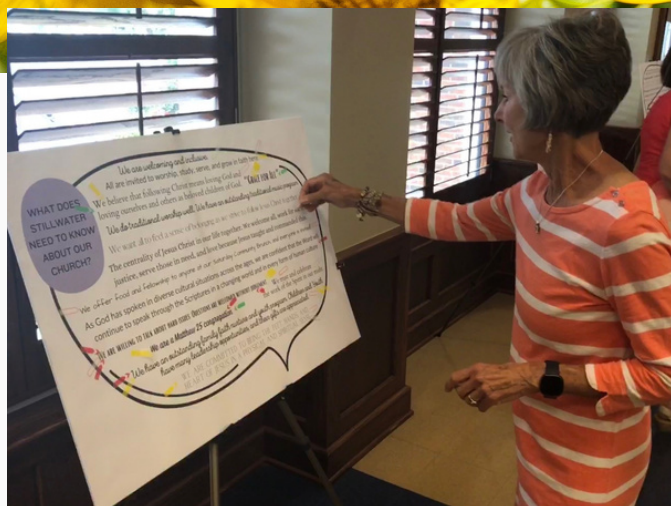


VOL. 65 NUMBER 5 · SUMMER 2023

# THE AMBASSADOR

A publication of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater



## Visioning Survey Results

See page 3 for details



## Meet Leigh Miller

Coordinator of Children & Youth

See page 12 for details

## Mission Sunday is June 25!

Farewell Fellowship Time to the  
Campbell Family @ 10:00 am

&

2023 Mission Team leads worship  
@ 11:00 am

In Fellowship Hall

See page 14 for details

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## First Presbyterian Church Staff

Interim Pastor

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Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Jenna Campbell

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Jesse 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

## Announcements

### Staff Serves Wider Church

You may have noticed that our staff have been traveling more these last weeks, and here's what they've been up to:

- Kati is in Dallas working on her Doctor of Ministry degree at SMU June 5-16
- Jenny is at Massanetta Springs Camp & Conference Center attending the UKIRK National Gathering June 11-16. She will also be serving as Spiritual Director at Camp Gilmont July 2-7.
- Jenna is at Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center for a week of summer camp with FPC campers June 11-16. She will move to Carlisle, PA with her family in July.
- Becky has been traveling in England and Germany, meeting with Oxford University Press and other composition colleagues and returns on June 12. She and John will then be traveling to Australia to visit family, including their newest granddaughters, July 4-August 10.

FPC has ten campers attending summer camp June 11-16. Please pray that they have an enriching week full of growth and fun! Due to a generous donation provided by a donor in honor of Jenny Broyles, the Oklahoma Presbyterian Network is providing a charter bus for Oklahoma campers 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!

### Budget Update from your Treasurer

The Income/Expense Report below looks ok, but as they say "looks can be deceiving."

At the January Congregational Meeting, Session presented the 2023 budget which projected a \$30,000 deficit. The budget also included using the 2022 budget surplus (half due to the vacant Pastor position; ½ year vacancy in both Ukirk & Older Adult Ministry positions; decreased Summer GiFT expenses; decreased non worship childcare; etc.)

Traditionally, giving decreases during the summer months. This financial snapshot will likely show negative numbers by the end of summer.

Bottom line: if all predicted giving is received and all budgeted funds are spent, FPC will end with a \$30,000 deficit in 2023.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for all you do and give.

Cathy Fairbanks, Treasurer

[cathy.fairbanks@stillwaterfpc.org](mailto:cathy.fairbanks@stillwaterfpc.org)

### Monthly Income / Expense Report

	May	Year to Date	% of Budget
<b>Giving</b>	\$ 49,682.27	\$ 259,831.54	41.16
<b>Other Income</b>	\$ 6,482.68	\$ 42,079.83	48.75
<b>Total Income</b>	\$ 56,164.95	\$ 302,911.37	42.81
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$ 66,413.45	\$ 302,817.18	41.01
<b>Net</b>	\$ (10,149.50)	\$ 94.19	





