

VOL. 64 NUMBER 9 · ADVENT 2022

THE AMBASSADOR

A publication of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater

ADVENT AT FPC

ADVENT I - November 27

8:30 am Worship & Communion

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship & Communion

Pick up Advent devotionals for all ages and return Giving Tree gifts
.....

ADVENT II - December 4

8:30 am Service of Lessons & Carols

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Service of Lessons & Carols

Giving Tree gifts due back today
.....

ADVENT III - December 11

8:30 am Worship & Communion

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

A Night in Bethlehem

Living Nativity & Meal to-go; 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Drive-thru: begin at the 5th St entrance and end at the Southeast lawn.
.....

ADVENT IV - December 18

9:45 am Christmas Eve Rehearsal

11:00 am Worship
.....

BLUE CHRISTMAS - December 21

7:00 pm Worship in the Worship Center
.....

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 pm Family Service & Communion

11:00 pm Candlelight Service & Communion
.....

CHRISTMAS DAY

11:00 am Worship & Communion

This issue:

OFFICE CLOSURE &
YEAR-END GIVING

Page 2

LETTER FROM KATI

Page 3

ADVENT 2022

Page 7

JANUARY SERIES

Insert

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Page 12

SCOUT UPDATES

Page 15



First Presbyterian Church Staff

Interim Pastor
Kati Collins
kati.collins@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

Childcare Coordinator
Erin Lawson
childcare@stillwaterfpc.org

UKIRK Assistant
J Jones

Youth Ministry Assistants
Elijah Ankrom
Haley Brobston

Children's Ministry Assistant
Bekah Bowman

Preschool Director
Dana Brown
dana@prespreschool.org

Building Supervisor
Vickie Foust

Custodian
Mike Flowers

Office Announcements

End of Year Giving - Church Office Closed Dec. 26 thru Jan. 1

Please be aware that the Church Office will close at 5 p.m. Friday, December 23 and reopen Monday, January 2 at 10 a.m. All 2022 donations must be hand delivered by 5 p.m. Friday, December 23 OR postmarked no later than December 31, 2022 except for those placed in the Sunday offering plate on December 25, 2022. Any donations not postmarked 2022 must be considered a 2023 contribution by the church. Please plan your end of year charitable contributions accordingly.

What is a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)?

What does it have to do with me?

What does it have to do with First Presbyterian?

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a direct transfer from an IRA to a qualified charity, and FPC is a qualified charity. Only individuals who are 70 ½ or older may make QCDs. QCDs count toward the required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year in which the QCD is made. Unlike withdrawals from an IRA, a QCD is not taxable income to you and unlike other contributions to the church, a QCD is not tax-deductible for you. Nevertheless, a QCD can be advantageous for a charitably-minded IRA owner and the charity she/he selects. To execute a QCD to First Presbyterian Church, instruct your IRA trustee or custodian to make a transfer from your IRA directly to First Presbyterian Church. You can use a QCD to pay your pledge and/or make a special gift. In any case, please alert Mary Beth at the church office that a QCD is coming and any special instructions. Upon receipt, the church will provide you with an acknowledgment of the non-deductible QCD contribution. If you have further questions, please contact Cathy Fairbanks, Church Treasurer cathy.fairbanks@stillwaterfpc.org or Mary Beth Garoffolo, Finance Assistant marybeth.garoffolo@stillwaterfpc.org.



"Starry Bethlehem" by Rebekah Krevens



"This is the day the Lord acted; we will rejoice and celebrate in it!"

Psalm 118:24 CEB

On my second day as your new interim pastor, I traveled to Newkirk with Rev. Jenny and 3 Elders to celebrate the life of the FPC of Newkirk as they deed their properties to a new and upcoming congregation while closing their own. Rev. Dr. Gordon Edwards, our General Presbyter and a previous pastor of ours, gave the homily with a combination of scriptures throughout the Bible which spoke of hope for new life in the face of death. "This is the day that the Lord is creating," Gordon said. "God is still creating." I still had in my ears words from Jenny's sermon on my first Sunday with you, as she reminded us of how God spoke through Isaiah to say, "Look, I am creating, I am doing a new thing." Both of them were reflecting the generative nature of God throughout time. For the Great God of the Cosmos that we worship and serve set time into motion and continues to interact in our present and our future.

When the Psalmist and Isaiah expressed their certainty of God's activity, they had no physical evidence in their present. They were surrounded by war, death, destruction of buildings, famine, disease and other great disparities which discouraged God's people to the point of wondering, "Where is God now? Who will deliver us?" The Psalms were written down and verbally passed from generation to generation in song to remind the people that God continues to create and form each day for our personal and corporate benefit, all in God's delight. Isaiah and other prophets spoke to the people and their scribes recorded their words so that generation after generation could envision a God who intends to bring their salvation and provide for them on earth and in heaven. These same words comfort us in our grief and disbelief by calling us to gratitude and faith while we wait in the unknown.

