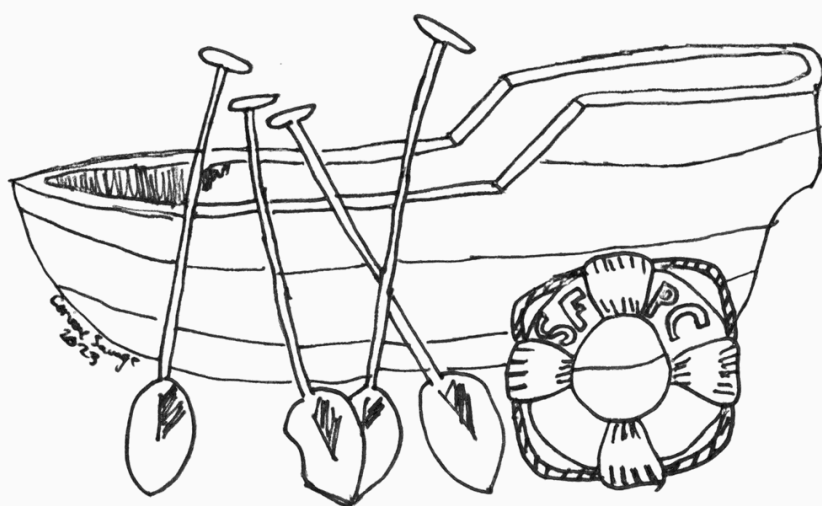


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THE AMBASSADOR

A publication of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater



All Oars Pulling Together

2024 Stewardship Kickoff

See pages 2 and 4 for details



World Communion Sunday

See pages 5 for details

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The October Ambassador deadline is Thursday, October 12 at 5:00 pm. Articles may be submitted to fpchurch1889@stillwaterfpc.org.



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CHURCH OF STILLWATER

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FPC Tumblers

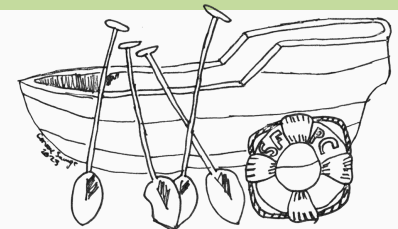
On Sundays October 1 and 8, the Communications & Connecting Committee will have FPC tumblers for sale in the Narthex. These tumblers will be offered as pay-what-you-want with a suggested cost of \$5 each. Enjoy your drinks this winter in fun FPC style!

Pioneer Pantry Drive a Success!

A big thank you to all who took part in our fall Pioneer Pantry Drive! \$1205 in cash donations was collected along with two large tubs full of toiletries and clothing. The monetary donations were used to purchase Wal-Mart gift cards that can be given out to students to purchase additional items not stocked in the pantry. Thank you from your Deacons for your continued support of this vital local outreach through the public schools.



All Oars Pulling Together 2024 Stewardship Campaign



Now is the time! Our generosity provides resources to accomplish God's will. This year's theme of 'All Oars Pulling Together' calls us to work together to chart a course serving God's will through FPC-Stillwater. The 2024 Stewardship Campaign will launch on Sunday, October 1, at a Congregational Stewardship Luncheon following the 11:00 am worship service. This luncheon will also include the First Annual Great Presbyterian Bake Off Competition (see page 4 for more details and entry information).

*"I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert."*

~ Isaiah 43:19



A Note from Pastor Kati

'Moses led Israel from the Red Sea on to the Wilderness of Shur. They traveled for three days through the wilderness without finding any water. They got to Marah, but they couldn't drink the water at Marah; it was bitter. That's why they called the place Marah (Bitter). And the people complained to Moses, "So what are we supposed to drink?" So Moses cried out in prayer to God. God pointed him to a stick of wood. Moses threw it into the water and the water turned sweet'. -Exodus 15:22-25, The Message translated by Eugene Peterson

