

The Narthex

First
Presbyterian
Church
of Tahlequah

A publication for the purpose of spreading the Good News.

April 2021

Note from the pastor

A colleague of mine sent me an article discussing questions every congregation needs to reflect on before returning to in person worship. One question caught my attention.

How have our priorities permanently changed in the past 12 months?

Our circumstances have pushed us to prioritize our reason for being together-to glorify God through worship. The priority of worshipping God as a community of faith makes us more connectional. It has also led to some innovative problem solving as it pertains to worship. Virtual communion, parking lot worship, and live stream worship are examples of ways we have found to stay together.

But I am curious to know that if the church's priorities have permanently changed then how does this influence the way we serve as elected elders and deacons, alter our mission, and reflect in our tithes and offerings? In a March 2007 article in *Presbyterians Today*, Michael Jinkins discusses how a connectional church chooses to focus more on unity than it does on divisions within its own walls. He states, "Our unity does not lie in our points of agreement, but in Jesus Christ alone. We are united, not because we have found the secret to consensus, but because Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit

unites us in and through and to himself." His argument is a reminder of the analogy made by the Apostle Paul to describe the different working parts of the Body of Christ. Though the body is made up of all colors and nationalities throughout time, we are made *one* through Christ.

Let us consider what our priorities as a church are, to take note of ways we have changed in the last 12 months to answer the ever-present invitation from Christ to be the one Body of Christ.

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Important Announcements!

- April 1st - Maundy Thursday at 6pm with Communion
- April 3rd - Youth Cookie Bake at 5pm
- April 4th - Easter Service at 11am with Communion and Easter Egg hunt at 10am
- April 11th - Adult Sunday School class begins at 10am
- April 18th - Police officer visits with youth Sunday school class
- April 20th - Session meeting at 5:30pm
- April 2nd - Good Friday Presbytery live worship at Noon on EOP Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/eokpresbytery.org/>



Food of the Month: *Box Tuna Helper*

Monday & Wednesday
10am - 12:30pm

Friday
10am - 11am

April Birthdays

"Today is the oldest you have been, and the youngest you will ever be. Make the most of it!"

- Nicky Gumbel

Imogene Webb	04-03
Greg Simon	04-10
Eve Couch	04-22
Joshua Bliss	04-25
Mitch Ross	04-27

News from the Deacons

The Deacons are meeting regularly on the 4th Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm. Since we have several new Deacons on the Board, we have spent some time revising the Call Tree and discussing our goals. We all agree that our number one goal is to care for the needs of the congregation. Each Deacon has a portion of the congregation that they will contact to see if they have any needs that the church can address. Those needs may include financial, physical well-being, as well spiritual. If you have a need, please contact a Deacon: April Adams, Anne Davey, Barb McCluskey, Greg Simon, Roslyn Simon, or Reverend Tammy. Finally, the Deacons will contact you when the church has prayer requests or has a need that we hope you can address.

In addition, the Deacons will support local charities. We are in the process of deciding which local charities to support this year. When you give to the Deacon Fund, you will be helping to support members of the congregation and your local neighbors. Although we accept donations at any time, traditionally donations are collected on the Fifth Sunday of the month. The next Fifth Sunday is May 30 th .

Finally, the Deacons would like to thank David Laney for his card ministry. For many years now, he has been sending members of the congregation cards that help us be a community. We appreciate you David!

April Adams

Moderator, Board of Deacons

“I’m not superstitious, but I am a little stitious.”
—Michael Scott (Steve Carrell), *The Office*



Palm Sunday



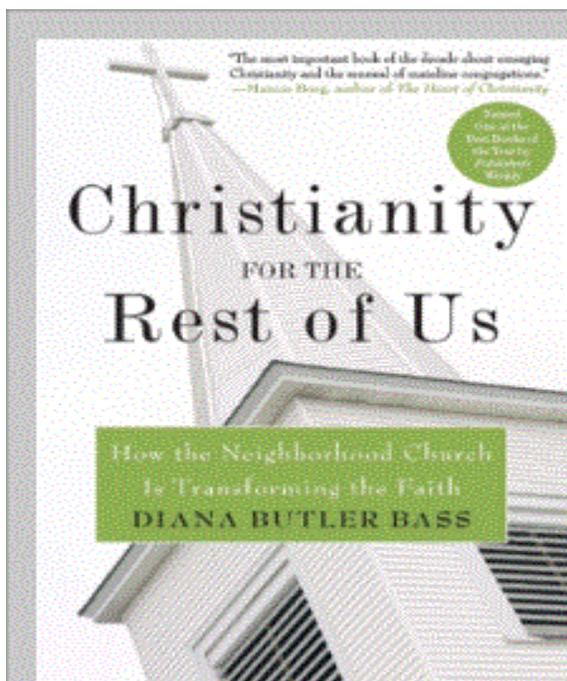
Christian Education

Lent in a Box was a hit while we worshiped online for the first few weeks of Lent. Packages were delivered to children each week to keep Sunday school education a priority amidst the pandemic. Now that we gather in person, the C.E. team is taking Christian education on the road! We're currently planning ways we can meet during the spring and summer months for field trips and educational opportunities on days other than Sunday. Keep us in prayer! Our Christian education volunteers are awesome!

Mission Opportunity!

Need a couple of volunteers to serve lunch at the TACH Day Center (309 Muskogee Ave) on Saturday, May 2nd from 11-1pm. Please contact Pastor Tammy if you'd like to help! I'll be there, too!

Book Study for Adults



A study of six different congregations from Seattle to Naples, Florida, from Boston to Santa Barbara, California, from a diverse mix of denominations are thriving! This book helps us understand how spiritual practices like, preaching the Gospel, offering hospitality, and paying attention to people's spiritual needs have transformed these churches and their communities.

Please let Pastor Tammy know if you'd like to participate so I'll have enough copies for everyone who signed up.

pastor@firstprestahlequah.com

Adult Sunday School begins at 10am on April 11th

Prayer Requests

*Lord, in your
mercy*

Hear our prayers

Dru Baker (Sandy Baker's granddaughter), Tom Pettit (Delores Manship's family), Eve Couch & 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 & family & fiancé, Rhea (Elaina Ross' grandmother), Rev. Darell Christopher, Valerie & Tom Jefferson, flooded home in Texas, Pat Scott, Charles Jordan

"And the
Word
became
flesh and
dwelt
among us,
and we
have seen
his glory,
glory as of
the only
Son from
the Father,
full of grace
and truth."

~ John
1:14

First Presbyterian Church

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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.

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