

THE CHURCH & YOU

February 2020

Love is in the air!

Valentine's Day is celebrated annually on Feb. 14. It originated as a Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early saints named Valentinus, in 18th-century England; it grew into an occasion in which couples expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery and sending greeting cards known as valentines.

I have been thinking a lot about love recently with the approach of Valentine's Day. Part of it has to do with the fact that Darci and I turned the corner on twenty years of marriage in October and partly because my son missed being a Valentine's Day baby by one day. He came on the scene Feb. 15 instead. I am aware of the other layers of love in my life—love for my children as my daughter's senior year of high school goes by so quickly, love for aging parents as Darci and I are both separated from aging mothers by long distances, love for my friends and love for this church family.

The English language is a beautiful thing. I do not have a proper command of it and that limits my ability to use it to its fullest. That being said, I find it in some instances to be limiting. Love is such a word for me. Love almost always needs explaining, needs context in English because love is a multi-faceted thing. CONTINUED INSIDE...

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKC

This Month:

Saturday, Feb. 1 | 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Adult's Night Out

Sunday, Feb. 2 | 12:00 p.m.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Friday, Feb. 7 | 7:30 p.m.

Luther College Nordic Choir

Sunday, Feb. 9 | 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Kirk Kids' Valentine's Party

Saturday, Feb. 15 | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Reserve the Third

Sunday, Feb. 16 | 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Rock Climbing at Summit Climbing

Wednesday, Feb. 26 | 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service



We all have our own experiences of love. I lift up my experiences only as my experiences. Each person has their own unique opportunities to experience love. We might share some, but we all have a unique relationship with this crazy little thing called love. I apologize if the places I have found love in my life are places that have caused hurt in yours. It is a crazy little thing...

I have been blessed to fall in love with a supportive partner in life. The love I feel for Darci after twenty years of marriage has brought a richness and beauty to my life that I cannot begin to express in words.

I have been blessed by the love of children. Someone once told me that marriage changes your lifestyle and having children changes your life. I get it. The love for a child is a completely different thing than the love for a spouse.

I have been and am blessed by the love of parents. Again, love but of a completely different kind. Add the love of my two best friends forever and the love of my church family to the list and we are up to five completely different experiences of love. Obviously, the list could go on and on. I have two thoughts to share about love. First, love in the context of the church family is a treasure. Second, all forms of love lead us to one place.

One of my first experiences of feeling loved in the context of the church was when I was about seven years old. I was standing in the bathroom of the Sunday school building of Sharon Presbyterian Church at the sink in front of the mirror almost in tears, trying to get my necktie tied. I had recently moved up from clip-ons but was still a novice at the half-Windsor knot, so try as I might, I was not having success. Suddenly, one of the men of the church came in and told me not to worry about it, stood behind me, helped me tie my tie and sent me on my way. Such a small thing, but that expression of love that was not even a second thought to that person left an impression on me that will last a lifetime.

One of my most recent experiences of feeling loved in the context of the church was when one of you reached out in love to my seven-year-old. It was a Saturday. Ian was with me and the only child around. One of the people there engaged with him, played with him and read with him; they made him feel special. I had not asked the person to do this. Ian had not initiated the contact. This person simply took an interest in him and took the time to get to know him. When it was time to leave, the person gave Ian a hug in the parking lot before we got in the car. As he was buckling up, he said not to me as much as just to himself, "Ms. _____ sure is good at loving people. I love my church."

Love. Love in all its beauty, love in all its forms leads us back to one place—love itself, God. I am so grateful to God for all the many ways I experience love in this life. The reality is that all of the love we experience in the here and now is just a foretaste, a foreshadowing, a mere glimpse of the eternal love promised to us in scripture that awaits us. A love far beyond our human understanding or conceiving—love in its completeness. Thanks be to God! I love you.

~ Pastor John

Luther College Nordic Choir **Friday, Feb. 7 | 7:30 p.m.**

The Luther College Nordic Choir, conducted by Dr. Andrew Last, will perform a concert at First Presbyterian Church on Friday, February 7, at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

The concert is open to the public and no tickets are required, thanks to sponsorship by the Kemp Concert Series.

