

# THE Ambassador

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER  
MARCH/ APRIL 2026

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Emerita

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## Holy Week at FPC:

All Holy Week Services will be  
broadcasted on KSPI Radio

Maundy Thursday - April 2  
Worship @ 7:00 p.m.  
Handwashing, Communion &  
Stripping of the Sanctuary

Good Friday - April 3  
Worship @ 7:00p.m.  
Tenebrae - Extinguishing of Lights

Easter Sunday - April 5  
Worship @ 11:00 a.m.  
Children's Easter Celebration @  
9:45a.m.  
Fish Banks swim back today

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# Walking Together with Pastor Peter

## **FIRST STEPS:**

On Sunday, March 22, it was announced that I will be serving as your transitional pastor for the next two years as we discern next steps together. I am grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside you during this important time in the life of this congregation. Transitional ministry is unique work. It is not simply about maintaining what is, but about listening carefully, honoring the past, unbinding ourselves (like Lazarus!), and preparing faithfully for what God is calling this community to become.

Several have already been generous in sharing their stories with me, and I am very thankful for how openly you have received the presence of this bald-headed Lutheran. When I first spoke with Pastor Josh Kerr about the possibility of assisting as a bridge pastor for a time, I had no inkling of what the Holy Spirit might be up to. It has been a gift to begin seeing the Spirit's work unfolding among us.

We have said farewell to some long-time, beloved staff members, and we have welcomed new folks onto the crew. We have been "figuring things out" along the way, and I give thanks for the grace and encouragement shown during this time of transition. In the coming months, my own priority will be continuing to get to know you, to share time together, and to help us hear one another. I look forward to hearing your stories, learning more of the history of this congregation, and understanding both the joys and the challenges that have shaped your life together as it becomes our life together.

It feels especially meaningful to begin this shared work as we approach Holy Week.

The journey from Palm Sunday to Easter reminds us that God often works through seasons of uncertainty, reflection, and even grief to bring about renewal and new life. As we enter this sacred time, we do so trusting that God is already at work among us.

I look forward to worshipping together, meeting many of you personally, and continuing this journey with patience, honesty, and hope. Please keep this congregation, and our shared work as church, in your prayers as we walk together. You are loved.

Blessings from your pastor,

*Pastor Peter Olson*



# LATEST INFORMATION



Kristyn Yerger  
Church Administrator

I am excited to be apart of this church community that values connection, faith and service. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to learn, grow and be supported by everyone in the congregation.

My background is in legal and real estate. I enjoy creating a welcoming and organized environment where both members and staff feel heard and supported. Please know my door is always open and I am happy to help. Please reach out to me at [kristyn.yerger@stillwaterfpc.org](mailto:kristyn.yerger@stillwaterfpc.org) or stop by my office.

Outside of work, my life is centered around partner Christian, my two beautiful daughters, Ruby and Zoey, and my three dogs, who keeps me busy and brings me so much joy and laughter. I enjoy movies, wide genre of music and taking photographs.

I am truly thankful to be part of this team and look forward to serving alongside such an incredible community.

Manny Quiles  
Finance Administrator

Hello! My name is Manny, and it's an honor to introduce myself to you. I was born and raised in Philadelphia, and am a graduate of Penn State. I moved to Cushing, Oklahoma in 2009 and have an extensive career in Restaurants and Hospitality.

At home, I share life with my beloved wife of 15 years and our Chihuahua. We keep things fun and full of energy! In my free time, I enjoy video games, history, and movies. I also love a good burger or BBQ.

I'm thankful for the experiences that have shaped both my work and my walk in life, and look forward to meeting new people everyday.

I'm truly grateful to be part of this Church community and look forward to growing in faith and building meaningful connections.



# Congregational News

The Faith and Fellowship Class invites you to a new book study series starting April 12th

## APPRECIATE *these* THINGS

EIGHT WAYS OF  
CULTIVATING  
COMPASSION

JILL J. DUFFIELD

"Appreciate These Things:  
Eight Ways of Cultivating  
Compassion"

by Jill J. Duffield

A Philippians-based study on  
kindness & compassion.

