

The Chimes

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

AUGUST &
SEPTEMBER
2020

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Hot Summer days plus continuing COVID can make time seem like it has stopped or we are wading through jello. But time has not stopped. As Alice and I walk around the neighborhood there are a bunch of ambitious projects underway at homes all around. Parents, teachers, administrators and students are all facing very hard questions about what school will look like this fall. Plans are being made and implemented. In the same way, FPC is getting ready for the Fall and is moving forward right now.

Curious about what is happening? Here is just a partial list:

--The Mission Study Team is writing its report and hopes to have it finished by the end of August!

--Your Session approved a revised Mission Statement and Vision and Priorities the Mission Study team drafted based on its work. You can find it elsewhere in this issue of the Chimes. I think it is a great distillation of who we are and what we are about.

--The Session has also approved a significant investment to further improve our livestreaming capabilities, which should enable us to provide high quality video for years to come and without impacting the worship experience of people in sanctuary.

--We are now streaming live on YouTube as well as Facebook, which makes our services easier to find and participate in. Please subscribe to our YouTube channel---you will also find a growing number of short videos on many topics!

--Your Facilities team is getting repair work done from the earthquake.

--Our studies, prayer groups, and classes are all meeting and interacting well through Zoom.

--The Race Talk book group is going strong. I am proud that so many are willing to make themselves uncomfortable to learn the disconcerting truths about racism that are so easy to ignore or overlook for most of us.

--The Youth Group met up the canyon, and just did an Avenues canned food drive to benefit Crossroads Urban Center. They are continuing to meet on zoom every week too.

--Our socially distanced VBS was so fun that we are planning a follow up event.

--Our kids are doing Sunday School lessons at home with their families.

--We are continuing to make sandwiches for St Vincent DePaul

--We just finished the Golden Celery Challenge for Crossroads Urban Center.

--We are donating to help provide food to Ronald McDonald House each month.

--Your deacons have divided the congregation into care groups and are reaching out to people regularly to stay in touch.

--The deacons are also increasing their efforts to provide needed assistance to members and the community. Their community outreach team is developing plans to support kids and families as school restarts.

-- The Reopening Task Force is preparing recommendations on how and when to reopen safely.

--We plan on electing a Pastor Nominating Committee, probably in late September.

--And this fall we will be launching into a congregation-wide Immerse program which will lead us all through the New Testament together and help us connect with one another at the same time!

I am VERY excited about all that God is doing in and through FPC right now and about what He has planned for us this Fall. I hope you will join in with us!

Pastor Steve

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FROM THE PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

2 Timothy 3:16-17

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

How important is reading the Bible to you? Every one of us will have a different answer to that. The freedom to read the Bible and the authority of scripture were among the major foundations of the Protestant church. The main argument that started the Reformation was that the Pope was claiming ultimate authority over what was true about God, while the reformers (Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, etc.) claimed that the Bible had the ultimate authority on what was true about God. That the Bible was the most important source of the revelation of God to human beings.

Now if the Bible is the ultimate revelation of God to us and how our relationship with God is supposed to work, it is really important that we read it. Right? Well this is where the reformers had to overcome another obstacle. At the time of the Reformation, the Bible was only available in Latin, and a Latin translation with many errors. The reformers fought for two things in this area. One, to get the Bible translated into languages people could actually read for themselves, and two, go back to the original Hebrew and Greek copies of the Bible for a more accurate translation that we can trust today.

I don't know if you know how valuable the Bible that you have really is. People fought and died for the Bible that you read today. John Wycliffe spent much of his life translating the Bible into English. Although he died of a stroke before the Roman Catholic church could execute him, possession of his English copy of the Bible was punishable by death. William Tyndale took this a step further by going back to the Hebrew and Greek for a more accurate translation. For this he was strangled and then his body burned at the stake. For similar reasons Thomas Hitton was burned at the stake in 1530, Thomas Bilney in 1531, John Tewkesbury the same year, Thomas Harding 1532, and the list goes on. The principle that

you should be able to read the Bible in your own language cost many, many lives. Too many to list here.

So why did they see the Bible to be so important? Why were they willing to pay with their lives? Because they believed, as do I, that the Bible is a true witness to the work of God. And we can trust this because the Bible has no human agenda. It points us to God. Karl Barth said that “a true witness...is not identical with that to which it witnesses, but it sets it before us.” The Bible puts God before us. Scholar Daniel L. Migliore puts it this way: “the Bible is a unique witness to the sovereign grace of God at work in the history of Israel and above all in the death, and resurrection of Jesus.” In other words, the Bible is the key to understanding what God has done and what God is still doing.

