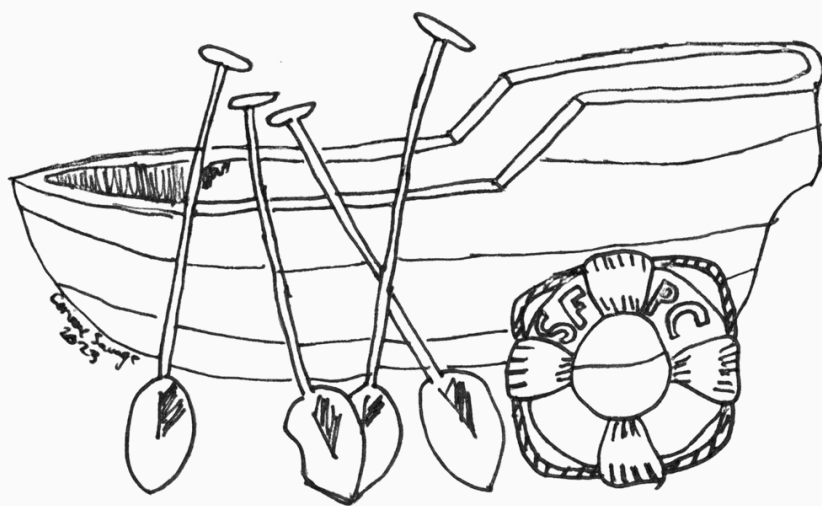


VOL. 65 NUMBER 8 · OCTOBER 2023

THE AMBASSADOR

A publication of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater



All Oars Pulling Together

2024 Stewardship Campaign
See pages 4 & 5 for details

In Our Own Words - Why We Pledge to FPC.
Won't You Join Us?



Aaron & Jill Stoutzenberger



Tammy Wasson & Mary Emmet

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Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The PNC would like to update the FPC congregation on the progress of the work being done. Our committee has received over 45 applications for Senior Pastor. The committee has reviewed these applications and, through phone conversations and Zoom calls, been able to identify three strong candidates. Our next step is to conduct in person interviews, which will begin soon. After these interviews, we will discern where the Spirit is leading and begin discussion of an offer and acceptance as well as Presbytery approval.

To be clear, a candidate has not been selected and it will still take some time to finalize the steps needed. We have been working hard and will continue to do so until a candidate has been selected and accepted an offer to be the next pastor at FPC. Patience and understanding are requested as we work through this process.

Peace be with you.

Tim Schlais

PNC members are: Ed Arquitt, Casey Campbell, Virginia Charter, Claire Leffingwell, Denise Rex, Tim Schlais, and Tammy Wasson

SAVE THE DATE!

Officer Training for
New Officers

NOVEMBER 12TH

12:15-3PM

MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

Officer Training for
New & Returning Officers

NOVEMBER 19TH

12:15-3PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

Lunch will be provided and childcare is available with advance registration. More information will be coming directly to new and returning officers.

2023
GIVING TREE



Save the Date and look for the
tree in mid-November!

A Note from Pastor Kati

"Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."
St Francis of Assisi

Some of my earliest memories are from Church Family Retreats at Bluestone State Park in West Virginia. We lived near Charleston at the time, and my family's church went on retreats every once in a while. The memory is less particular about what we did and mostly a feeling of warmth, fun and love. When we got to Oklahoma, my mom led some of the retreats, and I remember one where we got there in the rain, and it seemed like we had driven 5 hours just to sit in an old room without getting to enjoy the nature because of the weather. I was about 13, and I thought our retreat was doomed. We ended up drinking lots of "Russian Tea" (Tang, Tea, and pumpkin pie spices) and hot chocolate, playing games, singing songs and spending time in prayer. Again, I have this warm memory of fun and love. It's memories like this that gave me what youth ministers call a "Sticky Faith", meaning church experiences that keep us coming back throughout life, wherever we live, seeking out a church home as a means of connecting with God and following in Christ's way. As adults these "sticky memories" are just as necessary and provide a foundation of trust with the church and with one another.