## Letter from Kati

*Acts 1:8b "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

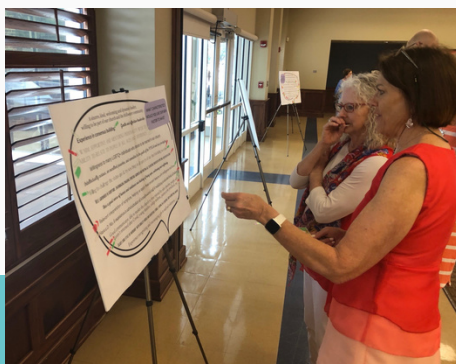
I was amazed at the willingness of people to tell their stories on Pentecost Sunday. I had heard about the moving stories told in Pentecost worship services of the past (going back more than 20 years!). This year did not disappoint! We had a large crowd, and many stories were told of the movement of the Holy Spirit in the lives of our members and in the life of this church. Stories about healing, stories about how the people they have met in this church have shown a living example of grace, stories about what it means to have a church family, stories about finding support and encouragement when you are looking for direction.

Before worship we had posters sharing some of the responses to our Congregational Visioning Survey. The Growth and Sustainability Taskforce has completed their summaries of the responses and their research, and they will report to the Session on June 20th. After that, the report will be shared among committees. Some of the most remarkable things I have heard over and over about this church, from small groups and individual surveys, are that we are "Always asking questions, not just following what people say," we have "vibrant and active youth and children's programs", and "We welcome all, work for social justice, serve those in need, and love because Jesus taught and commanded this." Many people want this to be true of their church, but few churches stand up to the test. From what I have seen over the last six months, you truly love Jesus, you love people, and you use your hands and words to show what that means. You welcome all, because that is how you read the Bible and how you feel called by Jesus to love EVERYONE. This church has something very relevant and unique in our divided and troubled times.

You are also not afraid to talk about difficult things. One of the hardest questions in the survey was confronting the challenges of financial management in a time where the price of groceries has skyrocketed and inflation has climbed quicker than the average income rates. The problems our church faces are no different than any household or organization. As one of our trustees puts it, "Our congregation is a home owner, and this home experiences a lot of traffic with all of our residents and guests. So naturally, we have to plan for the repairs and construction that result from active use and life." Plus, in our service oriented culture, there are many organizations doing important and relevant things, so how do we engage our members into a stewardship effort with sustainable use of the finances we have available to us? Some of your responses asked for more information about our finances, and others asked for easier ways to give in worship. Your stewardship and finance committee would agree, and they are already preparing a more informative and engaging season this fall.

As this church continues into a new season, we are embracing the opportunity to remember why we do what we do and believe what we believe. Larry James, the leader of CitySquare, a nonprofit fighting poverty in Dallas through service, advocacy, and friendship, says "Roadblocks often signify you're headed in exactly the hard, difficult direction that current circumstances demand." What ministry of this church feeds your soul? Who do you know outside of this church that could benefit from the support and grace we know from Jesus? Stay tuned to be a part of this next chapter in the life of our church, as we lean into grace and share love with our community.

*Pastor Kati*





## Deacons Corner

### Growing Family Baskets is Growing!

New parents receive gift baskets from the Board of Deacons. Now we are expanding to include new parents in the preschool! If you would like to sew a flannel receiving blanket or burp cloth, knit or crochet a baby blanket, donate child items from the Fair Trade Store, or donate new baby/child clothes to add to our Stash Box, please let Holly Chermack ([hchermack@gmx.com](mailto:hchermack@gmx.com)) or Janet Waugh ([janet.waugh@aol.com](mailto:janet.waugh@aol.com)) know. We want to help FPC to welcome new children into God's Family.

