

FROM THE PASTOR

As the Joplin tornado of 2011 lifted, the stories began... stories of butterflies, butterfly people or angels that protected children from the storm. The stories were many and miraculous but very believable when set against the backdrop of the physical devastation caused by the storm. The stories spread rapidly and gave people peace and hope to a community so badly hurt. While there were many different accounts, the following three are representative of the miracle that happened on May 22, 2011.

A father laid on top of his daughter in the yard grasping at the grass to keep them both down. His shoes were pulled from his feet but when the storm lifted and they were both unharmed, his daughter simply said "Daddy, it was OK, a butterfly was holding us down."

A young girl was lifted into the air by the storm, but a butterfly quickly wrapped its wings around her and brought her safely to the ground.

Without a scratch, a child in a car seat emerged from a car filled with glass and debris. When safe from the wreckage, the child described a butterfly wrapping its wings around him, protecting and making him feel safe.

The butterfly, a symbol of Jesus' resurrection, can remind us of the care that Jesus offers to each one of us. Be grateful for protection. Offer protection to others in the name of Jesus. And offer a prayer of joy each time you encounter a butterfly this Spring.

Pastor Ray



If you are interested in purchasing an Easter Lily to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday just call the church office, costs will be \$25 each. Orders are due by Tuesday, April 15th.

Your Name: _____

Quantity: _____

Dedication:

For example: "Jim Smith in Loving Memory of His wife Della" or "Lee Price in Celebration of Family both here and in Heaven."

Easter Lilies Symbolism

Easter lilies, with their white color and trumpet shape, are traditionally associated with purity, rebirth, and hope, particularly in the Christian context, symbolizing the resurrection of Jesus.

Purity and Innocence:

The white color of the Easter lily is a common symbol of purity and innocence, often associated with the purity of Christ.

• • **Rebirth and Resurrection:**

The Easter lily's growth cycle, from a dormant bulb to a vibrant flower, is seen as symbolic of the resurrection, echoing the Christian belief in Jesus's rising from the dead.

• • **Hope:**

The trumpet shape of the Easter lily is said to represent a trumpet sounding the message that Jesus has risen, symbolizing hope and new beginnings.

• • **Springtime:**

As a flower that blooms in the spring, the Easter lily is also associated with the renewal and rebirth of nature, which aligns with the Christian concept of spiritual rebirth.

• • **Christian Tradition:**

Easter lilies are a common sight in churches during Easter celebrations, often adorning altars and symbolizing the resurrection of Jesus.



April 6 LIFE AS A CROSS-TIAN Galatians 2:20, John 12:12-36
April 13 SUBVERTING THE NATION Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 23:1-49
April 20 THE UNLIKELY EVANGELIST John 20:1-18
April 27 NEW LIFE IN CHRIST I John 1:1-4

One Great Hour of Sharing do you have something?



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

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:

April 2	The Church Cares
April 9	Christian Lifestyle
April 16	NO KUM BA ZOOM
April 22	Service
April 29	Outreach

Adult Sunday School

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

April 6	PC(USA) Foundations
April 13	Engaging in Public Theology through Art
April 20	Easter Egg Hung and Breakfast
April 27	"The Last Will Be First"

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 so far on average in 2025 we have delivered 32 backpacks per week. The number of backpacks delivered for January 2025 is approximately **96**.



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

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee did not meet during March.

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 **2** pairs of shoes for the year of 2025. With each pair of shoes we also deliver 3 pairs of socks.

Food Pantry: The food pantry has served **14 households and 24 individuals** from March 1 - March 20.



Malawi Mission Offering

With the loss of USAID funding, the Synod of Livingstonia has had to curtail much of its Health Ministry. Particularly hard-hit are programs that prevent and treat Tuberculosis and HIV, along with much of the pharmaceutical distribution system. The Presbytery of Eastern Oklahoma has challenged each congregation to participate in a special Offering for Malawi. Our congregation will accept donations on April 27th and May 4th. Please prayerfully consider a gift.

Servers in the Lord's House

	Coffee Host	Backpack Packers	
April 6	Open	April 3	Clyde & Karin
April 13	Cari & Shawn (B-day Sunday)	April 10	Open & Open
April 20	Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt	April 16 (Wed)	Open & Open
April 27	Open	April 24	Open & Open

FPC Miami Ladies Luncheon Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Cindy made a big old pot of Chicken and noodles. There was also bread with a cheese dipping sauce, deviled eggs, and many desserts. It was all scrumptious and filling (and full of carbs, too ... lol). Everyone had a great time!



Next Luncheon
Tuesday, April 8
at 11:30 am

Hippity, Hoppity, Easter's on its way!
Sunday, April 20th

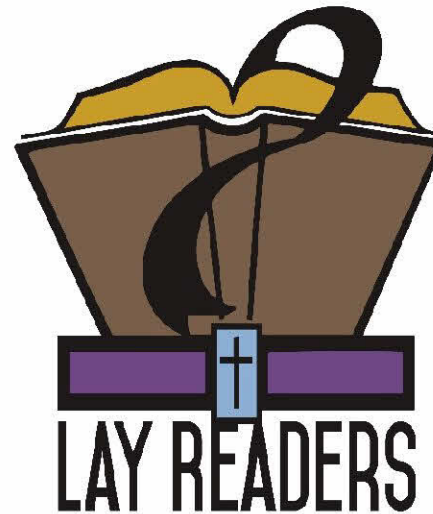
It's time for our annual Easter Egg Hunt
And we need some candy.
Can you help us out with that? I bet you can!



