



# First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Newsletter

May 2021

## COVID-19 Update

### **Building Use Policy**

For the continued health and safety of our members and guests, the following policies were adopted by the Session on April 19, 2021. Adherence to all policies is a condition of use of facilities.

### **Masks**

Masks are to be worn at all times inside the building in common areas and during outside activities when social distancing cannot be maintained. If there is a meeting where all present are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and social distancing can be maintained, masks may be removed while in that meeting space.

### **Food and Drink**

Beverages and snacks (individually wrapped or homemade) may be served at meetings and events. Box lunches may also be served.

### **Seating/Room Capacity**

Social distancing shall be maintained in seating configurations. In the Sanctuary and the Chapel, every other pew shall be left empty with appropriate space between worshippers/participants in the pews where seated.

If you have questions or concerns about your meeting or event, please contact Rev. John McKinnon ([pastorjohn@fpcokc.org](mailto:pastorjohn@fpcokc.org)) for assistance.

# Happy 30th Anniversary!!!

It's tradition to pair each year of marriage with a material or gemstone, and the 30th anniversary is represented by pearl. Pearls symbolize beauty from within and the kind of special bond that drives a 30-year relationship.

Inner beauty is one of John Edwards' many traits that we honor as we celebrate his 30th anniversary as organist at First Presbyterian. Indeed, throughout those thirty years so many special bonds of friendship have been formed and nurtured by a man who says the thing he values most about FPC is his "love for the people here."

Mr. Edwards was not eased into his new position. His first day was Wednesday, May 1, 1991. He accompanied the choir that evening — the first of approximately 1,260 choir rehearsals since! He then played the Sunday service on May 5 — the first of approximately 1,650 services since! The very next Saturday, May 11, the choirs of First Presbyterian Church and St. Luke's United Methodist Church, accompanied by John L. Edwards, presented "Mass in Time of War" by Franz Joseph Haydn. The proceeds benefitted the American Red Cross Gulf Crisis Fund in honor of recently deceased Lloyd Myers, long-time member of the Sanctuary Singers, and Lt. j.g. Martin Bradford Cox, son of Gayle Cox. John was also featured in that concert playing an organ solo, "Piece Heroique," by Cesar Franck — John's favorite composer of organ music. Not too shabby for a flutist that just so happens to also play the organ.

The organ John played that day has grown during his time on staff from 71 ranks of pipes to 91, giving him a full 5,269 pipes to use for God's glory! And to God be the glory for John's talent, his calling to music ministry, and the vast ways countless Christians have been inspired in their faith because of his faithfulness in using his gifts to the fullest.

God bless you, John Edwards, just as you continue to bless us through your ministry of music.

-Rev. John C. McKinnon

# Picnic in the Parking Lot

**Sunday, May 2 | After 11:00 a.m. Service**

Join us for a picnic on the church grounds after service! We've been gone from each other for a while and this is the perfect opportunity to reconnect with people you may not have seen over the last year.

Bring your picnic blankets, chairs, and anything else you think you might need. Coolers of soda and bottled water will be available.

## Welcome New Members

Welcome to our newest members Dr. Leila Straehla and Solena Rizzato! Leila joined the church by Transfer of Letter from First Presbyterian Church of Topeka, Kansas and Solena by Reaffirmation of Faith.



### **Dr. Leila Straehla**

Leila is a podiatrist with the Oklahoma Foot and Ankle Institute and mom to Wes. We look forward to Wes' baptism in the near future!

### **Solena Rizzato**

Solena will begin a Master of Music in Organ Performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music in August.



**You're invited to Solena's organ recital on May 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary!**  
Solena will play music from Buxtehude, Wammes, and more.

# Mother's Day

## Sunday, May 9

Reminder for children and forgetful fathers, May 9 is Mother's Day! We look forward to celebrating moms and motherhood that Sunday.

### Deacons' Flower Dedication

Happy Mother's Day! The Deacons would like to present the women of the church with a rose as a thank you for all you do!

Roses will be available to pick up on your way in or out of the Sanctuary on Sunday morning.



## Presbyterian Women (PW)

Least Coin Offerings and Circle Treasury ledgers will be turned in to the PW Financial Secretary this month. Updated Circle roster and officers will be submitted to PWCT (Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team).