*See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John: 3*



### Deacons Helping in Our Community

Did you know that the Deacons financially assist a number of community agencies and projects with gifts of support? Each month we provide funds to several local agencies. Last month we sent funds to support Project Graduation at Stillwater High School, Stillwater Community Health Center, Stillwater Wings of Hope (domestic violence shelter) and Stillwater Interfaith Counseling. This month we are providing help to:

- Stillwater Mobile Meals - which provides hot meals to the convalescing, elderly or homebound persons in Stillwater,
- Payne County Youth Shelter - which offers non-profit substance abuse treatment, emergency shelter, transitional living, and crisis services to children, youth, young adults, and families
- The Saville Center - which provides services for children with allegations of abuse

Each check we send is modest but it makes a difference when our funds are pooled with others in their budgets. We support these community agencies because they make a real difference in the quality of life for those in need in our community. But our gifts of support would not be possible without your generous annual pledges and your continuing donations to our general budget. Thank you!

### Our Daily Bread Volunteer Work Day

Saturday, July 15

8:45 am - 12:00 pm

Join the Deacons for our next Volunteer Work Day at Our Daily Bread! Arrive by 8:45am to sign in and receive instructions from the Our Daily Bread staff before beginning work for the day. We will help guests shop for what they need, unpack boxes, stock shelves, etc. Please register so we know to expect you:

<https://stillwaterfpc.breezechms.com/form/b611fb829417>





# Intergenerational Ministry

## Summer GiFT Recap

Once again Summer GiFT (Generations in Faith Together) plans had to be changed due to the weather. Last year we had to move inside due to extreme heat and this year a stormy forecast prompted a change of plans. We gathered Friday evening, June 2nd, at Lake McMurtry for dinner, a campfire, songs and energizers, small group time, and planned to end the evening with Vespers as it grew dark. Instead, Mother Nature opened the skies and it poured on us after only a couple hours of fellowship together. There was much laughter and dancing in the rain before we called it a night.

Sunday morning we gathered in Fellowship Hall for breakfast and decorating friendship rocks to leave little notes of encouragement for others. Keep an eye open for those rocks around the church and around town - you may find one where you least expect it! Summer GiFT worship was an interactive and creative service involving all attendees with singing, a time for sharing stories of seeing God's work within FPC and in our lives, and the celebration of Communion. If you weren't able to join us this year, consider coming along for Summer GiFT in 2024! We'd love to see the entire congregation gather together to celebrate God's work in the world.







## Dedication of Outdoor Drinking Fountain

An outdoor drinking fountain which includes a bottler filler, drinking station, and pet dish has been installed on the south side of Fellowship Hall. Many of you contributed to make this wish a reality in honor of Pastor Leah and her service to FPC. Thank you!!!

The fountain is working, and ready to be dedicated in Leah's honor. Watch for an announcement very soon of the fountain dedication service.

The plaque says: This Fountain is given in thanksgiving for Rev. Dr. Leah Hrachovec, our Pastor 2007 to 2022, who taught and lived Matthew 25. *"For I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink." Matthew 25:35*

## Children & Youth Ministry

### Leader Launch - Save the Date!

Sunday, August 13th  
9:15-10:45am in Fellowship Hall

For all volunteers working in children's and youth ministry for the 2023-2024 school year. Come and be inspired and equipped for service!

PYG KICKOFF  
{6th-12th graders}  
AUGUST 20  
5:00-7:00PM

Save the Date

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
KICKOFF  
5th grade & under + families  
AUGUST 26  
6:30PM  
BOOMER LAKE

## Dwight Celebration @ Dwight Mission

June 24, 10:00am - 4:00pm

Many of you remember summer camp or conferences at Dwight Mission Camp and Conference Center. In 2021, Dwight Mission gave the original land to the Cherokee Nation. This celebration is a time to honor the past of Dwight Mission and celebrate the future possibilities of ministry at Dwight Mission.

The grounds will open at 10:00am.

Morning Celebration and worship begins in Barto Chapel at 11:00am.

Then enjoy a picnic at the creek (bring your own food, water bottle, and chair) and an afternoon of enjoying the grounds. We'll have some games and crafts too!

Restrooms and the kitchen will be available in the updated Oxley building, as well as restrooms in Finney Lodge, but all other buildings will be closed.

Come and celebrate Dwight Mission!

