

VOL. 64 NUMBER 6 • AUGUST 2022

THE AMBASSADOR

A publication of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater

Fall Worship Schedule begins Sunday, August 21!

- Worship and Communion @ 8:30 am
- Sunday School Classes for all ages @ 9:45 am
- Worship @ 11:00 am

Sunday School
resumes on
August 21st for
children, youth,
and adults!

*See pages 6, 8, and
10 to find out more.*

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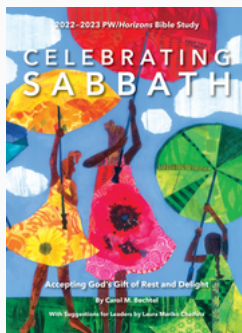
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TOGETHER
FOR JOY

2022 Stewardship Campaign
see page 3 for details



New Presbyterian Women study
on Sabbath begins on Sept. 14
learn more on page 5



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Vickie Foust

Custodian

Mike Flowers

FPC News and Notes

Update from the Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee has received multiple applications for the Interim Pastor position from extremely well-rounded candidates who come highly recommended by our Presbytery and other pastors. Once we have conducted interviews, we will decide on a top candidate and their information will be passed on to the Commission on Ministry and Preparation. The Commission on Ministry and Preparation is an administrative commission of the Presbytery that will also interview the candidate. Afterward, Session will give the final approval, and we will be able to move forward with a new Interim Pastor. The Personnel Committee asks for continued prayers as we navigate this process

Join the Fellowship & Family Committee!

Want to make friends and get more involved with your church family? Do you have a heart for community building? Join the Fellowship & Family Committee meeting on Sunday, September 11th, at 12:20pm in the Upper Room (south end of the second floor) to explore opportunities for connection, leadership, and service with others. Questions? Please email Kathy Essmiller, chair of F&F at kathy.essmiller@okstate.edu

Can You Help Us?

The Church Office needs someone to help answer telephones on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 am to noon and on Thursdays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. While there may also be projects we ask for your help with, we are seeking volunteers who are comfortable bringing a book or other work to do between phone calls. If you have time and would like to help us, please contact Magdalena in the Church Office [405.372.5580]. And, thanks!

Welcome Bekah Bowman, our new Children's Ministry Assistant!



Bekah begins this month, working five hours a week in children's ministry. She is a former Dwight Mission camper and spent the summer as a counselor at Glacier Camp (a Presbyterian camp in Montana).

"I'm 19 years old and I grew up in Broken Arrow, OK. I'm currently a sophomore at OSU majoring in psychology with a focus in children's therapy. I'm excited to join the FPC Stillwater community!" ~ Bekah

Together for Joy



"Sing to God a new song, for God has done marvelous things.
Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy

~ Psalm 98

Our thankfulness to God for the many blessings we have received should not be our focus only a few weeks of the year – it should be part of every day. We should sing for joy all the time. The Stewardship Ministry reminds you that we are approaching the time of year when each of us is asked to consider how we will give of our time, talents, and treasures to FPC for 2023. The committee is working on plans to share with you the many accomplishments of FPC in 2022 and our hopes for 2023.

The theme for 2023 is "Together for Joy." There have been many times of joy in 2022- summer GIFT, Goodland mission trip, Youth Sunday, receiving new members, baptisms, sharing Communion (even if it is with odd little cups & wafers) and we recently gathered for joy as we celebrated Pastor Leah Hrachovec's ministry. We invite you to consider the "Joy" that being a part of the FPC family has brought to your life.

We also invite you to use this prayer as you consider your response to the blessings of your life:
Great One, for you the floods clap, for you the hills sing. You know my situation better than anyone. Take my credits and debits, ins and outs, pluses and minuses, surpluses and lacks, and show me how to use them to join in the great chorus of Creation. Amen.

Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

Covenant Conversation Event hosted by the Covenant Network of Presbyterians

August 27th, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Westminster Presbyterian Church
4400 N. Shartel Ave., Oklahoma City.

