



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF EDMOND

FIRST LOOK

JANUARY 2023

The One Year Bible Challenge

365 days of God's Word

2023

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT:
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

JANUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

VISION MOMENT

Reading the Bible Through

By: Crystal McGee DePue

If you're looking for a fantastic gift to give yourself in the New Year, I suggest accepting the challenge to read the Bible through!

This year, we at First Pres are being challenged to commit to reading the Bible through, preferably in a year using the FPCE App (So easy! It calls up the passage and you can choose the written translation or use the ESV audio format!!)...but it's OK if it takes you longer or you choose to read from your Bible.

What are the benefits? I was astonished by all the parts of the Bible that never made it into Sunday school lessons or sermons—and it was so helpful to be able to fit those Sunday school stories into God's overarching story. Turns out "ALL Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness." (II Tim 3:16) The more I read, the more hooked I became on reading through annually, as it not only sets the focus of my day on Him, but also enhances whatever other Bible studies I'm in.

Tim Hast got hooked, too. He's now on his 16th contiguous year of reading through the Bible. He got started simply by seeing Mike Las-

ka reading a One-Year Bible and felt moved to give it a try. It was March, so he just started there and read until the next March, when he realized how healing and helpful it had been during what was a very emotionally rough season, so he just continued... and hasn't stopped!

Like the Psalmist who said "I've hidden your word in my heart" (Psalm 119:11), Tim found that reading a portion of the Bible every day throughout the year until he's read it all allows the Word of God "to settle deeply in my soul. When I'm struggling, I have His Word to recall and to comfort me."

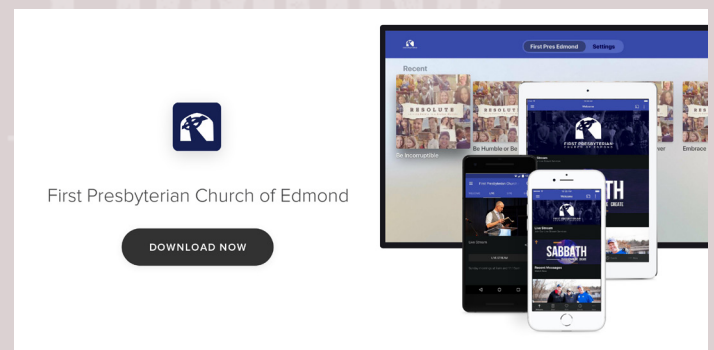
Personally, I find that reading through has greatly enriched my understanding of God and His plan for His beloved creation. Not only do the Bible stories begin to fit together, but current history begins to take on a different hue when my vision is corrected daily to the heavenly/eternal view of His Kingdom.

In full disclosure, I quit on my first two tries when I was a teen...but there was no one doing it alongside me, and there were no helps like The Bible Project videos to give overviews on each book of the Bible—especially the more challenging ones.

FPCE will be encouraging us throughout the year in many ways, so if you get stuck, please reach out to one of us!

In conclusion, Tim and I join the session and staff in wholeheartedly encouraging you to accept the challenge to read through the Bible this year with us. I promise that if you will trade just 15 minutes a day of time on social media/news shows to pray first, read the day's passage, and reflect on it or what it revealed about God, you will have a happier New Year!

-Crystal McGee DePue



Download the app to join our One Year Bible Challenge!



365 days of God's Word

The One Year Bible Challenge

2023

JANUARY READINGS:

