

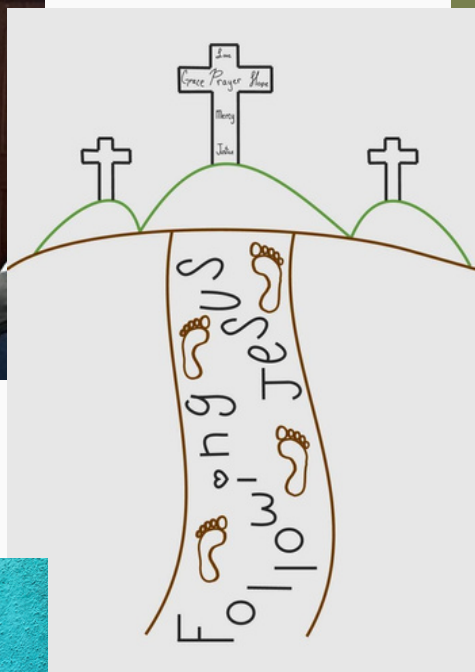
VOL. 65 NUMBER 2 · FEBRUARY 2023

THE AMBASSADOR

A publication of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater



Youth Sunday
February 12, 2023



Ash Wednesday is
February 22, 2023

Lenten Devotionals
available beginning
Sunday, February 19, 2023

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First Presbyterian Church Staff

Interim Pastor
Kati Collins

kati.collins@stillwaterfpc.org

Associate Pastor
Jenny Wells

jenny.wells@stillwaterfpc.org

Parish Associate
Verne Arens

arensv@gmail.com

Director of Children & Youth Ministry
Jenna Campbell

jenna.campbell@stillwaterfpc.org

Church Administrator
Magdalena Vinson

magdalena.vinson@stillwaterfpc.org

Finance/Office Assistant

Mary Beth Garoffolo

marybeth.garoffolo@stillwaterfpc.org

Director of Music/Organist

Rebecca te Velde

rebecca.tevelde@stillwaterfpc.org

Digital & Contemporary Music
Coordinator

Brandon Bowman

Coordinator of Older Adult Ministries

Childcare Coordinator

Erin Lawson

childcare@stillwaterfpc.org

UKIRK Assistant

J Jones

Youth Ministry Assistants

Elijah Ankrom

Haley Brobston

Children's Ministry Assistant

Bekah Bowman

Preschool Director

Dana Brown

dana@prespreschool.org

Building Supervisor

Vickie Foust

Announcements

New FPC Website Launches!

The Communications & Connecting Committee and FPC staff are excited to announce the launch of our new church website! The web address will remain the same, with a brand-new look and feel. About a year and a half ago, we were notified that our website platform would soon no longer be supported and a redesign would be necessary to keep the site in use. As such, we took the opportunity to give a fresh consideration to how our website could better serve our congregation and the broader community. We have chosen to better highlight the preschool, make it easier to find information on our ministries, share photos that showcase our fellowship rather than just our building, and more. In our modern era, the church website is often one of the first points of contact a potential visitor may have with a congregation, and we wanted to let FPC really shine in that experience! We are proud of the work that is done through FPC, and we are hopeful that our website's new look will enable everyone to see it. Many thanks to all those who put time and effort into design decisions and content creation for the new website!

Visioning Retreat The Spiritual Practice of Discernment

March 3rd-5th, the whole church is invited to attend a Visioning Workshop and Retreat hosted by the New Covenant Trust Company, led by Joseph Moore, Ministry Relations Officer of the Presbyterian Foundation. Rev. Moore will take us through a discernment process of identifying the core values of our church and finding a common vision for where God is leading us as a church to impact our community. All church participants and especially current and past officers are invited to attend.

Registration will begin February 6th with more information on meals, childcare and further details. Please mark your calendar now to join us Friday evening 5:30pm-8pm, Saturday morning 9am-1pm, and Sunday morning when Joseph Moore will preach during both worship services.

