



First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Newsletter

December 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

Advent Adventure

Hello church family,

I was delighted and my soul refreshed after attending ADVENTure. A very special thank you to all of you who participated and made it such a wonderful event! Thank you also to the Bethlehem shopkeepers: Elaine Buzan, John Ellis, Darci McKinnon, Rachel Morse, Bert Orza, and also to the Nurture Committee.

This year I would like to invite you to join me on an Advent Adventure! Many of us have holiday family traditions like baking cookies for friends or sending Christmas cards and update letters to friends and family. This year, I invite you to join me in finding a new favorite thing to add to your holiday list.

I would like for each member of our congregation to think of one small thing they can do for another person as an act of Christian witness this Advent season. I hope that you will discover something new to do, in addition to your current traditions.

I make this invitation because it will help us grow deeper in our understanding of Christian witness and because it will help both our community and our world. Imagine if each of our members were to do one small thing in the name of Jesus Christ. Imagine what all of those small things could say to the world about who the people of First Presbyterian Church are.

Our faith is a beautiful thing. Let's think of new and beautiful ways to share the faith that brings us the fullness of life with the world. Please join me on this Advent Adventure! Let me know what you decide to do and how it goes.

Also, please feel free to email or call (pastorjohn@fpcokc.org or 405-525-6584) if you would like to brainstorm together. Let's have fun with our faith! May you have a deeply meaningful and holy Advent.

Rev. John McKinnon

ADVENTure

We had a great time at ADVENTure this year! Check out these fun photos.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Advent Devotional

Our 2021 Advent Devotional, “Emmanuel: Glimpses of God Incarnate,” is a journey through Advent with the faculty of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary as they reflect upon the myriad ways we encounter God in a variety of faces and guises as we anticipate God’s appearance in the form of Jesus the Christ. Check out the online edition at the following link or pick up a physical copy in the church office: www.tinyurl.com/FPCadvent2021.

Music for Advent

The Advent and Christmas seasons are always special times for music at FPC-OKC and this year is no different! Check out all the exciting music headed your way.

December 5

Advent II: featuring the Blackwelder Brass!

December 12

Advent III: the Treble Choir sings “Go Tell It On the Mountain,” the adult choir sings a composition of “King Is Coming” by Puffer Jones, and carols include “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear.”

December 19

Advent IV: the handbell choir rings in worship, and carols include “Hark the Herald Angels Sing.”

FPC-OKC Playground

First Presbyterian Church’s playground is open for business—if the business is play, joy and laughter that is! This playground is given to the glory of God and in celebration of the children of our church, its programs and ministries, and our neighbors.

We are grateful for the Endowment Fund, which provided the funding for a first-class addition of fun to our campus. We are also grateful for the memories of Helen and Dale Arbuckle, Ethel Benedict, John R. and Betty Browne, Lyda May Hall, and William N. Flesher whose stewardship lives on in service of First Presbyterian.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Christmas Boxes

Friday, December 3 and Saturday, December 4 | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Volunteer to help out with Christmas Food Boxes at The Urban Mission!

- **On Friday, December 3**, volunteers are needed to help set up the assembly line and put together boxes.
- **On Saturday, December 4**, volunteers are needed to pack 260 food boxes and hygiene bags.

Contact Jim Tack (jtack@robertsonwilliams.com) to RSVP or for more information!

El Sistema Video

FPC-OKC was featured in a video that El Sistema recently showed at Allied Arts annual fundraiser! Check out this life-changing program and see how our facilities are helping these amazing kids. There are a lot of beautiful shots of our building throughout the video, but FPC-OKC is specifically mentioned around the 4:00 mark.

Link: www.tinyurl.com/FPCelsistema

Presbyterian Women (PW)

Cookie Fundraiser

Looking for a fun holiday gift? Look no further than this year's PW Cookie Fundraiser. PW is selling cookie mixes for \$10 per jar. They even come with a gift tag attached!

Mixes will be for sale on Sundays while supplies last. Stop by and grab a gift while supporting Presbyterian Women and all the work that they do.

Christmas Tea — Sunday, December 5 | After 11:00 a.m. Service

PW is having tea for their holiday get-together! Join us in the Parlor after Sunday worship for tea, cookies and quiche. In order to protect our most vulnerable, and because food and drink will be served, we ask that everyone in attendance be vaccinated.

Priscilla Circle — Tuesday, December 14 | 10:00 a.m.

In the Reception Room.

Phoebe Circle — Tuesday, December 14 | 1:30 p.m.

At Mary Ann Doolen's House.

Wednesday's KirkNight To-go & Yoga

As winter settles in, this month's KirkNight To-go meals will keep you nice and warm! **To order, call, text or email Jenn Snow at 405-408-3608 or jenn@junebugcatering.com.** Meals will be available for pick-up from 4:30-5:30 p.m. by the ramp behind the kitchen.

UPCOMING MEALS

December 1: Chicken Pot Pie, Salad and Pecan Tassies

December 8: Lasagna with Garlic Bread, Salad and Chocolate Amaretto Cake

Family Meal for 4-6: \$20 | Dessert \$5.00

Meal for 2: \$10 | Dessert \$2.50

Do you need some stress relief this holiday season?

Join us for some stress-melting yoga!

Yoga will meet on Wednesdays for the first three weeks in December.