### Priscilla Circle — Tuesday, May 11 | 10:00 a.m.

In Watchorn Hall at the church. Priscilla Circle has decided to continue meeting throughout the summer months.

### Phoebe Circle — Tuesday, May 11 | 1:30 p.m.

In the Reception Room at the church. Dorothy Hays will host. Birthday Offering will be accepted.

### Abigail Circle — Tuesday, May 18 | 6:30 p.m.

At Darci McKinnon's house.

# KirkNight To-go

Pick up a delicious KirkNight To-go meal this May! **Order by 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday at the latest.** To order, call, text or email Jenn Snow at 405-408-3608 or [jenn@junebugcatering.com](mailto:jenn@junebugcatering.com).

Meals will be available for pick-up from 4:30-5:30 p.m. by the ramp behind the kitchen.

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

## UPCOMING MEALS:

**May 5:** Chicken Enchiladas with Black Beans and Cilantro Lime Rice with Sopapilla Cheesecake

**May 12:** Chicken Mon Amie (Roasted Chicken Breast Topped with Roasted Red Pepper, Fresh Basil, and Provolone (2 or 4 pieces)) with Rice Pilaf, Roasted Vegetable Salad with Feta and Balsamic Vinegar, and Chocolate Cake

# Yoga

**Wednesdays | 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

**Watchorn Hall**

Free yoga class is in full swing and we're so grateful to have the group back together.

If you like to do yoga *every now and zen*, you should join us on Wednesday evenings.

Our free yoga class provides a relaxed environment for beginners and seasoned pros alike. When the weather is nice, we'll have class in the courtyard!





# Pentecost Special Offering

## Sunday, May 23

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.

- 40% stays with this congregation to develop and support programs for young people in our own church and community.
- 25% supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV), serving in communities around the world and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service.
- 25% supports Ministries with Youth including the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.
- 10% is devoted to at-risk children to improve education and provide safe havens.

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.

If you're not physically present, you can give through Venmo, search for fpcokc; through our website (fpcokc.org), click the give button on the home page; or you can mail your contribution to the church.

# FPC Seniors

## Senior Sunday Recognition

**Sunday, May 23 | 11:00 a.m. Service**

Sunday, May 23 will be a very special day in the life of First Presbyterian. Not only is it Pentecost Sunday, but it is also Senior Recognition Sunday.

Please join us as we celebrate the birth of the church and the accomplishment of the Class of 2021!

### **Emily Bakhtiari**

Emily Lauryn Bakhtiari is graduating from Harding Fine Arts Academy with valedictorian distinction.

She is a member of National Honor Society and is involved in the orchestra and art programs.

She plans to attend The University of Central Oklahoma for Biology in the fall.



### **Hayden Evans**

Hayden is graduating from Edmond Santa Fe High School this May. He has played in the orchestra throughout high school and had the privilege of playing at Cadogan Hall in London as part of the London New Year's Festival.

Hayden enjoys playing the drums in a band with his friends as well as playing guitar and bass. He loves cars and spent a few months during the pandemic restoring our 1973 Triumph Spitfire.

Hayden plans to begin working, and then attend college — potentially The University of Central Oklahoma — to pursue a degree in Philosophy.



## Lillian Keith

Lillian Mae Keith is graduating from Classen SAS as an art major with a focus on photography.

She is a valedictorian, member of the National Honor Society, and captain of the soccer team.

She plans to attend The University of Central Oklahoma in the fall.

# Summer Programs

SUMMER 2021  
JOIN

## TEAM FPS!

COME TO PLAY.  
PRACTICE TEAMWORK.  
BECOME A SUMMER CAMP  
PRESCHOOL CHAMP!

TUESDAY-THURSDAY  
9:00 A.M.-2:30 P.M.  
JUNE 1-JULY 15

FPC - SPARK 1001 NW 25th St. OKC

ENROLL TODAY!

ALL DAY  
**SUMMER CARE**

**JUNE 1ST - AUG. 4TH**

*Into the Wild: Exploring the Great Outdoors*  
Hours: Weekdays 7:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Cost: \$150 weekly  
For kids entering PK and up!



