

February 2022

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF STILLWATER

The AMBASSADOR

Photo by Samuel McGarrigle on Unsplash

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, OK



YOUTH SUNDAY IS MARCH 6
8:30 am and 11:00 am worship
Fellowship Hall
See page 2 for details

**ASH WEDNESDAY IS
MARCH 2**

**LENTEN DEVOTIONALS
FOR ALL AGES**

Lenten information may be
found on page 6.

The **Easter** Ambassador deadline is
Thursday, March 24th.
Ambassador news may be sent to:
fpchurch1889@stillwaterfpc.org

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Pastor

Leah R. Hrachovec

leah.hrachovec@stillwaterfpc.org

Associate Pastor

Jenny Hardin

jenny.hardin@stillwaterfpc.org

Parish Associate

Verne Arens

arensv@gmail.com

Director of Children and Youth

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 Ministry

Kelly McCarley

kelly.mccarley@stillwaterfpc.org

Childcare Coordinator

Erin Lawson

childcare@stillwaterfpc.org

UKIRK Assistant

Youth Ministry Assistants

Elijah Ankrom

Haley Brobston

Children's Ministry Assistant

Carleigh Epperson

Preschool Director

Dana Brown

dana@prespreschool.org

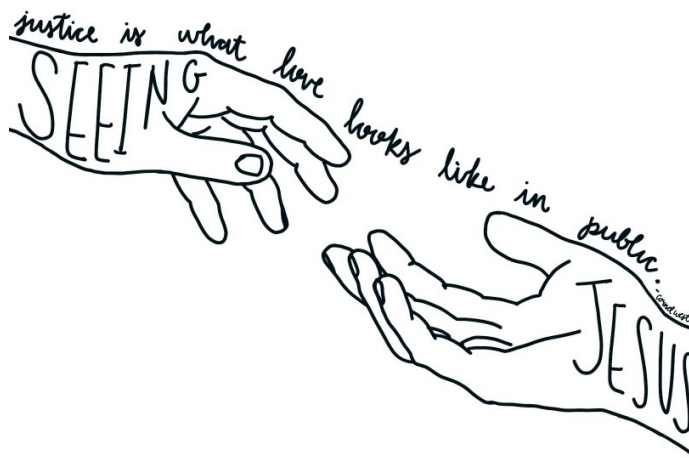
Building Supervisor

Vickie Foust

Custodian

Mike Flowers

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Youth Sunday – March 6th

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship in Fellowship Hall

Our youth have spent the last several months studying and reflecting on the theme of “Seeing Jesus” and they’re preparing a powerful worship service on this theme for Youth Sunday! This service will be completely planned and led by our youth. Come and be inspired by our youth through word, music, and prayer and see the ways the Spirit is moving through the youth of FPC.



Solar Under the Sun is planning to hold the 23rd Solar School on May 12th through May 15th, 2022, at the Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Little Rock, AR. Special rates for both phases of Solar School will apply. Solar I will cost \$350.00 and Solar II School will be \$400.00. For more information contact info@solarunderthesun.org or Solar Under the Sun, PO Box 5004, Jacksonville, AR 72078.

A Letter from Leah

Things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

-Psalm 78:3-4

One of my favorite podcasts for some time now has been one called, “Stuff You Missed in History.” Its hosts have varied through the years, but the basic premise of the show is to highlight historical figures that you may not have studied in school, either because they were smaller actors in big stories, or because they have not been previously recognized in official accounts for a variety of reasons, not least of which was their gender, race, or ethnicity.

