

VOL. 64 NUMBER 4 · MAY 2022

THE AMBASSADOR

A publication of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater



SUMMER GIFT
JUNE 24-26
@ Lake McMurtry
Stay overnight or just come
for the daily activities



Register for Summer GIIFT by June 17th!
See page 4 for details!

PENTECOST SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 5 @ 11:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP HALL • RADIO
LIVESTREAM • FACEBOOK LIVE

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Wear colors of fire (red, orange, yellow) as we
celebrate the Spirit's movement among us!

Come early for Summer Fellowship in the
Hospitality Area from 9:30-10:45 a.m.

This issue:

Behind the Walls
PAGE 5

Worship News
PAGE 7

New Member Spotlight
PAGE 9

Stephen Ministry
Testimonial
PAGE 10

Preschool Thank-You
PAGE 13



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 & Youth
Ministries

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 Ministries

Kelly McCarley
kelly.mccarley@stillwaterfpc.org

Childcare Coordinator

Erin Lawson
childcare@stillwaterfpc.org

Youth Ministry Assistants

Elijah Ankrom
Haley Brobston

Children's Ministry Assistant

Preschool Director

Dana Brown
dana@prespreschool.org

Building Supervisor

Vickie Foust

Custodian

Mike Flowers

Fair Trade Store thanks!

Many, many thanks to all the shoppers both young and old who attended the "Spring Cleaning Sale" on April 24. Merchandise was arranged with social distancing in mind in the Hospitality Area and Fair Trade Store. By spreading everything out, shoppers could really see all the items to make their choices. During the summer, the Fair Trade Store will be open from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm every Sunday. The 'spring cleaning sale' will continue through August with everything in the store being 50% off the marked price except for the food items (chocolate, coffee, tea, olive oil). However, recently out-of-date chocolate is on sale for \$1.50 a bar, bagged coffee and K-cups are \$3.00 a bag/box, and tea is \$1.50 a box. Coffee is usually between \$6.50 to \$8.00 a bag, so \$3.00 a bag is a great bargain. Please stop by either before or after the 11:00 am service and shop for graduation, Father's Day, and occasions. The store is still full of wonderful products made by artisans from around the world.

Recently, I read an article in the Christian Century wherein the author described a theatre practice that I was taught in undergrad: "lean into your weird." Jason Byassee, professor of homiletics and biblical hermeneutics at the Vancouver School of Theology in British Columbia, writes, "It's what God gave you to reach others. Don't shed it, like a provincial accent. It's part of your metastory. Call it your giftedness by the Holy Spirit if you like." A colleague and friend from seminary introduced me to a new challenge that others will probably find "weird."

A company started the 100 Day Dress Challenge by sending dresses to 50 volunteers and asked them to wear the dress for 100 days. (They wash the dresses!) The results ended up being more powerful than ever expected. A community formed that supported women to feel their best, recover from forms of trauma that connected with certain types of clothing, and reclaim a part of themselves. Over 3,000 individuals have participated in this challenge.

In addition to empowering women, I am drawn to this challenge because it has raised my awareness of the impact that fashion production, textiles, and washing clothes has on the environment. Fashion production makes up 10% of humanity's carbon emissions, dries up water sources, and pollutes rivers and streams. What's more, 85% of all textiles go to the dump each year (UNECE, 2018), and washing some types of clothes sends a significant amount of microplastics into the ocean (Geneva Environment Network). The average American family washes about 300 loads of laundry per year (National Park Service).

By participating in the 100 Day Dress Challenge, I hope to raise awareness of the environmental impact of having a closet full of clothes as well as best practices for washing loads of laundry. As I "lean into my weird" beginning June 1, I hope you will ask me questions and have honest conversations about the impact that some things we don't often think about have on our planet. If you would like to learn more about this challenge, visit <https://journal.wooland.com/post/2020/5/1/100-day-dress-challenge>.

Peace, Pastor Jenny

Letter from Leah

For freedom Christ has set us free.'

