

VOL. 66 NUMBER 3 • EASTER 2024

THE AMBASSADOR

A publication of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF STILLWATER

Holy Week at FPC

Palm Sunday

March 24

Worship @ 11:00 am

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

Maundy Thursday

March 28

Worship @ 7:00 pm

with Communion and Handwashing

Easter Sunday

March 31

Worship and Communion @ 11:00 am

Easter Celebration @ 9:45 am

Easter Monday - April 1

The Church Office will be closed

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FAREWELL FROM PASTOR KATI

My dear Stillwater folks, thank you for welcoming my family into your church family during this interim season. When we look back on our time here, we will always remember the joy my children discovered in worship and children's ministry, our adult fellowship time with Dine with Nine and other events (like the Block Party!), and the heart of compassion we witnessed in the church building with the numerous groups of people who walk through these doors.

As we spoke together in our benediction for one another on Sunday, March 17th, I leave you with this prayer from St. Patrick: May Christ go with you this day. Christ in the heart of every one who thinks of you, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of you, Christ in every eye that sees you, Christ in every ear that hears you.

Pastor Kati



On Sunday, February 25th, we hosted a Vigil for Nex Benedict. This service honored them as a beloved child of God and shared some information on what it means to identify as Non-binary. We lifted up prayers for their friends and family as well as our non-binary neighbors, family and friends.

FPC GARDEN WORK DAY

Please mark your calendar for
Saturday, April 27, 2024

This will be our spring work day to do all those grubby lawn and garden chores around our church grounds. All ages are invited and there will be jobs for everyone. Dennis Ferrell & Jim Showalter will be directing work tasks that morning and we'll start work at 9am.

Please bring your clippers, rakes, shovels, hedge clippers, hats and gloves, wheel barrows and wagons, edge trimmers, and blowers. Plastic trash bags and gloves will be provided for those collecting litter around the grounds.

This is a great opportunity to get your hands dirty for a good cause and getting to know our fellow congregation members in grubby clothes. And it makes our beautiful church all that more inviting. Many hands make short work. Looking forward to seeing you April 27.





A Message from the Rev. Amy Rogers (Your Bridge Pastor)

Greetings! Tuesday of last week marked my first day with you as your new "Bridge" Pastor. By luck of the draw, beginning on Tuesday allowed me to attend the lovely noon organ concert (such a treat), Session meeting, and sandwiched in between was a trip to Hideaway. A genuine Stillwater welcome!

The concept of a Bridge Pastor may be new to some. Pastor Kati was busy packing boxes and tending to final details before she shared her final worship service with you this past Sunday. She will have a well-deserved break before starting her

new pastorate in Columbia, MO. Our prayers go with her! Since the PNC is still hard at work searching for your next pastor, I have been called to bridge the gap. This will provide some consistency in worship rather than going week-to-week with pulpit supply and provides a pastoral presence for the staff and the congregation. I am so looking forward to getting to know you and learning about your ministries.

A bit about me:

I have been an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) since 1989. I have lived most of my life in Oklahoma, apart from a 12-year stretch in Nashville where I attended college and seminary at Vanderbilt University. Following my ordination, I served my first two churches in Nashville before returning to Oklahoma in 1994. After serving as a settled pastor for 25 years, I trained in Intentional Interim Ministry and have since completed six interims (including First United Presbyterian, Guthrie, and most recently, The First Presbyterian Church, Enid). My interests include art, gardening, baking, traveling with my husband Jack, and spending time with our five adult children and six grandchildren. I also enjoy planning and leading retreats, and in recent years I have devoted more time to practicing mindfulness meditation.

My schedule will vary a bit these first weeks due to Holy Week and Easter, but beginning in April my regular days in the office will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays. I will be working one weekday from home (I live in Edmond), and I will also be available on Sundays following worship for pastoral visits and appointments.

I truly am eager to meet you and to share ministry with you in the coming months.

Faithfully,
Amy



One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks
 due back
SUNDAY, MARCH 24th (Palm Sunday)

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

Palm Sunday

Join us for worship and Communion at 11:00 am. This service will also include the **Procession of Palms**. All children who would like to process into worship waving palms are invited to meet in the Worship Center at 10:50am. Those who have been collecting coins in their **Fish Banks** during Lent are invited to bring them forward during Time with Children.