Celebrating Black History during the month of February in the U.S. has helped me be more attentive to the ways that we remember history, consider those who have gone before us, and highlight the contributions of people who worked on behalf of peace, justice, and a conviction that God called them to risk their own personal safety for the well-being of others, whether a family, a community, or a nation. In PW Bible study this year, we have been exploring the genealogy of Jesus as told by Matthew, which includes a number of women in Jesus’ lineage. This inclusion is remarkable both because genealogies in the first century generally included only men, and also because of the women themselves who are mentioned. We have their stories in the Old Testament, but often, like the story of Tamar or Rahab, they do not appear in most of our children’s (or adult!) Bible studies. Through the lens of Rahab’s story, for instance, we also explored the story of St. Louis, MO-born Josephine Baker, an African American entertainer who also helped the French resistance against the Nazis during World War II.

Our faith invites us to remember the stories of our ancestors in faith, tell them to our children, and wrestle together with how God has been present in history and how we are being led by God today. The stories of the Bible, especially those lesser-known ones, can encourage, challenge, inspire, and help us examine our own response to God’s call to love one another boldly and compassionately in Jesus’ name.

I invite you to listen to another person’s story of faith this month, and also tell *your* story of faith and life to someone, or at least a small part of it. This doesn’t have to be a big presentation; it can be as simple as setting up a time to talk with a loved one or friend willing to listen, and perhaps share in kind. There are even tools to help you record your story, like StoryCorps Connect¹. We are stewards of our testimony, and stories of faith matter in shaping the community and transforming how we understand the Spirit’s movement throughout our lives, through history, and in the world.

In faith, hope, and love,

Leah

¹Story Corps Connect is a service of the Library of Congress that can help you record your story with another person

<https://storycorps.org/participate/storycorps-connect/>

"[W]hen you study history, you must ask yourself, Whose story am I missing? Whose voice was suppressed so that this voice could come forth? Once you have figured that out, you must find that story too.

- Yaa Gyasi, Homegoing (2016)

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRIES

CHILDREN'S (4yrs - 5th grade) SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES



Begins & ends in the Worship Center
@ 9:45-10:45am

Faith Kid-nection

Class for Pre-K and Kindergartners



SpiritLink for 1st-5th graders

Our new unit is "The Last Supper" and they will be learning about the Last Supper, Jesus' words to serve and love one another, and reflect on the sacrament of Communion.

SpiritLink Dates to Note:

March

- 13 Celebration Sunday
- 20 Music Sunday

April

- 10 Lenten GIFT; Palm Sunday Processional
- 17 Easter Celebration @ 9:45 am

**COME TO THE TABLE:
A BREADMAKING AND
COMMUNION MILESTONE EVENT
FOR 3RD-5TH GRADERS**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26
2:00-4:30 P.M.
FELLOWSHIP HALL**



PYG Calendar

February

- 20 5:00-6:30pm PYG: Youth Sunday Planning
- 27 5:00-6:30pm PYG: Youth Sunday Planning

March

- 5 1:30-3:30pm Youth Sunday Rehearsal
- 6 8:30 & 11:00am Youth Sunday
- 13 No PYG Happy Spring Break!
- 20 5:00-6:30pm PYG Game Night
- 27 5:00-6:00pm PYG

Youth Sunday School @ 9:45am

- ♦ Middle School (grades 6-7) (Youth Suite Blue Room)
- ♦ Junior High (grades 8-9) (Youth Suite Orange Room)
- ♦ Senior (grades 10-12) (Youth Suite- Main Area)



Summer Camp for 3rd-12th graders! Oklahoma week at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center

Learn more and register at www.ferncliff.org/oklahoma

Ferncliff is a Presbyterian camp and conference center located in Little Rock, AR. Oklahoma presbyteries are planning on the week of **June 12-17** to send Oklahoma campers to Ferncliff. They are making plans to arrange for transportation for that week (so be sure to fill out the transportation survey at the link above). Director of Children & Youth Ministries, Jenna Campbell will be attending as a volunteer the week of June 12-17 and we hope to get a great group of FPC children and youth to join other Oklahoma campers at Ferncliff.

