

VOL. 65 NUMBER 6 · AUGUST 2023

THE AMBASSADOR

A publication of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater

Fall Worship Schedule begins Sunday, August 20!

- Worship and Communion @ 8:30 am
- Sunday School Classes for all ages @ 9:45 am
- Worship @ 11:00 am

Fall Worship Schedule & Sunday School classes

See page 4 for details

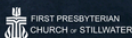
ONE UNIFIED SERVICE

WORSHIP & COMMUNION

11:00 AM

IN-PERSON, FB LIVE, KSPI

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2023



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Stillwater Public Schools' Pioneer Pantry

Deacon collection days at FPC

The Pioneer Pantry aims to help students grades K-12 get the items they need, whether those are hygiene or household products, a haircut, or a coat. Items are provided directly to students, as well as to families, when a need is identified. Students can go to the health room or nurse's office at each school site to acquire items, or teachers can make requests on behalf of students as well. Students can get products confidentially; there are no "rules" on how much somebody can take. Some students grab a stick of deodorant, and some fill up an entire bag with products they need.

Deacons will be collecting donations for the Pantry on two Sundays, August 13th and 20th, before and after the 11:00 am church service. Anyone wishing to help can bring physical items such as toiletry items, socks, coats, etc. or just bring a monetary donation. Checks should be made out to FPC and indicate 'Pioneer Pantry' in the memo line.

For more information, please contact Deacons Sharon Bennett (sharron.bennett33@gmail.com) or Janet Waugh (janet.waugh@aol.com).



News from the Pastor Nominating Committee

The PNC first met November 13, 2022. The MIF (Ministry Information Form) was completed then revised per requests from Session and Presbytery Committee on Ministry & Preparation for Ministry (COMP). Edits were completed and final approval was obtained on May 19. The MIF was uploaded into CLC (Church Leadership Connection) on May 19 and first set of matches received on May 23.

The total number of matching candidates from CLC was 23. Our committee has also received two suggested names and two self-referrals, bringing the total candidates to 27.

The COMP notified our committee on May 31 that the current CLC system is being updated and new forms are required to replace the MIF. Our committee has created the new MDP (Ministry Discernment Profile) and it was sent to COMP for review and approval. Approval was given on August 2 and the form is being uploaded within the next few days.

Further candidate matching will be done in the new system and candidate interviews will begin later in August or September. PNC Members are: Tim Schlais (chair), Ed Arquitt, Casey Campbell, Virginia Charter, Claire Leffingwell, Denise Rex, and Tammy Wasson.

Farewell letter from Jenny

"This life is made up of so many beginnings and so many endings," reads the first line of a blessing "for beginnings and endings" in Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie's book *The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days*. I have returned to this particular blessing so often over the past several months that the book binding is broken on this spread of pages, and I don't have to make an effort to find it anymore. This blessing has been a good reminder for me, as I have discerned and made decisions about what comes next, that life is cyclical. Every ending is a new beginning. The authors continue the blessing:

*"We start new jobs and leave old ones.
We move to new cities and leave our
childhood hobbies in our parents'
basement. (Sorry, Mom.)
We become new people slowly
(hopefully kinder and funnier?).
Friends and relationships
come and go.
Dreams blossom and then they wither.
And we find ourselves here once again
at the precipice of change.
Afraid to let go,
and afraid of what will happen if we
don't.
Might this be a place of blessing, too?"*

Scripture teaches, too, that life is cyclical. In particular, in Ecclesiastes (my favorite book of the Old Testament, if you didn't know), we are also reminded that there is a season for everything. This passage, for me, is indicative of change - the cycle of life that we are all in, whether we consciously acknowledge it or not. We all go through seasons of mourning and dancing, keeping and throwing away, searching and losing. I would add to this list (found in Ecclesiastes 3), "a time for going and a time for staying."

We don't always get to choose when we enter into these different seasons of life. Sometimes we are blessed with entering into them gradually, while at other times we are thrust into them with very little say in the matter. I, personally, and we, collectively, have been navigating our way through various changes over the last year. There is no doubt in my mind that making it this far is proof that we can continue on. As we part ways, I pray "in our leaving, in our arriving, in our changes, expected or shocking, (that God) surprises us with who we might become."

Peace be with you, friends.

Jenny

I can not thank my new FPC Stillwater family enough for all the care and concern with which y'all have showered me. My father's passing has been a sad time for me and my family, but you have all been so gracious with your love and support.

