

 **FIRST PRES**

August 2018

LORD

The background of the page is a watercolor illustration. The top half is a bright, warm yellow-orange wash. Below this, there are dark, jagged mountain peaks in shades of brown and black. The word "LORD" is written in large, bold, red capital letters across the middle of the page, partially overlapping the mountains and the yellow background. The watercolor style is visible with various textures, splatters, and color variations.

Dear First Pres,

What a summer it has been! These next few weeks will bring us back together again as vacations wind down and school starts up. But before we settle back in to the normal rhythm of life, take a moment to look around—to look at all the Lord accomplished among us this summer. Pages 12-15 of this magazine celebrate just a handful of all the wonderful things God has done in this outpost of His Kingdom in recent months. He is so good!



Exciting things are on the horizon for the next months as well. We're pressing into a new season of college ministry in partnership with Young Life College. We'll become a prime location for young professionals making a good start in their adult lives as part of The Fellows Initiative (see p. 10-11). Our ministries are planning prayerfully and enthusiastically to **worship well**, to **proclaim the gospel** and to **give ourselves away to the next generation** in 2019 and beyond.

In each of these endeavors, God is about His mighty work. People are asking, "Father, what would You have me do? How can I honor you with my life? How can we honor you through the life and ministry of First Pres?" That's the crux of putting God in the place of Lord of our lives. And that's where we're headed this fall, asking together, "How can I place more and more of my life under God's authority? What good things come when I do?" Are you up for the journey? I can tell you without hesitation that I think this is the best way to live—in fact, no other way of life can hold a candle to the wholeness and vitality that comes when we make Him Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Tim

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FIRST PRES MAGAZINE

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Happy 146th Birthday First Pres!

On August 12, 1872, First Pres was born in Colorado Springs, just a few months after the city itself came into being. This month marks our church's 146th birthday, after an exciting year, which included



1 new **Worship Center**—our congregation's gift to the church on her 145th birthday,

6,171

worshippers and guests in attendance on Christmas Eve,



488

CityServe participants from First Pres, helping to bring the citywide total to 2,000 folks loving and serving our city together,



12

refugee children cared for in our nursery facilities this summer while their parents learned English as a second language in our classrooms,



400



pieces sanded, painted and assembled by our high school mission team to make six bunk beds for Young Life's Pico Escondido camp in the Dominican Republic,



10

Sunday evening worship services during last fall's First Things First series to help our church family make worship our high priority,

\$102,500

generously contributed to translate resources and launch small groups to strengthen families in Mongolia and get the Family Connections Center at the Helen Hunt campus off to a great start here in Colorado Springs,



10

Upward Bound campers who embarked on a **new relationship with Jesus** at camp this summer,

1

new Global Engagement country partnership forged in



Glory to God for all He has done! Would you like to bless First Pres again for her 146th birthday? To contribute, designate "Birthday Gift" when you give during worship, online or by texting an amount to 719-297-2232.



The Ten Commandments, found in Exodus 20, speak to us today of a life in which God is Lord of every aspect, every moment. And the good news of the gospel is that this is the very best kind of life there is. Will you join us each Sunday this fall as we discover why? These devotional thoughts from our preaching team can help us to prepare our hearts for worship.

Week One

Lord of my Life | Exodus 20:3

It takes a lifetime to give ourselves totally to the Lordship of Christ. Sometimes we are confronted with something that needs to change quickly. Other times it takes a while for the Lord to get our attention. But all the while, we are cultivating a life of responsiveness to the Lord. – Jennifer Holz

Week Two

Lord of my Heart | Exodus 20:4-6

The second commandment deals with idols. This may be something we can't relate to, until we remember all of our life goals that revolve around something other than God. As Pastor Tim Keller says, "The human heart is an idol factory that takes good things like a successful career, love, material possessions, even family, and turns them into ultimate things. Our hearts deify them as the center of our lives, because, we think, they can give us significance and security, safety and fulfillment, if we attain them." – Greg Hartnett

Week Three

Lord of my Mind | Exodus 20:7

Names reveal reputation, character, personality, and authority. When we act inconsistently with the name of God, we diminish His name in the eyes of others. We cannot honor God's name if we're unfamiliar with His character from His self-revelation in the Bible. – John Goodale

Week Four

Lord of my Limits | Exodus 20:8-11

In "The Holy Day," Karl Barth essentially says the first thing that Adam and Eve saw when God breathed life into them was their Creator, waiting to embrace them, willing to spend time with them so that they would know who they were and to whom they belonged and owed their allegiance. Sabbath tells us that we belong to God, not to our work. – Junior McGarrah

Week Five

Lord of my Family | Exodus 20:12

"There are only three ways to teach a child. The first is by example, the second is by example, the third is by example." – Albert Schweitzer



