

The background of the cover is a photograph of a brick church with Gothic-style windows. In the foreground, there is a wooden bench and some greenery. The title 'THE Ambassador' is overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

THE Ambassador

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
STILLWATER
OCTOBER 2026

THIS Issue

A Message from Pastor
Peter Olson

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Walking Together: LOOSENING BOLTS

I have long chuckled at the idea that we churches bolt our pews in place not only to keep them from tipping, but also so that no one can move them.

Churches can become very good at keeping things where they have always been. The same programs. The same habits. The same assumptions. There is a certain amount of security in knowing precisely what we are dealing with.

But faithfulness is not the same thing as keeping everything unchanged and unshaken.

In Acts 2, the disciples are gathered together when suddenly the Holy Spirit arrives like the rush of a violent wind. The room is filled. Tongues of fire appear. People begin speaking in ways they had not before.

Pentecost is not exactly a story about God leaving everything neatly in place.

The Spirit moves. The Spirit surprises. The Spirit gives people new voices and then sends them into a world much larger than the room where they began.

That feels like an important image for this season at First Presbyterian Church.

As we talk about staffing, ministry, budget, listening, outreach, and the future of our congregation, one question keeps rising to the surface in my mind:

What might God be trying to move that we would rather keep bolted in place?

And, truthfully, I suspect each of us would have a different answer to that question!

But I see a congregation with deep faith, thoughtful, generous hearts, and a real desire to care for one another and our community. I see opportunities for stronger ministry with children and youth, deeper fellowship and formation, faithful public witness, and new partnerships beyond our walls.

Just like moving a couch at home, it can be a bit messy. But my prayer is that as we continue in this season of the life of the church, that we look to the places where God invites us to loosen our bolts a little--and not just someone else's bolts, but our own! And then, we might even invite God to make the shift, "Blow, Spirit, Blow!" as my friend says... and see where we go from there.

Our work is to listen well, pray faithfully, and remain open to where the Spirit may be leading. Keep something handy to loosen those bolts and keep loving! You are God's beloved.. remind your neighbors that they are too.

Peace be with you, my friends!

Your Pastor,

Pastor Peter Olson

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CHILDREN'S Ministry

Dates to Note

October 18 - annual

Pumpkinpalooza event at Oh My
Gourd in Glencoe for children age
3-5th grade at 2 p.m.

Contact event coordinator Melody
Reavis if you have questions!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
2:00pm–4:00pm

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Pumpkin Palooza

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CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE INVITED FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN AND
FELLOWSHIP AMONG THE PUMPKINS!

OH MY GOURD
1912 E GLENCOE RD, GLENCOE

\$11	\$13
PUMPKIN 'CHUNKIN'	PUMPKIN 'CHUNKIN'
HAYRIDE	HAYRIDE
FALL GAMES	FALL GAMES
SMALL PUMPKIN	SMALL PUMPKIN
	PAINTBALL

Children & Worship

Three-year-olds through 3rd grade are invited to Children and Worship each Sunday in the Westminster room following Time with Children in worship. Children may follow the banner and meet the volunteers at the back of the Sanctuary. This age-appropriate time of worship includes singing and signing, prayer, and seeing and hearing the stories of God. 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 following worship.

CHILDREN'S Ministry

Children's Sunday School

Gathering time

Children are invited to start the Sunday school hour at 9:45 a.m. in the Worship Center. We'll gather and sing together before the children go to their classes. Parents can pick up children at 10:45 a.m. in the Worship Center.

Faith Kid-nection

Sunday School for Pre-K and Kindergarteners | 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Join in play, games and songs as we explore God's love together. The class meets in room 122 in the preschool wing, but begins and ends in the Worship Center.

SpiritLink

Sunday School for 1-5 graders | 9:45-10:45 a.m.

A workshop rotation-model Sunday School in which students learn about a Bible story or theme from different perspectives throughout each unit. Lessons are told throughout the year using various ways of learning: art, science, computers, storytelling, movies, cooking, drama, and more!

