

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER, OK, PC(USA)**  
**MARCH 30, 2025 - 11:00 a.m.**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

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- ✝ **Everyone is welcome here. God loves you, and so do we. God's grace abounds.**
- ✝ We welcome children of all ages in worship! We believe that all children are gifts from God and wiggles and giggles are part of that. Restrooms are equipped with changing tables. If parents prefer, our nursery is open for ages 0-4 in the Preschool wing (north end of the main building). All staff are background checked, as are our volunteers.
- ✝ Throughout the service, at the \*\*, each person is invited to stand in body or in spirit.
- ✝ In the Narthex is a liturgical library with items to help worshipers of all ages engage with the service. Select which items you would like to use, place them in a small black bag from the left side if you wish, and please return your bag with the items to the basket beneath the display at the end of worship.

**- The Gathering -**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS**

Moon Mann; Lonna Freshly (Fiametta Freshly); Nancy Martz

**MINUTE FOR MISSION.** "Sensory Room", Jenna Campbell, Ashley Kirven-Bobier

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**CALL TO WORSHIP\*\***

One: The Lord invites us to return with our whole heart.

**All: We turn to God, because God is gracious and merciful.**

One: We have received the message of reconciliation,

**All: and we are now Christ's ambassadors.**

One: The time to turn and to return is now;

**All: the day of the Lord is drawing near.**

**HYMN 475\*\*** .....*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*  
NETTLETON

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** .....unison

God of grace,  
we have stumbled from the path that you have set before us.  
We have embraced a mind-set of scarcity  
instead of trusting your abundance.  
We have hoarded treasures to ensure our own comfort  
instead of sharing your gifts with our neighbors.  
We have hurt others by the things we have done  
and the things we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart, soul, and mind  
or our neighbors as ourselves.  
Correct us, O God, and forgive us.  
Remind us of Jesus' own wilderness journey  
and help us to follow the example he sets.  
Return us to the path you wish for us  
and give us the courage to follow your lead, even when it is difficult.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord we pray. Amen. *(silence)*

**KYRIE** .....551

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us. *(repeat)*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**GLORIA PATRI\*\*** .....581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

**PASSING THE PEACE\*\***

**- The Word -**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** .....

"Ancient Words", words/music - Lynn DeShazo, sung by Michael Smith  
We are grateful to our Youth for utilizing this sung prayer  
as part of the worship service they prepared and led on February 23, 2025.  
We will use it throughout the Lenten season.

Holy words, long preserved, for our walk in this world.  
They resound with God's own heart,  
Oh, let the ancient words impart.  
Words of life, words of hope,  
give us strength, help us cope.  
In this world where e're we roam  
ancient words will guide us home.  
Ancient words ever true,  
changing me and changing you.  
We have come with open hearts  
Oh, let the ancient words impart.

**SCRIPTURE READING** ..... 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NT, p. 170)

**TIME WITH CHILDREN** ..... (gather at the chancel/front)  
*Children and Worship*, a worship experience for ages 3 years - 3rd grade,  
meets in the Westminster Room, to the left as you exit the Sanctuary.

**SCRIPTURE READING** ..... Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (NT, p. 73)  
One: The Word of the Lord.   **All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** ..... "It's Party Time!"

**- The Thanksgiving -**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH\*\*** ..... adapted from the *Confession of Belhar*  
**We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation  
is made manifest in the church  
as the community of believers  
who have been reconciled with God and with one another.  
We believe that unity is, therefore,  
both a gift and an obligation  
for the church of Jesus Christ.  
We believe that, through the working of God's Spirit,  
it is a binding force,  
yet simultaneously a reality  
which must be earnestly pursued and sought:  
one which the people of God  
must continually be built up to attain.**

**HYMN 187\*\*** ..... *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*  
BRADBURY

**INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

You also can contribute at [www.stillwaterfpc.org](http://www.stillwaterfpc.org),  
Or by mail: First Presbyterian Church, 524 S. Duncan St., Stillwater, OK 74074



