

## Welcome

We hope worship today will engage your mind, stir your soul, and touch your heart, preparing us to faithfully serve God in the world.

A special welcome goes to all worship guests — we are honored by your presence. We invite you to participate fully in worship, our program, and common life of our congregation, and hope you will feel at home among us. Please visit the hospitality booth to receive a special gift. If you have any questions about our church, please speak with a pastor or elder.

After the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services, join us for coffee in the fellowship hall courtyard.

**Ushers are available for assistance** this morning. **Large-print bulletins** are on-hand — just ask an usher. For worshippers who struggle with their hearing, we have a hearing loop installed in the floor of the sanctuary. To receive the loop signal manually, activate your T-coil or the telephone setting on your hearing aid or cochlear implant. If you are unsure, please consult your audiologist. If you don't wear hearing aids, but need assistance, please ask an usher for a loop receiver.

Please know, if you need to step out of the sanctuary for any reason, you can watch the service on *livestream* in the hospitality suite. Also if you can't make it to church, you can watch the 11:00 a.m. service *live* on our website - or later during the week at your convenience.

### • Children Are Welcome

We believe that worship is the response of the whole people of God, and that includes children! Families are welcome to sit together throughout the worship service. If you are interested, child care for newborns up to five years old is provided by a trained, caring staff each week in the nursery behind the sanctuary.

Parents, ask an usher for a **worship bag** for your children so they can engage in creative activities while remaining in worship.

### • Thinking of Membership?

Are you excited by the ministry of First Presbyterian Church? Would you like to know more about this vibrant congregation and the Presbyterian Church? The next new member class is **today**.

### • Our Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Cindy Balistreri and family. Her mother, Janet Garner, died on Monday, January 15. A private family memorial service will be planned for some time in the future.

### • In Our Prayers

Missionaries: Drs. Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta (Indonesia)  
Cindy Corell (Haiti)

A complete list of members and friends who are in our prayers is available in the fellowship hall foyer and in the church office.



**First Presbyterian Church**  
2050 Oak Street Sarasota, FL 34237  
(941) 955-8119 [www.firstpressarasota.org](http://www.firstpressarasota.org)



### • Presbyterian Women

All church members and guests are invited to join Presbyterian Women for a tour of Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Wimauma, FL on **Tuesday, February 5**. We will carpool from the church at 10:00 a.m. If you choose to drive yourself, please plan to arrive no later than 11:15 a.m. We will tour the campus and school and be treated to a lunch of tostadas. There is no charge for lunch. We will return after lunch, arriving back at church around 2:30 p.m. The registration deadline is Tuesday, January 29. Please call the church office (941) 955-8119 or Mary Webb at (941) 758-6035 to register.

### • First Presbyterian Church and iTNSunCoast Renew Contract for 2019

For many, getting a ride to church and around town is a challenge! That is why First Presbyterian has renewed its partnership with iTNSunCoast to help you get to church and the other important places you need to go. iTNSunCoast is a dependable, local non-profit that provides rides using volunteer and paid drivers who use their own cars. Rides are available seven days a week.

**Cost:** If coming to church, you pay just one way! First Presbyterian will pay the other way as well as the \$50 annual membership fee for First Presbyterian Church members for 2019. If using iTN for non-church related rides, you will be responsible to pay the cost both ways. Rides to and from eye appointments may be discounted. Ask iTN when booking.

For more information or to become an iTNSunCoast member, call (941) 364-7530 and tell them you are a member of First Presbyterian Church, or register online at <https://www.itnsuncoast.org>. If you have any questions, contact Cheryl Track, (941) 320-3828.

### • Text Giving

Are you interested in the convenience of contributing by text message? Text FPC2050 to 73256 to donate via text. Standard rates may apply.

### • Pastoral Care

There have been major changes at our local hospitals. When you or a loved one is hospitalized, it is imperative that you contact the church or one of the pastors to inform us directly **and** inform the hospital that you are a member of our congregation and would welcome a visit by one of our pastors. *Hospitals will not contact the church.* We have also discovered that some will no longer even list a patient as our church member on their internal records unless the patient is careful to note their relationship with our congregation. Thank you for your assistance.



## First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota

Announcements  
January 27, 2019

### • New Member Class Today

If you are considering membership in this dynamic congregation, come to the new member class **today** from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in room 225. We will worship from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and then enjoy lunch together with continued discussion.