Signs of Hope: Embodying God's Love and Justice.

Covenant Network of Presbyterians will host a day of keynote presentations, workshops, and conversations to help us reach out in compassion and work toward inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people in our lives and in our church. This event is for everyone seeking to move forward in the journey toward being a truly welcoming church. Cynthia Rigby (Austin Seminary) is one of the keynote speakers. The \$15 registration includes lunch. Register at <https://covnetpres.org/event/covenant-conversation-oklahoma/>



Averting Further Global Warming: Presbyterian Style

Earlier this year, commissioners to the 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) voted (by a 340-41 margin) to approve a recommendation by the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) to place five oil and gas companies – Chevron, ExxonMobil, Marathon Petroleum, Phillips 66 and Valero Energy – on the General Assembly Divestment/Proscription List for failing to meet standards aimed at protecting the planet from further increases in global warming; a recommendation that came only after years of engagement with these companies by MRTI failed to get them to align with the General Assembly's environmental policies.

The MRTI committee will include these companies in an amended divestment list and send it to the Presbyterian Pension Board and Presbyterian Foundation for already-assured approval. The Foundation has indicated it will act quickly to sell the stocks that it owns of the five companies. These actions are consistent with the denomination's long-standing preference for selective private-sector divestment; i.e., divestment in specific companies by private sources of investment funds. Prior to the 225th General Assembly, this process resulted in a divestment list of 114 companies involved in: producing military and civilian weapons and tobacco, fostering human rights violations, and operating for-profit prisons. In spite of the clear danger posed to human health and life by additional global warming, no fossil fuel companies were on the list – until now.

But, can this approach work? There is some evidence that the fossil fuel divestment movement, as a whole, has slowed the flow of investment funds to fossil fuel companies. But, is "slowing" sufficient, when, according to the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) we have just 12 years to make massive and unprecedented changes to the energy infrastructure required to keep the global mean temperature from rising more than a relatively safe 1.5oC (2.7oF). Like the battle against COVID-19, this one probably requires significant government leadership and involvement, including the possibility of a carbon tax and the creative and effective use of carbon tax revenues.

Where the Presbyterian Church stands on this kind of response to the global warming crisis will be addressed in the next Ambassador.

FPC's Earth Care Team



PW News

Presbyterian Women/Circle will meet Wednesday, September 14, at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall.

Associate Pastor Jenny Hardin will lead the women in Lesson One, *Sabbath and Celebration*, in the new 2022-2023 PW/Horizons Bible Study: *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight* by Carol M. Bechtel.

In this nine-lesson study, we'll consider Sabbath

- as a celebration, not a day of dreary formality
- as God's intent for all of creation that includes busy women too
- as one day of the week, perhaps a Sunday
- as a time to surrender unhealthy striving and frantic busyness, trusting that God will provide
- as a reminder that life is precious; working too much is against God's plans for our lives
- as a day devoted to community and justice and not exclusively to self-care

Ultimately, Sabbath reminds us to honor God who honors us by giving us a day each week to reset our pace, our priorities, and our lives.

If you requested a copy of the Bible study, books may be picked up in the Hospitality Area from Andrea Arquitt (August 14th and 21st from 10:30-11:00 and 12:00-12:30). If you are not able to pick up at these times, please make arrangements with Andrea (405-612-5383) about getting your book.

All women in the church and guests are welcome! If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Mary McKinley, PW Moderator (405-377-4367).

UKIRK

(U=University, Kirk=Church)

We will soon be welcoming university students back to Stillwater and to First Presbyterian Church! There are a number of ways for you to be involved with our university students, and we would love your help as we prepare to extend them a warm welcome. Please get in touch with Pastor Jenny Hardin (jenny.hardin@stillwaterfpc.org), UKirk Assistant Seren "J" Jones (ukirk@stillwaterfpc.org), or Elder Ken Belanus (kbspinswood@hotmail.com) for more information and to sign up to help.

