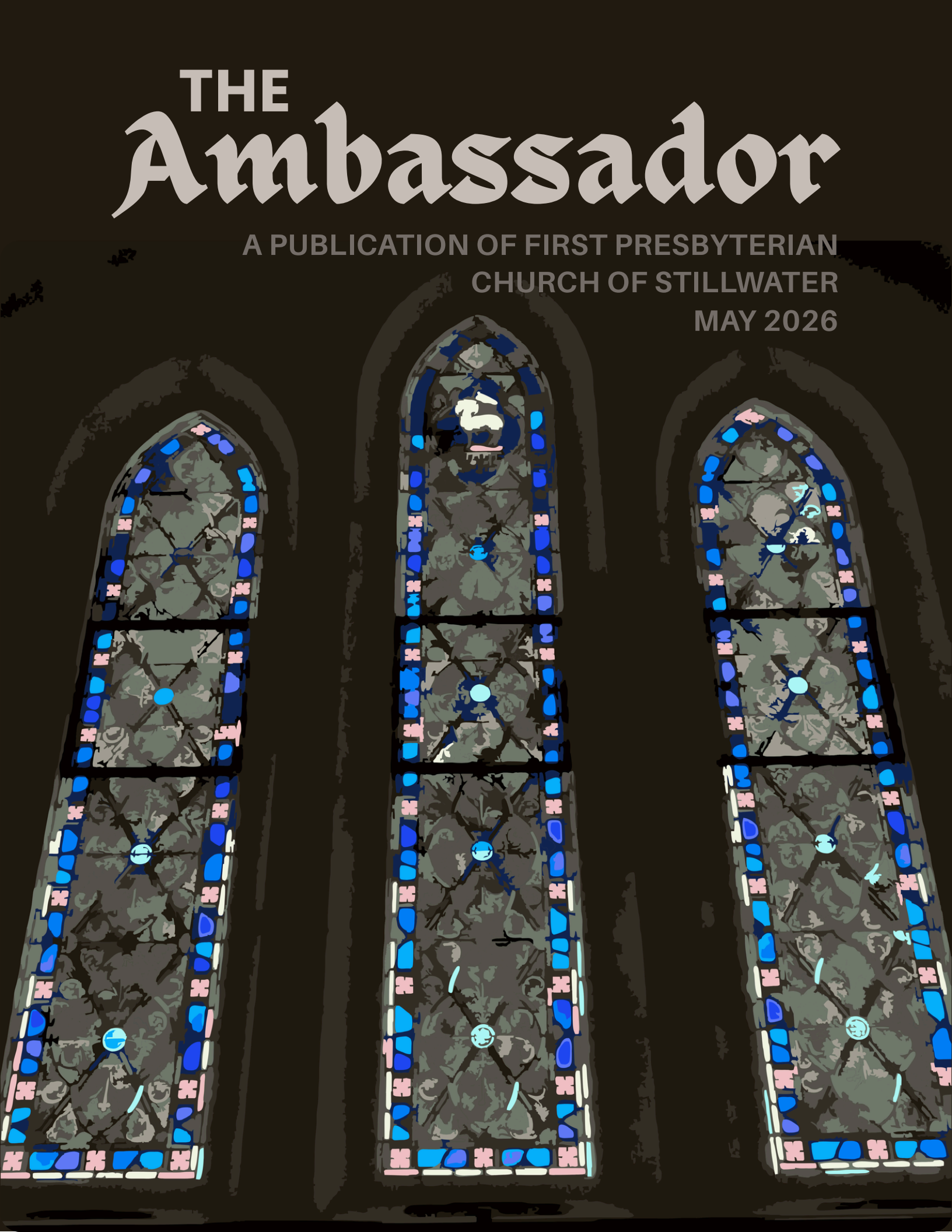
THE Ambassador

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER

MAY 2026



Walking Together:
STEPPING IN

My nerdy side says: "May the Fourth be with you."
And my churchy side responds: "And also with you!"

I have been a nerd as long as I can remember. What's more is I have embraced my nerdiness as I have grown older... and I have a family that also revels in their nerdiness. We have Star Wars and Star Trek posters around the house. Superheroes from both DC and Marvel adorn one of our walls. There are Doctor Who references and Firefly posters. We have a diagram of the Enterprise D. We revel in it. It has become part of our identity.

When I first began serving congregations, I felt like I needed to leave my nerdy side at the door when I crossed the church threshold. That here, in this place, I would need to hold onto my pastor identity and let the rest of who I am stay behind me. This, however, turned out to be far from the truth. Even the folks who had no idea what a Vulcan even was (or why they are called elves in Lord of the Rings) embraced me for my full self... not just my church self. They invited me into who I fully am rather than asking me to leave part of myself behind. And that was so very important in helping me feel like I could truly belong.

