



Forest Hills Presbyterian Church

The Branch

NOVEMBER 2021

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READ A BOOK.

I took a chance this summer and on a complete whim applied for a grant for FHPC. What did this grant do? It bought books. But not just your average books. It bought books for children, and all the books are Biblically or theologically based. That is, they have to do with living a Christian life. We have books in Spanish and English.

We have beautifully illustrated Bible story books. There are books that talk about loving your neighbor, parables, and race. The overall value of these books is over \$1500 (wow!) and I am so excited to put them to good use for our congregation. This December, we will be giving the Bible Storybooks to families and they'll be able to follow along with Pastor Katy reading the story of Jesus being born. We gifted a set of books to Maestra and her students at the Amigas Preschool. My hope in gifting these books is that we would equip our families in living out their faith beyond our church walls. In applying for the grant from the Office of Christian Formation in the PC(USA), that is what I shared my prayer for our congregation would be - that we would empower and equip our people to live out the stories of our faith in our daily living. What are some ways you are living out your faith in your home? Do you pray before your meals? Do you read scripture regularly? Rev. Traci Smith reminds us to go back to the basics when it comes to practicing our faith at home: say the Lord's Prayer or sing the doxology, speak the Apostle's Creed aloud at home. Bring these elements of worship home and let them be a part of your daily life. She says, "There is power in connecting that which happens at church with that which happens at home."

I pray we will continue to connect what happens on our campus into our homes, and share the Good News of the Gospel in our families and communities.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Katy



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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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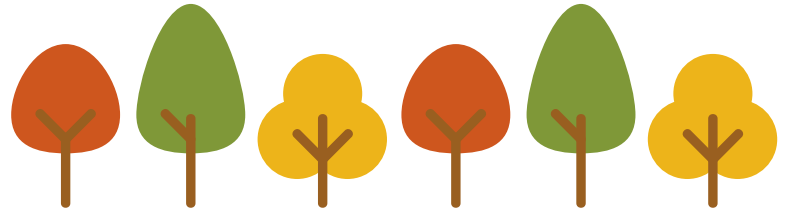
October Session Highlights

The Session met by Zoom on October 19th at 6:30 pm. Highlights included:

1. Opening in prayer and with a brief discussion on questions from, "Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers".
2. Treasurer Sandra Davis shared that our second installment of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan was forgiven. Praise be to God for this good news!
3. We examined and then welcomed new members JaLinda Novak and LaCinda Lee, who are transferring their membership from what was formally Good Shepherd Presbyterian.
4. Our committees shared how they continue to do the faithful and sacred work of the church, including:
 - a. approval of an Advent theme, "Straw for the Manger"
 - b. new LED lighting in the Gym/Fellowship Center
 - c. continued ministry opportunities for children, youth and families
 - d. mission outreach through "Trunk or Treat" and collecting Special Offerings.
5. Committees worked to turn in budgets for Administrations review as we work to plan a budget for 2022.
6. We continue to follow CDC guidelines when it comes to Covid, practicing social distancing and encouraging the wearing of masks when indoors.
7. Session voted to return the funds from the 787 Collective Grant (per their suggestion) as the funds are not currently being used in the way they had originally been planned. The 787 Collective was previously driven by staff and currently not under care of staff or of a committee.
8. Pastor Katy shared she is wrapping up her "Evangelism" Co-hort through the Office of Theology and Worship of the PC(USA).
9. Covenant concerns were shared with our Session before we closed in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Katy Walters

November



11/2 FELLOWSHIP/CHURCH GROWTH (6:30P)
11/4 WORSHIP COMMITTEE (6P)
11/7 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
BOOK CLUB (2:30P)
11/9 MISSIONS MEETING (6:30P)
11/10 CHRISTIAN ED/YOUTH (6:30P)
11/11 ADMIN. MEETING (6:30P)
11/14 MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY
LUNCH & SINGALONG

11/16 SESSION MEETING (6:30P)
11/17 LADIES' LUNCH OUT (11:30A)
MUSIC REHEARSAL (6P)
11/18 GAMESTERS (11:30A)
COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE (7P)
11/21 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
HANGING OF THE GREENS
11/25 THANKSGIVING DAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
11/28 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Stewardship Update

FHPC committees have begun planning the 2022 budget. They are working with anticipated expenditures and income for the new year.

Pledged contributions are an essential part of that budgeting process. A recent article compared congregational giving to crowd sourcing as a way of paying for church needs: If we all give "some" we will have enough.

