



The Presbyterian Courier

First Presbyterian Church of Ada, Oklahoma

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To Witness for God in the World

Advent 2018



TO REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Brenda Hall; Billie Redden; Kristina Glick, for recovery from pneumonia; Jonas Richardson, a young child of the community diagnosed with neuroblastoma; Brenda Clark; Margaret Lillard; Margaret Barton; Jane Baltimore; Gayla Cook; the poor of our community.

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From the Pastor

Advent

Dear Members and Friends,

You are of course aware of the hilarious knock-knock joke of “interrupting cow”. (I know you are.) Just in case you are not, here it is:

“Knock knock.”

“Who’s there?”

“Interrupting Cow.”

“Interrupting Cow wh”

“MOOOOO!”

Isn’t that great? Well, let me be the first to say that knock-knock jokes can have nothing to do with Almighty God and especially can have nothing to do with our reverence of Almighty God.

But let me also be the first to say that if we want to have a scriptural, traditional, orthodox, historic understanding of the meaning of

Christ’s birth, of the Incarnation, of **Advent**...interruption has to be in the constellation of words.

What is Advent about? God breaks in. God interrupts. God breaks in to and interrupts the way we imagine the world, are running the world, and disturbs our thoughts that somehow we can figure out how to steward it and develop it into goodness, grace, faithfulness and love. Such a thought is often our thought, if we are reading the news, and if we are honest is immensely dubious, opposite to the witness of scripture, and to the witness of the news.

No, we make a mess of things. We are violent. We suffer and die, the old and the young, the innocent and guilty alike. The beautiful that God has made we turn to ugly. We are not able to address these grievous realities. We are sunk.

But then, God breaks in. God interrupts. God arrives. God has answers. God has a plan.

Please join me this Advent to explore the birth of the Christ again and afresh and anew. We are free and welcome to ask questions. “What is God up to?” “What is the point?” “What is the

purpose?” “What difference did it make to Bethlehem, and what difference does it make to Ada?” “What does God want; what is God’s way?”

Advent: God interrupts. Praise, praise, praise God! Yours,
Scott

p.s. Definitely put the All-Church Christmas Party on your calendars! Sunday, December 16th, 5-7pm, in the WFC hall. More information below, and stayed tuned!

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 (in recess until January 2nd)

Choir Rehearsal 6:00-7:00pm (through December 26th)

Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:00pm (resuming January 2nd)

Nursery open and staffed throughout



Coming Up Soon

Westminster Fellowship Center **Kitchen Work Bee** – December 1st, 9am-12noon

FPC serves the meal at **Abba’s Tables** – Thursday, December 6th

Ada Parade of Lights – Thursday, December 6th, 7-9pm Main Street

Women’s Hope NA Holiday Feast, FPC warmly invited, Saturday, December 8th, 1-5pm, Westminster Fellowship Center Hall

Ada Trail of Lights – FPC staffing the booth, Wintersmith Park Ada, December 15th and 22nd, 6-9:30pm

All Church Christmas Party – Westminster Fellowship Center Hall, Sunday, December 16th, 5-7pm

Advent Midweek Services – Wednesdays, December 5th and 19th, sanctuary, 6:15-7:00pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – December 24th, 7pm

“Christmastide Lessons and Carols” / “Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing” – Sunday morning, December 30th, 10:45am, with fellowship time to follow in the church parlor

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

Christian Education

All Church Christmas Party

The children will be singing *The Friendly Beasts*, a traditional Christmas song about the gifts that a donkey, cow, sheep, camel, and dove give to Jesus at the Nativity, at our All-Church Christmas Party on December 16. They are practicing during Sunday School time, and all children are encouraged to participate!!

The **Wednesday evening Bible Study** resumes January 2nd at 6pm in the church parlor.

~ Becky Compton and Teresa Mayhue

Congregational Life and Membership

Welcome New Members / Directory Update

COOK, Ken and Carol

1227 Legacy Drive

Ada, OK 74820

carolcook47@hotmail.com (h)

•Ken: 580-399-3589 (c)

•Carol: 580-399-6589 (c)

Kitchen Work Bee December 1st

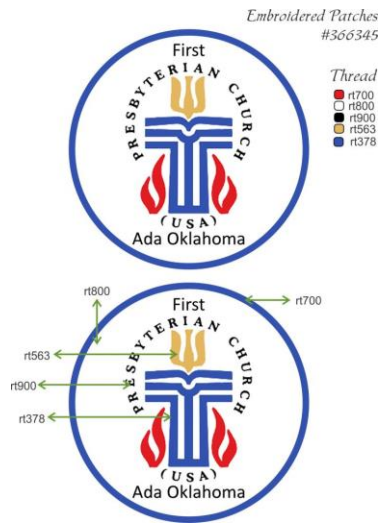
We invite you to a kitchen work bee this Saturday, December 1st, from 9am to 12noon in the Westminster Fellowship Center kitchen to see what we have, to organize what we have, to see what we don't have, and to make a shopping list! We feel the leading of the Spirit of God to do more and better mission events and fellowship events involving food. Thanks for your support!