Weekly short videos  
included

Join us for Saturday  
Community Brunch in  
the fellowship hall



Every Saturday from  
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Doors open at 10:30  
a.m.



## PEACE JAM

Join us for Peace Jam every first Friday of the  
month at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Potluck at 6:00 p.m.

Questions?

Reach out to Jim Beckstrom  
[james@beckstromgroup.com](mailto:james@beckstromgroup.com)

Join you FPC Family for a workday at Our Daily Bread on  
Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> @ 8:45 a.m.

Volunteer of all ages are welcome, although those under  
16 need to have an adult with them. Volunteer jobs  
include stocking shelves, working in the warehouse to  
sort food donations, and assisting ODB guest with their  
shopping.

**ODB has requested a list of all volunteers ahead of  
time**, so if you are wanting to participate, please contact  
Dale Ingram.

Email: [dale.ingram@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dale.ingram@sbcglobal.net)

Phone: (405) 612-3365



Our Daily Bread  
Located 701 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Stillwater, Oklahoma  
74074

# Children & Youth Ministry

## Connect on GroupMe!

Join our GroupMe group for parents and grandparents of children and youth at FPC. This GroupMe space will be a place where we can post things like encouraging words, prayer requests, babysitter needs, if meals are needed for someone, life updates, etc. You can use the GroupMe app or just receive the texts. Find the link to join in the weekly children's and youth ministry email or contact Elijah Ankrom.

## Ready, Set, Worship!

Our worship education class for 3rd through 5th graders is geared for children who are leaving the Children and Worship space. February 22 and March 1 we talked about the liturgical calendar, the parts of our worship service, and played a few games to get familiar with why we do what we do.

March 8 we invited parents and guardians to join us and experience our sanctuary together.

## Children's Ministry Dates to Note:

**March 29: Palm Sunday - Palm Processional during worship**

**April 5: Easter Sunday**

**April 19: Your Body Belongs to You for Kindergarten and 1st grade (rescheduled from January)**

**May 10: Music Sunday - children sing in worship**

## Children's Sunday School

Sundays, 9:45-10:45 a.m. for ages 4yrs - 5th grade

Gathering Time: • Children are invited to start the Sunday school hour at 9:45am in the Worship Center. Parents can pick up children at 10:45am in the Worship Center.

Faith Kid-nection Class (Pre-K to Kindergarten)

SpiritLink (1st-5th graders)

SpiritLink Room Highlight: The Burning Bush Theater is where we explore Bible stories by seeing the stories come to life. In the Burning Bush Theater, you'll find children watching clips from popular movies and connecting the themes in the movies to the messages of scripture. And no trip to the Burning Bush Theater is complete without a bag of popcorn!

Save  
THE  
Date

# Youth Sunday

Our youth led us in a powerful worship service on Youth Sunday with the theme of "Be the Neighbor." We did a deep dive into the parable of the Good Samaritan and how we can "Go and Do Likewise."

Thank you to the youth for leading us in such an amazing service!

Children:

Ready, Set, Worship! photo collage (Attached)

Ready, Set, Worship!

Our 3rd-5th graders participated in a three week Sunday School class that helped them prepare and participate in worship.



For ALL 6th-12th graders  
Sunday evenings

April

5 - No PYG

12 - PYG (5-6:30 p.m.)

19 - PYG (5-6:30 p.m.)

26 - PYG (5-6:30 p.m.)

CHILDREN'S  
**EASTER**  
*celebration*

**Sunday April 5**

9:45 - 10:45 a.m.  
Multipurpose Room

The Easter Story  
Ladybug Release  
Easter Crafts  
Egg Hunt



## A message from Pastor Gordon Edwards:

My siblings in Christ,

I give thanks for you daily and cherish our times together. You have been instruments of God's sustaining love to Marty and me these last two months in particular. Your prayers, cards, texts, muscles (3 teams have packed, stored and moved what we have salvaged), and hugs have nourished my soul. Then, last Saturday, I received your abundant generosity in a financial gift. Words are inadequate to thank you for the warm love with which you continue to surround us. Marty and I continue to praise and thank God for you.