We may not be surrounded by war or destruction, but we have experienced worldwide loss and disparity over the last several years. Many of us have experienced first hand the tragedies caused by pandemic, and we all have layers of ambiguous grief and trauma as we continue to carry the pain of others that we witnessed. Like the Psalmist and the Prophet Isaiah, we are called to name where we see God at work and where we see God creating a new thing, so that the generations surrounding us can believe in the faithfulness of our Everlasting God.

I am here to hold space for us in a season of generation--God is generating new things in the seen and unseen, and God is speaking through the youngest and oldest generations among us. From the generation of compassion and grace to the generation of funds and repairs, from the great generation of baby boomers to generation z and alpha, our knowledge of God blossoms like a rose bush revealing more beauty with each blossom, carrying history, present and future in each moment. I see my role as a mirror to help you see one another and see Jesus more fully in the world around us. I will be asking questions and I will be listening, but mostly, I am here to celebrate what God is doing among you, and help you to name that for yourself. For this is the day that God is generating, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Rev. Kati Collins



Sent by God, Just for Me: A Stephen Ministry Story

"I was 26, newly divorced, living far away from family and friends, and dealing with a lot of guilt, shame, and low self-esteem. Was I a total failure? Would anybody ever want me? Was God condemning me because of my divorce?"

I found a new church and made some friends, but still struggled. It seemed like all my church friends were perfect, happy, and full of faith—while I was flawed, gloomy, and full of doubts. When I shared some of this with my pastor, she suggested a Stephen Minister.

Before I met my Stephen Minister, I was worried she would judge and reject me once she learned about my past and got to know the real me. But she didn't. She was patient, loving, and accepting. I truly believe she was sent by God just for me.

We got together weekly. She'd ask me questions, get me talking, and then listen as I shared my struggles and doubts. She showed me God's love even when I didn't feel it. Over time, her faithful care helped me to see that perhaps I wasn't such a terrible person after all. Through her loving care, I began to think that if God loved me, then maybe I could love myself too.

After a while, I got to a better place emotionally, and our Stephen Ministry relationship ended. A few years later, I remarried and had a miscarriage, and she was there for me again as a Stephen Minister, providing the care and support I needed. We now live over a thousand miles apart—but she will always hold a special place in my heart.

If you're dealing with any kind of difficulty, if you're struggling with faith questions or doubts, if you're wondering whether you are a worthy person, then I encourage you to consider getting a Stephen Minister.

It just might be that God already has a special one picked out just for you."

The above was shared by Stephen Ministries St. Louis. An individual at a staff member's church anonymously shared a powerful story about how a Stephen Minister made a profound difference in her life when she went through some difficult times. She gave her permission to share her story with Stephen Ministry congregations worldwide.

Perhaps you can identify with the above story. Or perhaps you have experienced a different type of loss, or are struggling to feel "normal" coming out of pandemic. If you feel you might benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please talk with Pastors Kati Collins or Jenny Hardin, or Stephen Leader Carolyn Caldwell.



Update on Drinking Fountain in Honor of Pastor Leah

During these months since the celebration of the Rev. Dr. Leah Hrachovec's tenure at FPC, the work has continued toward arranging for purchase and installation of the outdoor drinking fountain, bottle filler, pet dish unit in honor of her. There have been some hurdles, but we are confident one will be installed – just not as soon as we hoped. Contributions to this project are still being accepted. (please write drinking fountain in the memo line.)

From the Organ Bench

Chancel Choir

Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings 7:00-8:15pm in the Westminster Room (choir room) and Sunday mornings at 10:15am in the choir loft. For more information, please speak with Becky te Velde at (405) 762-6212.

Upcoming Sundays of Musical Note:

- The Choir will be on hiatus from December 25 to January 15. Rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, January 18.
- Rebecca te Velde will be out of the office on Sunday, January 1, and Brett Carver will be joining us from the organ bench.

First Friday Peace Jam

6 PM Potluck Supper
7-8:30 PM Music Jam

This gathering is for everyone - bring a friend and a dish to share! Please join us on December 2nd!

Questions? Please contact Jim Beckstrom
(james@beckstromgroup.com)



Christmas Carol Program

Sunday, December 4, 2:30pm @ FUMC

The Cimarron Chapter of the American Guild of Organists invites everyone to sing familiar carols and enjoy organ and handbell arrangements of them. The hour-long program is free.

Congregational Meeting Summary

The congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, OK met for the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 23, 2022, at 12:15 pm as a meeting in-person with a few joining by electronic means via Zoom. A quorum was present. Jenny Hardin called the meeting to order and opened with a prayer. The purpose of the meeting was to elect elders, deacons, trustees for three-year terms and unexpired terms, elect a pastor nominating committee, and elect at-large members of the 2023 nominating committee.

