

“Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.”

Luke 12:27



The beautiful flowers in our front flower bed were driven to the ground by the storm a few weeks ago. But they have been revived and look as beautiful as ever.

Maybe their growth pattern has changed because of the storm, but they are continuing to grow and flourish. They are resilient and bring beauty to our world and brighten our days. If God does this for the flowers, surely God will do the same for us.

May the beauty of the Lord shine in our lives through storm and calm.

Service of Healing and Wholeness

The worship service on July 30 will include a service of wholeness and healing. During the service those who would like to have prayer and be anointed with oil will be given the opportunity.

Why do we have services of wholeness and healing?

Healing was an integral part of the ministry of Jesus which the church has been called to continue as one dimension of its concern for the wholeness of people. Through services for wholeness, the church enacts in worship its ministry as a healing community.

How are we to understand the prayers for healing?

Healing is to be understood as the gift of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is not the result of the holiness, earnestness, or the skill of those who are praying or the faith of the ones seeking healing.

How do we use oil in the services of wholeness and healing?

Olive oil or chrism (olive oil mixed with other aromatic oils) has served a variety of ritual purposes in ancient Israel and Christian tradition. James 5:14-15 illustrates the practice of anointing with oil as a symbol of healing prayer in the earliest Christian communities: *"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven."*

How does it work?

When a person approaches the minister or elder for healing prayer, she or he may offer a specific request for healing for themselves or someone else or may come in silence. The minister or elder places hands on the person's head, says a brief blessing, then makes the sign of the cross using oil on the person's forehead. Music may be played or sung and the entire congregation participates actively in prayer.

Sources: The Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1993) 1013-1014, and *The Companion to the Book of Common Worship*, Peter C. Bower, ed. (Louisville: Geneva Press, 2003) 260-261.

Attendance for June

June 4th: 35

Jun 11th: 37

June 18th: 20

June 25th: 26

*Katie and Dylan were
married May 27th.
Congratulations to the
happy couple!*



Bible Book Study

Join us for lively discussion and snacks each Wednesday at 10 am in the church parlor.
Everyone is invited to come.

There will be no Presbyterian Women's circle meeting in July

Report from Session

The Session met on June 10. The clerk reported that communion was served to 30 people on both May 28 and June 4. Session voted to have annual committee reports due on September 30 to coincide with the Stewardship drive. The church register has been updated. The treasurer's report indicated that income exceeded expenses last month. The property and maintenance committee has completed a final review of the Building Usage Form. Jonathan M. has graciously taken on the role of maintain the lawn care for the church. Our previous lawn care company went out of business and it was hard to locate a replacement service. The worship committee announced that confirmation classes for Jacelynn and Denisse M. will begin soon. The Wedding Guidelines for the church have been revised and will be coordinated with the Building Usage guidelines before the final copy is completed. The next meeting was scheduled for July 8 at 1:00 p.m.

The Session will meet at 1 pm on July 8th.

Community Garden Report July 2023



Duke has been spending a lot of time establishing a rain water irrigation system. Removing the water from the barrels has been difficult, but he has found a solution. The vegetable plants are growing very well and harvesting of squash has already begun. Beans will be forming soon. We have a community member who has helped establish the garden and has offered to help in various ways. The \$5,000 Future of the Church grant was denied, however, the Presbytery Mission grant of \$1,500 will be applied for. In addition, we have received a \$1,000 donation. Anyone who would like to help with the garden by harvesting, watering, or distributing vegetables

should contact Duke or Karen. If you have excess vegetables in your garden, please consider giving them to the church to be distributed.

Our community food and clothing distribution ministry could always use snacks, especially tuna and chicken salad meals, Vienna sausages, granola bars, individually packaged servings of snack crackers, ramen noodles, fruit gummies, protein bars, bagged snacks, any portable snacks, T-shirts, and socks. You may bring them to the room across the hall from the church office. Thank you!



Keeping God's House Clean

Please consider signing up on the tablet in the west lobby to help clean the church one weekend this month. We can do it if we all pitch in!

Congratulations to Madison S. on her graduation from Sylvan Hills High School! Here are some pictures from Madison's reception at FPC...



The Ordinary Time Acts of Kindness Challenge

“Ordinary Time comprises all the days [on the ecclesiastical calendar] not marked by a specific season [such as Christmas or Lent]. Those periods in between holidays give us time to catch our breath and return to regular life. [Ordinary Time] stretches on for 27 to 29 Sundays (not counting the Sundays of the Transfiguration, All Saints and the Trinity).

