



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



# CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

We are grateful for the over 35 volunteers who serve faithfully in children and youth ministry at FPC. The volunteers were honored at the Volunteer Appreciation Brunch in May and gathered for the Leader Launch in August to be equipped and inspired for the year ahead.

## Ferncliff Camp

With the sale of Dwight Mission to the Cherokee Nation and the site not being ready yet to host camp again, Jenna Campbell organized an opportunity for Oklahoma campers to attend a week of camp at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center outside of Little Rock, AR. 45 Oklahoma campers (including five from FPC Stillwater, plus Jenna who went as a sponsor) traveled by charter bus to Ferncliff and enjoyed a week of camp fun!

## Dwight Night

Hosted by Dwight Mission at the north campus of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City, a total of 85 participants (16 from FPC Stillwater) from across the state gathered for all of their Dwight Mission camp favorites: energizers, camp songs, vespers, s'mores, and games.

## FPC Children's and Youth Ministry Highlighted by the PCUSA

Our children's and youth work with Matthew 25 was highlighted by the PCUSA in a few ways this year. A write-up about the Seeing Jesus programming theme and study and Pay It Forward Challenge was included in an issue of Presbyterians Today. In August, Mabrie Baldwin and Jenna Campbell were featured in a live episode of "Being Matthew 25" hosted by the PCUSA as they shared about FPC programming that engaged children and youth in Matthew 25.

## Staff

- ◇ Jenna Campbell  
*Director of Children & Youth Ministry*
- ◇ Elijah Ankrom  
*Youth Ministry Assistant*
- ◇ Haley Brobston  
*Youth Ministry Assistant*
- ◇ Carleigh Epperson  
*Children's Ministry Assistant (spring)*
- ◇ Bekah Bowman  
*Children's Ministry Assistant (fall)*
- ◇ Erin Lawson  
*Childcare Coordinator*





# NURTURE

## Youth

We thank Sandy Cohlmiya who stepped down from the Youth Committee this year after serving 13 consecutive years on the committee. Her leadership guided the committee through many years of work on the Ministry Architects process and laid the foundation for where we are today.

17 youth led the congregation in worship on Youth Sunday with the theme "Seeing Jesus." The youth inspired the congregation with their powerful Matthew 25 reading and sermons, video on the Seeing Jesus theme, and moving Prayers of the People song.

They experienced the Holy Week Amazing Race, a challenge that led them through the events of Holy Week. Youth resumed leadership of the Maundy Thursday service following two years with a different type of service due to COVID-19. Belinda Bruner led the youth in interviewing adults in the church as adults and youth shared about their faith together.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmands enjoyed the Confirmation Retreat at St. Francis of the Woods in Coyle this fall, led by Confirmation teachers Carolyn Caldwell, Rusty Rex, and Casey Campbell.

We began a Senior High Small Group for 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders meeting for six weeks in the spring and then again (at their request) weekly from October - December, discussing the book "What Do I Believe About What I Believe?"

## PRESBYTERIAN • YOUTH • GROUP



Summer PYG programming included fellowship events like Taco Tuesday, as well as a day trip to Tulsa to enjoy the Gathering Place and tour Greenwood Rising, the Black Wall St. History Center. The youth were honored to sing the Benediction Song at the end of Rev. Dr. Leah Hrachovec's last worship service as head pastor of FPC Stillwater.

During the fall semester, Presbyterian Youth Group studied the theme of "Following Jesus" and reflected on how

faith practices move us to love God and neighbor, listen for the Spirit, and be more like Jesus. They used their Following Jesus journals to reflect on scripture each week and committed to "practicing the practice" as they studied faith practices such as prayer, engaging scripture, justice and mercy, listening, gratitude, Sabbath, and generosity.

## Sunday School

- 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade: study of the Old and New Testament
- 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade: Faith and Sexuality (spring), Confirmation (fall)
- 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade: *Sticky Faith* book study (spring), Values in action as modeled by Jesus in the parables (fall)

*Committee members: Rusty Rex (chair), Leslie Baldwin, Belinda Bruner, Sandy Cohlmiya (spring), Mike Melancon (fall), Erin Moore (fall), Tim Riley, Josh Taylor, Jenna Campbell (staff)*

## Children

Carleigh Epperson finished four years as the Children's Ministry Assistant in May. We welcomed Bekah Bowman as the new Children's Ministry Assistant in the fall. Families enjoyed the Children's Ministry Kickoff in August at the Boomer Lake splash pad. Games, an ice cream bar, and an opportunity for fellowship and learning about the year ahead in children's ministry made it a fun evening! Children and Worship continues to be offered during the 11:00am worship service as a sacred space for children's worship and wonder. The children's Easter Celebration included 24 children hunting Easter eggs, crafting, and releasing lady bugs.