Rusty Rex, 2022 co-chair of the nominations committee, presented the slate of nominees for Elders, Deacons, and Trustees. There were no additional nominations from the floor for the above offices.

Those elected as Ruling Elder for a three year term, unless otherwise stated:

Jenny Bobo	Cathy Conway
*Lisa McGaw	Dustin Reavis
David Silver	Kathy Thomas
Vivyanne Bobo (youth/YA one-year term)	
Courtney Savage (unexpired one-year term)	
Judy Ferrell (unexpired two-year term)	
John te Velde (unexpired two-year term)	

Those elected as Deacon to the Board of Deacons for a three-year term, unless otherwise stated:

Holly Chermack	Tim Hardin
Ellen Ingram	Terry Shreve
Aaron Stoutzenberger	Eric Windhausen
Ella Parsons (youth/YA one-year term)	
Gary Holland (unexpired one-year term)	
Mary Beth Garoffolo (unexpired one-year term)	

Those elected as Trustees to a three-year term:

Larry Caldwell	William Cole
Dennis Ferrell (unexpired two-year term)	

An 11-member slate was presented to the congregation to vote for five (5) at-large members to serve on the 2023 Nominating Committee. Those elected:

Amy Hardin	Barbara Henderson
Eric Savage	Tom Williams
Deborah Schoenecke	

A seven-member slate was presented to the congregation as the Pastor Nominating Committee:

Ed Arquitt	Casey Campbell	Virginia Charter
Claire Leffingwell	Denise Rex	Tim Schlais
Tammy Wasson		

The Nominating Committee and the congregation is grateful to all those nominated for their willingness to serve.



Prayer Concerns

Lavon Alexander (Howard)
 Gary Allen
 Nick Amidon (Garoffolo)
 Shea Arnett (N. Thomas)
 David Awtrey
 Baker
 Betty Bays
 Steve Bender
 Mandy Blackburn
 Rose Marie Bligh
 Rita Breuninger
 Helen Britton
 Belinda Bruner
 Wayne Cartwright (Koeppe)
 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)
 Caroline Driskell
 Matthew Durham (Shawley)
 Eva Elassi (Mulvey)
 Lori Fagan
 Mike Flowers
 Bob Freeman
 Joyce Freeman (Osborn)
 Ed Gallegos (Wilkinson)
 Omar Garcia
 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)
 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)
 The McCoy Family
 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 (McCarley)
 Jack Reeves
 Sara Roberts (Osborn)
 Retha Schlais (Schlais)
 David Schmidly (Shaw)
 Frank Schull (Hrachovec)
 Karen Shippey (Swim)
 Jeffrey Silver
 David Smith (Cooper)
 Ted Smith

Perry Sneed (Johnson)
 Christine Stone (Fairbanks/Cornelius)
 Debbie Stout
 Phyllis Taylor
 Teresa te Velde
 Upendo Kids (Shawley)
 Nettie Vick
 Jill Wahnoutka (Savage)
 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)



WELCOME ARCHIE!

Archie Houston Beckstrom was born on October 29, 2022 to Jarrod & Samantha Beckstrom

Advent 2022: From Generation to Generation

Our Advent liturgy will feature Words for Worship from the series by A Sanctified Art entitled, *From Generation to Generation*. The artists took their inspiration from Mary's song of protest and praise: "Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation." (Luke 1: 48b-50) Despite the challenges and vulnerability she faced, Mary could glimpse the scale and scope of the good news she was part of bringing forth. This good news transcends time and space—it was and is bigger than just her. Christ is coming for collective liberation: God's redemption is at work for years to come. Therefore, the promise is meant to be lived out and passed on from generation to generation.

We are invited to look at the characters in our scriptures and wonder: What did each character pass on or contribute? How did each character participate in God's liberation and love? Which characters try to thwart God's justice and what can we learn from them? What is our role now? What is our generation's task? What will we carry forth, and what should we leave behind? The root word of "generation" is "gen" meaning "origin" or "birth." Our theme is also a call to action: what are we being called to generate or bring forth? What have your ancestors and those who have come before you passed on for you to continue? Who are the spiritual elders in your community who planted the seeds for the things that are now blooming? What seeds are you planting for the future? *From Generation to Generation* reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. In the midst of narratives, policies, and rhetoric designed to divide us, what does it look like to practice belonging to one another? The work of God is always unfolding— in and through us. This Advent season, how will we carry it forth?

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

Sunday, December 11, 5:30-7:00pm

You're invited to a special night to reflect on the Christmas story. This event begins with a drive-thru, then park and enjoy the Living Nativity, carol sing, live animals and more!

