

THE CHURCH & YOU

Forgiving in the Name of God

The season of Lent is a time of prayer and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the Easter Vigil. In many communities of faith, it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for baptism and confirmation and to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship.

We are delighted to continue the traditions of the church this year. Two of our young people, Max Keith and Caroline Kivett, will make their public profession of faith and be confirmed as active members of First Presbyterian Church during the 11:00 a.m. worship Easter morning.

I invite you to reflect with me this Lenten season on what I believe is a crucial theme of biblical discipleship: forgiveness. I want to share with you what Henri Nouwen writes in his book "Bread for the Journey," concerning Forgiving in the Name of God:

"We are all wounded people. Who wounds us? Often those whom we love and those who love us. When we feel rejected, abandoned, abused, manipulated, or violated, it is mostly by people very close to us: our parents, our friends, our spouses, our children, our neighbor, our teachers, our pastors. That's the tragedy of our lives."

Continued inside...

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKC

March 2020

This Month:

Saturday, March 7 | 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Spring Cleaning Day

Sunday, March 15 | 12:30-5:00 p.m.

Family Day Outing

Sunday, March 15-Friday, March 20

INP Mission Trip to New Orleans

Friday, March 27-Sunday, March 29

Youth Quake



Lenten Services and Events:

Sunday, April 5 | 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday Worship

Thursday, April 9 | 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 10 | 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Friday, April 10-Sunday, April 12

Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 12

Easter Service | 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Easter Brunch | 9:30 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt | 12:00 p.m.



“This is what makes forgiveness from the heart so difficult. It is precisely our hearts that are wounded. We cry out, ‘You, who I expected to be there for me, you have abandoned me. How can I ever forgive you for that?’”

Of course, those could be Jesus’ words to every generation: “You, who I expected to be there for me, you have abandoned me. How can I ever forgive you for that?” We ask that question too. Not only of God, but also of human beings, even our companions in Christ.

Forgiveness is crucial in the life of the church. Both the Old and New Testaments speak of the importance of forgiveness and it is present as a central theme in the Lord’s Prayer.

The “Passing of the Peace” was made a part of our worship liturgy because it was important to the early church for worshipers to make peace with those they had wronged or felt had wronged them so they could then be worthy to hear God’s word read.

They recognized what we all know to be true: The need to forgive or seek forgiveness makes things awkward at best—and painful at worst—between ourselves and another individual, a group of people or God. It creates emotional distance in relationships, sometimes between us and the people we care about most in the world, or even God.

Forgiveness often seems impossible, but nothing is impossible for God. The God who lives within us will give us the grace to go beyond our wounded selves and say, “In the Name of God you are forgiven.” Let’s pray for that grace.

During this season when we are called to reflect on where we have fallen short in our Christian witness, I invite us to reflect on forgiveness both when we have hurt others and when we have been wounded. But do not get mired in that place. Use the grace given to us by Jesus Christ to forgive, to seek forgiveness and to heal. Then as we “Pass the Peace” on Easter morning, may you experience true peace, the peace of Christ, in a new way.

~ Pastor John

Lenten Devotionals

For this Lenten season, we will have three different devotional options. The theme of this year’s devotionals revolve around giving. We will include a daily devotional in the Sunday bulletin and a weekly family and individual devotional will be available to pick up on Sundays or when convenient in the church office.

Noon Bible Study

Thursdays in March | Room 122

As an act of personal preparation, come join in a time of Lenten reflection. Leigh will draw from a variety of sources as we prepare our hearts and minds for Easter and the cross. No book is required. You can join any time. Feel free to bring lunch with you!

Spring Cleaning

Come join us for a Spring Cleaning of 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.

The event is come-and-go, so check-in at Watchorn Hall and you will be assigned an area to clean. Be sure to bring a sack lunch. Childcare is provided.

A cleaning supply sign-up sheet is available in the church office and online (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0544AFA723ABFE3-spring>).