**DWIGHT CELEBRATION**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 24  
@ DWIGHT MISSION

10:00a - 4:00p Grounds Open  
11:00a Morning Celebration & Worship  
BYO Picnic Lunch at the Creek



# Youth Ministry

PRESBYTERIAN • YOUTH • GROUP



Presbyterian  
Youth Group

## For ALL 6th-12th graders Summer Youth Calendar

### June

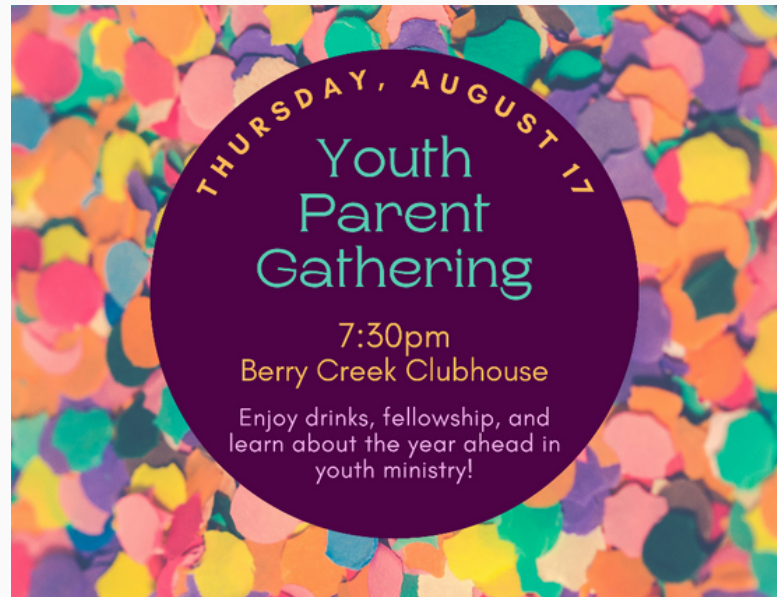
- 20 - Taco Tuesday @ Ted's Tacos & Cantina  
(11:30am - 12:30pm)
- 27 - Fun @ Frios (7:00-8:00pm at Frios  
Popsicles on Main St.)

### July

- 10 - PYG-nic @ Couch Park (11:45am-12:45pm)  
Volunteer at Our Daily Bread (12:45-3:30pm)
- 11 - Registration deadline for OKC Fun Day
- 14 - OKC Fun day (1:00-11:00pm)
- 18 - Taco Tuesday @ Thai Loco (11:30am-12:30pm)
- 25 - Fun @ Frios (7:00-8:00pm)

### August

- 1 - Fun @ Frios (7:00-8:00pm)
- 17 - Youth Parent Gathering  
(7:30pm, Berry Creek Clubhouse)
- 20 - PYG Kickoff (5:00-7:00pm)
- 27 - PYG (5:00-6:30pm)



## OKC Fun Day

Friday, July 14th  
1:00p-11:00p

Youth grades 6-12 are invited for a day together in OKC! We'll start by exploring the First Americans Museum, then head to Wheeler Park to ride the ferris wheel, have dinner together, and end up at the Guthrie drive-in movie theater!

We'll begin and end from the FPC parking lot. Please bring a water bottle and money for dinner! Register by Wednesday, July 11th at [www.stillwaterfpc.org/youth](http://www.stillwaterfpc.org/youth).

# Adult Education & Fellowship



## Seasoned Adults

Monday, June 19

5:30pm gathering,

6:00pm dinner,

and 6:45pm program in Fellowship Hall

Our program for June will be a presentation from Robbin Davis, director of OSU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Dinner will be sandwiches and salads from Panera. You will also have a chance to make a hymn request for the upcoming July program - a hymn sing!

RSVPs are due by 5:00pm on Friday, June 16, and we ask that you use this form to RSVP

(<https://stillwaterfpc.breezechms.com/form/873302>). If you prefer to RSVP over the phone, please call the church office and we will add you to the list. Cost for dinner is \$12. You can pay online when you fill out the RSVP form or you can bring cash or a check when you come to the gathering.