**ANTHEM** ..... "Create in me a clean heart, O God" - C.F. Meuller

**DOXOLOGY\*\*** ..... (tune: *Puer nobis nascitur*)

**To God the Father, God the Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in one,  
May every tongue and nation raise An endless song of thankful praise. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION\*\***

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** (concluding with *The Lord's Prayer* in unison)  
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**- The Sending -**

**HYMN 724\*\*** ..... *O Jesus, I Have Promised*  
ANGEL'S STORY

**CHARGE & BENEDICTION\*\***

**POSTLUDE**

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

Preacher **Rev. Dr. B. Gordon Edwards**  
Liturgist **Denise Rex**  
Interim Organist **Dr. Lucia Unrau**  
Interim Choir Director **Dr. Christopher Haygood**  
Greeter **Debby Schoenecke**  
Ushers **Betsy Showalter**  
Children & Worship Leaders **Bekah Bowman, Cathy Fairbanks**  
Counters **Jim Beckstrom, Jeff Martindale**

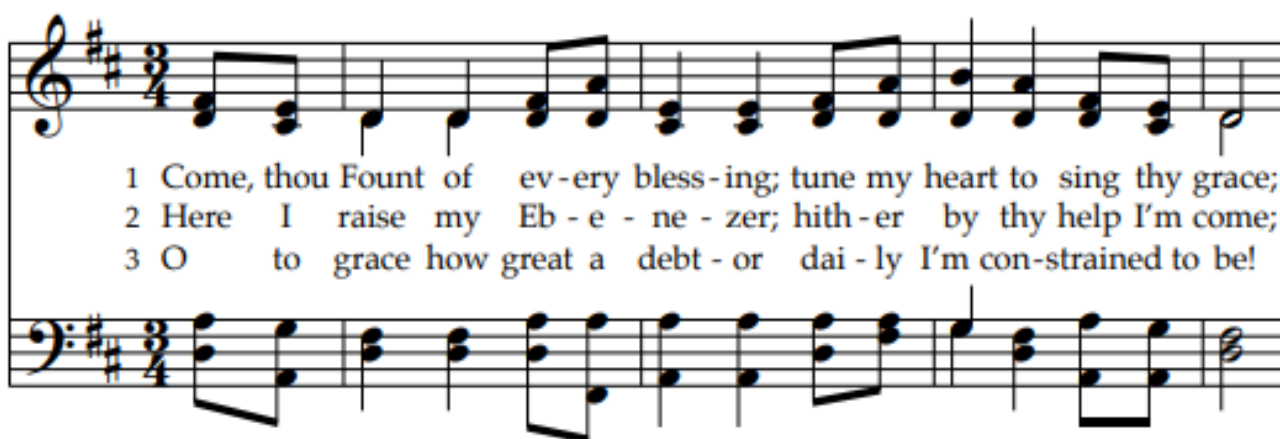
Want to stay up-to-date on what's happening at FPC?  
Scan the QR code and sign up for First Things, our weekly e-news!



