

2024

# JULY

## Open Door

I remember singing a hymn in a congregation in another denomination that had a beautiful stanza: “My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine; but other land have sunlight, too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.” I remember that line 35 years later, because someone in the congregation was deeply offended by that thought. They let me know about it! “I refuse to believe that skies in other countries are as blue as ours!” I couldn’t believe the words I was hearing.

Our country is blessed. God loves the United States. But God also loves other countries and other people just as much. God blesses the earth with beauty and abundance, not just here, but everywhere! It is important to remember that God is bigger than any arbitrary line we might draw on a map. The Bible is full of stories about God loving outsiders, healing foreigners, and using the “unclean”.

As we celebrate the birth of our country this month, let us remember to give thanks for all of God’s varied and wonderful creations.

“God of all races, nations, and religions,  
You know that we cannot change others,  
Nor can we change the past.  
But we can change ourselves.  
We can join You in changing our only  
And common future where Love “reigns”  
The same over all.  
Help us not to say, “Lord, Lord” to any nationalist gods,  
But to hear the One God of all the earth,  
And to do God’s good thing for this One World.

--Richard Rohr

*Pastor Ray*



## Gratitude & Thanks

Thanks to David VanDonkelaar for Preaching while Pastor Ray was gone

Thanks Diana Schmiedeke for shopping for the Food Pantry

All who volunteered to help in the Food Pantry while Ross was gone

Melinda Thiesing: Thanks to everyone for their thoughts and prayers

Abbey Ankenman: Called and wanted to thank everyone for their love, support, and prayers for during this difficult time. (Especially the ladies luncheon group & Nancy Gee for the phone calls.)

Thanks to John, Sarah, & Emma Lomax for the beautiful flowers in the Memorial Garden and keeping the new trees looking beautiful

Independence Day is a time when we as a country talk about our independence and celebrate our freedom as a country. We talk endlessly about the red, white, and blue, which is so proudly unfurled everywhere we go on the flags lining the streets, homes, and buildings across the country. That red, white, and blue is a proud patriotic symbol for Americans. As I was putting the Open Door together and adding pictures for Independence Day with the flag on them, thinking about those colors, I stopped to ponder the biblical meaning of those colors and what God had to say about them. Below are the first search biblical meanings of red, white, and blue found on Google.

Ross

### **Red:**

Arguably, the most important color symbol in the Bible is red. As you know, red is the color of blood. In the New Testament, Jesus's sacrifice, often employs the imagery of blood (John 6:55, for example). Red also symbolizes **atonement, sacrifice, life, death, and flesh**. ... Thus, red represents humanity.

### **White:**

Usually **purity, holiness, Godlyness** - In the book of Revelation Jesus is pictured on a white horse and dressed in white, denoting the purity of God's word and the support he is receiving from his Father.

### **Blue:**

Blue: Blue in the Bible **represents the heavens and the Word of God**. In Exodus, when Moses, his sons, and 70 elders of Israel went up to Mount Sinai to worship God, they saw God and described the pavement under His feet as being bright as the blue sky (Exodus 24:10).



**July 7** Finding Power in Weakness 2 Cor. 12:2-10, Mark 6:1-13

**July 14** Hearing Difficult Truths Amos 7:7-15, Mark 6:14-29

**July 21** Come Away with Me Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

**July 28** Mind the Gap John 6:1-21



**Kum Ba Yah aka Kum Ba Zoom**

**We meet every Wednesday on ZOOM for fellowship, study and prayer at 7:00 PM. The link to the Zoom Meeting is sent in the Wednesday email each week.**

**Kum Ba Yah topics:**

**July 3** Joy

**July 10** Peace

**July 17** Patience

**July 24** Kindness

**July 31** Goodness

**Adult Sunday School**

**Sundays at 9:30am on Zoom and in Person!**

**July 7** Coping with Choices

**July 14** Coping with Sin and Guilt

**July 21** Coping with Persecution

**July 28** Coping with Family Problems

## BACKPACK PROGRAM

We are grateful for the leadership of Dave Foster and Janice Johnson who organize our weekly food program with children at Roosevelt Elementary School. We are currently serving 51 students by providing weekend “backpacks” of simple, nutritious food.