- Enter the main FPC parking lot from the 5th street entrance and drive to the south end of Fellowship Hall to receive a to-go meal (chili or mac and cheese).
- Then continue to the covered driveway to:
 - Drop off donations for the Little Free Pantry
 - Shelf-stable food (canned meats, fruits/veggies with easy-open tops, rice, pasta.)
 - Toiletries and baby products
 - Menstrual hygiene products for the Red Pantry
 - Receive a reflections page to use as you view the Living Nativity
 - Receive a children's bag for any children in your vehicle
- Finally, drive to the east side of the church to view the Living Nativity on the southeast front lawn. Fair trade hot chocolate and apple cider will be served, and fair trade items will be available for purchase (cash or check only). Enjoy live animals, as well as a carol sing together every 20 minutes!



Advent Devotionals for All Ages

Available in the Narthex Display



For families with children – GodVenture Sticker Advent Calendar calendar + stickers + book = story

The GodVenture Sticker Advent Calendar guides busy families through a fun, easy way to enjoy reading the Christmas story during the Advent season. Every calendar comes with its own book and stickers. The Christmas Story book features the story as told from the gospel of Matthew and Luke, divided into smaller sections for daily readings. Each day, add a sticker to the calendar and watch the story grow! The story and stickers go through Epiphany (January 6th).



For youth and adults – Shadow and Light

Advent is a season of looking forward to the new light of Christ, but as Barbara Brown Taylor says, we'd be missing out on half the story if we didn't also find grace and wonder in the midst of shadows. Each week you'll use scripture, song, prayer, and practice to prepare yourself for the birth of the Christ child, finding what is holy in the spectrum from shadow to light.

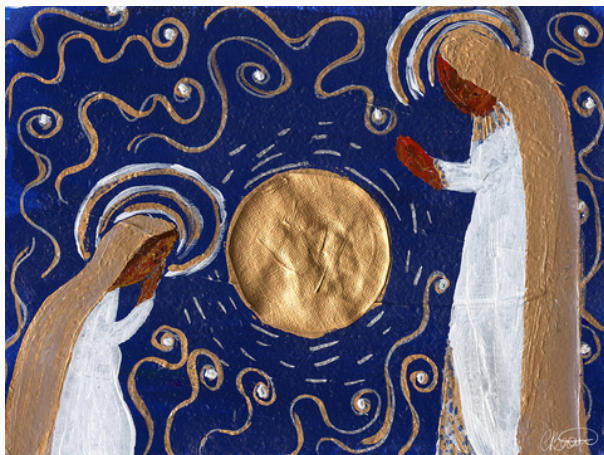
Available in two formats: devotional booklet or advent calendar.



For adults – From Generation to Generation

Taking inspiration from the same liturgy and Words for Worship we will be using this Advent season, *From Generation to Generation*, the 2022 Advent Devotional from A Sanctified Art, reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. The work of God is always unfolding - in and through us. Join us as we remember that we belong to this story and to a love that will never let us go.

Digital and large-print versions of *From Generation to Generation* are available upon request.



Mary's Golden Annunciation, by Carmelle Beaugelin



The Golden Pilgrimage, by Carmelle Beaugelin

Advent 2022: Highlights

Service of Lessons & Carols - Dec. 4th

Two identical services at 8:30 & 11:00 am including anthems and solos from the Chancel Choir, congregational carols, and the traditional Scripture readings telling the history of Jesus' family and preparing us for his birth.

Return Giving Tree gift cards - Dec. 4th

Gift cards purchased from the Giving Tree are due back to the church on Sunday, December 4th. Please see the back page for more details.

Christmas Eve Rehearsal - Dec. 18th

Children ages 3-5th grade wishing to take part in the telling of the Christmas story at the Christmas Eve 4:00pm service are asked to attend a rehearsal at 9:45am in the Sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 18th. Sign up in the weekly children's ministry email.

Blue Christmas Candlelight Service - Dec. 21st

This Advent worship service makes space for a somber celebration of God's gift and lifts up the loss we carry through the holidays. On the longest night of the year, December 21st, we come together in our sadness of the season and pray for peace in our hearts and in our world. We will offer our losses in prayer as swaddling cloths for the savior and take comfort during our waiting for Jesus to come. Poetry and music will carry our prayers to God, the creator of the universe, maker of all that is seen and unseen. This service will be on Wednesday, December 21st, at 7:00pm in the Worship Center. Childcare will be provided in the nursery.

Christmas Eve Family Service - Dec. 24th at 4:00pm

All are invited to this family-friendly service which includes Christmas carols, an interactive telling of the Christmas story, Communion, and candle-lighting. Join us as we raise a joyful noise to celebrate the Incarnation. Youth musicians who are playing for the service are asked to arrive at 3:30pm for a rehearsal.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Dec. 24th at 11:00pm

Join us for our traditional candlelight service with Communion and choir and a special musical prelude beginning at 10:45pm.