Jenna Campbell to take Extended Leave

Director of Children and Youth Ministry, Jenna Campbell will be taking an extended leave of absence, accompanying her family upon spouse Casey Campbell's acceptance to the War College of the Army in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The Personnel Committee and Session will be working out the dates and details of her compensation during this time of leave and a candidate for a part-time interim position, but all parties expressed a desire for Jenna to return and continue in this position. Anticipated leave dates are July 2023 - June 2024, with final dates to be determined with Personnel and approved by Session.

"A New Verse" - Letter from Kati

*"Zacchaeus was a wee little man, and a wee little man was he.
He climbed up in a sycamore tree for the Lord he wanted to see.
And as our savior passed that way he looked up in the tree,
And he said, "Zacchaeus, you come down,
For I'm going to your house today,
For I'm going to your house today."*

We all know this song, and therefore we may feel like we remember the whole story of how Zacchaeus made big changes in his life when he met Jesus. But the person who wrote this song neglected to write a second verse telling the most important part of the story. So, what happened next?

*Zacchaeus rushed down from the tree, and all the people groaned.
"This man's no good, Jesus, come here, and leave that crook alone."
"They're right," Zach said, "But from this day, I'll give half to the poor."
And Jesus said, "Child of Abraham, the Son of God has come to earth for you!
And Salvation has come today, Salvation has come today."*

Salvation for Zacchaeus had measurable and visible repercussions in his community. As you consider and prepare for your Lenten journey, where can you make space for a visible and measurable impact from your spiritual discipline? For instance, if you fast from a meal or two, give a financial donation to Our Daily Bread. If you are praying for someone, write it on a card and send it to them. If you are reading scripture, make a painting, write a song or make a TikTok video about what you discovered. If you are coming to worship, go to the ATM or bring your checkbook, so that you can give an offering towards the ministry we are doing in response to our worship on Sunday morning. If you are walking, count your steps or mileage and make a record of the miles of your prayers. How can you bring your faith down from the clouds and into the community around you this Lent?

May Jesus come to our house this Lent!

Rev. Kati Collins

Study Leave Notes from Pastor Kati

Pastor Kati was in Texas the first two weeks of 2023, taking two courses for her DMIN program that she is on track to complete in 2024. Her course work this January covered contextual learning about Community Development and Research. Below are her visual reflection on the song, "His Eye Is On the Sparrow" and Pastor Kati leading worship with her DMIN classmates and members of the "Church Under the Bridge" in Waco, TX.



From the Organ Bench

Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir rehearses in the Westminster Room (choir room) at 7:00-8:15pm on Wednesdays. We welcome anyone 7th grade and older to join our music-making and ministry! We offer a variety of music and musical styles from the Renaissance period right up to music of this decade. For more information, please contact director Rebecca te Velde.

Becky's Bench Buddies

Ever wonder what worship feels like from the choir loft? Or what happens at the organ? Come and see for yourself! Anyone 7 years or older is invited to sit on or next to the organ bench during a worship service. Contact Becky for yourself or for a child/grandchild to make arrangements. Children may either choose to leave the organ at Time with Children, or stay up in the choir loft for the whole service.

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! Please join us on February 3rd and/or March 3rd!

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



Save the Date!

Choral Scholar Amanda Barber will be giving her graduate conducting recital on **Saturday, March 4th, at 5:00pm in the McKnight Center Recital Hall.** Amanda is in her 6th year as a choral scholar here at FPC and will graduate in May with a master's degree in choral conducting.

Admission is free, but tickets are required:
<https://mcknightcenter.org/online/seatSelect.asp>

From the Mailbox

Dear Jenny,

Bob and I received a gorgeous poinsettia delivered by Ken and Anne Belanus from the church.

We miss being an active member of the church but we see new members to take up the slack that people our age have passed on. God bless each person who carries on the love that our church has been sharing every day.

Blessings, Bob & Madaline Harding

Warm hugs to all who donate, coordinate, and make possible the beautiful poinsettia display in our sanctuary during the holidays.

And, special thanks to Janet & Stan Waugh for delivering one to my doorway. I think of the peace and love of First Presbyterian every time I walk by it.

Happy New Year!
Jackie Dahlgren

Intergenerational Mission Trip May 21-28, 2023



In late May, 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 online at
<https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/6688346>

- Registration and \$30 deposit are due by Monday, March 6.
- Final, full payments are due on Friday, May 12.
- Registration for adults is \$175 and youth is \$125

*Youth entering 7th grade who would like to participate must have a parent or guardian participate with them.