Discount codes for a week of camp (use these codes and save!):

CIMARRON - \$250 off from Cimarron Presbytery

STILLWATER - \$50 off from FPC Stillwater

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY



LENTEN GiFT

April 10

9:45-10:45

Fellowship Hall

Lenten GiFT – Sunday, April 10th

All ages are invited to reflect on Holy Week through this intergenerational Lenten GiFT. Experience the Holy Week stories in a new way as we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Easter.



Save the Date for the 2022 Intergenerational Mission Trip!

Wednesday, May 25 - Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Goodland Academy in Hugo, OK.

FPC's Mission Trip Planning Team and the World Mission and Denominational Concerns committee have begun plans for an Intergenerational Mission Trip this year! Watch for more information in First Things and other online spaces in the coming weeks.



Summer GiFT – Save the Date!

June 24-26 @ Lake McMurry

The RV and tent spots have been reserved...now all we need is YOU! Summer GiFT this year will be outside at beautiful Lake McMurry. You can stay the night or just join us for evening and day activities. It will be a fun few days of fellowship and learning together as we enjoy God's creation. It's Summer GiFT with an outdoors twist! Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information!

LENT BEGINS ON MARCH 2ND

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a 40-day journey to Easter Sunday. Join us midweek to begin this holy time of prayer, reflection, and transformation.

Wednesday, March 2

An Ash Wednesday service of worship will be in the Sanctuary and on Facebook LIVE at 6:00pm. The service will include choir, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and imposition of ashes (optional).

www.facebook.com/StillwaterFPC

New This Year!

Ash Wednesday Drive-Thru Prayer and Ashes Option (under the portico)

Pastors will be available for prayer and imposition of ashes from:

8:00am- 9:00 am & 12:00pm - 1:00 pm

On Ash Wednesday, March 2, come by in your car to talk with a pastor, pray, and receive ashes (optional). In the drive between our buildings, entering from 6th Ave.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING COIN BANKS AND CALENDARS

Our focus for Lent this year will be our One Great Hour of Sharing Coin Bank and Calendar. Each day of the month has a short prompt to guide you and your household through this Lenten season with prayer, scripture, opportunities to learn more about One Great Hour of Sharing projects around the world, and reflections on how you can be a part of God's work in this world. All ages will enjoy this calendar!



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



A WONDROUS LOVE: DAILY LENTEN MEDITATIONS AND PRAYERS

Join Henri Nouwen and C.S. Lewis in exploring God's love for us this Lent with this daily devotional. Each day includes a Scripture reference, a reflection from the writings of Nouwen or Lewis, and a short prayer.



Update on 2021-2022 Stephen Ministry Training Class

Our three FPC Stephen Minister trainees, Anne Belanus, Debby Schoenecke, and Ellen Ingram, are nearing the end of their 20 week Stephen Minister training. So far they've learned about the art of

listening, how to create a safe place for people to express their feelings, the importance of confidentiality, ministering to people experiencing grief or depression, and helping suicidal persons get the help they need. Their last training session is March 14.

These ladies have given permission to share some of their responses from the training application:

"Describe your relationship with God and Jesus Christ"

Anne wrote - "God in Christ lives in me and I endeavor to allow him to live his life through me. I consciously work to

see Christ in everyone and to love them just as Christ loves them. I see my life as a ministry for Christ and am open to wherever He wants to go and to however He wants to use me. The world needs unconditional love and that is found in Christ. I hope that my life is a ministry of love."

Ellen wrote - "I am a believer and follower of Christ. I pray often - for my family, friends, people in need, bad situations in the world and myself. I want to have and show the kind of love Jesus told us to have for others."

"Why you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister?"

Debby wrote - "Having been through some challenges in life, especially being a long term caregiver for my husband and receiving help from the Stephen Ministry, I am interested in giving back to someone else who may need someone to talk to in a tough time."

Thanks be to God for the witness of these FPC members. The Stephen Leaders and Ministers are grateful for their commitment to this Christian caregiving training.

ADULT EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERINGS

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 the 2nd floor).

