor" door hangers to make it easy for each of us to reach out to our neighbors (respecting social distancing) and offer our prayers, time for conversation, and help. How great would it be if our congregation becomes known as the "good neighbor" people?

The way to start to connect with anyone is to *care about them*. Don't go to a neighbor with any agenda other than to get to know them. Ask questions. Listen (*really* listen) to the answers. Be curious about them and what is important to them. Offer help and prayer as you are able. Don't feel like you need to rush to a spiritual conversation. The place to start is FRIENDSHIP. Just get to know them and offer acts of care.

Then you can be "naturally supernatural"—if they are struggling with a problem you can say something like: "When I am confronted with something like that, it helps me to talk to Jesus about it. Would it be ok if I prayed about that?" Then if they say yes, go ahead (seriously, go right ahead) and pray with them. Be natural and let God guide your prayer. Don't use the prayer as a cover to teach them anything or beat them over the head with your faith, just ask God to help your friend in this struggle. Then stop!

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Another way to connect with our neighbors is to invite people to get together in small and distanced groups. You can just share something from the grill and a beverage and visit. You could invite them to read the Bible with you. You might be surprised at how curious people are to read the Bible. You can start a Nites In group. It easy! I promise. You can sit around outside and read a short Bible story and then talk about what it tells us about God, people, and how it might change our actions. Visit our Nites In page for more information. <http://fpcslc.org/nites-in/> This does not require preparation or study or background knowledge, but I'm available to help if you need it!

Finally, **keep on talking to God**. Keep praying for guidance, start praying for your new neighbor friends, and keep listening to what God might be teaching you in your prayers and as you read Scripture.

My prayer for each of us is that we will have a wonderful summer and come to September with some new and deepened relationships with our neighbors. God bless you as you bless your neighbors!

Grace and peace to you,

**Pastor Steve**

*pastorsteve@fpcslc.org*

## FROM THE PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

What is implicit bias and what do I do about it?

First of all, what is bias? The dictionary defines this as "prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair." We all have biases. We may be inclined to talk to someone who went to the same college. We may want to buy something we have seen advertised. Bias is a part of being a human being. But implicit bias can drive us to make decisions that have negative connotations for other people without even knowing it.

What is implicit bias? It would probably help to determine what explicit bias is first. Explicit bias is a preference or dislike that you are aware of and either act on or try to hide to be socially acceptable. The killing of someone because they are black, such as a lynching, is explicit bias. Most people would condemn such bias.

But then there is implicit bias. According to the Kirwan Institute "implicit bias refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner." These biases can lead us to assess things both positively and negatively, but without us even knowing they are at work.

We are taught implicit bias. It comes from our surroundings, the people we know, our circumstances, our education, etc. If you grew up in an all-white neighborhood, you probably have a pro-white bias. It is what you know. Cheryl Staats, who has researched implicit bias, writes "implicit biases are robust and pervasive...Everyone is susceptible to them, even people who believe themselves to be impartial or objective, such as judges."

So here is the research. There is an Implicit Association Test that has been administered extensively in America. And the research shows that most Americans display a pro-white/anti-black bias. This means that decisions, laws, legislations, etc. are being made with an anti-black bias and we are not even aware that we are doing it. Even African Americans can display an anti-black implicit bias. This means they have absorbed the negative stereotype of themselves that society has handed them. And this is why we have a problem with racism in this country. Both explicit and implicit bias are at work.