Seasoned Adults are generally members of the congregation who have reached retirement age, but we recognize age is just a number. If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact the church office. These events are open to all, so invite your friends! Please just remember that everyone attending must RSVP, including those only attending the program.

## Faith & Fellowship Class

"Faith & Fellowship" will continue to meet throughout the summer at 9:45 am in the Multipurpose Room. Our Sunday school consists of a reading and discussion - an informal gathering open to all adults. Our current study is "A New Reformation - From Luther's World to Ours." Come join us!



OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Summer Bible Study

*Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven* by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine  
Wednesdays, June 21 - July 26

5:30 pm Potluck

6:00 pm Bible Study

You are invited to join us this summer for an in-depth look at the Sermon on the Mount. Using Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*, we will learn and grow together through the reading of Scripture, video lessons from the author, and discussion. Through Dr. Levine's engaging method of biblical interpretation, we hope to come away with a solid understanding of the Sermon on the Mount in its historical and theological context.

Each week, we will begin our time by breaking bread together with a potluck before we move into Bible study. All ages are welcome, and childcare will be available.

## Faith on Tap

Meets at Stonecloud Taproom (917 S. Husband St.) at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of the month - July 6 and August 3.

You are invited to join us for fellowship, conversation, and games! While Stonecloud does not serve food, you are welcome to bring your own dinner or snacks.





# From the Organ Bench

## Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir is on summer break until Sunday, August 20. Regular rehearsals begin on Wednesday, August 23.

### Save the Date for Open Loft Sunday on August 20!

Trade your usual pew for one in the choir loft--no robe, no anthem, just sing the congregational hymns with the choir! Everyone 7th grade and older welcome!

How many people can the choir loft hold?? Let's find out! Bring friends and family! Whether or not you've sung with a choir before, this is the day to join the choir family for a service. There is no obligation to join, but visitors beware: you could find yourselves hooked! See you in the loft on August 20!

## Organ Happenings

- 2023 AGO Southwest Regional Convention (American Guild of Organists) will be held in Tulsa June 27-30. All convention concerts are open to the public and admission is free!! (<https://agotulsa2023.com>)
- Wednesday, June 28, at 11:00am, Brent te Velde will perform at Holy Family Cathedral in Tulsa. His program will include the premier of an organ composition by Rebecca te Velde, commissioned by the convention. (<https://agotulsa2023.com/recital-brent-te-velde/>)

## UKIRK Summer Socials

- Tuesday, June 20 at 7:30 pm at Blue Spruce
- Tuesday, July 18 at 7:30 pm at Frios

Join us for our summer socials! Enjoy a frozen treat, reconnect with friends, and catch up on how the summer is going.

## Congratulations University Graduates!

Congratulations to all college and university students who graduated this spring! We are so proud of you!

\*Amanda Barber  
Joel Lanners  
Sam Markmiller  
Renee Schuette

\*Sarah Bartlett  
Quinn Leffingwell  
Cassidy McCann  
\*Georgia Wessel

\*indicates Master's Degree



## First Friday Peace Jam

July 7 - 6 PM Potluck Supper  
7-8:30 PM Music Jam  
in Fellowship Hall



Bring a dish to share, or you can just come for the music.

This is for all ages - invite your friends! This is for everyone, church and community. You can eat, play, sing, or just listen and enjoy! (And feel free to leave whenever you need to.)

