

THE CHURCH & YOU

June 2019

Family Fun Night Success

First Presbyterian School (FPS) would like to sincerely thank First Presbyterian Church (FPC), our students and their families for their continued support of our program. Thanks to the joint efforts of FPC and FPS members and families, the preschool annual fundraiser was a huge success! We estimate an attendance of more than 300 guests during our event who were able to enjoy fellowship, food and fun together. We set a goal of \$5,000 to kick off our playground renovation project, and we are happy to announce that we exceeded our goal. We raised \$5,445.00! Hooray! If you attended the event, baked a dessert or donated an auction item, we would like to genuinely express our gratitude—without you all, this event's success would not have been possible. It's with a strong partnership and the support of our FPC family that our preschool program continues to thrive.

As playground renovations begin, be on the lookout for our new outdoor mud kitchens arriving in June.

Blessings,
Lanie Denner
FPS Director



This Month:

Sunday, June 2

Guest Preacher

Tuesday, June 4 & 11

Wednesday, June 5 & 12

Volunteer opportunities to help
prepare for Vacation Bible School

Saturday, June 15

9:00 a.m. to Noon

Reserve the 3rd at the Regional Food
Bank of Oklahoma

Monday, June 17-Thursday, June 20

5:00-8:00 p.m.

Vacation Bible School

[Register online: fpcokc.org/children/]

Guest Preacher

Sunday, June 2

Rev. Dr. James J. Kirk will preach from our pulpit this June. Rev. Kirk is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in August of 2016, he accepted the position of Associate for Disaster Response (U.S.) for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. This position is responsible for coordinating the denomination's domestic response to the many disasters that impact our congregations, Presbyteries and communities. The mission of PDA is to bring "Out of Chaos, Hope."



Prior to this position, Rev. Kirk served congregations in Sparta, NJ and Naples, FL. He received his bachelor's degree in 1977 from Moravian College and was graduated from Union Theological Seminary in 1981 with a Doctor of Ministry degree.

Rev. Kirk is a Certified Compassion Fatigue Professional (CCFP) through the International Association of Trauma Professionals and a member of the International Critical Stress Foundation (ICSF). Rev. Kirk was a volunteer with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for over 20 years. In that role, he responded to a variety of disasters including natural and public violence.



Additionally, Rev. Kirk is a past chair of the National VOAD Emotional and Spiritual Care Committee and has been on the committee for nine years. He has also been a national and local volunteer with Red Cross since 2008 and was part of a team that developed the Disaster Spiritual Care program that is currently being integrated into Red Cross Chapters around the country.

Please join us in welcoming Rev. Kirk to our church. We will begin our summer schedule (June and July) of one worship service in the sanctuary that day, which begins at 9:30 a.m.

"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God."

ROMANS 5:1-2
Results of Justification

2019 Graduate Recognition | CONGRATULATIONS!

Kate Bret Sholar [College]

Katherine (Kate) was graduated from Oklahoma State University on May 11, 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Kate, a member of the church since 2011, is the daughter of members Bret and Angie Sholar and the granddaughter of members Ken and Kay Brown. During her undergraduate summers, Kate worked as a camp counselor at Dwight Mission Presbyterian Camp. During the school year, she worked at Oak Tree Children's Academy in addition to her studies. Following graduation, Kate will return home to explore career and graduate school options.



Ethan Glynn Lusby [High School]

Ethan's plans after graduation include continuing his work at Cross Timbers Farm LLC where he is co-owner and production manager. He is responsible for product quality control as well as national shipping and distribution. He is also co-chair on the board of directors for Cross Timbers Farm Foundation. An invaluable member of the Lusby family, Ethan shoulders the duties of herd and livestock management for the farm and is caregiver to all.

Ethan is an artist and a writer with a keen perception and unique valuing of the world about him. The piece below was written by Ethan and reflects his views about decisions and the best way to make them.

Past, Present and Future

The past . . . that which we cannot affect.