-Paul's letter to the Galatians 5:1

Besides marking our time in minutes, hours, days of the week, or months of the year, much of our communal lives are ordered by celebrating holidays. It wasn't so different in Jesus' time: gospel writers frequently note the holiday when recalling a particular lesson from Jesus, or the fact that it was the festival of Pentecost (a Jewish holiday first) when the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples gathered in Jerusalem.

It is not too often, though, that a new holiday is added to our common life. Juneteenth, the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States, is not a new holiday for many Black people in the U.S., but it may be a new celebration for those of us who grew up white and less aware of the history of slavery and emancipation in our country.

As of last year, Juneteenth is now a federal U.S. holiday and an invitation for all of us, no matter our racial background, to remember our past, give thanks for the end of this institution of slavery, and commit to our part in advocating for the freedom of one another. Once, slavery was upheld and defended even by many Christians in our country. Also in our history are many of Jesus' disciples who declared the institution of slavery to be incompatible to the good news of Jesus Christ, who breaks down every barrier between us.

Sojourner Truth was a Black woman born enslaved. In adulthood, she gained her freedom and used her experience, wisdom, and Christian faith to bravely call for the end of slavery in our country. Truth's Christian faith and call for justice is best summed up by her own words in 1863: "Children, who made your skin white? Was it not God? Who made mine Black? Was it not the same God? Am I to blame, therefore, because my skin is Black? Does not God love colored children as well as white children? And did not the same Savior die to save the one as well as the other?"*

Our new worship series *Faces of Our Faith* kicks off on June 12, right after Pentecost Sunday. The first people in our faith history we will contemplate are Paul, Philemon, and Onesimus. Onesimus was enslaved to Philemon, and the Apostle Paul advocates for his freedom. This summer season is the right time for us to explore all the ways that Christ makes us free to love one another and speak truth for the freedom of others.

In resurrection hope,

Leah

*<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/sojourner-truth>

"God is Change - / Seed to tree / tree to forest; / Rain to river, / river to sea; / Grubs to bees, / bees to swarm. / From one, many; / from many, one; / Forever uniting, growing dissolving - / forever Changing. / The universe / is God's self-portrait.

- Octavia E. Butler, "Parable of the Sower" (1993)



SUMMER GiFT

JUNE 24-26

@ Lake McMurtry

Stay overnight or just come
for the daily activities



Register for Summer GiFT by Friday, June 17 at www.stillwaterfpc.org/gift

Summer GiFT is a time to be together with all generations – enjoying the great outdoors and celebrating God’s creation and our connections to it and one another. ALL ages are invited to this weekend of fun, fellowship, and faith.

Stay overnight or come for the daily and nightly activities. Those who came to the FPC Camp Out last fall said it was a “do not miss” event so you definitely don’t want to miss Summer GiFT! Check out our schedule and join us for the fun.

You’ll find all the fun happening (including worship on Sunday morning) on the WEST side of Lake McMurtry, at RV loop 7-14.

GIFT SCHEDULE - JUNE 24-26

FRIDAY

- 3:00p RV/tent set up
- 6:00 Dinner & S'mores
- 7:00 Evening Celebration
- 7:30 Small Group Activity
- 8:00 Campfire Sing-Off
- 9:00 Vespers

SATURDAY

- 8:30a Breakfast
- 9:30 Morning Celebration
- 10:00 Small Group Activity
- 10:30 Large Group Games
- 12:00 Lunch
- Aft. Outdoor activities
(fish, hike, kayak, paddle board, yard games)
- 6:00p Dinner
- 7:00 Creation Connection
- 9:00 Outdoor movie