What do we do about this? I can tell you that sitting back and saying "well it is unconscious, I don't mean to do it" is not an acceptable answer. We all can work on our implicit biases and over time a negative bias like anti-black racial bias can change. But it takes work. It takes intentional work. And I cannot stress enough that ALL of us need to do this. No one is exempt. First, get to know your biases better. You can start by taking the Implicit Association Test at [implicit.harvard.edu](http://implicit.harvard.edu) There are several bias tests of different categories. The Race IAT is about half-way down the list. They are not easy to take at times, but stick with it. It may also help to inventory your own experience. Where did you grow up? Who were your friends? Who did you go to school with? What did your parents say about African Americans? What did your grandparents say? Your experience is part of what shapes bias. Then, one thing that changes racial bias is spending more time with people of another race. Again, this has to be intentional

as well as genuine. You can do this through community service, by checking out worship at Calvary Baptist Church (online right now), or by deepening friendships with people of other races in our own congregation. Lastly, you can be part of the voice that calls for change. Imagine how important implicit bias training could be for law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and for law makers? These things are generally not

in place, but could be. The first step to being angry about racism in this country is looking at ourselves. Only once we understand our own biases better can we work on changing them in ourselves and in our society.



**Pastor Chris**  
pastorchris@fpclsc.org

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Income & Expenses

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Total Income and Expenses for the FPC Ministry as of February 29, 2020		
Pledge Income	\$ 120,055	\$ 148,393
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>207,724</b>	<b>214,219</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>207,724</b>	<b>199,881</b>
Monthly Income & Expense		
Pledge Income	30, 013	39,893
Total Income	51, 931	55,549
Total Expenses	51, 931	57,671



**PLEASE REMEMBER  
FPC IN YOUR WILL,  
TRUST, OR IRA**

### AmazonSmile

is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop at smile.amazon.com the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by the customers. It is free for both charities and customers to participate. First Presbyterian Church of Salt Lake City is now one of the charities you may choose to support on AmazonSmile.



### Smith's Rewards

First Presbyterian Church is now enrolled in Smith's Community Rewards Program. For every time you use your Smith's card, Smith's will send First Pres a Donation! Visit [www.smithscommunityrewards.com](http://www.smithscommunityrewards.com) with your Smith's card and select First Pres by entering our Non-Profit Organization Number: 59267. Purchases made using the linked rewards cards will support your registered nonprofit!

**Nancy Savage**  
Treasurer  
nancy@fpclsc.org



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Wed,  
June 10

**Dinner @ Vinny's  
Sandwich Making**  
3:30 pm

Thurs,  
June 11

**Dinner @ Vinny's  
Sandwich Making**  
9:30 am

Wed,  
July 8

**Dinner @ Vinny's  
Sandwich Making**  
3:30 pm

Thurs,  
July 9

**Dinner @ Vinny's  
Sandwich Making**  
9:30 am

### Lunch Bunch

Saturdays @ Noon

We miss hanging out with you! Join us for a ZOOM meeting each Saturday. We will play a game, reconnect, and have a short devotional. The party lasts about 30 minutes. For the safety of our kids, the ZOOM meeting ID and password are not posted publicly. Contact [Christin@fpcslc.org](mailto:Christin@fpcslc.org) for the needed info.

### Vacation Bible School

July 11th, 10:00am-11:30am

Ages 4-completed 5th grade



Tell your friends: Registration is now open for this year's Vacation Bible School! This year, there are a limited 20 spots. Once they are filled, we will begin a wait list. VBS will take place at Sunnyside Park (location subject to change). Kids will have their own cardboard "car" that will be placed 6 feet from all other "cars." Games, crafts, and an awesome Bible story will all take place within each "car." Come hear about how God is always with us, even when things around us are scary! Go to [fpcslc.org](http://fpcslc.org) to register today.

### VBS Wishlist

Please consider donating monetarily to VBS this year. We will be purchasing supplies, ensuring that as few people as possible are in contact with them before VBS.

### Summer Curriculum

Sunday lessons are available at [fpcslc.org/faith-explorers/Sunday-school-curriculum/](http://fpcslc.org/faith-explorers/Sunday-school-curriculum/). Check them out so that you and your family can participate this summer. We will be looking at many of the miracles of teachings of Jesus over the next two months.