Thank you so very much -
Leigh Miller, Coordinator of Children & Youth



FPC Community Updates

8:30am Service returns August 20th

Traditionally the first service widens our worship schedule during the school year and adds an opportunity for weekly communion and an earlier time slot to fit our active schedules. Over the years, the numbers have waxed and waned, but the spirit of the service remains the same and dear to the heart of many. This fall as we are considering the weight of ministries on our volunteers and staff, there has been some consideration as to whether moving to one service year round would consolidate the needs of our resources and improve our ministries in other areas.

While the Session waits to make a formal decision, the Worship & Music Committee has been working with Pastor Kati and Becky to simplify the service based on responses from 8:30am service participants and from our Visioning Surveys taken last spring. We have adjusted the first service to lean on the values of intimacy, consistency, and communion. This service will feature a few things which are not feasible at the 11:00am broadcast service, such as moments of silence and a more interactive version of communion. The liturgy will differ from the second service, but the hymns and scriptures will match to maintain the unity of the church. The Worship & Music Committee has also suggested that we combine the two worship services occasionally this fall to encourage fellowship and relationships across our whole congregation. This will also assist in consolidating the activities of volunteers. **Therefore, Sunday, September 3rd, we will have one service at 11:00am, our first Sunday of "Unified Worship".** Future dates will be in the September Ambassador and other publications.

Sunday School for all ages begins Sunday, August 20 at 9:45 am

Sunday, August 20 brings the return of our 8:30am worship service along with a resumption of Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:45am.

- **SpiritLink & Faith Kidnection** (ages 4-5th grade): begins at 9:45am and ends at 10:45am in the Worship Center.
- **Youth Sunday School** (Jr High and Sr High) meets in the Youth Suite for a joint time of fellowship and snacks before splitting into classrooms.
- **Feasting on the Word** adult class meets in the Upper Room beginning Sunday, September 3rd.
- **Faith & Formation** adult class meets in the Multipurpose Room every Sunday morning.

Fair Trade Store

Help Wanted in the Fair Trade Store! Do you have time to volunteer just 2 hours a month? Do you like to meet new people and see old friends? Are you interested in Fair Trade and helping struggling artisans sell their hand-made goods to help improve their lives? Are you willing to help with a mission project that our church has been supporting since before 2008?

I need a few new helpers in the Fair Trade Store to open the store one Sunday a month from 10:30am to 12:30pm. Four loyal workers have been helping in the FTS since it reopened after COVID, and some of them want to give their time elsewhere, so I have several vacancies to fill. If you are interested in helping out, please call or email Julie Bills. [405] 880-4072 or jbills2007@hotmail.com



Children & Youth Ministry

All Children & Youth Ministry Volunteers



join us for
LEADER LAUNCH

Sunday August 13 9:15-10:45

Leader Launch for all children's and youth ministry volunteers!

Be equipped and inspired for a great year ahead in children's and youth ministry. Volunteers will leave this event feeling energized, appreciated, and informed about the directions our ministries are headed and your part in all of this. PLUS the chance to win gift cards in several drawings! Register online here:

<https://stillwaterfpc.breezechms.com/form/leaderlaunch69> or via our website (look for the Leader Launch event at the bottom of the home page).

Welcome to our new Children's Ministry Assistant, Ella Parsons!

In her own words, "Hi! My name is Ella Parsons and I will be a freshman at Oklahoma State this fall where I will study business. I have been going to FPC since I was born, and am so excited to step into this new position!"



Families are invited for fun and fellowship as we learn about the year ahead in FPC Children's Ministry! Enjoy games, family fellowship, time in the splash pad, and POPSICLES!



Children's Ministry

Children & Worship Returns August 20th

Beginning Sunday, August 20, children ages 3 through 3rd grade are invited to come to Children and Worship each Sunday in the Westminster Room following Time with Children at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Children who wish to attend may follow the banner and the volunteers who will be waiting at the back of the Sanctuary. Parents are invited to join us anytime.

We love sharing this time of age-appropriate worship with our young children including singing and signing, praying, and seeing and hearing the stories of God. There is also a time for the children to respond to the sacred stories using art, books, puzzles, or working with the stories they have just seen and heard. It is a delight to watch as they retell the stories themselves! As we respond to God's love, we also have a time for children to offer their coins or talents. Parents may pick up children in the Westminster Room following worship.

