

Jesus summarized all of the teachings of the Bible in one phrase: "love God and love your neighbor." Theologian Paul Tillich observes that "the first duty of love is to listen."

We often think of love as grand gestures and passionate emotions. But Tillich simplifies it by asking us to prioritize one fundamental duty – listening. At its core, this quote encourages us to truly hear and understand others.

Through listening, we create a space for people to express themselves, to share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences without judgment or interruption. In a world that often values speaking over listening, this idea challenges us to change our perspective and recognize the power of attentive listening. Listening is a skill that requires not just the use of our ears, but our hearts and minds as well. It involves being present in the moment, actively seeking to comprehend the message being conveyed. When we listen wholeheartedly, we acknowledge the worth and validity of the speaker's words, making them feel heard and understood. This act of validating someone's thoughts and emotions lays the groundwork for fostering stronger connections and deeper relationships.

How will you practice listening as an act of love today?

Pastor Ray



Ice Cream Social

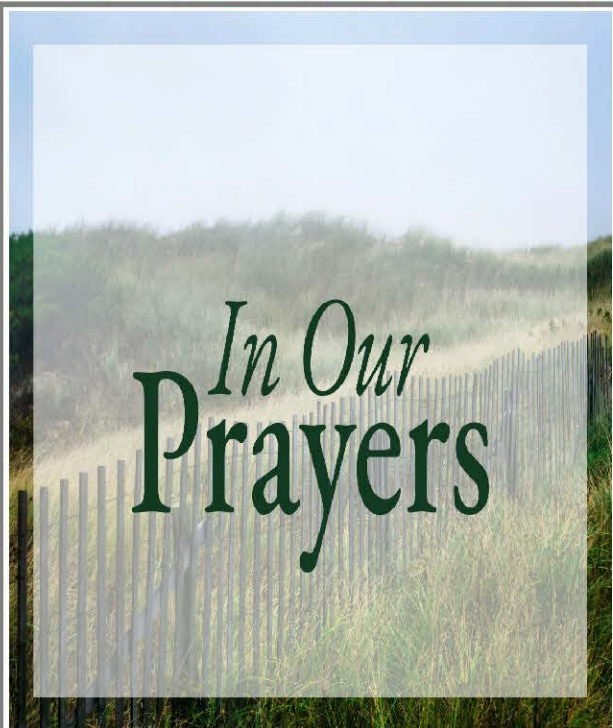
Sunday, August 4th



You scream. I scream. We all scream for ice cream!!
What will it be, a cone, a sundae, sprinkles, a cherry on top?

Join us for some fellowship time. Let's get together to share what the Lord has done in our lives over the summer as we enjoy some refreshing ice cream.

Invite your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers for a fantastic time of fellowship and great-tasting ice cream.



Betty Lou Ankenman
Melba Cordell
Neeley & Mike Chitekwe
DeMaris Gaines
Frank & Dollie Gray
Joe Haney
Dave & Sherry Hiebert
Doris Price
Isaac Rendel
Job Rendel
Susan Russell
Berkeley Ulrey
Rick & Sally Whalen



August 4	What Really Matters?	John 6:24-35
August 11	What Are We Complaining About?	John 6:35-51
August 18	The Bread of Wisdom	Proverbs 9:1-6, John 6:51-58
August 25	The Way of Jesus	John 6:56-59



AUGUST

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:

- August 7** Faithfulness
- August 14** Gentleness
- August 21** Self-Control
- August 28** Caring for the Other

Adult Sunday School Sundays at 9:30am

- August 4** Coping with Pressure and Exhaustion
- August 11** Coping with Oppression
- August 18** Coping with Disappointment
- August 25** Coping with Loneliness, Aging, and Death

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 July.

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 **372** bags of food, as of July 19, 2024. Your contributions of food and dollars makes a difference in many lives.



226th General Assembly 2024

report from Presbyterian Outlook

*At times lively, with bursts of dancing and joy, and - at times - pin-drop quiet as commissioners and observers listened to the voices at the mics, General Assembly 226 – themed **Live into Hope** – was an ever-faithful time for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to ask profound questions about the shape and future of Christ’s church.*

LIVE *into* HOPE

► New stated clerk, co-moderators

The Rev. CeCe Armstrong and the Rev. Tony Larson, both of South Carolina, were [elected co-moderators of the 226th GA](#), and the Rev. Jihyun Oh, born in South Korea and reared in Kansas, [was elected stated clerk](#), the highest ecclesial office of the denomination.