Over the last month we have had some big events which will "stick" in my memory for years to come. The biggest event was the Community Block Party. Fun music, good food, and tons of volunteers. So many people helped with preparation, so many people showed up, and so many extra people stayed to clean up! There were "sticky" situations here and there, but when we can rely on one another through those moments, we can see Christ along the way.

Another big day was World Communion Sunday and the First Annual Presbyterian Bake Off! Whew! Another BIG experience that could not have happened without the many, many hands that came together to bake bread or desserts, to distribute the goodies, to evaluate the goodies, and to clean up the crumbs! Then came Preschool Sunday! The adults sat so still as a reflection of the stillness and quietness of our children listening to our Preschool Director, Dana Brown, read Matthew 19:14, where Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

These October worship services have offered a different kind of stewardship campaign which emphasizes joy and celebrates the lovely ministry of this congregation. Dr. William P. Brown writes about the significance of wonder in the building of connections between people. "Such is wonder's paradox: wonder instills a reverent, even fearful, receptivity toward the Other, a posture of standing back or bending the knee. Such is wonder's affinity with awe, even fear. At the same time, wonder also quickens the desire to venture forth to know more, to know the Other." May this fall be a time to re-ignite your love for this congregation and reconnect with the Holy Spirit. May it also be a time where you draw near to your church family in wonder and delight. The moments of joy and love that we share together will strengthen us for the road ahead.

Pastor Kati



FPC Community Happenings

The 1st Annual Great Presbyterian Bake Off!

Thanks to each and every one of you who came for lunch, baked, judged, ate, and took time for fellowship October 1st to celebrate FPC and our talented bakers. It was a deliciously fun way to kick off stewardship season. The first Bake Off was a great success. Thank you to our dedicated judges – Billy McCollom, Simon Szirmay, Nate Ingram, and Andrea Arquitt. They were very impressed with the baking talents of this congregation. We appreciated all the bakers who entered the Bake Off and a big thanks to everyone who helped prepare, serve, clean up, and move tables and chairs.

2023 Bake Off Winners are:

- Elaina Savage, Best Cookie- peanut butter
- Kay Stewart, Best Brownie
- Barb Henderson, Best Cake - carrot
 - (not pictured)
- Jill Stoutzenberger, Best Pie – apple



Upcoming Events!

Soli Deo Gloria Concert

Sunday, November 12, 3:00pm in Fellowship Hall
"Glory to God Alone"

OSU Piano Studio of
 Tom and Heather Lanners

Don't miss this very special hour of glorious piano music! Music of Bach, Chopin, Debussy and much more, both solos and duets, will be performed by undergraduate and graduate piano majors from Oklahoma State University.

Admission is free, but freewill donations to the Joy Smith Music Endowment are gratefully accepted. If you can assist with the reception, either by contributing cookies or helping with set-up/clean-up, please let Becky te Velde or the church office know.

Childcare will be provided and a reception will follow

Drive-thru!

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

Sunday, December 10
 5:30-7:00 p.m.

MEAL TO-GO HOT CHOCOLATE LIVING NATIVITY
 CAROL SING LIVE ANIMALS

All Oars Pulling Together 2024 Stewardship Campaign

*"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*

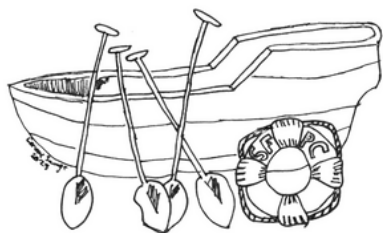
Each household should have recently received a pledge packet for 2024 – All Oars Pulling Together. As FPC plans for the coming year, the Stewardship Committee asks all households to prayerfully consider how you can contribute to the ministries of FPC in 2024 – both financially and with your time and talent. Your commitments help the Session forecast the actions and impact our church will have on our community and the world.

