


January
Open Door
2025

FROM THE PASTOR

Desmond Tutu once said, “Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.”

If there is one thing our world needs, it’s this kind of hope. As the world around us seems to crumble, we desperately long for something to hold onto—not just to get us through the hard times, but to assure us that hard times won’t last forever. We call this **hope**.

Biblical hope—the hope offered to us through Jesus Christ—is a greater hope than anything the world can give. While the things of this world make promises they can’t keep, the hope given to us through Christ “will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love” (Romans 5:5).

Pastor Ray



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Mark Your Calendar!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held immediately after worship on Sunday, January 26, 2025. If, for any reason we need to postpone the meeting, our alternate date is February 2, 2025. We will elect new officers, hear a presentation of the 2023 budget, consider the "terms of call" for Pastor Ray, and receive reports on the life and ministries of the congregation.



New Directories!!!



It is almost time for a new phone directory!

New phone number? New address?

Be sure to let the office know of any changes,



HONORING MLK

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, Jan 20th

Office will be closed





January 5 Guided Prayer Service

January 12 "Graduation or Commencement?"

January 19 "Wine and Weddings"

January 26 "The Body of Christ"

January

Kum Ba Yah aka Kum Ba Zoom

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

Kum Ba Yah topics:

January 1 NO KBZ

January 8 Who wrote the Bible?

January 15 How was the Bible compiled?

January 22 Difficult Sayings of Jesus 1

January 29 Difficult Sayings of Jesus 2

Adult Sunday School

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

January 5 Epiphany Star words

January 12 Jesus the Royal Priest

January 19 Heart

January 26 Hands

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. Each week in the 2024 school year the number of students receiving backpacks on weekends is 32. We delivered **1244** backpack bags to Roosevelt Elementary School in 2024.

If you have not helped with this ministry before and want info, please get a hold of Dave Foster or the office. To all of you who have volunteered your time to pack backpacks this year, we are thankful and grateful for all of your help.



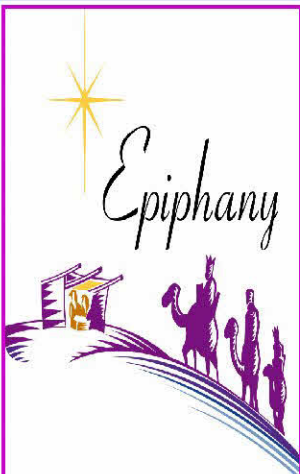
MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee for the year of 2024 distributed funds to many ministries here at home and at large. Global Mission giving for 2024 came to **\$3,300**. Local Mission Giving for 2024 added up to **\$3,050**.

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 Deacon's Shoe Ministry: Distributed **37** pairs of shoes for the year of 2024. With each pair of shoes we also deliver 3 pairs of socks.

Food Pantry: The food pantry has handed out **700** bags of food for the year of 2024.



What is Epiphany?

Epiphany is on January 6th, which is twelve days after Christmas. This is the amount of time that spans the birth of Jesus, and according to tradition when the magi visited Mary, Joseph, and their child. Epiphany doesn't always fall on a Sunday, so the Church celebrates it on the nearest Sunday (January 5, 2025), called “Epiphany Sunday”.

The Greek word *epiphany* simply means “to reveal” or “to make manifest.” It was the name given by early Christians to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the revelation of God's love to the world ([John 3:16](#)). An annual festival would follow to celebrate and recognize that Jesus, the Son of God, reveals God's plan to save the world.

1st Presbyterian Christmas Decor 2024



2025

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Closed Happy New Year!	2 10-12 Food Pantry	3 10-12 Food Pantry	4
				7:00 GA		
5 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Fellowship	6 10-12 Food Pantry Epiphany of The Lord 	7 10-12 Food Pantry	8 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	9 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	10 10-12 Food Pantry	11 Elder Training 10am - 2pm Tulsa
12 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Fellowship 11:30 Deacons Mtg	13 10-12 Food Pantry	14 10-12 Food Pantry	15 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	16 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	17 10-12 Food Pantry	18
19 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Fellowship	20 Office Closed MLK JR Day 	21 10-12 Food Pantry 11:00 Mission Mtg 7:00 Session Mtg	22 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	23 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	24 10-12 Food Pantry	25
26 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Fellowship 11:30 Annual Congregational Mtg  CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	27 10-12 Food Pantry	28 10-12 Food Pantry	29 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	30 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	31 10-12 Food Pantry	



Deanna Duvall.....1/2 Cari Allen.....1/18
 Clyde Shaffer.....01/3 Laura Shepherd.....1/20
 Dianna Minick.....1/11 Helen Hutchison.....1/22
 Henry Long.....1/14 Fortune Karleskint.....1/23
 Anna Milligan.....1/14 Christopher Rabel.....1/29
 Frank Denny.....1/15

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

Christmas Eve 2024



Servers in the Lord's House			
	Coffee Host	Backpack Packers	
January 5	Open	Jan 2	Holiday Break
January 12	Open	Jan 9	Open
January 19	Open	Jan 16	Open
January 26	Open	Jan 23	Open
		Jan 30	Open

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

IT'S STILL CHRISTMAS, BUT LENT IS COMING!