Elected the night before business proceedings began, Armstrong and Larson presided over the day-to-day business, but [in an overhaul of standing rules](#), the **moderatorial election will move to the end** of the assembly instead of the beginning in 2026. The overhaul also eliminates “mission advisory delegates,” creating partner advisory delegates instead.



► Unifying budget of OGA and PMA

GA adopted a **\$94.9 million budget for 2025 and \$95 million for 2026**, [resulting in a 14.8% increase in per capita](#) over the two-year span. In 2025, per capita will be \$10.84, and \$11.26 in 2026, increasing from \$9.80 this year. Because of an earlier decision by the Commission on the Unification of the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency, all the budget items added at this assembly (\$600,000+ per year) were charged to the per capita budget, regardless of how they would be spent.

► Sexual orientation, gender identity protections

Commissioners approved a two-part inclusivity change to the *Book of Order*, [adding gender identity and sexual orientation](#) to the list of the “rich diversity” reflected in the church’s membership (recommendation 1, section F-1.0403) and then recommending [an examination of these principles for ordination and installation](#) (recommendation 2, section G-2.0104b) that could determine a “candidate’s ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation ...” If POL-01 is approved by more than 50% of presbyteries, these changes will be added to the *Book of Order*.

► Fossil fuels and climate justice

After a protracted debate on alternative recommendations for [aligning the values of the PC\(USA\) with its investments in fossil fuels](#), the GA initially approved overture ENV-02 encouraging categorical divestment in fossil fuels and other efforts to respond to climate change. However, in a historic turnabout, the assembly reversed its decision, disapproving ENV-02 and approving ENV-06, which directs **further engagement with greenhouse gas emitters and the fossil fuel industry**.

AUGUST 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*August 4  Ice Cream Social	*August 7  NATIONAL PURPLE HEART DAY	*August 13  Ladies Luncheon		1 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 pm GA	2 10-12 Food Pantry	3
4 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Ice cream Social 	5 10-12 Food Pantry	6 10-12 Food Pantry	7 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 pm KumBaZoom 	8 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 pm GA	9 10-12 Food Pantry	10
11 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Fellowship 11:30 Deacons Mtg	12 10-12 Food Pantry	13 10-12 Food Pantry 11:30 am Ladies Luncheon 	14 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 pm KumBaZoom	15 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 pm GA	16 10-12 Food Pantry	17
18 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Fellowship	19 10-12 Food Pantry	20 10-12 Food Pantry All Day Presbytery Meeting in Broken Bow	21 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 pm KumBaZoom	22 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 pm GA	23 10-12 Food Pantry	24
25 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Fellowship	26 10-12 Food Pantry	27 10-12 Food Pantry 11:00 am Mission Meeting 7:00 pm Session Meeting	28 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 pm KumBaZoom	29 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 pm GA	30 10-12 Food Pantry	31



Marco Gray 8/1	Kathleen Prince 8/5
Irene Waylan 8/3	Summer King 8/5
John Gray 8/3	Bill Hancock 8/8
John Lomax 8/4	Autumn Marie Fuhrman 8/21
Curtis Everhart 8/4	

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

226th General Assembly 2024

report from *Presbyterian Outlook*

*At times lively, with bursts of dancing and joy, and - at times - pin-drop quiet as commissioners and observers listened to the voices at the mics, General Assembly 226 – themed **Live into Hope** – was an ever-faithful time for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to ask profound questions about the shape and future of Christ’s church.*

LIVE *into* HOPE

► **New stated clerk, co-moderators**

The Rev. CeCe Armstrong and the Rev. Tony Larson, both of South Carolina, were [elected co-moderators of the 226th GA](#), and the Rev. Jihyun Oh, born in South Korea and reared in Kansas, [was elected stated clerk](#), the highest ecclesial office of the denomination.

Elected the night before business proceedings began, Armstrong and Larson presided over the day-to-day business, but [in an overhaul of standing rules](#), the [moderatorial election will move to the end](#) of the assembly instead of the beginning in 2026. The overhaul also eliminates “mission advisory delegates,” creating partner advisory delegates instead.