Please return your card by Commitment Sunday, October 29 or if you prefer, you may complete your pledge card online and set up automatic monthly drafts electronically from our website. Simply visit www.stillwaterfpc.org/pledgenow, click on the orange Pledge Now Form button, and follow the instructions.

2023 has been a year of change but also one full of many blessings. Please grab your oar and help navigate the path ahead. By pulling together and each returning a portion of the blessings we have received from God, FPC can continue to be the hands and feet and hearts of God in Stillwater and beyond.

Thank you for all you do and give!
Your Stewardship Committee

All Oars Pulling Together



Pledge your time and talent to Christ's
work in the world using the

VOLUNTEER ACCELERATOR

DISCOVERY TOOL

Questions/Concerns?
First Presbyterian Church
405.372.5580
www.stillwaterfpc.org

WHAT IS THIS TOOL?

Offering time, talents, and spiritual gifts is an important way we live out Jesus' call to discipleship. With the Discovery Tool, you can connect your particular gifts with the needs of the world, our community, and one another! This survey takes just 2-4 minutes to complete, and you will see the results immediately. Our prayer is that the Discovery Tool helps you pledge your time and talent to Christ's mission in ways that are joyful and spiritually enriching for you. Have you taken the survey in the past? Take it again!

HOW DO I ACCESS IT?

Scan the QR code below or visit
www.stillwaterfpc.org/get-involved to
access the tool. If you would rather
use a paper copy of the survey, please
contact the church office.

SCAN HERE:



Children's & Youth Ministry

Exploring My Bible Class

Sunday, November 12 9:45-

10:45am in Fellowship Hall

For 3rd graders and their
parents/grandparents

Please have 3rd graders bring their Bibles they receive in worship on November 5th for this special class to discover all the tools their Bible has to help them study God's word. Parents/grandparents, please plan to attend with your 3rd graders!



Nov. 5 @ 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Bible Presentation in Worship

Nov. 12 @ 9:45 a.m.

Parent/3rd grader "Exploring My Bible" class

Children's Sunday School

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

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



Play, sing, grow in faith, and learn to share God's love with others. This class meets in room 122 in the preschool wing.

SpiritLink (1st-5th graders):



SpiritLink continues their study of the story of Moses and the Children of Israel as they cross the Red Sea (Exodus 14:1-30). We will be learning about how God rescues us, takes care of us, and how God's children can pray for God's help and deliverance.



Children & Worship

A reminder that children ages 3 through 3rd grade are invited to attend Children and Worship each Sunday in the Westminster Room following Time with Children at the 11:00 am worship service.

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!

October

- 22 - No PYG - Fall Break
- 29 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)

November

- 5 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)
- 12 - PYG (5:00 - 6:30pm)
- 20 - No PYG
- 27 - No PYG - Happy Thanksgiving!

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. These classes are for youth grades 6-12.



Congregational Meeting Summary

The congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, OK met for the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 15, 2023, at 12:15 pm as a meeting in-person with a few joining by electronic means via Zoom. A quorum was present. The purpose of the meeting was to elect elders, deacons, trustees for three-year terms and elect at-large members of the 2024 nominating committee.

Cathy Conway, 2023 co-chair of the nominations committee, presented the slate of nominees for Elders, Deacons, and Trustees. There were no additional nominations from the floor for the above offices.

Those elected as Ruling Elder for a three year term:

Dustin Charter	Carolyn Gang
Ed Noltensmeyer	Lynn Osborn
Rusty Rex	Courtney Savage
Corinne Savage (youth/YA one-year term)	

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

Terri Carver	Ann Houston
Tami Krehbiel	Christie Millis
Debby Schoenecke	Danielle Shreve
Sarah Bennett (youth/YA one-year term)	

Those elected as Trustees to a three-year term:

Jim Beckstrom	Jim Showalter
---------------	---------------

An 8-member slate was presented to the congregation to vote for five (5) at-large members to serve on the 2024 Nominating Committee. Those elected:

David Conway	Linda Good
Amy Hardin	Eric Savage
Kay Stewart	

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

Adult Education & Fellowship



Faith & Fellowship class members filling Blessing Bags.