The future . . . what we look to with hope, with fear, —with anticipation.

Through the present we hope to influence the future. . .

for ourselves, or for others.

But the present is the only thing we can be certain of.

I cannot change what was yesterday.

Nor can I hope to see through the moment to what is tomorrow.

Only God can see that far.

So, I trust in Him and His promise.

But I do ask for mercy, as in Psalm 57:1 "Be merciful to me oh God! For my soul trusts in you."

For this mercy I ask when I fall victim to the fear, and worry that would blind me.

I do not live in the past; I do not worry for the future.

I am only . . . in the present.

~ Ethan Lusby | Sept. 25, 2017



Volunteers Needed

Tuesday, June 4 & 11 | Wednesday, June 5 & 12

With ReNew Vacation Bible School around the corner, we're needing volunteers to help our Christian Education staff plan and prepare for this four-day event.

Volunteer sessions will take place in Watchorn Hall for one hour Tuesdays at noon and Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Volunteers may choose the days that work best with their schedule.

All are encouraged to bring their own meals or snacks.

For those interested, please RSVP by emailing Christian Education Director Leigh Miller (Leigh@fpcokc.org).

Reserve the 3rd

Saturday, June 15 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon

This month's volunteer activity will take place at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. Activities may include: assembling sacks of nutritious food for the Food for Kids Backpack Program, cleaning, tagging bags and sorting and packing bread, produce, packaged meals and/or cans. Volunteers must be over the age of eight, and all volunteers under 18 must complete a signed Parental Consent Form (forms available at regionalfoodbank.org). It's groups like ours that help entities such as this feed needy families here in the Oklahoma City area.

Those interested often go to lunch together afterward. For questions or to RSVP, please contact Roane Pittman at johnpittmanmd@pnfmc.com.



Deacons Out 'n' About: OKC Dodgers

Friday, June 21 at 7:05 p.m. vs. Memphis Redbirds

Cost: \$10

Game Highlights: Friday Night Fireworks

Tickets: To purchase, go to the church office where there will be a Deacon available 30 minutes after Sunday service June 2, June 9 and June 16.

Attendees will receive a free Dodgers hat and a voucher for a Braum's meal. As of now, there is no group transportation; however, all FPCOKC tickets are in the same section so that we may sit as one group and one church family.

For questions, please contact Deacon Chris Carter at chrislcarter@aol.com.

Summertime PRAY-ground in the Sanctuary

The rhythm of our liturgy in worship and the fellowship of the community gathered is so important to faith development. Our children have spent all school year in the practice of Godly Play, and it's time to put some of that growing and learning to use in worship.

This summer, Leigh Miller will prepare a special area in the sanctuary where kids will learn to participate in worship in lieu of Godly Play. Following Discovery Time, children in pre-k and above are invited to worship in this special PRAY-ground where age-appropriate worship items will help them experience the rhythm of worship. This will also be a screen-free zone where children can practice worshipping with the whole community of God.

Monday Morning Bible Study

7:30 a.m. Breakfast | 8:00 a.m. Study

Monday Morning Bible Study meets every Monday at Ingrid's—a German/American restaurant and bakery located at 3701 N. Youngs Blvd. in Oklahoma City. Previously, this bible study was a men's bible study, but has since dropped "men's" from the title as there are often women in attendance.

The group meets in the bar, which is separate from the restaurant, and the study begins at 8:00 a.m. Participants are encouraged to come earlier if they would like to order breakfast and eat before the study.

Beginning Monday, June 3 and continuing throughout July, the group will study a six-session video series by Timothy Keller entitled "The Reason for God: Conversations on Faith and Life."

Captured live and unscripted, pastor and author Timothy Keller meets with a group of people over six sessions to address their doubts and objections to Christianity. Using literature, philosophy, real-life experiences and the Bible, Keller and the group explore the truth of Christianity. The series is geared toward helping individuals to think about and engage others in dialogue on six common objections to Christianity.