While I was living in the Czech Republic, our church took a group for a week of bible study and fellowship on the coast of Sète, France with a French Reformed congregation with whom they had been in relationship for over a decade. They shared many similar experiences in their faith and political lives, and they enjoyed gathering every other year. I did not anticipate how much seafood we would be eating or how much French bread. Shrimp, fish, and clams seemed extravagant for the first few days, but then came the oysters and ultimately on our last night, the snails...in the shell. Pulling the snail out of the shell was just too much, and I burst into tears. I had been through too much change, too quickly and I needed something my stomach knew what to do with. The next day while we were sightseeing, my pastor spotted a McDonalds, and he pulled into the parking lot. "You can go on in by yourself," he said. "Get whatever you need. No judgement, we get it." I ordered our family staple of Chicken McNuggets and fries, and they had never tasted so good. This little piece of constancy helped me endure the rest of the trip and I even tried the freshly grilled sardines caught that morning in the bay. Each change we experience in life destabilizes us and we have to find a way to catch our grip, but even if we fall, others will help us get back up if we let them, and God will provide sweet and salty gifts along the way.

Thank you for sticking with us as we morph through change, striving to hold to our values, traditions, and Jesus Christ along the way! This last year has been a moving from one holding place before change to another holding place to wait for more change – for this congregation and for many of us personally. Like the Israelites traveling from Egypt to their new home, with every new change, we may reach some point which feels like too much, like surely this one is enough to break us. Luckily, we are not the ones holding us together, God is.

In adaptive leadership we have a term to describe this stage before the moment of overwhelm, the productive zone of disequilibrium (PZD). Each organization, family, individual has a certain amount of pressure they can sustain before breaking, but breaking is not always a bad thing. Seeds must break before the new plant can reach the soil and eventually the surface. Bread must be broken to be shared. Eggs must be broken to make an omelet. As your interim pastor, I would rather have strung all of the change we experienced this summer over a few years so that nothing happened at the same time, and yet, these pieces of change were not under my control.

One of my favorite worship songs goes, "You make beautiful things, you make beautiful things out of the dust." Repeating these lyrics implies two facts about God. 1) The things that God makes are beautiful. 2) God has the power to make dusty and broken things beautiful.

As I preach for you, sit in meetings with your leaders, and stand by bedsides to pray, I have found grounding by praying over your top ten values. In such turbulent times, I am comforted to serve alongside a congregation which values compassion, grace, faith, community, belonging, inclusion, openness, service, spiritual growth, and incorporating all ages to walk this road of faith together. As the leaves turn colors and the air gets cooler, may the Spirit beautify our love for one another.

Pastor Kati

FPC Community Happenings

The First Annual Great Presbyterian Bake Off And Stewardship Luncheon on October 1st



Have you ever thought of entering a pie or a cake at the County Fair? Or avidly followed the highs and lows of amateur bakers on the Great British Baking Show? Well, now is YOUR time to shine!

On October 1, the First Annual Great Presbyterian Bake Off will take place in Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 am service. The Stewardship Committee invites you to come for lunch and stay to find out who makes the best baked goods. cookies, cake, pie, and brownies. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: cookies, cake, pie, and brownies. All are welcome to submit their baked goods.

Our distinguished panel of judges* will rate each entry on a 100 point scale; Taste 50 points, Overall appearance & creativity 25 points, Texture 25 points. The winner in each category will be determined by the entry with the most points.

To enter, send an email to, Tim.krehbiel723@gmail.com, indicating the category(s) you intend to enter.

On October 1, bring your entry to the Fellowship Hall between 10:00 and 10:45 am. Please make at least 8-10 servings so judges can resample if necessary.

*The committee regrets to report that Mary Berry, Paul Hollywood, and Prue Leith were not available to judge this year.

Join us for the 4th Annual FPC Block Party!

Come enjoy an evening of fellowship on the lawn with your FPC family, play games, dance to the music of Code Shirley, and meet some new-to-you neighbors and friends!

YOU'RE INVITED!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS
HAVING A **BLOCK PARTY**,
AND WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US!

LAWN GAMES
FREE COMMUNITY MEAL
LIVE MUSIC
SNO CONE TRUCK

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
6:00 - 8:00 PM
ON THE SOUTHEAST LAWN
AT FPC (524 S. DUNCAN ST.)