Upcoming events:

• Interfaith Council Lunch

- Friday, August 19 from 12:00-2:00pm (meet at FPC at 11:00am to gather materials and travel to campus together) The lunch is an opportunity for all campus ministries to meet students.

• Lights on Stillwater

- Wednesday, August 24 from 6:30-9:00pm (meet at FPC at 5:45pm to gather materials and travel to campus together) Lights on Stillwater is an opportunity for campus ministries, student organizations, and community groups to set up a table and meet students.

• Block Party

- Wednesday, September 28 at 6:00pm on the Southeast Lawn of First Presbyterian Church (meet at FPC at 5:00pm to help with setup) The Block Party is an opportunity for the whole community to gather as we say "farewell" to summer and kick-off the academic year.



PRESBYTERIAN • YOUTH • GROUP



Presbyterian
Youth Group

For ALL 6th-12th graders on Sundays, 5:00-

6:30pm in the Youth Suite. PYG is a time for connection, fellowship, discipleship, and living our faith. We play, laugh, pray, study scripture, serve, ask big questions, and grow as faithful disciples.

This year's theme is Following Jesus. Youth will explore and experience faith practices as we consider how we are intentional about living the words and example of Jesus.

PYG Sponsors for 2022-2023: Leslie Baldwin, Kim Leffingwell, Rusty Rex, Tim Riley

August

- 21 - Youth Fall Kickoff (5:00-7:00pm)
- 28 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)

September

- 4 - NO PYG - Happy Labor Day!
- 11 - Dwight Night @ Westminster North Campus (OKC) - 4:00 - 7:00pm
- 17-18 Confirmation Retreat @ St. Francis of the Woods (8th-9th graders only)
- 18 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)
- 25 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)

Youth Ministry

Youth Sunday School

Starting August 21 - Every Sunday from 9:45-10:45am - in the Youth Suite.

Gathering Time:

- Youth Sunday school begins at 9:45 all together in the Youth Suite for fellowship and snacks before splitting up into age groups for more focused discussion and study.

Middle School (grades 6-7; Youth Suite Blue Rm):

- Connect - connecting God's big story (focus on the New Testament). In each session, youth gather to watch a hilarious animated video, tap their creativity for hands-on activities to explore the scripture, all while learning and sharing thoughts and ideas about the week's Bible story or theme.
- Teachers: Elijah Ankrom and Tim Krehbiel

Junior High (grades 8-9, Youth Suite Orange Rm):

- Confirmation is an intense, but rewarding, 9-month journey through what we believe as Christians, and more specifically as Presbyterians. Who are we? Who came before us? Why do we do what we do? What do I believe? Youth will wrestle with these and other questions and make their own faith choices. An opportunity will be given to individuals at the end of the course to make a profession of faith and join the church if they so choose.
- Teachers: Carolyn Caldwell, Casey Campbell, and Rusty Rex

Senior High (grades 10-12, Youth Suite Main Area):

- The senior high class will spend the year on values clarification and values in action as modeled by Jesus in the parables. We're filling a gratitude jar this month, and each month we will focus on specific values found in scripture.
- Teachers: Haley Brobston and Belinda Bruner





Parent Gathering

THURS. AUG. 18

7:30-8:30 P.M.

BERRY CREEK CLUBHOUSE

FOR PARENTS OF 6TH-12TH GRADERS

Parents of 6th-12th graders - Come for fellowship and connect with other youth parents as we talk about the year ahead in youth ministry, including ways to enhance the youth theme of Following Jesus in the life of your family. Snacks, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages will be served.