### Children's Message

Check out [fpcslc.org/childrensmessage/](http://fpcslc.org/childrensmessage/) to see the Sunday Children's Message!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Wyatt Blackburn 6/3  
Madi Tani 6/5  
Lindsey Tyler 6/5  
Paizlee Foth 6/16  
Ruby Williams 6/16

Louisa Parrish 7/2  
Garrett May 7/5  
Olivia Tshiaba 7/6  
Caroline Mullen 7/17  
Tyler Phillips 7/17  
Serena Fisher 7/18  
Clark Williams 7/26



**Christin Abbott**  
Children's Ministry Director  
[christin@fpcslc.org](mailto:christin@fpcslc.org)

# YOUTH MINISTRY

The students of FPCSLC have still been able to meet virtually despite the social distancing. Follow us on Instagram @ fpcyouthgroup to keep up with what is going on!

The Jr. and Sr. High School students have been meeting every Wednesday at 6pm for Fellowship Hour on ZOOM. Zoom is an application that allows groups of people to meet at the same time on the computer. We are able to see and hear one another in real time. We play a game, have a devotion, and have check-ins with everyone!

We continue to have Sunday School at 11am through Zoom. Despite not being able to meet in person, we have found some solace in being able to hang out with one another over the computer.

The youth leaders have also been meeting every other Wednesday at 6:45pm on Zoom for a bible study using the Sparkhouse Animate curriculum. It has been pretty cool still being able to see everyone and study together.

There are two graduating seniors this year. Timmer Masih and Sophia Loose. These young ladies have been part of the youth group since they were in 5th

grade. It's crazy to see them graduate. They will both be attending the University of Utah. I'm so proud of the women they have turned out to be. So glad they will be sticking around SLC for the next 4 years.



I understand that all the events that have come along the first part of this year are stressful. Know that I, the pastors, youth leaders, deacons, and elders are praying for you. Please let someone know if you are in need of anything.

When this time of social distancing has passed and you would like to volunteer for any student events, service projects, or open your house to a bible study please don't hesitate to email or give me a call. Our calendar of projects/events can be found on the church website and Instagram pages.

**Nathan Parrish**

*Youth Director*

[nparrish@fpcslc.org](mailto:nparrish@fpcslc.org)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Gayle Cook	6/1	Heather Knighton	7/5
Dan Zaharias	6/5	Gary McFadden	7/6
Melissa Henn	6/6	Robby Higgins	7/7
Kristine Rasmussen	6/6	Arlene Dilley	7/10
Dean Osborn	6/7	Wayne Simpson	7/10
Bonnie Cavill	6/8	Sarah Sherer	7/15
Roger Durst	6/9	Susan Quaal	7/17
Jan Springman	6/9	Ernest Asare	7/18
Dawn McDowell	6/12	Susan Bland	7/21
Cecilia	6/18	Alice Samuel	7/21
Larry Houtz	6/19	David Samuel	7/21
Ilsa Leonhart	7/25	Dan Ragan	7/26
Paige Piercey	7/25	Travis Mullen	7/29
		Melissa Piercey	7/30

## FPC MUSIC

It's summer, time for special music in worship. If you have a solo you would like to share for the offertory this summer, please let Larry Blackburn know at [larryb84097@gmail.com](mailto:larryb84097@gmail.com) and he will work with your schedule. Thanks to all of the musicians that have continued to make worship wonderful!



## A LETTER FROM SESSION

Greetings from your Session! As the Coronavirus situation continues to evolve, we wanted you, our congregation, to be aware that we have started the process of planning how we might safely return to gathering and worshipping together again in person. We have created a team tasked specifically to look at how we might accomplish the delicate goal of balancing our desire to be together while also caring about the health and safety of our fellow neighbors in church.

As we move forward in faith, not fear, be prepared for some changes on how worship may look as we again re-enter our church building. The details of those changes are still being discussed.

Every state is in a different situation for reopening, and local factors definitely will play a large role in how rapidly and safely we can return. With Utah's weekly new diagnosis rate of Coronavirus still climbing, we have determined that the time is not yet upon us. We faithfully and patiently hope it will be soon.

