

VOL. 65 NUMBER 3 · EASTER 2023

THE AMBASSADOR

A publication of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater

Holy Week at FPC

Palm Sunday

Worship and Communion @ 8:30 am

Worship and Communion @ 11:00am

(Procession of Palms - Gather at 10:50am)

Ecumenical Holy Week Services

First Presbyterian Church

April 3rd-7th

12:10-12:50pm

Maundy Thursday

Worship @ 7:00 pm

with Communion and Handwashing

Easter Sunday

Worship and Communion @ 8:30 am

Easter Celebration @ 9:45 am

Worship and Communion @ 11:00 am

Bring fresh flowers for the Flowering of the Cross

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Announcements

2023 Visioning Retreat Recap

On March 3 & 4 our church began a journey of discernment and re-visioning. 47 people participated in a workshop consisting of different exercises to help us tell the story of what we do, why we do it, with whom we do it, and for whom we do it. Our mission statement stays the same. Over the next few months, we will be seeking to better define our values and expanding the ways we tell our story. The Growth and Sustainability Taskforce will be gathering data by attending different committees which already meet and inviting people to small group discussion events. Then the Visioning Taskforce, which began a year ago under the guidance of the Presbyterian Foundation, will renew their work and help the Session make a final selection of values to add to the FPC mission statement and write a six word story to describe our ministry. If you have more questions about this process or when you can next attend an event, please contact Kati, your Interim Pastor at kati.collins@stillwaterfpc.org.



FPC GARDEN WORK DAY

**Please mark your calendar for
Saturday, April 22, 2023.**

Calling on volunteers of all ages! Bring work gloves and any garden tools you have. We plan on beginning at 9AM and wrapping up by 1PM. Join us and stay as long as you can. We will pull some weeds, plant some flowers, and spread some mulch! In preparation for this work day, if you are getting stuck into your own garden beds and have extra flower bulbs (crocus, iris, hyacinth, etc), please divide some out and bring them for our Butterfly Garden! Bulbs can be wrapped in a damp paper towel, placed in a plastic bag, and brought to the church for planting on April 22nd.

Coffee and water will be provided to help get your day started. Last year this activity was a great help in cleaning up our flower garden and outdoor landscape as we prepared to welcome the spring season. April 29 is the alternative "rain day".





Getting to Know You - Letter from Kati

"This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24

I am incredibly grateful that God has brought us together "for such a time as this," to share in these transitional and transformational times of our lives. You have been such a support for me and my family as my mom, Ann, embarked on the journey of breast cancer treatment last month. Thank you for your prayers and emotional support!

My husband, Robbie, and my little girls, Sammi and Abby, have been loving our time in Stilly! I've been showing them around campus and teaching them about Eskimo Joe's and Buffy. We've been touring the different public parks, local businesses, the Stillwater Farmer's Market, and our own Saturday Morning Brunch. Robbie and I had exciting visits to the Gallagher Iba Arena to see our Cowboys in action and the McKnight Center to hear the OSU Symphony! My heart overflows with joy to share these special memories with them!

I have also been deeply enjoying serving alongside you. Pastor Jenny and Jenna are such talented leaders and their theological and pedagogical insights inspire me in my own leadership. Our Choir shocks me each Sunday, and I know they have many wonderful pieces in the works for Holy Week and Easter. We are enjoying getting to know people on a more personal level at Dine with Nine Events, and I still can't say often enough that the potluck meals we had during the Visioning Retreat were out of this world.

As the Interim Pastor, I have been staying attentive to the Holy Nudge of the Spirit by intentionally listening to our participants in the daily life of the church as well as trying to connect with members and prospective partners in ministry. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out and schedule a time to meet with me. You can also contact the office or send me an email if you would like to schedule a pastoral care meeting or ask for a visit in your home, the hospital, or a coffee shop. I have been visiting Legacy, Golden Oaks, and Primrose Retirement Communities on a monthly basis for coffee and conversation, and this has been teaching me some of the traditions and values of this church which go beyond my daily experiences and speak of the tradition of impact and involvement in our local community. I carried some of the questions from our visioning retreat into our conversation time. The Legacy and Primrose Presbyterians emphasized values of tradition, openness, inclusion, curiosity, and investing in future generations. These resonate with some of the values from our retreat participants: tradition, justice, grace, education, and risk, to name a few. I am curious to know more of you and hear which values are most important to you. As our Growth and Sustainability Taskforce visits the different groups of our church and hosts more opportunities in May, I will continue to listen for Spirit's movement, while I encourage you to tell your story of how you have encountered Spirit as well.

