

I was recently reminded that the English words “gratitude” and “grace” come from the same root word in Latin. *Gratia*. “Grace” is a theological word we like to toss around in church. It means “unmerited favor”. Every instance of God’s presence in our lives is an instance of grace. God owes us nothing, and yet gives us everything.

Perhaps God is like the Oprah Winfrey Show. “You get a car!” “You get a car!” “You get a car!” Completely unexpected. Completely undeserved. Simply given out of the unfathomable depths of God’s love for us.

Grace is gifts given without being earned and grace has no expectation of return. It is, like the old hymn says, amazing. Because you can neither earn nor pay back the gift, your heart fills with gratitude. And the power of that emotion transforms the way you see the world and experience life. Grace creates gratitude, which, can widen our hearts toward greater goodness and love.

How does your life thank God for God’s unimaginable gift?

Pastor Ray



Berkeley Ulrey

Although Berkeley has traveled much more than most young people, he has lived all of his life in Ottawa County with loving parents, Charles, and Kit. In his early years he was fascinated with Thomas the Tank Engine. Thomas brought him many hours of pleasure. He can't remember when he couldn't read. The books he read when he was very young were about Thomas.

When Berkeley was four years old the family took him to England for the first time. He spent some time seeing more Thomas the Tank Engine displays. Berkeley was always curious and soaked in the new experiences.

His family had Foster Children beginning when Berkeley was three years old. B. (as he is called by his family and close friends) went to the Lab School at N.E.O. Although he was "homeschooled" he spent one day each week in Joplin with others for group activities. He took part in groups at the Library like Lego League.

Almost immediately after leaving the homeschool group in Joplin, he became active in the 4H group in Fairland. He took part in the Fairland Chapter Speech Competition; he took part in designing and constructing the 4H Christmas float and volunteered in the Park of Lights at Twin Bridges. He became Club President and helped orchestrate activities for meetings. In 2022 he became eligible to fill out a 4H record book. The project he chose was CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCS. He won the competition. The group received support from the City to place a fishing line receptible at Low Water Dam in Riverview Park. He received help from the Mayor to get word to the community.

He entered Miami High School when he was in the ninth grade. He was on the Academic team and the Speech and Debate team. In State Competitions these teams did well.

He traveled to London other times with his parents. When he was twelve years old, he went alone and stayed in a summer camp. The last time he went he traveled by train over the country.

This Fall, B takes a big step in education. He has been accepted to be a student at the Oklahoma School of Science and Math in Oklahoma City. There are about 50 students enrolled. It is a Boarding School – the students live in Residence Halls. The school is answerable to the State Legislature. Berkeley is looking forward to this experience. And his Church Family will be enriched.



September 3 Trusting God to Settle Scores
September 10 Building a Community of Grace
September 17 In the Lords Hands
September 24 Finding Grace in the Wilderness



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:

September 6 The Screwtape Letters 7-10
September 13 The Screwtape Letters 11-14
September 20 The Screwtape Letters 15-18
September 27 The Screwtape Letters 19-22

Adult Sunday School

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

September 3 Fast Food Faith #5
September 10 Fast Food Faith #6
September 17 "Friday Mornings with Jose"
September 24 Theology and Sexuality

Sean Dietrich Facebook Post "Presbyterians"

If you attend a Presbyterian funeral, pack a lunch. A Presbyterian funeral is a beautiful ceremony that will make your heart go "flip flop" with beauty. It will be a ritual to remember for the rest of your life. Namely, because at some point you might be escorted from the premises by EMTs because of low blood sugar.

No. I'm only joking. Presbyterians hold incredible services wherein they use words like "beautiful." This is because many Presbyterians attended college. Many "Prezbies" classify themselves as "high church" people.

Some of you might be asking, what is the difference between "high church" and "low church?" The answer is simple: "High church" people practice historic religious traditions and time-honored liturgy. Whereas "low church" people, such as my family, believe in, primarily, getting home before NASCAR.

Today I attended my first Presbyterian funeral. I entered the sanctuary and my breath got stuck in my throat. The simple beauty was overwhelming.

The stained glass was purple and gold, lighting the room like a veritable Monet. There were vaulted ceilings. Everything was made of oak. There was an organist playing. The elders were dressed in Geneva robes with long stoles.

And when the ministers spoke, they did not address the congregation the way my Baptist childhood ministers addressed church goers. My preachers called everyone "friends," "y'all," and occasionally "boneheads." No, these clerical men used proper grammar.

I was raised as a Baptist. Our preachers wore JCPenney suits. And in the middle of my childhood services, elderly gentlemen would frequently rise and excuse themselves from the sanctuary. And everyone knew what the oldsters were going to do.

They were leaving to have an important meeting with Brother Copenhagen, or Reverend Marlboro. There were spittoons on our church's front porch.