LORD

The Way of Life That Is Truly Life

Week Six

Lord of my Relationships | Exodus 20:13

This commandment teaches us not to murder. Jesus raises the standard higher to ask if we are allowing rage and power to rise up in our hearts against another. But God is in charge of justice and retribution. Ours is to forgive and reconcile as much as we can. This is the way of life that is truly life. – Tim McConnell

Week Seven

Lord of my Desire | Exodus 20:14

The boundaries God places on us are meant to strengthen and enhance our relationships with God and each other. They are God's gift to us so that we can enjoy ultimate freedom, rather than being restricted or limited from living life to the full. – Tom Pipkin

Week Eight

Lord of All Nations | Matthew 28:16-20

We take a break from the Ten Commandments to honor CityServe Weekend, Compassion Sunday and World Communion Sunday and explore Global Engagement. Jesus is Lord of all nations, all peoples. There is no people group that does not need Jesus. There is no people that does not thrive when they know Jesus as Lord.

Week Nine

Lord of my Resources | Exodus 20:15

"What matters isn't simply keeping a bunch of rules; what matters is character. Not just any old sort of character, either, but a particular sort: the sort Jesus was urging and modeling—the character of patience, humility, and above all generous, self-giving love. And the message of Mark... seems to be that you don't get that character just by trying. You get it by following Jesus." – N.T. Wright

Week Ten

Lord of my Voice | Exodus 20:16

Social Media disciplines us to shoot off responses without thinking—the highest value being getting something out as fast as you can so you can be first. How do we get back in the godly rhythm of being "slow to speak" (James 1:19)? – Jennifer Holz

Week Eleven

Lord of my Shopping | Exodus 20:17

The final commandment teaches us to strive for contentment, not covetousness. Wanting what others have leads to all sorts of bitterness and eventually to bad decisions. Being grateful for what we have fills us with joy and allows us to celebrate others' good blessings. Comparison is deadly, but contentment is peace. – Tim McConnell

FALL KICKOFF



Our All-Church Picnic will kick off the fall season August 22.

Summer is a time to scatter. As a congregation we've been on myriad family vacations, partnered with brothers and sisters in Christ in Mongolia, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador, climbed more than a few fourteeners and crossed Colorado three times shuttling campers of various ages to camp. I hope you've been able to stay connected with worship this summer—the **Me to We** message from the Apostle Paul through the book of Ephesians is vital to our life together. Be sure to catch up on anything you missed at www.first-pres.org/metowe.

Fall is a time to come back together again, charged up from our summer adventures and ready to take the next step in our life of following Christ. So what is the next step? I'd love to suggest a few that you can pray about.

1

JOIN A LIFE GROUP

If you've been around First Pres this summer, you've probably heard it said at least once that we can't do this Christian life alone. Now is the perfect time to make an 11-week commitment to be part of a small community of people who will get to know you by name, pray for you, dig into Scripture with you and try to really live the Jesus life together. Who knows? You might like each other so much that you continue on beyond the end of the fall series. **Sign up at first-pres.org/lifegroups.**

2

FIND A PLACE YOU CARE ABOUT TO SERVE

Do you love telling kids about Jesus? Our Children's Ministry needs YOU. You might shepherd a "flock" of elementary students each Sunday or teach a workshop a few times a month. Are you available on Tuesday, midday? You might join the team that's been serving the noon meal to our neighbors in need at Marian House each Tuesday for 30 years. And CityServe Weekend, October 5-6, is our opportunity to have all hands on deck.

And speaking of CityServe, have you ever considered that the Saturday serve day could even be a great opportunity to invite your friend or neighbor who doesn't yet know Christ to join you? Who wouldn't feel great about being part of a giant effort to make a positive difference in our city? **Sign up at first-pres.org/volunteer.**

3

EMBARK ON A BIBLE READING PLAN

I use—and love—the YouVersion Bible App, which makes it really easy to work your way through a regular Bible-reading plan. In fact, the app will even read the Scriptures to you out loud as you drive, rake leaves or work out. God's Word transforms us, when we allow it to sink in. Don't wait another day to open your life up to the Holy Spirit's work through the Scriptures. **Find the app at youversion.com/the-bible-app.**

4

TITHE

Near the end of our fall Lord series, we'll study what it means for God to be Lord of our resources. You might not believe me, but I can't tell you how blessed you will be if you start moving your giving habits toward giving a tithe—a tenth—of your income to your local church.