Questions? Please contact Jim Beckstrom ([james@beckstromgroup.com](mailto:james@beckstromgroup.com))



## Prayer Concerns

Lavon Alexander (Howard)  
 Gary Allen  
 Amanda  
 Nick Amidon (Garoffolo)  
 Shea Arnett (N. Thomas)  
 Christopher Aupperle (Aupperle)  
 David Awtry  
 The Baker Family  
 Luz Barber  
 Baker  
 Betty Bays  
 Leola Beckstrom (Beckstrom)  
 Ann Benson  
 Mandy Blackburn  
 Rose Marie Bligh  
 Rita Breuninger  
 Helen Britton  
 Brooks  
 Belinda Bruner  
 Wayne Cartwright (Koeppe)  
 Paula Cavett (te Velde)  
 Nancy Chapa (Fagan)  
 Allison Christy (Breuninger)  
 Abby Clapp (Clapp)  
 Darlene Collyar (Silver)  
 Conrado and Miriam (Wells)  
 Andee and Kannon Cooper (Hrachovec)  
 Heather Davidson  
 Sara Davies  
 Matthew Durham (Shawley)  
 Lori Fagan  
 Jeanie Findahl  
 Mike Flowers  
 Joyce Freeman (Osborn)  
 Ed Gallegos (Wilkinson)  
 Lauren Glynn (Stewart)  
 Halana (Leffingwell)  
 Ben Harris (Wilkinson/Frohock)  
 Kendall Harvey (Shaw)  
 Mary Ann Henley (Henley)  
 Lori Henry (Osborn)  
 Charla Hilger (Roscoe)  
 Charity Hitch (Plum)  
 Nikki Hoffman (Matthews)  
 Carolynne Hopkins  
 Linda Houck  
 Sharon Huckleby (Silver)  
 Sandy Ives  
 Patty Jacobs  
 Paul Dean Jenkins (Nipp)  
 Brenda Johns (Taylor)  
 Larry Johnson (te Velde)  
 Ted Joy (Taylor)  
 Patty Keys

Patsy King  
 Mary Jane Kirchenbauer (Breuninger)  
 Margy Knox  
 Pauline Kopecky  
 Dottie & Sam Kraemer  
 Karen Krehbiel (Breuninger)  
 Heather Lanners  
 Hank Lett  
 Tracie Lively  
 Alyssa Matal (Krehbiel)  
 Larry McDonald  
 Stephanie McMillan (Taylor)  
 Philip Meadows  
 Steve Miller (Fairbanks)  
 Tresa Miller (Miller)  
 Jean Moore (Stangl)  
 Anne Mullen (Mullen)  
 Nora Nagaruk (Stangl)  
 Chancey Nickerson  
 Michelle Nicholson  
 Pricilia Nkem  
 Drew Osborn (Osborn)  
 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  
 Jack Reeves  
 Sara Roberts (Osborn)  
 David Schmidly (Shaw)  
 Bill Segall  
 Karen Shippey (Swim)  
 Jeffrey Silver  
 David Smith (Cooper)  
 Ted Smith  
 Doug Smotone (Schlais)  
 Perry Sneed (Johnson)  
 Jamie Stephens  
 Christine Stone (Fairbanks/Cornelius)  
 The Stuart Family  
 Phyllis Taylor & Helen Brake  
 Pat Thomason (Silver)  
 Tyler  
 Upendo Kids (Shawley)  
 Nettie Vick  
 Emily Walker (Walker)  
 Darrell Warren (Silver)  
 Marilyn Waters-Seig  
 Lynda Williams  
 Scott Williams  
 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)







## Preschool Update

Summer is here! In May we celebrated the end of another wonderful school year. The teachers at preschool give their all and pour love into our families and their children! If you want to see the hands and feet of Jesus at work, please come down and visit us! You will be blessed to watch them in action. I am blessed to work with such dedicated people

In June, we are offering six days of mud and water camp! We have 36 kids for two weeks coming to have so much fun participating in mud and water activities outside and lots of fun engaging activities outside. If you see us playing outside while you drive by, stop and watch us for a while. Your heart will be filled with joy.

This summer, our school will be adding some permanent musical instruments outside on the North playground. Since we have raised our STARS level to a 5 star facility, we are required to have permanent learning centers outside. We have musical instruments, art, dramatic play, water play, sand and regular outside playground equipment on the South. We need to do some upgrades on the North. We have added a permanent art center and we have already have dramatic play and regular outdoor play. These new instruments are being funded by Covid money being given in grants to preschools and other childcare facilities in the state of Oklahoma. We are so grateful to be able to continue to upgrade our play areas. Going forward I have some other improvements in mind as well!