Our stewardship campaign has collected 22 pledges adding up to over \$60,000 or approximately 67 per cent of last year's pledges. As we hopefully emerge from the pandemic Forest Hills will resume more and more of our activities and these will require more financial support.

Prayerfully consider making a pledge if you have not done so. Give "some" and God will bless our gifts.

Judy Grant
Ruling Elder, Administration Committee

TRUNK OR TREAT





MILITARY APPRECIATION SUNDAY



NOVEMBER 14, 2021

*Immediately following Worship, join
us for a free lunch & fellowship!*

On November 14th following worship, we will be honoring those who serve or have served in our military. Join us for a free lunch and fellowship as we sing the songs of our faith and honor those who have served.

*We will be hosting the
Community Thanksgiving
Service on Thursday
November 18, at 7:00 pm. A
Pie Social will follow the
worship service and we need
your help in bringing pies.*

*Whether you bake them
yourselves or pick them up
from the store, we appreciate
you sharing a pie we can all
enjoy together. If you'd like
to sing in the communal choir,
rehearsals will be at Helotes
Hills Methodist on
Wednesdays at 6:45 pm.*

Join Local Helotes Churches for Our

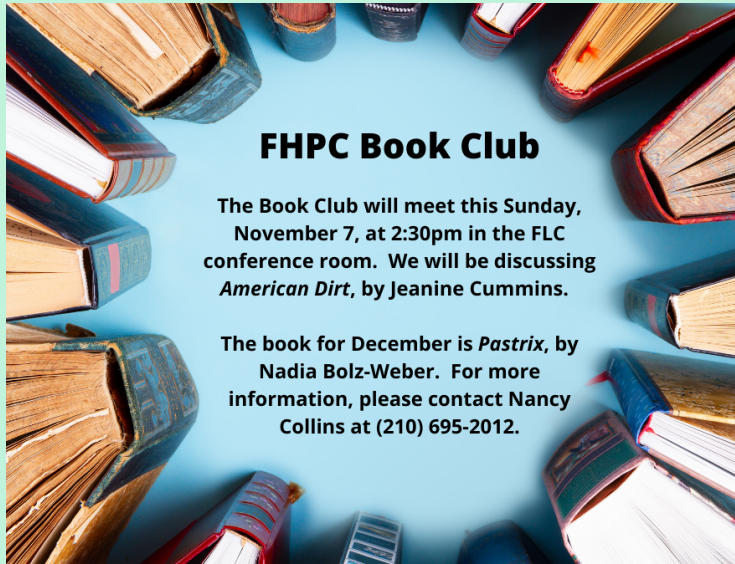
Community Thanksgiving Service

November 18, 2021 at 7 PM

Forest Hills Presbyterian Church
13200 Bandera Road, Helotes, TX

Join us as we give thanks to God together in
Worship with a Pie Social following.

Fellowship Opportunities



FHPC Book Club

The Book Club will meet this Sunday, November 7, at 2:30pm in the FLC conference room. We will be discussing *American Dirt*, by Jeanine Cummins.

The book for December is *Pastrix*, by Nadia Bolz-Weber. For more information, please contact Nancy Collins at (210) 695-2012.

TUESDAY MORNING AT 10:00 AM

Coffee with the Pastor



MEET US AT TEXAS GROUNDS
14359 OLD BANDERA RD UNIT 3, HELOTES TX, 78023

OUR LADIES' LUNCH OUT WILL BE A WEEK EARLIER THIS MONTH DUE TO THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY. JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, AT 11:30AM AT EL CHAPARRAL MEXICAN RESTAURANT IN HELOTES FOR A TIME OF FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN!



Advent Wreath Candle Lighters & Readers



Sign up to assist in worship
in-person or virtually by
clicking here.



Place Your Poinsettia Order



Help us dress our Sanctuary and Narthex this season by buying a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone. Cost is \$10.00 per poinsettia and forms are in the Narthex and Church Office. Deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 12th.

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Join us this Christmas

NOVEMBER 28

Family Friendly Advent Fair

Join us from 5-7 pm for dinner and fun as we prepare our hearts & homes to welcome Jesus.

DECEMBER 5

Blue Christmas Worship - 3:00 pm

A sacred worship space for those living through dark times, praying for healing and hope.

DECEMBER 19

Impromptu In-Person Pageant

During worship, we'll sing and worship together to tell the Christmas story in a new way.

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Worship - 7:00 pm

A Lessons and Carols Candlelight Service
with the celebration of the Lord's Supper