Supplies needed:

- 30 bottles of Scrubbing Bubbles
- 6 half gallons of Cleaning Vinegar
- 20 containers of Bar Keeper's Friend
- 80 cleaning rags
- 40 masks
- 100 disposable gloves

You can drop off donations in the Spring Cleaning Box in the Reception Room. If you have any questions, please contact Ginnie Tack (gintack@gmail.com).

Builders' Group: Family Day Outing

Sunday, March 15 | 12:30-5:00 p.m.

We will meet for lunch at 12:30 p.m. at Hideaway Pizza (901 N. Broadway Ave. #5810, Oklahoma City, OK 73102) and then go to the FREE Sonic Drive-In Family Day at the Oklahoma Museum of Art (415 Couch Dr., Oklahoma City, OK).

The Sonic event lasts until 5:00 p.m. It will be come, meet and leave as you please.

RSVP on the Facebook event for a headcount for lunch at Hideaway. If you have any questions, contact Seth Keeton (580-890-9776).



Easter Vigil | April 10-12

It is a tradition at FPCOKC to keep a prayer vigil from the close of Good Friday service until the morning of Easter. The idea being that someone is in continuous prayer during this very holy weekend.

Both vigil participants (1-hour shift) and building hosts (4-hour shift) are needed. A sign-up sheet will be available after each service starting Sunday, March 1 and in the church office during the week.

Please prayerfully consider taking part in this moving practice. Contact Erica Taylor (918-231-1777) if you have any questions or want more details.

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.



PW Circles and the Least Coin

One of the offerings that Presbyterian Women collect each year in their individual Circles is called Fellowship of the Least Coin. Presbyterian Women who attend Circle meetings bring their spare change (Least Coin) and drop it into a globe-shaped bank. The coins are eventually collected and combined with other Presbyterian Women Circles. Grants are then solicited and awarded to the most deserving mission programs here and abroad.

More than 60 years ago, since the Fellowship of the Least Coin began, the coins donated by the women of First Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City have helped to improve lives throughout the world.

Here are four examples of the 22 grants that were funded in 2019 from the Least Coins collected by Presbyterian Women Circles:

1. In Burundi (Africa): A grant to support widows, women and street girls. This project promotes girls' education and the economic empowerment of widows and street girls in Burundi.
2. In Malaysia (Asia): A grant for home nursing care. This project provides nursing care to needy and neglected elderly women in Malaysia.
3. In Thailand (Asia): A sewing project and food bank. This project allows church women to make a living without leaving their local Thai villages.
4. In Syria (Middle East): A grant for emergency relief aid for the children of Syrian refugees. This project addresses the basic needs of vulnerable Syrian refugee girls, in order to help prevent and protect them from violence and exploitation.

Last year, approximately \$100,000 in grants were funded by Presbyterian Women Circles' Least Coin contributions. The average grant was for \$4500. For the three Circles at FPCOKC, our Least Coin contributions, however small, are used as a catalyst to bring about peace, justice and reconciliation beyond our local borders. ~ Susan Perry

Upcoming PW Meetings

Priscilla Circle: Tuesday, March 10 – 10:00 a.m. | Small Dining Room at the church.

Phoebe Circle: Tuesday, March 10 – 1:30 p.m. | Home of Jannis Dykeman. Oklahoma Student Grant offering will be our special offering. Bring change for Least Coin.

Abigail Circle: Cancelled. (Spring Break)

Attention High School Senior and College Students!

The Presbyterian Women of Indian Nations Presbytery offers scholarships to Presbyterian students ages 17-25 doing undergraduate work.

To obtain an application form, go online to the Indian Nations Presbytery website (www.okinp.org/links-and-resources) and look under Presbyterian Women.

The deadline to apply is Sunday, March 16.

KirkNights in March

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

Upcoming Themes and Meals

March 04: Theme | The First Sin

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

March 11: Theme | Abram's Call

Meal | International Eat Your Noodles Day: Chicken Lo Mein, Kung Pao Noodles, Szechuan Green Beans, Steamed Lemon Garlic Broccoli and Mochi (for dessert)

March 18: Spring Break (No KirkNight)

March 25: Theme | Pool of Siloam

Meal | Greek Day: Greek Lemon Chicken and Greek Meatballs with Tzatziki Sauce, Greek Salad, Marinated Feta, 7-layer Hummus Dip with Pita, Orzo-stuffed Bell Peppers and Baklava (for dessert)

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).

