

THE CHURCH & YOU

September 2019

Presbyterian Women Month



Who are we? We are women who are in any way affiliated with First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City with a desire to grow in faith, build community, work for justice and peace and develop leaders. Everything we do as an organization and as a community is guided by our Presbyterian Women (PW) Purpose and that includes ministry, resources and relationships.

PW Purpose: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Anyone who supports the Purpose in any way is participating in Presbyterian Women. So even if you're just learning about Presbyterian Women, there's a good chance you're already supporting Presbyterian Women—in spirit or in action!

Interested in getting involved? Join a Circle! A circle is a Bible study fellowship group that meets once a month to nurture faith through prayer and study. We have three circles at FPC-OKC: Abigail, Phoebe and Pricilla. The main difference amongst the three are the times they meet. All circles meet once a month, two meet during the day on the second Tuesday and one meets in the evening on the third Tuesday.

Bible study ... It's the glue that holds PW together. This year's study is "Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments." It can be read and studied by individuals, but it's what the individuals discover together through group prayer and Bible study that nurtures PW. You can take a deeper look at what the study has to offer on page three!

If you have any questions, want to learn more about PW or are ready to join, reach out to PW Moderator Darci McKinnon (darcimckinnon@gmail.com).

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKC

The Pastor's Perspective

Growing with the Church by Pastor John

"Membership has its privileges!" so the saying goes, and such is the truth about the church. Our Book of Order says about the ministry of members: Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church.

Do you feel God calling you to join First Presbyterian, or are you just interested in learning more about the church? All are welcome to join us for a three-week Visitor's Class. The Visitor's Class is a great way to learn more about our reformed heritage, the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the history, mission and ministry of this congregation.

The class is designed for those interested in becoming members of First Presbyterian, as well as for those who simply want to learn more about the church. The class will meet at 9:45 a.m. in Room 122. I hope to see you there! ~ Pastor John

Week 1: Sunday, Sept. 29

[What is a Presbyterian?
An overview of the Reformed tradition, Presbyterian history and theology]

Week 2: Sunday, Oct. 6

[Welcome to First Presbyterian Part 1—
FPC-OKC history, meet the staff, tour of the building]

Week 3: Sunday, Oct. 13

[Welcome to First Presbyterian Part 2—Opportunities for Worship, Mission and Ministry in our church, our city and our world]

Thursday Noon Lunch Study Begins Soon

It's not too late to join!

Pastor John will kick off this study in room 122 on Sept. 12. All are welcome, and bringing a bag lunch is encouraged. The group will focus on contemplative prayer using Thomas Keating's book "Open Mind, Open Heart" as a guide. Copies of the book are available on Amazon for under \$20, so get your copy and start readying yourself for spiritual growth.

Did you know we collect a food offering every month?

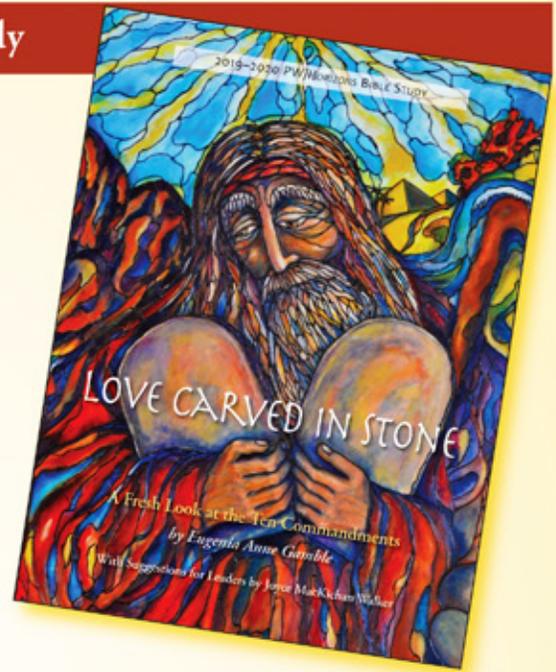
Our members help stock the shelves of The Urban Mission Food & Resource Center by providing donations through our purple bag food offering. We thank everyone who has helped with this endeavor, and we are grateful for our congregation's continued support. If you are interested in participating, just follow the steps below.