## Milestones

Our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders explored Communion during the Communion Milestone in the spring, baking bread together, stomping grapes, and reflecting on the Lord's Supper. In the fall, five third graders received their Bibles and participated in an Exploring My Bible class with their parents.

## Sunday School

Our Pre-K - Kindergarteners in

the Faith Kidnection class enjoyed their lessons from the *Walk with Me* curriculum each week. SpiritLink for 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders added a new workshop rotation room this fall, the Bread of Life Café, led by Eric Windhausen. The children loved exploring the Bible stories through cooking and food.

## Nursery

Our little ones in the nursery receive excellent care from our nursery workers and Erin Lawson, Child Care Coordinator. More in-person events and meetings this year resulted in more opportunities for the nursery to be open.

*Committee members: Jean Aresco, Nancy Beckstrom, Dustin Charter, Pat Gilland, Megan Matthews (spring), Melody Reavis, Eric Windhausen (fall), Jenna Campbell (staff)*





## Intergenerational

### Summer GiFT

Although initially planned as a three-day weekend at Lake McMurry, Summer GiFT (Generations in Faith Together) moved inside for one night in June because of extreme heat. Despite the move indoors, 33 children, youth, and adults enjoyed a Summer GiFT Celebration complete with a “campfire”, tent, and trees that provided the backdrop for games, energizers and songs, worship based on the theme “We are the Body”, and of course a campfire sing-off.

### Lenten GiFT

Children, youth, and adults gathered on Palm Sunday to create a Holy Week @ Home resource that walked participants through the stories of Holy Week while creating stones with images of the stories.

### Pumpkin Palooza

The Children’s Ministry committee planned a fellowship event for the whole church at Oh My Gourd Pumpkin Patch in Glencoe. Over 60 children, youth, and adults (and a couple Presbyterian Preschool families) enjoyed an afternoon of fall fun together with a hayride, pumpkin chunkin’, s’mores, corn pit, petting zoo, and more.

### A Night in Bethlehem

Over 200 people from FPC and the community experienced an evening to reflect on the Christmas story together at A Night in Bethlehem. As in previous years, the event was outside and had great community involvement. The event included a to-go meal, bags with Christmas activities for children, and a drop off for our Little Free Pantry (overflowing by the end of the night!). Then all viewed our FPC youth in the Living Nativity on the front lawn, complete with live goats, and hot chocolate and cider. Our Choral Scholars led us in a carol sing during the Living Nativity breaks and the Fair Trade Store was available for shopping. Special thanks to Cathy Fairbanks for sewing new wisemen costumes (replacing the originals that were over 30 years old!).





# ADULT MINISTRY

The mission of the Adult Ministry Committee is to support the growth of our congregation and outreach to the community. Several insightful Bible and book studies as well as various topics of interest were offered to the congregation.

## The January Series 2022

Thanks to Kent Olson for coordinating the January Series from Calvin College (now Calvin University) for the past 7 years. Participants could gather in person or view at home via live stream.

## Sunday Morning Classes

### Feasting on the Word

This Bible study, led by Denise Rex, follows the Revised Common Lectionary. The class is on-going and dives deep into Scripture, asking reflective questions and challenging participants to think in a new way.

### Worthy of Praise

Belinda Bruner led this class featuring the connection to faith through music, literature and the visual arts (January).

### Lenten Class

"Repairing the Breach", a Bible study of Isaiah 58:12 from One Great Hour of Sharing curriculum led by Associate Pastor Jenny Wells.

### First Steps

These classes, co-led by Pastor Leah and the Communications & Connecting Committee, provide an introduction to life and faith and First Presbyterian Church.

### Wonderfully & Fearfully Made:

#### Disability and Faith

Phyllis Taylor led a class entitled "Wonderfully and Fearfully Made: Disability and Faith" to explore the theology around inclusion of disabled individuals in the church (April-May).