### • Preschool Sunday Today

Today we recognize our award-winning preschool and teachers in the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services! We appreciate and support all who participate in our preschool program. We will have a reception for the teachers in the fellowship hall courtyard at 10:00 a.m. Come by and say thank-you!

Clare Carter	Director	-serving since 2010
Pam Harding	Administrative Asst.	-serving since 2013
Andrea Bailey	Assistant Teacher	-serving since 2018
Karen Callahan	Assistant Teacher	-serving since 2015
Lydia Chapdelain	Assistant Teacher/ Administrative Asst.	-serving since 2017
Rebecca Clissold	Lead Teacher	-serving since 2012
Sue Cole	Lead Teacher	-serving since 2001
Donna Deputy	Assistant Teacher	-serving since 2015
Candace Ferguson	Assistant Teacher	-serving since 2010
Chris Gantert	Lead Teacher	-serving since 1986
Kat Heard	Assistant Teacher	-serving since 2017
Beth Horn	Assistant Teacher	-serving since 2017
Nancy Pagano	Lead Teacher	-serving since 1985
Joy Pribble	Lead Teacher	-serving since 1987
Janine Taber	Lead Teacher	-serving since 2000
Kathy Varsalona	Lead Teacher/ Small Beginnings	-serving since 2009

### • Souper Bowl of Caring

**Next Sunday, February 3**, is Super Bowl Sunday, and after each service our children and youth will be stationed at the exits of the chapel, fellowship hall and sanctuary to receive your donations toward the "Souper Bowl of Caring" effort. The "Souper Bowl" is a grassroots effort to collect donations to assist organizations that feed the hungry. Last year, our "Souper Bowl" contributions totaled over \$2,200. **The money raised this year will help us sponsor another meal-packing event at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 7.**

## Opportunities for Children and Youth

### • Summer Trips

As your family begins to make plans for the summer, please consider the following dates. We will also be adding a mission experience for youth! \$100 deposits per trip/per youth are due by March 1.

June 16-21 West Virginia Work Camp (high school)

July 16-20 Presbyterian Youth Triennium (high school)

July 16-22 Montreat Middle School Conference

July 21-27 Montreat Youth Conference (high school)

July 29-August 2 FPC/Cedarkirk Day Camp

### • Fresh Bouquets for Valentine's Day!

Share love with those special people in your life! \$10 for a small bouquet - \$20 for a large bouquet. Youth will have a selection of fresh flowers you can choose from on Sunday, February 10 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall courtyard. If you would like to pre-order a bouquet - call the church office (941) 955-8119 or email Kelly (kfitzgerald@firstpressarasota.org) by Friday, February 8. You can also call and sponsor a bouquet to be delivered to one of our homebound members. Donations will help youth attend Summer Adventures.

### • Salt Shakers

Joining Salt Shakers is a great way for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to get to know each other. Groups of 6-8 people (singles or couples) meet once a month from February through April or May. Each group decides whether they want to have a potluck at a member's home, dine at a restaurant, have a picnic or brunch. Be creative! Sign-up forms are in the foyer of the fellowship hall and the narthex of the sanctuary. **Today** is the last day to sign up. Questions? Call Diane Bittner: (941) 755-2268 or Marcia Schaper: (941) 922-5245.

### • Presbyterian Outlook Article

Recently a wonderful article about our church, written by Mary Elle Hunter with photos by Kay Dunn, was published in the *Presbyterian Outlook*. It depicts the transformative difference that the many faithful retired pastors (and commissioned lay pastors) and their spouses make each week in the life of our congregation. We are very grateful for the witness and participation of

Jerry Bedford	Dwight Ferguson	Jinny Miller
Bob Brightman	Vic Ford	Ron Miller
George Chorba	Taylor Hill	Paul Reiter
Floyd Churn	Jean Johnston	Trisha Senterfitt
Dent Davis	Maurice Luker	Tony Wolfe
Doug DeCelle	Marvin Miller	

and the late John Cairns, the late Ray Woody and others. If you would like a copy of this article (featuring descriptions of our *Invest in Children* partnership with Brentwood Elementary School and the Manasota Interracial Book Club), please stop by the church office or the library on the second floor of the educational building.