SpiritLink Teachers and Shepherds 2025-2026

Shepherds - Suzii Parsons; Modern Magi - Dustin & Virginia Charter; Scrolls & Scribes - Melody Reavis; Thou Art - Pascha Franklin; On Location - Nicole Frohling; Burning Bush Theater - Courtney and Eric Savage; Bread of Life Café - Pascha Franklin.

Room Highlight: Scrolls and Scribes is where we explore Bible stories through digital technology. Children might explore the Bible story by making a video of the story with iPads, create a song of the Bible theme with a music app, or create a card on the computer to deliver to someone who is sick!

OCTOBER 2026

YOUTH Ministry

Dates to Note

Oct. 4 - PYG

Oct. 11 - PYG

Oct. 18 - No PYG (Fall Break)

Oct. 25 - PYG



**For ALL 6th-12th graders
Sundays, 5-6:30 p.m. in the
Youth Suite**

A time for connection, fellowship, discipleship, and living our faith. At PYG, we play, laugh, pray, study scripture, serve, ask big questions, and grow as faithful disciples. Join us!

'25-'26 PYG Sponsors:

Eric Savage

Kelly Nipp

Rusty Rex



Youth Sunday Morning

Every Sunday, 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the Youth Suite

Our Sunday school curriculum is intentionally designed for youth to explore their faith from a variety of perspectives through their years in Youth Sunday School.

Gathering Time - 9:45 a.m.

Youth start together in the Youth Suite for fellowship and snacks before splitting up into age groups for more focused discussion and study.

Middle School (grades 6-8) (Youth Suite Blue Room)

Colaborate and Re:form Ancestors - Youth will study the ancestors of the New Testament using 'so what?' questions that will help them engage with the New Testament story.

Teachers: Matt Pereira and Gracie Eubanks

Senior High (grades 9-12) (Youth Suite- Main Area)

Faith and Life - Discussions on faith, the Bible, and life.

Teachers: Elijah Ankrom and Josh Taylor

Presbyterian Youth Group (PYG)

For ALL 6th-12th graders | Sundays, 5-6:30 p.m. 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. Join us!

PYG Kickoff and Youth Retreat

We started this year off strong! During our PYG Fall Kickoff we spent time playing trivia, helping each other through a maze, going on scavenger hunts, and completing a puzzle! On our Youth Retreat we spent time team building, climbing a rockwall, going down a zipline, enjoying fellowship and studying and reflecting with each other.

AUGUST 31, 2026 Income/Expense Report

	August	Year to Date
Giving	\$58,058	\$399,088
Other Income	\$8,017	\$87,451
Total Income (royalties, perpetual pledges, event income, etc.)	\$66,075	\$486,539
Expenditures	-\$56,368	-\$443,475
Net	\$9,707	\$43,064

Your giving is important and appreciated. If you have any questions about your giving records or church finances, contact cathy.fairbanks@stillwaterfpc.org. Blessings to each of you.

Deacons Baby Baskets



ADULT & FELLOWSHIP Ministries

The Adult & Fellowship Ministries Committee (Barbara Stoecker, Danielle Shreve, Ellen Ingram, Dustin Charter, and Sandy Cohlma) is pleased to let you know what adult study and family fellowship opportunities are available for this coming school year.

Adult Sunday School Classes

- **Feasting on the Word:** Led by Denise Rex, this class studies each Sunday's lectionary selections. It meets in the second floor Library, 9:45 - 10:45 a.m., during the school year.
- **Faith & Fellowship:** Participant led, this class studies/discusses books chosen by members of the class. It meets year-round in the Fellowship Hall, 9:45 - 10:45. The current study is *God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships* by Matthew Vines. The book is available on Amazon in paperback, on Kindle, and as an audiobook. A copy of the book may still be in the library for borrowing.
- **Fellowship Opportunity:** Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and snacks are available in the Hospitality Area every Sunday from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Those of you who don't attend a Sunday school class, please join us for some fellowship time with friends. If you are attending a Sunday school class, drop by a little early.

Meditation

FPC's meditation group extends an invitation to anyone interested in participating to join them on Sunday morning, 9:15 - 9:30 a.m., in the Worship Center.