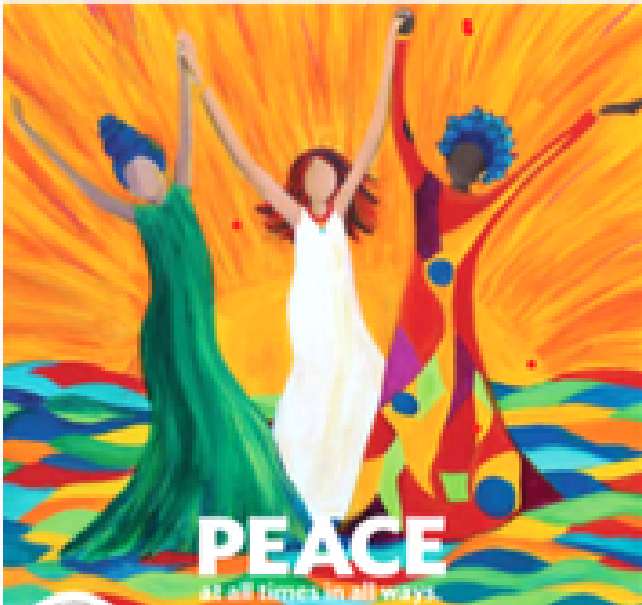


Come spend a fall afternoon with your church family!

Sunday, October 8th
2:00pm at Oh My Gourd Pumpkin Patch
9212 E. Glencoe Rd. Glencoe, OK

We will meet at 2 pm at Oh My Gourd Pumpkin Patch in Glencoe and participants need to indicate they are there with First Presbyterian Church. They will receive discounted admission at \$7 which includes a Hay Ride, Pumpkin Chunking, a drink, and a pumpkin to take home. paint ball can be added for \$2.

World Communion Sunday is October 1



Equipping Peacemakers in Congregations and Around the World

The Peace and Global Witness Offering is one of four special Presbyterian Church (USA) offerings created to support ministries that expand global witness and work toward peacemaking and reconciliation. A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils (i.e., Cimarron Presbytery) retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

We will be taking this offering on September 24 and October 1. Please use the special envelopes in the pews or put the word "special" in the memo line of your check. You may also give online. Our local Mission of Hope will receive 25% of the total offering collected.

"We are the Missionaries"

Sunday, October 1, 2023
One Unified Service at 11:00 am
in Fellowship Hall

World Communion Sunday is the next of our Unified Worship Services this fall with only one service at 11:00 am (Sunday School classes will still meet at 9:45 am) in Fellowship Hall. The theme for this year is "We are the Missionaries". During worship, we will focus on work locally through creating hygiene packets for use at Saturday Brunch and work abroad as we listen to stories from some who went on the Czech Mission Trip this summer.

One of our traditions here at FPC is having a variety of bread for Communion, especially breads from the cultures and traditions of our members. If you would like to provide a loaf of bread for a table, please sign up via: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E44ACA829A4FA7-communication1> or email dustin.reavis@gmail.com. If you have a special gluten-free recipe that you would like to bake, that would be most welcome!

We Are the Local Missionaries: Hygiene Packets for Our Neighbors

As part of worship on World Communion Sunday, we will have items available for creating hygiene packets. These Hygiene Packets will be made available at Saturday Brunch and to community members who come by the church during the week. And, did you know that through the dedicated work of several Deacons, new, clean pairs of socks are made available to brunch guests the first Saturday of every month?

Gather your unused product samples, hotel toiletries, extra dental floss, disposable shavers, etc. and bring them to the basket in the Narthex by Sunday, October 1. You can save our office volunteers some time by separating like items in bags.

Children's & 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!

September

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

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

October

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

8 - Pumpkin Palooza (2:00pm)

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

20-22 - Oklahoma Youth Retreat

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

Youth Sunday School

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. We gather 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):

- Teachers: Elijah Ankrom and Josh Taylor

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

- Teachers: Haley Brobston and Belinda Bruner

Children's Sunday School

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 heading to classrooms. Parents can pick up children at 10:45am in the Worship Center.

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

Teachers are Melody Reavis, Hope Plum, and Leah & Lyle Eastman

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



OKLAHOMA YOUTH RETREAT October 20-22

Friday @ 7:00 p.m. to Sunday @ 11:30 a.m.