Step 1: On the first Sunday of the month, grab a purple bag from one of the entryways of the Sanctuary or Chapel.

Step 2: Fill the bag with non-perishable food items.

Step 3: Drop off the filled bag in the church office or bring it with you to the second Sunday worship of the month where we'll collect and bless the bags during service.

We thank you in advance for your generosity and taking this opportunity to feed a family.



Love Carved in Stone

A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments

By Eugenia Anne Gamble

With Suggestions for Leaders by Joyce MacKichan Walker

What would it mean to consider the Ten Commandments not as a harsh list of what not to do but, instead, as a “love letter” from a loving God? A fresh embrace of the Ten Commandments (or Words), author Eugenia Gamble suggests, may ultimately contribute to the restoration of ourselves and our communities and the furthering of the gospel in the world. “Moral behavior matters, not simply because immoral actions can anger or disappoint God, but because principled behavior is how love becomes real, both toward God and in community.” *Love Carved in Stone* is a Bible study that helps us reframe the way we look at and live in the world.

Why the Ten Words? The author notes that nowhere in the Hebrew text does the word for “commandment” appear. She says, “In the Bible, these utterances are called just what they are: ‘words.’ I’ve chosen to use the term ‘Ten Words’ because it is the biblical form and opens us up to looking at the Ten Commandments in fresh ways.”

Each lesson begins with an exploration of one of the Ten Words in its biblical context. From there we consider a moment from Jesus’ life that shows us how he lived out that Word. We then consider the Word for our own lives and contexts. We conclude with an invitation to pray with the Word in our circles or study groups and in our personal devotions.

Summary of the Ten Words

The **First Word** calls us to allow God to be our One and Only.

The **Second Word** asks us not to be fooled into substituting other things for God.

The **Third Word** summons us into deep and honest intimacy with God for who God is and not for what God can do for us.

The **Fourth Word** calls us, regularly and without fail, to stop and rest in the beauty and provision of God for us and for the whole human family.

The **Fifth Word** calls us to honor that which is honorable in our heritages and give a place of precedence to those who bring us to the fullness of life.

The **Sixth Word** calls us, as individuals and as a society, to refuse to “take life,” whether in literal or metaphorical ways.

The **Seventh Word** reminds us that life-long commitments matter, not just to us but to the whole community.

The **Eighth Word** reminds us not to take from others—not their possessions, their self-esteem, or their livelihood. This word asks us to ponder how our choices take from or lift up others.

The **Ninth Word** calls us to fundamental honesty in all of our dealings and in the institutions of our society.

The **Tenth Word** calls each of us to trust God’s provision and to welcome the unique lives that we live.

About the authors



Eugenia A. Gamble is a PC(USA) pastor who has served the church for more than thirty years. She is an author, speaker, preacher, and retreat leader who loves nothing more than to help the Bible come alive in people’s lives. In addition to *Love Carved in Stone*, Eugenia wrote *Glimpses of Home*, the 1995–1996 PW/*Horizons* Bible study. Eugenia is married to Rob Phillips; they live on the central coast of California with their beloved keeshond, Abigail. Eugenia joined her first PW circle in seminary and says she would not have been able to negotiate life without her sisters.



Suggestions for Leaders writer **Joyce MacKichan Walker** recently retired as the minister of education and mission at Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey, where she served for thirty years. A 1979 graduate of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (now Union Presbyterian Seminary), her first love has always been teaching. She enjoys consulting in education ministry, writing, and traveling—she’ll go almost anywhere!

Reserve the 3rd

Saturday, Sept. 21 | 9:00 a.m.–Noon

Our September mission opportunity is too close to pass up—it's in our front yard! We will winterize the Community Garden this month to prepare it for next season. Activities may include cleaning up the area, removing weeds, preparing the soil for spring and replenishing mulch. No gardening experience required. All you need are helping hands and a positive attitude.

If you have questions, contact Roane Pittman at johnpittmanmd@pnfmc.com. You can also email Roane to let him know if you would like to be on the email list for future activities.