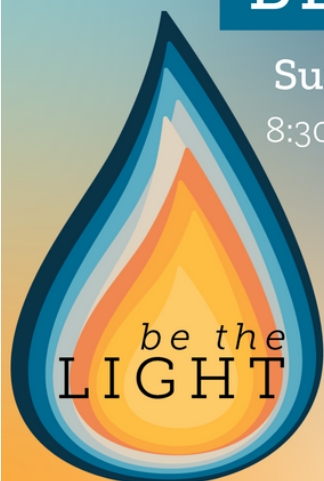
Children's Ministry

back to school **BLESSINGS**

Sunday, August 21st

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. worship

During Time with Children, receive a back-to-school blessing and treats for the school year - backpack tags, stickers, and bookmarks!



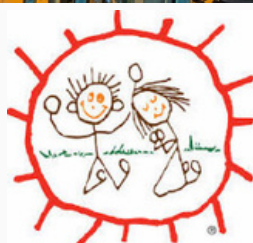
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY *kickoff*

SAT. AUG. 27TH 6:30 P.M.
BOOMER LAKE SPLASH PAD



FOR CHILDREN 5TH GRADE & UNDER AND THEIR FAMILIES

Families are invited for fun and fellowship as we learn about the year ahead in FPC Children's Ministry. Enjoy games, an ice cream bar, family fellowship, and time in the splash pad. Please bring an ice cream topping to share!



Children's Ministry

Children & Worship Returns August 21st

Beginning August 21, children ages 3 through 3rd grade are invited to come to Children and Worship each Sunday in the Westminster Room following the Time with Children at the 11:00 am worship service. Just follow the banner and the volunteers will be waiting at the back of the sanctuary!

This age-appropriate worship time includes singing and signing, praying and scripture story-telling. There is also a time to respond to the sacred stories using art, books, puzzles, or working with the stories they have just seen and heard. As we respond to God's love, we also have a time for children to offer their coins or talents. Parents may pick up children in the Westminster Room immediately following worship.

Parents, please note: On days that communion is celebrated in the Sanctuary, your child will be brought back to the Sanctuary during the singing of the doxology following the Offering. Volunteers will assist them in finding their families in the pews. It's important that children experience the sacrament with their families and congregation.

SpiritLink Teachers and Shepherds

Creators: 1st-3rd graders - Shepherd: Jenny Broyles
Makers: 4th-5th graders - Shepherd: Suzii Parsons

- Modern Magi: Dustin & Virginia Charter
- Scrolls & Scribes: TBA
- Thou Art: Kim Leffingwell and Nancy Beckstrom
- On Location: Shannan Frohock
- Burning Bush Theater: Courtney & Eric Savage
- Bread of Life Cafe: Eric Windhausen

Children's Sunday School

Starting August 21 - Every Sunday from 9:45-10:45am - begins and ends in the Worship Center! For children 4yrs - 5th grade.

Gathering Time:

- All children age four to 5th grade are invited to start the Sunday school hour at 9:45am in the Worship Center. We'll gather and sing together before the Shepherds take the kids to their classrooms. Parents can pick up children at 10:45am in the Worship Center.

Faith Kid-nection (4-5yr olds):



Children Pre-K to Kindergarten age are invited to join in play, games and songs as we explore God's love, grow in faith, and learn how to share God's love with others using the Walk with Me curriculum. This class meets in room 122 in the preschool wing, but begins and ends in the Worship Center.

- Teachers: Melody Reavis, Pat Gilland, Hope Plum

SpiritLink (1st-5th graders):



SpiritLink is a workshop rotation-model Sunday School in which students learn about a Bible story or theme from different perspectives throughout each unit. Lessons are told through the year using various ways of learning: art, science, computers, storytelling, movies, drama, and more!

New this year - new cooking rotation room added! Kids will go to the Bread of Life Cafe and experience the story through cooking.

Our August/September SpiritLink unit will focus on the story of Joseph and His Brothers.



From the Organ Bench

"Open Loft Sunday" on August 21st

Have you ever wondered what it's like to sing with the choir? Have you ever seen the view from the choir loft? August 21 is "Open Loft" Sunday! Anyone 7th grade or older is invited to trade your usual pew for one in the choir loft to sing the congregational hymns with the choir! No anthem that day, so no stress, no fear – you'll just be trading one pew for another for one service. Come at 10:30am to get a seat and rehearse the hymns together. Hymnals and bulletins will be provided.

