



The Presbyterian Courier

First Presbyterian Church of Ada, Oklahoma

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To Witness for God in the World

Season of Pentecost – September 2018



TO REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Destany and Larry Morgan, pregnant with child with serious health concern; Alan Talkington, serious health concern; Jerry Skinner; Jeremy Pippenger and Kelley Miller and family; Margaret Barton; Jane Baltimore; Gayla Cook; Avery Anderson; the poor of our community

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From the Pastor

Mama T's Is Open

The story is told of a clergyman whose Sunday afternoon rest was interrupted by a loud knock on the parsonage door. Pastor opens the door to find a man in great distress.

“My goodness! What is it?” he asks.

“Preacher, it’s the worst, it’s just the worst. There’s this wonderful, hard-working family in my neighborhood. They’ve fallen on hard times. The man lost his job and Mrs. is on bedrest and they have small children in the apartment and when they informed the landlord that they would have to be a little late on this month’s rent, get this, the landlord began eviction proceedings against them. Seven years in that apartment and now, this!”

“Wow, that is cold,” pastor replied. “Well, maybe the church could help out. Do you know to get in touch with the landlord?”

“I’m the landlord!” he says.

I like this story because it illustrates (in a funnily absurd way) that there can be a disconnect between what is important to us and how we behave. The landlord obviously

had some compassion and understanding—that is why he rushed over to the parsonage. But he didn’t realize it was his turn to show these things, with mercy.

The biblical principle here is “talk the talk and walk the walk.”

Thank you for talking the talk and walking the walk. Your service at FPC and in this community are inspiring. Great news: in addition to our pre-existing community focuses such as Abba’s Tables, Compassion Outreach, Meals on Wheels, and Ada Adopt a School, Mama T’s B & B, the new homeless shelter, opened on August 13th with a bang. FPC has been part of that. Stayed tuned for volunteer opportunities as the operation settles.

Great news: though sin, evil, and hardships rage, Pontotoc County is largely a compassionate, understanding, merciful, and gospel-ed community. Praise Christ!

~ Scott

Events

Recurring Events - Sundays

Church School for Children and Adults 9:30am

Worship Service 10:45am

Nursery open and staffed throughout

Recurring Events - Mondays

Yoga Fellowship 6:00-7:00pm

Recurring Events - Wednesdays

Adult Bible Study 6:00-7:00pm

Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:00pm

Nursery open and staffed throughout



Coming Up Soon

Children's Church School kickoff (breakfast and first class): Sunday, September 9th

Presbyterian Women Bible Study: resumes September 11th at noon (continues each 2nd Tuesday of the month)

Church Property Work Bee: September 29th, 9am to 2pm.

Hymn Sing Sunday! September 30th

Stated meeting of Indian Nations Presbytery: Friday, October 5th 2018, at FPC Ada, 9am – 2pm

Bette Cole is turning 90!?!? That can't be...but it is. Bette Cole's 90th Birthday Party will be on Saturday, October 13th from 11:30am to 3:30pm @ FPC. Save the date!

All church events including committee meetings are online at fpcada.org/calendar. Click on any event to see more information.

Christian Education

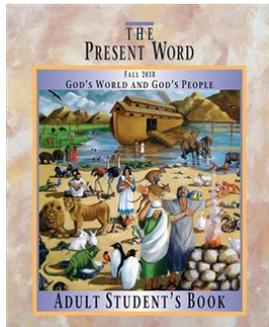
Children's Church School

Kickoff Sunday is September 9th! That's when church school resumes for the children of the church after summer break. We'll have breakfast at 9:30am in the WFC hall and then go to classes at 10:00am.



Brooke Holman will be teaching the 10-12 year old class, and Melody Baggech Marshall and Karah Thompson will be teaching the 5-7 year old class.

Adult Study



We invite all adults to continue in study in either of our two wonderful adult church school classes: **Catalyst**, and **Coffee and Conversation!** Catalyst is doing lessons in *The Present Word*, and Coffee and Conversation will begin an in-depth study of Mark's Gospel and related scriptures on September 9th. See you there!