Faith & Fellowship

Led by Tim Hardin, this new adult formation class intends to delve into a variety of topics according to the interests of the class participants. Please see the below article for a spotlight on this new offering.

First Steps

Led by the Communications and Connecting Committee with Pastor Leah Hrachovec, this three-part class is for newer attenders, new members, and anyone who wants to learn more about the Presbyterian Church (USA) and First Presbyterian specifically. Beginning Sunday, March 13, this class will meet in north Fellowship Hall.

Lenten Class

A Lenten Adult Sunday School class will begin on Sunday, March 13th and will meet in south Fellowship Hall. Details for this class will be available soon.

Faith and FELLOWSHIP: SPOTLIGHT ON A NEW CLASS

The purpose of the Faith and Fellowship class is to build a community amongst the members. We welcome all who desire to share in fellowship, study and worship. This will be a discussion-based class where members decide on the topics and take turns leading discussions guided by selected video lessons or other structured materials. Depending upon the COVID-19 situation, we hope to have a variety of social activities together as well as class mission projects.

We are currently studying a series entitled "Christianity and World Religions - Questions We Ask About Other Faiths." So far, our study has looked at Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism discussing the following:

- What do these religions have in common with Christianity?
- Where do their beliefs differ?
- What scriptural support is there for recognizing people of other faiths?

Upcoming studies will look at Islam and the series will end with a look at Christianity. (Yes, is it also a world religion.) We will begin a yet to be selected study for Lent on February 27. We meet Sundays from 9:45-10:45 in the multi-purpose room. Everyone is welcome to bring a cup of coffee and drop in anytime.

Contact Tim Hardin (502-262-5405) for more information.



Faith on Tap Virtual Happy Hour

Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 pm
Join us for a Faith on Tap Happy Hour on Zoom!

Email Associate Pastor Jenny (jenny.hardin@stillwaterfpc.org) to be added to the email list or look for the Zoom access information in First Things and on the FPC Facebook page.

Couple Checkup

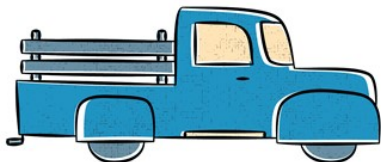
Second Sundays at 4:00 pm
The Sunday, March 13 gathering will be in the Hospitality Area.



In July 2021, First Presbyterian Church invited all couples to participate in an online assessment called the Couple Checkup. This assessment covered a number of relationship areas, including communication, conflict, finances, and roles. Our monthly gatherings focus on one of these topics and dive deeper into ways we can build healthy relationships, not only with our partners, but also with everyone with whom we are in relationship. You are invited to join us! Participation in the online assessment is not required.

DEACON'S CORNER

Seeking volunteers to help pick up
our order from the food bank!



Did you know we have a partnership with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma? Every month, we place an order for over 600 pounds of dried and canned goods, frozen meat, eggs, and juice, and a number of other items that supplement our Saturday Brunch ministry. Many months, we are even able to order fresh fruit and bottled water. The Regional Food Bank delivers our order to Our Daily Bread, and we are responsible for picking it up from there. We need volunteers with (or with access to) a pick up truck to help us with this task on the third Thursday each month. If you would like to help, you can sign up on the Saturday Brunch page of the FPC website (in the "Care and Support" dropdown menu) or contact Associate Pastor Jenny in the church office



An Affiliate of the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma

Items for Our Daily Bread can be placed in the Narthex shopping cart or taken directly to Our Daily Bread at 712 E. 12th St. between 9am and 1pm, Monday - Thursday. Current needs are listed below.

Toilet paper

Paper towels

Juices in 64oz plastic bottles **that do not need to be refrigerated**: apple, grape, pear, orange, cranberry-mixes

Diapers - sizes 3, 4, 5

Ketchup, mustard, mayo, pickle relish

Little Free Pantry



The Little Free Pantry has been in service since late summer, and it has been quite a success! For those of you that don't know, the LFP is located on the west side of the driveway across from the main entry of the church.