## CUB SCOUT PACK 3034

Cub Scout Pack 3034 thanks the Church for its continued support.

While the current pandemic has temporarily halted our in-person meetings, our Scouts are still working on their rank advancement and getting ready for Summer Camp at Camp Tracy and our Pinewood Derby Race that has been postponed.

We are especially proud of our second year Webelo Scouts, who will earn their Arrow of Light award and will soon move from Cub Scouts to Scouts, BSA Troop 34, also sponsored by First Presbyterian Church.

The Cub Scouts will attend Summer Camp in July at Camp Tracy in Millcreek Canyon. The Camp will offer Scouts outdoor fun and the opportunity to continue to advance in the Cub Scout Program.

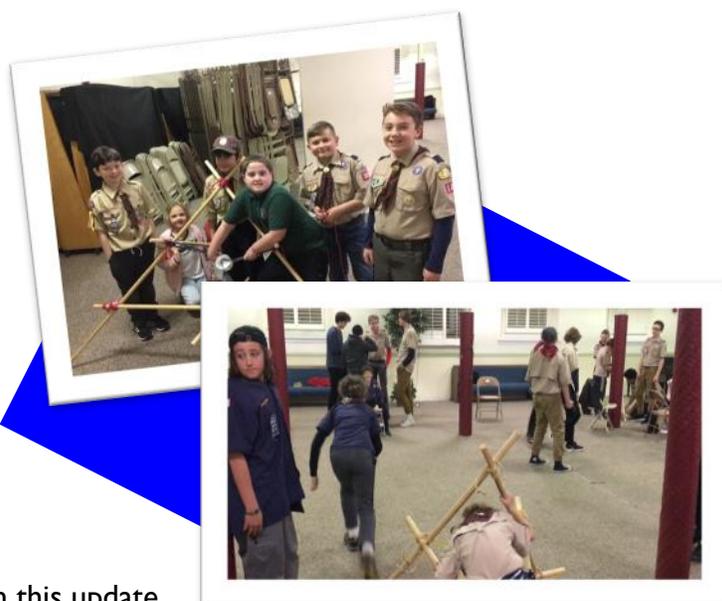
Last, the Pack has tentatively rescheduled our much-anticipated Pinewood Derby for August. The Scouts, and parents, are all very excited for this annual tradition.

## OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Come join us for outdoor worship in Mill Creek Canyon on **Sunday, July 19th at 5:30 p.m.**

Bring your dinner and we can eat together outdoors, then join together in worship. We will be meeting at the Terraces Picnic Area- Charles Stillman Group Site. Terraces Picnic Area is 3.8 miles past the Toll Booth. The turnoff for Terraces is on the right side of the Canyon Road, and then the road climbs for a short distance. Charles Stillman is situated in the same area as Archibald Gardner and Chauncey Porter Group Sites.

please call the office or email [office@fpcslc.org](mailto:office@fpcslc.org) to **reserve a spot** for outdoor worship. We need to know how many people are coming in order to plan for safe social distancing. Thank you!



In this update please enjoy some pictures of our Arrow of Light Scouts enjoying a meeting with Scout Troop 34 in March. Cub Scouts meets at First Presbyterian on Tuesday Nights from 6:30-7:30pm, but for the time being meetings are NOT taking place due to the Pandemic. ALL children in grades Kindergarten through Fifth Grade are WELCOME! We also invite parents to help us with our activities and events.

For more information, please contact Susan Bland, Cubmaster, at [sdmbland@yahoo.com](mailto:sdmbland@yahoo.com) or Mike Stahler, Assistant Cubmaster at [michael\\_stahler@yahoo.com](mailto:michael_stahler@yahoo.com).

# SCOUT TROOP 34

Greetings!

All of us in Scout Troop 34 are wishing all of you good health and safety in these challenging times. We continue to be thankful for the support from the First Presbyterian Church (FPC) and look forward to having our group meetings in the future.

