

July

Open Door
2026

“A person who knew nothing but creatures would never need to attend to any sermons, for every creature is full of God and is a book.” —Meister Eckhart, Sermon on Sirach 50:6–7

Every animal is a unique word of God, with its own message, its own style, its own way of showing forth goodness and love.

I grew up in a family that loved animals and we learned early how to care for them and learn from them. Every cat, dog, chicken, rabbit, horse, and cow needed to be tended in unique ways and each one taught us something about the wonder of creation and the wonder of God.

I used to get up in the dark every day to haul water down to the horses in the barn. On more than one occasion I would roll the barn door back and discover a possum curled up with its teeth bared. I never knew if it was “playing dead” or if it was really dead. All I knew was that in the early hours of the day, I didn’t want to stick around to find out. That dread of possums has lasted into my adult life.

But I have been learning to appreciate these creations of God. Possums never carry rabies. Possum eat enough ticks to keep us from Lyme disease and other tick-born diseases. They are loving parents and gentle creatures, despite their looks.

I hope that we can all learn to pause, set aside some of our fears, and learn from God’s strange and wonderful diversity.

Pastor Ray

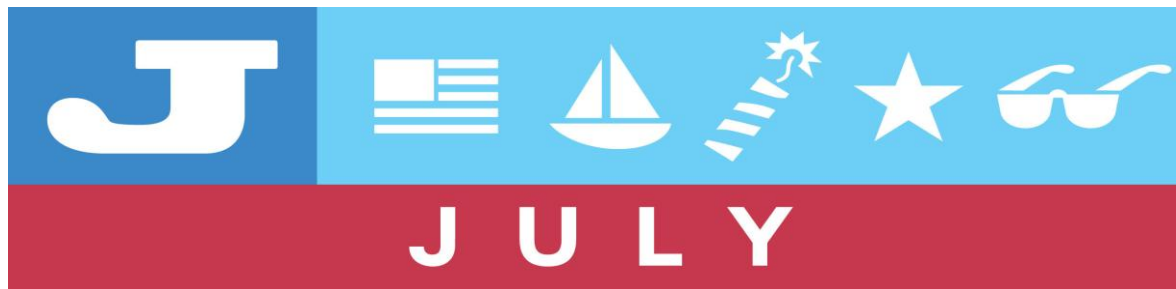


Congratulations on graduating from high school, vocational school, and basic training!

All of us at FPC Miami hope and pray that the Bibles you received will help you draw closer to God and guide you as you embark on this new chapter of your life.

Congrats!

- Pictured from left to right are Kegan, Pastor Ray, Marcus, and Achilles.





July 5	"If the Yoke Fits"	Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30
July 12	Learning to Sow	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 19	Judging the Weeds	Matthew 13:24-43
July 26	The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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:

July 1	Being Presbyterian in Dysvangelical America:	Ch. 4
July 8	Being Presbyterian in Dysvangelical America:	Ch. 5
July 15	Being Presbyterian in Dysvangelical America:	Ch. 6
July 22	Being Presbyterian in Dysvangelical America:	Ch. 7
July 29	Being Presbyterian in Dysvangelical America:	Ch. 8

Adult Sunday School

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

July 5	We Don't Have Enough
July 12	Becoming Unbound from Fears of Not Enough
July 19	Enough to Make a Difference
July 26	Enough for Transformational Giving

BACKPACK PROGRAM

We are grateful for the leadership of Dave Foster, who organizes our weekly food program with children at Roosevelt Elementary School. Since school started this year, we are averaging about **30** backpacks per week.

If you have not previously assisted with this ministry and would like information, don't hesitate to get in touch with Dave Foster or the office. Thank you to the congregants who have helped pack backpacks this year. Cindy Holt, The Shaffers, the Schmiedekes, David Foster, and Janice Johnson.



MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission program is partly sustained by gifts from the Myers Sisters' bequest and gifts from members. You can designate gifts to "Local Mission" or "Global Mission." In May, the committee gave to Local Missions: **\$300 to the Dolly Library, and Global Missions: \$100 to World Central Kitchen, which will match our donation until the end of the year. \$200 to Serving Christ Ministries.**

The Deacon's Shoe Ministry: The Deacons have delivered **17 pairs of shoes in 2026.**

Food Pantry: The food pantry served **67 households** and **154 individuals** in the month of May 2026.



FPC Miami Presbyterian Women's Luncheon

Karin made Parmesan crusted lemon chicken which was the "bomb". Others brought sides to go with the main entree. A good time was had by all.