SUNDAY

- 8:30 Breakfast
- 9:30 Worship
- 1:00p RV/tent check out

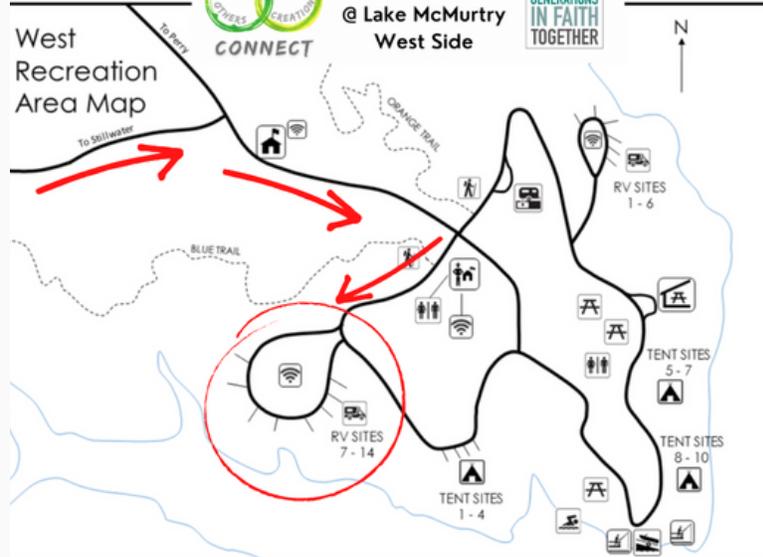




SUMMER GiFT
JUNE 24-26
@ Lake McMurtry
West Side



West Recreation Area Map



- Dump Station
- Boat Ramp
- Restrooms

- RV Campsite
- Swim Beach
- Trail Head

- Tent Campsite
- Picnic Area
- Group Pavilion

- Entry Booth
- Fishing Dock
- Ranger Station

- Wi-Fi Hotspot
- Disc Golf

FPC has nine campers attending summer camp this summer. Please pray that they have an enriching week full of growth and fun! Oklahoma Presbyterian Network is providing a charter bus for Oklahoma campers attending the week of June 12-17 so we can develop community among Oklahoma children and youth on the way to camp and the way back. Ask a child or youth about their church camp experience this summer!



BEHIND THE WALLS

A Trustees Update



Trustees extend their appreciation to all the volunteers including the Scouts and Scout Leaders who helped with the FPC Garden Workday recently. Your efforts really made a difference!

It feels like summer will soon be here. Did you know our Church campus has 17 Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) units helping to keep our facilities cool during the summertime? There are units spread throughout the Sanctuary, Preschool, Fellowship Hall and elsewhere. It takes a lot of “hardware” to help cool over 47,000 square feet. Regular maintenance including changing belts and filters occurs. A professional contractor regularly inspects all the units to service as needed and make repairs or clean when required. We try to watch the temperature and be reasonable but, yes, this takes a lot of electricity in the Stillwater summers. We strive to stay ahead of problems but sometimes a unit is in need of repair and we move as quickly as possible to keep us all comfortable!

A picture of one of the HVAC units located on the north end of Fellowship Hall is included for your information.

SUMMER

2022

YOUTH
MINISTRY
AT FPC

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- 6 PYG-NIC & SERVE 11:45 AM-3:30 PM
Bring a sack lunch to the Couch Park playground, and then we'll walk to Our Daily Bread to serve our neighbors.
- 12-17 SUMMER CAMP @ FERNCLIFF CAMP
- 21 TACO TUE SDAY @ Old School Bagel 11:30AM-1:00PM
Bring money for your meal! We'll grab a bagel and then walk over to Theta Pond for a PYG-nic! Pick up at Willard Hall parking lot.
- 24-26 SUMMER GIFT @ LAKE MCMURTRY (west side)
Fun for your whole family! Stay the night or come for the daily and nightly activities. Begins Friday at 6:00pm, Saturday at 9:30am through the day/evening, and worship Sunday at 9:30am.
- 28 TACO TUE SDAY @ Chipotle 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
Bring money for your meal!

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- 7 DIVE IN MOVIE 8:00-10:00 PM
You're invited to the Campbell's house for a swim and a movie! Wear your swimsuit; bring a towel and a snack to share.
- 12 FUN @ FRIOS 7:00-8:00 PM
Cool down with a popside and some fun at Frios (423 S. Main).
- 20 TULSA TRIP 8:30 AM-5:00 PM (meet at FPC parking lot)
We'll head to Tulsa to enjoy the Gathering Place, lunch, and experience Greenwood Rising Black Wall St. History Center.
- 26 TACO TUE SDAY @ Thai Loco 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
Bring money for your meal!
- 28 FPC GAME NIGHT 6:00-8:00 PM
Fun and games for your whole family at FPC!

