

THE Ambassador

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
STILLWATER

JUNE 2026



THIS Issue

A message from
Pastor Peter Olson

Children and youth
ministry save the dates

Adult Sunday School
Information

Trustees Update

Financial report

Walking Together: FINDING OUR SUPPORT

"Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.'" - Genesis 12:1 (NIV)

We hear God's call in Genesis to Abram as he is brought out from the places that he has known and brought into the places that are yet for him a mystery. The place where Abram had grown up no doubt had its complexities. I have heard from more than a few people over the years how much they appreciate having 'enough distance' from the hometown crowd to disconnect with some of the drama.

Sometimes, that ending is needed for us to start looking into what is next. But the past is still something that we carry with us. For Abram, I have no doubt that he still carried memories, both blessing and pain, with him from years among his kindred and his father's house.

In the opening lines of Navigating Transitions, our own Dr. Linda Burks writes, "inner transformation more often happens, not when something new begins, but when something ends." That line has stayed with me. So often, we want transformation to begin with something exciting, shiny, and new. We want to just look at what the next thing is that we are being called to... but part of what has shaped us to this moment is what has been.

FPC Staff

Beginning June 14th, we will start a new study on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School Hour with Linda Burks around that work of transition. I believe this study will be one of our first significant steps together as we continue discerning who we are, where we have been, and who God is calling us to become. To me, at least, this is the faithful work of us leaning in to the Spirit and listening to what God might be speaking to us in this moment.

I keep thinking about God's call to Abram in Genesis 12: "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you." Abram is not handed a finished map. He is given a promise that God -will- show him a land... right now it doesn't seem like Abram even has a direction, just the invitation to trust God one step at a time.

That feels like a faithful image for our congregation in this season of transition. That is the spirit I hope we bring into this study and into the months ahead.

My hope is that this study will give us shared language and tools for the deeper conversations we will continue in the fall and winter. Together, we will have space to speak honestly about the past, listen carefully to one another, and begin asking with courage and faith: Who is God calling us to be now?

Blessings from your pastor,

Pastor Peter Olson

Pastor Peter Olson

Bridge Pastor/ Head of Staff
pastor.peter@stillwaterfpc.org

Kristyn Yerger

Church Administrator
kristyn.yerger@stillwaterfpc.org

Manny Quiles

Finance Administrator
manny.q@stillwaterfpc.org

Elijah Ankrom

Coordinator of Children's & Youth Ministry
elijah.ankrom@stillwaterfpc.org

Mallory Kizer

Digital Communications Assistant
mallory.kizer@stillwaterfpc.org

The Rev. Dr. Gordon Edwards

Pastor Emeritus

Rebecca Te Velde

Organist/Director of Music
Emerita

Kate Wells

Preschool Director
kate@prespreschool.org

Children & Youth Ministry

Dates to Note

June 13 - Saturday Brunch
Volunteering

July 17 - Summer Splash

July 19-26 - Ferncliff Summer
Camp

Aug. 30 - (9:15-10:45 a.m.) Leader
Launch event for children's and
youth volunteers to get to know
each other and see their impact!

PYG will resume Sept. 13!

Leader Launch

Sunday, August 30th – 9:15-
10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

All 2026-2027 children's and
youth volunteers are invited to
an exciting morning to connect
with other volunteers, and be
inspired by how your role fits
into the larger vision and
purpose of children's and youth
ministry. Save the date and join
us!

FPC Youth Summer 2026

stillwaterfpc.org/youth

JUNE

2	11:30a - 12:30p	Taco Tuesday @ Qdoba
9	11:30a - 12:30p	Taco Tuesday @ Fuzzy's
16	7p - 8p	Game Night @ FPC
23	7p - 8p	Fun @ Frios
TBD (29-3)	11:30a - 12:30p	PYG-nic @ Couch Park
TBD	12:30p - 3:30p	Volunteer @ Our Daily Bread

JULY

7	11:30a - 12:30p	Taco Tuesday @ Chipotle
14	7:30p - 10p	Movie Night in Youth Suite
21	7p - 8p	Fun @ Frios
28	11:30a - 12:30p	Taco Tuesday @ Fuzzy's

AUG.