Grace and Peace!

*Pastor Gordon Edwards*

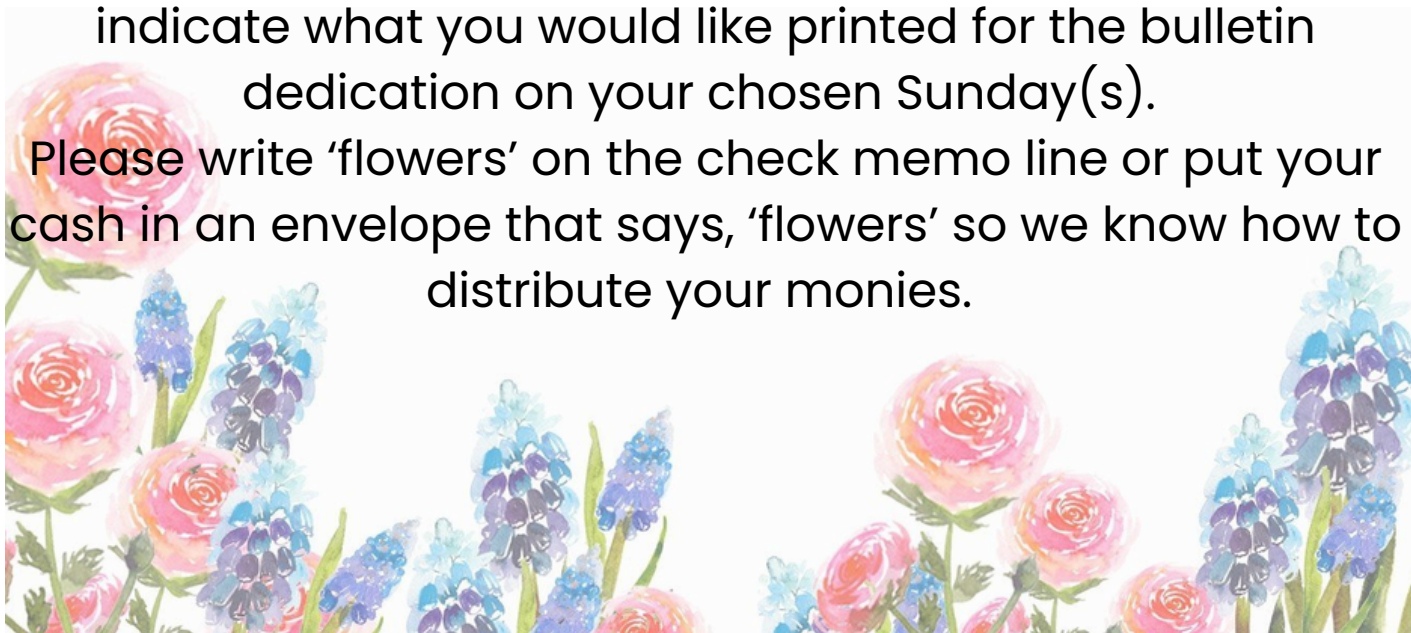
## THE 2026 FLOWER CALENDAR

Want to sign up for Sunday flowers but aren't sure what dates are still available? The Flower Calendar is on the bulletin board by the first floor restrooms and you can sign up for as many dates as you would like!

Want to dedicate flowers and don't have a preference for which Sunday? Let Kristyn know in the Church Office and she'll put you on the calendar.

There are flower dedication forms hanging next to the flower calendar, and you can fill one of those out to indicate what you would like printed for the bulletin dedication on your chosen Sunday(s).

Please write 'flowers' on the check memo line or put your cash in an envelope that says, 'flowers' so we know how to distribute your monies.



# FAIR TRADE STORE



Easter (Sunday, April 5th) will soon be here and the Easter Bunny has dropped new items for the Fair Trade Store.

