



# FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH OF NEW BRAUNFELS CONNECTION

*Seeking God, Sharing His Love, Serving Others*

Fall 2022





# FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH OF NEW BRAUNFELS

172 West Coll Street New Braunfels, Texas 78130  
Church Office (830) 609-7729 - First Protestant School (830) 606-4110

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## **First Protestant Church Staff Directory** **Church Office Phone (830) 609-7729**

\*Please note that some of our extensions have changed.

**The Church Staff can be reached by email using the addresses below.**

Dr. D.M “Woody” Woodward- Interim Senior Minister	Ext. 116	woody@firstprotestant.com
Tyler Reed - Director of Youth and Children’s Ministries	Ext. 114	tyler@firstprotestant.com
Janice Borgfeld - Director of Lay Ministries	Ext. 113	janice@firstprotestant.com
Kirsten Boyd - Interim Music Director		kirstboyd@gmail.com
Debbie Caraway - FPS Director	830-606-4110	debbie@firstprotestant.com
Doreen Schaeffer - Business Manager	Ext. 121	doreen@firstprotestant.com
Jerald Schroeder - Director of Operations	Ext. 119	gerald@firstprotestant.com
Melanie Gillum - Administrative Assistant	Ext. 110	melanie@firstprotestant.com

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9-12 & 1-4, Friday 9-12 & 1-3

*Seeking God, Sharing His Love, Serving Others*

**Please enjoy your newsletter in full color online at [firstprotestant.com](http://firstprotestant.com).**



## ***Meet Our New Interim Music Director, Kirsten Boyd.***

***Kirsten is thrilled to begin this fall as the Interim Music Director at First Protestant. A recent transplant to Texas, her current day job involves teaching tiny humans music, choir and theatre at Crockett Elementary in San Marcos, TX. Her latest fun project is a once a month musical theatre open mic called ATX Piano Parties. Formerly, she worked as a General Music Teacher for Fairfax County Public Schools in Fairfax, VA and as the Upper School Music at Liberty***

***Tree Academy in Peyton, CO. As a pianist, private instructor, music director and church musician, Kirsten has spent the past 15+ years actively making music with the highlight being numerous projects music directing for musical theatre productions. Kirsten served as the Artistic Director and the Producing Director for the City of Fairfax Theatre Company 2013-2020 and Fairfax High School's FX Players. Kirsten served on the music staff at Truro Anglican Church, Fairfax, from 2006 - 2017 moving from a part-time position to the role of Director of Worship & Arts for its large, vibrant music ministry. Kirsten holds music degrees in piano and French horn from North Park University and Western Illinois University.***

# ***Fall Kickoff for Our Music Department!***

**First Protestant's Choir & Handbells kicked off with a party at the home of Jackie and Charlene Nolte on Friday, August 26! The event featured a short recital with soprano Hillary Schranze (Charlottesville Opera, Austin Opera) singing selected works from famous operas and musical theatre productions. Many thanks to New Braunfels own 1845 Meat Company for providing some delicious hors d'oeuvres and to the Noltes for the use of their beautiful home!**



# *Can You Take up Your Cross AND Follow Your Heart? By Sue Saur*

In a word, no.

Mark 8:34 (King James Version) says this, “And when he called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, whosoever will come after me, must deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow me.”

The NLT says it this way: “Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he (Jesus) said, ‘If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.’”

Jesus uses the word “follow” twice in his sentence. Here’s what he means—If you want to be my disciple, here’s *how* you follow me-- deny yourself, and take up your cross.

So, let’s start with the “deny yourself” part. At first glance we could see this command as something like giving up chocolate for Lent, but He’s not talking about denying yourself something--what he means is —deny your “self”, or as the NLT puts it, “give up your own way.”

Your “self”, my “self”—our “selves” are—in a nutshell, “self” serving by our very nature. Jesus says, if you want to be called a Christian, you must say no to that self-serving “self” of yours.

That “self” often hides behind a big sign with a sweet, seemingly innocuous heart drawn on it. The caption reads, “Follow Your Heart”. Looks innocent enough, but that “self” is just back there snickering. “Self” needs you to buy into the message that you are “#1”, that you *deserve*—well, pretty much everything—and your first priority is to get it.

It’s a nervous laugh though, because as you get better at denying your “self”, as you mature in your faith, you increasingly become “self” less. As you fall deeper in love with Jesus, instead of desiring to follow your heart, you desire to follow His.

Then there’s that “take up your cross” part. At this point, Jesus hadn’t been to the cross, but every Jew knew what “the cross” meant. Today we wear a cross as jewelry or use it as décor for our home-- to identify us in a safe --and socially acceptable manner as a Christian. But in Jesus’ day, the cross was the ultimate means of torture and death, employed by the Romans to keep the people in line.