Rev. Kati Collins



Ecumenical Holy Week Services

Holy Week 2023



The Stillwater Ministerium has organized a daily worship series for the community during Holy Week, April 3-7, from 12:10pm-12:50pm. This year's services will be hosted here at First Presbyterian Church. Worship leadership will be members of Stillwater Ministerium and members of the Cimarron Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

All are welcome to attend these ecumenical services which are a great opportunity to grow in faith, worship with other Christians, and experience our unity in Christ.

Monday, April 3

- Preaching: Rev. Kati Collins, First Presbyterian Church
- Liturgist: Susan Ross, Unitarian Universalist Church of Stillwater
- Organist: Dr. Thomas Dickey, Principal Organist, First Presbyterian Church, Norman

Tuesday, April 4

- Preaching: Pastor Tim Walker, First Baptist Church
- Liturgist: George Gilland
- Organist: Krystal Hennessey, Director of Music & Organist, Salem Lutheran Church

Wednesday, April 5

- Preaching: Rev. Cindy Robertson Riedel, First United Methodist Church
- Liturgist: Karen Mitchell
- Organist: Dr. Gerald Frank, Member of Cimarron AGO

Thursday, April 6

- Preaching: Rev. Kyle Anderson, First United Methodist Church
- Liturgist: Rev. Mr. Paul Govek, St. Francis Catholic Parish
- Organist: Brett Carver, Member of Cimarron AGO

Friday, April 7

- Preaching: Rev. Katie Paul, Highland Park United Methodist Church
- Liturgist: Rev. Jenny Wells, First Presbyterian Church
- Organist: Rebecca te Velde, Director of Music and Organist, First Presbyterian Church

Palm Sunday

Join us for worship and Communion at 8:30 am and 11:00 am. The 11:00 am service will also include the **Procession of Palms**. All those who would like to process into worship waving palms are invited to meet in the Worship Center at 10:50am.

Music for Palm Sunday includes:

- Brandon Bowman, soloist ("Lord, I Need You" by Matt Maher) at 8:30 & 11:00
- 11:00 Palm Sunday Procession
- Chancel Choir: "Lift Up Your Heads" by W. Mathias
- Organ Postlude: "Toccata" by Eugène Gigout



One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks due back SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Add those coins to your banks! The coins and dollars will benefit the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. Please give to OGHS using the pew envelopes or by writing a check and including 'OGHS' in the memo line.



Maundy Thursday

The Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service is a long-standing tradition here at FPC, with worship led by our pastors, our youth, and our choir. Please make plans to join us on Thursday April 6th, at 7:00 pm to watch and experience the final hours of Jesus' life in word and song. This powerful service includes the celebration of Communion and the stripping of the chancel.

Maundy Thursday Music includes:

- Chancel Choir: "Ave verum" by W. A. Mozart with Magdalena Vinson, violin, and Noah Taylor, cello
- David Silver, soloist: "Take My Mother Home" – African-American spiritual
- Organ Prelude (6:55pm) "O Mankind, Bewail Thy Grievous Sin" – J. S. Bach
- Organ Postlude "Ah, Holy Jesus" – Helmut Walcha (Sam Markmiller, organist)

Flowering of the Cross

On Easter Morning you will find our beautiful wooden cross covered in chicken wire and ready to accept fresh flowers as a symbol of God's free gift of Grace and New Life in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. You are invited to bring flowers from your own garden or a place of your choosing and weave them into the cross as you arrive for worship that morning.



CHILDREN'S EASTER Celebration

EASTER STORY & CRAFTS | EGG HUNT | LADYBUG RELEASE

9:45 AM | 4.9.23

MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

Easter Sunday

Easter services will be at 8:30 and 11:00 am with the celebration of Communion and Chancel Choir at both services. Between services, all children are invited to the Worship Center for our Easter Celebration as we celebrate the joy and hope of the resurrection!