Reserve the Third

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

The Urban Mission

We will be heading back to The Urban Mission the third Saturday in March to sort the food and restock the pantry (German may even have some new things for us to do).

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

Children & Youth

March 15-March 20 – INP Mission Trip to New Orleans

This is an amazing opportunity for HS and College-aged Youth that have a passion for helping others and love the city of New Orleans. Rebuilding Hope In New Orleans (RHINO) will be hosting us as we do construction work through Rebuilding Together New Orleans. We will have a brief orientation, experience a prayer and justice tour of the city and then have some free time for our group to explore the city together. We will have four solid days of construction work before we head home on Saturday. Spaces are filling up fast!

Will depart from FPCOKC at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 15 and return around 8:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20.

Deadline to RSVP: March 10

Cost: \$75

March 27-March 29 – Youth Quake (MS and HS Youth)

What's your super power? Come find out and see how God wants to use you! Who doesn't want to go on a Youth Retreat? Come get closer to God and get closer to your friends! You might meet some new people from all over our Presbytery and state too.

We will depart from FPCOKC at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 27 and return on Sunday, March 29 by 1:00 p.m.

Location: Canyon Camp in Hinton, OK.

Cost: \$85

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 March, keep an eye on the church's social media and Sunday bulletins!



Kirk Kids Valentine Party!

Stained Glass Window Update

We are making progress toward the repair of our stained glass windows! As you've probably noticed, they are currently installing stone for the south window and then they will need to take some measurements for the glass.

In the meantime, here are pictures of the glass that will be installed in the west window this summer.



Choir Corner

I will sing a new song unto thee, O God: upon a psaltery and an instrument of ten strings will I sing praises unto thee. -Psalms 144:9

Thank you to all who joined us for our Valentine's Party. It was a lot of fun and a great time to mingle and get to know each other better. As we enter the month of March, the choir is busy rehearsing for our regular Sunday worship services as well as many special worship services.

Please feel free to stop by for a visit to see what being in the Choir is all about and the heart and love that make it special.

A Simple Irish Prayer: May God give you....

For every storm, a rainbow, for every tear, a smile,

For every care, a promise, and a blessing in each trial.

For every problem life sends, a faithful friend to share,

For every sigh, a sweet song, and an answer for each prayer.

~ Sanctuary Singers

New Choir Members Welcome!



March Birthdays Happy birthday to all!

01: Elizabeth Black,
Jefferson Buxton,
Kimberly Crawford-Welch,
Maxwell Keith

02: Paula Denner, Ona Foster,
Tom Myer, Rachel Pittman

03: Isidore Fokum

05: Kimberley Pittman-Carisoza,
Charles Rodriguez,
Tyler Woods

06: Leslie Broadhead,
Nancy Kellogg,
Carren MacLemore,
Michael Smith,
Hart Greenwood

07: Jeanne Fisher,
Erica Haverly, Wyatt Pitts,
Jamie Roberts

08: Michael Clark,
Kathryn Turner

09: Nancy Denner,
Lucia Gray

10: Rex Boughman,
John Pittman

13: Tyler Fokum,
Virginia Tack,
James Whitten

14: Aerial Akers,
Madelaine Hawkins,
Jillian Reynolds,
Aileen Turnbull

15: Tom Hohn, Sue Kunkel

17: William Walden

20: Rodney Hall,
Connie Myers,
Arthur Rus

21: Harriet Adams,
John Marshall,
William Winfree

22: Kristine Eselin

23: Quincy Adams,
Holly Holson,
Janet Martin

24: Roberta Carter

26: Alaina Tyler

29: Elizabeth Kabrick

31: Barbara Charlet

First Presbyterian Church
1001 NW 25th Street
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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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