The idea of the LFP is very simple, "Take What You Need, Leave What You Can." This is a volunteer opportunity for the entire congregation. When you are doing your weekly shopping, add a few things that our community friends can use. The items that seem to disappear the quickest are: Vienna Sausages, Ramen noodles and single serve items that don't require a can opener. Some of the young women in our youth group have added the "Red Pantry" which provides period products for women in need.

Even if you don't have items to drop in the pantry, feel free to take a look the next time you walk past.

PAY IT FORWARD: A MEMBER'S PERSPECTIVE

The below was written by an FPC member who was inspired by and is still contemplating what they learned from our FPC children and youth during the Pay It Forward Challenge.

You may recall several months ago the youth of the church participated in a Pay It Forward program through the generosity of former member Leone List. Thirty-one youth received \$150.00 each for a total of \$4,650.00. They were tasked to make a difference in our community and the world as they experienced the joy of generosity.

Projects they chose to support included purchasing backpacks and supplies for Afghan families, providing musical instruments from Daddy O's for someone in need, purchasing food, socks, gloves, and toiletries for clients at the Mission of Hope, and purchasing books at the Westwood Elementary Book Fair for students who could not afford them. Some youth chose to appreciate employees at the Stillwater Medical Center with a movie night and honor the custodians at Skyline Elementary.

Other youth chose to go international and supported the Casa Hogar Orphanage in Mexico, the Mango Project in Uganda, and the prison outreach and water wells in Ethiopia. Still others chose outside of Stillwater by supporting Nature's Vein wildlife rescue in Perkins, the Oklahoma Children's Hospital in OKC, the Payne County Youth Shelter, and reducing the medical debt of people living in Oklahoma by \$374,190.00. Animals and people who use animals benefited from gifts to Tiny Paws Kitten Rescue, Turning Point Ranch, and the Humane Society. People were helped with support for American Sign Language classes, Glens (an organization that helps LGBTQ students learn without harassment or bullying), ShelterBox (an organization that helps families who have lost everything in a disaster), the Stillwater Refugee Aid Foundation, Our Daily Bread, the little free library, and the Red Pantry.

The youth of the church asked others to help support their projects. They reported to the congregation what they did and how it helped others during a worship service. At those services each attendee was given \$2.00 to pay it forward. I am aware of three congregation members who were inspired by the youth and gave money to the Toby Keith Foundation which provides housing for families of children fighting childhood cancer, Solar Under the Sun, and matching kettle donations for the Salvation Army as a bell ringer.

To date the youth have raised \$12,256.90 to help others. Congratulations to all 31 youth who have made a difference in countless lives. We are inspired by you.

BEHIND THE WALLS: A TRUSTEES UPDATE

The Trustees met in January and reviewed the previous year's projects and budget. Projects for 2022 were identified and include the planned installation of new flooring in the Sanctuary. This substantial activity will enhance the beauty and comfort in our Sanctuary as well as improve the acoustics. The installation is scheduled for **February 14 through February 25** and we anticipate there will be minimal disruption for worship and other activities. We hope to repair several pews showing wear and tear shortly after this project as well.

Please mark your calendar for **April 30, 2022**. This is when we have scheduled the Garden and Lawn Workday and are calling on any and all volunteers. Last year this work day was a great help in cleaning up our flower garden and outdoor landscape and preparing to welcome the spring season. We have set May 14 as an alternative "rain day".



TREASURER’S REPORT

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

The Stewardship & Finance Committee thanks each of you who contributed to the financial support of the 2021 budget. Thanks to those who pledged and completed their pledge, to many who gave above and beyond their pledge, and to those who faithfully give year after year. Your yearly commitments help the Session plan for staffing, programming, and mission.

