

THISWEEK@PCPC
VOL. XXXIV, NO. 5 | MAY 2023
PARK CITIES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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4124 OAK LAWN AVENUE
DALLAS, TX 75219-3152

PERIODICAL
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PAID
AT DALLAS,
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SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.
24/7 PRAYER HOTLINE: 214-224-2680 or
24/7prayer@pcpc.org

As the
Father has
loved Me,
so have
I loved you.
Abide in
My love.

John 15:9

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PCPC NEWS
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CONNECT, ABIDE, & EXTEND

FAMILY LEGACY PACKING EVENT

MAY 13 | 9:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M. | PCPC PARKING GARAGE

We are looking for 250 volunteers in 2 shifts to pack food for children in Zambia on May 13. Family Legacy will provide everything we need for the event, but we need your hands to help package 60,000 nutritional meals! We will have two shifts, 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Take advantage of this opportunity to serve with other PCPC members on a Saturday morning.

pcpc.org/events

WOMEN FOR GOD: EARLY MORNING & MAYMASTER

MAY 10, 17, 24 & 31 | 7:00 A.M. & 10:00 A.M.

Join us for a 4-week study on Wednesdays in May entitled "Women for God - God's Power through the Lives of Women." Only a few women in Scripture are called prophets. What does "prophet" mean, and how did God bring influence for Himself through these women? Are there special purposes God has now for women in our families, communities, and culture? We will examine Scripture's record, think, and talk together about God's plan and His action in our lives. Teacher: Neatice Warner. Childcare for Maymaster is available by registration until May 5.

pcpc.org/events

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Please note several upcoming important dates in preparation for VBS Sonshine Beach (June 6-9). All VBS volunteers are encouraged to attend our upcoming craft preparation day on May 2 and the information training session on May 9. The entire family is invited to our Sonshine Beach Kickoff Celebration on Sunday, June 4, for food, fellowship, and worship!

pcpc.org/vbs

YOUNG ADULTS

Join the Young Adult Ministry at Williams Park on May 21 at 6:00 p.m. to enjoy a few casual games of pickleball, great popsicles, and connecting with other friends in our ministry! And then join us for our annual Summer Book Study (June 7-August 16), as we read and discuss a book with friends in families' homes! Our book this year is *You're Only Human* by Kelly Kapic. Email YA@pcpc.org for more information and sign ups!

pcpc.org/young-adults

YOUNG MARRIEDS PRAYER

MAY 7 | 5:00-6:00 P.M. | THE CHAPEL

The Young Marrieds ministry invites you to an evening of prayer. PCPC member Elizabeth Robinson will share a devotional and lead us through a time of corporate and individual prayer. Elizabeth has more than 20 years of experience speaking on prayer and leading prayer gatherings. Sign up online to participate, and please also register for childcare, if needed, by May 2.

pcpc.org/events

DEEP LIGHT PODCAST

Come listen to beautiful conversations of hope found in Jesus Christ through real-life stories. This season, we are looking at several topics including how people change, grief, trauma, and teenage years. Find the podcast on your favorite podcasting platform. Don't miss it and be sure to subscribe, like, and share with friends and neighbors!

pcpc.org/deeplight



FIRST FRIDAY & BEFRIEND

GOSPEL AT WORK

By Jane Edson,
PCPC Communication Specialist

There's a ministry within our church that meets the needs of parents and families in a tangible, meaningful way. On Friday nights once a month, Park Cities Presbyterian Church (PCPC) opens its doors for an evening of play and togetherness called "First Friday" and "bFriend." During First Friday, parents of children with disabilities can drop off their kids for fun activities and discipleship in a safe environment that supports their needs and joys.

Meanwhile, parents or caretakers can enjoy rest or a date night out. Siblings are included in the fun too! Typically, this event reaches about 15-20 kids a month. Going on simultaneously, bFriend provides opportunities for adults with special needs to gather with other adults for fellowship, dinner, and community. It's not just a night of fun and rest; it's about the gospel at work within the Body of Christ.



