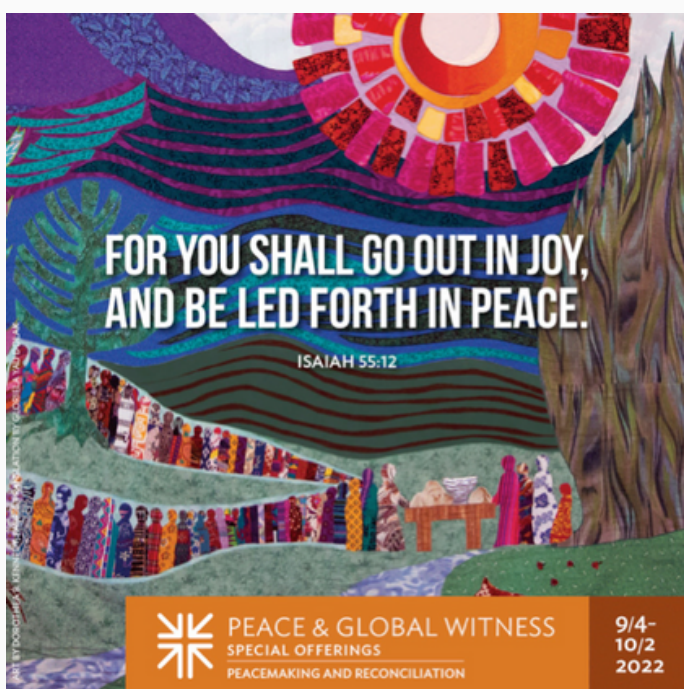


VOL. 64 NUMBER 7 · SEPTEMBER 2022

THE AMBASSADOR

A publication of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater



World Communion
Sunday and Mission
Co-Worker Chenoa
Stock to visit on
October 2nd
*See page 10 to
find out more.*

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2022 Stewardship Campaign
see page 3 for details



Pumpkin Palooza
learn more on page 5

The October Ambassador deadline is Thursday, October 13 at 5:00pm. Articles may be submitted to fpchurch1889@stillwaterfpc.org.



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CHURCH OF STILLWATER



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FPC News & Notes

- **The Personnel Committee** has interviewed two individuals for the Interim Pastor position and spoken to their references. We are in the process of discerning the candidate who is the best fit for our congregation. Once discerned, the candidate's information will be passed on to the Cimarron Presbytery Commission on Ministry and Preparation (COMP). COMP will also interview the candidate. Afterward, Session will need to give the final approval, and then we will be able to move forward with a new Interim Pastor. The Personnel Committee asks for continued prayers and thanks you for your patience as we navigate this process.
- **All-Church Intergenerational Sunday School on Sunday, October 2nd**, with Chenoa Stock, our Mission Co-Worker! All ages please join us at 9:45am in Fellowship Hall for a conversation with Chenoa about her work with the Evangelical Church in Peru.
- **Fellowship Luncheon on Sunday, October 9th**. Join us for lunch and time together following the 11:00am service on Sunday, October 9th. We'll enjoy a baked potato bar and assorted desserts, and all are invited to Pumpkin Palooza following the meal.



Meet our UKIRK Assistant, J Jones!

J will be serving as UKirk Assistant for Stillwater FPC and UKirk Stillwater for the 2022-23 academic year. They study Environmental Science at OSU and enjoy hobbies like playing flute, video gaming, and rock collecting. Watch for them in worship on Sundays and say 'hello'!



Hello
September

WHAT NEW WAYS
OF BEING
"TOGETHER FOR JOY"
HAVE YOU LEARNED
THIS YEAR?

Together for Joy

A Year in the Life of First Presbyterian Church

In the life of First Presbyterian, the past year was brimful and beautiful. Your loving acts of stewardship FED 5600 meals through Saturday Brunch; PROVIDED in aggregate 360 church school classes for the youngest to the most seasoned; CONDUCTED 99 corporate

worship services; ENGAGED 15 University students through UKIRK activities and as Chancel Choir Scholars; ENRICHED the community through Soli Deo Gloria concerts and The January Series; REFLECTED God's unconditional love to diverse communities by WELCOMING ALL; EMPOWERED children and youth to implement their ideas fostering social justice through the Pay It Forward Challenge; SHARED facilities with Esperanza de Vida, NAMI, AA, and others; OFFERED willing minds and bodies in the effort to renovate the Goodland Academy chapel; and much more. Thank you.