### Holy Disunity

Associate Pastor Jenny Wells led a class using the book by Layton Williams entitled *Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us*. (August-September)

### Celebrating Sabbath

Associate Pastor Jenny Wells led this Bible study entitled "Celebrating Sabbath" using the 2022-2023 PW Horizons study. (October-November)

## Other Class/Group Offerings

Presbytery racial Justice Discussion Group

Associate Pastor Jenny Wells and Elder

Kathy Thomas led the group using a curriculum entitled "Racial Awareness Training".

### Lectionary Bible Study

This weekly group gathers to discuss the lectionary readings for the coming Sunday. Led by Pastor Leah Hrachovec, Interim Pastor Kati Collins and Associate Pastor Jenny Wells.

### Faith & Fellowship

A new permanent class led by Tim Hardin began in January. The group's studies included: "Christianity and World Religions", "John, The Gospel of Light and Life" and "Creed, What Christians Believe and Why" all by Adam Hamilton, "Strange Book of Books" by Aric Clark, "Everybody, Always: Becoming Love in a World Full of Setbacks and Difficult People" by Bob Goff and *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*, a book by Barbara Brown Taylor

### Antiracism Learning and

#### Accountability Group

Kay Stewart and Linda Burks led monthly discussions about racism in its many forms. Guest speakers included: Jan Largent, former president of the OK League of Women Voters and Dr. David Wilson, Director of Rock the Native Vote. Though no longer meeting monthly, the group continues to share articles and events dealing with racism.

## Older Adult Ministries

### Seasoned Adults

featured presentations on a variety of topics including: Drs. Arata and Boles from the OSU History Department speaking on Oklahoma Black History, piano duets by Claudia Mornhinweg and Melanie Williams, Jim Beckstrom giving updates on Block 34 and Ukraine/Russian energy, Belinda Bruner presenting on National History Month, Nancy and Gary Simpson about Georgia O'Keefe, Jarrod Beckstrom on an overview of the renewable energy industry and Bobby Simma's piano program. In July we accepted the resignation of Older Adult Ministries Coordinator Kelly McCarley with thanks for her years of service.

### Coffee and Conversation

"Coffee and Conversation" continued in 2022 at the assisted/independent living facilities (Legacy Village, Primrose and Golden Oaks). During these monthly meetings our pastors and staff are able to meet with our parishioners and some new friends for coffee, snacks, and a joyful time together.



Committee members: Judi Baker (chair), Jenny Bobo, Linda Burks, Kelly & Ken McCarley, Kent Olson, Bill Segall, Jenny Wells (staff)



## UNIVERSITY MINISTRY

In 2022, we:

- Met for coffee and prayer on Wednesday mornings in the spring
- Gathered after worship for snacks and devotionals on Sundays in the fall
- Took part in the OSU campus ministry fair and Lights on Stillwater
- Went to lunch once a month after worship
- Distributed 45 finals care packages
- Helped plan FPC's 3rd Annual Block Party
- Attended Pumpkin Palooza with the larger church family
- Volunteered in the kitchen for A Night in Bethlehem

In 2023, we hope:

- To grow our presence on campus at OSU
- To engage OSU faculty and staff with opportunities for fellowship
- To continue our support of students through hospitality, fellowship, and prayer

*University Committee: John Mark Day (chair January-July 2022), Ken Belanus (chair from July-December 2022), Jesse "J" Jones (UKirk Assistant), Jenny Wells (staff)*



Dana Brown  
Preschool Director

## PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

In 2022, we saw a return to a more normal year than we have had since March of 2020 when COVID-19 hit. Based on new guidelines published by the CDC, the teachers were able to remove their masks as we were teaching in the classroom and what a relief it was to be able to smile at our kids and them actually to see our smiles. Our students never were masked. As we came back to school in August this year, we made plans for parents to be able to return into the classrooms. We are so thankful.

This year, OK Department of Human Services has changed their STARS rating system for Childcare Centers. They used to rate centers on a 3-star scale and now they have changed it to a 5-star scale. I knew we should be a 5-star. Our center has always been fabulous at working with students and their families! With the new rating scale, our old rating of a 2-star correlated to a 3-star rating. We applied to be a 5-star center. Previously we had never tried for the 3-star rating because you had to be nationally accredited and that cost a lot of money, so we always chose not to pursue that rating. With the new rating scale, we did

not have to be nationally accredited so we applied! In November this year, we found out that we had achieved the 5-star rating!