I'm not saying this because I'm concerned about funding the church. I promise—if we ever need to talk about that, we'll talk about that. I'm saying it because tithing is a step of faith—a step of following Jesus—that will radically transform your life and how you relate to your "stuff" and to the world around you. Why not give it a try? **Learn more at first-pres.org/give.**



Maybe the step God is asking you to take isn't one of the ones I've listed here. But you know what He's calling you to do. You won't ever regret saying yes to Him. I hope you'll join me in taking the next step of faith this fall.

GENEROSITY

FIRST PRES F

Future ministry funded

PREPARE
GIVE
Risk
Grow
Future
IMPACT
serve
PRAISE
Gratitude
REACH
CALLED

This year, the First Pres Foundation celebrates its 10th anniversary supporting the ministry and mission of First Pres. Created in 2008 to give families an opportunity to support future ministry programming, the First Pres Foundation provides an important tool to leave legacy gifts, implement tax planning strategies in retirement, create long-term funds designated to specific ministries, as well as provide nimble ways in which to gift assets to the church.

Why are Foundations important to the financial health of the church? The financial stool for a church like ours has three legs. We receive regular giving that supports our ministry activity on a weekly basis. We receive designated gifts for specific ministry programs. Once a gift is designated, it can only be used for the purpose it was designed to support. Finally, gifts can be given with the intent to support a particular ministry over many years—these gifts are typically housed in the First Pres Foundation.

How does a Foundation benefit the church? Gifts to the First Pres Foundation are designed to pay out a certain amount each year based upon investment returns. In each of the last two years, the funds housed in the First Pres Foundation have paid out and contributed approximately \$70,000 to support First Pres ministry. These monies have supported:

- › Seminary Student education and training
- › Local and international outreach
- › Young adult leadership development
- › Program funding for Children's and Student Ministries and camps
- › Building and facilities maintenance and development



FOUNDATION

today!

By Alison Murray

How can I contribute to the First Pres Foundation*? The First Pres Foundation can assist with contributions made through:

- › Bequests or Legacy gifts
- › Charitable Gift Annuities (CGA) and Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRT)
- › Donor Advised Funds
- › Endowment funds
- › Gifts and sales of real estate
- › Transfer of life insurance by naming First Pres as beneficiary
- › Stock gifts

You can also contribute by shopping at smile.amazon.com and designating the First Pres Foundation as your recipient.

If you want to know more about the First Pres Foundation, contact **Alison Murray**, Executive Director, at 719-884-6231 or amurray@first-pres.org.

We thank the current board members of the First Pres Foundation for their service and congratulate the First Pres Foundation on its 10th birthday! Board members: **Randy Case, Chair; Gar Puryear, Vice Chair; Alan Jacobs, Treasurer; Mike**

Albright; Paul Nelson; Gary Shugart and Aaron Zimmerman.

*Funds held by the First Pres Foundation are managed by the Texas Presbyterian Foundation  www.tpf.org.



FATHER
strength
savior
love
REDEEMER
Spirit
FRIEND
COUNSELOR
LIFE
light
Blessing
LOVER

By Todd Naevestad

HELLO FELLOWS

At the heart of First Pres is a vision for the future—for those who will come after us in the faith. It was true with the Greenhouse program of recent years; it has been true of hundreds of internships dating back to the 1980s. It was true when *Doulos* began in 1961, when we partnered with Young Life and the Navigators in the 1950s, when we supported World War II servicemen at Camp Carson and when we reached out to young Chinese immigrants in the 1890s. Now, more than ever, we have a heart for giving ourselves away to the next generation.

Why The Fellows Initiative?

This passion has prompted Pastor Tim McConnell and the Senior Leadership Team to seek out a similar, young-adult-oriented program after Greenhouse Internship program came to an end in 2017. Enter the Falls Church Fellows Initiative.

"I first got to know the Fellows Program when my wife Abigail and I were living in Washington, D.C.," Tim explains. "I met a number of young people our age who were Fellows at The Falls Church Anglican Church." The Fellows program was an opportunity for young adults—recent college graduates—to work both in a ministry context and in their own future vocation to gain experience.

The Fellows Initiative surfaced again in Tim's next assignment. "When I was living in Charlottesville, I was a professor for the Fel-

lows program at Trinity Presbyterian Church," Tim recounts. "I was hired to teach historical theology to the Fellows through the year." Having been hands-on with the program, Tim knows the benefit it has for young adults and how well it fits into First Pres' identity: "This is a strategic way to match our collective wisdom as a church to the needs of young people trying to find a faithful way to serve Jesus in all kinds of areas of life."

So it came to be that First Pres will be launched as the Fellows Initiative's newest host site in 2019.

Coming Soon to First Pres

Fellows at First Pres will be welcomed into a unique learning opportunity. They will be paired with professionals in the vocational fields they hope to step into. For three days each week, they will intern in their various work cultures, learning all they can about work life in the community. They will spend one day per week working in a First Pres ministry role. Finally, they will have an intense day of graduate-level classes to expand their biblical understanding.