Parents, please note: On days that communion is celebrated in the Sanctuary, your child will be brought back to the Sanctuary during the singing of the Doxology following the Offering. You may meet them at the back of the Sanctuary or volunteers will assist them in finding their families in the pews. We think it is important that children experience the sacrament with their families and congregation.

If your family is new to Children and Worship, please pick up a Family Guide in the Westminster Room and be sure to complete the Family Information Form found within the Guide, so that we are aware of any health or allergy issues and have your current contact information. The form may be returned to the Children and Worship volunteers. It is always a joy to worship with our young ones, as Jesus welcomes us all to come unto Him.

Blessings, Carolyn Caldwell, Children and Worship Coordinator

Children's Sunday School

Starting August 20 - Every Sunday from 9:45-10:45am - begins and ends in the Worship Center! For children 4yrs - 5th grade.

Gathering Time:

- All children age four to 5th grade are invited to start the Sunday school hour at 9:45am in the Worship Center. We'll gather and sing together before the Shepherds take the kids to their classrooms. Parents can pick up children at 10:45am in the Worship Center.

Faith Kid-nection (4-5yr olds):

FAITH KID-NECTION Children Pre-K to Kindergarten age are invited to join in play, games and songs as we explore God's love, grow in faith, and learn how to share God's love with others using the Walk with Me curriculum. This class meets in room 122 in the preschool wing, but begins and ends in the Worship Center.

- Teachers: Melody Reavis, Hope Plum

SpiritLink (1st-5th graders):



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

Our August/September SpiritLink unit will focus on the story of Moses and the Burning Bush.

SpiritLink Teachers and Shepherds

Creators: 1st-3rd graders - Shepherd: Kathy Thomas
Makers: 4th-5th graders - Shepherd: Suzii Parsons

- Modern Magi: Dustin & Virginia Charter
- Scrolls & Scribes: TBA
- Thou Art: Kim Leffingwell and Shannon Frohock
- On Location: Nicole Frohling
- Burning Bush Theater: Courtney & Eric Savage
- Bread of Life Cafe: Eric Windhausen

Youth Ministry

PRESBYTERIAN • YOUTH • GROUP



Presbyterian
Youth Group

For ALL 6th-12th graders

Sundays, 5:00-6:30 pm in the Youth Suite
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!

PYG Sponsors for 2023-2024

Tim Riley
Rusty Rex
Becky Taylor

August

20 - Youth Fall Kickoff - **The Amazing Race**

5:00 - 7:00 pm

27 - PYG (5:00-6:30pm)

September

3 - No PYG (Happy Labor Day!)

10 - Children & Worship Training (12:15pm for youth volunteers)

PYG (5:00 -6:30 pm)

17 - PYG (5:00 -6:30pm)

27 - FPC Block Party (6:00pm, East Lawn)

Youth Sunday School

Starting August 20 - Every Sunday from 9:45-10:45am - in the Youth Suite. Our Sunday school curriculum is intentionally designed for youth to explore their faith from a variety of perspectives through their years in Youth Sunday School.

Gathering Time:

- Youth Sunday school begins at 9:45am all together in the Youth Suite for fellowship and snacks before splitting up into age groups for more focused discussion and study.

Middle School (grades 6-8; Youth Suite Blue Rm):

- Collaborate and Reform Ancestors - Students will study the ancestors of the Old Testament using 'So what?' questions that will help them engage with the Old Testament story. Reform Ancestors has some really funny and engaging videos!
- Teachers: Elijah Ankrom and Josh Taylor