Our school this year we served 98 kids from 81 families. We have 16 fabulous teachers that continue to love the children in their care like their own children. We continue to try each day to fulfill our mission of developing the whole child in an environment that is engaging, loving and developmentally appropriate. We believe children learn through play and the teachers work hard to provide an environment rich in play. Since July of 2021, we have diligently looked for options to replace our storage shed that was in the courtyard as the old shed was falling apart. We have received bids and in partnership with the Trustees, we will have a new shed in early 2023. The teachers and I cannot wait to get our things moved back inside the courtyard fence and into our new shed.



Pictured front row left to right: Carmen Fox, Cathy Meberg, Brooke Ketch, Kylee Painter  
Back row left to right: Autumn Cagle, Chasity Cassel, Jem Tinnin, Kate Wells, Amanda Sanders-Vann, Kristi Riley, Dana Brown, Mandy Pace, Candace Gunkel, and Dayle Winslow.





## BOY SCOUT TROOP 820

Troop activities have returned to normal after the pandemic and our outdoor program is thriving. Troop membership and participation in activities is high and the scouts have a renewed interest in pursuing rank advancement. Two scouts, Mack Kulling and Marek Oomens, earned their Eagle rank.

Over spring break, we took our annual Ouachita Trek in southeastern Oklahoma where our scouts had the opportunity to utilize the backpacking and outdoor skills they learn throughout the year. This trek is a good preview for newer scouts to see what treks like Philmont are like.

In April and May we camped at Alabaster Caverns and Roman Nose state parks where we went wild caving and worked

on scout skills and rank requirements. The scouts decided to go to Arkansas for summer camp this year where we attended Camp Rockefeller.

The scouts requested in 2022 to become active in the Order of the Arrow as we had been for many years in the past. We had three scouts, Matthew Schmidt, Jonathan Szabo, and Alex Hanson elected to the OA in February. They were called out at summer camp and successfully completed their ordeal in September at Will Rogers Scout Reservation.

Service projects included Wreaths Across America, Relay for Life, and assisting the American Legion with their annual pancake breakfast. We also assisted with the Memorial Day flag placement, the Special Olympics Summer Games, and



with the Highland Park Methodist Church pumpkin patch and carnival. Troop 820 currently has 19 scouts and 19 adult leaders registered.

## SCOUT TROOP 888

FPC's generous support provides the sole opportunity for girls in our community to participate in Scouts BSA and the Leadership, Scouts and families of 888 are grateful and appreciate everything the Church and individual members of the congregation have done and continue to do which contributes to our growth, development and success. Thank You!

Scouts BSA Troop 888 had a spectacular first 9 months and has doubled in size! Being a member of a brand new Troop is a challenging task, but these Scouts have accepted every challenge beautifully, and successfully earned the National Outdoor Challenge Award as well as the Journey to Excellence Gold Award both in their first year!

The troop spent 16 nights camping and provided 277 hours of community service. Some of their service activities include working at the FPC garden work day, cleaning up the FPC playground, helping an FPC church member move, assisting with Pack 3842's Cub Scout Open House, teaching STEM at Spook-O-Ree, helping with the FPC Community Brunch, making scarves to distribute at the Community Brunch, performing flag retirements and picking up the FPC Food Bank order.

The Scouts enjoyed outdoor adventures at Sylvia Stapley, Salt Plains State Park, Will Rogers Scout Camp, Rockefeller Scout Camp, Robber's Cave State Park and Deer Time Ranch. During these



events, they formed friendships, practiced outdoor cooking skills, learned numerous outdoor Scout skills, acquired knowledge of and practiced the Leave No Trace and Outdoor Code principles, learned good citizenship, developed good character through the Scout Oath and Law, practiced and demonstrated servant leadership, and made memories to last a lifetime.

## CUB PACK 3842

In August 2021, First Presbyterian opened its doors to Pack 3842 when we needed to find a new home (thank you!). We're a Pack for both boys and girls with about 22 Cub Scouts from Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.

We meet weekly at the church on Monday nights from 6:30 to 7:30pm. Most weeks are for Den Meetings, where we split up by grade to work on age-appropriate activities with full Pack meetings once a month.