As we prepare for the coming year, we encourage you to take an active role in FPC's 2023 Stewardship campaign, "Together for Joy". Pledge packets will be mailed in early October and Commitment Sunday is October 30th. **We also invite you to join us on Sunday, October 9th, after the 11:00 worship service for a Fellowship Luncheon: we'll enjoy a baked potato bar, assorted desserts, and time together as a faith community.**

As you consider your financial commitment to FPC for 2023, we invite you to pray this prayer: *Great One, for you the floods clap, for you the hills sing. You know my situation better than anyone. Take my credits and debits, ins and outs, surpluses and lacks, and show me how to use them to join the great chorus of Creation. Amen.*

~Your Stewardship & Finance Committee

Stephen Ministry

Deadline to Apply for Stephen Ministry Training Coming Up!

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

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



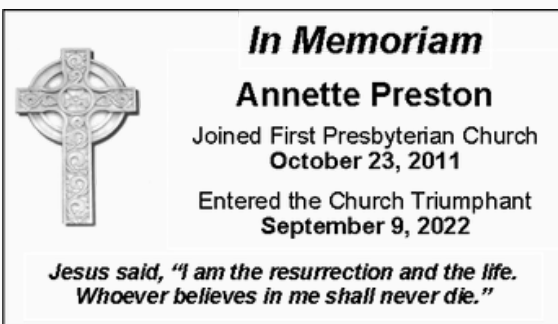
*hello
september*

Prayer Concerns

Cindy Abbott (Schlais)
Lavon Alexander (Howard)
Amanda (Hrachovec)
Nick Amidon (Garoffolo)
Shea Arnett (N. Thomas)
David Awtrey
Baker
Steve Bender
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 (Hardin)
Andee and Kannon Cooper (Hrachovec)
Heather Davidson
Sara Davies
Martha Dearing (Meinke)
Matthew Durham (Shawley)
Eva Elassi (Mulvey)
Lori Fagan
Mike Flowers
Joyce Freeman (Osborn)
Ed Gallegos (Wilkinson)
Omar Garcia
Dorothy Gibbons (Holland)
Bob Gregersen
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

Ken & Michelle Horvath
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
Judy Lewis
Tracie Lively
Alyssa Matal (Krehbiel)
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)
Chancey Nickerson
Michelle Nicholson
Pricilia Nkem
Our Service Men & Women (Kraemer)
Frances Phillips (Taylor)
Jean Potts (Bills)
Daniel Powell
Paul Quarles (Bobo)
Tim Rains (Silver)
Lisa Reavis (Stewart)
Larry & Margaret Redburn (Redburn)
Jack Reeves
Sara Roberts (Osborn)
David Schmidly (Shaw)
Frank Schull (Hrachovec)
Karen Shippey (Swim)
Jeffrey Silver
David Smith (Cooper)

Ted Smith
Perry Sneed (Johnson)
Jamie Stephens (Burgoon)
Christine Stone (Fairbanks/Cornelius)
Debbie Stout
Phyllis Taylor
Torres-Barber family (te Velde)
Upendo Kids (Shawley)
Nettie Vick
Emily Walker (Walker)
Nelda Wallace (Blosser)
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)

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).
- "Faith & Fellowship" - facilitated by Tim Hardin, Faith & Fellowship decides as a class on their course of study. They are currently studying "Everybody, Always: Becoming Love in a World Full of Setbacks and Difficult People", a five-week program with weekly video presentations followed by class discussion. This class meets in the Multipurpose Room.
- "Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us". Led by Rev. Jenny Hardin, this class will meet in the Library through Sunday, September 25th.



Faith on Tap

Meets at Stonecloud Stillwater Patio & Taproom (917 S. Husband St.) at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of the month (October 6, November 3, December 1)

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

All Church Fellowship

Pumpkin Palooza!

Come to this all-church event (all ages are invited) for a time of fall fun and fellowship!