# Reserve the Third

**Saturday, May 8 | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

## The Urban Mission

Reserve the Third will be on the 2nd Saturday of May rather than the 3rd, which was already taken.

Hopefully, we will see some new faces as well and consider having a picnic lunch afterward at Will Rogers Park. Contact Roane Pittman ([johnpittmanmd@pnfmc.com](mailto:johnpittmanmd@pnfmc.com)) to RSVP or ask questions!



The Reserve the Third crew put in some serious work in the Community Garden during April!

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKLAHOMA CITY**

# Worship News

## Choir and Handbell Rehearsals

**The Sanctuary Singers and Sanctuary Ringers will begin making music together again in May!** After a long hiatus due to the pandemic, rehearsals will resume: the choir will rehearse Wednesday evenings beginning May 5, and the handbells will resume on Thursday, May 6. Participants will wear masks and practice social distancing.

If you haven't sung in the choir before, or if you've never rung handbells, this would be a great time to give it a try! For more information, contact Puffer ([puffer@fpcokc.org](mailto:puffer@fpcokc.org) or 405-605-4458).

## Favorite Hymn Sing

There are five Sundays in May, so we will have a "favorite hymn sing" at the beginning of worship on the fifth Sunday, May 30!

Submit your hymn suggestions by sending an email to [puffer@fpcokc.org](mailto:puffer@fpcokc.org) or messaging us on Facebook.

# Children & Youth

## Patriotic Bike Parade

**Sunday, May 30 | After 11:00 a.m. Service**

Who doesn't love a parade? Especially a parade to honor our great country and the heroes who died defending it! Let's have a bike (or similar riding vehicle) parade. Bring your bike to church on Sunday, May 30.

Feel free to decorate your bike according to the theme or not. Ms. Cyndi will have flags and balloons to add to whatever you bring. We will parade in the parking lot after service and the congregation is invited to watch and cheer us on.

**RSVP to Ms. Cyndi ([cyndi@fpcokc.org](mailto:cyndi@fpcokc.org)) by May 22 if you can attend.**





## Earth Day Movie Night

The movies came to FPC last month! Everyone had a great time watching “Dr. Seuss’ The Lorax” in Watchorn Hall to celebrate Earth Day.



## May Birthdays

Happy birthday to all!

- |                             |                               |                             |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>01:</b> Gillian Stearns  | <b>11:</b> James Herider, Jr. | <b>24:</b> Holly Guadiana   |
| <b>02:</b> Amy Sergent      | <b>12:</b> Clay Hamilton,     | <b>25:</b> Jeffrey Leyerle  |
| <b>04:</b> Brandi Ludden    | Erica Taylor,                 | <b>26:</b> Nita Wilson,     |
| <b>06:</b> Jack Lancaster   | Katie Burden                  | Dorothy Hays,               |
| <b>07:</b> Richard Hatcher, | <b>15:</b> Jim Robles         | Chris Riggs,                |
| Cyndi Stumpf                | <b>18:</b> Eric Foster        | Kaley Morlock               |
| <b>08:</b> Carroll Carter,  | <b>19:</b> Edward Burden      | <b>28:</b> Sullivan Collins |
| Susan Perry-LeGrand         | <b>20:</b> Emily Bakhtiari,   | <b>29:</b> Delores Strider, |
| <b>09:</b> Edie King,       | Violette Altdoerffer          | Kathleen Dougherty          |
| Philip Taylor,              | <b>22:</b> Lacey Howard       | <b>30:</b> Dean Sergent,    |
| Eleanor Hawkins             | <b>23:</b> Linda Sechrist,    | Paul Denner                 |
| <b>10:</b> Richard Riggs    | Christine Niemeyer            | <b>31:</b> Sally Whitten    |

■ First Presbyterian Church  
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405-525-6584  
fpcokc.org



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
OKLAHOMA  
CITY, OK  
PERMIT NO. 931

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](mailto:office@fpcokc.org)

**Thank You!**

Many thanks to the FPCOKC Board of Deacons and everyone who has joined in support of the Little Free Pantry! Your donations have helped to reach out to many in the neighborhood and community who are facing food insecurities.

-Cornell S. Gallagher