



First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

March 2023

From the Pastor: Lent & Easter at FPC-OKC

In life and in death, we belong to God.

With our Ash Wednesday Service, we have entered the season of Lent. It and the season of Easter are before us. Lent's forty days invite us to grow in faith; to prayer and spiritual discipline; and to journeying with Jesus in life, death, and rising. Easter's fifty days proclaim resurrection and new creation, rejoicing in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and inviting us to a new way of life.

Our worship life at First Presbyterian invites us to share these seasons together in many special services. At the center is the Triduum: Holy Week's Three Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. The Triduum is the center of the Christian year, binding Lent and Easter. These three days immerse us in the drama and mystery of Christ's death and rising.

Palm Sunday Worship — April 2 | 11:00 a.m.

The Service for Palm Sunday maintains an inherent tension between the joyful entry of the palm procession and the somberness of the passion to follow.

The Triduum: The Three Days

Maundy Thursday — April 6 | 7:00 p.m.

The Service for Maundy Thursday remembers Jesus washing the disciples' feet and the institution of the Lord's Supper. The final act of this service is the stripping of the worship space, representing Jesus' abandonment during the night in Gethsemane.

Good Friday — April 7 | 7:00 p.m.

On Good Friday, we stand at the foot of the cross pondering the wondrous love of God in the death of Jesus. Until we kneel at the cross, we will not experience or know the awesome wonder of Easter. Tenebrae services, services of darkness and shadows, date to the 7th century. It guides us from light to darkness, from the joy of Christ's ministry to his death.

During this service, we will remember the events of the week that the world fell into darkness through the reading of selections from the Gospel of Matthew and the extinguishing of candles.

The Easter Vigil — April 7 | 8:00 p.m.

At the conclusion of the Tenebrae service, the final light is removed from the Sanctuary, processed to the Chapel, and placed on the communion table where it will remain lit as members keep vigil until Easter morning.

Easter Sunday Worship — April 9 | 11:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday is the brightest jewel of Christian worship. It proclaims the universal significance of God's saving acts in history. This Easter will be a very special service, celebrating the two sacraments of our denomination.

A Sacred Walk

You are invited and encouraged to engage in an ancient practice of a labyrinth walk. For centuries Christians have found walking the twists and turns of a labyrinth to be a meaningful way to center one's thoughts, still the soul, and come before the Holy.

A labyrinth is designed to foster contemplation and spiritual transformation. Walked by the faithful for centuries, labyrinths are typically formed as a circle with a singular path leading to a center. In ancient times a labyrinth was considered a trap for mean spirits. In medieval times, labyrinths began to appear on church walls and floors around 1000 AD.

Walking the labyrinth offers us an opening to our own transformation, so that we may deepen our faith, heal ourselves, and strengthen our resolve to live more fully into our calling as Christ's disciples.

The church labyrinth will be prepared in Watchorn Hall and available for your use from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Maundy Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Good Friday. The labyrinth will also be available for those participating in the Easter Vigil while they are at the church.

Resources will be available for a self-guided experience, or Pastor John is happy to meet you for an orientation to the labyrinth or directed walk.

Please call or email to schedule a time.

Easter Vigil

Following the Good Friday service, members will take turns maintaining a vigil of devotion and prayer as we await the sunrise that celebrates the empty tomb on Easter morning.

Many in our congregation have found the vigil to be a powerful spiritual experience for them on the holiest hours of Holy Week. We are glad to be able to offer the vigil again this year for "veteran vigil sitters" and look forward to many having a first chance at this spiritual practice. The world needs our prayers this year more than ever.

There are spots remaining if you would like to join in this special FPC-OKC tradition. **You can sign up by calling the church office (405-525-6584) or visiting [tinyurl.com/EasterVigil2023](https://www.tinyurl.com/EasterVigil2023).**

Thank you to those who have already signed up!

Music & Arts

Wednesday, March 15
7:00-9:00 p.m. | FREE

The world-renowned Concordia Choir of Moorhead, Minnesota, returns to Oklahoma City on the Kemp Concert Series!

Conductor Michael Culloton conducts the 64-voice a cappella choir in a varied concert, including works by Stephen Paulus, Rosephanye Powell, Paul

J. Christiansen, Carol Barnett, J.S. Bach, René Clausen, and more. The final set includes a number of hymns, folk songs, and spirituals. This event is free and open to the public!



Presbyterian Women

Priscilla Circle — Tuesday, March 14 | 10:00 a.m.

Room 122 on the first floor of the church.

Zoom Meeting ID: 881 7807 7431 | Password: 114955

Phoebe Circle — Tuesday, March 14 | 1:30 p.m.

Felicia DuMont hosting in the Reception Center.

Abigail Circle — Tuesday, March 21 | 6:00 p.m.

Location TBD.



**We had a great turnout and a lovely time at PW's Galentine's Tea.
There were fancy hats galore!**

Reserve the Third

Saturday, March 25 | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Reserve the Third is taking place on the fourth Saturday in March! We will be sprucing up the Sanctuary and the surrounding areas of the church.

