

Welcome in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ

We are pleased you have joined us for worship this Sunday morning. We are a faithful congregation of the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) and within the bounds of the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery. Worship is one of the many ministries that are facilitated by this historic and active congregation. A small group of Presbyterians began this ministry in 1835 and we are called by God to continue their faithful witness of Jesus Christ to our community and world. Bible studies and mission projects punctuate our weekly activities. If you would like more information about our ministries and/or becoming a new member, please call our church office during the week or talk to our pastor after worship. *Visitors and members alike are encouraged to complete the registration pad located on the main aisle of each pew.* Your contact information is never shared with any other identity.



Lay Leader this morning is Phil Shaver.

Ushers for this morning are Bob & Donna Pikey and John & Jeanne Hirsch.

Visitors Last Sunday Were: Brett Kinder, Nelle Johnson, Kathy Beck, Wayne & Karen Wilde, Darryl Jones, Jordan Davis, Alexis Dilg, Jolene Fredrich, Tationna Thompson.

Pastoral Care: Myra Peo, Dixie Hopkins, Becky Parkinson, Donne Williams, Bill Stover, Ray Ritter, Barbara Taylor, Paul Rice, Judy Rueseler

In the Military: Michelle Bryan, CA; Donald Shaver (brother-in-law of Joanna Shaver), Cape Girardeau; Eric Rueseler, LCPL; David Parkinson, Travis Air Force Base, CA; Col. Richard Parkinson, MacDill Air Force Base, FL; Jeff Parkinson, Elgin Air Force Base, FL. (Bob & Ann Parkinson's nephews); John Raimondo, Camp LeJeune, N. Carolina (Sharon Metcalfe's grandson); Eric Yocom, Air Force, Mountain Home, Idaho (Ray & Sandy Wilhelm's grandson)

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES Both Children's Sunday School Classes will meet after the Kid's Message in worship. The Lower Grade's Class will meet in their classroom next to the Nursery. Kathy Woodfin and Cherie Herbst will be teaching this class. The curriculum will focus on "The Stories of the Old Testament" based on the *Read and Learn Bible*. The Upper Grade's Class will meet in their classroom on the second floor. Their curriculum will focus on studying "The Parables of Jesus". This class will be team taught by Kathy Brown, Melissa Harris, Sandy Wilhelm, Kate Broeckling and Julie Harrison.



Flowers for Worship: Flowers for worship may be shared to celebrate your anniversary, someone's birthday, or in memory of a loved one or friend. They can also just say "Thanks, God!" Please call the church office (335-2579) to sign up for flowers.



In support of our local FISH, the December Meal a Month- 2 cans white beans, 2 package Jiffy type cornbread mix, milk, 2 Cans fruit of choice. Please put in the box in the Narthex.

Please change in your Church Directory--Jean Kaiser's new address is Bradford Village, 906 N Boulevard Rm 405, Edmond, Ok 73034

CALENDAR			
Sunday 12/13	9:30 am	Embracing God's Word Adult Class	
	10:00 am	Coffee & fellowship	
	10:30 am	Worship Service	
Tuesday 12/15	Pray for	Kitty Rueseler, Ronald Taylor (birthday)	
Wednesday 12/16	Pray for	Cooper Smith (birthday)	
	7:30 pm	Choir Practice	
Thursday 12/17	Pray for	Donne Williams (birthday)	
Friday 12/18	Pray for	Joe & Jane Stahly (anniversary)	
Sunday 12/20	10:00 am	Coffee & fellowship	
	10:30 am	Worship Service	
		Celebrate Birthdays & Anniversaries	

Free Redhawks Women's Basketball Game- local churches, we had such a great turnout at our last event we are doing it again. Today, Sunday December 13, at 2 pm the Redhawks will be taking on Central Arkansas. Anyone who brings a church bulletin will get free admission.

Today, Dec. 13th at 2:00 P.M. Judith Farris's advanced singers will present a recital in the Schuck Recital Hall in the Seminary building at the River Campus. Your attendance would be greatly appreciated. These young singers need and appreciate your support! It is free to the public and only an hour or so in length.

The 2016 pledge envelopes are in the Narthex. If you do not know your envelope number, there is an alphabetical list to help you find which box yours is in. If your number is not on the list and you need envelopes, please call Shirley or Jean at the church 573-335-2579.

You are all invited to the December Gather, Share, and Eat today, December 13, 2015 after church services. We will be serving Daryl's chili and another soup plus a vegetable tray and crackers. After we share our meal, we will be wrapping extra cookies for the shut-ins, and wrapping presents and cookies for the Amen Center. We will have stations set up so all can participate. It promises to be a lot of fun! See you there!

Next Sunday is our Celebration of Birthdays and Anniversaries. We celebrate these milestones in our church family on the third Sunday of the month. As we acknowledge and honor our church family members we also support the work of the Heifer International Project. This is a nonprofit charitable organization that provides sustainable farm animals to impoverished people all over the globe. For more information visit their website at: www.heifer.org.

Farmington Children's Home-Make Christmas brighter for the young people at the Farmington Children Home! We have a wish list for the children and Kathy Brown will purchase the gifts. Anyone who chooses, may make a donation to help pay for the gifts and then hang a star on the tree in the Narthex. We want to fill our tree with stars to represent **sharing our Christmas love**. Your donation should be made to First Presbyterian Church and in the memo line put "Farmington Children's Home".

🎵 Music Notes

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. The Latin term for this Sunday of Rejoicing is “Gaudete,” based on the joyful Scripture readings of this day. Advent is a time of preparing for the coming of Christ. This Sunday marks our “half-way” point. Rejoice!