Music for Palm Sunday includes:

- 10:50 am Organ Prelude: Toccata and Fugue in D Minor – J. S. Bach
- Children and Choir Procession with Palms
- Anthem: "Ride On, King Jesus" (Chancel Choir)
- Solo: "Give Me Jesus" (Brandon Bowman)
- Postlude: Toccata by Eugène Gigout



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, March 28th, 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:

- Prelude with French horn and cello (Luke and Noah Taylor)
- Anthem: "God So Loved the World" (Chancel Choir)
- Vocal Solo: "Take My Mother Home" (David Silver)
- Organ Postlude: "Lament on O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"



SUNDAY, MARCH 24

Palm Sunday
 CELEBRATION

9:45 am in the Worship Center
 For 4 year-olds to 5th graders

Children's Palm Processional during
 worship - all ages gather at 10:50 am in the
 Worship Center



Easter Sunday

At 9:45am, before worship, all children are invited to the Multipurpose Room for our Easter Celebration as we celebrate the joy and hope of the resurrection! Easter worship will be at 11:00 am with the celebration of Communion and musical offerings from the Chancel Choir and OSU trumpets.

Easter Sunday Music includes:

- 10:50 am Trumpet and Organ Prelude (Aidan Evano and Jonathan Hall)
- Anthem: "Hallelujah" (Messiah) – Handel (with trumpets)
- Offertory Anthem: "Hallelujah" (Mt. of Olives) – Beethoven (with Heather Lanners, piano)
- Communion Anthem: "The Tree of Life" – K. Lee Scott (with trumpets)
- Postlude: Toccata (Symphony No. 5 for Organ) – Widor



One Great Hour of Sharing Easter Special Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special offerings we collect, along with our siblings in the PC(USA) across the country, every year. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - 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.

This offering was collected last Sunday, March 17th, and will be collected again on Palm Sunday, March 24th. If you pay by check, please make sure to write 'OGHS' in the check memo line.

From the Organ Bench

Easter Season Music

Easter II, April 7

- Fireside pipes – Greg Campbell with harpsichord
- Brett Carver, organist during communion with music of Brahms

Easter III, April 14

- Anthem: "I know that my redeemer lives" – A. C. Lovelace

Easter IV, April 21

- Ps. 23 anthem for "Good Shepherd Sunday"
- Music for Earth Day (4/22) for flute and organ

Chancel Choir

No rehearsal on April 3 and no choir on Sunday, April 7. Regular rehearsal schedule resumes on Wednesday, April 10, 7:00-8:15pm.

Feb. 18, 2024: Choral Scholars Vanessa Washburn, guitar, and MaryEllen Bush, flute



(L-R): Dr. Gerald Frank, Rebecca te Velde, Bradley Newcomb, and Noah Pool (flute)



April 5 First Friday Peace Jam

in Fellowship Hall
6pm Potluck Supper
7-8:30 Music Jam

Bring a dish to share, or just come to jam and sing along! Everyone welcome, all ages!



Peace Jam on March 1, 2024

Soli Deo Gloria Organ Recital

A marvelous and enthusiastic audience attended the noon organ recital given by members of the Cimarron Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) on March 12. Gerald Frank, Bradley Newcomb, and Rebecca te Velde (with Noah Pool, flute) offered their program as a Lenten recital in memory of Cimarron Chapter Dean Micheal Crockett, who died unexpectedly just after his 30th birthday in October of 2023. A big THANK YOU to FPC Presbyterian Women, who provided a beautiful reception afterwards, enjoyed at length by attendees and performers alike.

Adult Education & Fellowship

Adult Sunday School Classes

- "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). This class is currently joined with Faith & Fellowship and will restart their lectionary study on Sunday, April 7.
- "Faith & Fellowship" - led by Tim Hardin, this adult formation class delves into a variety of topics according to the interests of the class participants. They are currently in a study on gun violence using the June 2023 edition of the Presbyterian Outlook as a guide.

Faith on Tap

Join us for this monthly fellowship gathering where we discuss topics that are pertinent to our faith. This year, our conversations are guided by what it means to be the church.



Solar School

The next Solar School is May 2-5, 2024 in Little Rock, Arkansas. The enrollment deadline is April 4. Come learn how solar can make a difference in peoples lives.

If you have questions, please contact Steve Fairbanks at 918-688-6705 or scfairbanks@sbcglobal.net

April Seasoned Adults

Monday, April 15

5:30pm gathering and

6:00pm dinner



"Discrimination in the Workplace: Not-So-Obvious Findings from a Sociologist"

The next Seasoned Adults will be held on Monday, April 15th in Fellowship Hall.

