



Forest Hills Presbyterian Church

# The Branch

MAY/JUNE 2022

## PASTOR'S CORNER

If you've ever had the delight of traveling to London, you probably have heard a few of the following automated safety phrases in a pleasant female voice with a crisp English accent saying: "Doors Closing."

"Mind the doors."

"Train Approaching."

And most famously, "Mind the gap."

In addition to the safety warnings, the voice also announces the names of the places the trains are coming from and going to, the minutes until departure, what time

boarding begins and stops and if the "lift" is going up or down and to which floor. One almost expects a reading of the menu and services offered to come next! I don't know why, but I find this voice ridiculously comforting. It could be that I first heard, "The next stop is Picadilly Circus" in a time when I had no idea what was next for me in my life. A young college student nursing a broken heart, I suddenly found myself with some of my best friends in this ancient foreign city with no smart phones to guide us. I was graduating in the Spring and didn't know what the future held. I wasn't even sure what we would do the next day beyond waking up for the free breakfast! And so,



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hearing the voice speak in its weirdly robotic and nurturing way, it felt as if there was at least a little bit of affirmation in stepping out from the voice of the London Underground. It is often easy to be caught up in our wounds, our despair, or our past, and not feel able to figure out what the next step might be for us. It feels easier to stay frozen in what we know than to step out and try a new direction. But I believe that's not the kind of life God has in store for God's own. God provides a voice in the wilderness - voices of affirmation - along the way. Through scripture, family, friends, and our church, we are reminded indeed, there is a next stop on our journey, there is a place we are called to.

May we have the courage to listen and take that first step.

*Grace & Peace, Pastor Katy*



EXALTING JESUS CHRIST • EQUIPPING FOR MINISTRY • EXPANDING GOD'S KINGDOM

FOREST HILLS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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# April Session Highlights

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The Session met in hybrid fashion (half online via Zoom, half in person in the Conference Room) on April 19, 2022, at 6:30 pm. Highlights included:

1. Rev. Walters offered an opening prayer and we welcomed our new Elders: Lynda Rose Klar, Sandra Davis, and returning for a new term, Kay McCloskey. Luke Rountree will be serving as a one year term Youth Elder.
2. Committees offered the following updates:
  - a. ADMINISTRATION:
    - No meeting was held in the month of April due to Holy Week Conflicts. New hardware was approved and installed on the front doors of the Family Life Center.
  - b. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
    - Children's Church has been moved to the Choir Room for a testing run through the end of April. So far, it has been working well.
    - VBS date has been set for **July 25-28, from 5:30-8:00 pm** with the theme "*Follow Me*".
    - Registration is open for Junior High Jubilee and Youth Celebration at Mo-Ranch.
  - c. Fellowship and Church Growth
    - Cards continue to be sent to the congregation.
    - Shepherd plan has been put to task; will review with Shepherds participating in June.
    - The Easter Breakfast will be taking place at 9:30 am with a rain plan available.
  - d. MISSION, OUTREACH, & SERVICE
    - 5 people were served in March with HEB cards and the Food Pantry.
    - One Great Hour of Sharing is currently being collected.
    - The Foster Family Parent's Night Out continues to take place; help is always appreciated.
    - Cornyval: sign up genius is out - we need help!
  - e. WORSHIP
    - Sign up for liturgists through August is being set up. Thank you to everyone who has currently served in this role.
    - We are working to fill spots on the Sunday's Rev. Walters will be on vacation, May 1 and May 9th. Currently Rev. Lemuel Garcia is set for the 9th and looking for the 1st.
3. In the Pastor's Report, Rev. Walters asked for some help to fill needs while she is away and reminded Session to fill out the Session Information Form. She also shared the worship plan through August which includes a series on, "Won't You Be My Neighbor" and "What Does It Mean to Be a Presbyterian."
4. The Session accepted with gratitude for faithful ministry and regret in losing her leadership the resignation of Elder Judy Grant from Session, and the committees, Worship and Administration.
5. Elder of the Month: April/May - Janai Lawson
6. Covenant concerns were shared and the meeting was closed with prayer.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
*Rev. Katy Walters*

# **Mission Presbytery Stated Meeting of March 5, 2022**

## **Report to Forest Hills Presbyterian Church Session March 15, 2022**

The Mission Presbytery Meeting was held by ZOOM from 9am until about 1:30pm. Cami Pace and Kay McCloskey represented Forest Hills Presbyterian Church.