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (#88) is a Latin hymn from the 12th Century. It tells us to be joyful during this season of Advent. Even in the 21st Century its refrain, “Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel” is still timely. Try substituting your own name in the place of the word, “Israel.” “Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O _____.” This is good news! It should make you feel like you want to get up and dance an Israeli folk-dance with your pew mates! Rejoice!

He Came Down (#137) is a traditional song from Cameroon, arranged by John Bell from the Iona community in Scotland. We are using it as we light our Advent wreath.

The term **Doxology** is derived from the Greek and is usually identified with a short hymn of praise, often to the Triune God. It has its origins from a similar worship practice in the Jewish synagogues. These songs of praise, actually small statements of faith, were frequently added to the last verse of a hymn, psalm or prayer. During this **Advent and Christmas** season we are using the fourth verse of “All Praise to Thee, My God” (#675). An Englishman, Thomas Ken (1637-1711), who was an Anglican priest and later a Bishop, wrote this text in 1674. The tune, “Tallis’ Canon” is by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585) who composed for Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, and other English royalty. He was also the organist at Canterbury Cathedral.

Joy to the World (#134) is often identified with Christmas, yet when it was first published in 1719 the message was not about Bethlehem. The original title was “The Messiah’s Coming and Kingdom.” The text by Isaac Watts (1674-1748) is based on Psalm 98 and refers to the Second Coming of Christ. Do you see any mention of a manger, of a baby, of shepherds or angels in this song? It is a call to “prepare our hearts” and is significant for any time of the year. Watts is considered the “Father of English hymnody” and is buried in Westminster Abbey. There are fourteen hymns by Watts in our hymnal including these “standards”—“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,” “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past,” “I Sing the Mighty Power of God,” and “Jesus Shall Reign.” The music was adapted from several works by G. F. Handel (1685-1759). It was arranged by Lowell Mason (1792-1872), reportedly the first music teacher in an American public school (Boston, MA).

In today service we would like to Acknowledge

Tanisha Reeves, flute and Gabriel Lockhart, clarinet
Phil, Joanna & Maybry Shaver as Narrators
First Presbyterian Church Adult and Children’s Choir
Rebecca Nelson, Organist
Peter Durow, Choir Director

May you be inspired to meditate on the music and texts.

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Thanks to John Sanders

12-20-2006

PASTOR JONES COULD SENSE THE CLOSE
PRESENCE OF CHRISTMAS AS HE SLOWLY MADE
HIS WAY THROUGH THE JUNGLE OF POINSETTIAS

Worship at First Presbyterian!

Prepare your minds and hearts for Christmas at our upcoming 10:30 am Sunday services—Beautiful music and a great message! Schedule:

- Sun. Dec. 20—4th Sunday in Advent, & Recognition of Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Thurs. Dec. 24--Christmas Eve Service. **5:00 pm**
- Sun. Dec. 27—Special Music
- Sun. Jan. 3—Epiphany.

Bring a friend to church!

People are usually very receptive to church invitations at this time of year.

Tell your non-attending friends about our services.

We deeply appreciate the many participants in our First Presbyterian Music Ministry program throughout the year. We are pleased to acknowledge today:

Children’s Choir—Emma Broeckling, Ben Broeckling, Jonah Durow, Nadia Durow, Jacob Harrison, Katherine Harrison, Maybry Shaver

Adult Choir—Will Bahn, David Bengston, Stephanie Bengston, Kate Broeckling, Ed Burford, Jean Cairns, Jodi Durow, Peter Durow, Lea Hecht, Harvey Hecht, Peg Hirschburg, Pete Hirschburg, Lizbe Knote, Riley Kurré+, Alex Mitchell, Sheri Mitchell, Brittany Moleski+, Christopher Morgan+, Pastor Kim Nelson, Rebecca Nelson, Judy Rueseler, Kendall Staggs+, Nate Thomas+, Janna Tuck, Elisa Williamson+, Brucee Woods. (+denotes SEMO Choral Scholar Student)

Handbell Ringers—Kate Broeckling, Jean Cairns, Peter Durow, Julie Harrison, Katherine Harrison, Lea Hecht, Rebecca Nelson, Sheri Mitchell, and Elisa Williamson+

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Ruth Pautler, Clerk of Session
Shirley Sullivan, Church Secretary
Jean Cairns, Treasurer
Peter Durow, Choir Director, Music Ministry Team
Rebecca Nelson, Keyboard, Music Ministry Team
Kathy Woodfin, Nursery Attendant
Joanna Shaver, Wedding Coordinator
Gina Thomas, Maintenance
Rev. Dr. Kim L Nelson, D. Min. Pastor

THE SESSION

CLASS OF 2015

Donna Pikey
Ruth Pautler
Joyce Rayfield
Kathy Brown

CLASS OF 2016

Nancy Bray
John Broeckling
Caroline Manuel
Joanna Shaver

CLASS OF 201

Paul Farris
Melissa Harris
Janna Tuck
Dale Watkins

SERVICE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

9:00 A.M. Adult Education
10:30 A.M. Worship Service
10:45-11:30 Children and Youth Sunday School

GENERAL NOTICES

Childcare for infants, toddlers and preschoolers is provided during worship.
The Session meets the third Wednesday of the month.
The Church Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 7:30 P.M.
The Church sponsors Boy Scout Troop 4, Marcia Warren Scoutmaster, and
Cub Scout Pack 15, Brian Hall Cubmaster