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. Our current study is "If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk: Finding a Faith That Makes Us Better Humans" by John Pavlovitz. This study will run through February. Faith & Fellowship is a group of friends of varying ages and traditions. They meet in the Multipurpose Room each Sunday morning. Recently, we spent time during Sunday school to fill Blessing Bags to share with others that we meet who are hungry and thirsty. For more information, contact Tim Hardin as cthphd@gmail.com or 502-262-5405.
- **Feasting on the Word** meets in The Upper Room. This lectionary-based class is led by Denise Rex.



Seasoned Adults

Monday, November 20
5:30pm gathering,
6:00pm dinner,
and 6:45pm program
in Fellowship Hall

Our program for November will be a presentation from Rev. Dr. Gordon Edwards about his recent trips to Israel/Palestine and Juarez/El Paso.

RSVPs are due by 5:00pm on Friday, November 17th. You may RSVP via the link in your reminder email or 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.

Stephen Ministry: "With Sighs Too Deep for Words"

I've been struck by the beauty, and the gut-wrenching honesty, of these words from Romans 26 not once, not twice, but three times in worship services this summer and fall! Each time, I've recalled care receivers I've had as a Stephen Minister, and times in my own life, when I think our sighs are too deep for words. Our hurt, or our pain, or our feelings of vulnerability are such that we find it hard to express them to others, even (or especially) to others we love. But sometimes, when words fail us, we can still feel more whole just by the presence of someone else being there for us. Stephen Ministers are trained to be that person. Even if we don't always know the exact right words to say, we do know the importance, and the value, of just showing up and listening, even if the sighs are too deep for words.

If you have sighs too deep for words, or if you know someone who you think might be feeling this way, I invite you to speak to Pastor Kati or Stephen Minister Referral Coordinator Carolyn Caldwell (405-747-0218). Your Stephen Ministers are not only trained to help, but want to help, and are available to help.

Linda Good

Worship & Music

Upcoming Unified Worship Services

9:45 am Sunday School, 11:00 am Worship

Reformation/Commitment Sunday on October 29th will be a celebration of our tradition as well as a witness of hope to our joyful future! When you come to worship that morning, you will receive a card which has space for you to mark that you have either turned in a pledge card or plan to return one. During the final hymn, you will be invited to bring these cards to the front of the sanctuary as a visible witness to your commitment and gratitude to the work of God through this body of Christ.

We will recognize All Saint's Day on Sunday, November 5th. This is a service where we make space to remember our loved ones who have died in the last year or for whom we continue to grieve. During the first hymn you will have the opportunity to light a candle for your loved one.

Chancel Choir

We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:15pm in the Westminster Room (choir room) and 10:15am on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary, and anyone 7th grade and older is welcome--no choral experience required. We are in the midst of preparations for the major liturgical festivals of Reformation, All Saints, and Reign of Christ Sundays, in addition to Advent and Christmas music. The choir-led Service of Lessons and Carols on December 10 will be the culmination of our fall choir season. During Thanksgiving break, we will not rehearse November 22 or sing in worship on November 26.

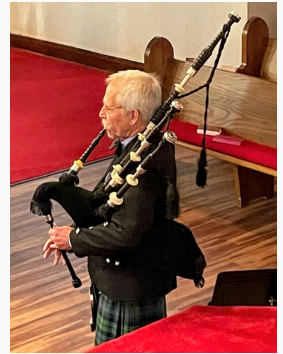
"Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music."
- Martin Luther

Bench Buddies

Anyone age 7 and up (no upper age limit!) is invited 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 then to Children in Worship if they so choose.) Trade your pew seat for the organ bench and experience worship in a very different way, with the surround-sound of choir and organ! And have no fear--we are a friendly bunch up there and heartily welcome visitors. Contact Becky te Velde to make arrangements for yourself, your child, or for a grandchild.