Highlights of 2022 included a Lego Derby where scouts designed and built their own

racecars, campouts at Sylvia Stapley, an Egg Drop, and a Scout Outdoor Activity Day at Lake McMurry. The year ended with a Christmas Party celebrated with Troops 888 and 820 and a visit from Scouter Claus.

Our weekly Den Meetings have also been exciting. Some highlights from each grade:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: teamwork, astronomy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: coins, growing plants, germs
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: knife safety, building flower boxes
- 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade: first aid, cooking without pans

Annual Report 2022

Thank you for sponsoring Pack 3842 and making us part of your service to the community.





## CELEBRATION AND FAREWELL TO REV. DR. LEAH R. HRACHOVEC

In May of 2022, Session received notice of resignation from Pastor/Head of Staff Rev. Dr. Leah R. Hrachovec following her acceptance of a call to Westminster Presbyterian Church in Westchester, PA. Leah was first called as Associate Pastor in 2007 and then as Pastor/Head of Staff in 2014, a total of 15 years service to this faith community. Many came together to plan a celebration and farewell to Leah and her family - husband Nat Cooper and children Nora and Grant. The reception and program included a slideshow of, 'Leah by the Numbers', prayer shawls made by members of Second Mile Sewing, and a thumbprint tree with the marks of many congregational members serving as leaves.

A lasting remembrance in honor of Leah, to be installed in 2023, will be an outdoor drinking fountain to be placed outside of Fellowship Hall. This fountain will allow community members access to fresh, cold water all year round.



## ENDOWMENT

The Endowment Committee oversaw the management of the endowment funds. Funds are invested with New Covenant Trust Company, a division of the Presbyterian Foundation and are invested consistent with the social witness principles adopted by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA. The total market value of the endowment funds on December 31, 2022 was \$ 1,675,546. In addition to earnings received on our investments, over \$40,000 in gifts were received and added to the following restricted endowment accounts: Perpetual Pledges, Sheerar Child/Youth, Joy Smith Music, Bethel Cemetery, Darlow Scholarship, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Sewing and K. Clapp Deacon's Accounts.

Session, families and many other parties were supported by the Endowment Resources during 2022. (Three percent of the 3-year average market value on September 30 each year is made available to support the church, consistent with the restrictions established for the restricted accounts.) Support provided during 2022 included:

- Long-term maintenance of the FPC facilities from the Unrestricted Endowment and the Bullen CM&I Restricted Endowment
- Pledges to the unified church budget from the Perpetual Pledges Endowment

- Presbyterian Woman luncheons, new freezer for the Fellowship Hall kitchen from the A Brown PW Endowment
- Choir robes from the McCullers Art/Beauty Endowment
- Christmas Joy Offering and the Giving Tree from the Goforth Joy Offering Endowment and the Joy Smith Giving Tree Endowment
- Bethel Cemetery for cemetery maintenance
- The Soli Deo Gloria Music Concert Series from the Joy Smith Music Endowment
- Deacon's crisis assistance from the K. Clapp Deacon's Endowment
- Support for the Presbyterian Preschool Program from the Gumm Preschool, C. Murphy and Darlow Endowments
- New iPads for Spiritlink from the Sheerar Child/Youth Endowment
- Support for the Stephen Ministry Program from the Stephen Ministry Endowment
- Medical Debt Relief from the Medical Debt Relief Endowment

### 2022 Committee Members

Arletta Webster (Chair), David Conway, Tim Hardin, Donna Koeppe, Lynn Osborn, Tim Riley, Leah Hrachovec (pastor/ex-officio, through July 2022)



## WORLD MISSIONS & DENOMINATIONAL CONCERNS

In 2022, WMDC:

- ◇ Completed work replacing siding and adding insulation on the north side of the chapel at Goodland Academy in Hugo, Oklahoma, including installing a new ramp leading to the main entrance during the Intergenerational Mission Trip.
- ◇ Supported Mission Co-Workers Jed and Jenny Koball and Chenoa Stock, the Theological Education Fund, and the University of the Ozarks through prayer and financial contributions. Financial contributions amounted to \$1000 for our Mission Co-Workers (combined), \$1000 for the Theological Education Fund, and \$1000 for the University of the Ozarks. We also sent \$1000 to the PCUSA for General Assembly Projects and \$200 to the Covenant Network of Presbyterians.
- ◇ Supported a new partner, Schools Not Streets, a ministry of PresAID Uganda and Deacon Noel Thomas, who visited our committee in November 2021. WMDC voted in March to offer support by sending funds to purchase a motorbike for teachers to use when they need to pick up supplies and in emergencies. We also sent them the remainder of funds left in the Global Missions account at the end of 2022, amounting to \$977.62, to support the building of a second campus in Uganda.
- ◇ Hosted Mission Co-Worker Chenoa Stock for a visit to FPC and Stillwater in October for World Communion Sunday. Chenoa partook in meals with a number of members, helped lead worship by sharing stories about her work in Peru and other places around the world, and met with Presbyterian Youth Group during their weekly gathering. We are grateful to our members who live at Oak Creek Community for hosting Chenoa and her son, Leandro, in one of their guest rooms!
- ◇ Encouraged participation and giving for the four Special Offerings of the PC(USA) (One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, and Christmas Joy).
- ◇ Fully reopened the Fair Trade Store for shopping on Sunday mornings
- ◇ Supported an Afghan family in Stillwater with \$700 to purchase what they needed to welcome their new baby into their home.

*World Missions & Denominational Concerns Committee Members: Kathy Thomas (chair), Julie Bills, Gerrit Cuperus, Steve Fairbanks, Matt Jeffery, Jenny Wells (staff)*

## STAFF SERVES LARGER CHURCH

Rev. Jenny Wells

- Cimarron Presbytery COMP, Member
- Cimarron Presbytery Teaching Elder Commissioner to the 225th General Assembly of the PC(USA)
- UKirk National Healthy Campus Ministries Sub-Committee, Member
- Synod of the Sun Network for Dismantling Racism, Member
- Cimarron Presbytery Racial Justice Training, Co-Leader

Jenna Campbell

- Organizer of Oklahoma campers week at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center
- Member, Dwight Mission Program Committee
- Past-President, South Central Region of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators – completed four years of service as President/Past-President to SCRAPCE
- Team Leader and Exam Administrator for the Educator Certification Committee of the PC(USA) – completed eight years on the Educator Certification Committee
- Coach/mentor for an Oklahoma Christian educator
- Led book study for Oklahoma and Texas educators and pastors on the book *Sustainable Youth Ministry*
- Workshop leader, Tri-Presbytery meeting





# LOCAL MISSION

## Mission of Hope Life Skills

Each year classes are taught the first and third Wednesday of each month to the clients of Mission of Hope. The classes offered included: Getting a Job, Keeping a Job, Organization, Problem Solving, Budgeting, and Legal Issues. After a lengthy pause due to COVID-19, the Deacons successfully resumed our monthly classes in November of this year. The Deacon's also provided support for the clients with deliveries of food and holiday donations throughout year.

## Our Daily Bread

We provided shopping and shelf stocking assistance to ODB at three Saturday workdays in 2022. A new bus stop shelter was constructed in 2022 across the street from ODB. A bequest from former member Leone List provided the funding for this project. Deacons were asked to coordinate with ODB regarding how the funds should be used and the bulk of the funding was to be used for the shelter. The shelter will really help those waiting for the bus after shopping at ODB, especially on hot summer days. The dedication for the shelter occurred on Saturday, September 17, 2022.

## Little Free Pantry

Little Free Pantry was operational throughout 2022. Items were stocked regularly by church members in both the food section and the Red Pantry section. Food items were usually taken very shortly after they were placed in the Pantry. The cabinet was damaged by weather events and Thad Leffingwell made repairs. Plans are underway to obtain or build a new pantry cabinet.

## Saturday Community Brunch

In-person dining for Saturday Brunch resumed in May. Prior to May, brunch was take-out meals only. Each Saturday's brunch is managed by a different team of volunteers. During 2022, volunteers prepared and served 3360 meals (either boxed or on trays), sent home 854 take-out trays, and distributed 188 bags filled with healthy weekend snacks for our youngest guests. Each week, 50-100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are also provided to our guests. We are grateful to Panera Bread for their donation of Thursday's end-of-day items of breads and sweets for our use at brunch. If you've not watched this YouTube video from several years ago, shortly after the Saturday community brunch began, we invite you to do so: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k5muaiRmhr4>

## Sock Ministry

New socks are the most requested clothing items in shelters. New socks are distributed to our Saturday Brunch guests on the first Saturday of each month. During 2022, we provided an average of

124 pairs of men's, women's, and children's socks each first Saturday. We have also gratefully benefited from a Salvation Army grant from Bombas to supplement Deacons funds.