Easter Sunday Music includes:

- Prelude: Organ – Allegro assai vivace (Sonata No. 1 for Organ) – F. Mendelssohn; Trumpets and Organ – "Fanfare" and "The Rejoicing" – G. F. Handel
- Chancel Choir: "The Day of Resurrection" – T. Matthews; "Hallelujah" Chorus from Messiah – G. F. Handel; Omar Martinez and Aidan Evano, trumpet
- Organ Postlude: "Toccata" (Symphony No. 5 for Organ) – Ch.-M. Widor

Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir will not rehearse on Apr. 12; rehearsals resume Apr. 19 in the Westminster Room (choir room), continuing on Wednesdays 7:00-8:15pm through May 10. We welcome anyone 7th grade and older.

Intergenerational Ministry



SUMMER GiFT
JUNE 2-4
@ Lake McMurtry
 Stay overnight or just come
 for the daily activities



Summer GiFT: Generations in Faith Together "Connect" June 2-4, 2023

Mark your calendars to join in the fun at this summer's Generations in Faith Together (GiFT). Summer GiFT will take place on the west side of Lake McMurtry with activities on Friday night, all day Saturday, and ending with worship on Sunday morning. Participants are invited to camp overnight (RV and tent camping available) or just come for the daily and evening activities.

Our theme for Summer GiFT is "Connect." Through our time together, we'll explore connections with God, one another, and creation. Through small and large group activities, games, nature activities like hiking, fishing, kayaking, and fellowship around the campfire, we hope that we will all leave this experience with closer connections with people of all ages and a deeper connection with God and God's creation.

Registration is open at www.stillwaterfpc.org/gift

For more information or to help with GiFT by donating your time or supplies (or money), contact Jenna Campbell at jenna.campbell@stillwaterfpc.org or 405-372-5580.

UKIRK Update



UKirk (U=University, Kirk=Church) continues to meet weekly on Tuesdays at 7:00pm in the Youth Suite at FPC. See our monthly rhythm below and other upcoming gatherings!

- 1st and 3rd Tuesdays: Bible Study
- 2nd Tuesdays: Game Night
- 4th Tuesdays: Cooking Class and Breaking Bread together
- Sunday, April 30: Graduate Recognition
- Tuesday, May 2: End of Year Gathering/CookOut
- Sunday, May 7: Finals Care Packages available for pick-up in the Narthex following worship

Graduating this Spring?

Are you graduating from college or graduate school this spring? Do you have a family member graduating from college or graduate school this spring? We want to know about it! Please contact Rev. Jenny Wells in the church office (405-372-5580 or jenny.wells@stillwaterfpc.org) so we can add you or your graduate to our list. University graduates will be recognized during worship on Sunday, April 30.



PRESBYTERIAN • YOUTH • GROUP



Presbyterian
Youth Group

Children's & Youth Ministry

For ALL 6th-12th graders

Sunday evenings

PYG is a time for connection, fellowship, discipleship, and living our faith. At PYG, we play, laugh, pray, study scripture, serve, ask big questions, and grow as faithful disciples. Join us!

April

- 2 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)
- 6 - Maundy Thursday Rehearsal & Worship
- 9 - No PYG - Happy Easter!
- 16 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)
- 23 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)
- 30 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)

May

- 7 - Tears & Cheers Dinner (5:00 - 6:30pm)
- 14 - No PYG

Maundy Thursday Rehearsal & Worship

Thursday, April 6

5:30-7:00p - Rehearse and dinner

7:00-8:00p - Worship

6th-12th graders are invited to provide worship leadership for the Maundy Thursday service. We will gather at 5:30 to run through leadership roles (presentation of scripture, removal of items in the sanctuary, ushering), have a quick pizza dinner, and then be ready to lead when worship begins at 7:00pm.

Children's Sunday School

For children 4yrs - 5th grade. Begins at 9:45am in the Worship Center. April's unit is The Fruit of the Spirit.

SpiritLink Dates to Note:

May 14 - Music Sunday; SpiritLink Singers will sing during the 11:00 am worship service.



Tears & Cheers!

Welcome 5th Graders/Congrats to SHS Grads

Sunday, May 7 - 5:00-6:30p

Incoming 6th graders (fall 2023) and graduating high school seniors are invited to be the guests of honor at PYG. We'll welcome incoming 6th graders and celebrate our graduates together with a dinner at the church with the rest of the youth!

Senior Recognition Sunday - May 7



Congratulations!