Upcoming Musical Highlights

- October 29 Reformation/Commitment Sunday: "The Solid Rock" for choir, organ, two trumpets, and congregation, arr. R. te Velde (2023); "Highland Cathedral" with Greg Campbell, bagpipes, and Kim Leffingwell, flute; "We Are Marching" - concluding hymn with congregational offering Bagpipe Prelude; Organ Postlude on "We Are Marching" (premiere)
- November 5 All Saints Sunday Observed: Prelude on "O God, Beyond All Praising" for Organ and French horn; Anthem: "Sing with All the Saints in Glory" by H. Gerike; Communion Meditation on "Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior, Thee", Allison Ringle, French horn
- November 12: Prelude - "Fireside pipes" (small bagpipes) with harpsichord
- December 10: A Service of Lessons and Carols: from prophecy to proclamation, the Christmas story told through scripture paired with Advent and Christmas carols



First Friday Peace Jam

6 PM Potluck Supper

7-8:30 PM Music Jam

Sing along, play along (bring any instrument you like), or simply relax, watch, and listen. Lyrics and chords are projected on the screen. This is an open and public event for everyone--all ages are welcome. Please join us next time on November 3!

Questions? Please contact

Jim Beckstrom (james@beckstromgroup.com)



End of Year Giving Reminder

It is hard to believe but we are rapidly approaching the end of 2023. If you are planning to initiate end of year charitable giving, now is the time to make those arrangements. Gifts to FPC must be received or be postmarked by December 30 to be credited to 2023 giving records. (December 31 is a Sunday.)

Presbyterian Money Talk

What is a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)?

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a direct transfer from an IRA to a qualified charity, and FPC is a qualified charity. Only individuals who are 70 ½ or older may make QCDs. QCDs count toward the required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year in which the QCD is made. Unlike withdrawals from an IRA, a QCD is not taxable income to you and unlike other contributions to the church, a QCD is not tax-deductible for you. Nevertheless, a QCD can be advantageous for a charitably-minded IRA owner and the charity they select.

To execute a QCD to First Presbyterian Church, instruct your IRA trustee or custodian to make a transfer from your IRA directly to First Presbyterian Church. You can use a QCD to pay your pledge and/or make a special gift. In any case, please alert Mary Beth at the church office that a QCD is coming and any special instructions. If you have further questions, please contact Cathy Fairbanks, Church Treasurer cathy.fairbanks@stillwaterfpc.org or Mary Beth Garoffolo, Finance Assistant marybeth.garoffolo@stillwaterfpc.org.

3rd Quarter Giving Statements

Third Quarter 2023 Giving Statements were recently sent to church members by email (if we have your current email address) or by US Mail. If you did not receive your statement, please contact Mary Beth Garoffolo and she will send it to you.

If you received a paper statement and would like to change to receiving it by email OR if you want to change from email to receiving a paper statement in the US mail, please let her know that as well.

Thanks so much to everyone for your generous and constant financial support of FPC. We truly could not do it without you!!

Celebrating Per Capita - a True Bargain

Rationale

- We are a priesthood of all believers
- We are members of the Risen Body of Christ through the Spirit
- We are a connectional church
- We are responsible for and accountable to one another
- We are enabled to share Christ beyond ourselves

2023 Per Capita for Cimarron Presbytery = \$48.00

General Assembly received \$9.85

- Conducts a General Assembly every two years and underwrites the expenses of our Commissioners (2022 - Jenny Wells, Nancy Ryan, and YAAD Kathryn Nipp, 2024 - Karen Rogers, J. Wayne Hudson)
- Supports the denominational staff: Teresa Waggener - assisting us with Minwoo Kim and family's immigration process
- Laurie Griffith - assisting Oklahoma presbyteries in their discussion regarding a new creation

Synod of the Sun received \$2.00

- Supports the staff and operational costs
- Holds 2 Synod Assembly meetings annually (Ron Fike and Kathy Thomas are our Commissioners)

