

The Narthex

First
Presbyterian
Church
of Tahlequah

A publication for the purpose of spreading the Good News.

February 2021

Note from the pastor

Compassion fatigue is a reality for many of us in the care giving world. It is what happens when we are emotionally and physically tapped out. When our energies for our own needs are completely eclipsed by the needs of someone or something else. The demands from a loved one at home or with those charged in our care consume us until we have nothing left to give.

I believe many of us who are charged with keeping things moving forward (in our families, in our careers) are approaching a mutated kind of compassion fatigue which is very appropriate considering the pandemic all around us. Too much change too fast burns us out. We can only do so much when the rhythm of our lives is suddenly discordant and creates a cacophony of confusion from daybreak to dusk.

I don't know if the Apostle Paul had a pandemic in mind when he wrote about how to seek God's will for our lives amidst the persecution the Roman church faced, yet he did point our attention to see hope each time we read God's word, to allow God's Spirit to renew our minds and be transformed by God's Word, (see Romans 12:2). With each story of disaster turned triumph we can renew and strengthen our trust in our Creator. I suggest you read about the famine in the book of Genesis that sent Jesse's eleven sons to Egypt to learn how some mistakes get a second chance at redemption. And, that a seven-year famine can help rid us of our stubbornness in order to seek out help that we would never consider under normal circumstances.

To help us make through this pandemic we need God's word in our lives. There are hundreds of devotionals online. Of course, the simplest way is to crack open your Bible. Let God's Word penetrate our fatigue and may these sacred words renew us with compassion and love for one another. Let us keep moving forward in these dark days so we can share the light of Christ with one another. For we know we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Blessings, Pastor Tammy

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Important Announcements!

- **New office hours! Tues, Wed, Thurs from 9am-3pm**
- **The 2021 Directory is now available for pick up**
- **Congregational Meeting February 7th after worship in the parking lot**
- **Virtual Communion February 14th**
- **Ash Wednesday February 17th**
- **No SOUP-er Bowl Sunday**
- **Presbyterian Women has postponed all in-person meetings**



February:
*Condensed
Soup*

Monday & Wednesday
10am - 12:30pm
Friday
10am - 11am

February Birthdays

"A birth-date is a reminder to
celebrate the life as well as to
update the life."

-Amit Kalantri, Wealth of
Words

Jeff Sanders	2-01
David McQuitty	2-05
Rev. Tammy Schmidt	2-06
Greg Schmidt	2-16
Derrick Young	2-19

Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church
Tahlequah, Oklahoma
January 12, 2021

Session Notes

Present: Moderator Tammy Schmidt, Clerk Bonnie Smith, Jerry Adams, Krissie Harris, Joshua Bliss, and Park Medearis.

A quorum was established and the Christ Candle was lit. Moderator Schmidt called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Moderator read as the Devotion the Definition of a Ruling Elder, G-2-0301 from the Book of Order and we discussed what it meant to us.

The meeting opened with prayer.

Motion to approve the minutes from Dec 12, 2020 (virtual meeting) and December 15, 2020 Stated Meeting made by Kriss Harris, seconded by Josh Bliss and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Clerk Report read a letter from the daughter of Deloris Manship thanking us for the Poinsettia at Christmas time and stating she would like phone calls.

Worship: Kriss Harris committee chair presented the following persons to be approved as members Greg Schmidt, Nancy Fuller, approved.

Committee will meet Thursday 1-14-2021 to discuss Lenten activities.

Administration Committee:

Kriss Harris will chair the Office portion of the committee.

Josh Bliss and Bonnie Smith will chair the Personnel portion of the committee.

Mission: Jerry Adams will Chair.

Finance: Jerry Adams will chair, members to be approved are Kelly Ross, Anne Davey, Phyllis Sanders, Motion to approve the committee members passed by common consent.

Christian/Education: Pastor Tammy Schmidt will be giving the report for C/E.

Membership/Fellowship: we discussed refreshments to be provided for the Congregation Meeting.

We also discussed continuing the tradition of members bringing cans of soup to be donated to the CARE Food Pantry. Motion by Jerry Adams to bring cans of soup for CARE Food Pantry, seconded by Kriss Harris and passed.

Property: discussed the parking lot lighting.

Session Notes Cont.

New Business:

Recommend purchasing Zoom subscription to avoid meeting in person. To be used for Lent Bible study, Session, Possible C/E with children for Sunday School, committee meetings.

Approve dates of Lord's Supper -the first Sunday of each month (except Feb since that is the day for Annual Congregation meeting), Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Pentecost, World Communion Sunday, All Saints Day, First Sunday of Advent, and Christmas Eve. Motion from committee was approved by common consent.

Discussed online giving.

Pastors Report:

the Secretary is going back to school and will cut her hours by one hour per day.

Pastor delivered Poinsettias to Deloris Manship, Jim and Linda Reese, Pat Scott, Imogene Webb (No one answered door) she left the remaining plants to 4 different hospital units; ICY, ED, Respiratory Therapy and Housekeeping, with a letter of gratitude from FPC.