Day	Passage 1	Passage 2
Day 1	Genesis 1-2	Matthew 1
Day 2	Genesis 3-5	Matthew 2
Day 3	Genesis 6-8	Matthew 3
Day 4	Genesis 9-11	Matthew 4
Day 5	Genesis 12-17	Matthew 5
Day 6	No Reading	
Day 7	Genesis 18-19	Matthew 6
Day 8	Genesis 20-22	Matthew 7
Day 9	Genesis 23-24	Matthew 8
Day 10	Genesis 25-26	Matthew 9:1-17
Day 11	Genesis 27-28	Matthew 9:18-38
Day 12	Genesis 29-32	Matthew 10
Day 13	No Reading	
Day 14	Genesis 33-35	Matthew 11
Day 15	Genesis 36-37	Matthew 12:1-21
Day 16	Genesis 38-40	Matthew 12:22-50
Day 17	Genesis 41	Matthew 13:1-32
Day 18	Genesis 42-43	Matthew 13:33-58
Day 19	Genesis 44-48	Matthew 14
Day 20	No Reading	
Day 21	Genesis 49-50	Matthew 15:1-20
Day 22	Exodus 1-3	Matthew 15:21-39
Day 23	Exodus 4-6	Matthew 16
Day 24	Exodus 7-8	Matthew 17
Day 25	Exodus 9-10	Matthew 18:1-20
Day 26	Exodus 11-15	Matthew 18:21- 19:15
Day 27	No Reading	
Day 28	Exodus 16-18	Matthew 19:16-30
Day 29	Exodus 19-21	Matthew 20:1-16
Day 30	Exodus 22-24	Matthew 20:17-34
Day 31	Exodus 25-26	Matthew 21:1-22

The Gathering
FPCE WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

CLASSES & PROGRAMS BEGIN JAN 18

"The Gathering" Dinner starts up on January 25th



Senior Night Out!

Ages 50+

BINGO NIGHT

Our next Senior Night Out is going to be held on Friday, January 13. Join us in Fellowship Hall from 4-5:15pm for BINGO! Come and join the fun!



NEW LIFE FOR A NEW WORLD: GENESIS 9

Genesis tells us that God destroyed the world with a flood because humanity's sin had become unmanageable. After the flood, the Lord began anew with the family of a righteous man named Noah. As Noah and his family stood again on dry land, we see several themes of how God called them (and us) to live. Join us as Lead Pastor Eric Laverentz walks us through how God empowers us to live them out and how the world changes us around as we do.



DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

One of the most noteworthy theologians of the 20th Century is Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Not only was he an outstanding theologian and pastor, he was also a prophet and visionary who saw very early on the dangerous agenda of the Third Reich. Beginning January 18 from 6 PM-7:15 PM in Room 2115, Lead Pastor Eric Laverentz will walk us through the life and theology of this important 20th century church leader. Materials cost \$15.

FIRST, BY THE NUMBERS

- Revenues

Total revenues for November were \$196,057. This is \$414 less than budgeted revenues of \$196,471 or 99.8% of budget.

- Expenses

Total net expenses for November were \$147,574, which was \$47,812 less than budgeted net expenses of \$195,386 or 75.5% of budget.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

After School Program

By: Will Jones

Central Middle School's After School Program started in 2017 by opening the doors of our church to a former student, Garrett Crouch, and some of his friends by providing a space to come and practice soccer after they got out of school. It provided a safe space for them to wait for their parents to pick them up. Before we knew it, FPCE's gym went from having about 8 boys coming over to roughly 60+ students filling the space and taking it over.

At the time, FPCE's Student Ministry was praying for a way to connect with Central Middle School and saw this as their answer. Soon it shifted to a completely different structure of its own, being run by a handful of interns and some

amazing volunteers by giving their time to pour into and connect with the students.

"My friends went there and it seemed like it would be fun to come and check out! I kept coming back because of Will and Brynнан getting to know me by name and connecting with me... Will gave me the opportunity to help in the Filling Station serving snacks and drinks. I liked being able to help around" -Alysa Nixon, After School Student

"I started going to After School to do something and be able to hang-out with my friends. I liked it a lot! That's where I got to play basketball all the time and got to hang out with Will and Jake" -Carson Seely, After School Student

Today, nearly 6 years since the start of After School, it continues to grow and develop as a ministry of its own. Taking place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 2:00-4:30, a group of Student Ministry interns continue to take on and lead

the program. Opening the doors to our building and inviting students in for a space to wait for rides, do homework, play games in the gym, and a space for community and fellowship has proven to be impactful in their lives. After School has also served as a bridge to invite students to join us for Wednesday night church activities.

"I liked to spend time with all my friends once we got out of school. It was fun to hang out with Will and give me something to do while waiting for my ride. I loved everyone's company and the church has raised me for 4 years now." -Alex Crittendon, After School Student

The After School program is returning on Jan. 31st, 2023. The team is thrilled to be able to open the doors once again all because of your amazing generosity. We are currently seeking out more volunteers for the spring semester. For more information, please contact Will Jones at Wjones@fpcedmond.org