It reminds me of the song from Shrek the Musical, "Freak Flag," as it celebrates the beauty of who we are made to be or, as I would put it, who God has made us to be. Maybe your "freak flag" includes a curious appreciation for tabletop gaming, or maybe it shows up in the form of fishing lures or crafting corners.

Whatever your gifts and passions are beyond the doors of the church, it is my hope that when you come to church you can bring your full self... not just your church self. Because, honestly, that helps others know that they too are welcome for who they are rather than for their ability to conform to a system of expectation.

Jesus calls disciples from all walks of life, not by stripping them of personality, but by drawing their gifts into something new. We hear this when he tells his first disciples, who happen to be fishermen, that he will make them fishers of people. Their story isn't erased... it's transformed and carried forward.

As we continue in this discipleship walk together, how might the gifts God has given you find a place here? How might we be church together in the fullness of who we are? What would it look like to let your own "freak flag" fly... in a community shaped by the One who so often stood on the edges and welcomed others in?

Peace and love to you, First Presbyterian. Thank you for being church!

Blessings from your pastor,

Pastor Peter Olson

FPC Staff

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Children & Youth Ministry

Children's Sunday School

Begins every Sunday during the school year at 9:45 a.m.

Children 4yrs - 5th grade meets in the Worship Center.

Sunday School for 6th-12th graders meets in the Youth Suite.

Dates to Note

PYG will resume Sept. 13!

May 10 – Music Sunday at 9:45am - all classes in the Worship Center; SpiritLink Singers will sing during 11:00am worship.

May 10 - Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

May 17 - last day of Children's Sunday school until August - one combined class for an end of year celebration!

May 18 - Preschool teacher appreciation lunch

June 13 - Saturday Brunch Volunteering

SpiritLink Room Highlight

Modern Magi is where we explore Bible stories through science, math, and geography. In Modern Magi, you'll find children connecting with scripture by doing things like science experiments or using the giant world map on the wall.

Preschool Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Our Children's Ministry committee will be honoring and thanking our amazing Presbyterian Preschool staff and teachers with a lunch and gifts on Monday, May 18. Dana and the teachers pour their hearts into our Preschool and we are grateful for the ways they extend FPC's ministry into the community by touching the lives of our Preschool kids and their families.

ADULT & FELLOWSHIP
Ministries

Come to our Fellowship Hour every Sunday: 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the Hospitality Area. Enjoy coffee, tea, snacks, and fellowship before our worship service begins.

Morning Meditation takes place every Sunday, 9:30-9:45, on the second floor south landing. Everyone is welcome to participate, giving yourselves some moments of quiet and stillness before Sunday school and/or worship.

Two adult Sunday school classes are on-going:

Feasting on the Word, a study of the church's lectionary and led by Denise Rex, meets 9:45-10:45 in the new library on the 2nd floor of the main building. Each week the study focuses on the selected Bible passages for that week.

Faith & Fellowship, a book study/discussion class, meets 9:45-10:45 in the south end of the Fellowship Hall. Those attending the class choose the books to be studied and discussed and take turns getting the discussions started. Currently, the class is studying Appreciate These Things by PC(USA) minister Jill Duffield. This book focuses on Phillipians 4:8: "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

At their May meeting, Seasoned Adults enjoyed a wonderful presentation from Rachael Condley, director of Our Daily Bread.

THE DEACONS COMMITTEE

Babies of FPC

One of the committees in Deacons is welcoming new babies to FPC. We currently have four new babies to welcome:

Amelia Kerry Akins

March 30, 2026
Brett and Taylor Akins

Alaina Marilynn Elizabeth Weldon

March 29, 2026
Jayden and Tyler Weldon

Hadley Jean Brown

February 12, 2026
Parents: Kelsey and Matt Brown
Proud Grandmother: Dana Brown

Meera Irene Patel

February 17, 2026
Parents: Maria Fox and Anand Patel
FPC preschool

In Memorium

Gene Anderson

Dec. 18, 1932 - Jan. 27, 2026

Bob Harding

March 12, 1926 - Feb. 24, 2026

Marty Edwards

March 3, 1942 - March 28, 2026

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away; a time to tear and a time to sew; a time to keep silent and a time to speak; a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace."

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Preschool Sunday

Preschool Sunday will be held in church on Sunday, May 17. Dana will have preschool students sing some songs and, she will lead the children in a story from Young Children and Worship (the curriculum that the church uses for their children's time in the Westminster room) We will also introduce Ms. Kate Wells as our new director!

SOLAR UNDER THE SUN:
Solar School

Solar Under the Sun is conducting Solar School June 4-7 at First Presbyterian Church in Ft Smith, Arkansas.

If you like to evaluate potential locations, explore availability of material and services, negotiate covenant agreements, and serve as the leader or co-leader of the solar team, consider signing up for Solar 1 School.

If your forte is more hands on, consider signing up for Solar 2 School. This includes surveying sites for compatibility, designing solar panel arrays and battery banks, understand how the components work, oversee the construction and installation of the system, build relationships with partners, and train operators to maintain the system.

