

The Narthex

First
Presbyterian
Church
of Tahlequah

A publication for the purpose of spreading the Good News.

January 2021

Note from the pastor

Tools for mission are changing. More than ever before are we seeing computers, phones, video and audio software used as tools to further the Gospel. We've been using these tools a long time to create bulletins, to carry sound on Sunday morning worship service. Now, technology is becoming much more overt. It looks like an email or notification on a smart phone to let us know that a new post has been added to our Facebook page. It's become a mainstream method of communicating. Emails and texts are faster at notifying a group rather than a phone call to individuals one at a time.

Technology, and all of its varied forms, is a tool the church can use to spread the message of Christ. Of course, this comes with several pros and cons. It's impersonal. Emails and texts are misunderstood. Confusion can ensue.

On the other hand, the church can use this medium to reach others that may have been previously unavailable to us. A member from an online discussion group can invite friends and relatives into the conversation without the fear that may arise when invited into a physical church building.

Technology is simply a tool to use in our mission efforts. This year you will witness how technology can maintain our connections with one another. It cannot replace person to person contact, but in a

pandemic, technology can be the one tool in our toolbox that we use to reach others in need of a church family.

As we continue to offer worship online via Facebook, I pray that you may reach out to the office and ask how we can help you stay connected.

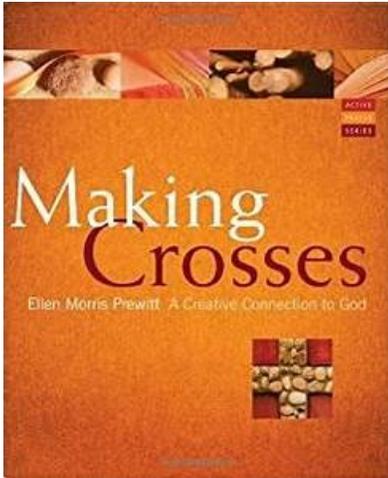
Prayerfully, Pastor Tammy

**Virtual
Communion
January 10th**

In this issue

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Making Crosses



Ellen Morris Prewitt's book, "Making Crosses, A Creative Connection to God" is a perfect way to start a new year! Her book draws on the ordinary to give them new meaning. We will gather on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/403565944300828>. Participants can respond each week to a different post that is related to our spiritual selves.

This book is about the new spiritual practice of making crosses and how it can transform your relationship with God, yourself, and the world around you.



It is not a book that we read as much as an opportunity to share our creations representing the cross with each other. We'll add pictures, drawings, and stories in order to let "your cross tell your story of God." This "class" is available on Facebook at [Making Crosses at First Pres](#). Please look for us on Facebook and ask to join the group! It is a private group meaning that only the participants can view this content. All are welcome!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Count your years with smiles, not tears. Count your blessings, not your troubles. Count your age by friends, not years.

Carolyn Ratliff 1-02

Annette Haskins 1-20

Marti Creighton 1-31

Utilizing Technology

Starting in January 2021, all services will be held online on our Facebook page and available on our website. As we know, some people may not own or know how to use or access these tools. Everyone is encouraged to call the church with any questions about these things.

As the disciple in 2 Timothy 1:7 says, “For the spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline.” Making this change to online services is very exciting. We can view safely from home on our Facebook page or our website. On our Facebook page you will also be able to share your thoughts and ideas, as well as replying to others. This is a new way to participate by starting group discussions, maintaining communication while also keeping a connection with the community and fellow members.

One of the biggest benefits of using technology is being able to stay connected to our loved ones. What does staying connected with technology mean? It means keeping that sense of togetherness and family despite not being together in person. Zoom meetings, a form of video conferencing, is a great way to still have face to face interactions. Live streaming services gives everyone a chance to experience the word from any time and any place. Facebook is a great place to start conversations, share ideas or testimony, and have group discussions.

Some are timid about changes that come with integrating technology into the church. Technology is a great tool for you communicate back while also reaching new people. Here’s to embracing new ideas with open minds and hearts.

Aliyah Flute

<https://www.facebook.com/firstprestahlequah>

Starting in January, all worship will be online on our Facebook page.