Join us in celebrating our high school seniors on Sunday morning, May 7. We will have a reception for our high school graduates beginning at 10:30am in the Vestibule. Seniors will be recognized during worship. You are welcome to greet them again in the Vestibule at the conclusion of the 11:00 am worship service. Blessings to all of our graduates!

Adult Education & Fellowship



Return of Seasoned Adults

Monday, April 17

5:30pm gathering and

6:00pm dinner in Fellowship Hall



The Seasoned Adults program will resume in April and is being organized by elders Jean Aresco and Belinda Bruner. April's program will be "Get To Know Your Interim Pastor" with future programs to be scheduled including, "Beloved Hymn Stories and Sing-Along," and "Women in Religious History."

The signup process for Seasoned Adults remains the same: RSVP for dinner and the program by 5pm on the Friday before the program (April 14th for the April event). Fellowship time begins at 5:30 pm the third Monday of each month followed by dinner at 6:00 pm and the program will start at 6:45 pm. Cost for dinner is \$12 and attendees may pay with cash or check. You also always have the option to arrive after dinner and only attend the free program.

Seasoned Adults are generally members of the congregation who have reached retirement age, but we recognize that age is just a number. Anyone, gently seasoned or even slightly overcooked is welcome to attend. If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact the Church Office. These events are open to all, so invite your friends! Please just remember that everyone attending must RSVP, including those only attending the program.

Mark your calendar for April 17 and keep an eye on your email inbox. We hope to see you there!

Adult Sunday School Classes - Sundays @ 9:45am

- "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. This class meets in the Multipurpose Room.



Faith on Tap

Meets at Stonecloud Taproom (917 S. Husband St.) at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of the month - April 13 (April 7 is Maundy Thursday), and May 4.

You are invited to join us for fellowship, conversation, and games! Stonecloud does not serve food, and you are welcome to bring your own dinner or snacks.

Intergenerational Mission Trip

Sunday May 21- Sunday, May 28, 2023



There is still time to register!

Adults and youth (entering 7th graders and up) are invited to travel to Eagle, CO to help build a home with Habitat for Humanity. Registration forms are available at the link below, and paper registration forms are available in the Narthex at FPC:

www.stillwaterfpc.org/intergenerational-mission-trips

- Registration and \$30 deposit are due by Tuesday, April 4. Final, full payments are due on Friday, May 12.
- Registration for adults is \$175.
- Registration for youth is \$125.
- Youth entering 7th grade who would like to participate must have a parent or guardian participate with them.

Mission Trip Fundraiser

Silent/Live Auction and Luncheon on

Sunday, April 30th at 12:30pm

The Mission Team is excited to bring back one of our favorite fundraisers this spring. A silent/live auction and lunch are planned for Sunday, April 30 following the 11:00 service, to raise funds for the Intergenerational Mission Trip to Eagle, Colorado in late May. This will be our first Mission Trip out of state since 2017, and we will be working with the Vail Valley Habitat for Humanity on building a home.

The whole church is invited to be involved in this fundraiser. As in past years, we are inviting all leadership committees to submit an auction item for the event. We also invite other FPC groups (Presbyterian Women, Second Mile Sewing, Dine with Nine, UKirk, etc.) to participate. In previous years, baskets and other goodies were brought in for the auction. OSU baseball/softball tickets and McKnight Center event tickets are always hot items. This year, we are adding another element. We invite you to think of your talents: gardening, computers, car maintenance, cooking, babysitting, dog walking, etc. could be offered for an hour or a ½ day.

Cost of auction items will vary. A \$5 per person donation is suggested for lunch.

For more information, contact Tim Schlais, Steve Fairbanks, Judy Ferrell, or Mary Emmet.

2023 Stillwater Trash-Off

Members and friends of First Presbyterian Church met at Couch Park on Saturday morning, March 25, to pick up trash around town. This annual event, a friendly competition to see which group can pick up the most trash, is hosted by the City of Stillwater as a way to encourage keeping the city clean. Our team, organized by the World Mission and Denominational Concerns Committee and joined by our Boy Scout Troop and Cub Pack, picked up 18 bags of trash.

First Friday Peace Jam

6 PM Potluck Supper
7-8:30 PM Music Jam

This gathering is for everyone - bring a friend and a dish to share! We have maracas, triangles, two djembe, tambourines, and a keyboard available for anyone to play. This is for everyone, church and community. You can play, sing, or just listen and enjoy! Please join us on April 7th!