The program is being presented by Dr. Nick Heiserman, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Oklahoma State University. Dr. Heiserman will be discussing Discrimination and Stereotypes, including findings from his recent research. In his presentation he will pose questions such as, "If you experienced discrimination in the workplace, how would you know? How would working for a discriminatory boss affect you and your work? And what even is 'discrimination' in the first place? Sociological research can help answer these questions, and the answers might help you identify bias in the workplace and understand its impacts on you and others around you."

This month we will enjoy pizza and salad from Hideaway Pizza. Please RSVP by calling the Church office between 10:00am and 5:00pm. Please RSVP by 5pm on Friday April 12th.

You can RSVP using this form:

<https://stillwaterfpc.breezechms.com/form/87330254904694059> or by emailing Sharon Bennett at sharon.bennett@stillwaterfpc.org



Mini Prayer Retreat

Saturday, April 13th, 1pm- 5 pm
St. Francis of the Woods, Coyle OK

All are invited to attend a simple Mini Prayer Retreat at St. Francis of the Woods Spiritual Center near Coyle OK (just 30 minutes south of Stillwater). During this mini retreat we will explore several forms of contemplative prayer, including Breath Prayer, Praying with Icons, Song as Prayer, Listening to God, and Labyrinth Prayer (weather permitting). The cost is free and coffee, tea, water and snacks will be provided.

St. Francis of the Woods is an ecumenical Spiritual Community and Retreat Center, and offers a Community Center, Chapel, as well as a Garden and Trails to explore. This will be a great opportunity to experience some silence and quiet from the busy time our lives can be.

This retreat will be led by Sharon Bennett, Pastoral Care Associate and Spiritual Companion, and Belinda Bruner, teacher and writer.

Please RSVP using this link <https://stillwaterfpc.breezechms.com/form/a3c050>. For more information about St. Francis of the Woods, please visit: www.stfrancisofthewoods.org.

If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Bennett,
Pastoral Care Associate at the church or via email at sharon.bennett@stillwaterfpc

Deacon's Corner

Poverty Awareness Workshops

Poverty Simulation - Thursday, April 4th at First United Methodist Church in Stillwater.
9:00am - 12:00pm, continental breakfast provided.
Put on by Stillwater CARES, a partner agency of Payne County United Way.

RSVP:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30EOC4AAEAE2AAOF49-poverty2>

Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop - Wednesday, April 17th, at Our Daily Bread Food & Resource Center. With Bridges Out of Poverty people from all walks of life can finally speak the same language. Lets bridge that gap!
1:00-3:00pm.

RSVP:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q3MGXS7?fbclid=IwAR3QjLLieR08k5qgggISjScI3G7XFsyiwZty.kjelOZiOanbveuqu6sEeL9s>



Photo: Deacon Sharon Bennett donates items to Robin Johnson, Pioneer Pantry Director.

Pioneer Pantry Donation Drive a Success

Thanks to your generous donations, we were able to provide the Stillwater Pioneer Pantry \$1500 in funds to buy needed supplies for Stillwater Students in need. We also were able to donate several packages of hygiene products. Thank you for your support for this Deacon ministry. Thanks also to Deacon Debbie Schoenecke for her work on this project.

Behind the Walls: A Trustees' Update

Many of you likely know that we had a leak in the HVAC water lines that run in the basement below the west end of the Sanctuary. This was discovered in February just as we were getting a handle on other issues related to our geothermal field and a cooling tower that provides seasonal backup for temperature control. We received clearance to have a contractor remove asbestos from the basement pipes. Another contractor will then replace all the affected pipes. We hope to have heat and air conditioning for the sanctuary and office spaces up and running by the first of April. A loan is now in place that will allow us to move forward on HVAC system repairs and a long list of other issues.

A long-range project is in work to replace our aging cooling tower with a larger unit that will allow 100% backup capability if the geothermal system degrades. The cooling tower will also have a chemical drip system critical to keeping it from degradation due to corrosion. A Request for Proposal (RFP) is being drafted to design and prepare construction drawings so that contractors can bid on the work this fall.

One more big issue has been the question of replacing the roof of the Sanctuary. As of this writing, a contract was signed for Permanent Roofing Systems in OKC to install the aluminum roofing system many of you had a chance to see and explore. The "look" is very much like shake shingles we've always known. It's more expensive than a standard composite shingle roof but it has the potential to serve for 40 to 50 years (so called 30-year shingles we put on our homes usually fail at about 15 years). And it negates the need for a very large deductible being implemented by insurance companies when standard shingles have to be replaced. Look for work to start in the next few weeks.