In 2021 Congregational giving was \$37,500 greater than projected. Because of you FPC ended the year \$5,000 in the black. When the increased value of the Texas Presbyterian Foundation investment account is included as income, the FPC surplus is \$31,611. On the expense side of the budget, \$18,000 of projected costs were not spent for a variety of reasons: lower childcare costs due to fewer in person events, changes in programming due to the pandemic, etc.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee thanks each of you for your generosity, faithfulness, and service to FPC. We have a future with hope.

2021 End of year Income/Expense Report

	12/31/2021	% of Budget
Congregational Giving	676,117	105.9
Other Income	33,893	114.4
Total Income	710,010	110.2
Expenditures	705,004	97.5
Net Surplus	5,006	
Increased Value of Texas Presbyterian Foundation Account	26,605	
Total Surplus	31,611	

Please note that the numbers above are corrected figures. Shortly after the 2021 FPC Annual Report was sent to the printer, we discovered that \$11,047 of 2022 prepaid giving was accidentally entered as 2021 income. If you picked up an annual report from the Narthex prior to the Congregational Meeting, your copy has incorrect amounts. All other copies were corrected.

If you have questions about church finances, please don’t hesitate to contact me at cathy.fairbanks@stillwaterfpc.org.

Cathy Fairbanks, FPC Treasurer



UKirk - University Ministry

We are delighted to offer several opportunities for university students this semester. Monthly, we gather for a fellowship meal in the Fellowship Hall, and weekly (Wednesday mornings at 8:30 am), we gather for coffee at Balanced in the Wesley Center near the OSU campus. We will recognize graduates in worship on Sunday, April 24 and we invite university students to save the date of Saturday, April 30 for an end of year celebration.

Upcoming Monthly Fellowship Meals:
Wednesday, March 2 - dinner after 6:00pm Ash Wednesday worship
Sunday, April 24 - lunch after 11:00am worship

SESSION

Session Organization

The Session is organized into the following areas of responsibility. Members of the congregation join them in the work. If you have an interest in serving in a certain area, please contact one of the elders assigned to that ministry and volunteer or contact the Church office.

Clerk: John Gelder
email: john_gelder@me.com

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

Adult Ministry:
Judi Baker (chair)
Kelly McCarley

Children's Ministry:
Nancy Beckstrom (chair)
Jean Aresco

Communications & Connecting:
Kiah Butcher (co-chair)
Jill Stoutzenberger (co-chair)

Fellowship & Family:
Kathy Essmiller

Stewardship & Finance:
Tim Krehbiel (chair)
Cathy Fairbanks
Mark Howard

UKirk (University):
John Mark Day (chair)
Ken Belanus

World Mission and Denominational Concerns:
Gerrit Cuperus (chair)
Donna Koepp

Worship and Music:
David Conway (chair)
Nate Ingram

Youth Ministry:
Rusty Rex (chair)
Belinda Bruner

Trustee Liaison:
Charlie Johnson

Personnel:
John Mark Day (chair)
Kiah Butcher
Mark Howard

Endowment Liaison:
David Conway

Nominating Committee:
Tim Krehbiel (co-chair)
Rusty Rex (co-chair)

COVID Response Task Force:
Kathy Essmiller
Rusty Rex

Session Summary

The February stated Session meeting of First Presbyterian Church took place in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 5:30pm, with a number of Session members joining by Zoom. A quorum was present and Pastor Leah Hrachovec moderated. Elder Cathy Fairbanks opened the meeting with an opening thought and prayer.

Highlights of Session action:

- Ratified an electronic vote to elect Elders Kathy Thomas and Ken Belanus as Elder Commissioners to the February 8, 2022 stated meeting of Cimarron Presbytery (held via Zoom)
- Received a summary from Trustee Chair Mike Woods and Trustee Session Liaison Charlie Johnson on recent and upcoming Trustee projects related to the maintenance and safety of FPC facilities
- Discussed with Treasurer Cathy Fairbanks how to read and use church budgets
- Approved a new ministry, a Christian Music Jam, coordinated by Jim Beckstrom and Worship & Music Committee, pending discussion with Covid Response Task Force
- Received January 31, 2022 membership report indicating 517 members
- Approved a recommendation from Personnel that staff members be allowed to roll an additional 40 hours of unused leave from 2021 into 2022, for a total of up to 80 hours
- Received proposed revisions to FPC Bylaws for review for next meeting

The meeting adjourned with prayer by Leah Hrachovec. The next stated Session meeting Tuesday, March 8th at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall with Zoom option.