Prayer Concerns

Lavon Alexander (Howard)
 Gary Allen
 Amanda
 Nick Amidon (Garoffolo)
 Shea Arnett (N. Thomas)
 David Awtrey
 Luz Barber
 Baker
 Betty Bays
 Mandy Blackburn
 Rose Marie Bligh
 Rita Breuninger
 Helen Britton
 Belinda Bruner
 Wayne Cartwright (Koepp)
 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)
 Caroline Driskell
 Matthew Durham (Shawley)
 Eva Elassi (Mulvey)
 Lori Fagan
 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
 Stephanie McMillan (Taylor)
 Philip Meadows
 Tresa Miller (Miller)
 Jean Moore (Stangl)
 Anne Mullen (Mullen)
 Nora Nagaruk (Stangl)
 Susan Nance (Mulvey)
 Chancey Nickerson
 Michelle Nicholson
 Pricilia Nkem
 Dennis Oden (Fairbanks)
 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)
 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
 Teresa te Velde
 Upendo Kids (Shawley)
 Nettie Vick
 Jill Wahnoutka (Savage)
 Emily Walker (Walker)
 Darrell Warren (Silver)
 Marilyn Waters-Seig
 Lynda Williams
 Scott Williams
 Jim Wise
 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)





Lent 2023

Ash Wednesday is February 22, 2023

"Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. No one knows what blessings they might leave in a trail behind them, if only they would choose to turn and walk in a new direction." Joel 2:12-14

The Ash Wednesday worship service marks the beginning of the journey of Lent, an annual season set aside in parallel to Jesus' 40 days fasting in the desert, Noah's family's 40 days waiting and surviving inside a boat while it rained, and our journeys of faith preparing for baptism. We remember the past in order to prepare for our future. We remember our mortality, our penultimate destination of death, that we might more fully embrace the blessings of God in the present and trust in the promise of a new heaven and a new earth, our ultimate destination of eternal life. Worship participants may receive the sign of the cross in ashes on their hand or forehead as well as the sacrament of communion. The cross on your body becomes a visible witness to Christ's sacrifice and blessing for you and other human bodies. When you embrace the fullness of God's Grace, your life changes and reflects the mercy and mind of Christ. How might this change your life or the life of the people around you? How might you leave a trail of blessings on this journey? Join us for worship on Wednesday, February 22, at 6pm in the Sanctuary, and open your heart to God.

LENTEN PRAYER WALKS

Mondays @ noon beginning February 27th

You are invited to join a noontime prayer walk on Mondays during Lent. We will meet in the main parking lot and then walk a one mile circle from the church building to the public library and back. Along our pathway, we will pray for the houses, establishments and people we pass. We will be walking in solidarity with our car-less neighbors who frequently make the journey from the Library to our Little Free Pantry, and this will also take us past the county jail, where, as it says in Matthew 25, Jesus sits with those in holding. We will also be getting to know our neighbors so we might better love those who physically live in our neighborhood. And the walking, breathing, conversation, and prayer will nourish the body, mind and soul of the individuals who walk and our church. All are welcome to join in the prayer walk. Contact Pastor Kati if you have any questions.

Faith Practices - a worship resource for Lent

"Faith Practices: Holy Habits that Help Us Love God and Our Neighbor, Listen to the Spirit, and Become More Like Jesus" offers a basic introduction to faith practices, or spiritual disciplines, for those who want to explore new ways to meet God. Pastors Kati and Jenny will be using "Faith Practices" as a worship resource during Lent, and they encourage you to pick up a copy to learn more about faith practices and choose a spiritual discipline to practice during the season of Lent.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. 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. The OGHS offering is collected each year during Lent and provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. OGHS fish coin banks will be available with Lenten devotionals in the black Narthex display beginning February 19th.



Matthew 25 teaches us that,
in every time and season
the Church finds itself and its Savior
through relationships with those in need.