Chancel Choir Rehearsals Resume

Chancel Choir rehearsals resume for the fall on Wednesday, August 24th, from 7:00-8:15pm in the Westminster Room. No experience is necessary! We've had many members over the years who have learned "on the job", including some of our Choral Scholars. Anyone 7th grade or older is welcome!

- Not required: a big solo singing voice, church membership, or choral experience
- Required: ears to listen, interest in singing with others, and a willingness to serve in music ministry by working together on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings

The choir is a family of individuals who support one another in faith and in life. Our mission is service to God and one another as worship leaders. Please consider joining us!

2022 AGO National Convention Report

I want to thank the FPC congregation and staff for the opportunity to attend the national convention of the American Guild of Organists July 3-7 in Seattle! This was our first in-person convention since the regional conventions in 2019, and it was a profoundly joyful and emotional week of reconnecting with dear friends and esteemed colleagues, forging new friendships and having meaningful conversations.

The pandemic has exhausted and scarred all of us church and concert musicians and the publishers of sacred choral and organ music. But in Seattle there was shared joy and relief, seeing and hearing that sacred choral and organ music has survived and even thrived through the most trying of times.

Among the ~1,000 attendees, there was a large contingent from Oklahoma, including outgoing national AGO President Michael Bedford of Tulsa. In the wake of our recent times of isolation, we laughed that we had to go to Seattle to see each other. Seattle is also where my family is (John's is just north in Lynden), so it was also very special to see them, reconnect with Seattle colleagues, and revisit so many churches that are a part of my own history.

Thank you for memories made and batteries recharged in Seattle!

~Rebecca te Velde, Organist and Director of Music

Becky's Bench Buddies

You are invited to sit by the organ bench during a worship service! Let Becky te Velde know of you or a child/grandchild (age 7 and up) are interested and she'll arrange a date with you. Bench Buddies meet her at the organ 10 minutes before the service starts to see the console and receive quick instructions about what to expect. Then we worship together from the organ! Children may choose to leave the organ at Time with Children, or to stay for the whole service.

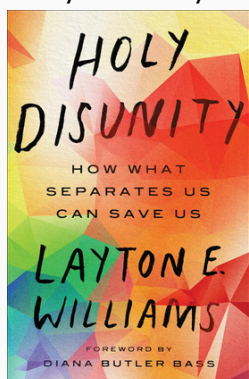
Two's Company on the Organ Bench!

Adult Education & Fellowship

Adult Sunday School Classes -

9:45 am on Sunday mornings, beginning Aug. 21

- "Feasting on the Word" - led by Denise Rex, this class follows the Revised Common Lectionary (the Scripture readings we hear on Sunday mornings) and meets in the Upper Room (south end of 2nd floor).
- "Faith & Fellowship" - facilitated by Tim Hardin, Faith & Fellowship decides as a class on their course of study. They are currently studying The Strange Book of Books, a study produced by Theocademy. This class meets in the Multipurpose Room.
- "Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us".



These days, there's no dirtier word than 'divisive', especially in religious and political circles. Claiming a controversial opinion, talking about our differences, even sharing our doubts can be seen as threatening to the goal of unity. But what if unity shouldn't be our goal? Join this new 6-week class to reflect on this and other questions. Led by Rev. Jenny Hardin, this class will meet in the Library.



Faith on Tap

Meets at Stonecloud Stillwater Patio & Taproom (917 S. Husband St.) at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of the month (September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1) You are invited to join us for fellowship, conversation, and games at Stonecloud once a month! Stonecloud does not serve food, so you are welcome to bring your dinner or snacks.