So are you reading it? As a pastor I am in the Bible a lot, but I still feel like it has so many mysteries in store for me that I wonder if I can read it enough. I don't think any of us can put the Bible down and say “OK, I have read all I need to read.” This Fall we are going to have an opportunity to read the entire New Testament. Don't be alarmed. This will not be difficult. It will actually be quite freeing. We will not dissect every passage as we go. We will simply read it, because none of us reads it enough. I look forward to this journey with you. God will take care of the rest.



Pastor Chris

pastorchris@fpcslc.org

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income & Expenses

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Total Income and Expenses for the FPC Ministry as of June 30, 2020		
Pledge Income	\$ 180, 083	\$ 204, 701
Total Income	311, 585	310, 960
Total Expense	311, 585	291, 241
Monthly Income & Expense		
Pledge Income	30, 014	22, 883
Total Income	51, 931	37, 843
Total Expenses	51, 931	43, 819



**WE APPRECIATE
EVERYONE WHO HAS
CONTINUED GIVING
DURING COVID-19.**

Nancy Savage

Treasurer

nancy@fpcslc.org

IMMERSE IS COMING!



Everyone knows what is good for us—we should get more sleep, get more exercise, eat more greens, read the Bible, have relationships that encourage and support us. But it is hard to actually do those things. This fall we will engage in a special congregation-wide program called **Immerse**. It won't help with going to bed on time, but will help us connect with the Bible in a new way and develop deeper relationships with others in the church. We believe that Jesus is God with Us—the best revelation of God you can get. The New Testament is where we meet him. Reading the New Testament is the best way to connect with Jesus, and talking about it with friends will deepen your relationship with Jesus and with your friends!

This fall, starting on September 20, we will launch a 9 week tour through the New Testament. But we won't just be listening to sermons! No—we will be *reading* the New Testament together and talking about it with our friends! Unlike traditional Bible study, you'll be reading the Bible in big chunks. Our focus will be on the forest, not dissecting a leaf from a tree. We are used to reading a paragraph here and there. With Immerse we will see how they all fit together. That is eye opening. And even life changing.

Over the course of 8 weeks we will read the New Testament (5 readings a week, each reading takes about 30 minutes to read out loud). That may sound intimidating, but you can do it! We will have a very readable version of the New Testament available and you can even listen to it read to you for free (either from a webpage or as a podcast). Each week we'll introduce the readings in worship, you'll read during the week, we'll preach about those readings on Sunday, and you'll meet in small book groups to discuss that week's reading. This is not a deep dive, it is a chance to react to the books of the New Testament the way they were written to be heard—as a whole. Alice and Pastor Steve got to do this at a previous church and it was a wonderful experience.

More information is coming soon, but for now: pray about your willingness to encounter Jesus in the New Testament, think about a small group of folks you'd like to talk about the Bible with, and consider whether you'd be willing to facilitate the discussion (very easy to do, and training and support will be offered).

You can learn more at www.ImmerseBible.com Jesus is waiting for us in the pages of Immerse: Messiah. I can't wait!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Wed,
Aug 12

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

Thurs,
Aug 13

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

Wed,
Sep 9

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

Thurs,
Sep 10

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

Office Hours

Pastor Steve
Monday
12:00 pm—2:00 pm

Jen
Wednesday
9:00—4:00 pm

Pastor Chris
Thursday
12:00 pm—2:00 pm

We had such a great time at VBS this year! Thanks to the parents and volunteers who made a social-distancing event safe and fun for our kids. We learned how God is with us, even when things are SCARY!

If you weren't able to make it, check out fpcslc.org for resources for you to do at home. Craft materials are available at the church office. Call 801-363-3889 to schedule a pick up time.

Promotion Sunday

August 16 11:00 AM

Incoming 6th graders—make sure you sign up for email updates from Nate (nparrish@fpcslc.org). You don't want to miss the AWESOME stuff going on in the youth group this Fall!

Faith Explorers on the Knoll

August 23 3:00 PM—September 20 3:00 PM.

Bring a blanket and join us for an in-person, socially distanced, outdoor version of Faith Explorers. We will be on the grassy knoll on 1st Ave, across the street from the church. Kids will get to hear a Bible story, do a craft, play games, and hear songs, all from a safe distance. Let Ms. Christin know you are coming so we can make sure we keep our meeting size less than 20 cabbott@fpcslc.org.