FPC Ada Symbol – Shirts with Patches

Soon to be available: we will have clothing or accessories donning a First Presbyterian Symbol.

This will make us identifiable in the community as we do mission work and allows us to support our church with pride! We are doing a small trial run currently. If you see a session member with a patch on their clothing check it out and give us some feedback. If you like them, would like to see something different or what types of items you would like to see donning our symbol!



Ada Parade of Lights

Please come join us for a major community celebration of the Christmas season on Main Street!

Here are the details:

Thursday, Dec 6th, 4:30-9pm

We will be setting up in front of Blacks on 109 W Main street to serve hot chocolate and visit with people about our church.

Anyone wishing to assist:

4:30-5pm Making hot chocolate in the kitchen (10 gallons) supplies ready to go!

4:45 Transporting and setting up 2-3 tables and 4 chairs with our Presby flag in front of Blacks

5pm transporting the 10 gallons (in two 5 gallon thermos) to our booth

5pm-9pm Manning the booth, serving hot chocolate and handing out fliers

9:15p Shutdown and transport back to church.



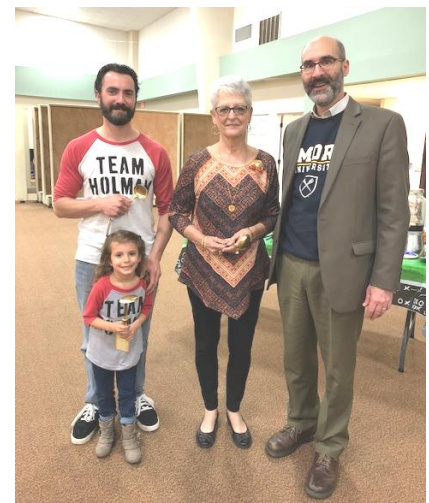
In past years most of the traffic has been prior to the start of the parade at 7pm. We will remain as long as the hot chocolate lasts, but will have to wait until the street is unblocked to pack up our tables. Anyone willing to help out can shoot David Butler a text (580-559-6605) or just show up for any part you would like to participate in. Drop by's and Drop ins are welcomed...the more the Merrier, Christmas attire, festive and warm!

Ada Trail of Lights

This year FPC will staff the booth at Ada Trail of Lights in Wintersmith Park. We have signed up for two evenings, December 15th and 22nd. We are looking for 8 volunteers, 4 per evening. Please contact Amy Mayhue for more information or to express interest.

Tailgate Party

What a phenomenal Tailgate Party / Chile-Soup-Stew Cookoff, Sunday November 4th! Thank you to the many who cooked and



decorated for it, and congratulations to Terry Holman (winner in Chile) and Carol Cook (winner in Stew). They were presented with golden ladles! What a great and joyous time.

~ Amy Mayhue, David Butler, Regina Robertson

Finance Committee

Stewardship Campaign Update – Funding Our Ministry 2018 for 2019

The Bible reminds us many times that we are blessed when we give.

James 5:2 Giving sets us free, while hoarding entraps us

John 3:16 Giving changes the lives of others

Luke 6:38 Giving brings blessing back to us

Matthew 19:21 Giving allows us to store up treasures in Heaven rather than here on earth.

Giving really is fun and the Bible encourages us to be in on it. The 2019 stewardship drive campaign has convinced us that this congregation has taken these words to heart. Through the two financial campaigns of 2018 the church had pledges of \$137,622. The 2019 *Ready to Share* campaign reached out to approximately 60 giving units and 33 of those submitted pledges in the amount of \$159,632. **That is a 16% increase in pledges—a fantastic result.** The finance committee and the session extend their thanks to all for being so generous. We are certain that God blessings will come back to all.

~ Bruce Weems & Matt Sweatt



“Christians are a work in progress”

- Educating our children, youth, and adults
- Staff support
- Curriculum and supplies

21% of budget
\$43.5K



WORSHIP

“Word, sacrament, music, prayer and praise!”