We would like to thank all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication. From helping pack the backpacks, to their generous donations. With out you, we couldn't make this ministry what it is today. We have given **841 backpacks** since the beginning of January through the first half of May.

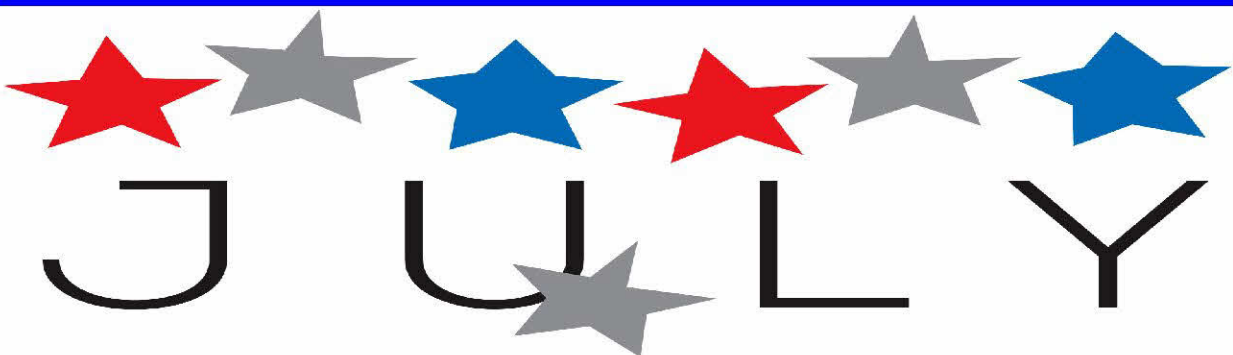
## MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee did not meet in the month of June.

The Mission program is sustained in part by gifts from the Myers Sisters bequest as well as gifts from members. You can designate gifts to “Local Mission” or “Global Mission”.

The Deacons Shoe ministry has delivered **13** pairs of shoes in the year 2024.

The Food Pantry distribution average for last year (2023) was 54 bags/month. So far, in 2024, we have given out **330** bags of food, as of June 25, 2024. Your contributions of food and dollars makes a difference in many lives.



## Madeline Myers



### Madeline Myers

Madeline B. Myers of Miami died at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, 2003, at Integris Baptist Regional Health Center in Miami after an illness. She was 96.

Myers was born May 13, 1907, in Indian Territory to Emmett C. and Nora (Chitwood) Myers. She grew up on a farm east of Miami. During her high school years she lived in town with her aunt, Etta Babcock, so she could attend school in Miami. She graduated from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College and received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from Northeastern State University.

She taught history at Quapaw High School for many years and was named "Ottawa County Teacher of the Year" in 1965. She was active in Delta Kappa Gamma, Kappa Kappa Iota, Ottawa County Democratic Women, the American Association of University Women, Business and Professional Women and the First Presbyterian Church.

There are no immediate survivors.

Services will be 1 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church with the Rev. John Wilson officiating. Burial will be in the Seneca, Mo., Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of Cooper-Altouse Funeral Home.

Monday, September 7, 2003

### Madeline and Ila May Myers

It seems right to speak of these two ladies at the same time since together they have been so important to our church. Madeline was ordained as Elder in 1986 and Deacon in 1993. Ila May was ordained as Deacon in 1979 and Elder in 1983. As children they attended a Sunday School near the farm where they grew up. They lived in Miami with an aunt to attend High School and that time became involved with the Youth Group of the Presbyterian Church. They had no children and no heirs so they decided to give their inheritance to First Presbyterian Church in Miami. Ila May retired from the Welfare Department and Madeline from teaching in the Quapaw High School. They had been frugal and saved through the years. No one, not even the attorney who prepared the trust, knew the extent of their wealth. Miami First Presbyterian Church received more than one million dollars from these two lovely ladies.