4	11:30a - 12:30p	Taco Tuesday @ Chipotle
13		Stillwater School Starts
21	7p - 8p	Fun @ Frios
30	9:30a - 10:45a	Leader Launch

SEPT.

3	7:30p - 8:30p	PYG Parent Gathering
7		Labor Day
13	9:45a - 10:45a	Sunday School Resumes
	5:30p - 7p	PYG Fall Kickoff



OKLAHOMA WEEK AT FERNCLIFF
SUMMER CAMP
July 19-24, 2026

Use codes: Cimmaron2026 &
Oklahoma2026

✓ For Entering 3rd Graders - 12th Graders

Learn More & Register at
www.ferncliff.org/oklahoma



Mark your Calendars!

There's a lot going on this summer for our children and youth ministries. These events are a great way to check in between travel, camps, and the craziness of summer! At these events, please bring money for your meal.



Trustees

UPDATE

The Trustees are currently getting the watering systems and lawn care contracts activated for the summer since the most effort and cost is during the spring, summer and fall.

We are currently planning for some exterior renovation work for summer and fall. There will be some tuck pointing of bricks, replacement of cracked rock and concrete, and more. We currently have a company working to re-seal windows in the youth suite and the hallway outside the chapel. We will also be contracting this year to renovate the tower windows.

Last fall we had the seams in the parking lot renovated. Steve Fairbanks followed up by painting all the curb stops, a volunteer effort that was much appreciated. We will soon contract to renew the parking lot traffic painting.

We are planning for doors to block the fire escape alcoves on the west side of the main building, which will keep people and trash out while allowing full egress in case of an emergency. The Fire Marshal's Office will pass on any plans we have. That effort is being led by Jim Showalter.

Inside, Andrea Arquitt, our Session Representative to the Trustees, keeps up on filter replacement, appliance repairs, and more. In the past two years, we've had a nearly total upgrade of our audio-visual equipment in both the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall, supervised by Jim Beckstrom, both when he was on Trustees and afterwards. Stan Waugh has been working with the lighting controls in the sanctuary and is now a fine stage manager.

We contracted with an organ repair firm in Norman to replace the leathers controlling air to all the pipes in our organ, a big job that needs doing about every fifty years. These leathers were well past that age. Becky Te Velde helped oversee that project.

The biggest project in the past three years has been a much-needed upgrade of the HVAC system (heating and air). The engineering firm we hired wanted a major rebuild, but Jim Beckstrom, always the engineer, recognized that what we most needed was a new, and much bigger, heat exchanger to transfer heat and cool between our outside loops (eg., geothermal and cooling tower) and our inside loops to our 19 air handling units. We got that new heat exchanger and upgraded our controls, and the system works well. We are currently working with Session and the Capital Campaign to set back a fund to replace those 19 air handlers over time since they are at the end of their service life and are pricey.

We have constant small repairs: an automatic door that won't open, new locks for our sensory room, our recent outside work day in the flower beds, and more. If you see something that needs to be repaired, or if you have any suggestions, please contact us.

Trustees includes: Tammy Wasson (Chair), Ted Kniering (Vice Chair), Andrea Arquitt (Session Representative), David Conway, Terry Shreve, Stan Waugh, and Jim Showalter (Secretary).

With much help from Pastor Peter Olson, Kristyn Yerger, and finally William Cole (Chair Emeritus), also also attends and volunteers much time.

THE AMBASSADOR

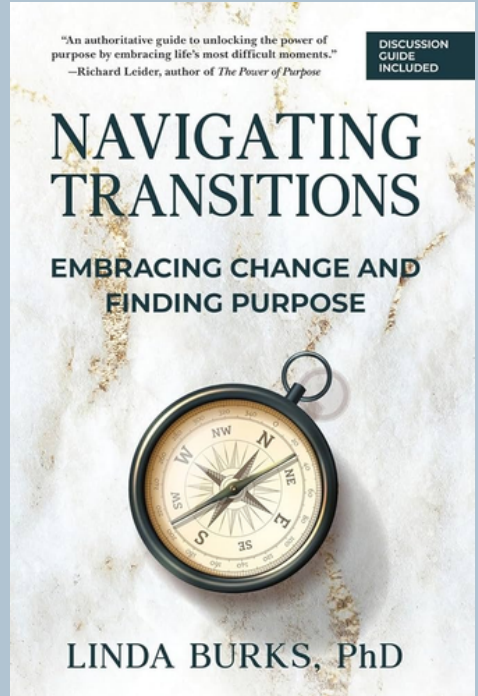
ADULT & FELLOWSHIP Ministries

Adult Sunday School

Feasting on the word, one of our adult Sunday School classes, is taking a break for the summer along with out youth and children's Sunday school classes. However, Faith & Fellowship is continuing their studies with a new book to discuss.