- Staff support
- Service instruments and accessories

35% of budget
\$72.5K

MISSION OUTREACH

“Being here and being there for our neighbors”

- Community use of campus
- Dollar giving
- Supporting the wider mission of the Church

23% of budget
\$47.3K



FPC
Funding Our Mission
Ready to Share

FELLOWSHIP

“A place to be church together”

- Care for our church family
- Buildings, Grounds, HVAC

21% of budget
\$42.8K



Financial Report

	October 2018	YTD	Year Budget	% of Year Budget
Income	\$13,673	\$153,414	\$179,394	85.5%
Expenses	\$17,663	\$166,840	\$207,951	80.2%
Net	\$(3,990)	\$(13,426)	\$(28,557)	47%

Assets	October 2018	September 2018	Change
	\$87,396	\$90,729	\$(3,333)

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: September 6th, October 4th, and November 1st 2018: Betty Childers, Buddy Baltimore, Nancy Thompson, Greta Thompson, Bill Brooks, Carol Peshehonoff, Cathy Blackburn, Tami Thompson, Vestel & Bette Cole, Jo Neiman, Kurt Jackson, Linda Wells, and Bruce & Cheryl Weems.

Compassion Outreach: November 13th: Margaret Barton, Vestel & Bette Cole, Becky Compton, Robbie Horne, Kurt Jackson, Jerry & Dian Maloy, Kelley Miller, Bob & Jo Neman, Greta Thompson, Karah Thompson, Nancy Thompson, Cheryl Weems.

Meals on Wheels: September 10-14 and November 12-16: Bob & Jo Neman, Kurt Jackson, Carol Peshehonoff, Karah Thompson, Jack Lambert, Billie Redden, Leigh Gaddis, Don Clark, Jackie Savage, Mary and Ashley Hampton & sons, Amy Elliott, Greta Thompson, Tami Thompson, Vestel & Bette Cole, Jerry & Dian Maloy, Nancy & Matt Thompson.

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 **1550** bed-nights in the first 3 months of operation. We are also delighted to announce that Indian Nations Presbytery has responded to our grant request with a check for **\$10,000** to build out the Mama T's Kitchen!

Women's Hope NA Holiday Feast 2018 – December 8th, 1-5pm, WFC Hall. The whole congregation is **warmly invited** by this wonderful recovery and support group.

Thank you for support of the FPC outreach missions.

~ Bruce Weems, Tami Thompson

Music Department

Nominating Committee

Two Additional Opportunities to Serve

Would you like to be commissioned as a **deacon** for a year? Would you like to serve on the

Nominating Committee for a year? These are two great opportunities to make a real difference in the community and in the life of the congregation. Please let Nominating Committee co-chair Cathy Blackburn know if you have a yes to either of these invitations at (580) 421-4809. Thank you!

Personnel Committee



Staff Appreciation Holiday Gift

Dear Members and Friends,

We're blessed with great staff, and they often go above and beyond the call of duty. They love this church like you do.

Again as traditional for us, we are promoting a Staff Appreciation Holiday Gift.

Please feel no obligation to contribute. This is the season (like all seasons for the Christians) for giving, and there are so many possibilities for your giving, in and out of the church.

But if you would like to make a contribution here, we would most welcome it, and be most grateful.

Offerings will be collected through December 16th, and staff will receive your gifts by Friday, December 21st.

We know you join us in having great appreciation for our Staff.

Thank You!

~ Regina Robertson and Matt Sweatt

Personnel Committee Co-Chairs

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, including the one FPC/Ada hosted on October 5th, are on our congregational website, here: fpcada.org/staying-connected. I hope you'll take a moment to peruse these and stay informed.

Congratulations to FPC/Ada which so graciously and adeptly hosted the stated meeting of Indian Nations Presbytery Friday, October 5th! We heard so many affirmations and expressions of appreciation. Thank you!

Did you know that Scott was installed Vice-Moderator of Presbytery in this meeting for a one-year term? Then he will be Moderator for a one-year term.

~ David Butler, Commissioner

Session News

1. Welcome to new members Ken and Carol Cook!

2. The Indian Nations Presbytery Stated Meeting was held at our church on October 5. Thank you to many people including Scott White and David Butler, who were the lead organizers, elders, deacons, and Presbyterian Women. Miriam White, Tim Butler, and Bonita Blackburn provided music, and Greta Thompson and Karah Thompson led the effort in getting the church prepared and organizing the food.

3. New elders elected for Session Class of 2021 are David Butler, David Horne, Kurt Jackson, Teresa Mayhue, and Tami Thompson. Thank you to the Nominating Committee for their hard work. Members are Bette Cole, Bruce Hall, Brooke Holman, David Piercy, Cheryl Weems, with Cathy Blackburn and Regina Robertson as co-chairs.