Monthly Income / Expense Report

	January	Year to Date	% of Budget
Giving	\$ 67,739.29	\$ 67,739.29	10.2
Other Income	\$ 15,855.59	\$ 15,855.59	16.5
Total Income	\$ 83,594.59	\$ 83,594.59	11.0
Expenditures	\$ 71,317.68	\$ 71,317.68	9.4
Net	\$ 12,277.20	\$ 12,277.20	

Boy Scout News

Cub Scout Pack 3842 has officially been transferred to FPC and an all-female Scout Troop has been chartered. If you know of a girl who is interested in joining scouts, please let Bruce Greenshields or another Troop 820 leader know so they can contact the interested family. Thanks. (Troop email: troop820bsa@gmail.com)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Lavon Alexander (Howard)
Amanda (Hrachovec)
Nick Amidon (Garoffolo)
Shea Arnett (N. Thomas)
David Awtrey
Baker
Carrie Ballenger family (Ballenger)
Betty Bays
Zella Beers (Fairbanks)
Mandy Blackburn
Rose Marie Bligh
Rita Breuninger
Bill Brewer
Helen Britton
Belinda Bruner
Wayne Cartwright (Koepe)
Paula Cavett (te Velde)
Nancy Chapa (Fagan)
Allison Christy (Breuninger)
Abby Clapp (Clapp)
Darlene Collyar (Silver)
Conrado and Miriam (Hardin)
Andee and Kannon Cooper (Hrachovec)
Heather Davidson
Sara Davies
Martha Dearing (Meinke)
Matthew Durham (Shawley)
Eva Elasi (Mulvey)
Lori Fagan
Mike Flowers
Ed Gallegos (Wilkinson)
Omar Garcia
Dorothy Gibbons (Holland)
Lauren Glynn (Stewart)
Halana (Leffingwell)
George Hannon family (Garoffolo)
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)
Dorothy Johnson (McCarley)

Larry Johnson (te Velde)
Ted Joy (Taylor)
Patty Keys
Mary Jane Kirchenbauer (Breuninger)
Margy Knox
Pauline Kopecky
Dottie Kraemer
Karen Krehbiel (Breuninger)
Hank Lett
Judy Lewis
Alyssa Matal (Krehbiel)
Don McCall (Stiegler)
Larry McDonald
Stephanie McMillan (Taylor)
Philip Meadows
Tresa Miller (Miller)
Jean Moore (Stangl)
The Moore Family (Campbell)
Anne Mullen (Mullen)
Nora Nagaruk (Stangl)
Susan Nance (Mulvey)
Pricilia Nkem
Joyce Odom (Hardin)
Our Service Men & Women (Kraemer)
Frances Phillips (Taylor)
Jean Potts (Bills)
Daniel Powell
Paul Quarles (Bobo)
Tim Rains (Silver)
Lisa Reavis (Stewart)
Larry Redburn (Redburn)
Jack Reeves
Sara Roberts (Osborn)
Cooper Russell (Savage)
David Schmidly (Shaw)
Frank Schull (Hrachovec)
Bradley Schutt (Schlais)
Bob & Bonnie Siddon (Stiegler)
Karen Shippey (Swim)
Brylee Shullanberg (Stiegler)
Jeffrey Silver
David Smith (Cooper)
Ted Smith
Perry Sneed (Johnson)
Jamie Stephens (Burgoon)
Marla and Roger Stevens (Caldwell)
Bobby Don Stevenson (Beckstrom/Houston)
Christine Stone (Fairbanks/Cornelius)
Debbie Stout
Phyllis Taylor
Torres-Barber family (te Velde)