Christmas Day Service - 11:00am

Join us for a celebratory worship service with Communion on Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Each year, we receive contributions to the Christmas Joy Offering, one of four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us - past, present, and future - who have pointed us to God.

We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much.

Please consider a gift to support past, present, and future leaders. Thank you for your support of the Christmas Joy Offering in the past and for your generosity during this season!



Flight to Egypt, by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman



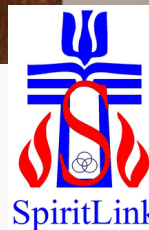
"Mary" by Rebekah Krevens



Children's & Youth Ministry

Children & Worship

- December 11 - last Children & Worship this semester
- January 15 - Children & Worship resumes



SpiritLink Singers

Our SpiritLink Singers will sing in worship during the 11:00 am worship service on Sunday, December 4th!



ADVENT @ HOME

Children in SpiritLink and Faith Kidnection classes have been busy the past few weeks making Advent crafts that will guide your family in faith at home during the Advent season! Projects will be sent home on Nov. 27th.

The Hay for the Manger and the Advent wreath both come with instructions sheets to help lead your family in simple practices of faith during this Advent season.

PRESBYTERIAN • YOUTH • GROUP



For ALL 6th-12th graders

Sunday evenings

PYG is 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!

November

- 27 - No PYG - Happy Thanksgiving!

December

- 4 - PYG Christmas Party (5:00 - 7:00pm)
- 11 - A Night in Bethlehem (5:30-7:00pm)
- 18 - No PYG
- 25 - No PYG

January

- 6-7 - Lock-In (8:00pm-8:00am)
- 8 - No PYG
- 15 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)

Sunday, Dec. 4th | 5:00-7:00 p.m.
3602 W. Fountain View Ct.

Don't stay
HOME ALONE.

Come to the
**PYG Christmas
Party!**



**YOUTH
LOCK-IN**

January 6
@ 8:00 pm
to
January 7
@ 8:00 am



Adult Education & Fellowship

Adult Sunday School Classes - Sundays @ 9:45am
 Sunday School Classes will end for 2022 on December 11 and resume on January 15, 2023.

- "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 continuing a study of *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor, an Episcopal priest. In this book, she recounts her moving discoveries of finding the sacred in unexpected places. This class meets in the Multipurpose Room.
- "Celebrating Sabbath". Led by Rev. Jenny Hardin, this class is using the 2022-2023 Horizon's Bible Study to explore the themes of Sabbath. Meets in the Library.



Faith on Tap

Meet at Stonecloud Brewery (917 S. Husband St.) at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of the month (December 1, January 5)

Stonecloud does not serve food and you are welcome to bring your dinner or snacks.

Fair Trade Store

Santa's helpers have been busy and Christmas has arrived in the Fair Trade Store! The store will be open every Sunday before Christmas from 10:30am to 12:30pm but will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. If you cannot shop on Sunday, Julie Bills can meet you any time by appointment. Join the Fair Trade Store Facebook page at Stillwater FPC Fair Trade Store to see pictures of some of the nativities, tree ornaments, and other holiday decorations. You will find great gifts for everyone on your list, and you will be supporting artisans around the world receive a fair wage for their crafts which will help improve their lives. Don't forget that on Sunday, December 11th, cocoa, coffee, and chocolate will be for sale outside by the Living Nativity from 5:30 - 7:00 pm.

~ Store Manager Julie Bills (jbills2007@hotmail.com/(405) 880-4072).



UKIRK

We are thrilled that students are joining us for worship and life together. See below for upcoming fellowship opportunities. You are always welcome, even if we haven't seen you for a while!

- Sundays, immediately following the 11:00am service - Snacks and devotional time in the Hospitality Area
- Sunday, December 4 - Fellowship Lunch, immediately following the 11:00 service. Students can also pick up finals care packages at the lunch.

Questions?

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)





As in past years, we will decorate the church with poinsettias for the Christmas season. If you would like to help with the purchase of these, please fill out the form below and return it with payment in the offering plate or the Church Office by ***Monday, December 12.***

1) Please **PRINT** below EXACTLY as you would like it to appear in the bulletin (December 18, 24, 25):