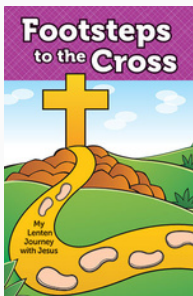
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

03.02.22
04.17.22



Lenten Devotionals for All Ages

Available in the Narthex Display beginning Sunday, February 19th



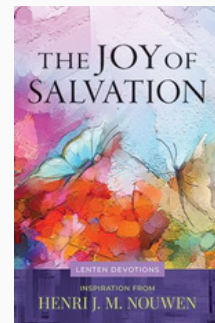
For families with children - Footsteps to the Cross

A Stickerbook Adventure for Lent

Each day of Lent is something like a step along a path, a path that leads to Easter. Each day, a special passage from Scripture tells about an event in Jesus' life or a key Lenten theme. A footprint sticker marks the path to the cross each day and brings readers a step closer to our Savior.

For youth and adults - The Joy of Salvation

"The Joy of Salvation" is a Lenten devotional that draws inspiration from the writings of Henri Nouwen. From the description of the devotional: "(Nouwen) wrote tenderly about the joy that ultimately comes to us through the knowledge that we are saved by Christ and his cross." As one of our options for Lenten devotionals this year, this daily devotional offers insights from Nouwen, original reflections, and prayers for each day of Lent.



Adult Education & Fellowship

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. The current study is entitled "Christianity's Family Tree" This study will run through the month of March and is guided by a weekly video followed by lively discussions led by members of the class. 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 (March 2, April 13 (April 7 is Maundy Thursday), and May 4.

First Steps: An Introduction to the PC(USA) and FPC: New Adult Class Beginning in March

Meeting each Sunday in March, First Steps is a great primer class covering aspects of the wider PC(USA) denomination and beliefs as well as information specific to First Presbyterian Church - Stillwater. This class is geared towards visitors and newer members who may be looking to learn more about our fellowship and faith practices here, but anyone can join! Established members are often a welcome addition to the class discussions, and revisiting the basics can be a wonderful spiritual refresher. Led by the Communications & Connecting Committee and Pastor Kati, this class will meet in South Fellowship Hall.



You're invited!

Four-Part Series
Sunday mornings
March 5, 12, 19, & 26
9:45am-10:45am

**First
Steps**

for:
New Members
Visitors
New to Faith

an introduction
to the Presbyterian
Church



Children's & Youth Ministry

Children & Worship

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!

PRESBYTERIAN • YOUTH • GROUP



Presbyterian
Youth Group

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!

February

- 5 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)
- 11 - Youth Sunday Rehearsal (1:30 - 3:30pm)
- 12 - Youth Sunday (7:45am - 12:00pm)
No PYG
- 19 - PYG Out to Lunch (12:00 - 1:30pm)
- 26 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)

March

- 5 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)
- 12 - No PYG
- 19 - No PYG
- 25 - PYG Escape to OKC (All Day)
- 26 - No PYG

PYG Out to Lunch

February 19, 12:00-1:30pm

All 6th-12th graders are invited out to lunch to celebrate our hard work on Youth Sunday. Watch your email for the location and please bring money for your meal!

Children's Sunday School

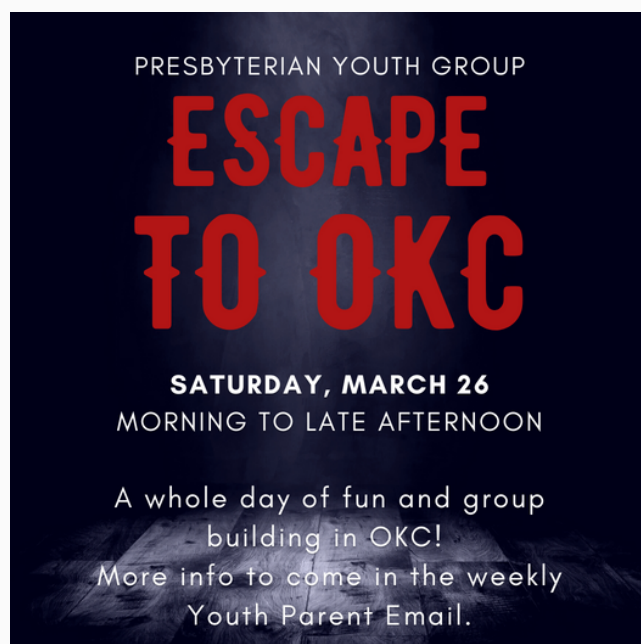
For children 4yrs - 5th grade. Begins at 9:45am in the Worship Center