Cimarron Presbytery received \$36.15

- Provided 10 \$275 scholarships for youth to attend Ferncliff
- Provided 5 \$195 scholarships for youth training to be leaders
- Contributed \$500 for charter bus to Ferncliff
- Provided \$1,500 in support of Guymon children summer trip (10 children)
- Underwrites expenses of the Commission on Ministry and Preparation, the General Presbyter, and the Stated Clerk
- Contributes \$3,000 toward the Synod Partnership for Disaster Relief
- Supports the tri-presbytery Church Leader's retreat with \$500
- Sets aside \$1,800 for Youth Triennium
- Supports the Oklahoma Faith Network (formerly Oklahoma Conference of Churches) with \$1,400
- Covers the \$1,600 insurance policy
- Allocates \$1,000 for the Oklahoma Presbyterian Network

Together we accomplish much more than any one individual or congregation. We are grateful for our per capita doing Christ's work among and beyond us.

october

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)
 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
 Paula Fitch
 Mike Flowers
 Joyce Freeman (Osborn)
 Mary Frye
 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/Vinson)
 Tresa Miller (Miller)
 Jean Moore (Stangl)
 Anne Mullen (Mullen)
 Nora Nagaruk (Stangl)
 Chancey Nickerson
 Michelle Nicholson
 Pricilia Nkem
 Margaret O'Loughlin (Redburn)
 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)
 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)
 Jim West
 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)



Scout Updates

- **Pack 3842** held their Open House at the end of August. We added 8 new scouts, which grew the pack to 28 scouts total. Shoot-a-ree was held at Will Rogers Scout Reservation. Several of our scouts attended this council event and learned to shoot bb guns, wrist rockets, and bow and arrow. We had our Fall Campout on October 12 at Lake McMurtry. The scouts learned about flag retirement, some earned their whittling chip, while others learned to plan a campout. Everyone enjoyed a hike, games, campfire skits and s'mores. If you know of a child in grades K-5 who may be interested in Cub Scouting, please contact Brandon & Ruth Spencer at pack3842@gmail.com. Fall is a great time to get to know the Pack.
- **Troop 820** would like to thank the church for the use of the west parking lot for game day fundraising. This is one of our largest yearly sources of income to help us provide the scouting program to area youth. In September we held a work day at Will Rogers Scout Reservation where we helped with campsite maintenance and some trail work. Also in September, 820 scouts had a rare opportunity to view and learn about Moon rocks which were on loan by NASA to the OSU Geology Department. Thank you Cubmaster Brandon Spencer for this experience. For October and November we will help staff the Cimarron Council Spook-O-Ree for area Cub Scout packs and will hold a Webelo camp in November to give older cub scouts a chance to experience camping with a Scouts BSA troop before their spring cross over ceremonies.
- **Scouts BSA Troop 888** by Sophie Chapman, Troop Historian. Troop 888 has had lots of fun recently! We've recruited two new members! In September, we camped at Slippery Falls near Tishomingo. We climbed rocks and visited the Chickasaw National Recreation Area where we got to swim, learn about Chickasaw culture, and become Jr. Rangers. Also in September, we were invited by Troop 912 to participate in the Color Guard for the Cherokee Strip Parade. A few of our scouts also helped one of our older scouts with her Eagle Project by rebuilding an old foot bridge at Sanborn Lake. October's campout at Camp Stapley was a blast. We worked on various merit badges and rank requirements. Some of the activities included a 5-mile hike, star gazing, and building/sleeping in a wilderness survival shelter. New members are always welcome to Troop 888! If you know a girl ages 11-17 who is interested in joining us, please contact Melissa Huber at troop888gbsa@gmail.com.



UKIRK News

University ministry has had a good beginning for the fall semester. We are looking forward to several upcoming events. Our group is welcoming to all college age young adults who are looking for a place to connect. We meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Youth Suite at the First Presbyterian Church. For more information contact Rachel Schlais, rachel.schlais@gmail.com.