Faith & Fellowship, a book study/discussion class, meets on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. The class is led by Linda Burks, author of *Navigating Transitions, Embracing Change and Finding Purpose*. As a congregation in transition, we may find this book helpful in embracing the changes and encouraging healing along the way.

For sourcing the book, the church library has 3 copies. You can also purchase a copy on Sunday morning (\$14), [Amazon](#) (\$16.99), Kindle edition (\$7.99) or free with Kindle Unlimited. We would love to have you join our class! If you have questions, please get in touch with [Lisa McGaw](#).



JUNETEENTH Picnic

SWO Community United is hosting a Juneteenth celebration on Friday, June 19, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Southern Woods Park. There will be food, games, prizes and live music.

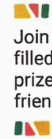
Visit visitstillwater.org/swo-community-united/ to learn more.



JUNETEENTH *Community Celebration* PICNIC

FRIDAY,
June 19
5:30-7:30 P.M.

SOUTHERN WOODS PARK
600 W 12TH AVE. | STILLWATER, OK



Join us for an evening filled with food, games, prizes, live music, and friends—new and old!

Learn more at
visitstillwater.org/swocommunityunited



Stillwater Medical



Stillwater Frontier
Rotary Club



APRIL 30, 2026 Income/Expense Report

	April	Year to Date
Giving	\$45,482	\$230,165
Other Income	\$8,654	\$52,579
Total Income (royalties, perpetual pledges, event income, etc.)	\$54,136	\$282,744
Expenditures	-\$54,253	-\$235,513
Net	-\$117	\$47,231

Although the net income for this month is negative, the total for the year is still positive.

If you have questions, contact a member of the Finance & Stewardship Committee:
Tim Schlais, Chairman; Terri Carver, Tim Krehbiel, Donna Koepp, Lynn Osborn or Cathy Fairbanks, Church Treasurer (918-549-8633).

NEW Members

Three confirmands that have finished up their confirmation class and decided to join the church:

Emmy Campbell

Parker Charter

Archer Fullerton

as well as

Nancy Ryan

Join us in welcoming our new members!