Citizenship is a key component of Scouting and we are following the meeting guidelines from both the Federal, State and Local governments. Unfortunately we've had to stop our #1 favorite activity, which is camping. At this point in time there are some camps in June and August that we may be attending, but we're monitoring closely in case they are cancelled. All of this being said, Scouting is still going strong and here's how we're doing it.

- Zoom Video Meetings—We've been having virtual meetings the last month or so and our final Court of Honor will be held virtually next Wednesday the 20th.
- Online Merit Badges—There are a wealth of merit badge offerings online which our Scouts have taken advantage. These are official and well received.
- We've had 2 Scouts, Marcus Sawchuk and Will Higgins earn their Eagles in this time of social distancing. Both of their physical Eagle projects were done and they were able to complete their paperwork remotely.
- Camping—We don't camp as a Troop right now, but camping is still counted for those who go with their families or even camp in their own yard.
- Scouting.org had a National online "Camp-In" on May 2nd that included:
  - Camping Tips and Tricks
  - At-Home exercises led by a 2021 Olympian
  - STEM fun and Q&A with Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple

I share all of this to let you know we continue to believe Scouting is an important and worthwhile endeavor to help boys and girls become outstanding Men and Women. There have been and will continue to be changes with Scouting in Utah and we will continue to adapt and adjust with them. We are open to youth up to 18 and would love to hear from you if you know someone who would like to join.

Stay Healthy!

Brian Bevan, Scoutmaster Troop 34

C: 801-661-9912

Email: [Brian.r.bevan@gmail.com](mailto:Brian.r.bevan@gmail.com)



## GROUP STUDIES

Our classes, small groups, prayer groups and children and youth ministries are moving online during this time [fpcslc.org/ministryupdates](http://fpcslc.org/ministryupdates)

### Adult Sunday School—

Our adult Sunday School class will be launching on Zoom every Sunday at 10:00 am

Contact pastor Steve for the Zoom link: [pastorsteve@fpcslc.org](mailto:pastorsteve@fpcslc.org)

### Tuesday Men's Breakfast—

Meet with the Tuesday Morning Men's group on Zoom for the next few weeks on Tuesday morning at 7:30 am. Contact Chuck Britter for the Zoom link:

[spyder79cb@gmail.com](mailto:spyder79cb@gmail.com)

### Women's Bible Study—

Meet with the Women's Bible Study on Zoom every other Wed. starting June 10th. Contact Pastor Chris for the Zoom link:

[pastorchrisc@fpcslc.org](mailto:pastorchrisc@fpcslc.org)

### Thursday Evening Men's Group—

Meet with the evening Men's Bible Study on Zoom for the next few weeks on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm. Contact Chuck Britter for the Zoom link:

[spyder79cb@gmail.com](mailto:spyder79cb@gmail.com)

Thanks to everyone who contributed their articles to the June/July Chimes.

Please note the deadline for the **August/September** articles is Friday, July 17

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# SUNDAY WORSHIP

Online at 9 am: Praise Band & Songs  
and online at 11 am: Organ, & Hymns

## Series Title: Love in the Time of COVID

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>June 7</b>  | John 3:1-17, Isaiah 6:1-7<br><b>A New Start!</b>             |
| <b>June 14</b> | John 4:7-11, Luke 16:19-31<br><b>Who are we overlooking?</b> |
| <b>June 21</b> | I John 3:13-24, Luke 14:15-24<br><b>FOMO?</b>                |
| <b>June 28</b> | I Peter 5:6-11, Luke 15:1-10<br><b>The Worth of One</b>      |
| <b>July 5</b>  | Gen 50:15-21, Luke 6:36-42<br><b>Called to Mercy</b>         |
| <b>July 12</b> | I Cor 1:18-25, Luke 5:1-11<br><b>Foolishness Wins!</b>       |
| <b>July 19</b> | Rom 6:1-11, Matt 5:17-26<br><b>True Freedom</b>              |
| <b>July 26</b> | Rom 6:19-23, Mark 8:1-9<br><b>The Gift</b>                   |