Looking forward to the day we gather in person. How will we know who has been vaccinated?

Using continuing education to attend First Responders Chaplaincy/Ministry Training in Springdale, Arkansas on January 19, 2021 at the Sleep Inn & Suites. Cost is \$104.23 plus mileage.

Working ecumenically with clergy to address local issues. We've named ourselves the Zoom Collective, a gathering of clergy, Rev. Matt Franks with UMC, Rev Darrell Christopher with First Christian Church, Rev Austin Troyer with Church of the Nazarene. More clergy will be invited as we formulate our mission and purpose.

Would like to offer a Zoom class throughout lent with the book, "Parables and Passion; Jesus' stories for the Days of Lent" by John Indermark.

Hansen Johnson turned in his keys. Still making crosses at First Pres on line devotional update.

Continuing to work on the 2021 Directory.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed.

Meeting closed with prayer at 6:45 pm.

Bonnie J. Smith

Clerk of Session

Prayer Requests

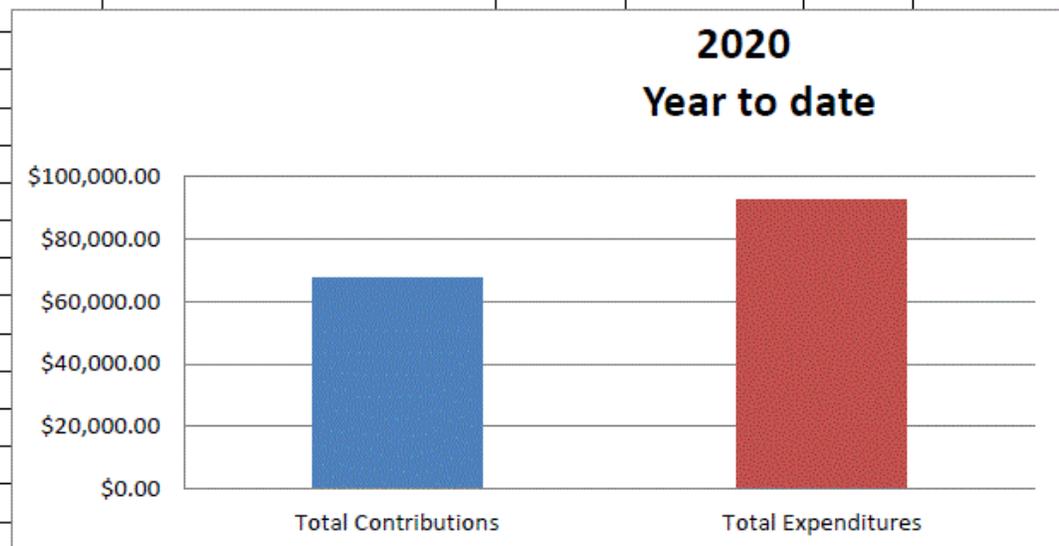
*Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayers*

Dru Baker (Sandy Baker's granddaughter), Tom Pettit (Delores Manship's family), Eve Couch and her daughter, Cathy Sanders, Cleo Newberry, Barbra Cooper (Grandmother of the Green children), Becky Bolinger (cancer), Imogene Webb, Opal Jordan (Bonnie Smith's mother), David Sanders, Cleo Newberry, Pat Scott, Jesse Henley, Delores Manship, Harley Smith, Nathan Webb, Arlie Manship, Kim Harris (Kriss Harris' daughter-in-law), Jeanette McQuitty, Ed Kennedy and family.

Mark 12:33

³³ To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

First Presbyterian Church		General Fund			
			Dec 2020		Year to Date
Contributions to the Life of the Church					
	Planned Giving		\$3,702.00		\$46,325.00
	Other Giving		\$243.00		\$9,533.66
	Other Miscellaneous Income		\$750.27		\$11,503.48
	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS		\$4,695.27		\$67,362.14
EXPENDITURES FOR THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH					
	PASTOR'S COMPENSATION		\$6,211.77	\$0.00	\$23,203.17
	WORSHIP		\$1,234.24		\$14,934.48
	TEACHING MINISTRY		\$106.12		\$476.59
	FELLOWSHIP		\$500.00		\$500.00
	OUTREACH & MISSION		\$125.00		\$2,400.00
	FACILITIES		\$1,547.66		\$28,159.80
	ADMINISTRATION		\$2,072.19		\$16,648.79
	PASTOR NOM CMT				\$6,041.42
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$11,796.98		\$92,364.25
	TRANSFERS FROM TRUST FUNDS		\$4,000.00		\$25,092.00



First Presbyterian Church

315 E Shawnee Street

Tahlequah, Ok 74464



We are...

a community that

- + believes in Jesus Christ,
- + worships God,
- + strives to discern God's will,
- + teaches discipleship,
- + and ministers to human need.

918.456.2271

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