- Worship was held with communion and a sermon offered by Rev Ezequiel Herrera, Mission Presbytery's Evangelist in the Rio Grande Valley.
- Two overtures to GA were presented for vote in the Stated Clerk's Report. The documents were included in the meeting packet #2, both were approved.
  - The first was presented by University Presbyterian Church of San Antonio to concur with the Presbytery of Baltimore to: "overtures the 225th General Assembly (2022) to change the use of the term AIDS to HIV in all national awareness days recognized in the Presbyterian Planning Calendar."
  - The second brought to General Council: Mission Outreach and Justice Committee (MOJC) asked for concurrence with Grace Presbytery's overture "Recognition that Israel's laws, policies, and practices constitute apartheid against the Palestinian people."
- Pam Power, member of Forest Hills, was elected Assistant-Treasurer of Mission Presbytery.
- The moderator of General Council offered a motion to "approve the Covenant Agreement of the Synod of the Sun Partnership for Disaster Recovery. The 11 presbyteries that comprise the Synod of the Sun are partnering for this 'four-year pilot initiative that seeks to connect the ongoing needs of the Covenant Partners to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against disaster events.' " The motion passed.
- The Rev Ezequiel Herrera presented the goals of a Mission Presbytery he oversees in the RGV, The New Life Faith Community of Mission Presbytery. The purpose is to grow and solidify new Church opportunities to Spanish speakers. They have been holding weekly Bible Study and on Sunday, March 6th, 2022 they will begin weekly Sunday Worship Services at First Korean Presbyterian Church of McAllen.
- The Report from the Commission on Ministry documented approved contracts, approved Terms of Call, Triennium visits, ordinations and installations, commissions approved and dismissed, ministerial changes, permission to form a PNC, examinations, granting of retired status and deaths.
  - The Commission on Ministry brought forth two motions that passed the assembly: Presbytery elected an Administrative Commission to walk alongside First Presbyterian Church, Menard, in order to close it as well as an Administrative Commission to inquire into issues at First Korean Presbyterian Church, McAllen.
- John Knox Ranch's report announced that summer camp is BACK! Registrations are reaching capacity. Scholarships are available. Families are encouraged to take advantage of the Weekend Family Camp program. Teens from churches are encouraged to apply for positions as counselors. A program of Legacy Giving was announced and an update on the Conservation Easement was presented.
- The Youth Connection Committee reported that the Midwinter Youth Conference was rescheduled because of the risk of increased COVID infections. The Souper Bowl food drive collected over 62,000 food items for local food banks. Sadly they reported that this year's Triennium meeting has been canceled.
- The Mission Outreach and Justice Committee announced awarding of \$42,000 in grants to ten applicants. Membership in the Cuba Partners Network was renewed. Permission was to the Guatemala Partnership Team to send honoraria to two organizations recognizing the work of a former member and to send payment to the Seminario Evangelico Presbiteriano for the school year 2022.

### *Other announcements of interest:*

- Committee on Representation and Participation reported on the balance of diversity in the elected persons serving on Mission Presbytery committees, commissions, agencies, etc.
- Stewardship and Fiscal Oversight Committee announced that \$58,000 is available for Better Together Grants – the hard deadline is April 15, 2022
- Disaster Preparedness and Assistance Committee needs contributions to purchase a special truck (Ford F-380 for hauling equipment. Hygiene kits and clean up buckets are still needed. Information on HVAC and ventilation cleaning is available to churches.
- The Trustees reported on Closed, Active and Financed property updates and property inquiries.