Sunday, October 9th

1:30pm - Depart from FPC parking lot (or meet us at the patch at 2:00pm!)

Oh My Gourd Pumpkin Patch
9212 E. Glencoe Rd., Glencoe, OK

The patch offers: pumpkins, hayrides, playground, pumpkin chunkin', nature trails, photo spots, pumpkin paintball, cornhole, corn box, concessions, and more. \$2 entry or \$10 package which includes: entry, drink, hayride, small pumpkin, and pumpkin chunkin'.

Note: attend the Fellowship Lunch in the Fellowship Hall immediately following 11:00am worship on October 9th...have lunch and then you'll be at the church and ready to leave at 1:30pm!





Children's 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!

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

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



Families gathered for a fun kickoff to children's ministry at the Boomer Lake Splash Pad!

Children's Sunday School

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

Gathering Time:

- All children age four to 5th grade are invited to start the Sunday school hour at 9:45am in the Worship Center.

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



This class meets in room 122 in the preschool wing, but begins and ends in the Worship Center.

- Teachers: Melody Reavis, Pat Gilland, Hope Plum

SpiritLink (1st-5th graders):



SpiritLink is a workshop rotation-model Sunday School in which students learn about a Bible story or theme from different perspectives throughout each unit.





PRESBYTERIAN • YOUTH • GROUP



Presbyterian
Youth Group

Youth Ministry

Youth Sunday School

From 9:45-10:45am - in the Youth Suite.

Gathering Time: 9:45 am in the Youth Suite

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

- Connect - connecting God's big story (focus on the New Testament).
- Teachers: Elijah Ankrom and Tim Krehbiel

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

- Confirmation is an intense, but rewarding, 9-month journey through what we believe as Christians, and more specifically as Presbyterians. An opportunity will be given to individuals at the end of the course to make a profession of faith and join the church if they so choose.
- Teachers: Carolyn Caldwell, Casey Campbell, and Rusty Rex

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

- The senior high class will spend the year on values clarification and values in action as modeled by Jesus in the parables.
- Teachers: Haley Brobston and Belinda Bruner

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

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

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

September

- 17-18 Confirmation Retreat @ St. Francis of the Woods (8th-9th graders only)
- 18 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)
- 25 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)

October

- 2 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)
- 9 - Pumpkin Palooza (afternoon)
- 16 - PYG Game Night (5:00 - 6:30pm)
- 23 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)
- 30 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)

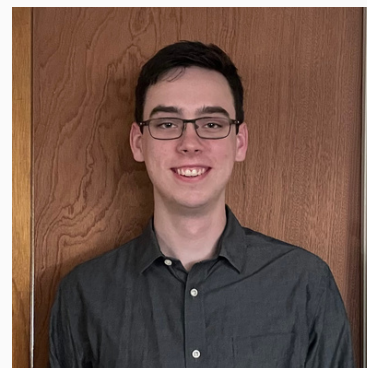


It was a wet and wild start to PYG this year with water games at the PYG Kickoff!

From the Organ Bench

Chancel Choir

We welcomed a number of visitors on Open Loft Sunday and have since welcomed several to our choir family! Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings 7:00-8:15pm in the Westminster Room (choir room) and Sunday mornings at 10:15 in the choir loft. For more information, contact Becky te Velde at (405) 762-6212.



Organ News

The 68 Great Trumpet pipes have just had their first bath! There is a special bathtub for pipes (more like a trough) at the Reuter factory in Lawrence, KS for organ pipes. Our Trumpet has come back looking and sounding like new! The clean Trumpet pipes now play evenly and with a much brighter and fuller tone, and they "play well with others", i.e. the rest of the organ, blending into the full ensemble like never before. These pipes will also hold their tune far better, and be easier to tune as well.

This project was made possible thanks to the legacy gift to FPC from Iris McPherson, for which we are deeply grateful. Stop by the organ console sometime after worship for a demonstration of our "reed chorus": Trumpet, Trompette, and Oboe!

Save the Date!