Questions? Please contact Jim Beckstrom
(james@beckstromgroup.com)





Prayer Concerns

Edie Abrahamson
 Lavon Alexander (Howard)
 Gary Allen
 Amanda
 Nick Amidon (Garoffolo)
 Shea Arnett (N. Thomas)
 Christopher Aupperle (Aupperle)
 David Awtrey
 Luz Barber
 Baker
 Betty Bays
 Leola Beckstrom (Beckstrom)
 Mandy Blackburn
 Rose Marie Bligh
 Rita Breuninger
 Helen Britton
 Belinda Bruner
 Wayne Cartwright (Koeppe)
 Paula Cavett (te Velde)
 Nancy Chapa (Fagan)
 Allison Christy (Breuninger)
 Abby Clapp (Clapp)
 Darlene Collyar (Silver)
 Conrado and Miriam (Wells)
 Andee and Kannon Cooper (Hrachovec)
 Heather Davidson
 Sara Davies
 Martha Dearing (Meinke)
 Matthew Durham (Shawley)
 Lori Fagan
 Jeanie Findahl
 Mike Flowers
 Joyce Freeman (Osborn)
 Ed Gallegos (Wilkinson)
 John Gelder
 Lauren Glynn (Stewart)
 Halana (Leffingwell)
 Alana Harding (Redburn)
 Ben Harris (Wilkinson/Frohock)
 Kendall Harvey (Shaw)
 Mary Ann Henley (Henley)
 Charla Hilger (Roscoe)
 Charity Hitch (Plum)
 Nikki Hoffman (Matthews)
 Carolynne Hopkins
 Linda Houck
 Sandy Ives
 Patty Jacobs
 Paul Dean Jenkins (Nipp)
 Brenda Johns (Taylor)
 Larry Johnson (te Velde)
 Ted Joy (Taylor)
 Patty Keys
 Mary Jane Kirchenbauer (Breuninger)
 Margy Knox
 Pauline Kopecky
 Dottie Kraemer
 Karen Krehbiel (Breuninger)
 Heather Lanners
 Hank Lett
 Tracie Lively
 Alyssa Matal (Krehbiel)
 The McCoy Family
 Larry McDonald
 Kaylee McGovney (Redburn)
 Stephanie McMillan (Taylor)
 Philip Meadows
 Tresa Miller (Miller)
 Jean Moore (Stangl)
 Anne Mullen (Mullen)
 Nora Nagaruk (Stangl)
 Chancey Nickerson
 Michelle Nicholson
 Pricilia Nkem
 Our Service Men & Women (Kraemer)
 Frances Phillips (Taylor)
 Jean Potts (Bills)
 Daniel Powell
 Paul Quarles (Bobo)
 Tim Rains (Silver)
 Lisa Reavis (Stewart)
 Larry & Margaret Redburn (McCarley)
 Jack Reeves
 Sara Roberts (Osborn)
 David Schmidly (Shaw)
 Karen Shippey (Swim)
 Jeffrey Silver
 David Smith (Cooper)
 Ted Smith
 Doug Smotone (Schlais)
 Perry Sneed (Johnson)
 Jamie Stephens
 Christine Stone (Fairbanks/Cornelius)
 Phyllis Taylor & Helen Brake
 Tyler
 Upendo Kids (Shawley)
 Nettie Vick
 Jill Wahnoutka (Savage)
 Emily Walker (Walker)
 Darrell Warren (Silver)
 Marilyn Waters-Seig
 Lynda Williams
 Scott Williams
 Jackie Young (Osborn)

MILITARY MEMBERS

Members & family members of our church family who have been deployed in service to our country:

- Jordan Buterbaugh, Marines (Case)
- Justin Fowler, Navy (Fowler)
- Col. James 'grata' Greenwald, Air Force
- Matt Krehbiel
- 1st Lt. Eric Murphy, Army (Fairbanks)
- Miles Smith, Recruit Division Commander, Department of the Navy (Schlais)
- SGT Bryn JT Williams, Army (Williams)





It is time to order flowers to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter. If you would like to help the Worship Committee purchase lilies, please fill out the form below. Place the form and your check in the offering plate or return to the Church Office by **Wednesday, April 5th**.