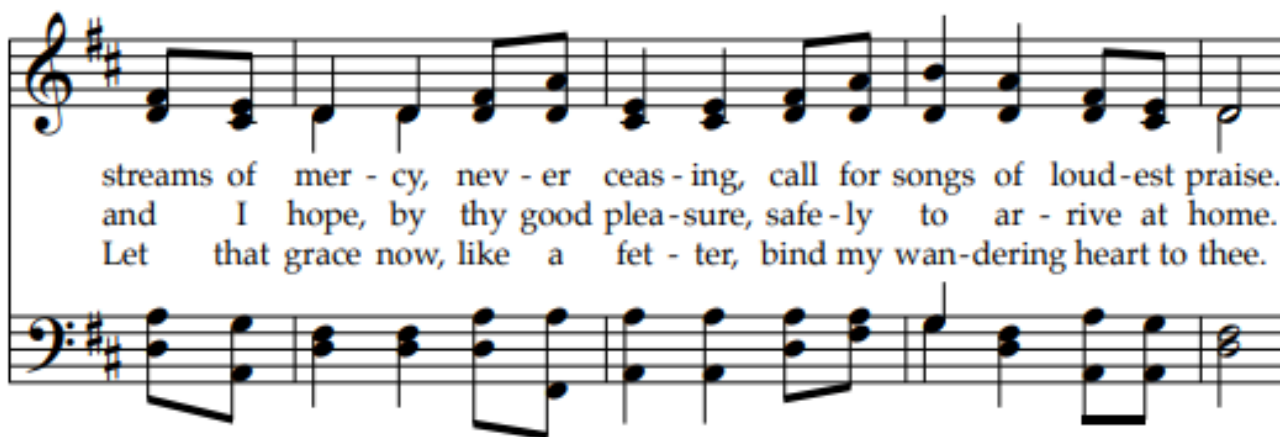
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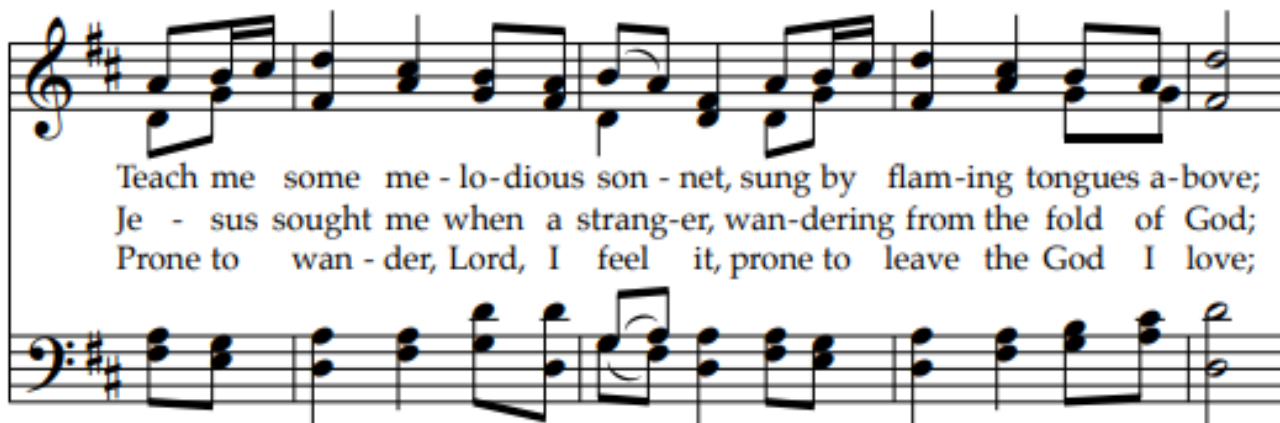
# Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



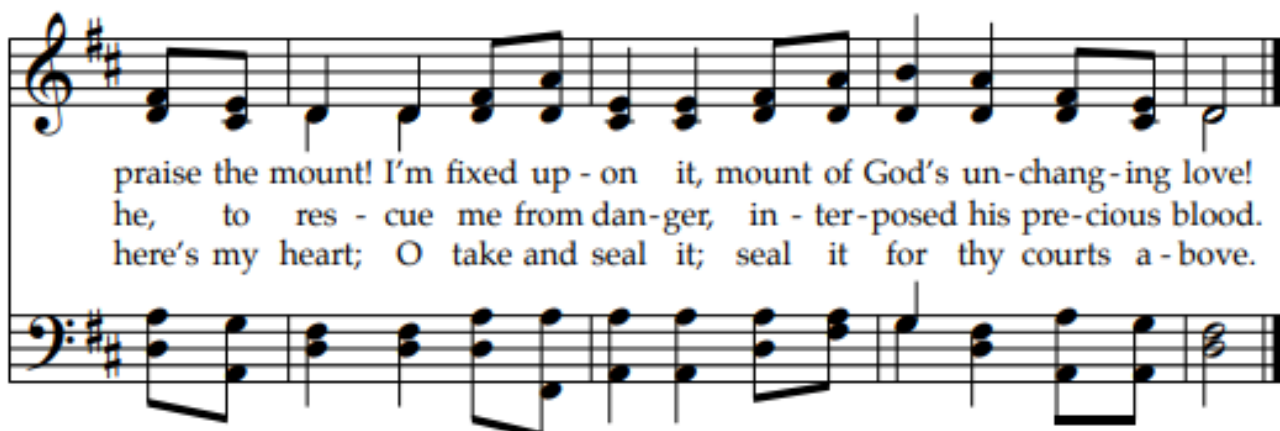
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm come;  
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.

