

In a recent Sunday School class we pondered the relationship between preacher and congregation. The Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Long from Candler School of Theology writes that, “Preaching a sermon is something that the whole gathered assembly does together, as a unified act of ministry...equally important are the listeners, the role they play and how they prepare to hear and receive”.

We wondered how each of us could come to worship “prepared to hear and receive”. As a preacher, I pray over the text and the words that I use to help the text come to life. I rely on your prayers as I prepare and as I speak.

But equally important are the things that each of us does to prepare our own hearts before, during, and after worship. One thing that we have decided to do together is announce, not just the sermon title, but the scriptures that form the basis for the sermon. Please take a moment to read the scripture some time in the week before the sermon. Take time to ponder its message. Pray that your heart will be open to hear and respond. Pray that God will speak to you.

It's a good practice to begin during Lent, and a great practice to continue throughout the year.

*Pastor Ray*

## *Ordination & Installation of Elders & Deacons*

### *Elders*

### *Deacons*

*Dianna Minick*

*Abbey Ankenman*

*Nancy Gee*

*Diana Schmiedeke*

*Clyde Shaffer*

*Harin Shaffer*

*Charles Ulrey*

*John Lomax*





<b>March 3</b>	Shalom that Draws	Zechariah 8:14-22
<b>March 10</b>	Brought Together to Dwell with God	Ezekiel 37:21-28
<b>March 17</b>	Astonishing Shalom	Isaiah 55:1-13
<b>March 24</b>	True Humility	Zechariah 9:9-10
<b>March 31</b>	Unexpected Messengers	Isaiah 25:6-9, Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18



#### **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:**

- March 6** Made One in Communion
- March 13** Hope to be Made Holy in Communion
- March 20** Hope for God's Kingdom in Communion
- March 27** NO KBZ

#### **Adult Sunday School**

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

- March 3** Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Abuse
- March 10** Domestic Violence and Misogyny
- March 17** Racism
- March 24** Poverty
- March 31** Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast



## 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 47 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 **337 backpacks** since the beginning of the year. With **149** bags as of February 22,2024.



## MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee met on February 20, 2024. In Global Mission we gave a gift of **\$300 to Mercy Corps**. The Local Mission decided we gave a gift of **\$300 to the local chapter of the Salvation Army**.

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 **5** pairs of shoes in the year 2024. **3** pairs in the month of February alone.



The Food Pantry distribution average for last year (2023) was 54 bags/month. So far in the year of 2024 we have given out **91** bags of food. For the month of February, we gave out **39** bags of food as of 2/22/24.

**SPRING  
FORWARD**

DAYLIGHT  
SAVING  
TIME BEGINS!

[+ 1 HOUR]



*Saturday, March 9th*

*Don't forget to set your clocks ahead  
1 hour before going to bed.*

*Daylight Savings Time  
starts tomorrow.*



**New Directories!!!**

**New Cover!!!**



**New Look!!**

**Make sure you pick yours up!**



**Donation to the Food Pantry... Thank You Dianna Minick!**



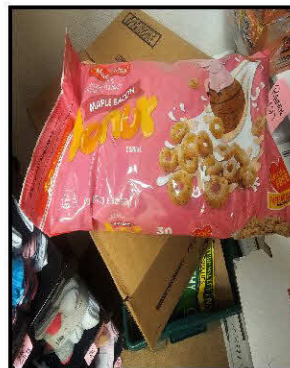
6 Cases:  
Burrito Bowl Kit  
Seasoned beef



4 Cases:  
Annie's  
Birthday  
Cake  
Cereal



2 Cases:  
Wild Planket  
Albacore Tuna



3 Cases:  
Malt o Meal  
Maple  
Bacon  
Donut  
Cereal



4 Cases:  
All  
American  
Granola



# MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Other Holidays:</p> <p>Ramadan Begins: March 11th</p> <p>Purim: Mar 23-24</p>					<p>1 World Day of Prayer 10-12 Food Pantry</p> 	2
<p>3 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Choir</p>	<p>4 10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>5 10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>6 10-12 Food Pantry  7:00 KumBaZoom</p>	<p>7 10-12 Food Pantry  2:30 Backpack  7:00 GA</p>	<p>8 10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>9</p> 
<p>10 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  7:00 KumBaZoom</p>	<p>14 10-12 Food Pantry  2:30 Backpack  7:00 GA</p>	<p>15 10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 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><b>Spring Break Week for School</b></p>	<p>19 10-12 Food Pantry  11:00 Mission Meeting  7:00 Session Meeting</p>	<p>20 Mr. Rogers Day 10-12 Food Pantry  7:00 KumBaZoom</p>	<p>21 10-12 Food Pantry  2:30 NO Backpack Spring Break  7:00 GA</p>	<p>22 10-12 Food Pantry</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Palm Sunday 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  2:30 Backpack  7:00 NO KumBaZoom</p>	<p>28 Maundy Thursday 10-12 Food Pantry  7:00 GA</p> 	<p>29</p> 	<p>30</p>
<p>31 <b>Easter SUNDAY</b> 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship</p>						