► **Unifying budget of OGA and PMA**

GA adopted a **\$94.9 million budget for 2025 and \$95 million for 2026, resulting in a 14.8% increase in per capita** over the two-year span. In 2025, per capita will be \$10.84, and \$11.26 in 2026, increasing from \$9.80 this year. Because of an earlier decision by the Commission on the Unification of the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency, all the budget items added at this assembly (\$600,000+ per year) were charged to the per capita budget, regardless of how they would be spent.

► **Sexual orientation, gender identity protections**

Commissioners approved a two-part inclusivity change to the *Book of Order*, [adding gender identity and sexual orientation](#) to the list of the “rich diversity” reflected in the church’s membership (recommendation 1, section F-1.0403) and then recommending [an examination of these principles for ordination and installation](#) (recommendation 2, section G-2.0104b) that could determine a “candidate’s ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation ...” If POL-01 is approved by more than 50% of presbyteries, these changes will be added to the *Book of Order*.

► **Fossil fuels and climate justice**

After a protracted debate on alternative recommendations for [aligning the values of the PC\(USA\) with its investments in fossil fuels](#), the GA initially approved overture ENV-02 encouraging categorical divestment in fossil fuels and other efforts to respond to climate change. However, in a historic turnabout, the assembly reversed its decision, disapproving ENV-02 and approving ENV-06, which directs **further engagement with greenhouse gas emitters and the fossil fuel industry**.

Servers in the Lord's House

	Coffee Host	Backpack
August 4	Open	Summer Break!
August 11	Open	School Starts Aug 14th
August 18	Open	Backpack will begin
August 25	Open	A couple weeks after that

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

FPC Miami Ladies Luncheon Tuesday, July 9th, 2024

We had another wonderful time of fellowship at the July Ladies Luncheon. Everyone enjoyed Cari's chili and spaghetti. There was also cornbread, Fritos, homemade bread & butter pickles, salad, and desserts. We had a bigger crowd this month, which was terrific! Keep on coming, ladies!

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

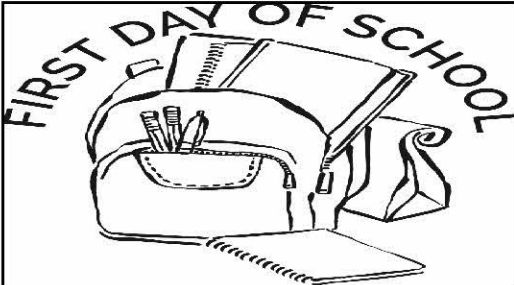
Next Luncheon - Tuesday, August 13th at 11:30 am





Deacon's Shoe Ministry

As school starts, underprivileged kids in Ottawa County will need shoes. Please pray about giving to the Shoe ministry so that these children will have a new pair of tennis shoes and socks to wear to school. At present, the church's stock of shoes is very low, especially for boy's shoes. You can donate either a new pair of sneakers, a package of socks, or a monetary donation to the Deacon's fund. Thanks in advance for your support of this ministry.



Miami Public Schools
2024 -2025 School Year

First Day of School
Wednesday, August 14



As kids are going back to school, let's do our best to stay alert. Children will walk to and from school, wait at bus stops, and get on and off buses. Let's remember to heed the bus signals and crosswalk signs. Let's keep our kids safe by doing our part!
AND,
Please pray for these children as they embark on a new year filled with learning, fun, and fellowship.



Backpack Program

Miami School's first day this year is August 14th. We will begin our backpack ministry a couple of weeks after school starts. Once again, David Foster will facilitate the Backpack program here at First Presbyterian with Janice Johnson's unwavering help and support.

If you want to volunteer to pack backpacks, the sign-up sheet is in the office. Please let David or Ross know which week you would like to volunteer for, and they will put you on the schedule.

Thank you in advance for the hard work you will do this year.
It is greatly appreciated!



 LAY READERS	August 4	Grace Goodeagle
	August 11	Clyde Shaffer
	August 18	Ross Tomlinson
	August 25	Karin Shaffer



"The LORD is my light and my
salvation; whom shall I fear? the
LORD is the strength of my life; of
whom shall I be afraid?"

Psalm 27:1



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