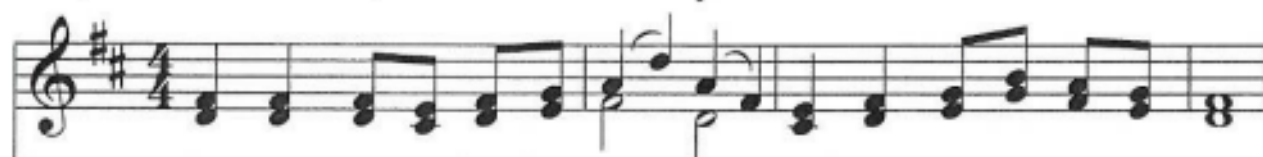


Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;  
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!  
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.  
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

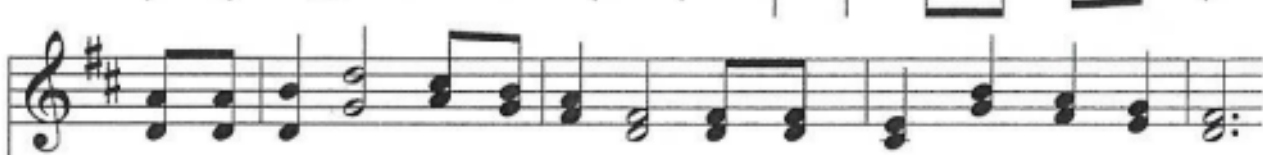
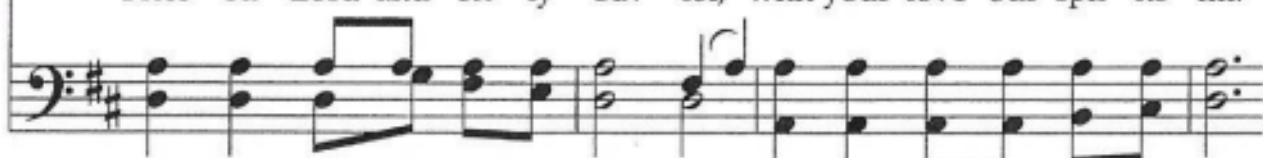
# 187 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us



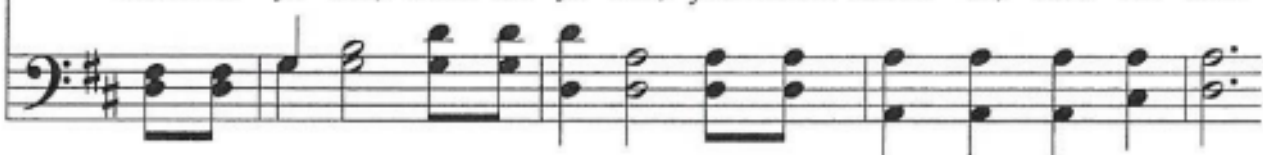
1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.  
 2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.  
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;  
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.