St. Crispin's Conference Center + Camp
Wewoka, OK

For 6th-12th graders - \$125/person



SEE and Experience:

Energizers, Games, Music,
Worship, Small Groups,
Connecting with OK Youth

Register by October 1st
bit.ly/OKyouthretreat



Adult Education & Fellowship

Sunday School Classes for Adults

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" is a class for adults of all ages. We are a group of folks who desire to deepen our faith. We will begin study of a new book, yet to be selected, in October. The members of F&F suggest a topic, or a book, or a video study which will be facilitated by various class members. As a class project, we are planning to fill "Outreach" bags of non-perishable items to provide some assistance to the less fortunate in our community. Stay tuned for more details. We meet on Sundays in the Multipurpose Room.
- 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. A church tour on Sunday, September 17 following the 11:00am service and a First Steps class beginning at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 19.

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!).

The evening class 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. 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, September 18

5:30pm gathering,

6:00pm dinner,

and 6:45pm program in Fellowship Hall

Our program for September will be a presentation from Gary & Nancy Simpson entitled, 'Magnificent London'.

RSVPs are due by 5:00pm on Friday, September 15. 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

Worship & Music

Choral Scholars - Fall 2023

We are not a choir without our wonderful, devoted volunteer singers, but we are also so thankful for our team of OSU student singers who are our choral anchors in the choir (volunteers can be absent without guilt), helpers with SpiritLink music, and cantors for all services when the choir is not present. We love them, and they love their choir family and this congregation – they tell us that every single week! Thank you, FPC, for supporting them and being their church family! And thanks to Nedra Segall for being their official Choir Mom!



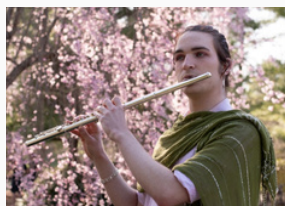
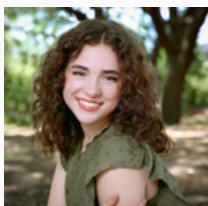
- Liz Brockman, soprano/alto Vocal Music Performance major, sophomore from McKinney, TX

- Henry Marshall, baritone Psychology major, senior from Plano, TX



- MaryEllen Bush, alto Art major, junior from Sapulpa, OK

- Jack Moffatt, bass/baritone Music Business major, senior from Edmond, OK



- Ainsley Carmichael, soprano/alto Vocal Music Performance major, sophomore from Carrollton, TX

- Noah Pool, tenor Flute Performance, 2nd year master's, from Springfield, MO



- Vanessa Washburn, soprano Vocal Music Education, senior from Trophy Club, TX

Usher Mixer

On Sunday September 24th at 9:45am, we will be hosting an Usher Mixer! All current ushers and anyone curious about possibly being an usher are invited to gather, meet potentially new ushers, discuss what ushers do and the significant role they provide to Sunday morning worship, and enjoy refreshments and fellowship. We will start in the Sanctuary and finish up with refreshments in the Hospitality Area. We have a number of open spots on our usher teams and look forward to welcoming some new faces to this rewarding and meaningful service to our church! If you have any questions, please contact dustin.reavis@gmail.com for more info!

Chancel Choir

Rehearsals are 7:00-8:15pm on Wednesday evenings in the Westminster Room (choir room) and 10:15am on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary. We welcome anyone 7th grade and older, and no choral experience is necessary. This is a "learn-on-the-job" ensemble with great internal support from our section leaders. You only need to be able to breathe—and we practice that, too! We work hard, party well, celebrate each other's joys, and carry one another's burdens. It is a musical family, and we would love to welcome you to it, too! For more information, please contact Becky te Velde: rebecca.tevelde@stillwaterfpc.org, (405) 372-5580.

Upcoming Musical Highlights

- September 17: "Like as a Father" – Luigi Cherubini [canon in 3 parts with piano]; Vocal solo by Brandon Bowman
- September 24: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" by Bradley Ellingboe with Sarah Bartlett, flute, Pat and George Gilland, djembe, and organ
- October 1 World Communion Sunday (Fellowship Hall): "Bread of the World" by Austin Lovelace, a cappella Vocal solo by Brandon Bowman



Facility Updates and Improvements

Chancel Microphones Change Location

Have you noticed that you no longer see microphones on stands sticking up in front of the choir? For over two decades, they have been attached to the sides of the organ console, where they could only partially serve their purpose of amplifying the choir, organ and instruments for the radio broadcast. They also unfortunately picked up the mechanical sounds of the organ pedals being played.

