

*First Presbyterian Church of McAllen*

956-682-2836/fax: 956-664-2711 [www.fpcmcallen.org](http://www.fpcmcallen.org)

email: [fpchurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpchurch@sbcglobal.net)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am—3:00 pm; Friday, 8:00 am-1:00 pm

**Church Staff**

Rev. Kathryn Escandell Pastor	Cam Henry Treasurer	Lucy Snearley Pianist
Michael A. Pullen Church Administrator	Roberto Garza II Choir Director	Adela Zamora Custodian / Nursery
Dana Friedman Clerk of Session	Beverly Bradburn Organist	

**The Session**

Rev. Kathryn Escandell — Moderator  
Dana Friedman — Clerk

<b>Class of 2018</b> Spud Brown Mike Hudler Dottie Palmer Dee Treviño	<b>Class of 2019</b> Kathryn Henry Henry McElmurray Bob Simpson	<b>Class of 2020</b> Tom Ball Maria Colvin-Lopez Dana Friedman Cristina Garfield
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Stated Session meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Session meetings are open unless in Executive Session.

**Ministry Chairpersons**

*Fellowship*—Henry McElmurray  
*Finance/Stewardship*—Bob Simpson  
*Nominating*—Dottie Palmer  
*Personnel*—Dee Treviño  
*Property*—Doug Schneider

**Calling Chairpersons**

*Christian Education*—Cristina Garfield  
*Congregational Care*—Kathryn Henry /  
Mike Hudler  
*Evang. & Mission*—Maria Colvin-Lopez  
*Worship*—Tom Ball

**Trustees**

*Class of 2018*—Maria Colvin-Lopez  
*Class of 2019*—Nadine Force-Macey  
*Class of 2020*—Vinson McLeod

All are welcome to join in the ministry of the church.

**Children are welcome in worship.** Childcare is provided for infants through kindergartners. Preschoolers may leave for an extended children's session in the nursery after "Time with Young Disciples." All children are invited to take advantage of the Children's Worship Bags located in the Narthex.



**Like us on Facebook:** *First Presbyterian Church, McAllen, TX*

**TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. Kathryn Escandell, pastor  
David Rowland, liturgist  
Kathryn Henry, children's time  
Roberto Garza II, choir director

**MUSICIANS**

Beverly Bradburn, organist  
Lucy Snearley, pianist

**USHERS**

Drue Wilkes, captain  
Nadine Force-Macey

**PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN PRAYER:**

Alice Adams, Emelia Alaniz, Ric Backstrom, Samantha Bailey, Bill & Anna Bohart, Dr. Juan Campos, Joseph Castellanos, Gretchen Chapa, Carole Collins, Mary Ann Cummings, Bonnie Daniels, Estelle Davenport, Kyler Deveney, Andres Fuentes, Andrew Garcia, Vicki Garcia, Betty Garner, Steve Gonzalez, Tyson Goodenbaur, Elisha Griffith, Laura Hale, Charles & Lou Helt, Orlin & Lores Hochstetler, Ruth Hodge, Rev. O'Quin Kelly, Dick & Gwyn Kozma, Dr. Kenneth & Carolyn Landrum, Andy Lentz, Shannon Leonard, Shirley Leonard, Eric Longoria, William (Bill) Macecevic, Earl & Nadine Force-Macey, Larry & Jean McDonald, Ivan Melendez, Dolores Munoz, Bernice Norton, Rusty Noser, Daniella Olivarez, John Parks, Cindy Payne, Elpidio Perez, Raymond E. Peterson, Bob Pippin, Robert & Carol Pippin, Rene & Diana Provencio, Marty Pullen, Barry Rock, Laurie Rock, Daniel Salkinder, Ruben Sanchez, Susan Cowie-Serres, The Session of FPC-McAllen, Nancy Shepard, Scott Shipley, Barbara Stevens, Judy Suter, Lindsay Terry, Alan & Joy Tittle, Rick Trager, Anthony Treviño, Sopphey Vance, Harry Vorbach, Eric & Lety Walborg, James & Carole Warren, Jessica Watt, Joseph Watt, John Wright, Draven Trent Zamora. **MILITARY/OVERSEAS:** Derek Emter, Nathan & Glenda Mesta, Jason Schneider, Taylor Wimberley, Justin Zeller. **MISSIONARY:** Dre Atkins. **SHUT-INS:** Lois Clark, Gladys Law, Dale Miller, Lupe Weir. (NOTE: If you would like to add a name to the list, please fill out a card located in the "Ritual of Friendship" book or back of the pew and drop it in the offering plate.)

*Our Mission Statement*

Join the Journey!  
Love and Serve God and Others.

*Our Vision Statement*

Respond to God's grace and build upon the strength of our Reformed tradition through worship, evangelism and leadership training. We will become a church of ministers who carry out the Great Commission and meet the needs of one another. We will build safer communities and glorify the name of Jesus Christ in the city of McAllen, Texas.

**We will ...**

Proclaim the Good News revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will accomplish this through activities such as festivals and concerts, and through various means of communication as social and international programs.

**We will ...**

Live as a community of faith in worship, prayer, study and fellowship. This will be done through programs, including Sunday School, Bible Study, Sunday Worship; and activities, including church meals, as well as support for individual worship.

**We will ...**

Actively serve our community with love, compassion, respect, mercy and justice. We will accomplish through peace, unity and purity through Christ-like behavior, corporate and personal responsibility, and hospitality toward all.

May God empower us by the Holy Spirit to fulfill our call to be God's people.