Select Easter items on the center table are all half-price which will allow you to get unique treasures at an even a better price. Choose from different types of eggs, felted rabbits and chicks, paper mache eggs boxes, soap stone eggs, Easter banners made in Guatemala from recycled pop cans and colorful beads, and much more.

Coffee is back in stock in your favorite flavors in both drip and whole bean. A case of the popular Organic Turmeric Ginger Herbal Tea just arrived. The FTS offers the box of 20 tea bags for just \$3.50 compared with the Wal-Mart price of \$5.96.

The small 1.2 oz chocolate bars are also back in 3 popular flavors: mint, milk chocolate, and milk chocolate with toffee and sea salt. The large 3 oz chocolate bars are still \$4.00 each, and, of course, the minis in both dark and milk are 5 bars for \$1.00.

The FTS is open both before and after the Sunday 11:00 service from 10:30 to 12:30 or by appointment.



# From Strength To Strength Campaign Update

## January 31, 2026

Year one of our three-year campaign has been a tremendous success thanks to the generosity of this congregaDon and the work of Session, the Trustees and others to put resources to work to complete and put in progress many of the idenDfied iniDaDves of the campaign. Thank you to all who have been and conDnue to be so generous in your support of the campaign and/or working diligently to make an impact with those resources!

*Tim and Becky Schlais and Lynn and Ava Osborn, Campaign Co-Chairs*

**Total Commitments to Campaign** **\$1,766,922**  
 Facili'esProjects=65.67%    Maint.Endowment=23.33%    Mission&Programming=11%

**Total Campaign Receipts @ 1.31.26** **\$1,075,952 (61%!!!)**

Total Funds Expended to Date - \$890,732:

FaciliDes Projects	\$562,206
Maintenance Endowment Investment	\$205,000
Mission & Programming	\$71,103
Campaign Expenses	\$52,423

Projects Completed or In Progress:

Facili&es Projects

- Roof Repair
- Asbestos Abatement/Pipe Repair
- Preschool Wing Renova&on
- Sound System/AV Repair
- HVAC System
- Air Handler Replacement
- Parking Lot Reseal/Landscaping
- Organ Re-leathering
- Allene Brown Grant Specific Projects
- Northwest Controls – sensor board

Mission & Programming

- Organ Re-leathering
- Saturday Brunch
- Preschool Wing Renova&on
- Sound System/AV Repair
- Camino – support for Ukraine war vic&ms

# ADULT AND FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

A small, but mighty, group gathered on February 21 for a pot luck dinner and game night. We enjoyed good food, fun games, and fellowship. We hope that more will join us at our next event. Watch for details about that in the next few months. We are looking forward to giving our next event more publicity in *The Ambassador*, in *First Things*, and with posters in the Narthex.

Coffee, tea, and snacks are available during a fellowship hour in the Hospitality Area every Sunday, 9:45 — 10:45. If you are not attending a Sunday school class, come enjoy some visiting time before our church service begins.

Morning meditation takes place every Sunday, 9:30 — 9:45, on the 2nd-floor landing on the south end of the building and is open to everyone.

## **Two adult Sunday school classes are on-going:**

- Feasting on the Word, a study of the church's lectionary led by Denise Rex, meets in the new library on the 2nd floor of the main building.
- Faith & Fellowship, a book study/discussion class, meets in the south end of the Fellowship Hall.

Those attending the class choose the books to be studied and discussed and take turns getting the discussions started.

Seasoned Adults will gather April 16 at 5:00 — 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall. You can sign up for the event through Realm.

PCUSA has developed a 4-part discussion of the film, *Evicting the American Dream*. This is a documentary (produced by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Counter Stories Production) that explores the systemic causes of eviction and homelessness in the U.S. It is available to be streamed, and accompanying materials are available for discussion purposes.

If you think you might like to participate in this study/discussion, either as a month-long Sunday school class or as a weekly afternoon or evening gathering, contact Sandy Cohlma.