Ordinary Time is a time for us to discover that in Christ; our lives are filled with grace, forgiveness and hope. We live as people of faith, ‘new creations in Christ,’ not just on Christmas and Easter, but also during the times in between where most of life takes place.” (Excerpt from *Presbyterians Today*, July 3, 2020.

“Ordinary Time is Extra-Ordinary” by Kathleen Long Bostrum)

We have joined together as a congregation to participate in the **Ordinary Time Acts of Kindness Challenge**. We will try to share ordinary acts of extraordinary kindness at least once per week during Ordinary Time.

Here are some of the example experiences from some of the participants in the Challenge for the month of June:

“I helped a lady in a wheelchair to get into the clinic.”

“We gave away produce from the garden.”

“Bought food for our snack bag ministry.”

“Took some special food to a friend.”

“I prepared sandwiches [for the free community meal]”

If you have inspiring stories from this challenge, please email them to the office, place them on an index card in the “Acts of Kindness” basket at church, or call and leave a message. We’d love to share them anonymously in the next newsletter. Let’s encourage one another to good works!

Our next monthly Community Lunch/churchwide potluck will be on July 2nd from 11:30-12:30. We will be serving hamburgers, hot dogs, and friendship in a welcoming environment.

Want to Be Involved?

Bring a potluck side dish to share. Plan to wear clothes and celebrate Independence Day together our neighbors so that they can feel the love of community as we have been blessed to know it. can also sign up to help with set up, clean up or serving by using the sign-up sheet near the offering plate at church.

Help Us Spread the Word

Help us spread the word by sharing this information in places the local public might gather: other churches, community centers, the library, gas stations, and grocery stores. If you need flyers to hand out, please let us know!



festive
with
You

Our June potluck and Community lunch was a great success. Join the fun in July and August!



Miki, Yoshi, Klara, Katie, and Mary Jane enjoyed feeding Margot's goats during their visit for the wedding. What a treat, especially for our visitors from Hawaii and Poland!



Covering Our Church, Communities, and World With Prayer

- Pray for all families and people affected by the tornadoes in our city, state, and in Alabama and Mississippi
- Pray for cooperation among churches and the government in Jacksonville to address the burgeoning needs of our people.
- Pray for the families in need in our community and for the donors who have supplied food, water, toiletries, clothing, and bedding for those families.
- Pray for our Community Lunch Program, its volunteers, and the people it serves.
- Pray for the people of Ukraine and the leaders whose decisions affect peace in the region.
- Pray for the leaders of our nation, state, city, church, and communities.
- Pray for those affected by disasters in Turkey and Syria.
- Pray for all teachers, bus drivers, students, and school employees, especially those in our city.

The Prison Ministry Report



"When I Was in Prison" statue by
Timothy P. Schmalz

The Kairos prison ministry reunion at McPherson prison was a huge success. 110 graduates of the Kairos program joined together for fellowship, fun, singing, prayers, and testimonies. We had a wonderful lunch from a local Mexican restaurant and LOTS of cookies. Smiles were abundant throughout the day, but so were tears; both sorrowful and happy ones. Everyone agreed it had been far too long since we had been together and expressed hope that a new Kairos weekend would be allowed to happen in September. The ladies were so appreciative of the cookies you sent and the meals you provided. When we showed the large stack of meal tickets your

donations enabled, they marveled that so many people cared about them. Thanks to all of you for your generous donations.

Individual Prayer Requests From June

Etsuko C	Bob F
Jeannie P	Bill P
Matt F	Billie Ann M
Dylan and Katie W	Donna E
William F	Jerry Deen D
David F	Lisa and Randy N
Barbara F	Steven and Elizabeth P
Marjorie H (Pat's mom)	Buck B
Catherine C and family	Stu E
Michael R	Harvey and Nelda P
Stephanie P	Rod B
Barbara M	Charles L
Kainan S	
Kevin and Heather F	
Karyn P	
Kara N	
Barbie M	
Amie S	
Wendell P	
Greg T	
Danny R	
Jeff S	
Chris S	
Michael K	



Nothing Can Separate
Us From the Love of God
Romans 8:31-39

Contact Us
1208 West Main St.
(501) 982-2876

firstpcjax@gmail.com

firstpresjax.com

*May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you.
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out
your hands to serve.
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open your
heart to love.
And as you leave this place, may you see the face of Christ on
everyone you meet, and may everyone you meet see the face
of Christ on you.*

First Presbyterian Church
1208 West Main Street
Jacksonville, AR 72076

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

If you are receiving this newsletter by mistake or would rather get one at the church in person, please let us know. If you know of someone who would like to receive this newsletter in the mail, please call us at 501-982-2876. God Bless You!