January:
*Canned Pinto
Beans*

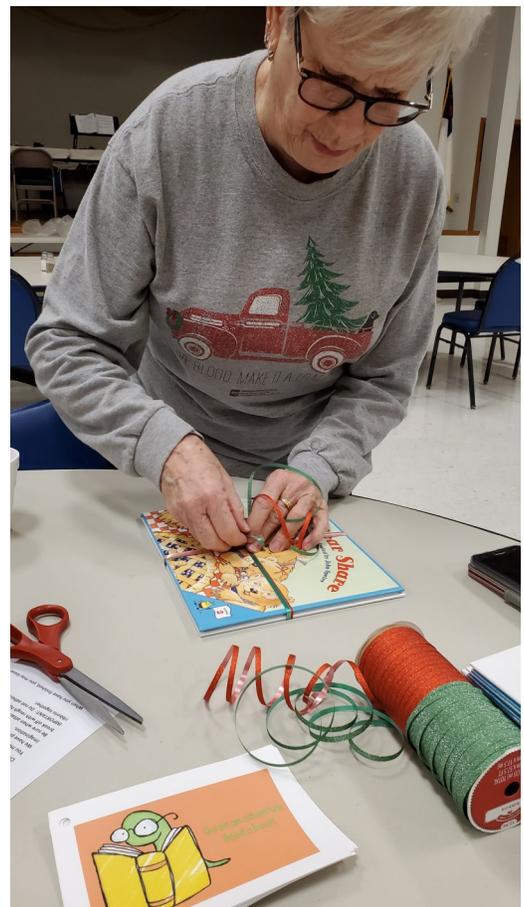
Monday & Wednesday
10am - 12:30pm
Friday
10am - 11am

Thank You!

Your Mission Committee is deeply grateful to, and wishes to heartily thank:

Aliyah Flute, Anne Davey, Krissie Harris and Pastor Tammy for helping to decorate 120 books for Grand View first and second graders. This was to have been a 5th Sunday Mission project that became the victim of the Coronavirus. Because of these caring individuals, the children have beautiful books to read over Christmas break.

Judy Gipson, Krissie Harris, Jimbo Harris, David and Sandra Laney, John and Barbara McCluskey Susan Purkey, and Kelly Ross for handling our backpack program efficiently in these trying times. The need for social distancing and the ever changing schedules at Grand View have made the process challenging, but these individuals endured and conquered.



Electronic Called meeting 12-12-2020

- Motion to conduct the Sunday morning service online only due to inclement weather forecast was made by Annette Haskins, seconded by Lyle Haskins and approved by all.

Motion to move Ordination and Installation of Deacons and Elders to December 20, 2020 was made by April Adams, seconded by Lyle Haskins and approved by all.

Stated Meeting 12-15-2020.

- All were present, Clerk was present on speaker phone.
- Minutes from November Stated Meeting approved as written.
- Motion to change time of Christmas Eve service to 4:00 pm made by Anne, seconded by April and approved.
- Motion to have communion on Christmas Eve was made, seconded and passed.
- Bonnie Smith will preach on December 27, 2020 and Jan 3, 2021 (pre-recorded) will be on line only.
- Motion to move communion to Jan 10, 2021 was made, seconded and passed.
- Motion to offer virtual service and home communion through January if weather is very cold was made by Anne, seconded by Annette and passed.
- Financial reports were distributed and discussed.
- Discussed the 2021 budget—Decided to keep the Presbytery pledge at the current rate-\$1,500.
- Motion from committee to allow the \$15,000 CD to mature and liquidate the \$17,000 Manse Fund and add to General Fund was approved.
- Motion to move the Coffee Fund to Fellowship General Fund and move any monies in Facility over to Designated, was seconded and passed.
- Back Pack committee work is finished for this year.

The Care Food Pantry had to close on 12-14-2020 due to the parking lot condition (slick due to the snow and ice) we need to address this situation.

Session recommended sending the question back to committee for their recommendation for solution.

