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May 20, 2021



If you ask my colleagues in the office, they will affirm that there is always noise coming from my office. I almost always have music going on, podcasts playing, or an audio book reading to me. This is par for the course with Katy Walters. As a kid, I loved coming home from school and tuning the radio dial to 98.7, KLUV, where I sang along with The Temptations, Elvis Presley, Jim Croce, and Judy Collins, putting on a Broadway record from the library, or listening to one of my many “Books on Tapes” (Diverse tastes, I know!)

This week while listening to one of my many podcasts ([Unlocking Us with Brené Brown](#)), host Brené shared with the listeners her plans for the summer through early fall. She let us know she was going on vacation and there would be no new podcasts until she returned. She then continued letting us know what was coming when she returned and shared how excited (and too, anxious) she was for what was to come.

I had this moment of appreciation as a listener for her sharing what was to come with the podcast. When she mentioned her vacation, I uttered a, “good for you, Brené!” When she shared what was to come, I got excited and started planning a way to incorporate what she was doing so that it could be used with our church family. (Stay tuned for July 2021!)

What Brené shared was not life changing in any way. She has hundreds of thousands of followers. She is a #1 New York Times best-selling author, is one of the top researchers in the field of sociology, has millions of followers. She did not need to share her personal plans with her listeners of the podcast. And yet she did.

I cannot speak as to why exactly Brené did this, but I have the suspicion as to why. I believe Brené understands how the past year has stolen much of the foundation of "what has been the norm" from us. I believe Brené has seen how every day our world has been altered in some way - with new rules and regulations, new leaders and laws, and more. I think Brené understands our human desire for a little bit of stability and our appreciation of transparency from leadership. I know I appreciated the heads up on what will be going on!

So, friends, as I have now been your Pastor for three months, I want to share a bit of what's going on:

- Your FHPC Staff meets weekly for a time of prayer and coordination so that we can ensure we are using our time and the gifts God has given so that FHPC can thrive. While we work, we often laugh and are continually learning new ways to be together and to serve our church family.
- Your Session has been hard at work discerning and deciding how God is calling us to be. From monthly updating COVID-19 policies for our campus so that we are able to stay current and safe (see below) to slowly, reopening and reimagining our church so we are able to fellowship together, joyfully gather in worship, and BE the church in our community.
- We're looking at the numbers - all of them! We continue to seek to be good stewards in spending our budget, connect with those joining us in person as well as online, and keep track of those in the community who step foot on our campus. Our new version of The Happenings provides insight on how effective our communications are, which in turn helps us grow and be better.
- Part of my time away included a few days of prayerful planning for preaching, worship, and pastoring y'all. Needless to say, I came back both rested and pumped up for what is to come with our ministry.



I imagine you all know this, but in case you had any doubts:

**Forest Hills Presbyterian Church is a church alive and at work in the world.**

I look forward to trusting in and listening for the still small voice that continues to speak to God's own as it has for the prophets and saints of the past. I pray you will join me in the ministry to come.

Peace, Pastor Katy

*Prayer: Holy One, may we fully put our trust in You, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.*

# THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

[Click Here for this Week's Bulletin](#)

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## Weekly Prayer Email

If you would like to receive our weekly prayer email, please sign up below.



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## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to Meizi He, Bette Lampe and Lydia McCary.

Happy Anniversary to Jill & Jim Feig, Blossom & Gene Jeter and Kelly & Jeff Kenner.



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## Pentecost Sunday

On the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of

FOREST HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Church Wide

PENTECOST

PICNIC

Sunday, May 23



Rain or Shine this Sunday, we're still celebrating together!

Join us this Pentecost Sunday for an all church birthday picnic following worship. We'll provide the drinks and cupcakes, you just need to pack your picnic basket.

We do have a rain plan, so don't let inclement weather deter you from joining your church family for this fun celebration.

We hope to see you there!

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## Pentecost Special Offering



With our gifts to the Pentecost Offering, we join together to build God's house with our children, youth, and young adults. The Pentecost Offering helps our youth begin life with a strong start - a solid foundation formed in the years from childhood through young adulthood. **40% of our PENTECOST OFFERING will go to the Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS) in Kingsville, Texas.**

PPAS is a Christian, international, college- preparatory, boarding school that motivates and equips young people for lives of Christian leadership in the global community. Students engage in a rigorous academic curriculum, develop spiritually in the Presbyterian/Reformed theological tradition, and gain senses of independence and personal responsibility through a disciplined daily schedule and communal work. Each year, 100% of their graduates are accepted into colleges and universities in their home countries or in the United States.



### From the Session:

Beginning this Sunday, May 23, new guidelines will be in place for our church property in regards to COVID-19 protocols.

- **Masks can be taken off while seated in the pew during Sunday morning worship.** *We ask that masks be worn while moving around indoor spaces, including the Sanctuary.*
- **Bibles will be back in pews, as well as Welcome Cards.** Bibles will be available in the pews that are designated as "open" pews.

We appreciate your prayers as we continue to navigate this pandemic season. We know there is a light at the end of the tunnel and remember God is with us as we journey towards wellness for our world.



As we inch closer to being halfway through the year, we want to say thank you to everyone for continuing in fulfilling your pledged financial commitment to Forest Hills Presbyterian Church.

If you need to catch up on your pledging, please send your payment to the church by mail or visiting our online giving page on our website at [fhpconline.org](http://fhpconline.org). **Thank you for your generosity!**







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