We hope you will join us for this evening of beautiful choral music by one of the finest collegiate choral ensembles in the nation.



Note from the Board of Endowment Trustees

An Endowment Fund is a permanent fund that never ends. The Endowment Fund is invested and reinvested in order to provide income to benefit our church in general or a specific area of our church.

As a donor, you may select your area of interest, i.e. building upkeep, youth activities, music programs, Sunday school or for the general benefit of our church. But more importantly, by establishing an endowment, you have helped ensure that our church will continue long into the future.

Any questions you may have, please ask an endowment trustee or call the church office and leave your name and phone number and ask that an Endowment trustee call you.

Kenneth R. Brown, President

Thank you from the Pastor

Thank you hardly seems adequate to express the gratitude I have for the congregation's generous financial support and investment in my future approved at the congregational meeting on Sunday, Jan. 26. I am blessed to be your pastor and it is important to me for you to know I do not take that blessing for granted. So again, thank you. ~ Pastor John

Newcomers' Classes Offered on Sundays in February

Feb. 2, 9 and 16
9:45 a.m. in Room 122

If you would like to learn more about the Presbyterian church and this congregation at First Presbyterian Church of OKC, please come! RSVP to office@fpcokc.org or call the church office at 405-525-6584.

Presbyterian Women (PW)

Presbyterian Women (PW) is an inclusive and caring community of women, committed to working toward God's promise of wholeness for all people.

Presbyterian Women are women who are in any way affiliated with First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City.



Spring Cleaning

Saturday, March 7

Save the date for our upcoming event to clean the church!

Just as we give our own houses a fresh start every Spring, let's give our house of worship the love and attention it deserves.

Details coming soon.

Women at Risk and Sock Collections

PW was able to create 45 Valentine bags from the supplies collected over the holiday season. These bags will go to women at risk at the Sanctuary Women's Development Center in Norman, OK.

Each bag contained a number of items, including shampoo and conditioner, a toothbrush and toothpaste, socks, nail polish, lipstick and much more! The bags were decorated by Cyndi Stumpf and Susan Henning and assembled by Janet Eselin and Cyndi Stumpf. Elaine Buzan was also very helpful in the process.

During PW's Sock Collection in December, they were able to collect over 180 socks to donate to the Homeless Alliance. In addition, they collected a number of hygiene products to donate as well.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and to the wonderful ladies of PW who made all of this possible!

Upcoming PW Meetings

Priscilla Circle: Tuesday, Feb. 11 – 10:00 a.m. | Reception Room at the church.

Phoebe Circle: Tuesday, Feb. 11 – 1:30 p.m. | Reception Room at the church. Bring change for Least Coin.

Abigail Circle: Tuesday, Feb. 18 – 6:30 p.m. | DiAnne Bryant's house.



KirkNights in February

Wednesdays | 5:00 p.m. (Children) | 6:00 p.m. (Dinner) | 6:45-7:30 p.m. (Children & Adults)

Upcoming Themes and Meals

Feb. 05: Theme | The Beatitudes

Meal | Bourbon Bacon Pulled Pork, Brisket, Roasted Potato Salad, Sweet Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw with Nutella Tart and Nutella Truffles

Feb. 12: Theme | Salt and Light

Meal | Coq Au Vin Roasted Carrots, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Salad and Pot de Creme

Feb. 19: Theme | Jesus Teaches About Anger

Meal | Breakfast for Dinner, Breakfast Casseroles, Biscuit and Gravy, Bacon, Sausage, Roasted Potatoes and Danish

Feb. 26: Ash Wednesday Worship

Meal | Jambalaya and Red Beans, Rice with Corn Bread, Black Bean and Corn Salad and King Cake

For more information on weekly programming, please call the church office, check the Sunday bulletin Upcoming Events section, sign up for the church email blast or check us out on Facebook (@fpcokc).