New Member Luncheon

Sunday, Sept. 22 | Noon

Come welcome our new members at the New Member Luncheon in Watchorn Hall. Junebug Catering will provide a delicious and nutritious meal for everyone to enjoy, and Pastor John will help us get to know more about our new members as we welcome them in with love.

Chili Cook-Off Contest

Free to enter, free to taste!

We need participants for this year's Fall Festival Chili Cook-Off taking place Saturday, Oct. 5. Get your favorite recipes ready, and let's have some fun! Chili dishes will be judged on presentation, aroma, flavor, texture and overall impression. If you think you've got what it takes, contact the church office to register or fill out the online form at fpcokc.org/upcoming-events.

Music for Brass, Organ & Percussion

Sunday, Sept. 29 | 3:00 p.m. [KEMP Series]
Doors open at 2:30 p.m.

This program features diverse pieces of music that highlight the different combinations of instruments, including music by Bruckner, Britten, Lauridsen, Dupré and P.D.Q. Bach.

Featuring some of OKC's finest brass players: Jay Wilkinson, Michael Anderson and Michael Mann will play trumpets; Kate Pritchett will play French Horn; John Allen and Philip Martinson will play Trombone. K. Dean Walker will play percussion and John L. Edwards will play the mighty Sanctuary organ that has more than 5,000 pipes!

Boy Scouts' Annual Popcorn Sale

Sunday, Sept. 8

Troop 15 will be with us before and after both worship services to sell a variety of gourmet popcorns, including butter, kettle corn, white cheddar, salted caramel with sea salt and caramel corn.

All proceeds help fund scouting activities, including monthly campouts and summer camp. Often times, scouts are able to fund their entire scouting year with popcorn sales, without which they might not otherwise be able to participate.

Presbyterian Women (PW)

Priscilla Circle & Phoebe Circle

will meet Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 10:00 a.m. in the Reception Room. Bring a bag lunch and help celebrate Grandparent's Day with the children at First Presbyterian School.

Abigail Circle will meet at the home of Amanda Ogden on Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 6:30 p.m.



Upgrades and Enhancements Coming Soon **Session Approved Projects**

On behalf of the Trustees, Resource Council, Session and Staff, I am pleased to announce Session's approval to proceed with a number of projects to enhance the use of our incredible church facility by church members, guests and the surrounding community! Ten separate projects were approved for a total cost not to exceed \$320,000. At the recommendation of the Resource Council, sufficient funds are available from various church cash accounts, as well as a specific bequest from the Frank and Jean Stockham Estate, to pay for the entirety of the projects—without having to draw from the FPC Endowment Fund or launch a separate capital campaign. We are blessed to have the resources to proceed with these projects! Special thanks to Jack Lancaster, Director of Facilities, who will provide valuable help in coordinating, supervising and in some cases, installing these projects.

Approved Projects:

- Resurface and Stripe Parking Lots (main lots south of church and two smaller lots west of Western)
- Replace Watchorn Entry Doors
- Install Exterior Informational Signs
- Update/Repair Pastor's Office
- Install Carpet Squares in the Rec. Room
- Install a Graded Entry to Watchorn Hall
- Replace Basement Hallway Flooring
- Add Handicap Seating in the Chapel
- Upgrade Christian Education Classrooms
- Install Interior Stair Treads

All Glory to God!
Dean Sergent
Chair, Board of Trustees

A Look Ahead

Fall Festival 2019

Saturday, Oct. 5 | 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

This year's Fall Festival is a pet-friendly event that is free and open to the public with activities for both children and adults!

Here's a list of just some of the free things to do, see and eat: pumpkin carving, chili cook-off, arts and crafts, exotic animals, games, inflatables, hot dogs, chips, popcorn, "cooking with squash" recipe station, storytelling for elementary-aged children and much more.

Our annual Blessing of Animals will also take place during the Fall Festival this year. Learn more about both and check for updates online at fpcokc.org/upcoming-events.

Blessing of Animals 2019

Saturday, Oct. 5 | 11:00 a.m.

The Blessing of Animals is an annual event for FPC-OKC. Everyone in the community is welcome, and all types of pets and animals are welcome. We ask that all pets are in carriers or on leashes and are current on their vaccinations. Treats are provided for pets and their people, and every pet receives a signed certificate suitable for framing.