## Yearbook/School Supplies

20 Case Logic Z binders were provided to Stillwater Middle School for those in need. All 20 binders were delivered to the middle school in August. The deacons also purchased 24 yearbooks for students in need at the Stillwater Junior High. The yearbooks were ordered in December and will be distributed upon arrival in the spring for the '22-'23 school year.

## Giving Tree

Sharon Bennett and Teresa Ansley made initial contacts with the 5 community agencies. Several Deacons helped set up the Giving Tree in the Narthex and hang 150 gift card requests on the tree (\$35 value per card; total value \$5,250). Over the course of two weeks all but 4 were taken. Agencies and number of cards distributed were: Mission of Hope (40), Wings of Hope (40), Payne County Youth Services (30), Dept. of Human Services (20), and COCAA (20).

## Compassionate Meals

Deacons provide a family meal and/or reception in conjunction with a memorial service, when the church family experiences the death of a member or friend of the congregation. In 2022, compassionate meals volunteers provided the comfort of food and emotional support to three church members' families.

## Bipolar Support Group Meal

This ministry was restarted in October, after having been suspended due to COVID restrictions. A meal is provided once each month to members of the Depression and Bi-polar Support Alliance (DBSA). The entrée, salad, bread, and dessert for each meal are provided by Deacons. A Deacon also hosts the meal and shares in the meal with the group members. Supporting the work of this group by providing food and sharing in fellowship is one way that our church's heart goes out to the community.

## Stillwater Pioneer Pantry

This is our fourth year to partner with the Pioneer Pantry to assist homeless and home insecure students in Stillwater from PreK-12th at all 10 school sites. Through fund raising activities in January and August, we were gratified to donate 2 tubs of clothing/ basic hygiene items and \$1,280 in Walmart gift cards. We also added Lincoln Academy's Pantry to our list and will include them in our future campaigns.

## Homebound Ministry

Successful flower distribution took place after Easter and Christmas services this year. Over 70 individuals received Easter lilies and poinsettias. Two families regularly received home communion and many homebound members received cards, phone calls, and visits from deacons.

## Growing Families Ministry

We prepared a baby basket for Hope & Dekota Plum to welcome son Jack in June and for Sam & Jarrod Beckstrom to welcome son Archie in November. Contents were a soft blanket, stuffed animal from the Fair Trade store, Splash! Newsletters for parents, and children's books.

## Board of Deacons

*Jim Ansley, Co-Moderator*

*Joshua Butcher, Co-Moderator*

### 2022

*Jim Ansley*

*Mary Emmet*

*Mary Beth Garoffolo*

*Tim Hardin*

*Gary Holland*

*Paula Kendrick*

*Mabrie Baldwin (young adult)*

### 2023

*Joshua Butcher*

*Autumn Cagle*

*Tim Schlais*

*Betsy Showalter*

*Janet Waugh*

*Stan Waugh*

### 2024

*Anne Belanus*

*Sharon Bennett*

*Jimmy Oliver*

*Ava Osborn*

*Gerald Stangl*

*Ann Watkins*

## Community Use of FPC Space

Many local groups use space at FPC for their weekly or monthly meetings, helping make our facilities truly part of the wider community.

*AA*

*AIAnon*

*American Guild of Organists*

*Depression and Bi-polar Support Alliance*

*Esperanza de Vida*

*National Alliance for the Mentally Ill*

*OSU Parkinson's Exercise Group & Loud Crowd*

*Relay for Life*

*TOPS*

*Victim's Impact Panel*

*Boy Scout Troop 820, Troop 888, and Cub Pack 3842*









# *Grace For All*

Created by Causley Productions

First Presbyterian Church Celebrates the Love and Grace of God by:

**G**rowing through Bible Study, Prayer, and Worship,

**R**eaching Out to Serve,

**A**ccepting questions,

**C**onnecting people to Jesus Christ, One Another, and the World, and

**E**mbracing All.

We gratefully respond as a part of the holy universal Church. Thanks be to God!

We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF STILLWATER

524 S. DUNCAN STREET  
STILLWATER, OK 74074  
405-372-5580  
[WWW.STILLWATERFPC.ORG](http://WWW.STILLWATERFPC.ORG)