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

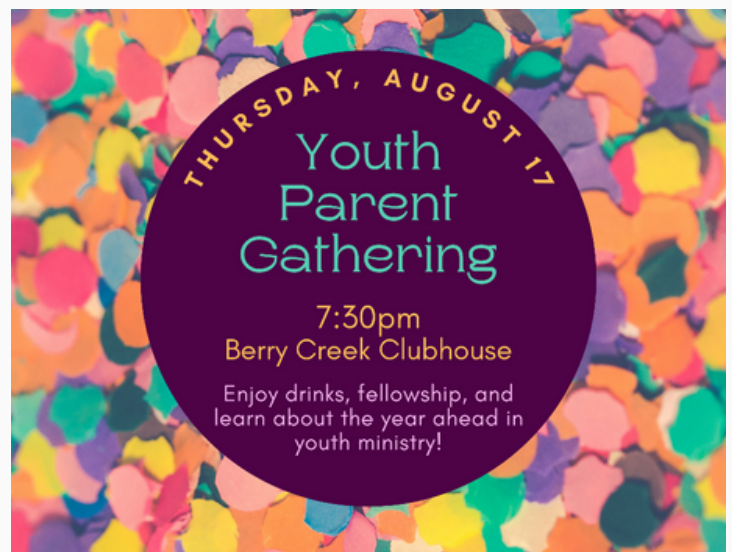
- 3 Big Questions That Shape Your Future, A 60-Day Exploration of Who You Were Made to Be by Kara Powell, Kristel Acevedo, & Brad M. Griffin - Finding faithful answers to life and faith's big questions.
- Teachers: Haley Brobston and Belinda Bruner

**THE AMAZING
RACE**

PYG FALL KICKOFF

8.20.23

5:00-7:00 PM @ FPC



Adult Education & Fellowship

Sunday School Classes Resume August 20

There are several Sunday School class offerings for adults this fall - both ongoing and short-term classes. All classes meet at 9:45am on Sunday mornings unless otherwise noted.

- "Faith & Fellowship" will continue to meet in the Multipurpose Room. Our Sunday school consists of a reading and discussion - an informal gathering open to all adults. Our current study is "Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt" by Ted V. Foote and P. Alex Thornburg. Come join us!
- Feasting on the Word will resume meeting in The Upper Room on Sunday, September 3rd. This lectionary-based class is led by Denise Rex.

First Steps Class this fall

- The Communications and Connecting Committee will host two First Steps events this September. The first is a church tour on Sunday, September 17 following the 11:00am service. If you would like to get to know our building better or share some stories about it, please join us for this time! We will share where things are, a little history of how our building became what it is today, and some of the terrific activities that happen in our building (there are a lot!). After the tour, we invite everyone to join us for lunch out together.
- Our second event will be a First Steps class the evening of Tuesday, September 19 at 6:30pm. First Steps is a 101 look at First Presbyterian Church and the broader Presbyterian body. It's a great way for new members and visitors to learn about our church's history, our beliefs as Presbyterians, and the many ministries we engage in. If you are looking to learn more about FPC or meet some new faces, please join us. All are welcome, whether you have been with us two weeks or fifty years!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jill Stoutzenberger - jillian.barneche@gmail.com



Seasoned Adults

Monday, August 21

5:30pm gathering,

6:00pm dinner,

and 6:45pm program in Fellowship Hall

Our program for August will be a presenter from Goodland Academy to talk about this special mission.

RSVPs are due by 5:00pm on Friday, August 18, and an email will go out on Monday, August 14, with a link to RSVP. 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 \$15 so that we can more adequately cover the catering costs. 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.

Faith on Tap

Meets at Stonecloud Taproom (917 S. Husband St.) at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of every month.

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.

You're invited!



for: New Members
Visitors
New to Faith

Two-Part Series
in September
2023

First
Steps

September 17:
12:00pm Church
Tour & Lunch Out
September 19:
Evening class

an introduction
to the Presbyterian
Church

Budget Update from the Treasurer

As I said in a previous Ambassador, the income/expense report below looks ok, but looks can be deceiving. As of July 31 we have completed 58.3% of the year. Giving to date is right on schedule and expenses paid are slightly below predicted. Those facts are not highly concerning as giving is traditionally down in the summer months. But FPC is showing a deficit now before summer is completed. (Although I think we all would be glad for the summer heat to end)

In June I predicted that, because of the 2023 budget approved by Session, FPC would end 2023 with a \$30,000 deficit (income minus expenses). Some of that projected deficit may change due to reduced spending for staff during Jenna Campbell's sabbatical and the Associate Pastor vacancy for the final 4 months of the year.

If you have neglected to make a pledge payment this summer, I encourage you to catch up as soon as possible. Your help is needed.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for all you do and give.

Cathy Fairbanks, Treasurer
cathy.fairbanks@stillwaterfpc.org

Monthly Income / Expense Report			
	July	Year to Date	% of Budget
Giving	\$ 36,396.96	\$ 354,108.96	57.2
Other Income	\$ 7,483.26	\$ 58,143.11	65.8
Total Income	\$ 43,880.22	\$ 412,252.07	58.3
Expenditures	\$ 57,056.76	\$ 418,840.16	56.7
Net	\$ (13,176.54)	\$ (6,588.09)	

Stewardship News

The Stewardship season is approaching fast! This is the time when we come together to pool our resources for the great things God will accomplish through First Presbyterian in 2024. And yes, our planning for the year to come begins now. Without you and your generosity very little can be accomplished. As God blesses us continually so must we provide for the operations of First Presbyterian Church.