Stephen Ministry

Your Stephen Leaders are gearing up work with other Stephen Leaders in Stillwater to offer Stephen Minister Training beginning this October 3. Have you heard a call from God to be a Stephen Minister? Perhaps others in our church family have suggested you would be a good Stephen Minister? Are you looking for an opportunity that allows you to walk with hurting individuals, to sit with them in times of trouble and listen to their story? Stephen Ministry is a lay ministry program that does that. The 20 week training is developed by the international Stephen Ministries organization based in St. Louis and taught by local Stephen Leaders from six different congregations. 5 Ways to be a Better Listener is an example of the type of training developed in St. Louis.

If you have questions about being a Stephen Minister, or completing the training this year, please visit with one of our Stephen Leaders: Kay Stewart, Carolyn Caldwell, Linda Burks, or Linda Good.



Deacon's Corner

Our Daily Bread Bus Stop Shelter



In our September 2021 meeting, Deacons were made aware that the task force overseeing Leone List's monetary gift to the church had asked that \$16,000 be spent on a project for Our Daily Bread. Deacons invited Rachel Condley, Executive

Director of Our Daily Bread, as a guest speaker at the Deacons' November 2021 meeting and after hearing needs, the Deacons agreed to allocate the funds to construct a bus stop shelter for clients who shop at Our Daily Bread. Clients who need the bus to get home after shopping must wait at an unprotected bus stop across the street from Our Daily Bread often under unfavorable weather conditions.

At our recent help day on July 16, 2022, we observed that the bus shelter is completed. We are grateful for the gift from the Leone List Endowment and know this will greatly help the clients at Our Daily Bread. A service of dedication is planned for Saturday, September 17th at 12:00pm.

School Supplies

Deacon Autumn Cagle and her excellent assistants dropped off Z-binders at Stillwater Middle School in early August as part of the Deacons' work to help provide school supplies for students who cannot afford them.



Pioneer Pantry

Stillwater Public Schools' Pioneer Pantry aims to help students grades K-12 get the items they need, whether those are hygiene or household products, a haircut, or a coat. Items are provided directly to students, as well as to families, when a need is identified. Students can go to the health room or nurse's office at each school site to acquire items, or teachers can make requests on behalf of students as well. Students can get products confidentially; there are no "rules" on how much somebody can take.

Deacons will be collecting donations on August 14th and 21st at the 11:00 am church service. Anyone wishing to help can bring physical items such as toiletry items, socks, coats, etc. or a monetary donation. Checks should be made out to FPC and indicate "Pioneer Pantry" in the memo line.

For more information, please contact Deacons Sharon Bennett or Janet Waugh.



Food Bank Pickup

Each month, we place an order with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma for food and other supplies to supplement our Saturday Brunch Ministry. We are responsible for picking up our order when it is delivered to Our Daily Bread on the third Thursday of the month, and we are seeking volunteers with pick-up trucks to help. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/foodbankpickup>

Can you help us pick up our order from the food bank?





Legacy Funds Helping Local Residents

In June, the Deacons submitted a grant proposal to the Legacy Gifts Group (LGG) requesting funding to assist struggling Stillwater area residents with rent & utility assistance. The project was funded with \$27,692 and was made possible by a generous estate gift from the late Iris McPherson. The project is a collaborative effort between Our Daily Bread Food and Resource Center (the collection point of the applications), the Deacons, & church office staff. As of Aug. 8, the McPherson Crisis Assistance grants have helped 13 local recipients with \$10,800. Most of the funds have covered City of Stillwater utility bills. Thanks so much to the LGG for awarding the funds and to dear Iris for making the funds available to help our community!

Legacy Giving's Lasting Effects

First Presbyterian receives legacy gifts from member's estates. Recently gifts were received from estates of Leone List and Iris McPherson. Their gifts enhance our life together by funding the children and youth led Pay it Forward projects, rent, utility and medical debt assistance, water bottle filling stations (in progress), organ maintenance, and sanctuary improvements.