Presbyterian Women

Summer Schedule

Priscilla, Abigail and Phoebe Circles will not meet throughout the summer. All circles will resume meetings in September.



Sunday LIFT

Living - In - Faith - Together

So, what's the plan for Sunday School this summer?

To bring our church family closer together, we are offering an intergenerational LIFT class for all ages during the Sunday School hour (10:40-11:40) in June and July. We will meet in Watchorn Hall for food, fellowship, study, recreation and prayer/worship.

There is strength in the whole community of God—being the church together, we desire that our children have faith and not just religion. To quote John H. Westerhoff, “there is no way to say for sure if our children will or will not have faith, but one thing we can be sure, they will never have faith unless there is a community of faith for them to live in and be influenced by.”

Each LIFT session begins with gathering together and moves through the four components of the first church, with all parts connected by a common theme.

We will:

1. Break Bread Together | A meal shared together is an important part of LIFT. When we eat together, we build relationships through sharing food and conversation.
2. Study God's Word Together | We will read scripture together. We will also have cross-generational discussions about what God's word is saying to each of us. It is important for different generations to learn from each other when interpreting scripture.
3. Play Together | Play comes in many shapes and forms. We may craft, play games, learn new skills and hobbies. What's important is that we are doing this together.
4. Pray Together | We worship and praise God through prayer. Prayer comes in many forms and can be done in a variety of ways. Most often, we end our time together in prayer.

Come join the fun as we celebrate Living In Faith Together!

Thursday Noon Bible Study

This month, we will continue studying “C.S. Lewis and the Crisis of a Christian.” We studied this book throughout the month of May and found many lessons within it to be insightful. Participants can expect to read key topics that mesh philosophical understandings with theological views.

If you're interested in joining this study group, please bring a lunch and meet Thursdays in room 122. We are looking forward to more thought-provoking discussions as we learn and grow.

Back-to-School Brunch

Sunday, July 14 at 10:45 a.m.

Please join us for this annual event to collect school supplies for Urban Mission's school supply drive. Bring your best breakfast dish to share. We'll enjoy a time of fellowship and great food as we bring in items to donate. Enjoy a leisurely brunch in Watchorn Hall, or feel free to take it with you to your Sunday School class. Suggested school supplies include colored pencils, crayons, pencils, paper, Kleenex, backpacks and binders.

Pentecost | A Special Day and a Special Offering

Sunday, June 9

During Pentecost, we celebrate that the Holy Spirit has opened the doors to faith in Jesus Christ. The day of Pentecost draws the great 50 days of Easter to a glorious conclusion. Red is the traditional color for the day symbolizing the fire of the spirit that rested on the disciples of Christ and gives life to the church. The powerful images of rushing wind and tongues of flame help convey some sense of this extraordinary event—the powerful symbolism of being commissioned for ministry through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We will collect one of the four annual denominational offerings on Pentecost. When we give to the Pentecost Offering, we are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ. Forty percent stays with this congregation to develop and support programs for young people in our own church and community. Ten percent is devoted to at-risk children to improve education and provide safe havens. Twenty-five percent supports Ministries with Youth to help guide our youth by uniting them in Christ and lifting them up as leaders and messengers of God's word. And twenty-five percent supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV) serving in communities around the world and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service. YAV Cherokee Adams, while serving survivors of human trafficking, was moved in a way that altered her life. She sensed the Holy Spirit was shaping her. "It was kind of like the Pentecost story," Adams said. "The Holy Spirit took me and changed me in ways that I wasn't expecting." She now wants to attend seminary and be a parish pastor or a chaplain. Her goal is to "go out and tell the story."

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a churchwide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas and unique gifts with the church and the world. Our support helps nurture the faith of those who are the church to come—children, youth and young adults.

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All are welcome! First Presbyterian Church is
affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages: 9:40 a.m.

For more information, please contact the church

office at (405) 525-6584

or email office@fpcokc.org.

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