Soli Deo Gloria -
October 23 at 2:30 pm

Pianist Blake Hilligoss will perform his final master's degree recital for us in our Fellowship Hall! Blake is a second-year graduate student in piano performance at Oklahoma State University, studying with Dr. Thomas Lanners. Blake has also attended FPC during his 5-1/2 years in Stillwater and participated in our music ministry as both a pianist and percussionist. He is currently the pianist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

First Friday Peace Jam - Friday, October 7!

FPC is hosting a new program called "First Friday Peace Jam", is an informal gathering of musicians and music fans on the first Friday of each month in Fellowship Hall. The doors are open to all. The thematic constraints of the music are spiritual, peace and non-violence, and the event is acoustic instruments only. Participating musicians sit in a circle, are given turns to lead or request a song, and can sing and perform solo or invite others to join. There is no constraint on genres. It is also a "pot luck" dinner, so bring a dish to share with others. Doors open at 6pm for the pot luck, and the music will run from 7:00-8:30pm. This is an ecumenical gathering, and all are welcome to take part or simply observe and enjoy. We are thankful for God's gifts of friendship, food and music, which will be on full display. Come join us! Questions? Please contact Jim Beckstrom (james@beckstromgroup.com)





Deacon's Corner

Update on McPherson grants for utility/rent assistance

In June the Deacons submitted a grant proposal to the Legacy Gifts Group requesting funds to assist struggling Stillwater area residents. The funds were made possible through an estate gift from the late Iris McPherson. The \$27,692 award funded 53 grants which assisted a variety of household sizes. 38 awards covered utility bills. We also helped 15 households with rent, back rent and/or rental deposits helping to keep a roof over the heads of these folks. The funds were gone in 30 days which says a lot about the need in our local community.

Once again, thanks to the LGG for awarding these funds to the Deacons and to dear Iris for making the funds available to help our community.

Little Free Pantry & Red Pantry

Most of you have probably noticed the cupboard in the alley between the main church building and Fellowship Hall. This is a resource for anyone in emergent need of food or period hygiene products. All donations of food, personal hygiene products and period care products are welcomed. You can put your donations in the pantry at any time. If you have a large quantity of goods, please put some in the pantry and the rest in the closet by the welcome desk in the Narthex. If you notice the pantry is nearly empty, you are welcome to move goods from the closet to the pantry. Food items that seem to disappear the fastest are vienna sausages, ramen noodles, and canned beans (with pop tops). If you would like to make a cash contribution toward the pantry, drop a check by the church with the notation "LFP." Questions? Please contact Deacon Tim Hardin.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Afghan Resettlement

With the help and leadership of Catholic Charities of Oklahoma, Afghan families who fled Afghanistan in 2021 are making new homes here in Stillwater. Volunteer Family Assistants are partnered with each family to support, encourage, and assist these new neighbors in adjusting to new ways of life and their new community, and they take care of many familial needs. However, as many of our new Afghan neighbors are learning English along with American culture, there are many ways to volunteer your time (see list at right). Interested in volunteering? Please email stwwolunteercoordinator@gmail.com

All volunteers will be required to have a background check done before volunteering. Driving volunteers will need to provide additional information.

Volunteers are needed for the following:

- ESL childcare (M-W-F, 9:30am-12pm and Wednesdays 5-7:30pm)
- Conversation partners (Mon/Wed from 11:00am-12:00pm)
- Homework and Tutoring help for both adults and children (1+ hours/week)
- Reading to or listening to new readers (1+ hours/week)
- Driver training - permit and/or driver test prep (1+ hours/week)
- GED/TOEFL test prep/tutoring (1+ hours/week)
- Transportation - intown for appointments, or to OKC/Tulsa for asylum or SIV interviews

*Most non-driving activities take place at the Wes Watkins Center or the Family Resource Center on OSU's campus.

Averting Further Global Warming: Second Verse

Earlier this year the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its latest assessment of the risks posed by global warming: *Climate Change 2022-Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*. The report is a *summary* (only 3,676 pages!) of climate research based on 34,000 studies by 270 scholars from 67 countries, written by a global panel of 87 authors. After reviewing the IPCC study, The World Resources Institute, in *6 Big Findings from the IPCC 2022 Report*, concludes:

"The science is unequivocal: Climate change endangers the well-being of people and the planet. Delayed action risks triggering impacts...so catastrophic our world will become unrecognizable. The next few years offer a narrow window to realize a sustainable, livable future for all. Changing course will require immediate, ambitious and concerted efforts to slash emissions, build resilience, conserve ecosystems, and drastically increase finance for adaptation and addressing loss and damage."