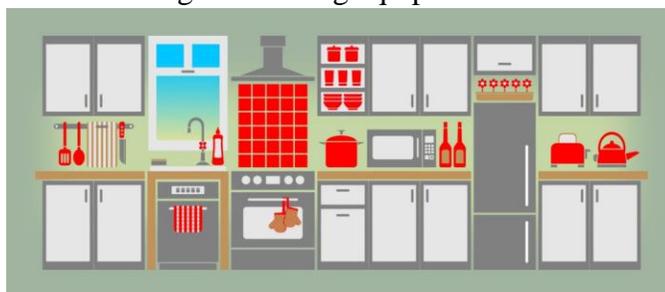


The **Wednesday evening Bible Study** resumes Wednesday, September 5th.

~ Becky Compton and Teresa Mayhue

Congregational Life and Membership

We are excited to make a few improvements to the cooking and serving equipment in the WFC kitchen so that we can host large events. We're in pretty good shape as you know but we definitely have a few items to acquire. Our goal is to host a **Sisters Hand in Hand** dinner next spring. This is the local dinner and event ministry for area widows. Stay tuned for opportunities to provide.



We will be lending a hand at the September 9th **Sunday School Kick Off breakfast**, and at the **October 5th Presbytery meeting**.

Also, we are super excited to host a **Tailgate Party / Chili, Soup, and Stew Cook Off** after service on Sunday, November 4th, and to work with all the committees on the December 16th **All-Church Christmas Dinner Party**. Stay tuned for more information...these will be great events!

~ David Butler, Amy Mayhue, Regina Robertson

Deacons Corner

Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you so much for your support of the Ada High School students. In the last couple weeks

\$475 was donated for current-year **school supplies**, \$473 was used to purchase those supplies, and these were delivered.

We participated in a very successful **Beautification Day** at Ada High School on August 4th. The “Room for Students” is in pretty good shape, and we will keep you posted on needs for additions and improvements.

We are already underway serving Monday-morning “**brain break**” snacks at the high school.

We’re here to serve, both the members and friends that comprise the congregation, and the community.

~ Betty Childers, chairperson

The commissioned deacons are: Bill Brooks, Betty Childers (chairperson), Kelley Dorsey-Miller, Jeremy Pippenger, Karah Thompson, Junior Vargas, Cheryl Weems, Linda Wells, Miriam White

Finance Committee

Thank you for your generous giving. Through the end of July we are \$623 in the black in the operational fund on the year. The investment fund grew by about \$2200 in July.

The committee is working on the annual financial review, and organizing our giving campaign for 2019. We already anticipate your strong support of this wonderful congregation that has a clear mission and works on it every day. Thank you again!

~ Bruce Weems & Matt Sweatt

Financial Report

	July 2018	YTD	Year Budget	% of Year Budget
Income	\$17,038	\$113,365	\$179,394	63.2%
Expenses	\$14,444	\$112,742	\$207,951	54.2%
Net	\$2,594	\$623	\$(28,557)	-2.2%

Assets	July 2018	June 2018	Change
	\$98,664	\$96,470	\$2,194

Mission and Evangelism

First Presbyterian Church has been active in the community! We want to recognize the many who have been generously at work for the well-being of their neighbors.

Abba's Tables: Aug 2nd, 2018: *Greta Thompson, Linda Wells, Cathy Blackburn, Tami Thompson, Nancy Thompson, Buddy Baltimore, Vestal Cole, Penny Davis (Vestal's daughter), Bette Cole, Robbie Horne, Ashlee Miller (Robbie's granddaughter), Jo Neman, Bruce & Cheryl Weems.*

Meals on Wheels: July 19th, 2018: *Bob & Jo Neman, Bruce Weems, Jackie Savage, Tami Thompson, Jack Lambert, Billie Redden, Karah Thompson, Kurt Jackson, Vestal & Bette Cole, Nancy & Matt Thompson, Jerry & Dian Maloy*

Mama T's B & B (the new homeless shelter in Ada): FPC has been involved behind the scenes, and we are delighted to report that there have been 132 bed-nights in the first 15 days of operation.

FPC Mission Emergency Fund: So far this year FPC has provided \$895 in material support to our neighbors in dire circumstances. They call up and come by and we review their situation, pray with them, counsel them, and give as best as we can.