It was very effective.

## ***Can You Take up Your Cross AND Follow Your Heart? cont.***

When a person was convicted and sentenced to die, they were first humiliated—publicly stripped and beaten, and then forced to carry their cross to the execution site outside the city.

There they hung on the cross until they suffocated. If that process took too long for the impatient Roman guard, he would break their legs with an iron club, making it impossible for them to push up with their feet in order to allow their chest to expand and take a breath. Death would come quickly.

But why would Jesus tell the crowd that they should take up their cross? Jesus wasn't a fan of the "bait and switch." He wanted to lay everything out on the line. No, not everyone would be martyred for their faith in Jesus, but it was a definite possibility. (For the record, all but one of the disciples ended up being martyred.) He said, if they hated me, why wouldn't they hate you? They reject me, they mock me, and you can expect the same if you call yourself my follower, my disciple.

In 2022, in America, we don't fear being martyred, though there are places in the world where it still happens frequently. In many places, Christians are arrested and jailed simply because of their faith, but here in America, we face social prejudice more than legal or lethal repercussions. We can be mocked. We risk losing our status. We can be "cancelled."

Jesus tells his disciples, and us, up front, the cost of being a Christian.

So, here's the takeaway:

To deny our "selves", moment by moment, day after day, we will need to be intentional. If our goal is to love—and-- serve—and know Jesus, we make those activities our priority. Priorities get time in our day—otherwise, we (our "selves") might decide we are just too busy.

Once we find our place to serve, we go with the understanding that we may not be appreciated. We will probably not get a certificate of merit. It might not be pleasant.

And that's ok. Actually, its better.

When we can serve and desire—truly desire-- for the glory to go to God instead of our "selves"—we find true joy. Bigger than we ever imagined.

The irony.

The moment we can stop making it all about our "self" is the moment we are satisfied.

Jesus, may we find your glory so satisfying, so complete, that we long to serve you daily from a place of selflessness. In Your Holy Name. Amen

Join us **Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** for our Fall

## **Great (co)Mission Refresh!**

Hear how we as a church can use our resources, talents, and passions to make a difference for Christ in our community and the world.

**9-4pm. Lunch included.**

Then stay after services on **October 16<sup>th</sup>** for our annual

## **GO2Lunch**

Hear how service has impacted the lives of our members as well as those they serve.

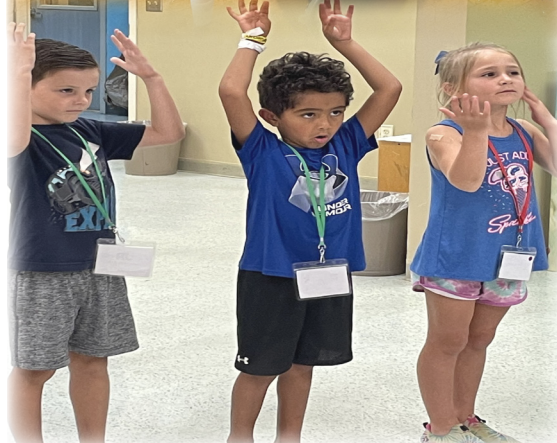


## **Service IS Worship!**

Contact the church office to reserve your spot!

# VBS 2022

## IT WAS MONUMENTAL!!





*Thank you doesn't seem to be enough for all the hard work that goes into our Vacation Bible School each year. The volunteers that prepare the classrooms, teach, hold babies, work sign in tables, and basically finding the need and filling it, are appreciated more than you'll ever know. The different groups cooking and serving the amazing evening meal gave us all something to look forward to! Your faithfulness to the call to love these children and your hours donated to make this the best experience some of these children will ever have, makes this experience bigger and brighter every year, as we share the love of Christ. You really are the hands and feet of Jesus to these children and their families.*



# Women's Ministries

From the Desk - of Daphne Spraitzer  
President Women's Ministries



**We had a wonderful September meeting! 26 ladies attended. Many thanks to all who brought salads and desserts -- they were all delicious! And many, many thanks to Charlene Nolte for hosting the Luncheon! This makes 10 years that Charlene has offered her heart and home to Women's Ministries and we really appreciate it. Photos of the event are attached.**



**Group photo: Front row, left to right: Susan Thomas, Daphne Spraitzar, Cindy Gibson, Charlene Nolte, Edie Burquest, Sandra Schriewer. Second row, left to right: Cristabell West, Sara Tays, Karen Lackey, Lizanne Wynn, Sally Voges, Florence Borchers, Tracie Woodward. Back row, left to right: Cindy Rheinlander, Tina Lindemann, Laurel Evans, Kimberly Griffith, Sue Saur, Kim Recio, Carolyn Curtis, Diana Elliott, Debbie Williams, Carole Green, Celeste Salge, Charlene Johnston, Ellen Milam.**