Register on-line at solarunderthesun.org. School costs are $350.00. Scholarships are available. If you would like more information call Steve Fairbanks at 918 688-6705 or Tim Schlais at 405 762-0993.

MARCH 31, 2026

Income/Expense Report

	March	Year to Date
Giving	$67,942	$184,683
Other Income	$8,062	$43,926
Total Income (royalties, perpetual pledges, event imcome, etc.)	$76,004	$228,609
Expenditures	-$70,111	$184,127
Net	**$5,893**	**$44,482**

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

Fair Trade Store

May showers are bringing May flowers, and new merchandise is arriving at the FTS for graduation, Mother's Day, and other spring celebrations.

Check out the selection of dopp kits/cosmetic bags for the traveler in different sizes and colors. For travel or just for summer fun, the store offers a large selection of cross body bags in various sizes, water bottle carriers, eye/sun glass cases, and expandable shopping bags.

Thinking ahead for Father's Day, you can choose a unique tie for Dad made of beautiful hand woven corte material from Guatemala or a new wallet made from leather or even re-cycled bicycle tires!

For the garden, bird houses, wind chimes, a butterfly house, or metal painted geckos from Haiti will add delight and color.

The FTS is open on Sunday from 10:30 to 12:30 or by appointment. Cash or checks only. And as always, your source for coffee, chocolate, cocoa, tea, and olive oil. To schedule an a visit or for more information, contact Julie Bills, store manager.

Troop 820

In March, Troop 820 backpacked a portion of the Oklahoma side of the Ouachita Trail over 4 nights on trail and covering over 20 miles. This activity challenges the scouts and uses the skills they learn over the year to succeed and build confidence. We also performed the opening flag ceremony and service work for the HEART benefit golf tournament in Perkins.

In May, we provided service work to the Friends of the Stillwater Library for their semi-annual book sale. Our scouts also helped with the Stillwater City Trash Off. Troop 820 held a troop garage sale this month to help raise money for new equipment including new backpacking packs. We would like to thank FPC for the use of the Fellowship hall and parking area for this garage sale. Our scouts had an opportunity to take Wilderness First Aid training in May at which four scouts and adult leaders attended. Wilderness First Aid provides the skills to handle a wide variety of medical emergencies far beyond typical first aid. We currently have 15 scouts and adults that are currently certified for WFA.

Upcoming activities include a camping trip to Alabaster Caverns in May, Robbers Cave in May, and some OA scouts will attend the regional conclave camp in May. Also in May we will provide service to the Special Olympics Summer Games in the track and field area, and will assist the American Legion with Memorial Day flag placements. On May 3rd, 820, 888, and pack 3842 will be holding a bake sale, so please plan to help support out scouting units.

Pack 3842

May was a full and exciting month for Pack 3842! As part of our focus on First Responders, our Scouts had the opportunity to tour a LifeNet ambulance. They got a firsthand look at the equipment used in emergency situations and learned how these professionals care for people in critical moments. It was a great hands-on experience that sparked lots of curiosity and thoughtful questions.

Later in the month, Scouts put their skills into action during our Spring Campout. They went on a hike and visited several hands-on learning stations along the way. At one station, they learned how to safely use a brand and each Scout took home a wood slice they branded themselves—a special keepsake from the experience. Another station gave Scouts the chance to build and launch their own rockets, watching them soar high into the sky. A third station focused on basic first aid, helping Scouts learn how to respond in emergency situations and take care of others. We also held our final awards ceremony for the year and awarded the Scouts with their new ranks!

Looking ahead to May, we're excited for an upcoming Pack bike ride around Boomer Lake Park. This will be a great opportunity for Scouts and families to enjoy the outdoors together while staying active.

Cub Scout Pack 3842 meets every Monday at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you know a child in Kindergarten through 5th grade who might be interested in joining Cub Scouts, please contact Pake Wing at pack3842@gmail.com. We would love to welcome them!

Troop 888

In May of 2026, Troop 888 had many opportunities to spring into action! Rachel, our Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, reported many fun activities that our troop engaged in during this month. We started the month off by parking cars for the Boys of Oklahoma concert. Following that, our troop participated in the Stillwater Public Library Book Sale. Throughout the month, many scouts reached outstanding accomplishments and ranked up- we are so excited to see how much they will continue to bloom in the future. Although we were unable to attend a campout due to severe weather, May was overall an amazing month full of collaboration, smiles, and friendships.

Hopefully these May showers will bring brighter May flowers!

First Presbyterian Church

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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 next Ambassador deadline is May 22, 2026

THE Ambassador HIGHLIGHTS

- A message from Pastor Peter Olson
- Children and youth ministry save the dates
- New additions to our church family
- New in the fair trade store
- Financial report

THE NEXT AMBASSADOR DEADLINE IS MAY 22, 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.