To the Glory of God and the Christmas season, today's flowers are given by

_____ (your name(s) as you want it printed)

(choose one) ☐ in memory of ☐ in celebration of ☐ in honor of

(name, event, etc.) _____

2) Include your payment marked "***Poinsettia.***" (Make checks payable to "***First Presbyterian Church***")

of poinsettias _____ x \$12.50/each = \$ _____ total enclosed ☐ Check ☐ Cash

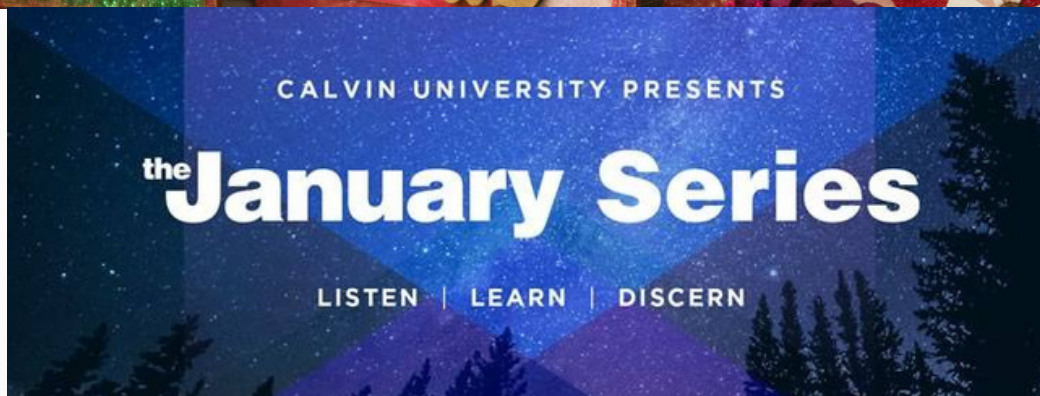
Your Name: _____

3) Please check one:

☐ I/We will take a poinsettia(s) home after the December **24**, 11:00 pm service.

☐ Please use my contribution to purchase poinsettias for the Sanctuary that will be distributed to members by the Deacons at Christmas. I understand that any remaining money beyond what is needed for distribution will be used for the *Christmas Joy Offering*.





The January Series will be broadcast once again to a LIVE audience in FPC's Fellowship Hall beginning Monday, January 9th, 2022, and continuing weekdays through January 27th. This will be the 36th edition of the award-winning series provided by Calvin University, and the 7th time FPC has had the privilege of hosting the broadcast. As always, admission is free, and FPC's doors are open to all. All programs begin promptly at 11:30 am and end at 12:30 pm.

If you are not able to attend in person, all programs will also be available online until midnight PST of the day they are broadcast. Visit www.calvin.edu/january for details.

The January Series is a FREE 15-day award-winning lecture series that takes place each year at Calvin University. The series aims to cultivate deep thought and conversations about important issues of the day, to inspire cultural renewal and make us better global citizens in God's world. We are thankful to share this special gift with our local, regional, and global community, thanks to our underwriters.

To help you in marking your calendar, here's the complete lineup:

- Monday, January 9: Dr. Sara Hendren; *What Can a Body Do?*
- Tuesday, January 10: Monica Guzman; *Reclaiming Curiosity in Divided Times*
- Wednesday, January 11: Nate Mook; *The Urgent Pursuit to Nourish the World*
- Thursday, January 12: Rev. Kyle Meyaard-Schaap; *Following Jesus in a Warming World*
- Friday, January 13: Dr. Amy Kenny; *My Body Is Not a Prayer Request*
- Monday, January 16: Dr. Gregory Thompson; *To Stick With Love: King's Vision for Today's Movement*
- Tuesday, January 17: Kaia Kater; *Song Selections*
- Wednesday, January 18: Dr. Noah Toly; *Learning Together, Living Together: What the World Needs from Christian Liberal Arts Education*
- Thursday, January 19: Kerri Arsenault; *Family and Environmental Legacies*
- Friday, January 20: Dr. Moo Cooper; *Diversity in STEAM from a Real Life Guardian of the Galaxy*
- Monday, January 23: Ken Jennings; *And the Answer Is: Why Is It Better to be a Generalist?*
- Tuesday, January 24: Peter Wehner; *How Christianity Can be a Healing Force in American Society*
- Wednesday, January 25: Dr. Esau McCaulley; *What is African American Biblical Interpretation and Why Does the Whole Church Need it*
- Thursday, January 26: Efosa Ojomo; *The Prosperity Paradox and the Power of the Market-Creating Innovation*
- Friday, January 27: Dr. Kate Bowler; *Life After Perfect*

Stewardship Update

As holiday lists are made and checked, fully funding FPC's 2023 operating budget remains to be done. Just like voting, every pledge is important. The Session has no choice but to budget within the resources you provide. Currently, we have only 111 pledges totaling 80% of what is needed for 2023. 2022's budget was funded with 144 pledges.



Many thanks to those who have already made their commitment. We are stronger together because of your participation.

The current year is fraught with unexpected changes and altered personal circumstances. If you are experiencing trauma, please let me or a Stephen minister know so that we might lend an ear, a shoulder, or a hand.

If you have not done so already, please complete your pledge by returning a card, or through the Church's website: <https://www.stillwaterfpc.org/giving>. The Church office, 405-372-5580, can make arrangements if you wish to receive a pledge card.

Session will begin the New Year with a budget set to meet the financial resources committed by the Congregation.