Fall Curriculum

We continue with stories of Jesus' life, and ultimately ascension to heaven. Each step of the way, Jesus fulfilled His Father's plans to rescue His people. One day we will be with Jesus forever! Take a look at the following stories in the Jesus Storybook Bible in preparation for Faith Explorers this season: Washed with tears (Mark 14, Luke 7, John 12), and Going home (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 14).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Mae Dahn 8/4
Nyrah Samuel 8/4
Claris William 8/4
Joshua Samuel 8/14
Lola Whitaker 8/19

Sienna Shafer 9/2
Ester Ngonga 9/6
Noah Decaria 9/7
Taylynn White 9/7
Audrey Tani 9/8
Avry LaRosa 9/16
Lucy Weavil 9/17
Snow McCubbin 9/18
Lucy McCloud 9/25

Christin Abbott
Children's Ministry Director
christin@fpcslc.org



YOUTH MINISTRY

The students of FPCSLC have been meet virtually on Zoom. Follow us on Instagram @ **fpcyouthgroup** to keep up with what is going on!

The Jr. and Sr. High School students have been meeting every Sunday morning at I Iam for Sunday School 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. Last Sunday we had students from New York to California tune into the lesson. It was pretty cool.

The youth leaders have been meeting monthly on Zoom for a bible study using the Sparkhouse Animate curriculum. It has been a pretty cool still being able to see everyone and study together.

In the beginning of August we will be having a Crossroads Urban Food Center Project. We will have

bags for canned food items and door hangers. Each student/family will be assigned a street on July 30 to drop off the bags. They will be picked up by us on Saturday and delivered to CUC.

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. Much love,



Nathan Parrish

Youth Director

nparrish@fpcslc.org

INTERESTED IN GETTING MORE INVOLVED AT 1ST PRES?

Join us for a **“New Members Virtual Breakfast”** on Saturday, August 8 from 10-noon.

We will have a time of teaching about what it means to be a Presbyterian, ways to enter more fully into the life of the church, and (most important) what “membership” means for a Christian. People will also be able to meet and get to know our pastors, some of our elders (members of our governing body), and our staff, as well as ask questions.

If you are interested just let the office or one of the pastors know and we will get you the Zoom information!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

AUGUST

Glen Ricart
Beth Henderson-Millard
Brian Roberts Isabella Shaffer
Peter Silas
Ina White
Rahmat Samuel
Christine Gibbs
JoAnn Pearson
Henry Kalvesmaki
Duane Atwood
John Bennet

SEPTEMBER

Tamara Gilbert
Janelle Lee
Ashleigh Bull
Carol Jean Elliot
Karla Miller-Imperiale
Saima Samuel
Azra Samuel
AJ Bull
Cheryl Larson
Adam Miya
Bev Simpson
Lisa Buffmire
Keegan Gilbert
Kambiz Pezeshki
Laura Sagers

WE ARE ON YOUTUBE!

We are now streaming live on YouTube in addition to Facebook Live each Sunday. There are buttons for each on our homepage. If you have Xfinity, Fire TV, Apple TV, Xbox, or a smart TV it is easy to get to YouTube on your big television for a better worship experience. Just search for First Presbyterian Church Salt Lake City



Our YouTube Channel also has a growing number of other videos, including children's messages and special music, so check out what is available. Also, please SUBSCRIBE to our YouTube channel, that will help us get more use out of it and help you find us more easily.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2CZg9fQSYDwltn2McbHGvQ>

NEW SERIES STARTING

The **Adult Sunday School** Class is starting a new study on the church and the Holy Spirit on August 2 at 10:10 am.

The **Tuesday Men's Breakfast** just began a new study of Finding Jesus in the Old Testament. Join them at 7:30 am on Tuesdays.

To get the Zoom information, email Pastor Steve at pastorstev@fpcslc.org

FROM THE SESSION: AN UPDATE ON OUR BOOK STUDY

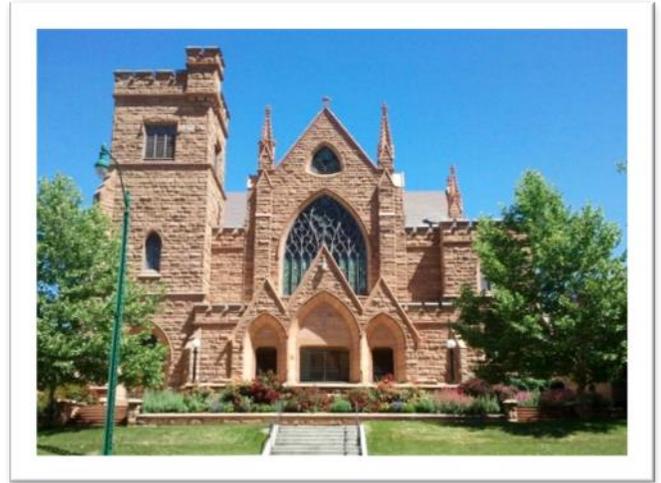
Session is currently reading the book *You Found Me: New Research on How Unchurched Nones, Millennials, and Irreligious Are Surprisingly Open to Christian Faith*, by Rick Richardson. The book outlines best practices for reaching the unchurched and experience "conversion growth." Each month during our Session meetings, we discuss another chapter, and we wanted to share some of what we're learning and discussing:

- While there is an often-repeated narrative about the decline of the church in the US, research suggests that many people who do not attend church regularly or identify as Christian are still open to the possibility of faith. Further, many who have left the church would be open to returning; only a small portion are hostile towards Christianity or have broken trust in the church.
- We as Christians may avoid sharing our faith because we expect a negative reaction, sometimes from the small section of people who are referenced above. Based on research, though, many unchurched have never even heard the Gospel message from a Christian friend. They are more likely to be open to listening if there is an existing relationship. We need to have a renewed "missional imagination" – a confidence that the "harvest is plentiful" (Matt 9:37).
- An effective approach to engaging the unchurched involves the following steps (p. 98):
 1. "Build trust based on common interests and values.
 2. Affirm what you can of their spiritual beliefs and practices. People will not let you influence them until they feel like you "get" them and accept them.
 3. Challenge whatever it is that has replaced God in their lives (also being quick to share about how often you have done the same).
 4. Talk about what Jesus has done to heal and rescue and reorient you toward God, inviting them to take a next step toward Jesus.
- A missional congregation places value in invitation and hospitality in order to develop relationships with people we encounter wherever we might be.

In the second half of this year, we will be reading more about developing a missional culture throughout the congregation, and we're excited to work with you all to reach the unchurched people in our communities.

MISSION STUDY UPDATE

Your Mission Study Committee has been working hard and is in the final stages of our study. Since presenting the results of the Congregational Survey we have prayed together and looked at where our church has been as well as at our current ministries. We spent time further discussing where our congregation would like to place emphasis in the years ahead, based in large part on the findings from the congregational survey. We developed a new mission, vision, and priority statement, which the Session has now approved! This new statement will be posted on our website and is included below. We think this builds on our very good existing mission statement and clarifies both our values and priorities as we move forward as a congregation on mission for Jesus here in Salt Lake City.



We have also looked closely at the demographic makeup of the community around First Presbyterian Church and those along the Wasatch Front. It has been a joy to find alignments with community desires for ministry and those of our members. We expect the study to be presented to Session August 26th for review and approval. After it is also approved by our Committee on Ministry for the Presbytery we will make it available to everyone. The congregation should be in a position to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee in the fall. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Stephanie Silas & Heather Knighton, Co-Chairs

MISSION STATEMENT: (OUR PURPOSE FOR BEING)

The mission of FPC and its members is to **love God, love neighbor, and make disciples**, as Jesus commanded. We are a community of followers of Christ who share the grace and love of Jesus with one another and with our neighbors, leading to flourishing lives and communities.

Vision:

We are a diverse community of believers from across the Wasatch Front with deep faith, worship, and music traditions. We gather in our beautiful, historic building in downtown Salt Lake City amidst a mission field of people yearning for meaning, longing for God's grace, and experiencing brokenness, loneliness, or homelessness.

Priorities:

As we strive to fulfill our mission and vision, our current priorities for sharing the good news about Jesus include:

- Offering excellent, meaningful worship services and music ministry.
- Developing a culture of hospitality and a nonjudgmental, nonthreatening, loving atmosphere, welcoming all to join us as we seek the Lord.
- Encouraging deep, caring, and loving relationships throughout our family of believers.
- Empowering all of our members for ministry by helping them identify, develop, and utilize their spiritual gifts.
- Engaging all members of the congregation in Jesus' rescue mission, offering special concern and help for those broken by life's circumstances within our church family, along the Wasatch Front, and around the world.
- Providing high quality discipleship and education opportunities for all ages and stages, leading to personal spiritual growth, obedience, and abundant life in Christ.
- Growing loving, fun, and faithful ministries for our children, youth, and families.

FPC CHOIR

Dear Congregation, I hope that you are doing well in this difficult time. We have been preparing for a very unique choir season that will begin at the end of August. We will be holding rehearsals on zoom and recording a variety of anthems. It is a great time to learn something new and participate from the comfort of your home. Being a part of this choir has been one of the most rewarding and healing experiences for me. What makes it so profound is our ministry in Christ, his people and remarkable power of song.