Youth Sunday

February 12, worship services @ 8:30 & 11:00am in Fellowship Hall

Worship is planned and led by our youth on the theme of "Following Jesus", based on their studies on faith practices from the fall and how practices of faith move us to listen for the Spirit, love God and love others, and be more like Jesus.



January Series Recap

First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, recently finished hosting the simulcasts of the 15 programs broadcast in this series each weekday, January 9-27, from Calvin University in Grand Rapids, MI. Over 150 people enjoyed watching the programs on the large screens in FPC's Fellowship Hall. This is only about a third



of the attendees present at programs hosted prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic. However, an additional, but unknown, number of our parishioners and our friends watched on their own devices (computers, smart phones, laptops, androids) or on other screens in the community.

As usual, the presentations were of uniformly high quality and the Series lived up once again to its promise of a "free liberal arts education" that puts its' listeners at the forefront of some of the leading social, political, religious, and humanitarian issues of the day. We are grateful to Calvin University for the opportunity to bring this program to Stillwater, and we look forward to The January Series 2024 – the 37th edition of this award-winning program.

"Keep Going" - College Conference Recap

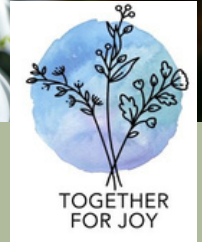
In early January, three of our university students and Pastor Jenny had the opportunity to attend College Conference at Montreat (a PCUSA conference center in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina). In addition to learning about the full spectrum of humanity as represented in the Bible, camp and conference center ministry, and how the story of Balaam and the donkey can be a reminder of how we help or hinder others on their journey, we also made a lot of new friends from across the country. UKirk Stillwater is pictured here with UKirk Tallahassee. During their weekly gatherings (Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm in the Youth Suite), UKirk will continue reflecting on the theme of this year's conference, "Keep Going."



Fair Trade Store

There are not many days left to shop for your Valentine. Come by and see what is in the FTS for that special person or persons. A shipment of chocolate just came in, so the store is stocked with all of your favorite dark and milk chocolates. You have a choice of the large bars for \$3.00, small bars for \$1.00, and a bag of 6 different mini bars for \$5.00. Store hours are from 10:30am to 12:30pm every Sunday throughout the spring. The store can also be opened by appointment. Please join the Facebook page for pictures and updates at Stillwater FPC Fair Trade Store

~ Store Manager Julie Bills (jbills2007@hotmail.com)/(405) 880-4072).



Stewardship Update

Thank you for your commitments to the 2023 operating budget. FPC has always amazed us with commitment to giving and support of the church's many efforts. Unfortunately, like many things in recent times, costs are increasing which requires us to find new and creative ways to stretch our dollars and take a hard look at what things we might have to forgo in the next year.

Pledges to the 2023 operating budget, \$592,196, though substantial, are insufficient to fund Church operations. While we rejoice in your generosity and faithfulness, please realize that this amount is not enough to cover our annual operating expenses.

For the past few years, we have not been able to fund operations using only annual pledges and other income. \$60,660 of carryover (from 2020) was used to balance the budget in 2022. In 2023 Session approved using \$46,210 of 2022 carryover plus \$30,757 from budget equity to balance the budget. FPC cannot continue operating in this manner.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee walks into this year with hopes of finding new ways to increase pledging and economize on spending so that we don't have to make cuts to vital outreach programs and crucial ministries.

If you haven't pledged for 2023, it's not too late. It's also not too late to increase your pledge. Pledge cards are available from the church office, or you can pledge online at the church website: <https://stillwaterfpc.org/pledge-now/>.