## ***Upcoming Events.***

- **September 30th - October 1st, YouAre Conference, A Conference for Women, stretching across generations + denominations under the name of Jesus Christ. At Oakwood Church, off Loop 337.**
  1. **Friday, September 30, 2022, 5pm - 10pm, includes Main Session, Market + Ministry Fair;**
  2. **Saturday, October 1, 2022, 8am - 5:30pm, includes 5 hour and a half sessions and lunch break (food provided).**
- **October 10th, 9am– Potato Soup Making in Schumann Hall -- all women are invited. Followed by a short Regular Meeting: Nominating Committee presents names of nominees for expiring Board terms. (President, Secretary, two At-Large Members) Please RSVP via text or call Florence Borchers, 830-660-3681.**
- **November 6th, Between Services and after the 11:00am service - Potato Soup Sales & Benefit Drawing for a vintage First Protestant Church 75th Anniversary Plate (see photos attached)**
- **November 13th, Between Services and after the 11:00am service - Potato Soup Sales & Benefit Drawing for a vintage First Protestant Church 75th Anniversary Plate.**
- **November 14th, 10am– Regular Meeting. President, Secretary, and two At-Large Members elected. Term is for 2 years beginning in January 2023. Stuff Christmas Gift Bags for homebound members.**
- **December 9th, 5pm– Christmas Party @ Sally & Bobby Voges' Home, 7941 FM 306, New Braunfels, TX 78130**
- **Early December -- We will be asking for volunteers to help deliver Christmas Gift Bags for homebound members.**



# Children's Choirs

*Because we were made to praise!*

*K-5th Grade*

*Sundays from 11am-11:30am*

*Location: Choir Room*

*First Protestant is excited to offer a year-round choral experience for our youngest musicians! The music program at FPS honors the role of the church in training young people for musical leadership. Rehearsals will take place on Sunday mornings from 11-11:30am, students will be taken to The Well following rehearsal. Choristers will learn practical vocal and listening skills, concentration and creativity, and will be exposed to diverse music styles in a variety of languages. The children's choir will perform 3-4 times a semester, with special music for some holiday services. To notify us of your interest for your K-5th grader, please send an email to*

*[Kirsten Boyd kirstboyd@gmail.com](mailto:kirstboyd@gmail.com)*



We realize this request may not be something you can help us with. But we hope that among our many donors, volunteers, and supporters that we will find one or two people who can consider making a donation of a car to Family Promise. Or maybe you know someone...

Right now, we have two families in mind who really need the gift of transportation. If you are in a position to help a struggling family in this way, please let us know! You may respond to this email or give us a call at 830-214-6762 (please leave a message).

## **We Need Your Help!**

We are looking for people to serve on teams for Family Promise. Each Team is headed by one of FPGNB's Board members and provides valuable support to families in shelter. We won't overwhelm you with meetings or work, we just need some help in keeping things running smoothly. If you are interested in helping in any of these ways, please let us know by responding to this email.

### **Congregation Relations**

This Team expresses appreciation for our host and support congregations and recruits new congregations or support organizations.

This Team is for you if: You feel excited about sharing your experiences with Family Promise, you enjoy showing appreciation to volunteers, and/or you have connections at other churches.

### **Community Development**

This Team creates connections with interested and caring community members.

This Team is for you if: You have strong community connections and you like sharing the love of Family Promise.

### **Facilities**

This Team helps maintain and repair the Family Promise building and vehicles.

This Team is for you if: You are handy with tools or know people who are, know your way around a hardware store, can see a problem and know where to go to get it fixed.

### **Fund Development**

This Team creates a fundraising strategy and makes sure we have the money coming in to accomplish our work.

This Team is for you if: You love planning events, you know how to motivate volunteers, you aren't afraid to ask for a donation, you want to share stories about Family Promise.

Thank you so much for considering this opportunity to help families regain and maintain stability in their lives!



10/9	Budget Forum after church at 1:30pm
10/15	Great (co)Mission Refresh - You must RSVP for this event for planning purposes
10/16	GO2LUNCH - Missions
10/23	Flying Fingers Christmas Sale - Schumann Hall
10/28	Fall Festival in partnership with FPS
11/6, 11/13	Women's Ministries Potato Soup Sale
11/4-11/15	Wurstfest
11/20	Stewardship Sunday - Totenfest
2/17-19	GIC - Missions

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