Then came a pandemic and a new era of live-streaming, bringing fresh impetus to finding solutions for better sound amplification. Thanks to a gift from the Joy Smith Estate, we were at last able to bring in Aspen Custom Electronics to ascertain the best placement of those mics and then to mount them higher up and on either side in the chancel arch, all in time for the start of the fall choir season. We are thrilled with the results! Not only are the Facebook and radio broadcasts hugely improved, but also the sound in the sanctuary itself, where there is a more balanced-sounding choir and organ throughout the length of the nave.

We are very grateful to the estate of Joy Smith for her recent legacy gift and the previous gift that became the Joy Smith Music Resource Endowment account for making these improvements possible, and to the legacy gifts committee, the trustees, and our church administrator for overseeing the project.

Between the Walls: Trustee Project Updates

Many of you may have noticed a lot of progress in the preschool courtyard. Brickwork on the preschool toy shed has been completed and the area around it is being cleaned and landscaped. Funding and resources came together several months ago to overhaul the preschool sidewalk awnings. A contractor was hired and this long-anticipated improvement is finally complete. It's a significant improvement in safety and appearance.

Members of the Trustee committee met recently with our HVAC contractor to work on an agreement to incorporate treatment of water in closed and open loop systems to ensure we stay ahead of corrosion and deterioration. We also plan to increase maintenance of air handlers and to determine efficiency improvements in their operation.

We also met recently with a contractor that could provide metal roofing replacement for the sanctuary that rivals the appearance of slate shingles. The advantage is that we would have a very durable roof that could last 40 to 50 years and could negate the need for a replacement deductible, a notable relief to our budget. A proposal has been requested so that affordability can be determined.

Carpet in the Fellowship Hall was professionally cleaned recently and the appearance is greatly improved. Replacement carpet is being selected for the Worship Center and should be in place soon. And kitchen appliances are being monitored closely to ensure we can continue to meet needs for our members and the Stillwater community.

Fair Trade Store

Just arrived the first of September: wind chimes, scarves, and soapstone from Africa. The soapstone is mined from great pits in the area surrounding Kiisi, Kenya. The mined soapstone is then delivered to carvers who carve sculptures from the natural stone for the wholesale market, the color of which ranges from cream, to pink, to brown, to yellow, to black, to a marbling of all of them. Once carved, the craftspeople smooth rough edges of the soapstone with sandpaper dipped in water and polish the piece to a high gloss or paint African motifs in brilliant colors with etched accents. For the miniature lovers, the little colorful \$1.00 dogs, cats, frogs, giraffes, and hearts are back in stock. I also ordered some fantastic larger pieces that show a family of 3, 4, and 5 members, a lover's heart, a lover's knot and a lover's embrace. If you have never felt or held soap stone, it is an amazing material and the carving is even more spectacular. Please come in and visit the Fair Trade Store and see the new soapstone collection! Are you interested in working in the Fair Trade Store? Please contact Store Manager Julie Bills at (405) 880-4072.





Prayer Concerns

Lavon Alexander (Howard)
 Gary Allen
 Amanda
 Nick Amidon (Garoffolo)
 Shea Arnett (N. Thomas)
 Christopher Aupperle (Aupperle)
 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)
 Charla Hilger (Roscoe)
 Charity Hitch (Plum)
 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
 Roger Lantz (Garoffolo)
 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
 Margaret O'Loughlin
 Our Service Men & Women (Kraemer)
 Beverly Perkins
 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
 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)



Save the Date!

On November 12th at 3:00 pm in Fellowship Hall *Soli Deo Gloria* presents:

The OSU Piano Studio of Tom & Heather Lanners

Childcare provided, reception following



Preschool Update

School is back in session and we love it! The children are beginning to get settled and we are seeing fewer and fewer tears. The teachers are hard at work loving the kids and preparing excellent activities that will fully engage children in learning through play.