Offertory Collection Schedule



April 6	Charles & Open
April 13	Abbey & Ross
April 20	Open & Open
April 27	Open & Open



April 6	Grace Goodeagle
April 13	Melinda Thiesing (Palm Sunday)
April 20	Tim Keith (Easter Sunday)
April 27	Ross Tomlinson
May 4	Clyde Shaffer
May 11	Karin Shaffer (Mothers Day)
May 18	Diana Schmeideke
May 25	John Lomax
June 1	Abbey Ankenman


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



Maundy Thursday, April 17th.
Communion Service at 7:00pm.

Maundy Thursday



April 17
"Unless I wash you,
you have no part with me."
JOHN 13:8, NIV



APRIL



2025
Lenten Devotional




First Presbyterian Church
Miami, Oklahoma

Thank You!

To everyone who submitted a page for our new Lenten Devotional. I pray that you will read each submission and take the time to reflect, repent, pray, fast, and allow God to work in your life during this season of Lent.

*Peace, Joy, Hope, and Love,
Ross*

Maundy Thursday



"Unless I wash you,
you have no part with me."
JOHN 13:8, NIV

John 13:12-17 (NRSV)

12After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. 14So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. 16Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. 17If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.



APRIL

GOOD FRIDAY

IT IS FINISHED!



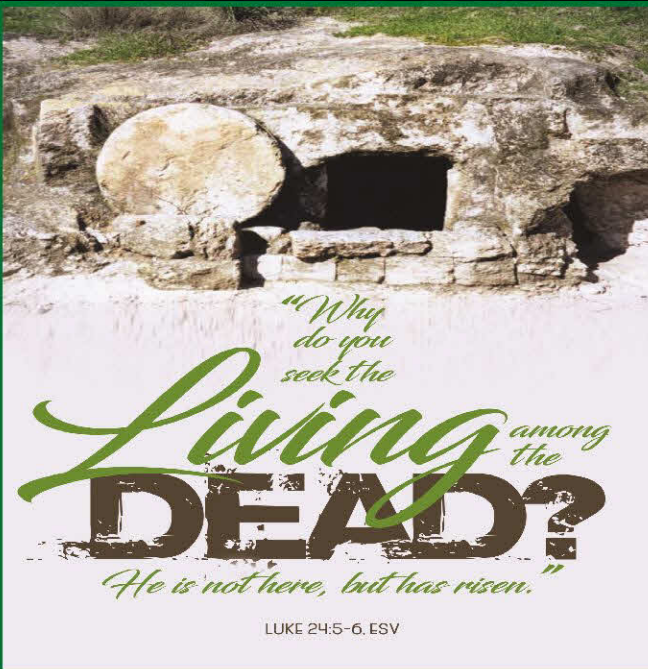
April 18th Office Closed

Isaiah 53:5 (AMP)

5But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was crushed for our wickedness [our sin, our injustice, our wrongdoing]; The punishment [required] for our well-being fell on Him, And by His stripes (wounds) we are healed.

Luke 24:2-7 (CEB)

2They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3but when they went in, they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4They didn't know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. 5The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6He isn't here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, 7that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again."



LUKE 24:5-6. ESV

April 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10-12 Food Pantry	2 10-12 Food Pantry 7pm KumBaZoom	3 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7pm G.A.	4 10-12 Food Pantry	5
6 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 worship 11:30 Fellowship	7 10-12 Food Pantry	8 10-12 Food Pantry	9 10-12 Food Pantry 7pm KumBaZoom	10 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack	11 10-12 Food Pantry	12
13 Palm Sunday 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 worship 11:30 Fellowship	14 10-12 Food Pantry	15 10-12 Food Pantry	16 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7pm KumBaZoom	17 Maundy Thursday 10-12 Food Pantry 7pm G.A.	18 Good Friday Office Closed	19
20 Easter Sunday 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 worship 11:30 Fellowship	21 10-12 Food Pantry	22 Earth Day 10-12 Food Pantry	23 10-12 Food Pantry 7pm KumBaZoom	24 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7pm G.A.	25 10-12 Food Pantry	26
27 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 worship 11:30 Fellowship	28 10-12 Food Pantry	29 10-12 Food Pantry	30 10-12 Food Pantry 7pm KumBaZoom			

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



*April
 Birthdays*



Jacob Karleskint 4/2	Jake Gray 4/18
Melba Cordell 4/2	Sarah Lomax 4/23
Sophia Shaffer 4/4	Elia Rendel 4/24
Shawn Spencer 4/7	Monica Eaton 4/26
Kia Liwai 4/8	Howard Condren 4/27
Tim Keith 4/17	



Romans 8:11

“If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”