The emission most at issue is carbon dioxide, 80% of which is due to the refining and uses of petroleum and natural gas-in generating electricity, powering transportation vehicles and industrial processes, and heating and cooling homes and businesses. That's why it made good sense for divestment in oil and gas companies to be the target of the 2022 General Assembly of the PC(USA). Divestment, however, is far from universally embraced as an adequate Decarb policy. For example, Bill Gates (Microsoft), whose foundation has underwritten research on alternative energy technologies, claims that:

"Divestment...probably has reduced about zero tons of emissions." (*Bill Gates tells Financial Times divestment from fossil fuels is not the answer*).

What's next? In 2018, the PC(USA)'s Office of Public Witness lent its support to the *Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2018 (EICDA)*, which provides for levying a tax on fossil fuel producers and returning the tax revenues directly to U.S. citizens through equal lump sum rebates. Since it would harness "the invisible hand of the marketplace to steer economic actors toward a low-carbon future...and benefit the majority of American families financially", it has had strong support from economists. The EICDA has failed to win Congressional approval, however. Some opponents simply will not vote for a tax increase of any kind. Others believe that much of the projected tax revenues should not be merely returned to families, but should be used instead to *underwrite* the search for, and deployment of, alternative means of generating and using energy, and to *provide relief* to families and communities adversely affected by the transition to a future of lower carbon emissions.

Fortunately, this is not the end of the story. Congress recently approved *The Inflation Reduction Act*, *The Infrastructure and Jobs Act*, and *The CHIPS and Science Act*-a package of initiatives that provides revenue for financing the underwriting and relief efforts.

Stay tuned for more in October.

Earth Care Team

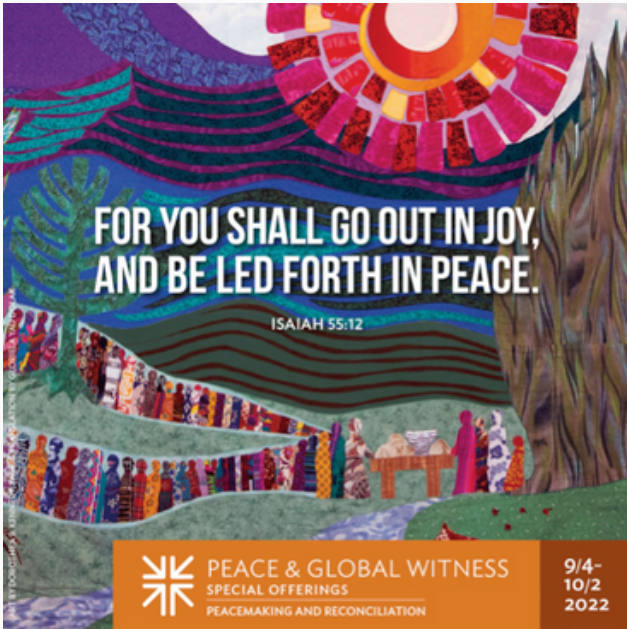


Earth Care Tip

Recycle clean paper only!
Don't contaminate your paper recycling with used paper plates, napkins, greasy pizza boxes, or messy paper towels. These items spoil your entire box of paper and cannot be recycled.



World Communion Sunday



Mission Co-Worker Visit

This year we will also enjoy a visit from one of our Mission Co-Workers, Chenoa Stock and her son Leandro, during the weekend of World Communion Sunday (October 1 and 2). Chenoa will be joining us for worship on Sunday, October 2nd, where she will share about her ministry serving with the Evangelical Church of Peru and the Joining Hands Peru Network. She will also be leading an Intergenerational Sunday School hour between services in Fellowship Hall. Additional plans for the weekend of October 1 and 2, and how you can join us as we get to know Chenoa, will be shared as the dates get closer.