We had our curriculum night with parents this last week where parents come to learn about each classroom individually and then about our school as a whole. I shared a lot of the improvements we have been able to make – new musical instruments, the new canopy (paid for by both the preschool and the church), and the landscaping which includes new mulch, new log borders, new tree stumps and shaving the dirt lip off between the grass and the sidewalk on the north playground. We also look forward to replacing some carpet on our end and in the worship center hopefully soon. This is all funded thanks to Covid money. Denise Rex came and shared about Early Birds with our parents who attended and they all were given a bag of free materials! Early Birds is a program for parents that is very beneficial. It is a class where the parents come and are given a bag of free learning materials and then given tons of ideas of how to use those materials with their child.

In September we have a great family function at the preschool, our school-wide picnic. It is a way for parents and children to get together with others from our school to get to know each other and fellowship together. Each family just brings food for their family and a blanket and it's a picnic. **If anyone wants to join us, to see joy as children play, please come on Thursday, September 21 in the courtyard from 5:30-7:00pm.** It is come and go.

We have started chapel again this year and I am so glad always to lead that for our children. We offer chapel Tuesdays and Fridays at 11:30 in the worship center. Parents can sign up their child(ren) if they want and we have several teachers who attend along with several parents. Anyone is welcome to join us if you would like anytime.

~ Dana Brown, Presbyterian Preschool Director

Organ Demonstrations/Tour & Bench Buddies

One of the things offered at last spring's Mission Trip Fundraiser Auction was a personal demonstration of our pipe organ and a tour of the organ chamber. The winning bid was made by the Butcher family, and on a recent Sunday after worship, Becky te Velde made good on the prize! (See photos of Isabelle and Sofia Butcher with Becky on the bench and Becky giving a tour through the pipe chamber).



For an up-close view of the console and "inside view" of the pipes, you can contact Becky anytime to schedule a visit! (This will also be offered again next year in support of the Mission Trip.)

"Bench Buddies" can be anyone age 7 and older who would like to sit with Becky on or next to the organ bench during a worship service. (Children may also go down for Time with Children and on to Children in Worship if they so choose.)

Everyone is always welcome to come up to the chancel after the benediction to watch the organ postlude from either side of the console.

First Friday Peace Jam

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

Kick off your October 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)





Scout Updates

- **Troop 820** has exciting camps and activities planned for this fall. We will camp at Will Rogers Scout Reservation this month to provide service work for the camp in the form of trail and camp site maintenance. We also plan to attend Spook O Ree at Williams Scout Reservation in October to help our council host the event for cub scouts and make it an enjoyable experience. Last month we held a court of honor where 820 scouts were presented with over 100 merit badges they had earned this year along with several ranks as well. We camped at the Pawnee Bill Ranch giving our scouts an opportunity to experience a piece of Oklahoma history that most did not know about. We also had our annual pool party to give everyone a chance to catch up since some scouts had been traveling over the summer. We are proud to announce that Matthew Schmidt successfully completed all requirements for his Eagle rank in July and is our newest Eagle Scout.
- **Scouts BSA Troop 888** by Sophie Chapman, Troop Historian. Back to School time is a busy time for Troop 888! A recruiting booth was set up at Stillwater Middle School in early August. We were able to highlight some of the activities we have been involved in over the past year and answer questions in an effort to gain some new members. Most troop members also earned their Chemistry Merit Badge in August. We visited a chemistry lab at OCCC, learned about lab safety and chemistry related career paths, and even got to conduct a few experiments. Troop 888 is always looking for new members! If you know a girl age 11-17 who is interested in joining us, please contact Melissa Huber at troop888gbsa@gmail.com.

UKIRK News



The University Ministries (UKirk) committee: Lisa McGaw (chair), Rachel Schlais (Ukirk assistant) and John te Velde (Session rep.), had an eventful August. We joined the Interfaith Alliance on the OSU campus to introduce ourselves, distribute information about our UKirk program and share some treats. We also took part in the Lights on Stillwater event. Rachel shared that Alex Anaya, also present at the event, will be joining the UKirk Committee. There were many students who stopped by our booth to grab cups filled with information about UKirk as well as FPC.