Oct 24: Cooking with UKIRK - Potato Soup and Crepes

Oct 31: Halloween

Nov 5: Lunch out with UKIRK (meet in the Narthex after 11:00am worship)

Nov 7: Bible Study Session 4 - Body

Nov 14: Game Night



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

World Mission & Denominational Concerns/Communications & Connecting:

Jill Stoutzenberger (co-chair)
Kathy Thomas (co-chair)
Cathy Conway

Fellowship & Family:

Donna Koepp (chair)

Stewardship & Finance:

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

UKIRK (University):

Lisa McGaw (chair)
John te Velde

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 Koepp

Nominating Committee:

Cathy Conway (chair)
Kathy Thomas

Session Summary

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in its stated meetings on Tuesday September 12th and October 10th, at 5:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room. Session highlights include:

- World Mission and Denominational Concerns and Communications and Connecting committees have begun the process of combining. Tumblers carrying the PCUSA logo and church name were approved for sale. They continue to be sold in the Fair Trade store.
- Cimarron Presbytery met on October 3 in Enid. Lisa McGaw and Kathy Thomas attended the meeting as commissioners, Leigh Miller attended as staff and Oklahoma Presbyteries Youth Committee member, and Pastor Kati attended by Zoom.
- PNC member Denise Rex reported in October the committee has narrowed the search down to 3 candidates, and in-person interviews will be conducted soon, with the hope that an offer will be made at the end of this month or the beginning of next.
- New updated Legacy Gift documents, including a Letter of Intent that will be shared with the annual report and an updated Legacy Gift policy were shared. Session approved the adding of a Legacy Gift promo video to the website.
- After much prayerful discernment and heartfelt discussion, and on the recommendation of the Worship & Music committee, Session voted to suspend the 8:30am service by the end of November. Volunteer numbers have lowered dramatically along with attendees. The last 8:30am service of the calendar year will be November 19th.
- A subcommittee will be formed to explore a contemporary service rooted in Presbyterian Theology.
- Pastor Kati reported that a Capital Campaign will be needed in the coming year to cover the needs of our Sanctuary Roof and other building needs such as carpeting and maintenance of our geothermal system of heating and cooling.
- Dates of note: Called Congregational Meeting on October 15th, Officer Training for NEW Officers is November 12th from 12:15-3pm. Officer Training for ALL Officers is November 19th from 12:15-3pm.

Next stated meeting is Tuesday, November 14th at 5:30pm in the Multipurpose Room.

Monthly Income / Expense Report

	September	Year to Date	% of Budget
Giving	\$ 70,221.68	\$ 466,906.07	75.4
Other Income	\$ 6,565.24	\$ 72,361.57	81.9
Total Income	\$ 76,786.92	\$ 539,267.64	76.2
Expenditures	\$ 61,954.94	\$ 546,977.79	74.1
Net	\$ 14,381.98	\$ (7,710.15)	

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Paying It Forward The Second Mile Sewing Way

The Second Mile Sewing group faithfully meets almost every Wednesday morning in Fellowship Hall to sew, crochet, knit, quilt, and spend time together. Often they take on projects as requested by other groups, both within FPC such as the red stockings they have made for past Advent GiFTS, and from the wider community, such as the many face masks sewn during COVID or bags that easily attach to a walker.

Dr. Cara Pence of Stillwater Surgical Associates reached out recently to the Stillwater Medical Foundation to see if the foundation could help coordinate someone to make 'Mastectomy Pillows'. These pillows are handmade, heart-shaped pillows meant to provide a soft buffer between a patient's arm and their incision. They can also be helpful when riding in a vehicle to prevent the seatbelt from rubbing.

Barb Henderson, a longtime member of Second Mile, is also a longtime volunteer at Stillwater Medical Center (over 26 years and counting!) She was contacted by the Foundation with the pillow request, and her response of "Yes!" was given without hesitation. Herself a survivor of breast cancer, Barb still remembers the discomfort following her surgery and said this project is particularly near and dear to her heart.



Information in this article was taken from the article, 'The softer side of breast cancer surgery' that ran in the Stillwater NewsPress on Sunday, October 8th.