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual Expenses	2023 Budget
Pledged Giving	626,764	623,165	592,196
Non-Pledged Giving (includes loose offering)	35,000	40,222	27,000
Other income (includes interest, perpetual pledges, event income, preschool)	35,660	42,083	42,160*
Carryover	60,661	60,661	46,210
Total Income	758,086	766,131	707,566
Expenses	756,989	719,922	738,323
Carryover (deficit)	1,096	46,210	(30,757)

Monthly Income/Expense Report			
	December-22	Year to Date	% of Budget
Giving	49,202.89	663,387.15	100.25
Other Income	8,399.69	102,744.32	106.67
Total Income	57,602.58	766,131.47	101.06
Expenditures	61,162.79	719,921.87	95.1
Net	(3,560.21)	46,209.60	

BEHIND THE WALLS: A TRUSTEES UPDATE

The Trustees have been working with the preschool on replacing the toy storage shed in the east courtyard and playground. The shed was removed in June and temporary storage has been in place to serve the preschool. The Trustees diligently weighed options on the best replacement and construction has started on a shed that will blend into the sanctuary wall and be a permanent replacement for the preschool storage. Construction is projected to be finished by the second quarter of 2023.



Deacon's Corner



Stillwater Public Schools' Pioneer Pantry

Our Daily Bread Food & Resource Center

Our Daily Bread Food & Resource Center is currently in need of the following:

- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Canned fruit

Little Free Pantry & Red Pantry

The Little Free Pantry is a community "Leave What You Can, Take What You Need" ministry of FPC.

Popular items include: Vienna sausages, ramen, and fruit. Personal care items such as toothbrushes/paste and toilet paper are also welcome (individually wrapped items only, please). The Red Pantry, located in the lower half of the LFP, addresses the growing need of 'Period Poverty' by providing menstrual products. Again, individually wrapped items only, please. Donated items may be left in the Narthex closet across from the Welcome Desk.

If you aren't able to shop, a monetary donation can be made directed to the Little Free Pantry or Red Pantry. Questions? Contact Deacon Tim Hardin or Associate Pastor Jenny Wells.

The 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. Some students grab a stick of deodorant, and some fill up an entire bag with products they need.

Deacons will be collecting donations on Sunday, February 19th and Sunday, February 26th at the 11:00 am church service. Anyone wishing to help can bring physical items such as toiletry items, socks, coats, etc. or just bring 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 (sharron.bennett33@gmail.com) or Janet Waugh (janet.waugh@aol.com).

Learning Opportunity: Homelessness

Thursday, March 9 at 6:00pm

Hosted by the Deacons, all are invited to attend a learning opportunity to begin a conversation about homelessness in our community. We will be joined by community partners from other agencies in Stillwater to help us understand how we can be better neighbors to those in our community who are experiencing homelessness. This event will begin in the Sanctuary and take place throughout the church building. Childcare will be provided.



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:

Tim Krehbiel (co-chair)
Kiah Butcher (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, January 10, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and via a Zoom option with Rev. Jenny Wells moderating. The opening thought and prayer was provided by Rev. Kati Collins by Zoom. Meeting began with small groups reflecting on the question, 'What gifts do you bring to your ministry as elders?' One small group met with Ella Parsons, incoming deacon.

Highlights of action and reports:

- Ella Parsons approved for ordination and installation as a deacon.
- An update was given by the Pastor Nominating Committee
- Report of History Grant Recipient from the Iris McPherson legacy gift. Belinda Bruner, Nancy Beckstrom, Ann Houston and Mary Woods updated the session on their progress with goals of preserving our oral and written history in digital and textual formats.
- Treasurer's Report received with year-end financials and 2022 giving trends
- Session began their study of the book "Neighborhood Church" with the Introduction.
- Director of Children and Youth Ministries, Jenna Campbell shared about her upcoming time of leave, accompanying her family upon Casey Campbell's acceptance to the War College of the Army in Carlisle, Pennsylvania for 10 months.
- Session approved to continue the collection of \$1 donations each meeting for Saturday Brunch.

Next stated meeting will be Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 5:30pm, Rev. Kati Collins moderating, in the Multipurpose Room.