Following the Blessing Service, we will have a Service of Remembrance for pets who have died.

Children & Youth Upcoming Activities

Sept. 8: High School White-Water Rafting at Riversport Adventures OKC

Sept. 15: Middle School Youth – Lunch and a Movie at Penn Square Mall

Sept. 22: Youth Sunday & Yoga in the Park

Sept. 29: Living Waters First Presbyterian Church of Norman (Club 345)

Food and transportation are provided. Youth who wish to attend should contact Leigh Miller (leigh@fpcokc.org) to let her know you're interested. The day of, meet in the Youth Lounge at 1:00 p.m. From there, the group will stop for lunch before hitting the water!

Growing Christian Relationships, Faith & Community

Indian Nations Presbytery (INP) is hosting a two-day LOGOS training event on Friday, Sept. 6 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. (dinner provided), and Sept. 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. LOGOS is a program of GenOn ministries that is based on theology and focuses on the practice of growing intergenerational Christian relationships in a planned and purposeful setting. This training event is free to all INP church members through a generous grant from our presbytery.

Why should I attend LOGOS training, and what does this have to do with KirkNight or with our church in general? A lot of people say they want to see the church grow, they want to see our programs grow and they want to see our families grow. What we truly want is to see the Kingdom of God grow! LOGOS provides a framework that could help us meet the faith-formation goals of our current church family and will also help us reach our friends who may not have a church home as well as families and individuals who are in and out of our building every day, such as SPARK, First Presbyterian School and El Sistema.

I want to encourage anyone with a heart for seeing our church grow to get involved as we try to reach out to even more families. This training is intended to help us learn about ways to foster intergenerational relationships through our KirkNight program, which is a huge step in making connections with those outside of our membership.

I would love to have as many people as possible come see how we can adapt the LOGOS model to fit our KirkNight program. Please reach out to me if you can attend, and I will make a reservation for you.

Peace in Christ,
Leigh Miller
Director of Christian Education



LOGOS Encounter Training

September 6, 5:30 - 8:30 pm

September 7, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church

1001 NW 25th St., Oklahoma City, OK

Why LOGOS?
To grow Christian
relationships!
And faith!
And community!



"Our leaders were outstanding! The Encounter is enriching and renews excitement. It's great to share ideas with people from other churches and learn from each other."



Why Training?
To grow your ministry!

How?

- Focus on Christian Relationships
- Call volunteers into ministry using their gifts and talents
- Experience play, worship arts, Bible study, and a shared meal
- Networking, resources, worship together

To sign up

No charge for those from FPC

or churches in the Indian Nations Presbytery

Contact Leigh Miller

leigh@fpcokc.org

405.526.6584

Questions?

Contact Betsy Dishman

betsydishman@genonministries.org



First Presbyterian Church
1001 NW 25th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106
405.525.6584
www.fpcokc.org



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.

Non-Profit Org.
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Or Current Resident

September Birthdays Happy birthday to all!

01: Robin Lancaster, Ethan Lusby, William Pitts
04: Nicole Weibel
05: Gladys London
07: David Denner
08: Chris Carter
09: Ruby Johnson
10: Holly Moorad, Caden Tyler
11: Raymond Poe, Brooklyn Robles
12: Barbara DeCastro
13: Madeline Boughman, Seth Hubbard, Chad Keith, Nancy Marshall
15: Nicole Reynolds

18: Griffin Bunch, Glenna Higgins, Bret Sholar, Ryland Streuli, Brian Upp
19: Jan Robinson, Collin Weibel
20: Barbara Frye
21: Lee Keese, Pierce Keith
22: Emily Holson, Christine Woods
23: Linda Herider
24: Jeffrey Coan, Tom Hays, Jim Tack
25: Nancy Myer, Marie Niemeyer, Lanie Pitts
26: Brooks Backus,

Bradley Davenport, Clyde Schoolfield, Becki Teague
27: Elizabeth Sidler
28: Ashton Keith, Jim Rogers, John Taylor
29: Elaine Buzan, Auden Gabrielson, Claire Kennedy, Katherine Kirk, Amanda Ogden, Peggy Whittington
30: Colten Johnson, Jack Sergent, Alan Stevens

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