Seasoned Adults

Seasoned Adults will have programs in October, November, December, February, March, and April. Here is the schedule for this fall's programs:

- October 15 — Participants will gather from 5-7 p.m. at Mexico Joe's for dinner and visiting. No program is planned for the evening. Be watching for a message from Elijah on Realm regarding specific details about payment, food allergies, etc.
- November 19, Meal and Program — Tim Hardin, member of the Stillwater City Council, will discuss and answer questions about current civic issues.

Watch for information in First Things, The Ambassador, and the bulletin about another fellowship dinner later this fall.

Trustees

You might notice in the budget a growing endowment for the HVAC systems of the church. Air conditioning and heating are essential, and Trustees are charged with keeping the systems working. In our two buildings, there are nineteen air handlers which take the cool or warmed water in the system and transform it into the cooled air and heating we expect. The installation of a much larger heat exchanger last year has made a huge amount of difference, and we've up-graded our control systems, our water treatment systems, and more.

But the nineteen air handlers, located in the main building and the Fellowship Hall, are nearing the end of their lives and will need to be replaced within the next decade. We are already running them on coolant that can no longer be produced leading to high prices. Repair units are needed on a regular basis. When an air handler is no longer repairable, the replacement cost is in the tens of thousands of dollars.

In anticipation of needing to replace nineteen air handlers, the Trustees, with the approval of the Session, is setting aside an endowment of \$200,000 to cushion the impact when units need to be replaced. That sum won't pay to replace them all, but it will spread the fiscal impact when we have to start replacing units. The HVAC system is just one of the areas your Trustees work on. If you have questions or recommendations, please contact a Trustee.

~ Jim Showalter, secretary



In God's Hands AN UPDATE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

As FPC continues the 2027 stewardship campaign, we hope you are contemplating this sustaining truth: we are in God's hands. You are encouraged to reflect on what God has placed in your hands: time, abilities, relationships, and financial resources.

Because of your generosity FPC has been able to worship, teach, care, welcome and serve. Our shared ministries reach beyond what any one person or household could accomplish alone. When our gifts are placed in God's hands and we open our hearts and minds to His message, God uses them in ways greater than we can ever imagine.

Your continued support and generosity are requested as FPC plans for 2027. Next week you will receive a mailing with a 2027 commitment card and information about FPC programs in 2026 and dreams for 2027. Please complete and return your card on Commitment Sunday, October 25.

We ask every household to continue with the prayer: "God, what have you placed in my hands, and how are you calling me to use it?" Stewardship is not simply a collection of acts or financial contributions; it is an extension of God's love! Know your participation matters. Our church and congregation are better and stronger when all are working together to make a difference in our community and the world if we place our lives in God's Hands.

OCTOBER 2026

Troop 820



Troop 820 has begun an exciting fall season for scouting. In August, we camped at Will Rogers Scout Reservation where we performed trail maintenance and got back in the swing of camping. Also in August we attended the Ponca Intertribal Pow Wow where scouts got to learn about and experience native customs and culture.

In September, we floated the Mountain Fork River below Beavers Bend State Park where scouts put their boating skills to use to overcome new challenges including those accompanying low water levels.

Upcoming October activities include staffing the district Spook O Ree for cub scouts and performing service work for Relay for Life.

In November we will help host our district's first AOL Adventure where area troops will host a Cub Scout AOL Den for a meal and activity over the weekend. This gives the dens an opportunity to learn about various troops before making a decision of which to join. Also on November 22 will be our Scouting bake sale.



Troop 888

Although the leaves have begun to change colors and everything has settled into autumn, Troop 888's itinerary hasn't slowed down one bit.

For our September campout, we found ourselves at the Kerr Scout Ranch at Slippery Falls. During this excursion, we visited the Chickasaw Cultural Center where we had the opportunity to witness a performance of a Chickasaw Stomp Dance. Rachel, a member of our troop, described the experience as "meaningful". She stated that she loved seeing other cultures share their heritage and stories with the world. Following this, we went to the Bedre Chocolate Factory where many members indulged in addictingly sweet treats!

In addition to campouts, Troop 888 has also organized and executed several parking sales and popcorn fundraisers. These events help provide funds for our troop and directly contribute to our scouts' successes.



First Presbyterian Church

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

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

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THE NEXT AMBASSADOR
DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 23, 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.