The aim of the program is to provide Fellows a comprehensive developmental expe-

While the opportunity for the Fellows is undeniable, the congregation of First Pres has a major role to play as well.

rience, focusing not just on work, but on how best to lead a life for Christ. Tim describes the benefit this will provide when Fellows are launched from the program: "Instead of getting hit hard by the culture of the workplace, [they'll] have a mature view of what it means to serve Christ in their chosen field."

A Whole-Church Endeavor

While the opportunity for the Fellows is undeniable, the congregation of First Pres has a major role to play as well. Pastor Jennifer Holz explains, "The Fellows Initiative is designed in such a way that it is going to require many volunteer teams from within the congregation." Fellows will be placed in part-time jobs, many of which will be provided by employers within the congregation. That's one of the clear advantages of embedding Fellows at First Pres: "We are *designed* for this kind of thing—because we are multi-generational, because we're a large church with lots of opportunities," Jennifer says.

Beyond hiring Fellows, the First Pres family can be part of The Fellows Initiative in many other ways: serving as host homes, joining together in prayer teams, mentoring and sharing wisdom with these young adults. The Fellows will come to our church to work hard, and we will match their efforts with our own support for them.

For Tim, launching this program is about using the resources we have to bring up others in the faith: "The end goal is to annually, systematically connect the rising generation with the wisdom of our more mature generations and launch young Christian leaders ready to serve both the church and the Lord well in whatever vocation God calls them to pursue."



What is The Fellows Initiative?

The Fellows Initiative began in 2006 as an expansion of the original Fellows program at The Falls Church Anglican (Virginia), established in 1994. What started with a few local churches has grown to over twenty church-based Fellowship programs across the country. The goal of the Fellows Initiative is to train and equip recent Christian graduates with experience in their chosen fields, teaching them both practical job skills as well as how to lead a God-honoring life at work.

The program is an intense nine-month internship including biblical classwork, ministry involvement and mentorship from within the host church. The desired result? "By participating in a Fellows Program, you will discern how your story fits into God's story," beckons the program's website (www.thefellowsinitiative.org).

The Fellows who will join us at First Pres will be selected based on interviews and recommendations commending them for their heart for God, strong work ethic and desire to better themselves both for their own sake and the sake of their Savior. Fellows pledge commitment to their work, their ministry responsibilities and to each other as they help one another grow into more confident adults.

CELEBRATING Summer

What an exciting summer it's been! These pages tell just a few stories of what God has done in and through First Pres this summer. Let's join in giving Him thanks and praying for the seeds that have been planted to grow and bear fruit.



High School Ministry Dominican Republic Mission ▲

Serving Springs ► "I didn't know working at a church could be so fun!" —Michael, Serving Springs Participant

Our 5th through 9th graders were a vital part of leading VBS, and they spent each afternoon of the week serving with local mission partners and discovering how awesome it is to pour ourselves out on behalf of others.





Vacation Bible School ▲ "I loved checking in each day with one of our first-time Bible story leaders and asking how the week was going. It warmed my heart to hear how he was learning from some of our younger children as they were learning about Jesus from him!" —Candice Ware, Interim Children's Ministries Associate

Mini Camp

The Great Escape

Student Life Mission Camp

IHN Host Week ►



◀ **Mongolia Teacher Team and Campus Crusade Staff Conference**





Music and Art Camps ▲► “String campers are mostly from outside the church, so it’s a great outreach opportunity. Our Student Ministries Staff shared a devotional every day, and it was neat to see them connecting with String Camp students and showing them that First Pres is a welcoming place for them.” – Marty Kelley, Camp Administrator



Of Thee I Sing Concert
MOPS Summer Bible Study
Prime Time
Backyard Bible Study
 ◀ **Upbeat Music and Drama Camp for 3rd through 8th grades**



Upward Bound Camp for 3rd through 6th grades ▲ Upward Bound Camp was an amazing picture of one generation telling the next generation of God's great salvation. Out of 41 leaders, 31 had themselves been First Pres/Camp Elim campers. Ten out of 103 kids started a new relationship with Jesus at Camp this year, and 12 Counselors in Training added awesome energy and received hands-on training in ministering to kids just a few years younger than themselves.

Service of Hope and Restoration

Living Water Mission to El Salvador ►

Four Score and More Party ▼



SAVE THESE DATES

August 22 > All-Church Picnic

August 29 > Growing Together Wednesdays begin

October 5-6 > CityServe Weekend

October 7 > World Communion

and Compassion Sunday

October 28 > Commitment Sunday

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