Our former pastor, Leah, had faith that we will continue working towards a more peaceful and just world. Let's meet the opportunities in 2023 head on.

Sincerely,
Tim Krehbiel, Stewardship & Finance Committee Chair
(405) 612-0045; tim.krehbiel723@gmail.com

PW News



PW/Circle will meet Wednesday, December 14, at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Jenny will lead the Bible Study, Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight, Lesson Four: Sabbath and Surrender. Following the lesson the women will participate in the Fellowship of the Least Coin "noisy offering" which brings about reconciliation, peace and justice throughout the world through grants given to projects, scholarships, and relief efforts that have been supported by prayers and least coins.

In November the women participated in the Thank Offering with a collection of \$303. Received in the fall each year, it gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. Thank Offering Grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. At least 40 % of the offering funds health ministries. Since 1988, Presbyterian Women has granted more than \$26 million to nearly 1,700 different projects worldwide through the Thank Offering.

All women and guests are welcome! If you have any questions about PW/Circle please contact Mary McKinley, moderator, 405-377-4367.

Deacon's Corner



Little Free Pantry & Red Pantry

The Little Free Pantry is a community "Leave What You Can, Take What You Need" ministry of FPC. Modeled after the Little Free Library program, the Little Free Pantry provides a food resource for those who have need and a place to give back for those who have plenty.

Popular items include: Vienna sausages, canned veggies, soups, and fruit. Personal care items such as toothbrushes/paste and toilet paper are also welcome (individually wrapped items only, please). The Red Pantry, located in the lower half of the LFP, addresses the growing need of 'Period Poverty' by providing menstrual products. Again, individually wrapped items only, please.

If you aren't able to shop, a monetary donation can be made directed to the Little Free Pantry or Red Pantry. Questions? Contact Deacon Tim Hardin or Associate Pastor Jenny Hardin.

Our Daily Bread Food & Resource Center

Our Daily Bread Food & Resource Center gets the majority of its groceries from the Oklahoma Food Bank and from grocery store reclamation. However, there are popular items that are not always available via these sources, and then ODB turns to the community with specific requests. Currently, they are in need of the following:

- Juice (non refrigerated) in 64oz bottles (orange, pear, apple, cranberry mixes)
- Ensure nutrition drinks
- Juice boxes
- Canned gravy, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, ketchup, mustard, mayo

BEHIND THE WALLS: A TRUSTEES UPDATE

Expect to see work on our Church Campus roof over the coming months. Our lead contractor, Mid-Continental Restoration Company, began the roofing project on November 21 and hopes to have everything completed by the end of the year. Sub-contractors include Guaranteed Roofing, Inc. and also Byers Company. This will be a project totalling \$252,765. Our claim for hail damage with our insurance company (Church Mutual) will cover about 75% of this expense when recoverable depreciation is included. We have had several leaks following rain events over the past several years. Most of our roof shingles on Fellowship Hall are past their useful and expected life and these will be replaced. The total project will include new shingles on most of the campus as well as decking and guttering/drain installation. We have valuable equipment and assets under our roof. Certainly, we have many programs that serve our Congregation as well as the community. We are excited to improve and enhance the roof protecting our place of worship and the many programs in service to our Mission.

One of the ways the work of the Trustees supports the outreach missions of First Presbyterian is through equipment maintenance in both the Fellowship Hall commercial kitchen and the Hospitality Area kitchen. In the last two years with the generous contributions from Presbyterian Women we have replaced the large freezer and the heated holding/proofing cabinet. However, for keeping everything functional we have a maintenance contract with twice a year inspections of all heating/cooling equipment. In addition Building Supervisor Vickie Foust completes routine cleaning of kitchen equipment and tools. If you find anything not functioning in the kitchen or encounter problems, please notify Andrea Arquitt.

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:

Stewardship & Finance:

Tim Krehbiel (chair)

Cathy Fairbanks

Ken Belanus

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:

Cathy Fairbanks

Personnel:

Kiah Butcher (co-chair)

Rusty Rex

Endowment Liaison:

David Conway

Nominating Committee:

Tim Krehbiel (co-chair)

Rusty Rex (co-chair)

COVID Response Task Force:

Rusty Rex

Session Summary

The November stated Session meeting of First Presbyterian Church took place in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 7:00pm, with the option to join via Zoom. A quorum was present and Rev. Gordon Edwards moderated and opened the meeting with a thought and prayer. Highlights of Session action:

- Approved request from the Night to Shine Committee to use Fellowship Hall on February 10, 2023.
- Approved request from Anthea Bates and Ross Zollinger to have their wedding at FPC on June 17, 2023.
- Heard a report from Stewardship & Finance and Church Treasurer on status of Together for Joy Stewardship Campaign. Additional renewing and new pledges are needed to meet ministry needs in 2023.
- Received the October 31, 2022 membership report, indicating 507 members.
- Approved motion from the Personnel Committee to close the church offices from December 26, 2022 - January 1, 2023.
- Received resignation of Elder Kathy Essmiller

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Gordon Edwards at 9:00pm. The next stated Session meeting is Tuesday, December 13 at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall with a Zoom option.