Next Luncheon: Tuesday, July 14th at 11:30 am



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 10 - noon Food Pantry 7:00 KBZ	2 10 - noon Food Pantry 7:00 GA	3 Office closed for Independence Day. Happy 4 th !	4 
5 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship	6 10 - noon Food Pantry	7 10 - noon Food Pantry	8 10 - noon Food Pantry 7:00 KBZ	9 10 - noon Food Pantry 7:00 GA	10 10 - noon Food Pantry	11
12 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 11:30 Deacon's Mtg	13 10 - noon Food Pantry	14 10 - noon Food Pantry 11:00 Mission Mtg. 11:30 Ladies Lunch	15 10 - noon Food Pantry 7:00 KBZ	16 10 - noon Food Pantry 7:00 GA	17 10 - noon Food Pantry	18
19 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship	20 10 - noon Food Pantry	21 10 - noon Food Pantry 7:00 Session Mtg	22 10 - noon Food Pantry 7:00 KBZ	23 10 - noon Food Pantry 7:00 GA	24 10 - noon Food Pantry	25
26 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship	27 10 - noon Food Pantry	28 10 - noon Food Pantry	29 10 - noon Food Pantry 7:00 KBZ	30 10 - noon Food Pantry 7:00 GA	31 10 - noon Food Pantry	



Steven Carden 7/2	Job Rendel 7/12
Richard "Cy" Seybolt ... 7/3	Brent Rendel 7/15
Shelley Thomas 7/3	Cheryl Hartman 7/18
Lyndee Fuhrman 7/7	Linda Hiersche 7/22
Jera Rendel 7/9	George Reeves 7/23
Melinda Thiesing 7/9	



Everyone, please have a happy
and safe Independence Day!



Presbyterian Principles of Biblical Interpretation

The Bible Matters—Scripture speaks to questions of faith and not for all areas of human knowledge. Scripture is not intended to be authoritative for science but for understanding God and God’s way in the world.

Jesus Matters—Christ is the Word witnessed by the words of the Bible. All Scripture is interpreted through the primary revelation of God in Jesus the Christ. We measure our interpretations in light of the life, message, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The Whole Matters—We strive to not proof text by picking particular Bible passages to uphold one’s interpretation. WE interpret Scripture by Scripture, meaning we look at the whole of Scripture and especially those parts that may challenge our understanding.

Context Matters—A simple reading of the text means understanding who wrote and for whom and when as well as identifying our own social-historical settings as we interpret the texts. The use of historical-critical tools is important as well as naming our biases and perspectives.

Translation Matters—Words mean subtly different things in different languages, and thus it is important to understanding the original languages used in Scripture.

Love Matters—The summation of the Law is to love God and love our neighbors. The rule of love means the fundamental expression of God’s will is to love God and neighbor, and those passages that contradict this are suspect.

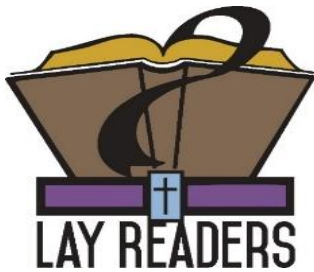
Faith Matters—Interpretation arises in conversation with the community of faith, past and present. The past confessions of the church impact our own understanding. We see the Holy Spirit present in a diverse community today where offering interpretations are honored and respected.

Humility Matters—We affirm the fallibility of all interpretations and much confess from the start we could be wrong.

These principles are adapted and based on the Book of Confessions, adopted in a resource document that way received by the 194th General Assembly (1982) of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. The guidelines were adopted by the General Assembly. (Minutes of the 194th General Assembly [1982] of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, Part 1: Journal [Office of the General Assembly, 1982, 326.]



The FPC Miami Women have had a busy year! Please take a moment to look at the pictures in the heritage case to see exactly what they have been up to.



July 5	Clyde Shaffer
July 12	Karin Shaffer
July 19	Linda Gates
July 26	Diana Schmiedeke

Servers in the Lord's House

Coffee Host	Backpack Packers	
July 5	Tim & Ross	Summer Break
July 12	B-Day Sunday Cari	Summer Break
July 19	Open	Summer Break
July 26	Open	Summer Break



June 22nd – July 2nd, 2026, in Milwaukee



The 3rd Sunday of each month will be
Harp Sunday.

A heartfelt thank you to DeMaris
Celeste for her hard work and
dedication in creating wonderful
worship music!



Dianna Minick
Ross Tomlinson Sr.
Bill Hancock
Kim & Bill Good
Steven Carden
Virginia Blakeburn
Shawn Spencer
Cari's Sister Angela

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



2 Corinthians 3:17 (NIV):

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