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- 2 FUN @ FRIOS 7:00-8:00 PM
Cool down with a popside and some fun at Frios (423 S. Main).
- 18 PARENT GATHERING 7:30-8:30 PM
@ the Berry Creek Clubhouse. Come chat with other youth parents and hear about the year ahead in youth ministry.
- 21 SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUME 9:45-10:45 AM
PYG FALL KICKOFF 5:00-7:00 PM
Kick off the school year at PYG!
- 28 PRE SBYTERIAN YOUTH GROUP (PYG) 5:00-6:30 PM



**FACES
OF OUR
FAITH**
BOLD & UNTOLD STORIES

Worship News

New! Summer Worship Series Begins June 12 Faces of Our Faith: Bold and Untold Stories

There are many heroes of the faith: people we admire and hope to emulate. However, there are even more ordinary people of faith—those doing what they can with what they have to make a difference. This summer, we will dig deep into the bold and untold stories of those often overlooked in our biblical narratives. May these characters remind us that we all play a role in shaping God's story of redemption and love.

Just some of the Bible stories and persons we will cover are Jonah, Deborah, Philemon, Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego, Joseph of Arimathea, and more!

We will also build an art installation together throughout the summer to give God thanks for these faces of our faith and the faithful they help us see in our midst.

Chancel Choir

The **Chancel Choir** is on summer hiatus until August, when rehearsals will resume on August 24. We look forward to welcoming both new and returning voices this fall.

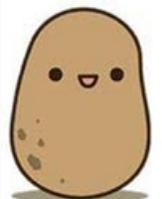
Our **Cantors** this summer are Choral Scholars Amanda Barber and Jack Moffatt. In addition to helping lead our congregational singing, they will offer vocal solos of varied musical styles. We are grateful for their availability and willingness to serve.

I am deeply grateful to the FPC staff and congregation for time away this summer to be with far-flung family in Australia and Richmond, Virginia, and to attend the long-awaited in-person national convention of the American Guild of Organists in Seattle. **Organists** during my absences will be David Hughes, Micheal Crockett, and Brett Carver. Please welcome and thank each of them for their worship leadership from the organ and piano!



Children & Worship Videos

Children and Worship in-person will resume on August 21st. Over the summer, short, wonder-filled worship videos are available at www.fpcfaithfulfamilies.com/children-and-worship



Becky's Bench Buddies

Anyone aged 7 and up is invited to join Becky at the organ for a worship service! Summer opportunities are June 12, 19, and 26, July 17 and 24, and then any Sunday after August 7. Please contact Becky if you or your child or grandchild would like to do this: (405) 762-6212 or rebecca.tevelde@stillwaterfpc.org.

Two's Company on the Organ Bench!

Adult Education & Fellowship

Summer Adult Classes

- *Faith and Fellowship* is not your traditional Sunday School. It is for adults of any age that want to develop a sense of community with study, community service and social functions. *Faith and Fellowship* study topics are selected by the members of the class. Most topics are guided by a video series and the discussion that follows is led on a rotating basis by class members. Recent topics have included World Religions, the Gospel of John, and our current in-depth study of The Apostles' Creed. **The class meets on Sundays at 9:45 am in the Multi-Purpose Room** and will continue to meet through the summer. Everyone is welcome to visit! You will find a welcoming group of people interested in learning.
- *Delivered into Covenant*, a study of Walter Brueggemann's book by the same title, is a continued study of the book of Exodus. Led by Rev. Jenny Hardin and Rev. Leah Hrachovec, this class will **meet weekly on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30pm in the Hospitality Area beginning Wednesday, June 1**. Please email Pastor Jenny at jenny.hardin@stillwaterfpc.org or call the church office to register.

July Seasoned Adults

Monday, July 18

5:30pm gathering and
6:00pm dinner



We had a great turnout for our May Seasoned Adults program! Thanks to Gary and Nancy Simpson for making the trip up from Austin to present a beautiful program on Georgia O'Keeffe.