1) Please PRINT below EXACTLY as you would like it to appear IN THE EASTER BULLETIN:

Today's flowers are given to the Glory of God by

(your name(s) as you want it printed)

(choose one) ☐ in memory of ☐ in celebration of ☐ in honor of

2) Include your payment marked "*Easter Lily*." (Make checks payable to "*First Presbyterian Church*")

of lilies _____ X \$12.00 = \$ _____ total enclosed

Your Name: _____

3) Please check one:

☐ I/We will take our lily/lilies home after the 11:00 am Easter service April 9.

☐ Please use my contribution to purchase lilies for the Sanctuary that will be distributed to members by the Deacons after Easter. I understand that any remaining money beyond what is needed for distribution will be given to the *One Great Hour of Sharing* Offering.

Office use: Ck # _____ Cash _____ Amount \$ _____ Date _____

Preschool Update

Look at Jenna! This is a picture of Jenna sharing her love of Christ with our youngest. In the preschool, we offer chapel twice a week to our children 3 and up! During Tuesday's chapel, we use a storybook Bible to share God's word. For Friday's chapel, we use the stories prepared for Children & Worship to spread the gospel to our children. Besides our stories, there is also greeting, singing and praying. If you ever want to stop by the worship center on Tuesday or Friday mornings from 11:30am-11:50am, I promise you will leave filled with joy (especially when each child gets to say what they are thankful for and their answers range from bunk beds to families to Paw Patrol to God)! Thanks Jenna for sharing in the leadership of chapel with us! We were so thankful to be able to gather again this school year for chapel since the last two years we have not because of Covid! God is good!





Stephen Ministry

In the FPC Stillwater Library: Cancer--Now What?
by Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D.

Your Stephen Ministry at FPC includes the availability of two copies of Cancer--Now What? in our church library, available for you to check out. This 332 page practical how-to book was written to help those with cancer and their loved ones address the medical, emotional, relational, and spiritual challenges that cancer brings.

Dr. Haugk is the founder and Executive Director of Stephen Ministries St. Louis. He tells us in the introduction that he wrote the book in 2017 after having a personal experience with cancer. His wife Joan was diagnosed with Stage IIIC Ovarian Cancer and he recalls how overwhelmed they both felt at the time, and how much they had to learn. The book's research team spent over 35,000 hours on the project, collecting firsthand knowledge and stories from 2741 survivors and loved ones and 820 medical professionals. Between the survivors and the medical professionals, they had experience with 81 different kinds of cancer. In addition to the data-driven information, Dr. Haugk shares many anecdotal quotes and stories from cancer survivors and affected family members. In closing, let me share just one. It's from Chapter 32, Laughter Enhances the Best Medicine--"After my mastectomy and chemotherapy, the plan was for me to have reconstructive surgery. The first day that would work in everyone's schedule turned out to be my birthday. I told my surgeon, 'Let's do it--I don't think anyone else will be giving me a new boob for my birthday.' He loved it!"

PW NEWS



PW/Circle will meet Wednesday, April 12, in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee and refreshments will be available at 9:15 a.m. before Associate Pastor Jenny leads the women in Lesson Eight: Sabbath and Justice at 10:00 am

In February the women participated in the Church World Service 'Blanket Sunday' along with the congregation and a total of \$1288 was donated. PW has purchased a new Vulcan Model 6 Burner Gas Range for the Fellowship Hall kitchen. This range replaces the one that was moved from the old kitchen that was used before the building of the new Fellowship Hall.

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).

BEHIND THE WALLS: A TRUSTEES UPDATE

How many times have you thought "why don't they replace the light bulbs in the Sanctuary?" Here's the story....

Let's start with history. The sanctuary light fixtures are over 100 years old - they are beautiful and fragile. The shades are mica; a fragile product. The Sanctuary wiring has been updated, but the fixtures themselves need work. A little over a year ago Trustees contracted with an electrical company to replace all the light bulbs in the sanctuary, hospitality area and worship center with LED bulbs. The electrician stated that the sockets in the fixtures had been damaged by several actions that had previously been taken: bulbs with high wattage had been used, damaging the sockets and tightening over time had twisted the wiring in the sockets necessitating a full socket replacement in the Sanctuary.

Trustees have requested a bid/estimate for replacing all the sockets in the Sanctuary light fixtures - 76 sockets! This means the fixtures will need to be taken down, scaffolding will need to be erected plus a temporary lift for the center chandeliers, a process that will take several weeks. The original mica shades are very fragile and may be broken during the removal of the light fixtures. We have located a source that can make shades for us as a custom order.