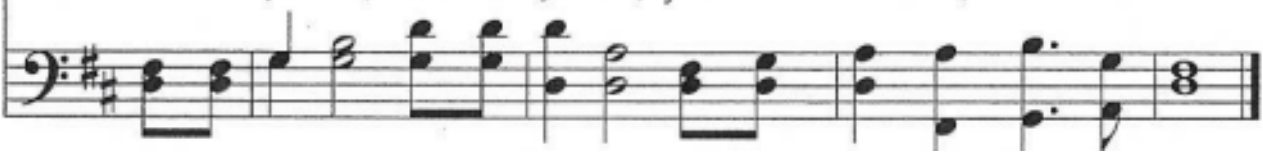
In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.  
 Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.  
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.  
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



# 724 O Jesus, I Have Promised

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;  
 2 O let me feel thee near me! The world is ev - er near;  
 3 O let me hear thee speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,  
 4 O Je - sus, thou hast prom - ised to all who fol - low thee

be thou for - ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;  
 I see the sights that daz - zle; the tempt - ing sounds I hear.  
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;  
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,  
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.  
 but, Je - sus, draw thou near - er and shield my soul from sin.  
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard - ian of my soul.  
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.



It is time to order flowers to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter. If you would like to help the Worship Committee purchase lilies, please fill out the form below. Place the form and your check/cash in the offering plate or return to the Church Office by **Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**.

**1) Please PRINT below EXACTLY as you would like it to appear IN THE EASTER BULLETIN:**

*Today's flowers are given to the Glory of God by*

*(your name(s) as you want it printed)*

*(choose one)* ☐ in memory of ☐ in celebration of ☐ in honor of

**2) Include your payment marked "*Easter Lily*." (Make checks payable to "*First Presbyterian Church*")**

# of lilies \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ total enclosed

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Please check one:**

- ☐ I/We will take our lily/lilies home after the 11:00 am Easter service on April 20.
- ☐ Please use my contribution to purchase lilies for the Sanctuary that will be distributed to members by the Deacons after Easter. I understand that any remaining money beyond what is needed for distribution will be given to the *One Great Hour of Sharing* Offering.

Office use: Ck # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

**Health/Personal**

Dorothy Akin  
*Ali Aresco*  
Betty Bays  
*Jordan Bigelow*  
*Belinda Bruner*  
Rita Brueininger  
Pat Henderson (Cole)  
Levi Hunt (Heath)  
Margie Keener

**Margy Knox**

Dorothy Kraemer  
*Elodie Reavis*  
Margaret & Larry Redburn  
Heather Rine (Seals)  
*Bill Tearney*  
Lynda Williams

**Military**

Dan Brooks  
Casey Campbell  
Justin Fowler  
Matt Krehbiel  
Miles Smith  
Bryn Williams

Names in italics indicate those with acute needs. Plain text indicates chronic/ongoing needs.  
Names in parentheses indicate connection to FPC.



## FPC'S NEW SENSORY ROOM OPENS APRIL 6TH!

Team Neurodiversity has been hard at work preparing a sensory room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor (in the old library) in order to extend our welcome to and inclusion of those who are neurodivergent.

A sensory room is a carefully designed space that minimizes overwhelming sensory input, offering a calm and controlled environment for individuals with sensory sensitivities or those who need a break from sensory overload. Sensory rooms help individuals manage stress, anxiety, and overstimulation by providing a safe and predictable environment. The room caters

to individuals with sensory processing differences, such as those with autism, ADHD, or other neurodevelopmental conditions. Sensory rooms can be used by anyone who benefits from a calmer, more organized setting. They are not meant to be playrooms for the general public, but rather a controlled environment that can improve focus and concentration by reducing distractions and can also help individuals work through emotions and develop coping mechanisms.

Our sensory room includes:

- Soft lighting options to reduce visual overstimulation.
- Noise-canceling materials to minimize auditory distractions.
- Comfortable seating options to promote relaxation.
- Small, comforting spaces like tents and pop-up tunnels.
- Neuro-affirming fidget tools and small manipulatives that promote regulation.
- Textures and weighted items for calming tactile input.
- Calming visuals like bubble tubes and colorful, neuro-affirming equipment to engage and soothe.
- Swings, rocking chairs, balance boards, and other tools to promote movement and body awareness.
- A television livestreaming worship so you can continue to engage with the service.