Jamie Gray .....3/7 Frankie Gray .....3/13  
 Josh Gray .....3/7 Dottie Liwai .....3/13  
 Sally Whalen .....3/8 Melody "Marco" Gray .....3/21  
 John Wilcox.....3/10 Felicity Burris .....3/21  
 Ross Tomlinson .....3/12 Fred Niehaus .....3/31

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

**HERITAGE CASE  
COOKING THROUGH THE YEARS**



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 Wednesday, March 20th.

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."



## Servers in the Lord's House

	Coffee Host	Backpack
<b>March 3</b>	Cari & Shawn	<b>March 7</b> <b>Open</b>
<b>March 10</b>	Open	<b>March 14</b> <b>Diana S. &amp; Cindy H.</b>
<b>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b> <b>March 17</b>	Open	<b>March 21</b> <b>Spring Break</b>
<b>March 24</b>	Open	<b>March 27 (Wed)</b> <b>Open</b>
<i>He is Risen</i> <b>March 31</b>	<b>Easter Breakfast &amp; Easter Egg Hunt</b>	

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



Do you have a poem, an interesting short story, a memory, a picture, anything the Lord has put on your heart to share?

The Open Door is not only the monthly newsletter to inform you of the events coming up at the church and what has transpired there, to give you the latest info on the mission committee and the food pantry or who has a birthday this month, who's bringing goodies for after worship, but it is a newsletter that is also here for YOU to share YOUR voice.

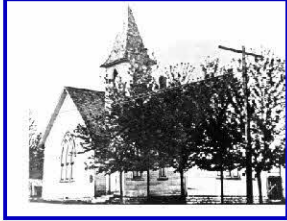
Please share what is in your heart and on your heart. Let Ross or Pastor Ray know that you have something you would like to contribute to the Open Door. They will happily make a space in the newsletter for your entry.

*Thursday, Feb, 22, 2024  
Ladies Luncheon  
Some ladies from FPC got together for a luncheon hosted by Abbey Ankenman. They enjoyed scrumptious finger foods, cucumber sandwiches and engaged in beautiful conversations. All had such a fantastic time that they plan to hold a ladies' luncheon once a month. Please keep reading the Open Door for updates on the progress, the dates for the upcoming ladies' luncheons, and what you can bring...*





## 125th Anniversary of FPC Miami



125 years



125 years



*Throughout the year the Heritage Committee will be giving us snippets of historical facts, pictures, and memories of First Miami's 125-year legacy. From the little white church to the fire at the downtown building to present day we will be awe struck and amazed at all of the wonder filled, heartwarming, tear-filled, joyous, occasions in First Presbyterian Miami's 125 years.*



*Do you have some historical documents or pictures you would like to share with the church throughout this 125<sup>th</sup> year celebration? Please contact either Nancy Gee, from the Heritage Committee, or Ross in the office. They will be more than happy to help you with your addition to this yearlong celebration.*

Friday, March 1st



Sunday, March 10th



Sunday, March 17th



Tuesday, March 19th



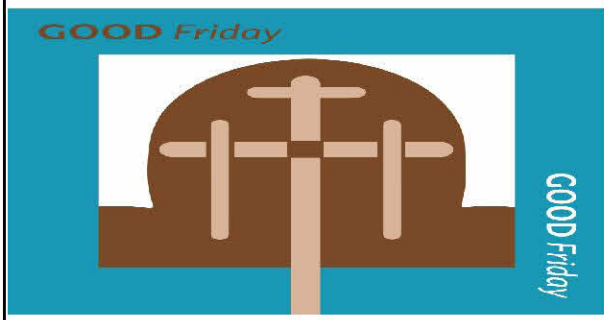
Sunday, March 24th



Thursday, March 28th



Friday, March 29th



Sunday, March 31st







Zechariah 10:1  
Ask rain from the LORD in the season of the spring rain,  
from the LORD who makes the storm clouds, who gives show-  
ers of rain to you, [a] the vegetation in the field to everyone.



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