Additionally, a portion of each gift was set aside for perpetual pledges to fund current and future operating budgets. Please consider how your legacy can live on through the life of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater.

Fall Fair Trade Store Hours

Shop the Fair Trade Store in August for 50% off savings on all merchandise (except for food items). The sale continues through the end of August, and the selection is still great! We need to make room for new items arriving in the fall, so take advantage of the great markdowns on jewelry, baby, gift, and kitchen items. bird houses, lots of cross-body purses, ceramics from Guatemala, and much more! Fall store hours will remain the same from 10:30 to 12:30. Join our Facebook page at Stillwater FPC Fair Trade Store to be the first to see what is new at the FTS.

~Julie Bills, store manager



Session Organization

The Session is organized into the following areas of responsibility. If you have an interest in serving in a certain area or for a specific event, please reach out to one of the elders assigned to that ministry or contact the Church Office.

Clerk: John Gelder
email: john_gelder@me.com

Treasurer: Cathy Fairbanks
email: cathy.fairbanks@stillwaterfpc.org

Adult Ministry:

Judi Baker (chair)
Kelly McCarley

Children's Ministry:

Nancy Beckstrom (chair)
Jean Aresco

Communications & Connecting:

Kiah Butcher (co-chair)
Jill Stoutzenberger (co-chair)

Fellowship & Family:

Kathy Essmiller

Stewardship & Finance:

Tim Krehbiel (chair)
Cathy Fairbanks
Mark Howard

UKIRK (University):

Ken Belanus (chair)

World Mission &

Denominational Concerns:

Donna Koeppe (chair)

Worship & Music:

David Conway (chair)
Nate Ingram

Youth Ministry:

Rusty Rex (chair)
Belinda Bruner

Trustee Liaison:

Charlie Johnson

Personnel:

Kiah Butcher (co-chair)
Kathy Essmiller
Mark Howard

Endowment Liaison:

David Conway

Nominating Committee:

Tim Krehbiel (co-chair)
Rusty Rex (co-chair)

COVID Response Task Force:

Kathy Essmiller
Rusty Rex

Session Summary

The July stated Session meeting of First Presbyterian Church took place in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 5:30pm, with three Session members joining by Zoom. A quorum was present and Pastor Leah Hrachovec moderated. Elder Ken Belanus opened the meeting with an opening thought and prayer. Highlights of Session action:

- Approved Cimarron Presbytery's request to host the presbytery meeting at FPC Stillwater on October 11th.
- Approved collection of funds for the Pioneer Pantry and yearbooks for Stillwater Junior High School.
- Designated 40% of the Pentecost Offering to benefit Payne County Youth Services.
- Allocated funds from the Iris McPherson legacy gift for crisis assistance, an FPC historical anthology, water bottle filling stations, gutters and east wall repair, and organ trumpet pipes.
- Received the June 30, 2022 membership report indicating 518 members
- Accepted John Mark Day's resignation from Session.
- Elected Kathy Essmiller to serve on the Personnel Committee.
- Approved the job description for the interim pastor.
- Received Kelly McCarley's resignation as Older Adult Ministry Coordinator with appreciation for her service and approved a new search for this position.
- Approved an invitation to Gordon Edwards to moderate the August stated meeting.
- Thanked Leah Hrachovec for her 15 years as pastor and associate pastor at FPC and wished her well in her new call.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Leah Hrachovec. The next stated Session meeting is Tuesday, August 9th at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall with Zoom option.

Monthly Income / Expense Report

	March	Year to Date	% of Budget
Giving	\$ 38,128.81	\$ 409,420.88	61.87
Other Income	\$ 7,544.87	\$ 62,943.28	65.35
Total Income	\$ 45,673.68	\$ 472,364.16	62.31
Expenditures	\$ 65,032.68	\$ 429,335.74	56.72
Net	\$ (19,359.00)	\$ 43,028.42	

BEHIND THE WALLS: A Trustees Update

A round of applause for John Houck and the crew that helped bring down the storage shed in the Courtyard! Some hot and dirty work delivered by John as well as Tim Schlais, Rusty Rex, William Cole, Steve Fairbanks, and Mike Woods brought the shed down. This shed was used as storage for the Preschool and a replacement storage facility is currently being planned in cooperation with the Trustees and the Preschool. It will be important to provide new storage space to protect toys and supplies and to keep the Courtyard open and clean for other uses.