Alla Keoppel
Choir Director
alla@fpcslc.org

CUB SCOUT PACK 3034

Although we have not been able to meet in person since March the Cub Scouts have been very busy working on their advancements some with weekly online meetings made up by our wolf den leader Bonnie Lubbers. Some with just keeping in touch by phone call or text message. We had 4 scouts earn their Arrow of Light which is the highest award for cub scouts to earn and is the only award able to be worn on the Troop uniform. I scout earned their Webelos rank, 1 scout earned their bear and 3 Cubs earned their Wolf rank.



We were able to attend a cub scout day camp on July 10 for those going into 4th and 5th grade which earned some achievement requirements and on July 11 for those scouts from kindergarten to 3rd grade. All Cubs

and Adults had to meet the social guidelines by wearing mask and having their temperature taken and recorded, all stations were sanitized before and after each group.

Some of the activities they participated in were making paper rockets and shooting them from an air compressor-built launch pad carefully supervised by camp staff. They also mixed specific chemicals following carefully worded

instructions to see what chemical reactions could happen and learned about the new type of rocket fuel being used. They went on a nature walk and learned about different airways that birds use and animals that became endangered or extinct in the last century. They also got to shoot BB guns and Bow and Arrows which all the scouts enjoyed.

We Hope that we can start meeting again at the church this fall depending on what happens with the current situation in our city from this Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Cub Scout Pack is saddened to hear about the passing of Lloyd Ferguson the Chartered Organization Representative to Scouting.

The Cub Scouts will plan on starting backup in August/September and registering new Cubs Kindergarten to 4th grades, Please contact Dan Zaharias 801 808-6683 or email "danzaharias@gmail.com".



SCOUT TROOP 34

Greetings from Scout Troop 34!

There are two things we can control in life. Our Attitude and Our Activity. This was said to me by one of my trainers over 11 years ago and is something I still reflect upon today. As a Troop, we've continued to have a positive attitude and be active as a Troop.

One of our Scouts, Anton Goodick, is in the process of earning his Eagle rank by helping our community right now your support. 65% of kids in the District experience food insecurity. contacted and is working with, Mill Elementary (www.successfund.com/millcreekelementary) and James E. Moss Elementary (www.successfund.com/mosselementary), to both improve their food pantries, yes they have them, by installing shelves and then organizing a food drive on Saturday August 1st from 8-11am at Mill Creek and 1-4pm at James Moss.

Going back to the beginning of the summer, we've had some other great Scout activities. I was nominated and accepted into the Order of the Arrow, but more importantly, we had 5 our Scouts, Zach Burke, Anton Goodick, Catcher McCardell, Stefan Neugebauer and Jake Edwards complete their OA Ordeal.

We had 5 Scouts, Anton, Jake, Rowan Burnett, Catcher and Zach Burke complete a weeklong National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) in June at Camp Tracy.

Finally, we had an Eagle Court of Honor for two of our Scouts, Markus Sawchuk and Will Higgins, who both came in under the wire before aging out of Scouts, graduated from High School and plan on attending the University of Utah in the fall.

Moving forward, we have a weeklong outing at Camp Hunt (Bear Lake), the first part of August. Our parents meeting on Wednesday August 26th at 7pm and the beginning of our Troop meetings on Wednesday September 2nd at 7pm.

We continue to be thankful for the support of the First Presbyterian Church, our leaders, parents and Scouts. If you have any questions or have a son or daughter that is interested in Scouting, don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Brian Bevan, Scoutmaster Troop 34

C# 801-661-9912; brian.r.bevan@gmail.com



and would love
Granite School
Anton
Creek



GROUP STUDIES

Our classes, small groups, prayer groups and children and youth ministries are moving online during this time
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

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

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

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

Thanks to everyone who contributed their articles to the August & September Chimes.

Please note the deadline for the **October & November** articles is Wednesday, September 16.

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[Facebook.com/fpcslc](https://www.facebook.com/fpcslc)

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

Series Title: The New Life In Christ

August 2: Col 1:1-14 Bearing Fruit in a Hungry World

August 9: Col 1:15-23 Jesus, King over All!

August 16: Col 1:24-2:7 The Hidden Treasure

August 23: Col 2:8-19 Don't Get Fooled Again!

August 30: Col 2:20-3:11 New Life, New Wardrobe

September 6: Col 3:12-17 The New Life Revealed

Sept 13 September: Col 4:2-9 The Fellowship of Prayer

New Series: Immerse—Messiah

September 20: Immerse intro—Luke 1:1-4, 3:1-6

September 27: Who Do You Say I Am? Luke 9:18-26