BODY OF CHRIST

What has happened because of First Friday and bFriend? We've seen a picture of the Body of Christ working together in a unique way. My 10-year-old son with autism attends First Friday. While there, he loves doing "chair races" through the lobby and exploring the grounds of the church with his adult buddy alongside him. The church building used to intimidate my son with hundreds of people and sensory stimuli on Sunday mornings. However, on a Friday night, it's not loud, and there's no pressure in a classroom. He is loved, discipled, and supported.

As a mom, I have worried about how my son would fit in with boys his age at church. How would he even hear the gospel in a way that speaks to his literal-minded brain that has difficulty believing in what it cannot see? However, coming to First Friday has made me realize that it's the same gospel for us all regardless of how our brain or body is wired. There's not a special gospel for children with special needs. There isn't any sensory equipment, physical tools, or an app to buy that would best deliver the gospel for kids

with disabilities. There's just one Lord and one Gospel. At First Friday, other families from PCPC come to love on and build relationships with kids like my son who maybe don't have a friend or just need that one-on-one attention due to God-given differences. Then again on Sunday mornings, kids can see many of those same church member volunteers serving as their Sunday morning buddies. That familiar face and repetition truly puts kids at ease and provides a meaningful connection.

I'm thankful that through programs like First Friday and bFriend at PCPC, we can trust that the Lord is using His church to meet the needs of kids and adults to hear the gospel and to see the love of Christ through the hands and feet of others. I'm thankful I am not alone in preaching the gospel to my child with special needs or his siblings. Just looking around at the joy on other parent's faces as they drop off their kids for First Friday, I can see the Lord's handiwork.

WORD OF THANKS

Thank you to all those who have volunteered in First Friday and bFriend! Thank you to Jeanie Cox, Michelle Scudder, and Laura Lee Calce. The next First

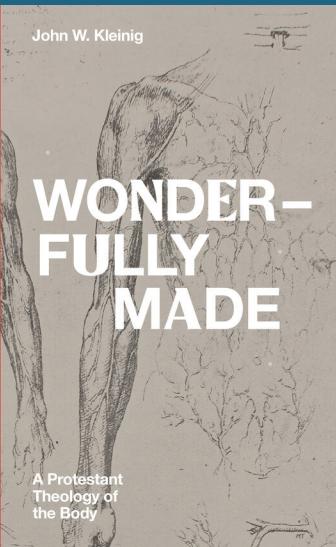
Friday and bFriend will be held April 28 and will re-launch again in the fall after a summer break. For more information, contact Jeanie.Cox@pcpc.org.

LOOKING FOR A GOOD READ?

PCPC's Bookstore Manager, Amy Tassos, shares a few recs this month for parents of kids with special needs.

WONDERFULLY MADE

Because we are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26), every human has value. *Wonderfully Made* instructs us on the life of a whole person, an embodied soul who belongs to our Creator.



PARENTING & DISABILITIES

A BIDING
IN GOD'S
PRESENCE

31-DAY DEVOTIONALS FOR LIFE

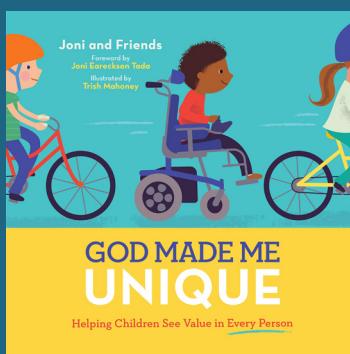
STEPHANIE O. HUBACH

PARENTING & DISABILITIES: ABIDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Where is God in your journey of parenting a child with disabilities? Everywhere! Hubach's *Parenting and Disabilities* is a personally lived resource from the 31-Day Devotionals for Life series.

GOD MADE ME UNIQUE

Joni Eareckson Tada helps parents teach their children about a variety of special needs. The inviting illustrations and rhyming prose make this a fun and engaging read.



The PCPC Bookstore doors are always open, and we offer a self-checkout kiosk (accepting credit or debit cards only).

Check out our inventory at pcpcbookstore.org.

If you need help finding something or have a question about the store, please email us at bookstore@pcpc.org.