~ Dana Brown, Presbyterian Preschool Director



## An FPC Stephen Ministry Update from Stephen Leader Linda Good

Summer is here and many of us are seeing a change in our routines—at church, at school, at home, in our community, in our work. However, your Stephen Ministers at FPC continue to provide care to hurting individuals in our congregation and community all year long. Your Stephen Leaders are already thinking about our 2023 citywide training for new Stephen Ministers which begins October 2.

Has the Spirit been nudging you, asking you to consider going through this 20 week training program so you can also care for our friends and neighbors who are going through tough times? Have you heard that still, small voice asking you to step out of your comfort zone and consider if this is a ministry to which you are being called? Perhaps others in our church family have suggested you would be a good Stephen Minister? If so, please talk to one of your Stephen Leaders—Carolyn Caldwell, Kay Stewart, Linda Burks or myself—or even talk with one of our current Stephen Ministers—Anne Belanus, Ava Osborn, Denise Rex, or Debby Schoenecke. You may also wish to check out information about being a Stephen Minister on the Stephen Ministries website.



## Goodbye and Hello

### Meet Leigh Miller: Our new Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministry!

As Jenna and family head east in July, Leigh Miller will be joining the FPC staff as our part-time Coordinator of Children & Youth Ministry. Leigh has a Master's of Christian Education from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA, which is where she met her husband, Mitchell. They have lived and worked in West Virginia and Maryland before moving to Oklahoma in 2009 when Mitch accepted a call to serve as pastor of Santa Fe Presbyterian Church in Edmond, where Leigh and Mitch currently live.

Leigh has served on the Indian Nations Presbytery Youth Committee and currently serves on the Dwight Mission Board and Dwight Programming Team. She is also the 2023 past president of the South Central region of APCE.

Leigh is currently restoring her family's farm down in Texas, where she grew up, and spends as much time there as she can. She also plays guitar, sings, and believes that her brain is 95% song lyrics.

Leigh is very excited to spend this next year with the folks at First Presbyterian Stillwater shepherding all the wonderful plans she knows Jenna has in place. Being a part of the work that the Spirit will do through the faith formation process in the body of Christ is always a gift.

Leigh will start here at FPC in mid-June. She will be in-person on Sunday mornings and Wednesdays, with remote work the rest of the week.



### A note from Jenna Campbell - See you in 2024!

As my family and I enter the last few weeks of our time in Stillwater before our next adventure in Carlisle, PA, we are busy with all the logistics of moving, finishing out ministry events here at FPC, saying "see you later" to friends, and all that goes with a move across the country. But in the midst of the busy-ness and details, I pause to give thanks for each of you at FPC Stillwater. I give thanks for this faith family that has nurtured my family and me in so many ways for so many years. I give thanks to the church, the Personnel committee, and the Session for allowing me this year to take this sabbatical and leave of absence. I'm looking forward to polishing up my curriculum to be able to share more widely with the church. I'm eager to spend time with my family, explore a new area, support Casey in his Army career, and be more engaged in family life than I've been able to for years. And I'm looking forward to resting and recharging so that when I come back (in July of 2024!), I'm refreshed for ministry among you once again. The best part of this move is the fact that we get to come back to live and serve in Stillwater and with FPC - right where we want to be.

Thank you to the staff and volunteers who will work hard to continue excellent children's and youth ministry here at FPC. We have a wonderful foundation for ministry set - we have engaged volunteers and solid structures in place to ensure that no one person will feel the full weight of my absence. Leigh Miller, who will be serving among you while I'm gone, is a good friend and colleague and I have no doubt you are in good hands with her. Plans are in place for children's and youth ministry for the next year and I'm excited to see how the Spirit moves among all of you while I'm away!

I trust in God's presence to connect us while we are separated geographically for this next year. And I will joyfully look forward to being back among you in July of 2024!