Christmas Joy Offering

Sunday, December 19

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reflects God's gift to us through the Christmas Joy Offering with generous gifts supporting church leaders—retired, present and future—who have pointed us to God.

- 50% of your gift assists current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.
- 50% makes it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

You can give your Christmas Joy Offering through our congregation during service on December 19, by texting CHRISTMASJOY to 919999, or online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy.

Kemp Concert Series

Tactus: Christmas Mysteries — Sunday, December 19 | 7:00 p.m.

Join us at First Presbyterian as Oklahoma City's professional chamber orchestra and vocal ensemble present a concert of Advent and Christmas music favorites, old and new.

Free Admission—donations encouraged. For more information, visit www.kempconcerts.org. (Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Pre-concert talk starts at 6:30 p.m.)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Celebrating the Year of César Franck

In 2022, we will be celebrating with a year of César Franck's (December 10, 1822–November 8, 1890) organ work. Franck is John Edwards' favorite organ composer. You know that if John Edwards holds someone in high esteem, they've got to be pretty great! Below is a list of major organ works that will be played during the postlude on Sundays:

January 30

Prélude, Fugue et Variation in b, Op. 18 (1862)
[12 minutes]

Andantino in g (1857) [7 minutes]

February 20

Cantabile in b (1878) [7 minutes]

Pièce pour Grand Orgue in A (1854) for four
manuals [11 minutes]

March 20 (Lent)

Prière (Prayer) in c#, Op. 20 (1862) [12 minutes]

April 17 (Easter)

Pièce héroïque in b (1878) [9 minutes]

May 15

Choral No. 3 in a (1890) [13 minutes]

June 26

Choral No. 2 in b (1890) [15 minutes]

July 24

Choral No. 1 in E (1890) [17 minutes]

August 28

Grande pièce symphonique in f#, Op. 17 (1862)
[27 minutes]

September 18

Fantaisie in A (1878) [15 minutes]

October 16

Fantaisie in C, Op. 16 (1862) [14 minutes]

November 20 (Christ's Reign)

Final in Bb, Op. 21 (1862) [13 minutes]

December 11 (Advent)

Pastorale in E, Op. 19 (1862) [10 minutes]

Christmas Eve (10:00 p.m.)

Grand chœur in C (Sortie pour Noël) [5 minutes]

Five Nöels, Edited by Antone Godding [9 minutes]

*Not listed above, other shorter works by Franck played throughout the year.

Music for the Nativity

Friday, December 31 | 12:00 p.m.

Join us for a depiction of the events of the nativity through music! The program will be approximately 50 minutes and available in person and by livestream. This program is a sequel to the CD "Caroling, Caroling & other Christmas Favorites, LIVE" that John recorded in 2004.

The concert is free. A boxed lunch will be available afterward in Watchorn Hall. **Please RSVP to the church office by December 29, if you'd like a boxed lunch.** There is no charge for boxed lunches, but donations are accepted.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Poinsettias

Help us adorn our Sanctuary for Christmas with poinsettias in honor, memory or celebration of a loved one(s). They will be displayed in the Sanctuary starting on Christmas Eve and be included in a listing of memorials and celebrations.

Pick up an order form in the church office or email the church office (office@fpcokc.org) with your order. Be sure to include: # of poinsettias, who they are dedicated to, what your relationship to them is, and if the poinsettias are *in memory of*, *in honor of*, or *in celebration of*.

Cost: \$15

Deadline: December 15

Ways to pay: Cash, check or Venmo (@fpcokc)

Example Order

Blake Barrett - 2 poinsettias *in honor of* Michael and Tammy Barrett (parents)



December Birthdays

Happy birthday to all!

01: Mary Fitzhugh,

Scott Roberts

02: John Benn,

Jim Lowe

03: Janet Eselin,

John Harris

04: Emily Bunch

05: Rachel Morse

06: Debbie Pittman

11: Elizabeth Hatcher

12: Kate Sholar,

Sophia Smith

14: Caroline Holson

15: Lisa Cochrane

16: Abby Sholar

17: Bill Vassar

19: Rogers Fokumlah

20: David Ligon,

John Vogt

21: William Collins,

Justin Papineau,

Elliott Taylor,

Jana Winfree

22: Everette Altdoerffer,

Jim Beeson,

Robert Cochrane

23: Lauren Teague

26: Suzanne Baxter

27: Jole Schrimsher

28: Phyllis Mills,

Jenny Vincent,

Riley Woods

30: Lillian Keith

31: Joanna McCarty

First Presbyterian Church
1001 NW 25th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106
405-525-6584
fpcokc.org



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

Service of Healing and Wholeness

Saturday, December 18 | 4:00 p.m.

The holidays are certainly a joyful time. It can also be a difficult time for many because of past life events, memories, or even present circumstances. We invite you to a Service of Healing and Wholeness. This service is designed to provide worshippers with a space to pray and reflect on the needs in their lives, whether they are seeking healing and wholeness for themselves, a loved one or the world.

Christmas Eve Services

Young and Young at Heart Service | 4:00 p.m.

Worship will include the Treble Choir, handbells and some of your favorite carols!

Service of Lessons and Carols | 10:30 p.m.

(The prelude begins at 10:00 p.m.) This service will feature classical guitar as well as the Sanctuary Singers performing favorite anthems and carols.

In order to livestream, both Christmas Eve services will be held in the Sanctuary.