# HELLO *july* 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10-12 Food Pantry	2 10-12 Food Pantry	3 10-12 Food Pantry  7:00 KumBaZoom	4 Office Closed  	5 10-12 Food Pantry	6
7 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Fellowship	8 10-12 Food Pantry	9 10-12 Food Pantry  11:30 Ladies Luncheon	10 10-12 Food Pantry  7:00 KumBaZoom	11 10-12 Food Pantry  7:00 GA	12 10-12 Food Pantry	13
14 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Fellowship  11:30 Deacons Mtg	15 10-12 Food Pantry	16 10-12 Food Pantry  11:00 Mission Meeting  7:00 Session Meeting	17 10-12 Food Pantry	18 10-12 Food Pantry  7:00 GA	19 10-12 Food Pantry	20
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Steven Carden .....	7/2	Brent Rendel .....	7/15
Shelley Thomas .....	7/3	Cheryl Hartman .....	7/18
Richard C Seybolt .....	7/3	Taylor Zabel .....	7/21
Lyndee Fuhrman .....	7/7	George Reeves .....	7/23
Melinda Thiesing .....	7/9	Susan Russell .....	7/27
Jera Rendel .....	7/9	Gary Sommer .....	7/27
Job Rendel .....	7/12	Bill Thomas .....	7/31

*Should your name be here?  
Please let the office know your birth date so we can include you!*

## Ila Mae Myers



### Ila Myers

Ila Mae Myers, Miami, died at 7:04 p.m. Sunday, May 6, 2001, at Integris Baptist Regional Health Center, Miami, after an illness. She was 90.

Miss Myers was born May 10, 1910, on a farm east of Miami, to Emmett C. and Nora (Chitwood) Myers. She lived with an aunt, Mrs. Babcock, while she attended high school.

Miss Myers was employed for many years by the Department of Human Services, then called the Welfare Department. She served as director of the Ottawa County office for years before her retirement. She was active in the Business and Professional Women's Club, Miami, and served as president. She was active in the state chapter and served as state president. She enjoyed her flowers, especially roses, and was a longtime

member of the Miami Garden Club, serving as president for two years. She was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church, where she served as deacon. She was president of the Presbyterian Women for two years.

Survivors include a sister, Madeline Myers, Miami.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and a brother, Almon Clarence Myers, on May 3, 1975.

The service is 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, at the First Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. John Wilson officiating. Burial is in the Seneca (Mo.) Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of Cooper-Althouse Funeral Home, Miami.

Memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, and may be sent in care of the funeral home.

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Servers in the Lord's House		
	Coffee Host	Backpack
July 7	Open	<b>Summer Break!</b>
July 14	Open	<b>School will start again in August.</b>
July 21	Open	<b>Backpack will start</b>
July 28	Open	<b>a couple of weeks</b>
		<b>after school starts.</b>

Please call the office or talk to Pastor Ray to sign up for server slots!

*Office Closed*  
*Thursday*  
*July 4th*

*Ross will be out of the office the week of Independence Day.*  
*July 1 - July 5*

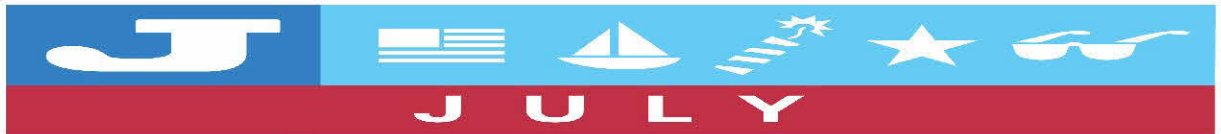
*Independence Day*

**Happy 4th of July**





<b>July 7</b>	Diana Schmiedeke
<b>July 14</b>	Tim Keith
<b>July 21</b>	John Lomax
<b>July 28</b>	Melinda Thiesing



*Have a Blessed  
and Safe  
Independence Day!*

**FPC Miami Ladies Luncheon  
Tuesday, June 11th, 2024**

We had another wonderful time of fellowship  
at the June Ladies Luncheon.  
All enjoyed Karin's schnitzel, Cindy's German Potato salad,  
and all the other delicious food, not to mention the  
conversation and fellowship.

Please join us next month for fun and fellowship at the  
FPC Miami's Ladies Luncheon.

Next Luncheon - Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 11 am





Now the Lord is the Spirit,  
and where the Spirit of the Lord is,  
there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17



*The First Presbyterian Church  
1410 N.E. Veterans Blvd.  
Miami, OK 74354*