



# First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Newsletter

May 2020

## FPC's Plan to Safely Reopen

We are all anxious to get back in the same worship space and for our lives to return to normal.

**At the April 27 meeting of the Session, the following plan to begin to safely reopen the church was adopted.** It is intentionally cautious out of an abundance of care for our congregation, staff and community.

### Plan for Reopening the Building

**For the protection of our staff and community, we will reopen the building on May 18, 2020.**

- Staff falling into a high-risk category may continue to work from home at the Pastor/Head of Staff's discretion.

### Plan for Reopening Congregational Worship

**For the protection of our community, we will resume congregational worship on June 7, 2020.**

- On June 7, congregational worship will resume in the Sanctuary at 11:00 a.m. with social distancing and other appropriate measures in place.
- The Worship Council will recommend a specific plan for approval at the Session's May 18 meeting.
- On August 16, 8:30 a.m. Chapel Worship will resume; 11:00 a.m. Choir Worship will also resume.

# Senior Spotlight



## Hannah Lusby

Hannah is graduating from her preliminary studies this year. Having her education home-based allowed her to learn and become proficient in many unique skills including agriculture, animal husbandry, small business management (Cross Timbers Farm LLC), and health care and special needs assistance for her sister and aunt.

Most importantly, these endeavors helped her to realize her best attributes and to develop them while working as a team with her family and friends. As for future plans, she is exploring many options. She hopes these plans include professional musician, designer, actor, linguist, artist, cosmetologist and business owner.

In the coming year, she is eager to help illustrate, edit and publish her mother's latest book, "The Emperor's Games." She is excited to have time to do the things she loves and to move forward moment by moment toward all the fun, exciting, peaceful and unexpected adventures to come.



## Aidan McKinnon

Aidan is graduating from Edmond Memorial High School. Her achievements include becoming an AP Scholar, a commended Merit Scholar, the Key Club Secretary and Thespian Society President.

In school, she has most enjoyed being a part of the theatre program. Stage managing nine shows, and being part of twelve in total, has allowed her to become part of a family...

that she will be forever grateful for.

She plans to attend Eckerd College in the fall to major in marine biology with a possible minor in mathematics.

Next year, she hopes to be doing what she loves and learning about what she's passionate about. She can't wait to spend her days in the Florida sunshine, working to conserve and learn all there is to know about the ocean.

She hopes to make everyone proud.



### **Caroline Rogers**

Caroline will graduate from Classen School of Advanced Studies this year. She has been a competitive gymnast for around eight years and received awards such as first all-around at state, second place all-around at regionals and national recognition for her floor routine.

She has also represented the state of Oklahoma in the Judges Cup competition.

Her favorite aspects of her schooling include taking AP History classes and the friends she has made through the drama program. Her plans for college consist of going to OCCC to earn an associate degree and then transferring to The University of Oklahoma, potentially for pre-med.

She will also work for her dad's company and coach gymnastics at Oklahoma City Gymnastics (the gym she attended for the last four years of her career).

She can't wait to meet new people in college as well as maintain connections with all the girls at her gym by coaching.



## Justine Rogers

Justine is graduating from Classen School of Advanced Studies this year. She has served as the Vice President of Thespian Society and as an Oklahoma State Thespian officer. Through her efforts, she has received a \$1000 scholarship from Oklahoma Thespians.

In school, she enjoyed her musical theatre class. She especially enjoyed directing and performing in their play and musical this year.

She will attend OCCC and take theatre classes at UCO. She is looking forward to meeting new people and working on her skills so she can audition for musical theatre schools next year.



## Sophia Smith

Sophia is graduating from Harding Fine Arts Academy this year. Her achievements include graduating as valedictorian of her class and serving as an ambassador for the American-Israel Friendship League.

The thing she enjoyed most about high school was all of the people she met. She got to find her group of people and meet people she normally wouldn't have.

She will attend The University of Oklahoma in the fall, most likely majoring in Biology with an eye on pre-med. She is looking forward to surrounding herself with new people and new ideas.

**The seniors would like to send a big THANK YOU to everyone at FPC for helping them grow into the young adults they are today!**



## Online Services

We are very blessed and grateful to have the ability to livestream worship services from the Sanctuary. Livestreaming has allowed us to worship together even while physically separated.

We look forward to the day we will worship together again in the Chapel and Sanctuary. When that joyous day arrives, we will continue to livestream our 11:00 a.m. service for those unable to attend in person.

The easiest way to access our online service is by visiting our website ([fpcokc.org](http://fpcokc.org)) and clicking on the “Worship Live” button. Once there, click the play button on the video. On the same page, we also have the Sunday bulletin available to view or print; simply click the “Bulletin” button.

We are also airing our services on Facebook Live! Simply go to our [Facebook page](#) a few minutes before 11:00 a.m. on Sunday and our live video will be available.