In no particular order, a list of other projects we're working: exterior security cameras, bell tower window renovation, repair Sanctuary NE inner wall, fire escape fences, replace wood fence north FH, repair moisture problem on west FH wall, replace carpets, replace chandelier shades in Sanctuary, replace courtyard drain pipe, masonry tuckpointing, landscape renovation, paint fascia boards, replace FH tables and chairs, and parking lot caulking and striping.

These projects will have to be financed by a capital campaign that is being planned.

P2W CHILI COMPETITION COOK- OFF AND TRIVIA GAME NIGHT



**HOST: FPC
FELLOWSHIP AND
FAITH COMMITTEE**

**CHILI
& GAMES
ARE US**



P2W Chili Cook-Off and Trivia game night

SATURDAY APRIL 20TH. S
TIME: 5:30 PM - 7:30

FELLOWSHIP HALL

SIGN UP FOR THE P2W CHILI COMPETITION
COOK-OFF (THAT CAN BE BOUGHT WITH
VOTING TICKETS 🗳️) AND TRIVIA GAME
HOSTED BY FPC FELLOWSHIP AND FAMILY
COMMITTEE.

ALL AGES ARE INVITED TO PLAY A KHOOT!
TRIVIA QUIZ GAME THAT UTILIZES TRIVIA
KNOWLEDGE ABOUT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH AND THE HISTORY OF STILLWATER
WITH OUR GAME SHOW CELEBRITY
WE WILL HAVE GAMES AVAILABLE FOR
YOUNG CHILDREN

Chili Cook-Off & Trivia Night!

Join your Fellowship & Family
Committee for a chili cook-off and
trivia night on Saturday, April 20th,
from 5:30-7:30pm! We'll play a
Khooti trivia quiz game that will test
your knowledge of FPC and Stillwater
history, enjoy delicious chili, and
fellowship together.

Children's & Youth Ministries

Children's Sunday School

For children 4yrs - 5th grade. Begins at 9:45am in the Worship Center

April's unit is The Lord is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)

SpiritLink Dates to Note:

- March 31 - Easter Celebration
- May 5 - Music Sunday; SpiritLink Singers will sing during the 11:00am worship service



PRESBYTERIAN • YOUTH • GROUP



Presbyterian Youth Group Calendar

March

- 24 - No PYG
- 28 - 5:30-8:00 Maundy Thursday
- 31 - NO PYG Happy Easter!

April

- 7 - NO PYG
- 14 - 5:00-6:30pm PYG
- 21 - 5:00-6:30pm PYG
- 28 - 5:00-6:30pm PYG

Maundy Thursday Rehearsal & Worship

Thursday March 28

5:30-7:00pm - rehearsal and dinner

7:00-8:00pm - 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. Please sign your youth up for this service via the [Maundy Thursday registration form](#).



Senior Recognition Sunday - May 5

Join us in celebrating our high school seniors on Sunday morning, May 5th. We will have a reception for our high school graduates beginning at 10:30am in the Vestibule on May 5th. 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!

Tears and Cheers!

Welcome 5th Graders/Congrats to HS Grads
Sunday, May 5th - 5:00-6:30pm

Incoming 6th graders (fall 2024) 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!

July 14-19th Summer Camp for 3rd-12th graders! 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 July 14-19th to send Oklahoma campers to Ferncliff. They are making plans to arrange for transportation for that week. 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 \$415 for the week (transportation costs for a possible charter bus will be an additional cost)

Register at: <https://ferncliff.org/oklahoma/>
(Use the code **fpcstillwater** at registration for an additional \$50 discount.)



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, March 27th**.

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 on March 31.
- ☐ 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 _____

Honoring Stillwater's Black History

Nearly four years ago a group of folks, mostly from FPC Stillwater, met virtually to discuss the book **How to Be An Anti-Racist** by Ibram X. Kendi. Although the group no longer meets, we continue to look for ways to make a difference in our community in support of our African-American neighbors. In February, over ten of us attended a banquet at the Stillwater Community Center to honor the history-making members of the Washington School basketball team who won the 1956 Class C state championship in the very first year of racially integrated tournament competition among state high schools. Four members of the team still survive and were in attendance. They shared with the banquet audience the racist behavior they experienced during the tournament. They weren't allowed to use the locker rooms in other schools, so had to drive back to Stillwater unshowered and still in their uniforms. They couldn't eat at the same restaurants or stay at the same hotels as the white players. They saw burning crosses in Stillwater when they returned home as State Champions. One of the surviving players, John Reed Jr. spoke of how the state championship game inspired him to fight for equality for his people, and included marching with Martin Luther King Jr.