### • Are You A Seasonal Resident? This invitation Is Just For You!

If you're an FPC seasonal resident, only here for a few months each year, please accept this invitation to a luncheon on **Sunday, February 17**. Come make new friends with the other "snowbirds" in our congregation and find out about the activities taking place at FPC.

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, February 17** after the 11:00 a.m. service in our fellowship hall courtyard (weather permitting). Reservations are required. If you plan to attend, call the church office (941) 955-8119 no later than Wednesday, February 13.

### • Fellowship Hall Renovations

The renovations are continuing! *The New Song* service is worshiping in the sanctuary and coffee fellowship is in the courtyard during the construction time. Thanks to all those who have given generously and continue to give to our capital campaign.

### Faith Focus Weekend Featured Book

Please make sure to buy a copy of *Doing Good...Says Who?* in preparation for our Faith Focus Weekend February 8-10 with our keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell. The cost of the book is \$15 and is available at the Fair Trade Kiosk.

### • Library News

So many new books—

Our three sections of new books are conveniently color-coded by category. For example, anything related to children and family has a pink label—while social justice has a brown label—and so on.

On our featured shelf this week are two books by Mary Oliver, the beloved award-winning poet who died this past week. She is being remembered by so many—including our pastor, Glen Bell.

### • Invest in Children

Mark your calendars! The *second annual Brentwood Elementary School Art Show* will be held in our forum from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., on Sunday, February 17. You'll see beautiful art work created by the Brentwood students and meet some of these young artists!

Save your Box Tops for Education! Look for the small coupon on cereal boxes, Ziploc products, Green Giant veggies, Nature Valley snacks, Scott tissue, and others. Clip the coupons and put them in the bright containers in the narthex, chapel or church office. Thank you!



If you would like to know more about the exciting opportunity to volunteer an hour a week helping children learn and grow at Brentwood Elementary School, complete the form in one of the lunchbags found in the sanctuary narthex or contact Jinny and Ron Miller at (941) 924-9494 or jinnyron@verizon.net. You will be a blessing!



### • Fair Trade Kiosk

During the renovation of the fellowship hall the kiosk will be located in the fellowship hall courtyard.



### • Of a Peacemaking Persuasion

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.  
- Psalm 143:10



### • Stewardship Thought

Make today blossom!

### • Week At a Glance

<b>Sunday</b> 27-Jan	Chapel Service	8:15 AM
	Worship Service	9:00 AM
	Coffee Fellowship	9:30 AM
	Mark as a 1st Century Sermon	10:00 AM
	New Member Class	10:00 AM
	Sunday School Pre-K - 12	10:00 AM
	Waking Up To Race	10:00 AM
	Worship Service	11:00 AM
<b>Tuesday</b> 29-Jan	Coffee Fellowship	12:00 PM
	Mixed Level Yoga	9:00 AM
	Staff Meeting	10:30 AM
<b>Wednesday</b> 30-Jan	Book Group	10:30 AM
	Sisters Of The Road	10:30 AM
	Bible Study	12:00 PM
	Handbell Rehearsal	6:00 PM
<b>Thursday</b> 31-Jan	Choir Rehearsal	7:15 PM
	Mixed Level Yoga	9:00 AM
	Vinyasa Yoga Class	5:30 PM
<b>Saturday, 2-Feb</b>	New Song Rehearsal	7:00 PM
	Choir Rehearsal	9:00 AM
<b>Sunday</b> 3-Feb	Chapel Service	8:15 AM
	Worship Service	9:00 AM
	Coffee Fellowship	9:30 AM
	Spiritual and Moral Issues in Modern Fiction	10:00 AM
	Parenting Class	10:00 AM
	Sunday School Pre-K - 12	10:00 AM
	Worship Service	11:00 AM
Coffee Fellowship	12:00 PM	

## • **Adult Education Classes**

### ***Waking Up to Race***

Last Sunday, January 27  
10:00 a.m. in room 223

### ***Mark as a First Century Sermon***

Last Sunday, January 27  
10:00 a.m. in room 203

## • **Two New Classes Starting Sunday, February 3**

### ***Spiritual and Moral Issues in Modern Fiction***

Sundays, February 3 (except February 10) - March 31  
10:00 a.m. in room 203

Our course leader, Dr. John G. Parks, always has an interesting class. As serious literature, good stories offer what Mathew Arnold called a "criticism of life." As such, stories invite readers to a reflection upon our condition in the world. This often entails grappling with spiritual and moral issues such as innocence and guilt, loyalty and betrayal, choice and fate, meaning and emptiness, hope and despair. Our exploration will be prompted by reading stories by Nathaniel Hawthorne, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, Albert Camus, ZZ Packer, Ottessa Moshfegh, T.C. Boyle, Elizabeth Tallent. We may find that these stories offer a diagnosis of our condition and a challenge to our beliefs. Copies of stories to be studied will be available as class hand-outs or available to students via email.

