

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding;  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall direct your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Proverbs 3:5-6 is one of my favorite Bible passages. Though I struggle with putting my complete trust in God, at this time and in this place I feel that God is directing my path. I have accepted the shepherding role as minister of our congregation. My official title is Commissioned Ruling Elder. I am excited and honored! Excited for what our church is doing and the way we encourage and support each other and those outside our walls. And I am honored to be asked to be a part of the leadership of this amazing congregation.

This church has been home for me for many years. I have enjoyed learning and growing in faith through many excellent ministers and leaders. And I have had the pleasure of journeying with you as we have followed Christ together. I will do my best to encourage and provide leadership as we continue to live as the body of Christ, sharing God's love within our congregation and in the world. I will strive to follow God's leadership; to be who God calls me to be as we work side by side to bring in the kingdom of God.

Blessings,  
Mary Jane



Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!

## Graduation Announcements

Dylan will be graduating in May from ASU Beebe with an Associate's Degree in Business.

Duke's grandson, Zack, is graduating from Arizona State University and will be a graduate assistant at Baylor, where he will work on his master's in French horn performance.

Duke's grandson, Colby, is graduating from Bentonville High and will attend Oklahoma State on an academic scholarship.

Duke's grandson, Jacob, is graduating from El Dorado High and will attend the Coast Guard Academy in the fall.

Pam's granddaughter, Isabella, is graduating from Bryant High School. She will be going into the Army this summer and then to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in the fall.

## A Note from Paula

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the gifts and going-away party you gave me in January. The kindness shown to me then was a continuation of all the many kindnesses you shared with me throughout my years working here. Truly, you are the most loving congregation I've ever known and I'll always be thankful! I miss you all!



# Pictures from the Potluck



# Book Study at Billie Ann's



## April Report

In the month of March, we gave members of our community:

- 8 pairs of shoes
- 27 hygiene items
- 38 MREs (Meals Ready to Eat that contain enough nutrition for an adult for one day)
- 5 coats/jackets
- 29 pairs of pants and 44 shirts
- 11 blankets
- 52 pieces of clothing such as socks, underwear, and hats
- 164 snack bags

Thank you for giving to this ministry—your donations make a difference!

## 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!

## Ministers for May

May 5	Mary Jane		John 15:9-17	
May 12	Mary Jane		John 17:6-19	
May 19	Mary Lee	Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21	Communion
		Commissioning Service 3:00 p.m.		
May 26	Rev. Marie		John 3:1-17	

## Meet the Apostles!

Engaging and inspiring, this study will teach about the lives of those who walked with Jesus when he was on earth and then spread the good news after he ascended. Duke will be leading this study each Sunday after the worship service beginning May 26 and continuing for 6 weeks. We will be preparing materials for everyone so if you plan to attend please let us know using the signup sheets on the bulletin boards or by calling the church office.

# Announcements

We will have a Community Potluck next Sunday, May 5. Cinco de Mayo will be our theme so you might want to bring a Mexican dish to share. Shameka from the Attorney General's office will join us for lunch and after we eat she will be talking to us about computer scams and how to avoid them.

Our neighbors who come by the church sometimes ask for hygiene items. The Mission Committee requested several items and as usual you have been very generous and have brought many of the items needed. Still needed are small bottles of shampoo, small deodorant, small cans of shaving cream, and water.

The Pentecost Offering will be collected May 19. From this offering, 40 percent will be spent on local programs in our church. Sixty percent will be designated for national programs.

The Book Study Group meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. We are finishing the book, Original Blessing: Putting Sin in Its Rightful Place by Danielle Shroyer. We will begin a new book soon. This would be a good time to come and try out this study.

The ladies circle will meet May 21 at 10:00 am. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy delicious snacks, lively discussion, and an engaging Bible study.

The Witness to the Resurrection workshop was last month. The Worship Committee planned this event in order to give everyone the opportunity to think about, plan and receive resources to help our families in the event of our death. Mary Lee and Mary Jane organized the workshop. Mary Lee revised the booklet that Elizabeth shared with us. Thank you, Mary Lee, for your persistence in rewriting these excellent resources. If you didn't get a folder and would like one, see Mary Jane.

## **Service of Commissioning**

Mary Jane will begin her official role as the Commissioned Ruling Elder here, at First Presbyterian Church, on May 1. Her service of commissioning will be May 19 at 3:00 pm. Representatives from the Presbytery will be here to join us as she is commissioned. Please plan to come and join the celebration!



## **Pentecost is Coming! May 19, 2024**

There is holy mystery in God's grace. There is holy mystery in bread and water and wine. There is holy mystery in the Spirit blowing through the early church, igniting a movement among oppressed and occupied peoples that would spread across the globe. There is holy mystery in the way light bends and refracts and creates tiny rainbows across my living room wall when the sun shines through the front door. There is holy mystery in all of it, mystery we are too quick to dismiss.



We don't want mystery—we want certainty. We want answers wrapped in a nice bow. But instead we get the enigmatic Spirit in whatever form She shows up. We get bread and wine and water and flame. We get harmonies and incense and stained glass and the cross. We And though God doesn't need to, God somehow uses them all to impart grace. Grace upon grace upon grace.

Thanks be to God.—Rev. Anna Strickland

### **Attendance for April**

**March 31: 38    April 7: 33    April 14: 33    April 21: 30    April 28: 21**

### **Report of Session meeting**

The session met on Saturday, April 13th. The treasurer reported that income from January through March 2024 has exceeded income in 2023 for the same time period. No committees met since the last session meeting so there were no items for the session to take action on. We expressed our appreciation to Sara Anne for being our moderator since Elizabeth left. She will be starting a new job and will probably not be available to moderate any more meetings. No time was set for the next meeting since she was unsure of her schedule.

## Prayer Requests From April

Andy and Debbie M.

Ashly and John S.

and their baby

Barbara and Paul J.

Beth B.

Billie Ann M.

Buck B.

Chris, Ella, and Isabella S.

David H.

The family of Mary Ellen G.

The family of Mary G.

Gail P.

The H. family

Haley P.

Harper P.

Jay and Pat H.

Jeanie P.

Jeff and Pam S.

Joe P.

Kano

Larayna and Tim H.

Matt F.

Melony T. and baby

Michael M.

Mike K.

Pat and Ray G.

Paul and Barbara J.

Randy N.

Steven P.

Sylvia S.

Tom H.

Toni H.

Our students, teachers, and  
school staff

Our church, city, state and world

Those trapped in war zones

The leaders of our city, state, and  
nation

People affected by natural  
disasters

Peace for those affected by wars



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

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*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.*

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