When we receive the bid/estimate we will begin searching for a source of funding. The Trustees would like to see all of the Sanctuary returned to pristine condition, too. We are careful stewards of the monies allocated to us and of the facilities and grounds we oversee.

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:

Jenny Bobo (chair)

David Silver

Children's Ministry:

Courtney Savage (chair)

Jean Aresco

Communications & Connecting:

Jill Stoutzenberger (chair)

Cathy Conway

Fellowship & Family:

Donna Koeppe (chair)

Stewardship & Finance:

Kiah Butcher (co-chair)

Tim Krehbiel (co-chair)

Cathy Fairbanks

UKIRK (University):

Lisa McGaw (chair)

John te Velde

World Mission & Denominational Concerns:

Kathy Thomas (chair)

Worship & Music:

Dustin Reavis (chair)

Ken Belanus

Youth Ministry:

Rusty Rex (chair)

Belinda Bruner

Trustee Liaison:

Judy Ferrell

Personnel:

Kiah Butcher (co-chair)

Jenny Bobo

Lisa McGaw

Endowment Liaison:

Donna Koeppe

Nominating Committee:

Cathy Conway (chair)

Kathy Thomas

Session Summary

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, Oklahoma met for its Stated Meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 5:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room and via a Zoom option and on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall and via a Zoom option with Rev. Kati Collins moderating both.

Highlights of action and reports:

- Session received instructions from Treasurer Cathy Fairbanks, on how to read the church financial reports, request reimbursements, and manage expenditures.
- In December, Session tasked Pastor Kati to form a taskforce to look creatively at our budget and explore areas for alternative income. A fuller description of the taskforce with the new name (FPC Growth & Sustainability Task Force) was received and approved. Members are Ed Arquitt (PNC), Jim Beckstrom (at large), Autumn Cagle (Deacon), Larry Caldwell (Trustee), Nate Ingram (Youth), and Donna Koeppe (Session). They shared statistical analysis of stewardship and membership.
- Discussed a chapter in Neighborhood Church
- Agreed to pay one half of the total due on the roofing and gutters contract using funds from Budget Equity, a total of \$39,328.66. Remainder covered from Trustee Long Term Capital Needs account.
- The MIF (the description of ministry and position for our next lead pastor) was approved, pending the PNC's acceptance of 3 minor edits. The Session requested that the PNC engage the congregation and the staff in this search process before beginning the confidential interview process.
- Visioning Retreat participants shared reflections on the exercises, and Pastor Kati shared a summary submitted by Joseph Moore. The retreat exercises and results will be part of ongoing discussion in the future.
- Elected Rusty Rex and Ken Belanus as Ruling Elder Commissioners to the February 21, 2023 stated meeting of Cimarron Presbytery at Guthrie
- \$3000 requested and approved from the McCullers Art & Beauty Resource Endowment to help complete the installation of the outdoor drinking fountain in honor of Rev. Dr. Leah Hrachovec.

Next stated meeting will be Tuesday, April 11th, 2023 at 5:30pm, Rev. Kati Collins moderating, in Fellowship Hall.

Monthly Income / Expense Report

	February	Year to Date	% of Budget
Giving	\$ 58,280.13	\$ 110,893.31	17.91
Other Income	\$ 5,203.71	\$ 22,754.75	25.75
Total Income	\$ 63,483.84	\$ 133,648.06	18.89
Expenditures	\$ 59,248.47	\$ 128,498.94	17.40
Net	\$ 4,235.37	\$ 5,149.12	



Scout Updates

- In February **Troop 820** went on a shakedown backpacking hike/camp at Lake McMurtry to review and learn new skills for our March Ouachita Trek. Over spring break we hiked a portion the Ozark Highland Trail in western Arkansas as two groups. Three 820 scouts joined with Ponca City's Troop 556 to complete their crew for Philmont in July. Eight more scouts from 820 hiked separately from the Philmont crew and got to hone backpacking skills for four days in terrain and weather that varies from what is normally experienced in Oklahoma. In March we had two new scouts and two new leaders cross over to our troop from Pack 3805 giving us a total of 20 registered scouts and 20 registered leaders.
- Since our last Ambassador report, **Scouts BSA Troop 888** enjoyed a cold weather shakedown at Camp Stapley where the Scouts conducted their annual planning conference and finished their Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops Training. Earlier this month, they held their first full Scout led Court of Honor and celebrated the Troops 1st birthday. During the celebration, the troop expressed appreciation for all who have supported the troop including a special thank you to the First Presbyterian Church. If you know a girl age 11-17 who is interested in joining us, please contact Melissa Huber at troop888gbsa@gmail.com.