Presbyterians are not like that. You will not find a spittoon within 600 yards of a Presbyterian church. And most have never heard of Richard Lee Petty.

Still, the funeral was among the most lovely events I have ever been to. The organist played the sacred melodies of William Henry Draper and the congregation sang the lyrics of Saint Francis. And when the people sang the "Doxology," the music fell upon my ears in a different way than when I attended VBS, long ago, and my cousin Ed Lee would sing his own lyrics.

"Praise God because my bladder flows..."

Speaking of my cousin, during the ceremony, I found myself contemplating things my cousin's wife has often said about Presbyterians. My cousin's wife, who shall remain nameless (Julia Price McDaniels) is a Presbyterian.

My cousin's wife once described Presbyterians to me this way:

"Let me tell you about a Presbyterian man who once walked into a department store," she said.

"The man said to the sales lady 'Ma'am, I'd like to buy a Presbyterian bra for my wife, size 36B.'

Sean Dietrich Facebook Post “Presbyterians” Continued

“With a quizzical look the sales lady said, ‘We don’t get as many requests for Presbyterian bras anymore. Mostly, our customers want Catholic bras, or Salvation Army bras, or Baptist bras.’

“‘What are the differences?’ asked the confused husband.

“The sales lady replied, ‘A Catholic bra supports the masses. The Salvation Army bra lifts the fallen, whereas the Baptist bra keeps things staunch and upright.’

“The man asked, ‘What does the Presbyterian bra do?’

“The sales lady replied, ‘They make mountains out of molehills.’”

As I say, this funeral moved me in a way I have seldom been moved. The sacred music was perfect. The floral arrangement was the finest I have ever seen. The homily was well-written, and delivered with the poise of a true orator. Someone even recited a piece written by Mark Twain.

Mark Twain, in church. Don’t tell me there’s no hope for America.

All in all, the sentiments delivered from the sacred desk were sheer poetry. If there was a dry eye in the house, it belonged to a needle.

After the service, an old woman approached me and said, “Are you a member here?”

“No, ma’am,” I said. “Actually, I am not really a church guy.”

“Why not?” she said.

“Well, I’m not perfect.”

“I once found a perfect, church,” she replied with a laugh. “Then I joined it and screwed it up.”




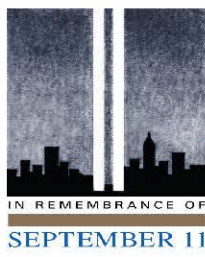
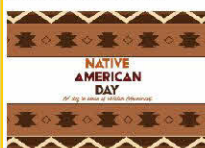


Then, the woman gave me such a powerful Presbyterian hug that I could hear my ribs creak.

Would that all God’s creatures were so beauteous.

Congrats To!!

Autumn Ankenman Fuhrman , who received the James Flanagan Award, a national award for " Most Improved Publication" in the livestock industry.

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Jewish, Islamic and Orthodox Observances</p> <p>15-17 Rosh Hashanah 24-25 Yom Kippur 29 Sukkot Begins</p>			<p>Suicide Prevention Month</p> 		<p>1 10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <p>9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Choir</p>	<p>4 Labor Day 10-12 Food Pantry</p> 	<p>5 10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>6 10-12 Food Pantry</p> <p>7:00 KumBaZoom</p>	<p>7 10-12 Food Pantry</p> <p>2:30 Backpack packing</p> <p>7:00 GA</p>	<p>8 10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 Grandparents Day</p>  <p>9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Choir 11:30 Deacons Mtg.</p>	<p>11 10-12 Food Pantry</p> 	<p>12 10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>13 10-12 Food Pantry</p> <p>7:00 KumBaZoom</p>	<p>14 10-12 Food Pantry</p> <p>2:30 Backpack packing</p> <p>7:00 GA</p>	<p>15 10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Choir</p>	<p>18 10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>19 10-12 Food Pantry</p> <p>11:00 Mission Committee Mtg</p> <p>7:00 Session Mtg</p>	<p>20 Native American Day 10-12 Food Pantry</p> <p>7:00 KumBaZoom</p> 	<p>21 International Day of Peace 10-12 Food Pantry</p> <p>2:30 Backpack</p> <p>7:00 GA</p> 	<p>22 10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>23 First Day of Fall</p> 
<p>24</p> <p>9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Choir</p>	<p>25 10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>26 10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>27 10-12 Food Pantry</p> <p>7:00 KumBaZoom</p>	<p>28 10-12 Food Pantry</p> <p>2:30 Backpack packing</p> <p>7:00 GA</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>



- Nancy Niehaus9/2 Gene Waylan9/18
- Sherry Hiebert9/3 Karin Schaffer9/21
- Jack Liwai9/6 Illeana Aguilar-Avila9/21
- Maika Liwai9/11 Davina Auilar-Avila9/21
- Bill Giffhorn9/15 Kim Good9/22

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

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. From the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year until the end of that year we delivered **721** backpack bags.