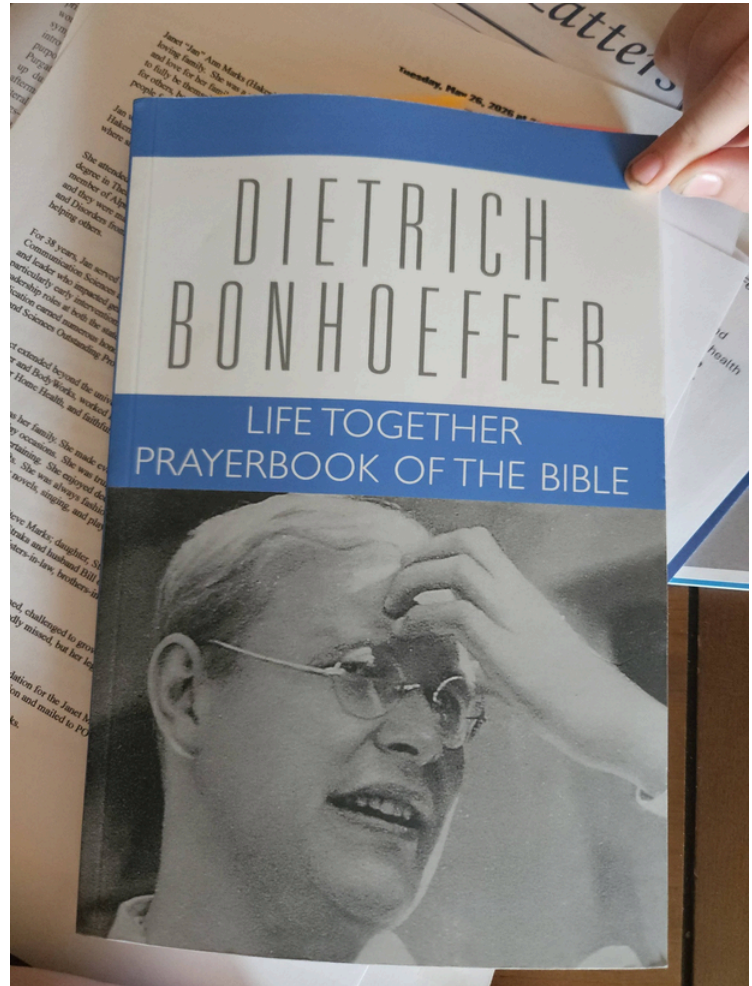
Bonhoeffer Study

MAY 31, 2026

We also had our first Bonhoeffer session on May 31 at 4 p.m.

We had several show up in person and others join online as well as we begin to work through his book of Life Together which was a call toward Christian Community centered in Christ written amid the years of a growing Nazi power in Germany.

The six week study is being led by Dr. Craig Nesson from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA, where Pastor Peter went to seminary.



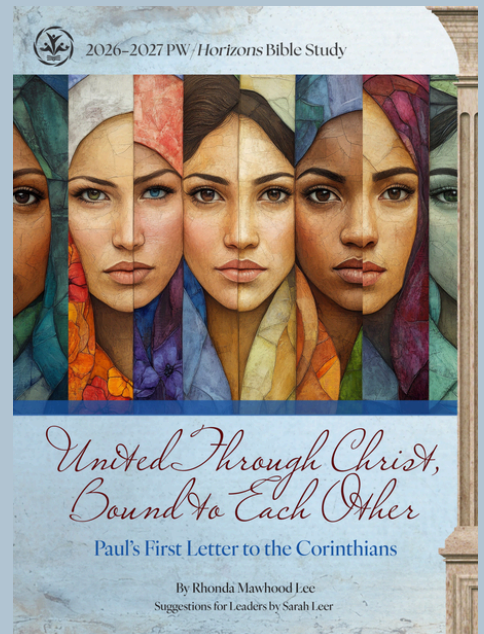
Presbyterian Women

Did you know that all women in the church are members of the Presbyterian Women (PW)? The group formally meets once a month during the school year and are led in bible study by Laura Southard. We will gather in late July or early August to pick up our new study book (with announcement in bulletin to follow).

The 2026-2027 study this year is "United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other", Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, written by Rhonda Mawhood Lee.

The study is available to order by contacting Andrea Arquitt, andrea.arquitt@okstate.edu, or by visiting the Presbyterian Women website, <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/current-bible-study/>. All are welcome to join in with us beginning this fall.

If you would like to know more about our group, please contact Lisa McGaw, lmcgaw@me.com.



In Memorium



Jan Marks

Sept. 18, 1948 - May 17, 2026



First Presbyterian Church

524 S. Duncan
Stillwater, OK 74074
405-372-5580
www.stillwaterfpc.org

Postage

Worship at FPC

9:45-10:45 a.m. Sunday school classes for all ages

11 a.m. Worship Service

Sign up for our Newsletter!

First Things, our weekly newsletter, will keep you up to date on everything going on in our congregation. Events, Sermon links and more!



Want to add to The Ambassador?

Send articles to mallory.kizer@stillwaterfpc.org

THE Ambassador HIGHLIGHTS

A message from Pastor Peter Olson

Children and youth ministry
save the dates

Adult Sunday School
Information

Trustees Update

Financial report

THE NEXT AMBASSADOR
DEADLINE IS JUNE 26, 2026

OUR Purpose

The Ambassador is a little piece of church brought right to you! We know that life doesn't always make it easy to be with us in person or keep up with everything FPC is doing, and that's exactly why this newsletter exists. Our goal is to keep every member of our church family in the loop on events, announcements, and the everyday blessings happening in our community, so you always feel connected, cared for, and part of something bigger.