Contact Roane (johnpittmanmd@gmail.com) for more info.



A big thank you to everyone who came out to help in the Community Garden during February's Reserve the Third!





A poster for a free yoga class. At the top is a stylized lotus flower logo. Below it, the text "FREE YOGA CLASS" is written in large, bold, green letters. Underneath, in smaller green letters, it says "All skill levels welcome." The poster is divided into two green rectangular boxes: the left one says "Wednesdays" and the right one says "6:30 p.m." in yellow text. At the bottom, a green banner contains the text "Warm up with free yoga at FPC-OKC!" in white.

First Presbyterian School

First Presbyterian School is always looking for ways to be “helpers in our community.”



This month the preschool collected over 100 cans of food to donate to the church’s Purple Bag program, supporting The Urban Mission and Cornell’s Little Free Pantry. Students collected, sorted, and distributed cans for our community.

Thank you to all the families who donated food and to our neighbors who are helping connect people with the resources they need.



KirkNight To-go

To order, call, text, or email Jenn Snow at 405-408-3608 or jenn@junebugcatering.com. Available for pick-up from 5:00-6:00 p.m. by the ramp behind the kitchen.

Family Meal for 4-6

\$30 | Dessert \$5.00

Meal for 2

\$15 | Dessert \$2.50

March 8

Guinness Beef Stew,
Irish Soda, Irish Whiskey Cake

March 15

Spring Break (No Meal)

March 22

Baked Caprese Chicken Skillet
with Angel Hair Pasta,
Roasted Vegetables,
Carrot Cake

March 29

Lemon Rosemary Chicken,
Roasted Asparagus,
Tomato Tart,
Fluffernutter Cookies

Children & Youth

Resurrection Gardens Sunday, March 19

During the Sunday School hour, we'll plant our Resurrection Gardens. This has become a new tradition for Sunday School. We will plant some grass seed in a small container and add three wooden crosses, representing the crosses at Jesus' death.

The children will take them home and watch their gardens grow. (Be prepared to buy a miniature lawn mower because in the past the grass in these gardens really took off.)

Bingo — Sunday, March 26

On Sunday, March 26, we'll visit an assisted living facility to play bingo with the residents.

We'll have a lunch provided right after worship service before departing.

Easter Egg Hunt — April 9 After 11:00 a.m. Service

In celebration of the Resurrection, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt after worship service on Easter Sunday. Kids are encouraged to bring their own basket to collect eggs.

Shamrock Shakes Sunday, March 12

When we go upstairs during worship service, we'll make homemade Shamrock Shakes for snack time in honor of St. Patrick's Day coming later in the week.



**Sunday School kiddos
made Valentine's
cards during class in
February!**

Student Grant Applications 2023

The Presbyterian Women of Indian Nations Presbytery offer scholarships to Presbyterian students ages 17-25 doing undergraduate work. To obtain an application and review the eligibility requirements, visit tinyurl.com/PWgrant2023.

The deadline to apply is Friday, March 31.



Check out the progress being made on our new chiller! We're thankful to everyone working diligently to make sure we have a cool and safe building for the warmer months ahead.



The gratitude of the congregation is extended to John Harris for the gift of a new processional cross. We're grateful for his craftsmanship and the generosity of his time. Lift high the cross!

March Birthdays

Happy birthday to all!

- 01:** Elizabeth Black
Jefferson Buxton
Kim Crawford-Welch
Max Keith
- 02:** Paula Denner
Rachel Berkman
Linda Lowe
Ona Foster
- 03:** Isidore Fokum
- 05:** Kim Pittman
Tyler Woods
- 06:** Michael Smith
Nancy Kellogg
Carren MacLemore
Quinn Greenwood V
- 07:** Jeanne Fisher
Jamie Roberts
Erica Haverly
Wyatt Pitts
- 08:** Kathryn Turner
Charles Coley
- 09:** Nancy Denner
Lucia Gray
Beverly Hancock
- 10:** Roane Pittman
- 13:** Ginnie Tack
- 14:** Madelaine Hawkins
Aeriel Akers
- 15:** Sue Kunkel
- 20:** Connie Myers
Rodney Hall
- 21:** Harriet Adams
William Winfree
- 23:** Janet Martin
Quincy Adams
Holly Holson
- 24:** Roberta Carter
- 27:** Sol Rizzato
- 31:** Barbara Charlet



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OF OKLAHOMA CITY

1001 NW 25th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

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**We are a Christ-centered
congregation, glorifying God
in the heart of the City. We are
built on tradition, embracing
transformation, and serving
diverse local and global
communities.**

Lenten Devotional

Check out our 2023
Lenten Devotional! This
year's devotional is called
*Practicing Jesus' Seven Last
Words*. This devotional
reflects on "the seven last
words" of Jesus through
devotional and practical
material that groups,
families, and individuals
can embody each week.

Go to [tinyurl.com/
FPCLent2023](https://tinyurl.com/FPCLent2023) or pick up
a devotional in person on
Sunday morning or during
the week in the church
office.