### ***Parenting Class***

Sundays in February (except February 10)  
10:00 a.m. in room 225

Parents of teens and parents who are eager to learn more about parenting a teen are welcome to this class. Children and youth should sit this one out.

We will watch clips from the movie *8th Grade* discussing the struggles of the lead character and how we can faithfully parent through many of the same issues our teens will encounter. This film has been nominated for many awards and will provide much for us to discuss.

There will be no preparation required for attending class each week. We'll start each class with a brief introduction of the day's topics before watching designated clips and diving into the parenting issue.

## • **Coping with Grief and Loss**

Join Vic Ford, D.Min., MFT, parish associate, for this six-week bereavement support group beginning **Thursday, February 21**, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Meet in the parlor. This group will offer you support, encouragement, and the beginning of your healing journey in a safe, confidential environment. This group will be in place of GriefShare. Contact Cheryl Track, faith community nurse to sign up and for more information, (941) 320-3828.

## • **Wear Your Name Tag**

Please remember to wear your name tag each Sunday. It is especially helpful to worship guests, new members, and seasonal residents. Replacements may be ordered by calling the church office at (941) 955-8119. The cost is \$5 for a pin or \$7 for a magnet.



## • **CPR Class**

On **Monday, February 11**, from either 9:00-11:00 a.m. in room 203 or 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the forum, learn how to save a life. The cost is \$25 or \$35 for healthcare providers. You will learn how to use our AED (automated external defibrillator). We have two on the campus, one in the fellowship hall outside the kitchen and the second one by the elevator inside the church office. To register, call the church office (941) 955-8119 by Wednesday, February 6.

## • **Floral Dedications**

If you would like to provide sanctuary floral arrangement(s) for particular dates in 2019 you can sign up on the flower calendar located in the sanctuary narthex or call Connie Waymer at (941) 924-7847. Please give your contact phone number, the name(s) of the honorees and the occasion of the dedication. The price for a single arrangement is \$35 and two arrangements are \$70.

## • **Letters from Anne and Martin**

Combining the iconic voices of Anne Frank and Martin Luther King, Jr., this compelling production evokes the timeless message of hope for peace and a more united world. A discussion led by the Hon. Charles E. Williams will follow the performance.

Embracing Our Differences, the SCBA Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee and the Boxser Diversity Initiative presents "Letters from Anne and Martin" on **Tuesday, February 5** at 7:00 p.m. at Temple Beth Shalom (1050 S. Tuttle Avenue, Sarasota).

General Admission-\$30 | VIP-\$100 | Students-\$10  
Call (941) 350-1089 for tickets.

## • **The Language of Racism and Intolerance**

Racism continues to overshadow much of the progress that is being made in the United States and in the world.

On **Thursday, February 21**, at 6:30 p.m. the Boxser Diversity Initiative will bring together leading national experts to discuss this at the New College of Florida, Mildred Sainer Hall (5313 Bayshore Road, Sarasota).

Staff	Email	955-8119 Ext.
Glen Bell	GBell@FirstPresSarasota.org	108
Kelly Fitzgerald	KFitzgerald@FirstPresSarasota.org	106
Steven Phillips	SPhillips@FirstPresSarasota.org	124
Rachel Martin	RMartin@FirstPresSarasota.org	102
Lisa Garcia	LGarcia@FirstPresSarasota.org	101
Pam Schweizer	PSchweizer@FirstPresSarasota.org	111
Mary Mozelle	MMozelle@FirstPresSarasota.org	NA
Clare Carter	CCarter@FirstPresSarasota.org	120
Cheryl Track	4tracks@comcast.net	113
Floyd Churn	fjchurn@gmail.com	NA
Doug DeCelle	douglasdecelle@gmail.com	NA
Vic Ford	bdaislandman@yahoo.com	NA

# Pastoral Development Seminar Faith Focus Weekend February 6-10

## • **Faith Focus Weekend**

This year's Faith Focus Weekend will be **Friday - Sunday, February 8-10**. Our speaker will be Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, Director of World Mission Initiative, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Atlanta. Rev. Farrell will be addressing the College of Elders and Deacons Friday, February 8, at 5:30 p.m., giving a presentation to the church and community on Saturday, February 9, at 9:30 a.m., and preaching Sunday, February 10, in all worship services. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Saturday presentation, **February 9**, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Please make plans to join us on both Saturday and Sunday!