## Team Neurodiversity Term of the Month - April 2025

# Sensory Processing Disorder

**Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD)** is a condition that affects how the brain processes sensory information (stimuli). Sensory information includes things you see, hear, smell, taste, or touch. SPD can affect all of these senses, or just one. SPD usually means someone is overly sensitive to stimuli that other people are not. But the disorder can cause the opposite effect, too. In these cases, it takes more stimuli to impact the individual.

**To read an article with more information on Sensory Processing Disorder, scan the QR code below.**

Team Neurodiversity is sharing a term of the month in an effort to educate our congregation on what neurodiversity is, encourage proper terminology and phraseology, debunk outdated and harmful views, and prepare our congregation to be openhearted, educated, and understanding as we hope to welcome more neurodivergent individuals and families into our church.



## - THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -

### TODAY - SUNDAY, MARCH 30

9:45 a.m. Sunday School Classes for all ages  
 11:00 a.m. Worship..... *SAN/Online/Radio*  
 5:00 p.m. PYG (Youth Group)..... *YS*

### MONDAY

7:00 p.m. Troop 888 Court of Honor .....*FH*

### TUESDAY

FPC will serve as a polling place, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

9:30 a.m. Second Mile Sewing ..... *FH*  
 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting.....*Library (201)*  
 11:30 a.m. Presbyterian Men's Lunch.....*Hideaway*  
 12:00 p.m. ROMEOs Men's Group .....*HA*  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir .....*WR*

### THURSDAY

9:30 a.m. Personnel Committee ..... *YS*  
 12:00 p.m. Midweek Prayer.....*Zoom*

### FRIDAY

### SATURDAY

9:00 a.m. 7th Day Adventist Worship .....*WC*  
 11:00 a.m. Community Saturday Brunch .....*FH*

### SUNDAY, APRIL 6

9:45 a.m. Sunday School Classes for all ages  
 11:00 a.m. Worship .....*SAN/Online/Radio*  
 5:00 p.m. PYG (Youth Group) ..... *YS*

### FPC Room Abbreviation Key

FH= Fellowship Hall

HA= Hospitality Area

LIB= Library (201)

MPR= Multipurpose Room

PRE = Preschool

SAN = Sanctuary

WC = Worship Center

WR = Westminster Room

YS = Youth Suite

There is a map of the facility in the Narthex/main entry area on the signpost.

*The Communion table flowers are given to the glory of God by Cathy Conway in loving memory of my mom in heaven, Mary Catherine, 110 on March 31.*

**First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater**

**524 S. Duncan St., Stillwater, OK 74074**

**405-372-5580   [www.stillwaterfpc.org](http://www.stillwaterfpc.org)   Wifi: FPC\_Guest; 524Duncan**

**Rev. Dr. Diane Janssen Hemmen**, Pastor/Head of Staff: [dianeljh@gmail.com](mailto:dianeljh@gmail.com)

**Jenna Campbell**, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries: [jenna.campbell@stillwaterfpc.org](mailto:jenna.campbell@stillwaterfpc.org)

**Sharon Bennett**, Pastoral Care Associate: [sharon.bennett@stillwaterfpc.org](mailto:sharon.bennett@stillwaterfpc.org)

**Magdalena Vinson**, Church Administrator: [magdalena.vinson@stillwaterfpc.org](mailto:magdalena.vinson@stillwaterfpc.org)

**Rachel Hearn**, Finance Assistant: [rachel.hearn@stillwaterfpc.org](mailto:rachel.hearn@stillwaterfpc.org)

**Cathy Fairbanks**, Treasurer: [cathy.fairbanks@stillwaterfpc.org](mailto:cathy.fairbanks@stillwaterfpc.org)

**Rev. Dr. Gordon Edwards**, Pastor Emeritus

**Rebecca te Velde**, Organist/Director of Music Emerita