Peace & Global Witness Offering

On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved and we are not alone. We worship together and are fed from Scripture and at Christ's table of peace. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith - a witness to what it means for us to be the Church, together.

Since 1940, World Communion Sunday is an ecumenical celebration of our oneness in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing churches together in Christian unity. The Peace and Global Witness Offering builds on the Presbyterian Commitment to Peacemaking established in 1980. 25% of the Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking in our community. This year, the World Mission and Denominational Concerns Committee has proposed that our portion of the Peace and Global Witness Offering go to support Wings of Hope. This offering will be received on Sundays September 25th and October 2nd.

Fair Trade Store

The summer sale has ended, and we have begun ordering new merchandise for the Fair Trade Store. Once cooler weather is here, a chocolate order will be placed, but there are still many choices of chocolate in both dark and milk chocolate. The fall store hours are currently 10:30am to 12:30pm every Sunday, although we would like to expand our hours if volunteers can be found. If you would be interested in volunteering one Sunday a month and working the 9:00 - 10:30am shift, please contact store manager Julie Bills (jbills2007@hotmail.com).

Session Organization

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

Clerk: John Gelder
email: john_gelder@me.com

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

Adult Ministry:

Judi Baker (chair)
Kelly McCarley

Children's Ministry:

Nancy Beckstrom (chair)
Jean Aresco

Communications & Connecting:

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

Fellowship & Family:

Kathy Essmiller

Stewardship & Finance:

Tim Krehbiel (chair)
Cathy Fairbanks
Mark Howard

UKIRK (University):

Ken Belanus (chair)

World Mission &

Denominational Concerns:

Donna Koeppe (chair)

Worship & Music:

David Conway (chair)
Nate Ingram

Youth Ministry:

Rusty Rex (chair)
Belinda Bruner

Trustee Liaison:

Charlie Johnson

Personnel:

Kiah Butcher (co-chair)
Kathy Essmiller
Mark Howard

Endowment Liaison:

David Conway

Nominating Committee:

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

COVID Response Task Force:

Kathy Essmiller
Rusty Rex

Session Summary

The August stated Session meeting of First Presbyterian Church took place in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 5:30pm, with a Deacon representative joining by Zoom. A quorum was present and Rev. Gordon Edwards moderated. Elder Jill Stoutzenberger opened the meeting with an opening thought and prayer. Highlights of Session action:

- Approved to accept active policy for a Door Access and Key Policy.
- Received recommendation from the New Covenant Trust Company Task Force to postpone a planned visioning workshop until the spring.
- Received report from the Celebration Team regarding gifts for Rev. Leah Hrachovec and family and the memorial gift of a water fountain that will be installed outside of the Fellowship Hall.
- Approved hosting "Getting Ahead" class, beginning this fall. Elder Kathy Thomas will be one of the leaders of this class.
- Received the July 31, 2022 membership report, indicating 518 members.
- Approved job description for Older Adult Ministry Coordinator.
- Approved recommendation to make a request to the COMP of Cimarron Presbytery to form a Pastor Nominating Committee.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Gordon Edwards at 7:05pm. The next stated Session meeting is Tuesday, September 13 at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall with Zoom option.

Monthly Income / Expense Report

	August	Year to Date	% of Budget
Giving	\$ 40,722.49	\$ 450,143.37	68.02
Other Income	\$ 7,162.55	\$ 70,105.83	72.78
Total Income	\$ 47,885.04	\$ 520,249.20	68.63
Expenditures	\$ 59,020.96	\$ 488,356.70	64.51
Net	\$ 11,135.92)	\$ 31,892.50	



BEHIND THE WALLS: A Trustees Update

When Trustees are installed, our ordination question asks us to tend to the business affairs of this local congregation. The Trustees serve with joy and we understand our physical campus supports the many missions and activities serving our Lord. Our work as Trustees certainly includes hanging pictures, repairing leaks, and replacing shingles but also much more. Activity under our roof includes youth activities, worship, scouts, preschool, Saturday brunch, PW, and much more. Without sound facilities and good business practices our Church Mission will be negatively impacted. This past month our regular monthly meeting dealt with Sanctuary lights, updating the building use/fee policy, a safety policy draft, pew repair, replacing carpets, our custodian contract, Fellowship Hall kitchen equipment, roof hail damage and more. There is always plenty to do with these beautiful and wonderful buildings we enjoy. The strength of the current Trustees is the wide range of expertise among the group and the willingness of all to contribute.