## • **Pastoral Development Seminar**

We look forward to our six returning guest pastors with resource leader Rev. Dr. Sally Campbell-Evans, a Presbyterian/Methodist pastor. She is ordained in the Presbyterian Church and currently serves as an associate pastor of congregational care in Tampa. *In the chapel on Thursday, February 7, at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., and on Friday, February 8, at 9:00 a.m., show your support of these young leaders in the church by listening to their sermons and giving feedback.* Come and hear more about their faith journeys in the adult education presentation in the forum on **Sunday, February 10, at 10:00 a.m.**



**Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, February 6-10, 2019  
Faith Focus Weekend Keynote Speaker**

Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell became the director of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's World Mission Initiative in 2017. WMI hosts many conferences and workshops and welcomes many global mission guests. It also provides seminary students with faith-stretching and ministry-shaping global mission experiences.

Prior to coming to the seminary, Hunter was the director of World Mission for the PC (USA), overseeing strategic direction and partnerships. He has served as a Presbyterian mission co-worker in Congo and Peru, organizing an international network of churches, non-profit organizations, and universities to address issues of poverty and justice, health, development, evangelism, education, and theological education.

Hunter attended Pontificia Universidad Católica (doctor of anthropology), École Pratique des Hautes (post-graduate diploma), Fuller Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and University of Texas, Austin (BA).



**Rev. Dr. Sally Campbell-Evans**  
**2018-2019 Pastoral Development Seminar Leader**

Rev. Dr. Sally Campbell-Evans is a Presbyterian/Methodist pastor in Tampa. She is ordained in the Presbyterian Church and currently serves as associate pastor of congregational care at Hyde Park United Methodist Church.

Rev. Campbell-Evans has previously served other congregations in nurturing ministries. She shares her church's vision of "transforming lives, creating Christian community, and healing our city and the world." It is her desire to help people become Christians and grow as disciples of Christ. She looks forward to deepening relationships with our PDS pastors during their returning seminar.

Sally attended Florida Center for Theological Studies (DMin), Union Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and Presbyterian College (BS). She is married to Rev. Clarke Campbell-Evans, also a pastor. The couple has a daughter and twin sons.



**Rev. Alex Becker, Associate Pastor**  
**Covenant Presbyterian, Malvern PA**

Alex Becker grew up in Wooster, OH where he lived next door to and attended Wayne Presbyterian Church during his entire childhood. He graduated from Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, PA with a degree in Biblical Studies and earned an M.Div. at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary.

Alex is currently serving as the associate pastor of Covenant Presbyterian, Malvern, PA. He has previously served at Langcliffe Presbyterian Church, Avoca, PA, the Henryville Community and Mount Lebanon Presbyterian Churches in Henryville, IN. He has also served as support for the Sweaty Sheep New Church Development and on staff at Churches Uniting in Christ.

Alex and his wife, Corinna, have been married nine years. They live with their two dogs, three cats, and one rabbit. They take a lot of joy in their little zoo of a house, and if they are not there they are likely to be out playing board games with friends, reading books at a park, or taking a hike. They have two fun-loving nephews and are expecting three new nephews or nieces to join their extended family early this year.



**Rev. Ashley Cheek, Family Pastor**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Sumter, SC**

Ashley Cheek serves as Pastor of Family Life at First Presbyterian Church, Sumter. Her husband, Nick, is the senior pastor at the same church. He participated in our Pastoral Development Seminar last year. Ashley and Nick have three children, Lydia, Nicholas and Ada.

She describes her husband and children as her first call and the reason she feels so blessed to serve as Pastor of Family Life. Ashley believes that family ministry is essential to a healthy church. "It is the church that empowers the family to radically love the world, serve the community and proclaim the gospel in real and tangible ways."