Bonnie J. Smith

Clerk of Session

Elders & Deacons

Elders

Deacons

Class of 2023

Krissy Harris, Worship
& Joshua Bliss, Properties

Anne Davey
April Adams

Class of 2022

Bonnie Smith, Fellowship
& Jerry Adams, Treasurer &
Mission

Barbara McClusky
Roslyn Simon

Class of 2021

Park Medearis, Administration

Greg Simon

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” - Mt. 6:33-34

Special Announcements

- Virtual Communion is January 10th.
- 2021 Directory will be ready for pickup Jan. 10th.
- Back Pack Program will continue Wednesday, January 6th
- Ash Wednesday February 17th, time of service TBD.
- Making Crosses Facebook Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/403565944300828>

Prayer Requests

*Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayers*

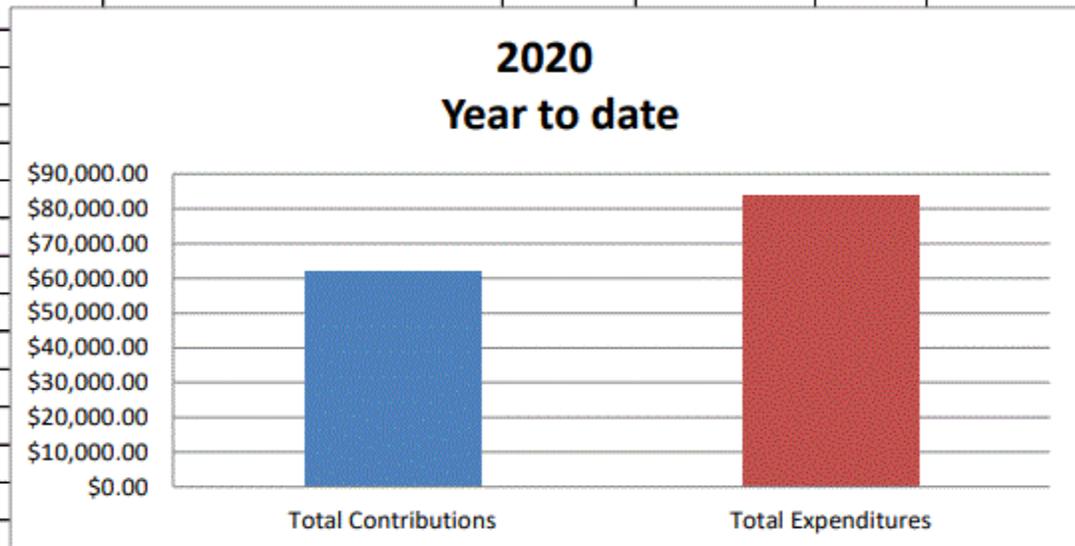
Dru Baker (Sandy Baker's granddaughter), Tom Pettit (Delores Manship's family), Eve Couch and her daughter, Cathy Sanders, Cleo Newberry, Barbra Cooper (Grandmother of the Green children), Becky Bolinger (cancer), Imogene Webb, Opal Jordan (Bonnie Smith's mother), David Sanders, Cleo Newberry, Pat Scott,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

Ezekiel

11:19

“¹⁹ I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.”

First Presbyterian Church		General Fund			
			Nov 2020		Year to Date
Contributions to the Life of the Church					
	Planned Giving		\$5,132.00		\$42,623.00
	Other Giving		\$857.75		\$9,290.66
	Other Miscellaneous Income		\$750.13		\$10,141.98
	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS		\$6,739.88		\$62,055.64
EXPENDITURES FOR THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH					
	PASTOR'S COMPENSATION		\$4,175.92		\$18,930.98
	WORSHIP		\$548.83		\$14,249.07
	TEACHING MINISTRY		\$79.99		\$450.46
	FELLOWSHIP		\$0.00		\$0.00
	OUTREACH & MISSION		\$125.00		\$2,275.00
	FACILITIES		\$2,246.79		\$26,612.14
	ADMINISTRATION		\$1,619.76		\$15,268.42
	PASTOR NOM CMT				\$6,041.42
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$8,796.29		\$83,827.49
	TRANSFERS FROM TRUST FUNDS		\$5,703.23		\$21,703.23



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

firstprestahlequah.org