It's a new year already! Time to start packing backpacks for Roosevelt for the 2023-2024 school year.

We look forward to working with you this year. If you have not helped with this ministry before and want info please get a hold of Dave Foster or the office.



MISSION COMMITTEE

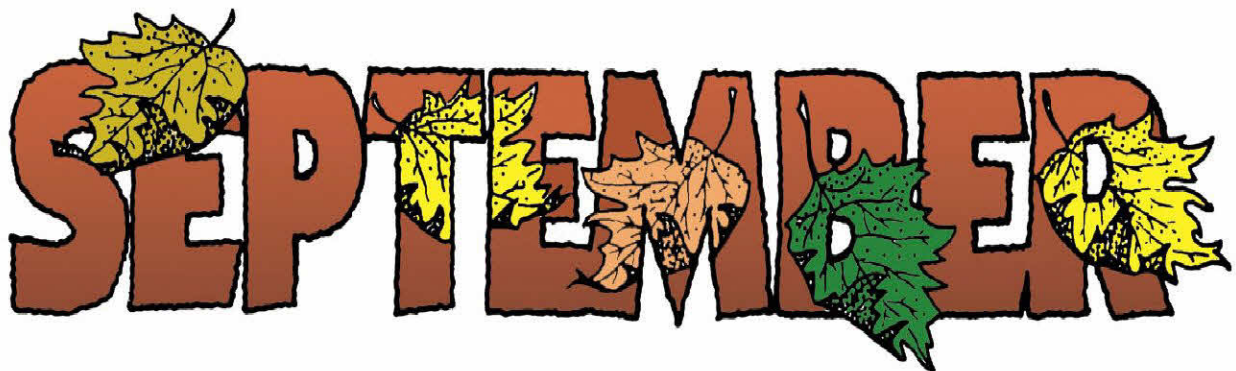
The Mission Committee met on June 20, 2023. They decided to give in Local Missions this month **\$200.00 to Boys & Girls Club**. For Global Missions this month they decided to give **\$300.00 to Dr's without Borders & \$300.00 To PDA**

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 has already given out **31** pairs of shoes since the beginning of the year.



Food Pantry: Since the beginning of the year the food pantry has handed out **307** bags of food through the end of July.



Servers in the Lord's House		
	Coffee Host	Backpack
September 6	Open	Sept. 7..... Open
September 13	Open	Sept.14.....Open
September 20	Open	Sept.21.....Open
September 27	Open	Sept.28.....Open

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



Remembering The Old Days

The Heritage Case has pictures of “THE WAY WE WERE.” There is a picture of C. B. Roberts holding Elia when she was a baby and Lucille Vanatte is looking on; a picture of Melissa McQueeney and Chuck Waterson when Melissa was about three years old; a picture of men working in the kitchen in the old Fellowship Hall; a picture of Cathy Rabel ; and a few more. The Heritage Case is kept interesting by Judy Abel and Nancy Gee.

FOOD PANTRY



Food Pantry

We have seen a marked increase in the number of households being served through our food pantry and the cost of food has nearly doubled in the last two years. Government food benefits have been cut, prices are up, people are suffering, and we are struggling to keep up! We are adjusting the contents of the emergency food bag and creating ways to increase donations. We appreciate your help and your prayers.

Christmas Food Baskets



Deacons' Ministries

My how the time has flown by this year! Another School year has started, and we've already started delivering shoes to children in need, here in Ottawa County. The Deacons delivered 8 Pairs of shoes the week before School even started.



Which also means we are only a few months away from Christmas. Last year our expense for the Deacons Christmas Baskets was a little over \$3,000.00. This years projected cost is \$3,500.00-\$4,000.00 As it stands right now the Deacons have \$2101.00 in the Deacons Fund. We are asking for your generosity and your kindness to help us increase the amount of monies we have in our account. So that, the Backpack Families of Roosevelt School can have a Christmas dinner again this year due to the food from the baskets the Deacons provide.



Miami Chamber of Commerce - No Events Listed on Calendar

Coleman Theatre

**Saturday
September 9th
7:00 pm**



To find out more about the shows listed to the left, as well as their cost, visit the Coleman Theatre's website.

**7pm Thursday
September 21 - 23**

**2:30pm Sunday
September 24**



Additional information on all events happening at the Coleman Theatre can also be found on their website.

**Saturday
September 30
7:00 pm**



<https://thecolemantheatre.org/>

3rd Annual Miami NEOK Pride - Saturday September 23rd

Riverview Park Pavilion 1pm - 6pm (all ages welcome)

Food vendors, bounce houses, vendor booths, D.J,
live entertainment, swag bags

Pride After Party Miami Elks Lodge 9pm - 1am (21+)

Drag Show - Door Prizes



“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

Romans 8:28



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