Upendo Kids (Shawley)
Lisa Valdez (te Velde)
Emily Walker (Walker)
Nelda Wallace (Blosser)
Barbara Ware (Fansler)
Darrell Warren (Silver)
Jim Wasson (Wasson/Emmet)
Shirley Wells (Hardin)
Lynda Williams
Scott Williams (Preston)
Jim Wise

Names in parentheses indicate the church family member requesting prayer for a non-member. Please notify the Church Office if persons may be removed from the Prayer List. Thank you!

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)



In Memoriam

James Plaxico, Jr.

Joined First Presbyterian Church
April 15, 1965

Entered the Church Triumphant
February 9, 2022

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me shall never die."

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

New Year, New Robes!

In light of our recent decreasing numbers of Covid cases locally, the choir looks forward to returning to the choir loft very soon. Their “homecoming” will be made extra special as they also put on new choir robes for the first time!

Choir members unanimously selected the new robe style and color early in 2020, but the purchase was postponed until December, 2021 due to the pandemic. The new robes have been fully funded by gifts given over many years to the Chancel Choir dedicated account and to the McCullers Art and Beauty dedicated account (a portion of the latter previously approved for this purpose by the 2020 Session), as well as by a designated gift from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

The choir began laying plans in 2019 to replace the green choir robes that were purchased in the mid-’90’s. With a fluted style and billowing cuffed sleeves, the old robes were uncomfortably warm and heavy to wear and were coming into noticeable disrepair after about 28 years’ of service. The new robes are made of a lightweight, more breathable fabric with open sleeves and less fabric overall. Their sapphire-blue color accentuates the deep blues in the stained glass windows above the choir loft.

To all who have made this purchase possible, the choir extends our deepest thanks and appreciation! We joyfully look forward to sharing this gift of beauty in our divine worship.



Christopher Garoffolo models a new choir robe



SpiritLink Singers February 6 singing “God Is So Good”

Brandon Bowman, guitar

The Choir Needs YOU

The choir is always eager to welcome new members, but especially so right now! Over the last two years, several dedicated members have retired, moved away, or graduated. Although we are most in need of additional men’s voices, we would love to have more singers in all sections. The choir rehearses Wednesday evenings 7:00-8:15pm and on Sundays at 10:15am before singing at the 11:00am service.

Director Becky te Velde would love to speak with you immediately following the postlude on Sunday mornings, or you may call or email Becky for more

information: (405) 762-6212, rebecca.tevelde@stillwaterfpc.org. Childcare can be arranged for Wednesday rehearsals if needed.

We are starting work on our Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter music, so now is the perfect time to visit a rehearsal and try us out! No experience is necessary, and anyone 6th grade and older is welcome. Please consider joining us.

Ps. 100: 1-2: “*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.*” [NRSV]

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

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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 12:10 pm via Zoom

The AMBASSADOR



volume 64 • number 2

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 - 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. We will receive this offering during the season of Lent and on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday (April 10 and 17). Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations. The offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need, and OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. To learn more, visit pcusa.org/oghs.



ORGAN RECITAL

7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 28
First Christian Church of Stillwater

The Cimarron Chapter of the American Guild of Organists invites everyone to a special performance by several of its members: Micheal Crockett (FCC Stillwater), Gerald Frank (St. Andrew's Episcopal, Stillwater), Brad Newcomb (St. Mary's, Ponca City), and Rebecca te Velde (FPC Stillwater). Composers include familiar names such as Johann Pachelbel, Johann Sebastian Bach, Louis Vierne, and César Franck, but also Swedish composer Oskar Lindberg and, marking Black History Month, a haunting piece by African-American composer Betty Jackson King. Please join us for an hour of music featuring FCC's Dobson pipe organ! Admission is free; masks are required.