PNC Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been discussing the qualities and characteristics of the next pastor. The PNC has completed a first draft of the Ministry Information Form (MIF) and has met with a few congregational committees to complete details. The PNC plans to submit the MIF to Session for its review and input at the February Stated Session meeting. Following Session input the form will move to the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry and Preparation for Ministry and the Moderator. Following review from the COMP the MIF will be uploaded online for candidates to review and consider. PNC members are: Tim Schlais (chair), Ed Arquitt, Casey Campbell, Virginia Charter, Claire Leffingwell, Denise Rex, and Tammy Wasson.



Scout Updates

- In December, **Troop 820** and Pack 3842 assisted with wreath placement at Wreaths Across America and attended the ceremony. They also participated in the Stillwater Christmas Parade and had a Christmas Party including all FPC scout units. In January, 820 helped provide lunch for the FPC congregational meeting for the first time since 2020. We have an overnight merit badge trip planned for Stratacain Hutchinson, KS and will spend the night underground in a salt mine
- **Troop 888** has been busy. Since our last Ambassador report, EIGHT ranks have been awarded! At the end of the year, the Scouts assisted with the FPC Community Brunch and spent a weekend at Deer Time Ranch. At Deer Time Ranch the Scouts learned about orienteering and completed a Christmas themed orienteering course, decorated Christmas cookies, played games, made scarves for distribution at the Community Brunch, and practiced leadership. Our January adventure included a trip to Science Museum Oklahoma and completion of the Weather Merit Badge. The Scouts continue to grow in their citizenship and leadership skills and are beginning to take on more responsibility for Troop operations. Visit our Facebook Page: BSA Troop 888 Stillwater, OK to see more of our Scouting journey. If you know a girl age 11-17 who is interested in joining us, please contact Melissa Huber at troop888gsa@gmail.com.



Earth Care Corner: Global Warming - the Net-Zero Solution

Net-zero is a state in which some greenhouse gases are emitted to the atmosphere, but those emissions are offset by carbon sequestered in soils, forests, water, and materials, and by carbon captured and stored. The goal of achieving net-zero for carbon emissions by 2050 and keeping global temperature rise at no more than 1.5 C was set in the Paris Agreement in 2015. An ambitious yet necessary goal in order to protect the health of our planet and her ecosystems.

Last year, Congress took a major step toward meeting this goal by passing the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), legislation that uses the fiscal might of the federal government to encourage development and deployment of emission-reducing technologies, principally fossil-free electricity, hydrogen fuel, carbon capture and storage, electric vehicles and charging stations, and clean energy manufacturing. The IRS relies on tax credits, grants, rebates, and loan guarantees spread over the next 10-12 years to help lower the cost of these new fuels and technologies rather than levying a carbon tax. In addition, the IRA imposes a 15% minimum tax on the income of large corporations and a 1% tax on corporate stock buy-backs while providing funding for the IRS to increase the auditing of high-income taxpayers. Moreover, the IRA provides support for efforts to mitigate the adverse impacts of pollutants in lower-income environments

The IRA is widely viewed as a major step toward achieving net-zero by 2050, which is the good news. The sobering news is that net-zero by 2050 will likely require annual emissions of less than 1.0 billion tons, or an additional annual reduction after 2030 of as much as 3 billion tons. Coming next month: why this is so, how we can get there, and at what cost.

The February 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

FEBRUARY 2023

THE AMBASSADOR

Jenna Campbell Named Educator of the Year

FPC's Director of Children & Youth Ministry, Jenna Campbell, was honored in Birmingham, AL last week as the Association of Partners in Christian Education (APCE's) ENRICH Educator of the Year for 2023. The highest honor that APCE bestows on a currently serving educator, criteria for this award include: being a visionary who leads educational ministry into new frontiers and being a formative influence on educational ministry and an advocate for church educators.

Those of you who know and have worked with Jenna know these are excellent descriptors of the passion, creativity, faith, and devotion with which she educates, leads, and loves not only our children and youth here at FPC but those from the wider community and denomination as well. In Jenna's own words, 'Faith formation is not simply a program - everything we do as a church teaches and forms us as people of faith. Faith formation is about all the ways we seek to understand, embody, and live out what it means to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.' Congratulations, Jenna!



Jenna giving her acceptance speech at the 2023 APCE Annual Event