*The reports for this meeting are available in packet #2 on the Mission Presbytery Web site under Meetings.*

Submitted by Kathleen McCloskey

# ***May Calendar***



- 5/5 WORSHIP COMMITTEE (6P)
- 5/8 MOTHER'S DAY
- 5/10 MISSION, OUTREACH & SERVICE (6:30P)
- 5/11 CHRISTIAN ED/YOUTH (6:30P)
- 5/12 ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE (6:30P)
- 5/17 SESSION MEETING (6:30P)
- 5/22 CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY  
CELEBRATION OF GRADUATES  
POTLUCK LUNCH
- 5/24 FELLOWSHIP/CHURCH GROWTH (6:30P)
- 5/25 LADIES' LUNCH OUT (11:30A)



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# ***June Calendar***

- 6/2 WORSHIP COMMITTEE (6P)
- 6/5 DAY OF PENTECOST
- 6/8 CHRISTIAN ED/YOUTH (6:30P)
- 6/9 ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE (6:30P)
- 6/10-11 MISSION PRESBYTERY (IN PERSON ) TRINITY UNIVERSITY
- 6/14 MISSION, OUTREACH & SERVICE (6:30P)
- 6/21 SESSION MEETING (6:30P)
- 6/28 FELLOWSHIP/CHURCH GROWTH (6:30P)
- 6/29 LADIES' LUNCH OUT (11:30A)





# A Joyous Easter at Forest Hills









# Cornyval 2022




A HUGE thank you to all who helped  
at the Cornyval booth this year!




# Fellowship Opportunities

## Graduate Recognition Lunch Sunday, May 22



We are having a potluck lunch to honor our graduating seniors this year, Claire Hunter and Rheana McEntire. It will be immediately following worship on Sunday, May 22, in the Family Life Center. Members are asked to bring salads and sandwiches. Dessert and drinks will be furnished. The Fellowship Committee would love to have a nice crowd on this day to give special recognition to these 2 great youth of Forest Hills. Prayer quilts will be presented to them during our worship service. See you then!



Our next meeting will be June 5th at 2:30 pm in the FLC conference room. We will be discussing Wish You Were Here by Judi Picoult. Our upcoming books are:

July - State of Wonder by Ann Patchett

August - Reasons to Stay Alive by Matt Haig

September - These Precious Moments by Ann Patchett

All are welcome!

Questions? Contact Nancy Collins


FOREST HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Ladies Lunch Out



WEDNESDAY,  
MAY 25  
AT 11:30 AM  
ASPEN CREEK GRILL

11719 Bandera Rd. @ 1604  
(Next to Chili's)



**Coffee with the Pastor is  
taking a wee break this  
summer. Stay tuned for  
other fellowship  
gatherings!**



# PENTECOST OFFERING

## JUNE 5, 2022



BEECHMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LOUISVILLE, KY

Our gifts to the Pentecost Offering connect young people with one another and with caring communities, helping them shape a life and a future built in faith.



PENTECOST  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

APRIL 18 – JUNE 5, 2022

The Pentecost Offering helps our youth begin life with a strong start – a solid foundation formed in the years from childhood through young adulthood. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ.

40%

**stays with this congregation** to develop and support programs for young people in our own church and community.

25%

**supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV)**, serving in communities around the world, and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service.

25%

**supports Ministries with Youth** including the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

10%

**is devoted to children at-risk** to improve education and provide safe havens.

FOREST HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Thank you, church!*

We collected over \$890 for our  
**One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.**  
Thank you to everyone for your generosity  
in supporting the work of the  
church through this offering.





# JOIN THE MUSIC MINISTRY AT FOREST HILLS!

REHEARSALS ARE WEDNESDAYS AT  
6PM IN THE CHOIR ROOM.  
ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!

*Shout for joy to the Lord,  
all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.*

*-Psalm 100: 1-2*



Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, July 25th through Thursday, July 29th.

Children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome to participate.

Dinner will be served at 5:30pm and VBS will run from 6:00-8:00 pm. COVID precautions will be taken as per CDC recommendations. We are looking forward to a great week!



Games, Songs, Painting, Reading,  
Writing & much more!

*En Español*



Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Ages 3-8 years young

Location: 13200 Bandera Road, Helotes, TX

Visit our website: [amigosspanishlearningcenter.com](http://amigosspanishlearningcenter.com)

Camp begins June 7th and end on July 27th

Call Maestra at 210-947-7573 for more information!