All Oars Pulling Together will make quick work of the most difficult journey. As we look forward to 2024, recognize that the Stewardship Committee appreciates each member here at FPC.

Budget Updates

Trustee Projects in Progress

Several Trustee projects are nearing completion. You'll notice the preschool courtyard is in a bit of disarray. The covered sidewalk is getting a facelift – the old roof is being removed and replaced and the supporting structure will be repainted. Bricks for the new preschool storage shed have finally arrived (after being back-ordered for several months) and are being laid. Both projects should be complete when the preschool opens for a new year of youngsters. The Preschool is graciously providing significant contributions to help cover the costs of these projects.

Other projects include: repairing and repainting the ceiling of the Narthex entrance (the tile foyer), new leaf guards on all gutters and downspout extensions, and deep-cleaning the carpet in Fellowship Hall.

Several projects are being studied. Our geothermal air conditioning system is being studied to guard against failures in this heat and improve the efficiency of the system. Problems are cropping up in Fellowship Hall and Hospitality Area kitchen appliances that are also being closely monitored. The new roof over all our buildings (except for the Sanctuary) has proved to be the solution to multiple leaks. We are studying options to replace the Sanctuary roof. We are also getting estimates for work on the windows in the bell tower that leaked during one of the storms earlier this year. Replacement of the carpets in several areas of the first floor and repair of the wall of the NE corner of the Sanctuary are also being studied. The hot weather is making it difficult for our contractor to keep up with mowing and landscaping needed to make our church inviting to all.

The cost of these and other critical projects will be more than funds that are currently available in dedicated accounts. Our proposed 2024 Trustee operating budget has been submitted to Session. It acknowledges anticipated increases in many of our fixed costs such as insurance, custodial services, utilities, and maintenance contracts

From the Organ Bench

Thank You!

To all of the FPC staff and congregation, my deepest gratitude for the time that you have allowed me to be away this summer! I'm also very grateful for the numerous organist and pianist colleagues who have filled in for me.

Professionally, there were bucket-list highlights as part of our trip to England and Germany (twice postponed): meeting colleagues and my co-editor at Oxford University Press for the first time; experiencing Evensong services at King's College in Cambridge, Magdalen College in Oxford, and Westminster Abbey in London; seeing and hearing important organs in Germany and a concert by the Berlin Philharmonic; and lastly, something I could never have dreamed up: hearing my organ Partita on Bereden väg för Herran (GTG #106, "Prepare the Way, O Zion") commissioned for the AGO Southwest Region Convention in Tulsa and performed by our son, Brent te Velde, as part of his recital during the convention. And, I was able to complete three new compositions in June-July, two for organ and a commissioned anthem that our choir will present on for Reformation Sunday on October 29.

I write from Brisbane, Australia as we are nearing the end of our month-long visit with our daughter and son-in-law and three granddaughters, 4-month-old twins and their big sister who is 2-1/2. It is a joyful, exhausting, magical, frenetic, and precious time, and we feel privileged to experience it with them in person. Thank you so much, and I look forward to being back on the organ bench this coming Sunday

Sincerely,
Becky te Velde

Choral Scholar News

Congratulations to our former Choral Scholar, Amanda Barber (2018-2023), who is the newly-appointed Assistant Director of the Killeen High School Choir in Texas!! Please help us welcome new Choral Scholars Liz Brockman and Ainsley Carmichael as they join our choir family this fall! Both are sophomore vocal music performance majors at Oklahoma State University, and Ainsley served as a cantor here over the summer.

Open Loft Sunday - August 20

How many people can fit in our choir loft? Help us find out! (We already know there is room for you!) Come to the loft at 10:50am on August 20 (before the Prelude) to trade your normal pew for one with a unique view and surround-sound singing. This is a relaxed opportunity to sing the hymns and service music with the choir--no anthem or choir robes, and no obligation to join the choir family long-term. Bulletins and hymnals will be provided. Parents are welcome to bring their children, and young children may go down for Time with Children and then go to Children and Worship. Anyone (any Sunday!) may watch the organ postlude from the side steps following the benediction. We look forward to welcoming you to the choir loft!

Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir resumes regular rehearsals Wednesday, August 23 at 7pm. Everyone 7th grade and older is welcome, and neither choral experience nor church membership is required. We rehearse 7:00-8:15pm every Wednesday in the Westminster Room (choir room) and 10:15am Sunday mornings in the Sanctuary. We sing at the 11:00am service most Sundays from mid-August through mid-May, plus several special services. Our choir is a truly unique musical family, united by and devoted to FPC's music ministry and worship leadership. Join us for our kick-off rehearsal and have cake with us afterwards as we celebrate our summer-birthday people! (We work hard, but we also party well!)

First Friday Peace Jam

September 1st - 6 PM Potluck Supper
7-8:30 PM Music Jam
in Fellowship Hall

Kick off your Labor Day weekend with good food and fun music! This is for all ages - invite friends, bring the kids, and come and go as you like. We provide maracas, triangles, djembe, tambourines, and a keyboard for anyone to play. Bring a little food to share, then play, sing, or just listen and tap your feet!

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



Prayer Concerns

Lavon Alexander (Howard)
 Gary Allen
 Amanda
 Nick Amidon (Garoffolo)
 Shea Arnett (N. Thomas)
 Christopher Aupperle (Aupperle)
 David Awtrey
 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 (Koepp)
 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)
 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)
 Lynda Williams
 Scott Williams

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

Summertime is coming to an end and I wish the heat was too! We have been busy down in the preschool wing gearing up for school. I am so ready for our babies to be back in the building. I love to hear their little voices and laughter.

The start of our year will be a little rocky with so many projects going on around the building. I'm thrilled with all of the progress that is being made on these projects and they will all be so great when completed. I am happy to be able to contribute financially to paying for half of the new canopy (thanks to grant money still from Covid monies from the state of Oklahoma). The old one was actually becoming dangerous because it had worn so badly. Our new shed is nearing completion and the teachers will be thrilled to be able to get in there again. We will also be so happy to have access to our toys and use the entire playground. The preschool has started the landscaping that will be done. New mulch and borders have been added to the courtyard under the big equipment. New stumps are coming and upon completion of the canopy, we are going to be able to finish our landscape project. On the North playground, Hicks Lawn and Landscaping shaved the hill that tripped up all of my kids and took that dirt from by the sidewalk to the hill with the slide in it and rebuilt the hill. Then we put sod down and I have been diligently watering that every day. Cross your fingers it takes in this horrible heatwave. Our new music instruments have been installed!

Hours of work have been done this summer to clean in the preschool. Some of our teachers have worked so hard to clean walls, baseboards, floors, closets and other places. I am so proud of them and the investment they make to our school and the upkeep of the building. We want to present to our parents an inviting, welcoming image when they come; some for the first time.

On Wednesday, August 9 from 4:30-6:00pm we will host our Meet-the-Teacher night at Preschool. Feel free to join us and see all of our happy children and their families! School starts August 10. If you want to add us to your prayer list, we would so appreciate prayers for a smooth beginning and peace and blessings for all of us involved.

~ Dana Brown, Presbyterian Preschool Director



Join the APCE Enneagram Journey this fall by Zoom!

Led by Jenna Campbell, this 12 session class on the Enneagram will meet weekly on Tuesdays from September 5th - November 28 (skipping Nov. 21 for Thanksgiving) from 2:30-3:45pm (Central).

Though the class is offered for APCE members (the Association of Partners in Christian Education) and led by Jenna for APCE, non-APCE members may also join!

Non-APCE Member Fees:

\$10 Three-month Vimeo Subscription + \$20 Participant Guide + \$50 Leadership = \$80 Total

About the Enneagram: The Enneagram Journey is a group experience for exploration, growth, and transformation. The Enneagram is a powerful ancient tool for learning more about ourselves - why we do the things we do (and don't do), how we can become more aware of the workings of our personalities, and how we can grow and seek transformation for greater balance and wholeness. The Enneagram has the power to transform relationships (marriage, parenting, work relationships) and how you see and respond to the world. People of all ages will benefit from this experience.

Class Format:

Each of the 12 sessions includes:

- Video (45-60 minutes long, accessible on Vimeo.com) - participants will watch the videos on their own
- Zoom class - an hour and fifteen minute class on Zoom for participants to debrief the video, discuss the session's topic together, and work through the Participant Guide.