Compassion Outreach resumes Tuesday, September 11th. Please contact Kurt Jackson or Bob Neman if you'd like to participate.

Thank you for support of the FPC outreach missions.

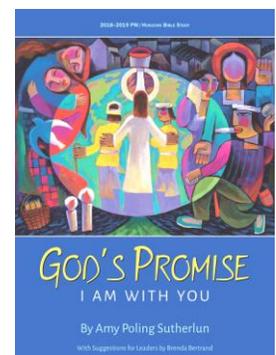
~ Bruce Weems

Music Department

Presbyterian Women Organization

Horizons Bible Study

The monthly Bible Study continues after Labor Day; we meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 12noon in the WFC parlor. "God's Promise: I Am with You" takes readers on a journey through scripture to consider circumstances in which God articulated the promise of God's presence. We see that God offered these words of profound comfort and commitment to individuals and communities from the time of the patriarchs to that of the prophets; from the judges to the kings; before, during, and after the exile; into the New Testament and beyond, to the end of the age.



Presbytery of Indian Nations

Indian Nations is a dynamic, interesting, and missional presbytery, and I am enjoying being FPC/Ada's commissioner.

My reports of recent stated meetings are on our congregational website, here: fpcada.org/staying-connected. I hope you'll take a moment to peruse these and stay informed.

The next stated meeting of Indian Nations Presbytery will be **hosted by FPC/Ada** on Friday, October 5th, from roughly 9am to 2pm. Plans are underway to be a great hosting site, and I thank you in advance for your support!

~ David Butler, Commissioner

Property

Property Work Bee



The buildings and grounds are in pretty good shape, but, just like at your house, there are always things that need to be done. Would you please mark your calendars on September 29th for a **buildings and grounds work bee** from 9am to 2pm? The property committee will set this up for you to “knock it down”. There will be something for everyone that they feel comfortable doing, and lunch will be served.

In other news, we have received some suggestions from our insurance company on things to do to make the campus safer and to manage risks of various kinds. It's kind of an “audit” and we are taking it seriously.

Items from this audit will be included in the work bee. So, thank you for your support, and we hope to see you there!

~ Terry Holman

Session News



SESSION UPDATE

Session Meeting held on July 22, 2018

1. Good News!! Financial reports are improving! Thank you for the positive response to

the Special Giving Fund initiated by the Finance Committee co-chaired by Bruce Weems and Matt Sweatt.

2. Welcome to Tami Thompson as our newly ordained and installed elder! She was installed July 29 on the Session Class of 2019.
3. Information from the Presbytery has been emailed to the congregation concerning commissioning elders to preach and serve the Lord's Supper at churches who don't have installed or temporary supply pastors. The Presbytery has organized a program to train elders to preach and administer the Lord's Supper. The cost will be \$100.00 which includes all materials, meals, and lodging for the event to be held on October 12, 13, and 14 at Hyatt Place in Oklahoma City. The application was forwarded to all elders by email from our church office. If you have any questions, please call our church office.
4. The Personnel Committee is looking for an additional nursery worker. Please spread the word.
5. Thank you notes were sent to Rev. Rick Baggett for leading us in worship on June 24 and July 1 and to Rev. Buddy Baltimore for leading us in worship on July 22.
6. Next session meeting is August 26th.

Session Meeting held on August 26th, 2018

1. Customary financial reporting showed we are in the black through July.
2. Congregational Life and Membership looks forward to sponsoring an after-service Chili/Soup/Stew Cookoff and Tailgate Party. This will be Sunday November 4th, early afternoon.
3. Several Committees are joining together and making plans to host an All-Church Christmas Party. This will be December 16th from 5-7pm in the WFC Hall. It will include opportunities to give to important mission causes, and is in place of the Alternative Gift Market. There will be music and activities for children and youth.
4. The worship committee conducted acolyte orientation, and the acolyte ministry will resume September 9th. There is a need for 3 or 4 adult volunteers to supervise the Acolytes each Sunday for the coming year.
5. Worship committee members of the month (these recruit and organize our volunteers) are:

September: Jeremy Pippenger

October: Kelley Miller
November: Johnna Compton
December: Linda Wells

6. Next session meeting is September 23rd.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

~ Teresa Mayhue, Clerk of Session

Elders Installed on Session

Class of 2019

David Butler, *Congregational Life and Membership, Steering, Property, Commissioner to Presbytery*

Becky Compton, *Christian Education*

Terry Holman, *Property, Steering*

Teresa Mayhue, *Christian Education, Clerk of Session, Alt. Commissioner to Presbytery*

Tami Thompson, *Mission and Evangelism*

Class of 2020

Cathy Blackburn, *Worship, Nominating*

Amy Mayhue, *Congregational Life and Membership, Steering*

Regina Robertson, *Congregational Life and Membership, Personnel, Nominating*

Matt Sweatt, *Worship, Finance, Personnel*

Bruce Weems, *Mission and Evangelism, Worship, Finance*

Elder of the Month for September: David Butler

Worship



We so appreciate your support of the Sunday morning Lord's Day worship service! Jews and Christians have been meeting on (Saturday or) Sunday for thousands of years, and we know why. There is so much blessing in it for everyone—those newer to the faith, and the long-timers. The older and the younger and the middle. We light the candles and profess God's special presence, and then we enter into the world of prayer, scripture, proclamation, sacrament, and offering of self in response to God. Thank you for offering your gifts as chorister, liturgist, acolyte, children's time preacher, greeter, usher, and more.

Acolyte orientation has been offered, and the acolyte ministry will resume September 9th. Parents, it is not too late to encourage your children (3rd grade and older) to participate. Please give me a call and I will ensure they are integrated in.

Thanks again, and Blessings!

~ Cathy Blackburn

Flowers for the Worship Service

A beautiful bouquet of fresh flowers—what a wonderful way to celebrate, honor, and remember!



September

2nd – open

9th – in honor of the anniversary of Cletis & Judy from BJ, Tami, Sarah, and Isaac

16th – Kristina Glick Birthday from Thompson Family

23rd – open

30th – open

October

7 – Butler

14 – Sarah Janene Thompson's 17th birthday

21 – open

28 – open

November

4 – open

18 – open

Worship attendance – July & August

July 1 st	59	Aug 5 th	57
8 th	53	12 th	60
15 th	52	19 th	66
22 nd	55	26 th	71
29 th	45		

Youth

Indian Nations Presbytery **Middle School YouthQuake** is coming up Friday November 16th (pm) through Sunday November 18th (am). There will be online registration and we will keep you posted. YouthQuakes are the regular presbytery gatherings for study, recreation, worship, and fun.



Birthdays

Happy Birthdays! To:

Lili Butler	Sept. 1	Don Clark	Sept. 30
Donna Britt	Sept. 2	Joe Peshehonoff	Sept. 30
Matt Sweatt	Sept. 3		
Junior Vargas	Sept. 4		
Broderick Hays	Sept. 5		
Larry Compton	Sept. 7		
Patti Elliott	Sept. 12		
Bud Morgan	Sept. 19		
Amy Mayhue	Sept. 25		
William Rauch	Sept. 25		
Cara Sue Waters	Sept. 25		
Erica Vargas	Sept. 27		



Wedding Anniversaries

Happy Anniversaries! To:

September

Kurt & Pamela Jackson	Sept. 4
Theo & Carol Peshehonoff	Sept. 5
Derrick & Joanna Gray	Sept. 10

Volunteers in Christ Always Needed

Here are some opportunities to serve:

on a committee (Christian Education, Congregational Life and Membership, Finance, Mission and Evangelism, Personnel, Property, Steering, Worship);

teach a church school class: nursery through adult.

in the Sunday morning worship service (acolyte, greeter, usher, liturgist, choir member, children’s message).

Just let the church office know and we will connect you with the right team.

First Presbyterian Church

301 East Kings Road

Ada, Oklahoma 74820

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

September 2018

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First Presbyterian Church Staff

Lauren Stathes, Administrative Assistant

Bonita Blackburn, Organist/Pianist

Johnna Compton, Music Director

Vacant, Director of Youth and Family
Ministries

Tom Hampton, Interim Treasurer

Sarah Thompson, Nursery Caregiver

Karah Thompson, Custodian

Scott White, Pastor