Speaking of Sanctuary lights, you may have noticed a few lights out in the higher chandeliers. These have been replaced twice this year and we have concluded there are problems with the light bulb sockets. We are researching the best way to proceed and maintain the beautiful (and quite old) light fixtures we have. We are in fact replacing all bulbs throughout our buildings and installing LED bulbs to replace the older incandescent bulbs as opportunities occur. The LED bulbs burn cooler, use less electricity, and last much longer. This is an ongoing process and will occur over the coming months.

FPC Oral History Project

"Elder Stories," which took place this past April, was such a huge success that we want more of a good thing. Whether you're new to the denomination or a cradle Presbyterian, you have made a journey that led to this church, this moment. We want to hear and preserve the highlights along your path to Stillwater FPC. The church history project, funded by the Iris McPherson bequest and approved by Session, is evolving into an oral history. We intend to create a booklet and video that preserves this history, and that will be accessible to both new and long-standing members. Sit back and let us interview you, or take a more active role; either way, your contribution is important. You may have knowledge that no one else has, such as, who donated this painting? Or, when did flooding change the design of the church? We want you to contact Nancy Beckstrom (405-762-6622)/beckstroms@aol.com or Belinda Bruner (405-612-7655)/belinda.bruner@gmail.com about your stories, or your ideas for the project. Please let us know you're out there and willing to help us with this ambitious undertaking. All ages at all stages of the journey: contact us! No writing required. Let's start conversations.



UKIRK

(U=University, Kirk=Church)

Welcome to Stillwater, students! We are thrilled that you are joining us for worship and life together. Below are some of our upcoming gatherings. Join us for one of them, a few of them, or all of them as you have time and energy. You are always welcome, even if we haven't seen you for a while!

- Wednesdays at 8:00am - Coffee and Devotional at the Wesley Center (corner of Washington and University)
- Sunday, October 2 - Fellowship Lunch immediately following worship (location TBD)
- Sunday, October 9 - Lunch at FPC following worship (in the Fellowship Hall) and Pumpkin Palooza (see page 5)



Please get in touch with Associate Pastor Jenny Hardin (jenny.hardin@stillwaterfpc.org), UKirk Assistant J Jones (ukirk@stillwaterfpc.org), or Elder Ken Belanus (kbspinswood@hotmail.com) if you have questions.

Scout Updates

- This month the Scouts (**Troop 888**) finished working on swimming and water rescue skills, rescued a Mediterranean House Gecko, assisted with the Pack 3842 Open House, began planning for September and October camp outs, completed the Automotive Maintenance Merit Badge and had four Scouts earn a new rank. During the Automotive Maintenance MB course the Scouts changed oil, learned about other car fluids, jumped a car, changed and rotated tires, learned how to check the brakes, and much more! If you'd like to keep up with their Scouting journey, feel free to visit our Facebook Page at BSA Troop 888 Stillwater, OK. If you know a girl age 11-17 who is interested in joining us please contact Melissa Huber at troop888gbsa@gmail.com.
- **Troop 820** camped at Will Rogers Scout Reservation in Cleveland this August. Most of our camps are oriented around a scout skill or particular activity. The August camp was requested by the scouts to be a single night fun camp where they could play night games. We had two scouts work on rank required cooking but sometimes it is good for the scouts to just have fun! In September we have a joint camp planned with 888 to work on paddle boat safety and the canoeing merit badge. Other scouts not working on water activities will have the opportunity to work on cooking and other scout skills.



The September 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



First Presbyterian Church is hosting a
Block Party, and you're invited!

Join us on Wednesday, September 28, starting at 6:00pm on the Southeast Lawn (corner of 6th Ave. and Duncan St.) for live music provided by Code Shirley, lawn games, door prizes, and a meal. Hospitality provided by members of the Fellowship & Family and University Ministry Committees. Invite your friends and neighbors - all are welcome!