We will not meet in June, but mark the date for our July 18th meeting, when we will welcome Jarrod Beckstrom, a development manager for Apex Clean Energy. He will provide an overview of the renewable energy industry, discuss new technology and opportunities, and talk about challenges facing the renewable energy industry.

Faith on Tap
Monthly on the first Thursday
7:30 pm
at The State Room
in the Atherton Hotel on OSU's Campus
(park in the Union Parking Garage)
Join us for a time of table fellowship this summer! During June, July, and August, we will meet at The State Room.
No registration is required to join.

This summer we'll meet in The State Room of the Atherton Hotel on OSU's Campus (Park in the Union Parking Lot, located on the corner of Washington and University.)

Deacon's Corner

- The Little Free Pantry is still getting a lot of use. We are consistently in need of items such as: Vienna Sausages, canned beans and soups (especially with "pop top" openers,) ramen noodles, single serve fruit cups and individually wrapped snack bars.
- Our Daily Bread Food and Resource Center currently is low on several items. If you can help replenish their supply, please bring any of the following items to the Narthex and place them in the shopping cart:
 - Paper towels & Toilet paper (individually wrapped rolls only, please!)

Can you help us pick up our order from the food bank?



Each month, we place an order with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma for food and other supplies to supplement our Saturday Brunch Ministry. We are responsible for picking up our order when it is delivered to Our Daily Bread on the third Thursday of each month, and we are seeking volunteers with pick-up trucks to help. Sign up [here](#) or contact Associate Pastor Jenny Hardin in the Church Office.



New Member Spotlight: Holly Chermack

Holly Chermack, a new member here at FPC, tells a little bit about herself and her reasons for joining this faith community. Welcome, Holly!

What draws you to life at FPC? The first class I took was Invitation to Personal Prayer with Sharon Bennett and then Summer Bible Study in 2021. The Richard Rohr Universal Christ Sunday School class was very enlightening and helpful to me as well. I am discovering that Christianity is so much bigger than what I learned in my childhood Methodist church. FPC is a safe place to worship and practice my faith. I love the music and the choir. I respect the church's stance on social justice issues and inclusiveness. The church works hard to reach out to the community online and make services available to everyone. It is a warm and welcoming place to work on becoming a better person. I am grateful to be here!

How are you involved at FPC presently? I started coming to Presbyterian Women's Circle last year. I go to Second Mile Sewing group where I crochet prayer shawls. I go to Bible Study, Feasting on the Word Sunday School class, Seasoned Adults, and Midweek Prayer. It is amazing to feel the power of prayer.

What do you like to do in your spare time? I crochet baby blankets, afghans, hats, scarves, scrubbies, etc. I like to try new patterns. I make an afghan for my Mom every Christmas. I like to read and listen to audiobooks. I love genealogy and work on researching my family history.



A Stephen Ministry Testimonial

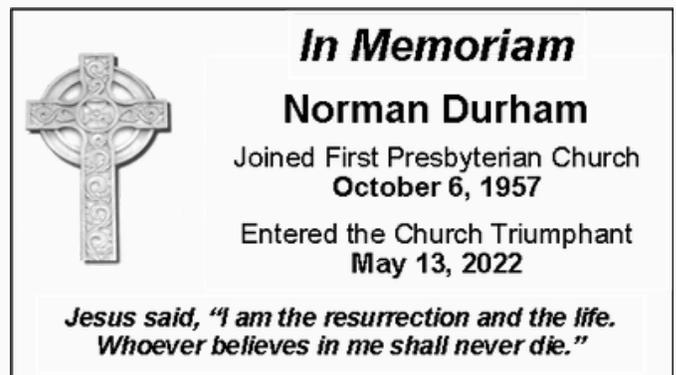
by Stephen Minister Denise Rex

Stephen Ministry is a confidential, one-on-one, listening ministry that is designed to help people through the ups and downs of life: grief, life changes, loss, and physical and spiritual setbacks. But you may wonder, "What happens during that hour?" There is listening. And sharing thoughts, feelings, and worries, all in a confidential setting. When I first became a Stephen Minister, I thought, "How can talking help so much? How do time and listening make such a change?" My Care Receiver was equally astonished and is so grateful that the process does work, that she has given her permission for us to share her thoughts with you:

"I was so hurt by my loss, so full of grief, that I knew I needed help or I might not make it. So, I asked for a Stephen Minister. I remember walking into the church, seeing her sitting there and thinking, "What are we going to talk about for an hour?" But I did talk: we introduced ourselves and then I talked about myself, my spirituality, and my grief. She asked if she could pray and what I needed that prayer to sound like, to be about. Then we did the same thing the next week and the next. I would have bet money that talking would not make a difference because my feelings were so strong. I mean, I can see how counseling would help, but just talking?!"

And time?! It makes no sense that passage of time would help. But I know it does. Sometimes, when we meet, I just talk about anything. Then after a while, I get around to painful feelings. Sometimes, as I talk, I find out what's really hurting me. And I found out from my Stephen Minister that I am not alone—others have felt like I do and made it. It is frustrating, though, because you can't manipulate time, you just have to live through it. But I had someone to go through it with me who never judged my emotions and never talked about them with anyone else. That was important to me. Grief used to be the first thought of my day. Now I can remember my loved one without also feeling deep loss. I tell everyone, if you are hurting, just talk! You don't have to be eloquent or even use full sentences. Just say, "I feel this."

Each Stephen Minister has one Care Receiver. If you would like to have a confidential, trained person to whom you can say, "I feel this," please contact the church office or a Stephen Minister leader: Carolyn Caldwell (carcaldwell@sbcglobal.net), Kay Stewart (kay.stewart@suddenlink.net), Linda Burks (lburks@suddenlink.net), or Linda Good (lskgood@aol.com).



Prayer Concerns

Lavon Alexander (Howard)
 Amanda (Hrachovec)
 Nick Amidon (Garoffolo)
 Shea Arnett (N. Thomas)
 David Awtry
 Baker
 Carrie Ballenger family (Ballenger)
 Betty Bays
 Zella Beers (Fairbanks)
 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
 Ed Gallegos (Wilkinson)
 Omar Garcia
 Dorothy Gibbons (Holland)
 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

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)
 Chancey Nickerson (FPC Office)
 Pricilia Nkem
 Joyce Odom (Hardin)
 Our Service Men & Women (Kraemer)
 Frances Phillips (Taylor)
 Jean Potts (Bills)
 Paul Quarles (Bobo)
 Tim Rains (Silver)
 Lisa Reavis (Stewart)
 Larry & Margaret Redburn (McCarley)
 Jack Reeves
 Sara Roberts (Osborn)
 Cooper Russell (Savage)
 David Schmidly (Shaw)
 Frank Schull (Hrachovec)
 Bob & Bonnie Siddon (Stiegler)
 Karen Shippey (Swim)
 Brylee Shullanberg (Stiegler)

Jeffrey Silver
 David Smith (Cooper)
 Ted Smith
 Perry Sneed (Johnson)
 Jamie Stephens (Burgoon)
 Bobby Don Stevenson
 (Beckstrom/Houston)
 Christine Stone (Fairbanks/Cornelius)
 Debbie Stout
 Phyllis Taylor
 Torres-Barber family (te Velde)
 Upendo Kids (Shawley)
 Emily Walker (Walker)
 Nelda Wallace (Blosser)
 Barbara Ware (Fansler)
 Darrell Warren (Silver)
 Jim Wasson (Wasson/Emmet)
 Marilyn Waters-Seig
 Lynda 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)

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):

John Mark Day (chair)

Ken Belanus

World Mission &

Denominational Concerns:

Gerrit Cuperus (chair)

Donna Koeppe

Worship & 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 Session of First Presbyterian Church met in its stated meeting on Tuesday, May 10 at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall with Zoom option. A quorum was present and Pastor Leah Hrachovec moderated. Elder Judi Baker offered an opening thought and prayer. Highlights of Session action:

- Authorized a small group of Elders to receive those requesting membership by meeting with them between this stated meeting and the stated meeting in July
- Approved the use of \$500 Session funds to support musicians at Stillwater Community United Juneteenth celebration on Saturday, June 18 at Southern Woods Park
- Discussed the Parish Paper "Reaching Out to Low-Income Neighbors"
- Discussed upcoming all-committee Big Calendar Planning for 2022-2023
- Received a report from the Treasurer that FPC has received notice of a gift from the estate of Polly Harrison, long-time member of FPC
- Elected Ruling Elders Gerrit Cuperus and Cathy Fairbanks as Commissioners to the Tri-Presbytery meeting on June 3-4 hosted by FPC - Tulsa

The meeting closed with prayer by Leah Hrachovec. Session voted in its April stated meeting to cancel the stated meeting in June. The next stated meeting of Session is Tuesday, July 12th at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall with Zoom option.

Financial Statement	April	Year to Date	% of Budget
Giving	\$75,376.33	\$259,650.56	39.24
Other Income	\$7,949.66	\$39,141.93	40.64
Total Income	\$83,326.29	\$298,792.49	39.41
Expenditures	\$59,759.43	\$244,090.92	32.24
Net	\$26,566.86	\$54,701.57	



Scout Updates

- Over the last month the Scouts have continued to grow in their friendships and Scout skills. They participated in the church garden work day and had the opportunity to interact with church members and staff. They also had some basic sewing instruction, learned some knots, played clothesline limbo, and baked some goodies for a bake sale. Thank you to the entire congregation for all the support you have shown our Scouts. We couldn't do it without you! If you'd like to keep up with their Scouting journey, feel free to visit our Facebook Page - 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 performed service projects for the church and Camp Sylvia Stapley in the past month. We camped and went wild caving at Alabaster Caverns and helped with Track and Field at the Special Olympics. We are preparing looking forward to summer camp in June as well as several other service projects. Contact Scout Master Bruce Greenshields at troop820bsa@gmail.com for more information.



PRESCHOOL PARENT: NEW OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT

The following words are from E., a parent of several children who have attended Presbyterian Preschool here at FPC over the years. Her family has been just one of those whose lives have been transformed through your annual pledged giving and Preschool Endowments, including the Gumm Preschool Endowment Fund Your gifts make a difference!

"The scholarships that have been provided made it possible for us to send all of our littles through the preschool program over the past 8 years.

Presbyterian Preschool has been a constant for our kids and family through moves, job lay offs, growing our family, losing loved ones, adoption and more. The preschool has been an environment that all 5 of our children have flourished in, giving them a head start in their school years and that wouldn't have been possible without the scholarships we have been granted.

We are finalizing the adoption of our middle kiddo this summer, the scholarship our littlest has had this year has allowed us to save more to put towards those costs. What started out as childcare during college courses has turned into a piece of our family tradition. We are so incredibly thankful to have been given the opportunity to send our Littles to Presbyterian Preschool all these years, with the help of the Deacons' support.

Thank you!"

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

Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 143

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship at First Presbyterian

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:45 am Faith and Fellowship Class

11:00 am Hybrid Worship Service

KSPI Radio (94.3FM/780AM)

Facebook.com/StillwaterFPC

www.stillwaterfpc.org/listenlive

Midweek Prayer

Wednesdays 12:10pm via Zoom

THE AMBASSADOR

MAY 2022

First Sunday
Summer Fellowship
Sundays
June 5, July 3, August 7
9:30am-10:45am
in the Hospitality Area



First Sunday Summer Fellowship

9:30-10:45am; June 5, July 3, and August 7
Join us in the Hospitality Area on First Sundays this summer to enjoy some coffee, treats, and fellowship! We look forward to seeing you there!

When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ.

PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

MATTHEW 25

Pentecost Offering

Each year on Pentecost Sunday (this year, June 5), we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come. Stillwater FPC will keep 40% of the funds raised through the Pentecost Offering to support programs for young people in Stillwater.