4. The Personnel Committee continues to search for another nursery worker. Please spread the word.

~ Teresa Mayhue, Clerk of Session

Worship

The Worship Committee would like to invite you to attend the **Midweek Advent Services** on the Wednesdays of December 5 and 19 at 6:15pm featuring quiet, peace, scripture and the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Flowers for the Worship Services in December will feature **Christmas poinsettias**. You may purchase a poinsettia (\$35) and dedicate it "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one. The forms will be available to you in the bulletin or in the narthex. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate or send it in to the church office.

The Fifth Sunday Sing this month (December 30th) will be a **Lessons and Carols Service** followed by a fellowship in the upper parlor.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: December 24th, 7pm. See you there! Nursery open and staffed.

~ Cathy Blackburn



Sanctuary Flowers for the Worship Service

This December as usual our sanctuary will be adorned with poinsettias. If you'd like to purchase one in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact the church office or look for the insert in the Sunday bulletin. Halleluiah!



Worship attendance

Sept. 2 nd	53	21 st	58
9 th	71	28 th	58
16 th	54	Nov. 4 th	59
23 rd	53	11 th	67
Oct. 7 th	58	18 th	54
14 th	60	25 th	55

Youth

The PC(USA) **Triennium** is coming up July 16-20 2019! This is the every three year national gathering of presbyterian youth. The Oklahoma presbyteries, including Indian Nations, will send a delegation. Please visit the page presbyterianyouthtriennium.org and call the church office for more information!

Birthdays

Happy Birthdays! To

Vestel Cole Oct. 1
 Cheryl Weems Oct. 1
 Charles Mayhue Oct. 9
 Sarah Thompson Oct. 12
 Teresa White Oct. 12
 Bette Cole Oct. 15
 Theo Peshehonoff Oct. 19
 Joan Butler Oct. 22
 McKinleigh Cowart Oct. 22
 Elizabeth Elliott Oct. 22
 Kay Shaw Oct. 22
 Cathy Blackburn Oct. 25



Graydon Cantrell Oct. 25
 Ellen Sweatt Nov. 2
 Chandler Walls Nov. 3
 Mason Mayhue Nov. 5
 Mel Robertson Nov. 5
 Amy Elliott Nov. 6
 Samuel Peaden Nov. 11
 Robbie Horne Nov. 13
 Amelia Choate Nov. 21
 Joanna Gray Nov. 21
 Zoe Rockey Nov. 21
 Roy Lillard Nov. 24
 Sullivan Taylor Nov. 24

Carol Peshehonoff Nov. 27
 Todd Robson Nov. 30
 Betty Park Dec. 3
 Susan Haney Dec. 5
 Dian Maloy Dec.5
 Timothy Butler Dec. 6
 Elmer Brown Dec. 8
 Lindsey Holman Dec. 8
 Bruce Weems Dec. 8
 Kai Hampton Dec. 9
 Ryan Shaw Dec. 13
 Abigail Shaw Dec. 14
 Claire Pottebaum Dec. 16
 Elliot White Dec. 16
 Karah Thompson Dec. 19
 Jacob Holman Dec. 21

Seanna Bottoms-Miller Dec.22
 Bruce Hall Dec. 22
 Kelley Miller Jan. 1
 Margaret Barton Jan. 4
 Tami Thompson Jan. 6
 Sally Bennett Jan. 8
 David Horne Jan. 8
 Margot Sweatt Jan. 10
 Betty Childers Jan. 12
 Scott Robertson Jan. 14
 Derrick Gray Jan. 16
 Mary Hampton Jan. 18
 Ellie Wainscott Jan. 25
 Jaxen Pippenger Jan. 27
 Peyton Cantrell Jan. 30
 Richard Mayhue Jan 31

Wedding Anniversaries

Happy Anniversaries! To:

October

Terry & Brooke Holman	Oct. 5
Tim & Amy Elliott	Oct. 6
Clyde & Joan Butler	Oct. 10

November

Mark & Debbie Thompson	Nov. 12
Charles & Tami Thompson	Nov. 25

December

Bill & Donna Britt	Dec. 14
Tom & Mary Hampton	Dec. 27

January

Todd & Mendy Robson	Jan. 16
Bud & Ruth Morgan	Jan. 23
Elmer & Bettye Brown	Jan. 25
Roy & Margaret Lillard	Jan. 25
Vestel & Bette Cole	Jan. 29

First Presbyterian Church

301 East Kings Road

Ada, Oklahoma 74820

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Advent 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