(Note: Links to purchase the Vimeo subscription and the Participant Guide will be sent after registration)

Register by Wednesday, August 16th at <https://apcenet.org/event/apce-enneagram-journey/2023-09-06/>

Scout Updates

- During the summer months, **Troop 820** tries to stay active. We held a Tulsa day trip in July where we visited the Tulsa Zoo and Tulsa Air and Space Museum. We also helped troop 828 with a Flag Day ceremony at the Elks Lodge and volunteered at Relay For Life. Our scouts also helped Altrusa International distribute nearly 1,000 school backpacks to area students. Several scouts attended Philmont in July where they had an exciting experience putting their acquired scout skills to practical use. With summer coming to an end, we are excited to resume our normal activities heading into the school year.
- Scouts BSA Troop 888** has been busy!! They spent their May meetings at the Stillwater YMCA working on swimming skills and water rescues. They also had a campout where they worked on cooking and fire building skills (no matches allowed!) and visited a local art gallery. In June they volunteered at the Relay for Life and held their first public flag ceremony, attended a city council meeting and led the pledge of allegiance, and attended summer camp at Camp Cris Dobbins in Colorado. At camp the Scouts worked on many merit badges, rode horses, rappelled down a rock wall, set an example for the entire camp with their acts of service, deepened friendships, learned Scout skills, and had an adventure on Pikes Peak! In July the Scouts completed the First Aid Merit Badge and began work on the Cooking Merit Badge. So far this year, Scouts in Troop 888 have earned a total of 14 ranks and 80 merit badges! 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 troop888gsa@gmail.com.



UKIRK News



Welcome back to all our college students! Though we had to say, 'see ya later' to Pastor Jenny, we are looking forward to another great year. Rachel Schlais will serve as our new UKIRK Assistant this year and, with Pastor Jenny's guidance at her final University Ministry Committee meeting in July, Rachel has some great things planned for this school year. Weekly Tuesday evening meetings will begin in September, so be looking for more information on that to come soon!

Upcoming UKIRK/University events include:

- Friday, August 18th:** Interfaith Council Tailgate from 12:00-2:00pm in the area north of the Classroom Building on OSU's campus (to the east of Library lawn).
- Wednesday, August 23rd:** Lights on Stillwater from 6:15-9:00pm outside of Boone Pickens stadium.
- Save the Date for the FPC Block Party coming up on Wednesday, September 27th!

If you would like to help Rachel with any or all of these events, please contact her directly at: rachel.schlais@gmail.com

Session

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

The Growth and Sustainability Taskforce

made a report of the Visioning Surveys and Small Groups and several recommendations at the June Session Meeting. To summarize, most members who participate give generously of their time and finances. More engagement of the congregation in stewardship campaigns may increase the number of pledges made by participants, however, we may have to make some drastic changes in the budget due to changes in the number of participants. Equally important to the need to make decisions which address the current budget situation is the need to determine the vision for the future of our church. Utilizing the information from the congregational survey as a starting point, the Growth & Sustainability Committee recommends that Session, church staff including the new Senior Pastor, and church members develop a vision for the church that will influence program and budget decisions. Decisions need to be made that are not just a short-term fix but with a long-term outlook (preferably a clear plan for at least the next three years). Several specific suggestions were made, and the session took those items for discussion amongst committees. Nothing was voted or approved in response to the taskforce report. (Note: Taskforce recommendations come to the session differently than committee recommendations. Committee recommendations must be dealt as motions, however, the taskforce recommendations are not action items and were received for discernment, likely in the August meeting which had not occurred at the printing of this newsletter.)

Session Summary

The Session met for their Stated meeting on Tuesday, June 20 at 5:30pm in the Multipurpose Room. A quorum was present and Interim Pastor Kati Collins moderated. Highlights of Session action include:

- David and Dannette Baker were re-received into membership by letter of transfer.
- Tim Hardin submitted a letter of interest on behalf of the noon Rotary to see if they might rent the Fellowship Hall for their regular Thursday meetings. The majority of the session encouraged the staff and trustees to consider this option, while a minority voiced concern for staff and building availability. The invitation was later turned down by the trustees and staff, as at least 6 of the Thursdays in the coming year are already committed, and at this time, we cannot ensure that we could always have a staff person present for the building use.
- FPC 2023-2024 Program Calendar was presented.
- Pastor Jenny announced that she had accepted a call to Central Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, MO and her last day with us would be July 30th.
- Please join us in prayer over our Top Ten Values. These words were selected from the Visioning Surveys and Small Groups this spring and shared as part of the Growth and Sustainability Taskforce report. Over the course of the next three months, we will narrow this list down to 3 or 5 as we seek to lean into the ministries at the heart of Stillwater FPC and build a vocabulary to tell our story. The Top Ten Values are: Belonging, Community, Compassion, Faith, Grace, Inclusion, Intergenerational, Openness, Service, and Spiritual Growth

Next Session meeting will be Tuesday, August 8 at 5:30pm in the Multipurpose Room.

2023-2024 FPC Program Calendar

August

- 10 - Stillwater Public Schools begin
- 13 - Leader Launch
- 17 - Youth Parent Gathering
- 20 - Return to two worship services,
Sunday school begins; PYG Fall Kickoff
- 21 - OSU classes start
- 26 - Children's Ministry Kickoff

September

- 3 - Labor Day Weekend; One service at 11:00
- 10 - Children & Worship Volunteer Training
- 17 - First Steps: Church Tour & Lunch Out
- 19 - First Steps: Class
- 24 - Usher Training
- 27 - FPC Block Party

October

- 2 - World Communion Sunday; Stewardship Event
after worship
- 8 - Preschool Sunday; Pumpkin Palooza
- 18-20 - SPS Fall Break
- 20-22 - Oklahoma Presbyterian Youth Retreat
- 28 - OSU Homecoming
- 29 - Commitment Sunday; Reformation Sunday

November

- 5 - All Saints' Day Observed; Third Grade
Bibles in Worship
- 12 - Bible Exploration Class; Officer Training
- 19 - Officer Training
- 23 - Thanksgiving
- 26 - Reign of Christ Sunday

December

- 1 - Dine with Nine Christmas Ball
- 3 - Advent I; Last day of Sunday school;
PYG Christmas Party
- 10 - Lessons and Carols in worship;
Night in Bethlehem
- 20 - Blue Christmas Worship
- 24 - Advent IV/Christmas Eve
- 31 - Epiphany Observed

January

- 7 - Baptism of the Lord;
Ordination/Installation of Officers
- 12-13 - Youth Lock-in
- 14 - Return to two services & Sunday school
- 15 - MLK Jr. Day
- 16 - OSU Begins
- 28 - Your Body Belongs to You Class

February

- 10 - Youth Sunday Rehearsal
- 11 - Youth Sunday
- 14 - Ash Wednesday
- 16 & 19 - Stillwater Public Schools out

March

- 18-22 - Spring Break
- 24 - Palm Sunday
- 28 - Maundy Thursday
- 31 - Easter

April

- 14 - Pride Celebration
- 19 - Stillwater Public Schools out
- 20 - Garden Work Day
- 21 - Earth Day
- 28 - University Senior Recognition; Mission
Trip Fundraiser

May

- 5 - High School Senior Recognition;
Tears & Cheers
- 11 - OSU Graduation
- 12 - Volunteer Appreciation Brunch
- 17 - Stillwater Public Schools Last Day
- 19 - Pentecost - One Service
- 31 - June 1 - Hosting Tri-Presbytery Meeting

The August 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

11:00 am Hybrid Worship Service

Midweek Prayer

Wednesdays 12:10pm via Zoom

Sunday Worship Schedule beginning August 20

8:30 am Worship Service

9:45 am Sunday School classes

11:00 am Hybrid Worship Service

AUGUST 2023

THE AMBASSADOR

Back-to-School Blessings
For the 2023-2024 school year

As classes start this week for Stillwater Public Schools and our Presbyterian Preschool and on August 21st for OSU, please keep all of our students, teachers, administrators, and support staff in your prayers as they begin another year of learning and growing. A special prayer to those starting new adventures this fall, whether it be heading off to kindergarten or moving across the country for their first year of college or taking a brand new teaching position. May the coming year bring new friends, new experiences, and a new thirst for learning.

"Eternal God, your wisdom is greater than our minds can attain, and your truth enlightens our learning. To those who study, give curiosity, imagination, and patience to wait and work for insight. Fill their learning with joy. Help them to doubt with courage. And hold all their days in the love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

-Book of Common Worship, adapted

