

The Narthex

First
Presbyterian
Church
of Tahlequah

A publication for the purpose of spreading the Good News.

March 2021

Note from the pastor

This may seem like a silly question, but would you like me to visit you in person? I have had very few visits with members face to face since I started in September of last year. Many of my “visits” have been by phone or very brief conversations when we were still worshipping together. In my opinion, these visits lack the intimacy of meeting in person. There’s something about being together that makes a visit be pastoral in nature.

Many of Jesus’ conversations with his followers were with groups of people. Sometimes, though, we get a glimpse of what a one on one conversation with Christ was like. John’s Gospel provides many specific examples of intimate conversations, such as the story of Nicodemus about being born again and the woman at the well who thirsted for living water. John’s Gospel fleshes out the passion narrative to provide us with more detail about Jesus’ arrest and his trial before the Sanhedrin. John’s Gospel provides us with reaction from bystanders, an introduction to Satan who drove Judas to betray Jesus, as well as a closer view of the Last Supper in the upper room. We learn about the character of Jesus with each person he encounters.

I was reminded of how being together is part of our DNA when I visited with Pat Scott and her drove of goats the other day. Goats thrive the best when they are together in a herd. Scientists have observed that animals who are isolated, prevented from interacting socially, from one another have a shorter lifespan. Of course, in the wild it’s important to remember the

principle that there is such a thing as safety in numbers. Yes, there’s something about seeing each other face to face that creates a deep connection. It is how we as humans have survived throughout millennia.

Being in person together does not mean we disregard precautions like masks and social distancing. Warmer weather is on the horizon. Perhaps a porch visit or a brief conversation through a picture window may be in order depending on your home and space. We’ll just have to be creative about ways we can connect with one another.

Blessings,

Rev. Tammy Schmidt

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Important Announcements!

- Return to in person worship on March 7th
- Session meeting March 9th at 5:30pm
- Return to daylight savings time March 14th
- Deacons meeting Thursday, March 25th at 1pm

The C.E. committee has been busy providing our youth with Lent-in-a-Box activities each week. Now that we'll meet in person on Sunday, we're hoping to show you our Lenten progress in the coming weeks!



Food of the Month:
Pasta Sauce

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

March Birthdays

How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are?

- Satchel Paige

Kelly Ross	3-12
Roslyn Simon	3-13
Park Medearis	3-19
David Sanders	3-24
Jerald Adams	3-31

Food Insecurity

What Is It and How Does it Affect Cherokee County?

by Valerie and Tom Jefferson



Food insecurity is the 21st century way of saying hunger and going hungry. For those who are food insecure, it means that they don't have physical, social, and/or economic access to enough food that is safe and nutritious and provides enough for an active and healthy life.

Oklahoma is one of thirteen states where food insecurity is higher than the national average. In Oklahoma 1 in 4 children are food insecure, 1 in 10 seniors are food insecure, and 1 in 6 Oklahomans statewide is food insecure.

In fiscal year 2020 the Eastern Oklahoma Food Bank distributed 451,029 meals in Cherokee County. 16.4% of Cherokee County citizens are food insecure (approx. 7950) with 23.7% of children in this county being food insecure (approx. 2610).

The Eastern Oklahoma Food Bank partners with seven agencies in Cherokee County including Bread of Life/Tahlequah, CARE Food Pantry, Inc, Cookson Baptist Church, Cookson Hills Center, DARP, Inc, Help In Crisis Shelter, and Zoe Institute.

Our congregation provides some relief by both leasing space to CARE and by packing backpacks for weekends for children at Grandview School. But even within the city of Tahlequah, the Tahlequah Public Schools run food pantries and pack backpacks for weekends for between 130 and 200 children.

Food insecurity is more complex than just not having enough food. It often includes not knowing how to prepare food and not having a close source of food. Often, the poor nutritional quality of the food that is available also can be a significant part of the issue. Food store location is important, too. Persons with the least access to reliable transportation may live in a part of the county too far away from what few grocery stores there are.

We are called to look after each other's well-being in both the words and the actions of Jesus.

MINUTE FOR MISSION COMING SOON: Are there steps that we could take as individuals and as the church to help assure that adequate food, of adequate nutritional quality, is accessible to our fellow Cherokee County citizens?

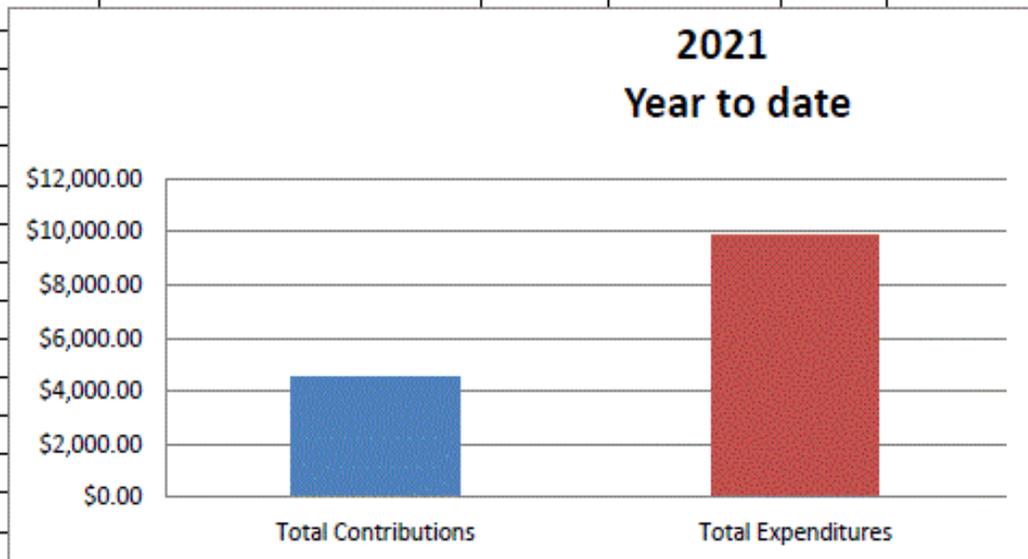
Prayer Requests

*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

"From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
~ Matthew 4:17

First Presbyterian Church		General Fund			
			Jan 2021		Year to Date
Contributions to the Life of the Church					
	Planned Giving		\$3,610.00		\$3,610.00
	Other Giving		\$100.00		\$100.00
	Other Miscellaneous Income		\$854.25		\$854.25
	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS		\$4,564.25		\$4,564.25
EXPENDITURES FOR THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH					
	PASTOR'S COMPENSATION		\$5,766.00		\$5,766.00
	WORSHIP		\$548.83		\$548.83
	TEACHING MINISTRY				
	FELLOWSHIP				
	OUTREACH & MISSION		\$125.00		\$125.00
	FACILITIES		\$1,339.11		\$1,339.11
	ADMINISTRATION		\$2,054.33		\$2,054.33
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$9,833.27		\$9,833.27
	TRANSFERS FROM TRUST FUNDS		\$19,203.09		\$19,203.09



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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firstprestahlequah.org