As a family, Ashley and Nick and their children enjoy any adventure, especially hiking, impromptu dance parties, bikes, and traveling wherever their beloved minivan takes them.



**Rev. British Hyrams, Associate Pastor**  
**Central Steele Creek Presbyterian Church**  
**Charlotte, NC**

British Hyrams is from Chicago, IL and the surrounding suburbs. She is a graduate of Purdue University with a B.S. in Industrial Engineering and holds two master's degrees from Union Presbyterian Seminary - a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and a Master of Arts in Christian Education (M.A.C.E.).

In her early career, British worked with Andersen Consulting and later as an IT project manager for various healthcare organizations. After deciding to leave the corporate world to raise her three children with her husband, she accepted a position as an adjunct college math instructor. During her seminary education, British was appointed as the seminary's student representative to the Trustee Board and completed several internships. British has served at Central Steele Creek Presbyterian church for four years - originally as the Director of Christian Ministries and currently as Associate Pastor. She is a cancer survivor with a zest for new experiences and a passion for lifelong learning. She seeks opportunities to build bridges with people of varying perspectives as an integral part of her Christian service and witness.

British is married to her college sweetheart, Kevin. Jamal, Akilah, and Aman are their young adult children who continue to bring them blessings.



**Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Associate Pastor**  
**Clemmons Presbyterian Church, Clemmons, NC**

Patrick McElwaine grew up outside of Roanoke, VA. He earned his M.Div. from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA, a B.A. in English from Roanoke College, and received Clinical Pastoral Education training at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Patrick is the Associate Pastor of Clemmons Presbyterian Church in Clemmons, NC. He is a "generalist" associate with ministry focus in the areas of congregational care, fellowship, worship, and youth. Patrick and his family joined CPC to journey together as Jesus' disciples in July 2016. Patrick was selected to participate in the 2018 Kittye Susan Trent Symposium for Newly Ordained Ministers at Second Presbyterian Church of Roanoke, VA as well as the Vital Church Institute's two-year Barnabas Leadership Group.

Patrick met his wife and best friend, Allyson, while studying together at Roanoke College. They have two children: Malachi (2 1/2) and Bridget (1). In addition to serving Christ's Church, Patrick enjoys being with his family, reading, getting outside, and trying new things - new food, new places, and new adventures!



**Rev. Allysen Schaaf, Associate Pastor**  
**Decatur Presbyterian Church, Decatur, GA**

Allyson Schaaf was born and raised in Lincoln, NE. She spent her teenage and college years in NC. She was ordained as an elder at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, High Point, NC. At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill she studied Exercise and Sport Science. Her involvement and leadership in Presbyterian

Campus Ministry led her to Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA, where she earned a dual degree (M.Div. and M.A.C.E.)

Allyson is in her fifth year as the Associate Pastor for Youth and their Families at Decatur Presbyterian Church. She has a leadership role in supporting youth pastors and bringing together youth of the presbytery. Allyson is passionate about bringing creativity and new life into worship and faith exploration. In seminary, she spent several months with the Presbyterian church in Ghana and found a love for connecting with others of different backgrounds and cultures.

She and her husband, Nathan, have an energetic beagle, Milo. Together, they enjoy cooking and baking, exploring the North Georgia mountains, kayaking and camping. Allyson also likes to read by the water while Nathan is fishing.



**Rev. Kelly Staples, Associate Pastor**  
**NorthPark Presbyterian Church, Dallas, TX**

Kelly Staples is originally from Shreveport, LA, where she lived until college. Her dream of being a music publisher led her to Middle Tennessee State University with studies in Recording Industry Management. She worked on Music Row in Nashville for a year and a half after college. At that time, she felt God's call on her life, leading her to study at Austin Presbyterian

Theological Seminary.

Kelly married and moved to Fort Worth, where she took a part-time job as a youth director at NorthPark Presbyterian Church, Dallas. Seven years and five positions later, she is still at the church where she started out with her current focus on youth ministry. Kelly is passionate about what youth ministry looks like in the current over-scheduled, over-competitive youth environment. She is developing an interest in communications and how we can use the digital world to do ministry and connect with others.

Kelly and her husband, Garrett, their two daughters and the family's two cats live in Arlington, TX. Kelly has a 45-minute commute to work every day. She enjoys trying new foods and listening to podcasts on her long daily drive in the Dallas/Ft. Worth traffic.