Our first FPC student event was an Out to Lunch at Cafe Mona following church service on Sunday, September 3rd. We enjoyed getting to know one another better and discussed ideas for upcoming events. On Tuesday, September 5th, UKirk hosted an ice cream social for the students. We had a freshman who had seen us at the Lights on Stillwater event join us and is very excited to be involved in UKirk.

UKirk will continue to have student events each Tuesday night. These events provide a safe space and supportive community for these students as they transition into early adulthood.

- September 19th - Tim Schlais has offered to continue with cooking classes from last semester as those were a huge hit. Up first will be Fried Rice. Yum!
- September 26th - Rachel Schlais and Alex Anaya will be leading the second session of the "Breathe" Bible study. This session will be focused on hands.

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

Session Summary

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in its stated meeting on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 5:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room. The Opening Thought and Prayer was provided by John Gelder and Kathy Thomas gave a prayer. Session highlights include:

- Approved request from the Scouts to charge for parking on Friday evening of Walk Around and Saturday morning during the Homecoming Parade (October 28th).
- Approved Endowment recommendations that various memorial gifts be moved to the Perpetual Pledge Endowment account and an increase of the distribution percentage from 3% to 4% from endowments be used in the resource accounts during 2024. This is based on reports for the 3-year investment average that is reported Sept 30, 2023. The committee will review the distribution percentage annually.
- Received report from the Nominating Committee that a nearly full slate of candidates for officers is in hand.
- Approved a new part-time position put forth by Personnel for a Temporary Pastoral Care Associate.
- Approved holding Unified Worship Services at 11:00 am only on October 1, October 29, and November 5 and changing to one service on November 26 through Christmas.
- PNC chair Tim Schlais, visited with the Session to clarify whether the Session intends to fill the associate pastor position or change the PNC directive for Head of Staff that oversees a ruling elder. Session members responded with assurance that Session has no intentions to change the description of the Head of Staff position. Candidates may be informed our church is experiencing change and would like the new person to be involved in guiding us in those changes.
- Stewardship and Finance provided a presentation on their expectations for giving and expenses for 2024.

Next stated meeting is Tuesday, September 12th at 5:30pm in the Multipurpose Room

Monthly Income / Expense Report

	August	Year to Date	% of Budget
Giving	\$ 42,575.43	\$ 396,684.39	64.0
Other Income	\$ 7,653.22	\$ 65,796.33	74.5
Total Income	\$ 50,228.65	\$ 462,480.72	65.3
Expenditures	\$ 66,246.07	\$ 485,086.23	65.7
Net	\$ (16,017.42)	\$ (22,605.51)	

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

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Worship at First Presbyterian

Sunday Worship Schedule

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

Midweek Prayer

Wednesdays 12:10pm via Zoom



Christian Parenting Project program

FPC selected as a pilot church to partner with GenOn Ministries

FPC Stillwater has been chosen as a pilot church to partner with GenOn Ministries in their Christian Parenting Project program. We are embarking on a mutual journey to find where God is leading us in our current contexts with the real felt needs of today's families. This is a *learning process* for all of us, and we believe that together we will discover the best ways to equip families of all shapes and kinds to love God and each other, and live a life rooted in the life-abundant faith Jesus teaches. But what IS this project?

1. Digital resources to support parents, grandparents, and caregivers to:
 - a. grow in faith and spirituality
 - b. parent their children from a place rooted in God's love
 - c. feel supported, equipped, and empowered to answer God's call to the ministry of parenting
2. Digital resources that equip families of all shapes and sizes to grow in faith together. Each resource will:
 - a. be simple and connect to routines and rituals families are already doing
 - b. connect ordinary moments to Bible stories, prayers, and activities that help families experience God's presence
3. Training, mentorship, and a community for church leaders to support connections between church and home.

This is an exciting time as we step out into the unknown clinging to the truth that God is with us all along the way. Learn more at: [GenOn Christian Parenting Project](#)

Sign up by September 22 to participate in this free and informative program. This is for families with children and youth, grandparents, foster parents, caregivers, etc! Questions? Talk to Virginia Charter or Courtney Savage! Submit your families' contact info here: [Family Participant Contact Information](#)