## Zoom Sunday School

Zoom is an online video conferencing platform that allows groups to meet through a computer, tablet, smartphone or even a landline phone.

We are holding all of our Sunday School classes using this technology until we are able to be together and resume classes in the church building. It is a great way to stay connected during this time of social distancing!

We send out links to Sunday School classes on Thursdays in our Weekly E-blast. If you want to sign up for the Weekly E-blast, please email Blake ([blake@fpcokc.org](mailto:blake@fpcokc.org)).

Additionally, if you're not comfortable with or confused by Zoom, do not hesitate to email [blake@fpcokc.org](mailto:blake@fpcokc.org). He is happy, willing and able to email instructions or call you directly to help you get your device set up.

# Finding Peace in the Pandemic

## Kay Brown

On Ash Wednesday we were challenged to read scripture passages slowly and let the words speak to us. That appealed to me. I decided that as a Lenten spiritual discipline I would read the Gospel of John, because I think it is hard. I guess I got tired of squinting, so I treated myself to a new Bible in extra-large print. It is a joy. It has two ribbon markers, so it seemed logical to start the Old Testament too.

I chose the Gospel of Mark next; now I'm reading Matthew. I'm saving Luke because it's my favorite. I'm still working on the books of history in the Old Testament. Having the enforced time at home has provided an unexpected benefit: more time, joy and comfort in The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## Richard Riggs

Finding peace in a world changed overnight? Change by its very nature seems unsettling and disruptive and I have, like many others, tried to keep myself occupied. I take long walks, play the ukulele (poorly), read, Zoom and browse through old baseball cards.

Those activities are no surprise to those close to me, but another has been particularly surprising to me (and even more so to Judy)—I've been working in the yard! Believe me, this is totally out of character. I've weeded, cleared, planted, transplanted, dug, clipped and pruned. Each day I look forward to more. And, on reflection, I think getting my hands dirty has helped me come to grips with the pandemic. It's provided an up-close opportunity to see the ways of the world: new life, mature life and death; the beauty of an earthworm and the ugliness of a tick, each doing its thing; the need for nurturing and the need for pruning; the effects of water (and the lack of water); uncertainty.

At least for me, acknowledging, even embracing, what is around me every day has been comforting. But Judy still can't fathom what's gotten into me.

## Around the Church

During this crisis, we have found opportunities here at the church. We are able to take on tasks that would be very difficult during normal operation. We have been able to strip and refinish both the 2nd floor hallway and the first floor main hallway. But the real project is currently underway, removing the old tile from the basement hallways and prepping for installation of the new ceramic tile which is here and ready to go. This is a major undertaking and will take time but it can be accomplished much more quickly with the lack of activity happening.

To update everyone on the status of the stained glass window project, the south window stonework and the final measurements and templates for the glass have now been completed. It will be at least 7-9 months for the glass for the south window to be ready, but the installation of glass and the completion of the west window should be sometime late this summer. Keep your spirits high and know that your church home is still being maintained and will be ready for you as soon as it is safe for everyone.

- Jack Lancaster, Facilities Director

## Presbyterian Women (PW)

### **Book Club - Tuesday, May 26 | Via Zoom**

The PW book club is reading “The Good Daughter” by Jasmin Darznik. They will meet via Zoom to discuss the book as well as share in fellowship.

Contact Cyndi Stumpf (cyndi0507@aol.com) for more details.



### **Spring Gathering**

The Spring Gathering will be rescheduled for a later date. The PW Woman of the Year will be announced then.

# Giving

We offer a few different ways to give!

**Online:** The first is through the Venmo app, which can be easily downloaded to any smartphone or tablet. You will need to set up an account and then it's as simple as typing "fpcokc" into the search and clicking "Pay."

Our second method is through our website. If you visit [fpcokc.org](https://fpcokc.org) and click the "Give" button on the home page, you will be taken to our online platform.

If you haven't given online before, click "Create Profile" and it will walk you through the process.

**By mail:** A check sent through the mail to 1001 NW 25th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73106. You can send it to the attention of Becki Walden.

# KirkNight To-go

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. you are invited to bring your dinner to your computer and join us in a KirkNight gathering online via Zoom.

We send out Zoom links in our Weekly E-blast, but feel free to email [blake@fpcokc.org](mailto:blake@fpcokc.org) or message us on Facebook to receive information or for help getting set up.

In addition, Junebug Catering is offering meals to-go on Wednesdays if you would like a break from the kitchen. To order, call, text or email Jenn Snow at 405-408-3608 or [jenn@junebugcatering.com](mailto:jenn@junebugcatering.com) by 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday.

Meals will be available for pick-up from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Enter from the 25th Street driveway, and park by the ramp behind the kitchen where your meals will be brought to your car.