Monthly Income / Expense Report			
	October	Year to Date	% of Budget
Giving	\$ 61,234.40	\$ 564,217.96	85.27
Other Income	\$ 9,363.81	\$ 87,451.32	90.79
Total Income	\$ 70,598.21	\$ 651,723.28	85.97
Expenditures	\$ 53,074.89	\$ 597,441.89	78.92
Net	\$ 17,523.32	\$ 54,281.39	

Scout Updates

- In the past month, **Troop 820** helped the American Legion with their annual pancake breakfast fund raiser at their request. We also worked with Cimarron Council and other local troops with the Spook-O-Ree at Will Rogers Scout Reservation where we assisted with the set up and take down of a haunted hay ride and running games for the Cub Scouts attending. Additionally, 820 scouts helped set up and run the pumpkin patch carnival at Highland Park United Methodist Church. We also held two multi-unit popcorn show and sells in the church Narthex in October. In November, we have a Cub-O-Ree scheduled for local Webelos and Arrow of Light scouts where they will have the opportunity for an extended overnight visit with 820 to give them a chance to see how Scouts BSA troops operate and have a chance to ask questions. December 19, we are having a Christmas party in the FPC Fellowship Hall for Troops 820, 888, and Pack 3842 where we will also have a court of honor for those who have achieved rank advancement in the past several months.
- **Troop 888** spent the last weekend of October serving area Cub Scouts. They taught roughly 140 Cubs about aerodynamics, static electricity, and chemical reactions through fun activities. They also staffed a spooky hayride, led songs, and helped clean up during and after the event. Every single Scout demonstrated leadership skills, kindness, patience, empathy, compassion, and the ability to adapt. This fantastic group of young ladies' behavior was so spectacular that they caught the eye of a local Cub Scout family attending and were able to recruit the Cub Scout's older sister as a new member so our troop continues to grow. As the end of 2022 nears, we would also like to share with you some of Troop 888's accomplishments. Since the Troop's formation in March, the troop has provided 239 hours of service, and has spent 16 nights camping! Troop 888 has also completed the BSA National Outdoor Challenge Award, and earned the BSA's Journey to Excellence Gold Award! None of this would have been possible without the generous support of the FPC congregation, so thank you for your continued support! If you'd like to keep up with Troop 888's 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 trop888gbsa@gmail.com.
- **Pack 3842** met at OSU Health Services to learn about First Responders. They were able to tour an OSU police officer's vehicle and learn what they do. Then Mr. Travis Eastman shared what happens behind the scenes. Cimarron Council sponsored a Spook-a-Ree that included a day of crafts, hikes, rock wall climbing, shooting, boating, camping, and finished with a haunted hayride. The Bear den (3rd grade) worked on building wood planter boxes with Mr. Eric Savage. The Webelos (4th) and AOL (5th) worked on first aid with the help of Mr. Tyler Fine. Some of the Tiger (1st) and Wolf (2nd) dens participated in the Veteran's Day assembly at Will Rogers Elementary by posting the colors. If you know of a child in grades K-5 who may be interested in Cub Scouting, please contact Kelli Black at pack3842@gmail.com.



The Advent 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 thru December 11

8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Hybrid Worship Service

Sunday Worship Schedule December 18 - January 8

11:00 am Hybrid Worship Service

Midweek Prayer

Wednesdays 12:10pm via Zoom



Time for the Giving Tree!



The Giving Tree is up in the Narthex! To support this outreach ministry simply select gift request cards from the Giving Tree, purchase the gift cards, and return them to the church. Please be sure to sign in the folder whose color matches your card when you select the request cards, return a request card with each gift card you purchase, and place a check mark by your name to indicate your card(s) have been returned. The folders are located on the small table to the right of the elevator in the Narthex.

Please purchase gift cards and return them to the church by **Sunday, December 4th**. Deacons will be in the Narthex to receive your purchases and help you with record keeping at the following times: Sunday, November 27th between services and after the 11am service; Monday Nov 28th from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm; Friday, Dec 2nd from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm; Sunday, December 4th between services and after the 11am service. If none of those times works for you to deliver your purchase(s) please contact Sharon Bennett or Teresa Ansley. Thank you in advance from the Deacons for participating in our Giving Tree project this year. The agencies that we serve are so grateful for the gifts we provide to their clients!

If you have any questions, please contact
Sharon Bennett (sharon.bennett33@gmail.com) or
Teresa Ansley (tjansley@yahoo.com).