Much love and blessings,  
Jenna



## 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:

Jenny Bobo (chair)  
David Silver

### Children's Ministry:

Courtney Savage (chair)  
Jean Aresco

### Communications & Connecting:

Jill Stoutzenberger (chair)  
Cathy Conway

### Fellowship & Family:

Donna Koeppe (chair)

### Stewardship & Finance:

Kiah Butcher (co-chair)  
Tim Krehbiel (co-chair)  
Cathy Fairbanks

### UKIRK (University):

Lisa McGaw (chair)  
John te Velde

### World Mission & Denominational Concerns:

Kathy Thomas (chair)

### Worship & Music:

Dustin Reavis (chair)  
Ken Belanus

### Youth Ministry:

Rusty Rex (chair)  
Vivyanne Bobo  
Belinda Bruner

### Trustee Liaison:

Judy Ferrell

### Personnel:

Kiah Butcher (co-chair)  
Jenny Bobo  
Lisa McGaw

### Endowment Liaison:

Donna Koeppe

### Nominating Committee:

Cathy Conway (chair)  
Kathy Thomas

## Session Summary

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, Oklahoma met in its stated meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall with a Zoom option. The Opening Thought and Prayer was provided by Associate Pastor, Jenny Wells.

- Received new members (Confirmation Students and Taylor Family) – Motion to accept Margaux Melancon, Reese Campbell and Noah Taylor and Joshua, Becky and Luke Taylor as new members to FPC was moved and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Visioning Listening Session with members of the Growth and Sustainability Taskforce
- Trustees shared and invited elders to the upcoming joint meeting, Tuesday, May 16th at 6:30–Trustees, Finance, Endowment to discuss upcoming costs and financing options.
- Youth Ministry requested funds from the Sheerar Endowment Acct. to fund an extra 5 hours/week for each of our two Youth Ministry Assistants to cover additional responsibilities during Jenna's absence. \$200/month per Youth Assistant from August 2023 to May 2024, passed unanimously.
- World Mission and Denominational Concerns – The Pentecost offering will be on the 21st and 28th of May. Motion to donate the 40% of the Pentecost offering that stays local go to the Wings of Hope passed unanimously.
- Pastor Report from May Cimarron Presbytery Meeting : A committee will begin working to create a new Presbytery, which will be composed of the three Oklahoma Presbyteries, to present to the Synod in 2025. Creating new Bylaws and considering how to retain the identity of each of the participating presbyteries. A catch phrase that arose from the discussion was 'Relationships are our business'.
- Joint Calendar Planning Meeting - June 7 to balance activities and reduce an overload of activities each month. Jenna advised the committees to consider the logic behind the program.

Next Session meeting rescheduled to Tuesday, June 20th, 2023 at 5:30pm in the Multipurpose Room.

The Summer Ambassador  
First Presbyterian Church  
524 S. Duncan St.  
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[www.stillwaterfpc.org](http://www.stillwaterfpc.org)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship at First Presbyterian

Sunday Worship Schedule

11:00 am Hybrid Worship Service

Midweek Prayer

Wednesdays 12:10pm via Zoom

SUMMER 2023

THE AMBASSADOR



Mission Sunday - June 25

Fellowship Time @ 10:00 am, Worship @ 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall

Join us for **Mission Sunday**, when our Mission Team will share about their recent trip to Gypsum, Colorado to work with Vail Valley Habitat for Humanity and we will celebrate the many ways we strive to be Christ's hands and feet in the world. The 2023 Mission Team included: Dennis & Judy Ferrell, Steve Fairbanks, Rachel Schlais, Tim Schlais, Terry Shreve, Carly Sumpter, Pastor Jenny Wells, and Tom Williams.

You're also invited to a special Fellowship Time on Sunday, June 25th, at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall. This is the day we will say thank you and bid farewell (only for a year!) to Director of Children & Youth Ministry Jenna Campbell, husband Casey Campbell, and daughters Reese and Emmy. Please join us for a time of fellowship with the Campbell family and help us lift them up in prayer during worship.



Part of the FPC Mission Team pictured with Habitat for Humanity of Vail Valley staff in front of the fence they built.