The Trustees filed a claim with our insurance company, Church Mutual, in May to recover damages from a severe hail storm. We are receiving a response from our insurer and will soon share information and potential options for roof repair/enhancement with Session for their consideration. We have a "whole lot of roof" covering our several buildings on our Church Campus. Many areas have shingles that are currently beyond their useful lifespan. Stay tuned for additional information.



DWIGHT NIGHT

energizers games fellowship worship cookout

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
4:00-7:00 P.M.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Rockwell campus
14501 N. Rockwell, OKC



Dwight Night Event

People of all ages are invited to Dwight Night, a time to capture the spirit of Dwight Mission and connect with others through energizers, games, fellowship, worship, and a cookout.

Register by Wednesday, September 7th at <https://stillwaterfpc.breezechms.com/form/48a69f>



Scout Updates

- **Pack 3842** is finishing up our summertime program, and we're kicking off our Fall season with an open house night at 6:30 on August 22 at the church. This is a great time for new families to come visit the pack and learn what we're all about. If you know of any boy or girl in grades K-5 who may be interested in Cub Scouting, please contact Kelli Black at pack3842@gmail.com. Summer is a great time to get to know the Pack.
- The Scouts (**Troop 888**) have been very busy since our last update! They visited a local Veteran who taught them how to care for, raise & lower, and fold a flag, visited Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, participated in a service project for Relay for Life, attended summer camp, had a lock in, worked on swimming skills and so much more. We've been so very proud of all the personal growth we've witnessed in the Scouts. They've learned that they can do hard things. They've learned how to stick together and rely on one another to accomplish a task when things aren't going well. We've watched with joy as they've grown in leadership and thoughtfulness both within their Troop and in their dealings with others. If you'd like to keep up with their Scouting journey, feel free to visit our Facebook Page at BSA Troop 888 Stillwater, OK. If you know a girl age 11-17 who is interested in joining us please contact Melissa Huber at troop888gbsa@gmail.com.
- Over the past two months, **Troop 820** has been very active. Service projects included helping the American Legion place flags at Fairlawn Cemetery for Memorial day and providing service for Relay for Life along with sister troop 888. We camped at Roman Nose State Park in May and attended summer camp at Camp Rockefeller in Damascus, Arkansas (also with 888) where our scouts worked on multiple merit badges and rank advancement while learning valuable skills. After several years of not being involved in Order of the Arrow, we had three scouts called out at summer camp to be members of the Order of the Arrow. More recently, we took a day trip to visit the Philbrook Museum and Oklahoma Aquarium in Tulsa. We would also like to congratulate our newest Eagle Scout, Marek Oomens, on completing his Eagle rank in May.



The August Ambassador
First Presbyterian Church
524 S. Duncan St.
Stillwater, OK 74074
405-372-5580
www.stillwaterfpc.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship at First Presbyterian

Return to TWO Worship Services on
Sunday, August 21st!

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Hybrid Worship Service

Midweek Prayer

Wednesdays 12:10pm via Zoom

THE AMBASSADOR

AUGUST 2022



YOU'RE INVITED!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS
HAVING A BLOCK PARTY,
AND WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 6:00 PM
ON THE SOUTHEAST LAWN
AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(524 S. DUNCAN ST.)

LAWN GAMES
LIVE MUSIC

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL
DOOR PRIZES

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Fall Worship Schedule begins Sunday, August 21!

- Worship and Communion @ 8:30 am
- Sunday School Classes for all ages @ 9:45 am
- Worship @ 11:00 am