*First Presbyterian Church*  
of McAllen



104 SOUTH 12TH STREET  
MCALLEN, TEXAS 78501  
Serving this community since 1908

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

**September 17, 2017**

**10:30 a.m.**

**15th Sunday after Pentecost / Theological Education/Seminaries**

(\* - please rise in body or spirit. Congregation parts in **bold**.)

**GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

Welcome and Announcements / Friendship Book

Prelude

Silent Preparation

*To refuse to forgive another is to forfeit forgiveness for ourselves.*

— William Arthur Ward, "Think It Over"

## GATHERING

- \* Call to Worship  
People of God, bless the Lord.  
**Bless God's holy name.**  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
**so great is God's steadfast love for us.**
- \* Opening Hymn                      *God Is Here!*                      No. 409 (Purple)
- \* Prayer of the Day  
Call to Confession  
Prayer of Confession  
**O Christ, the ocean of our forgiveness,  
allow me to wash off in you the dirt I am clothed in,  
so that I may become resplendent  
in the raiment of your holy light.**
- Silent Confession  
Declaration of Forgiveness  
Friends, hear the good news:  
Christ has broken the power of sin and evil  
and has opened to us the way of eternal life.  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God.**
- \* Gloria Patri                      *Glory Be to the Father*                      No. 581 (Purple)
- \* Passing the Peace of Christ  
The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**  
[In the same manner, turn and pass the peace of Christ to your neighbors.]

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

- Prayer for Illumination  
First Reading    *Amos 5:12-15* (NRSV)  
*(This is the Word of the Lord ... Thanks be to God!)*
- Anthem                      *Jesus Loves Me*                      by William B. Bradbury
- Time with Young Disciples  
Gospel Reading    *Matthew 18:21-35* (NRSV)  
*(This is the Word of the Lord ... Thanks be to God!)*
- Sermon                      "*Possibilities and Limits*"                      Rev. Kathryn Escandell

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

- \* Affirmation of Faith    (from the *Confession of Belhar*)  
**We believe that God has entrusted the church  
with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;  
that the church is called to be the salt of the earth  
and the light of the world;  
that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker;  
that the church is witness both by word and by deed  
to the new heaven and the new earth  
in which righteousness dwells.**  
**We believe that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit  
have conquered the powers of sin and death,  
and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred,  
bitterness and enmity; that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit  
will enable the church to live in a new obedience  
which can open new possibilities of life  
for society and for the world.**
- \* Reflection Hymn                      *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*                      No. 829 (Purple)
- Prayers of the People / *Lord's Prayer*                      Purple Hymnal, Pg. 35  
Let us pray for this world God so loves, saying, God in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**
- Presentation of Tithes and Offering  
Invitation to the Offering  
Offertory
- \* Doxology                      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*                      No. 606 (Purple)
- \* Offertory Prayer
- \* Closing Hymn                      *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* (v. 1-2)                      No. 547 (Purple)

## GO OUT INTO THE WORLD IN GOD'S NAME

- \* Charge & Benediction  
\* Congregational Response                      *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* (v. 3)                      No. 547 (Purple)
- \* Postlude

## Announcements & Church Information

The **FLOWERS AT THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY** are presented to the glory of God by *the children of God.*

The **CONFESSION OF BELHAR** was recently added to our Book of Confessions. It is a brief but theologically rich and socially bold declaration, and an important witness both to and for the Church. Want to know more about the *Belhar Confession* and the role our PC(USA) creeds and confessions play in the life of the church? A small group study, led by Pastor Kathy, begins today, September 17, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

The **PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY** will resume bimonthly classes this Tuesday, September 19. The Quilt Ministry meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on the second floor of the church. For more information, contact Shirley Pippin at 956-358-0591.

The **FPC YOUTH GROUP** wishes to wholeheartedly thank the congregation for its participation in the youth's "Montreat-or-Bust" bake sale fundraiser last Sunday. Thanks so much for your purchases and generous donations! You helped us raise \$1,248.

The Worship Calling is in need of **VOLUNTEERS FOR USHERS** during Sunday worship services. Normal attrition has left us short-handed. Ushers are organized into teams that rotate from month to month, so scheduling is flexible. Please volunteer by emailing Tom Ball at [tomasball@aol.com](mailto:tomasball@aol.com).

**DEADLINE** for the **OCTOBER '17 NEWSLETTER** is September 18.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES FOR SEPTEMBER 17-24, 2017

### SUNDAY / 17th

(15th Sunday after Pentecost / Theological Education/Seminaries)

10:30 am—Worship Service

3:00 pm—"Belhar Confession" class (Parlor)

4:30 pm—Youth

5:00 pm—Spanish Worship Service (Parlor)

### MONDAY / 18th

(Newsletter deadline)

### TUESDAY / 19th

1:30 pm—Prayer Quilt Ministry (2nd floor)

6:00 pm—Session (Parlor)

### WEDNESDAY / 20th

7:00 pm—Choir practice (Choir room)

### THURSDAY / 21st

(International Day of Peace)

9:30 am—Space for God

### FRIDAY / 22nd

(Native American Day)

7:00 am—Prayer Breakfast meeting (@ Denny's, 401 E. Nolana, McAllen)

### SUNDAY / 24th

(16th Sunday after Pentecost / Evangelism Sunday)

9:00 am—Sunday School

10:00 am—Choir Practice (Choir room) / "The Gathering" (Parlor)

10:30 am—Worship Service

4:30 pm—Youth

5:00 pm—Spanish Worship Service (Parlor)