# FPC OUTDOOR YARD GROUNDS WORKDAY

**Saturday, April 25th, beginning at 9:00 AM**

We NEED you!! Yes, YOU !!!!!

Spend some time in the Church Yard.

There will be a variety of jobs for Spring outdoorsy folks to choose from. They include pruning, weeding and mulching in the butterfly garden bed, green areas around the Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary and Day Care facility. Bring your work gloves and shoes. Wear clothes that can get dirty and a hat that will be useful if it is hot and sunny. Please come and be prepared to help make FPC shine and receive the delightful feeling of Church ownership/partnership/friendship. The Church Trustees have identified a host of tasks that need completing and they are sure to have a job for you!

Questions? Please reach out to Terry Shreve,  
Trustee 405 762-3298

If the April 25th day is a RAINOUT DAY, then the alternate date will be May 2.



Cub Scout Pack 3842 has had an exciting start to the year with several fun activities and achievements for our Scouts. In January, the Pack held its annual Lego Derby. Scouts spent several weeks designing and building their own Lego racecars before gathering together for a lively race day to see whose creations were the fastest. In February, the Pack celebrated reaching its popcorn fundraising goal with a special movie night featuring pizza and popcorn for the Scouts. We also celebrated Blue and Gold Day—the birthday of Scouting—with a special Arrow of Light crossover ceremony where two of our Arrow of Light Scouts officially crossed over to the Scouts BSA troop level. In March, the Scouts are looking forward to learning about First Responders during a planned tour of a LifeNet ambulance. We are also excited to be preparing for our Spring campout coming up in April.

Cub Scout Pack 3842 meets every Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and welcomes both boys and girls in Kindergarten through 5th grade. If you know a child who may be interested in joining Cub Scouting, please contact Pake Wing at [pack3842@gmail.com](mailto:pack3842@gmail.com). Spring is a great time to get involved and join the adventure!

# Troop 820



Over the past several months, Troop 820 has been on some exciting camps and performed service work.

In September we went on a float trip below Broken Bow lake and had Order of the Arrow members complete service work at Will Rogers Scout Reservation.

In October, we help with the district Spook O Ree at Camp Stapley, and in November we camped and hiked at Lake McMurry.

For our January activity, we visited the Osteology Museum and Sam Noble Museum of Natural History.

For February, we switched gears to backpacking as we held our annual shakedown hike at Lake McMurry in preparation for our Ouachita Trek over spring break.



# Troop 820 Cont.



This year, we will backpack part of the Ouachita Trail on the Oklahoma side. We are looking forward to wild caving at Alabaster Caverns in April and camping at Robbers Cave in May.

For service work, Troop 820 helped place wreaths at Wreaths Across America and for Veterans Day we assisted Troop 828 with a Veterans Day dinner at the Elks Lodge.

We plan to help at the Special Olympics Summer Games and help the American Legion place flags at Fairlawn Cemetery on Memorial Day.



# Finance Report

## February 28, 2026 Income/Expense Report

	February	Year to Date
Giving	\$81,328	\$116,741
Other Income	\$9,836	\$35,863
Total Income (royalties, perpetual pledges, event income, etc.)	\$91,164	\$152,604
Expenditures	\$39,037	\$111,784
Net	\$52,127	\$40,820

If you have questions, contact a member of the Finance & Stewardship Committee:

Tim Schlais, Chairman;  
 Terri Carver,  
 Tim Krehbiel,  
 Donna Koeppe,  
 Lynn Osborn  
 or Cathy Fairbanks, Church Treasurer.

Below is the 2025 end of year financial report. The Finance & Stewardship Committee is including this information in case you overlooked it in the 2025 FPC Annual report (as an inserted page due to report printing deadline). As you can see, FPC ended the year with more income than expenses primarily due to the vacant staff positions.

## December 31, 2025 Income/Expense Report

	2025
Giving	\$610,433
Other Income	\$175,554
Total Income (royalties, perpetual pledges, event income, etc.)	\$785,987
Expenditures	\$739,447
Net	\$46,540