During the second part of the evening's program we heard from FPC member Jim Beckstrom about the Washington School Heritage Project's ongoing efforts to renovate Washington School, which is owned by the City of Stillwater. Both a silent and a live auction were held at the banquet and over \$30,000 was raised to support the renovation efforts. The cabinet in our church narthex has some displays about the school. If you'd like to read more, the Stillwater NewsPress and other media outlets have written about the school, the banquet, and the renovation efforts, all of which can be found by doing a Google search.



Prayer Concerns

Gary Allen
Amanda
Nick Amidon (Garoffolo)
Shea Arnett (N. Thomas)
Christopher Aupperle (Aupperle)
The Baker Family
Luz Barber (te Velde)
Baker
Debbie Barnes
Betty Bays
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)
Andee and Kannon Cooper (Hrachovec)
Emberlee Davidson (Redburn)
Heather Davidson
Sara Davies
Matthew Durham (Shawley)
Lori Fagan
Jeanie Findahl
Mike Flowers
Joyce Freeman (Osborn)
Ed Gallegos (Wilkinson)
Lauren Glynn (Stewart)
Keith Good
McKenna Grimes
Halana (Leffingwell)
Ben Harris (Wilkinson/Frohock)
Kendall Harvey (Shaw)
Mary Ann Henley (Henley)
Charla Hilger (Roscoe)
Charity Hitch (Plum)
Carolynne Hopkins
Linda Houck
Sharon Huckleby
Sandy Ives
Patty Jacobs
Paul Dean Jenkins (Nipp)
Brenda Johns (Taylor)

Joey Jones
Ted Joy (Taylor)
Patty Keys
Mary Jane Kirchenbauer (Breuninger)
Margy Knox
Pauline Kopecky
Dottie & Sam Kraemer
Karen Krehbiel (Breuninger)
Heather Lanners
Roger Lantz
Hank Lett
Tracie Lively
Cheryl Lowther
Alyssa Matal (Krehbiel)
Larry McDonald
Stephanie McMillan (Taylor)
Philip Meadows
Tresa Miller (Miller)
Jean Moore (Stangl)
Anne Mullen (Mullen)
Nora Nagaruk (Stangl)
Chancey Nickerson (Campbell)
Michelle Nicholson
Pricilia Nkem
Margaret O'Loughlin
Marek Omast II (Schlais)
Drew Osborn (Osborn)
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
Dylon Reimers (Dearing)
Sara Roberts (Osborn)
Terry Robinson
Virginia & Olin Rogers (Osborn)
David Schmidly (Shaw)
Karen Shippey (Swim)
Jeffrey Silver
David Smith (Cooper)
Ted Smith
Perry Sneed (Johnson)
Jamie Stephens

Christine Stone (Fairbanks/Cornelius)
Phyllis Taylor & Helen Brake
Shirley Tearney
Teresa te Velde (te Velde)
Pat Thomason
Tyler
Upendo Kids (Shawley)
Nettie Vick
Emily Walker (Walker)
Darrell Warren (Silver)
Jim West
Lynda Williams
Scott Williams

MILITARY MEMBERS

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

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



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:

Belinda Bruner (chair)
David Silver

Children's Ministry:

Courtney Savage (chair)
Dustin Charter

Communications & Mission:

Cathy Conway (co-chair)
Kathy Thomas (co-chair)
Ed Noltensmeyer

Fellowship & Family:

Donna Koeppe (chair)
Dustin Charter

Stewardship & Finance:

Tim Krehbiel (co-chair)
Lynn Osborn (co-chair)

UKIRK (University):

John te Velde (chair)
Jenny Bobo

Worship & Music:

Dustin Reavis (chair)
Ken Belanus
Carolyn Gang

Youth Ministry:

Rusty Rex (chair)
Belinda Bruner
Corinne Savage

Trustee Liaison:

Judy Ferrell

Personnel:

Lisa McGaw (co-chair)
Jenny Bobo
Ed Noltensmeyer
Rusty Rex

Endowment Liaison:

Donna Koeppe

Nominating Committee:

Cathy Conway (chair)

Session Summary

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, Oklahoma met in its Stated Meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. A quorum was present. Highlights of Session action:

- Welcomed new member, MaryEllen Bush, and Bridge Pastor, the Rev. Amy Rogers.
- Received and approved request for petition signature from Enid Social Justice Committee. The letter invited our church or individuals to sign a petition to request administrative review for potential punitive action regarding the conduct of Airman (Senator) Tom Woods, Oklahoma Air National Guard, regarding his use of hate Speech in public forum. A copy of the full letter may be requested from the office.
- Revisions to the FPC Animal Policy were approved.
- Interim Pastor Kati Collins shared her written interim report and filed for future pastors.
- The Capital Campaign Committee provided recommended to Session that Horizon Stewardship be hired as campaign consultant to facilitate a feasibility study to confirm the church membership's interest in and willingness to support a much-needed capital campaign to address current and future facility and other identified needs of the church and work with the Committee, Session and volunteers to plan and execute the campaign. The committee shared that they interviewed four different firms and reviewed their proposals extensively. Don Smith from Horizons brings the experience of a previous Senior Pastor and several years working with Presbyterian congregations to help them tell their story and create a campaign with a clear vision. The Session approved the contract with Horizons Stewardship and the committee will begin meeting with Don later this month.
- 2024 Session Committee assignments were finalized.

The next Stated Session meeting is Tuesday, April 9 at 5:30pm in the Multipurpose Room.

FEBRUARY 2024 INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT

	FEBRUARY	YEAR TO DATE	% OF BUDGET
Giving	\$62,440.26	\$107,790.05	17.3%
Other Income	\$5,624.03	\$24,301.26	36.3%
Total Income	\$68,064.29	\$132,091.32	19.1%
Expenditures	\$47,042.36	\$112,751.32	15.8%
Net	\$21,021.93	\$19,339.99	--



Scout Updates

- Pack 3842 has been very busy this spring. In January, we held our Lego Derby at OSU Noble Research courtesy of the OSU Geology Department. Many fast, cool cars raced and lots of fun for everyone. In February, we had 6 AOL Scouts cross over to troop. 1 to 888, 2 to 820, 1 to 828, 1 to 802 and 1 to 912 (Perry). In March the Pack had the opportunity to tour the OSU Water Distribution Facility and see how they make our water safe to drink. The Cub Scouts are looking forward to learning about the eclipse in April and attending the spring campout. If you know of any boy or girl in grades K-5 who may be interested in Cub Scouting, please contact Brandon Spencer at pack3842@gmail.com. Spring is a great time to get to know us!
- Scouts BSA Troop 888 is celebrating the close of its 2nd year, and in that time, the Troop has tripled in size and now supports 1 youth! In February the Scouts conducted their annual planning conference and completed Leadership Training while also having time for fitness, Scout skills, and fun. Most recently, the Troop enjoyed an introduction to backpacking event in the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge. The Scouts hiked 6 miles carrying personal and troop gear and experienced cooking on the trail for the first time, and watched a movie under the Stars. If you'd like to keep up with Troop 888's Scouting journey, feel free to visit our Facebook Page, BSA Troop 888 Stillwater, OK. If you know a girl age 11-17 who is interested in joining us, please contact Melissa Huber at troop888gbbsa@gmail.com.
- In February, Troop 820 conducted a shakedown hike at Lake McMurtry. This hike gives our scouts and adults the opportunity to evaluate our backpacking skills and test new gear in preparation for our annual Ouachita Trek. Over spring break we will backpack a 20 mile route in the Ouachita Mountains in southeast Oklahoma over four days. This is one of our more challenging activities and gives the scouts significant obstacles to overcome and learn from while learning to work as a team. In April, we will assist Pack 3842 with their spring camp and travel to the Great Salt Plains where we will dig for crystals and learn about the geology of the area. We also had three scouts recently elected in to the Order of the Arrow who will be undergoing their Ordeal in April. Spring is a busy and exciting time for our scouts with plenty of opportunities for them to learn and grow.



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

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Hybrid Worship Service

Midweek Prayer

Wednesdays 12:10pm via Zoom

THE AMBASSADOR

EASTER 2024



Payne County Pride

Saturday, April 27th

10:00am - 3:00pm @ Southern Woods Park

The Payne County Pride Festival will be held on Saturday, April 27th. FPC will once again have a table at the Festival so please contact Tami Krehbiel (tamikrehbiel@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering this year! You can also find more general volunteer information on our website under Mission & Service -> Volunteer Opportunities.

10-3pm April 27th
Southern Woods
Park