## May KirkNight Menu and Prices:

**Family Meal for 4-6:** \$20 | Dessert \$5.00 | **Meal for 2:** \$10 | Dessert \$2.50

**May 6:** Outback Chicken with Roasted Potatoes and Asparagus

Dessert: Lemon Blueberry Pie Bars

**May 13:** Old Fashion Goulash with Garlic Bread

Dessert: Chocolate Chip Cookies

## Children & Youth

### Montreat Now + Fellowship - Thursdays | 6:00 p.m.

The 2020 Montreat leaders are helping to bring a variety of songs, prayer and play your way via their [website](#). Leigh will host a Zoom call so we can watch together as well as have a time of fellowship afterward.

### Kirk Kids Call - Fridays | 4:30 p.m.

The Kirk Kids are gathering online on Fridays for a short storytime and the opportunity to say hi to their church friends!

### Kirk Kids Sunday School

Each week Leigh creates and sends out an online Sunday School lesson for parents and kids to do together.

### College-aged Youth Bible Study - Sundays | 5:00 p.m.

Join us via Zoom for a study of *Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt*. This study is geared for and led by college-aged people but we invite other youth to attend! RSVP on [Facebook](#) if you plan to attend.

*For more information on the events above, please email Leigh Miller ([leigh@fpcokc.org](mailto:leigh@fpcokc.org)) or let her know in the Youth GroupMe (search for “First Pres OKC Youth” in the GroupMe app).*

*Events are being added or adjusted to suit everyone’s needs so follow the [Youth page](#) (@fpcokcyouth) on Facebook to stay up to date!*

## Coloring Sheet

It is hard being separated from our friends and our extended families. How can we let the people we miss know that we are thinking about them?

One way you can stay connected is by using this “Thinking of You” coloring page. Take a picture of it and text or email it to a friend, family member or teacher. You can also share it on social media. Show the people you know that they are on your hearts and in your prayers. However you use it, we hope you enjoy bringing some color and hope into someone’s day.

If you do post to social media, please hashtag it with #FPCOKC and #FPCOKCYouth. You can also send it to Leigh ([leigh@fpcokc.org](mailto:leigh@fpcokc.org)) or Blake ([blake@fpcokc.org](mailto:blake@fpcokc.org)) and they will post it for you!



# Music & Arts

## Favorite Hymns

There are five Sundays in May, so we will again have a “favorite hymn sing” at the beginning of worship on the fifth Sunday, May 31! Let us know what one of your favorite hymns is by sending an email to [puffer@fpcokc.org](mailto:puffer@fpcokc.org) or messaging us on Facebook.

## Got some spare time? Learn to sing Beethoven’s Mass in C!

The performance of the Beethoven Mass in C on the Kemp Concert Series originally scheduled for May 9 has been postponed to an as-yet-undetermined date. But you can still participate!

Visit the Kemp Concert Series website ([www.kempconcerts.org](http://www.kempconcerts.org)) to find more information about how to join other singers in learning this masterwork together (virtually!).

There will be videos to help you learn the notes and pronunciation, as well as background information about the piece. You don’t have to have any prior experience—if you have the time and the interest, you can be a part of this!

## May Birthdays

Happy birthday to all!

**01:** Gillian Stearns

**02:** Amy Sergent

**04:** Brandi Ludden

**06:** Jack Lancaster

**07:** Richard Hatcher,  
Cyndi Stumpf

**08:** Carroll Carter,  
Susan Perry-LeGrand

**09:** Eleanor Hawkins,  
Edie King,  
Philip Taylor

**10:** Richard Riggs

**11:** James Herider Jr.

**12:** Katie Burden,

Clay Hamilton,

Erica Taylor

**15:** Jim Robles

**18:** J. Eric Foster

**19:** Edward Burden,  
Jude Gabrielson

**20:** Violette Altdoerffer,  
Emily Bakhtiari

**22:** Lacey Howard

**23:** Linda Sechrist

**24:** Holly Guadiana

**25:** D. Scott Brown,  
Jeffrey Leyerle

**26:** Dorothy Hays,

Kaley Morlock,

Chris Riggs,

Nita Wilson

**28:** Sullivan Collins

**29:** Kathleen  
Dougherty,  
Jennifer Hall,  
Delores Strider

**30:** Paul Denner,  
Dean Sergent

**31:** Sally Whitten

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Or Current Resident

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

For more information, please contact the church office at 405-525-6584 or email office @fpcokc.org

## Talking to Kids about Covid-19

We are all feeling a bit stressed and anxious. Kids are going to pick up on the stress around them. They are probably confused and getting sick of being stuck at home. Here are some suggestions that have been taken from a resource provided by The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) and the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP):

- Try to avoid watching or listening to information that might be upsetting when your children are present.
- Talk to your child about the factual information of this disease—this can help reduce anxiety.
- Be honest and accurate. In the absence of factual information, children often imagine situations far worse than reality.

You know your children best. Let their questions be your guide as to how much information to provide.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKLAHOMA CITY**