Ash Wednesday Service

Feb. 26 | 7:00 PM | Chapel

You are cordially invited to join us for Ash Wednesday worship. This year our service will be influenced by Lectio Divina “sacred reading” and Taizé style worship in addition to the Imposition of Ashes.

This a deeply meaningful way to enter into Lent. I hope you can be with us as we begin the journey to the cross.

Reserve the Third

Saturday, Feb. 15 | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

The Community Garden

We will be helping with the community garden, putting in compost and weed cloth. We need shovels, wheel barrels and rakes, so please bring whatever supplies you have!

Email @johnpittmanmd@pnfmc.com to RSVP or ask any questions.

Children & Youth

Feb. 2 – Souper Bowl of Caring | 12:00 p.m.

Since 1990, young people have been leading the charge and inspiring others to collect dollars and food in the weeks leading up to the Big Game. Please join us as our Youth host a chili lunch! We will have Frito chili pie, white chicken chili and vegetarian chili. All donations will go to local charities, like the Urban Mission, to alleviate hunger.

Lunch will be served immediately after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Lunch is free but please bring a donation for the Souper Bowl of Caring along with canned food.

Feb. 9 – Kirk Kids' Valentine's Party | 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Hey Kirk Kids (those attending FPC in any way)! You stole a “pizza” our heart, so we’d like to invite you to an “a-doughable” Pizza Valentine’s Party. You will be able to make your own personal-size pizza just the way you like it. Bring at least one adult with you and an apron to cook in! We will also be creating Valentines to hand out to shut-ins and other members.

If this sounds fun but you’re not a Kirk Kid, but a kid at heart, you are welcome to join.

RSVP to Leigh (leigh@fpcokc.org) ASAP.

Feb. 16 – Rock Climbing at Summit Climbing | 1:00-3:00 p.m.

All Youth are invited to head to Summit Climbing to scale some walls! Friends are welcome but will need to fill out permission slips for FPCOKC and Summit Gym.

To RSVP for any of the events above, please email Leigh Miller (leigh@fpcokc.org) or let her know in the Youth GroupMe (search for “First Pres OKC Youth” in the GroupMe app).

For updates on children and youth activities planned in January, keep an eye on the church’s social media and Sunday bulletins!



Cat in the Hat at Lyric Theater

New Church Signs!



Choir Corner

Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. -Psalms 47:6

February is a month all about hearts and love! God already knows what is in your heart, but He still loves to hear your praise. Our hearts need to SING. Singing is not just for the good singers themselves but for everyone listening.

With a new year, comes new opportunities. It is a good time to start using your God given talents, gifts and abilities to bless others...possibly by joining the Choir!

It may surprise people to know that there are some members of the Choir that cannot read music. While it is helpful, it is not a must. For some it was a big deterrent as to whether they would be about to keep up or fit in, but we have some great solutions that will help negate those doubts. First, simply sit next to someone who can read music. Second, we have very talented section leaders that are happy to help anyone struggling. Third, we have the most patient Choir Director ever who will be more than happy to direct and teach you. Last but not least, we have "The Master of the Ivories" for accompaniment on the piano, organ, flute, etc.

All of these things together should be enough to calm any doubts and encourage you to try us out. You are guaranteed to be surrounded by help and happy hearts.

~ Sanctuary Singers

New Choir Members Welcome!



February Birthdays Happy birthday to all!

02: Miriam Lusby
03: Connie Harris
04: Jannis Dykeman
05: Ron Grace
06: Griffin Taylor
07: James Higgins,
Darcie James
08: Marcia Taylor
09: Melany Boughman
11: Mary Braum,
Michelle Johnson

12: Jayme Robles
13: Robert Boughman
15: John Cochrane,
Ian McKinnon
16: Naomi Borquaye
18: Denise Miller
19: Leon Smith
20: Victoria Barrick,
John Henning,
Keith Ingram

22: Steve McDonald,
John Ogden
23: Joseph Ward
24: Sherrylon Golden
25: Veronica Borquaye,
Alexander Glaspey
27: Hayden Evans
28: Alicia Aguilar

First Presbyterian Church
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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.

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