Lent begins this year on Wednesday, March 5th. To help us spend some time in prayer and contemplation, we would like to publish our own devotional guide, written by us.

We are inviting every person to submit one or two devotions.

Scripture verse/s

(Perhaps one of your favorites)

A reflection on that verse

Maybe this is a short story about an experience you have had with God, a favorite poem or hymn, why your chosen verse is a favorite... YOUR story is interesting to others.

Prayer

(A one or two sentence prayer)

Deadline will be February 16th.

**FPC Miami Ladies Luncheon
Tuesday, December 10, 2024**

We had another wonderful time of fellowship at the Ladies Luncheon. Cindy made a scrumptious pot of soup and everyone else brought a side. **Delicious!!**

WOMEN'S LUNCH will include a study from
"Badass Women of the Bible"



**Next Luncheon
Tuesday,
January 14th**





**TAKE DOWN
CHRISTMAS
DECORATIONS
WITH ME**

**HELP US STORE THE
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS!**

Can you plan to stay after worship for a few minutes on Sunday, January 5th, to help take down and store the Christmas decorations?
We thank you in advance for your help!



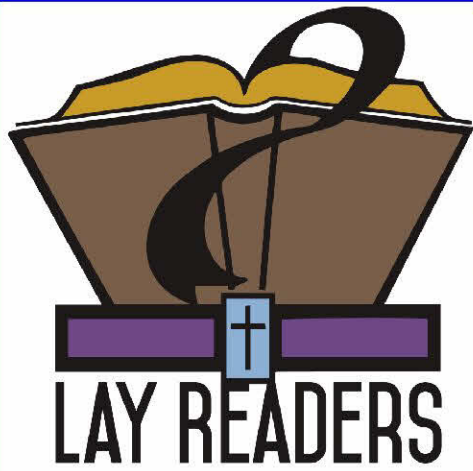
*New Year's Day
Wednesday
January 1st*



*Epiphany of the Lord
Monday
January 6th*



*Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday
January 20th*



January 5	Karin Shaffer
January 12	Diana Schmiedeke
January 19	John Lomax
January 26	Abbey Ankenman
February 2	Grace Goodeagle
February 9	Melinda Thiesing
February 16	Tim Keith
February 23	Ross Tomlinson
March 2	Clyde Shaffer

Please let Ross or Pastor Ray know if you cannot read the scriptures the week you are scheduled.
Thank you for your service in the House of the Lord

Elder Training

SESSION 1

10AM - 2PM WITH LUNCH PROVIDED

January 11 - Southminster, Tulsa

January 18 - First, Broken Bow

Please Register @
www.eokpresbytery.org/eldertraining



The training will be recorded and made available to churches.

If any current or past Elder is interested in attending these training classes, please let Ross know, and he will register you for the session.

Have you ever wondered what all the 'shalls', 'shoulds', and 'mays' of the Book of Order mean? Have you noticed that with all the changes in the last two decades, you do not know where your favorite parts of the Book of Order are anymore? Are you a new elder or returning to active service? Do you just want to dive deeper into what it means to be an elder in the PCUSA today? Then Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery, through the leadership of the Hope and Spirit Committee, has a series of training opportunities for you in 2025!

Hosted by Oklahoma
Presbytery Task Force

JOIN OKLAHOMANS
ACROSS THE STATE FOR

Wednesday Devotion

STARTS JANUARY 8

WEDNESDAYS | 9:00 AM

30 MINUTES

CHECK YOUR PRESBYTERY
WEBSITE FOR ZOOM LINK



Statewide Presbyterian Wednesday Devotion Invitation

The Oklahoma Task Force will be having Wednesday morning devotions in the new year. If you are interested in taking part in this opportunity, please contact Ross in the office, and he will provide you the link for the devotions.

JANUARY



1 Chronicles 16:11-12

¹¹ Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.
¹² Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he uttered,



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