Summer Camp for 3rd - 12th graders June 11-16!

Oklahoma week at Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

Ferncliff is a Presbyterian camp and conference center located in Little Rock, AR. Oklahoma presbyteries are planning on the week of June 11-16 to send Oklahoma campers to Ferncliff. They are making plans to arrange for transportation for that week. Jenna Campbell will be attending as a volunteer the week of June 11-16 and we hope to get a great group of FPC children and youth to join other Oklahoma campers at Ferncliff.

Oklahoma presbyteries have generously helped us lower the cost to \$400 for the week (transportation costs for a possible charter bus will be an additional cost). To get this special \$400 pricing, you must register using the www.ferncliff.org/oklahoma link.

SUMMER CAMP

JUNE 11-16, 2023

Oklahoma Campers Week @
Ferncliff Summer Camp

Little Rock, AR

For entering 3rd graders - 12th graders

Find out more and register at
www.ferncliff.org/oklahoma

Deacon's Corner

Pioneer Pantry Update

On March 20th, our Deacons were able to deliver \$875 in Walmart gift cards and two tubs full of school supplies, toiletries and clothing. The Pioneer Pantry Coordinator, Robin Johnson, personally wanted to thank the members of the FPC for their generosity.



Emergency Utility and Rent Assistance

Did you know that the Deacon's set aside funds for emergency utility and rent assistance each year? In the years 2021 and 2022 combined, First Presbyterian Church distributed over \$8,000 to 160 family units to help pay for their utilities. Additionally, thanks to a grant received through the estate gift of Iris McPherson, FPC helped 34 family units with \$15,610 to pay for utilities and rent costs in 2022. Thank you to everyone who contributes financial gifts to help our neighbors in need, and a special thank you to those who are no longer with us, yet live on through the gifts they gave.

University of the Ozarks visit

In February, Pastor Jenny had the opportunity to visit the University of the Ozarks, a PC(USA) institution that First Presbyterian Church has supported financially and through prayer since 1963. That's right, this is our 60th year of support for the University of the Ozarks! While she was there, Jenny visited with their chaplain, Jeremy Wilhelmi, and offered a reflection for their chapel service in addition to hand-delivering a check for \$1000, offering our continued financial support of the institution.



Pastor Jenny with Chaplain Jeremy Wilhelmi in the University of the Ozarks chapel.

Loving Our Neighbors

On Thursday, March 9, nearly 50 members and friends of First Presbyterian Church gathered to hear from guests Garrett Smith from Our Daily Bread and Kerrie Williams from Mission of Hope. Garrett and Kerrie shared with us how their agencies support our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness, what resources and help they offer, and who is able to come to them for help. At the end of the question and response time, each of them were asked, "In your experience working with our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness, what do you see as the greatest need in Stillwater?" Three things were identified: transportation, housing, and mental health resources. The Board of Deacons will be continuing the conversation about how we can be better neighbors to those experiencing homelessness in our community in the coming weeks and months, and hope you will continue to join them for learning opportunities like this one!



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship at First Presbyterian

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

EASTER 2023

THE AMBASSADOR

*"I am the
resurrection
and the life."*
JOHN / 11:25



Easter Lily Time!

Lily order forms are now
available

Easter Lily forms are available now
and due to the Church Office by
Wednesday April 5th. A copy of the
form may be found as an insert in
this newsletter and copies are also
available in your Sunday bulletin, or
in the Church Office. Lilies will be
delivered to our homebound
members and those who have
experienced loss or illness following
the Easter Sunday services.



Payne County Pride

We will join our friends and neighbors at Pride
again this spring! Mark your calendars for
Saturday, April 29 to join us in telling the
community of Stillwater, "You Are Loved!" The
location is still being determined by the local
Pride planning team, so keep an eye on the
FPC weekly emails and on the Facebook page
for additional information in the coming weeks!