

FROM THE PASTOR

As we turn the page on the calendar and begin learning to write 2024...I wonder what will make this year different for me. I would like to share some important questions for each of us to ask as we begin a new year:

1. **What is one thing you can do this year to increase your enjoyment of God.** After all, the Westminster Catechism tells us that our purpose in life is “to glorify God and enjoy Him forever”.
2. **What is one thing that you can do to improve your family life?** How can you work to make more love, more peace, more encouragement?
3. **What is the biggest time-waster in your life, and how can you begin to change that?** Social media? Sports? TV? Video games? Gossip? Can you set limits so that there is more time to build relationships and make room for God?
4. **What is one thing you could do to improve your prayer life?** Perhaps it is just setting aside some time each day. Maybe it's learning about different kinds of prayer.
5. **What is the most helpful way you could strengthen your church?** Serving? Giving? Praying? Inviting?

Happy 2024 everyone!

Pastor Ray



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Annual Congregational meeting will be held immediately after worship on Sunday, January 27, 2024. If, for any reason we need to postpone the meeting, our alternate date is February 4, 2024. We will elect new officers, hear a presentation of the 2023 budget and receive reports on the life and ministries of the congregation.



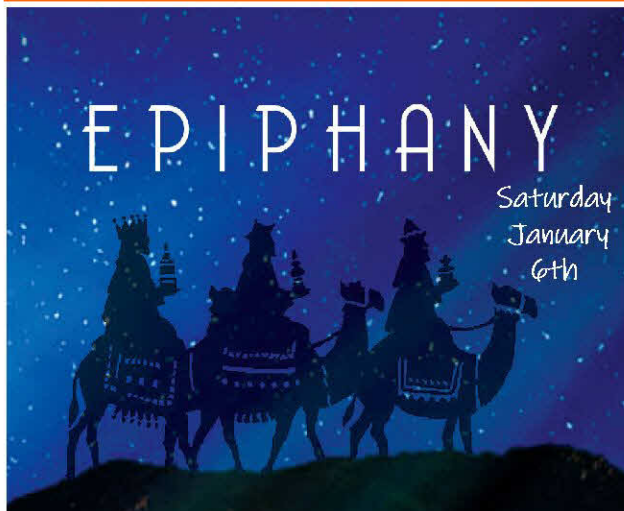
New Directories!!!



It is almost time for a new phone directory!

New phone number? New address?

Be sure to let the office know of any changes, additions or corrections.



MIAMI STUDENT QUALIFIES FOR NATIONAL COMPETITION

The Oklahoma School of Leadership and Management (OSLM) announced that Berkeley Urey, a student at the National Academic Quiz Tournament (NAQT) in Chicago, Illinois, has qualified for the National Academic Quiz Tournament (NAQT) in Chicago, Illinois.

Urey, a member of the OSLM Academic Team, is the first student on the left in the second row, wearing a black OSLM shirt.

OSLM offers a standards-based, nationwide competition program that is open to all students in middle school and above. In addition to its national championship, NAQT supplies questions to be read aloud in classrooms and keeps championships throughout the year, interspersed above and outside games.

About OSLM
Nationally ranked as the number five public high school in the nation, OSLM provides a college-level, academically advanced curriculum to parents and students across the state. For more information, visit www.oslmschools.org or call 405-371-1234.

Berkeley and some of his classmates at OSLM have qualified for the National Academic Quiz Tournament! It takes place in Chicago in April. Best of luck Guys!



January 7 Guided Prayer Service
January 14 “Come and See what I Found”
January 21 “Fishing for People”
January 28 “How Do We Recognize a Prophet?”



MLK Jr.
Day
Monday
Jan. 15th
Office
closed

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:

- January 3** Genesis 18
- January 10** Genesis 19
- January 17** Genesis 20
- January 24** Genesis 21
- January 31** Genesis 22

Adult Sunday School

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

- January 7** Epiphany Star words
- January 14** Worship 101
- January 21** Is There Room for Mysticism in the PC(USA)?
- January 28** Where Is Jesus?

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 since the 2023-2024 school year has started the number of students receiving backpacks for the weekend has increased. We started with 41 and the last week of Oct it was up to 52. So far for the year of 2023 we have delivered **1,156** backpack bags to Roosevelt Elementary School.

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 December 12th. They decided to give in Local Missions this month **\$200.00 to the Deacons for the Shoe Ministry** and for Global Missions they decided to give **\$300.00 to The Red Cross**.

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 **59** pairs of shoes for the year of 2023. With each pair of shoes we also deliver 3 pairs of socks.

Food Pantry: The food pantry has handed out **644** bags of food for the year of 2023. With **55** bags given out in the month of

December.





*Christmas Eve
Service
2023*

Scripture Reader Schedule

January 7	John
January 14	Ross
January 21	Nathaniel
January 28	Janet
February 4	Grace
February 11	Karin
February 18	Diana
February 25	Clyde
March 3	Tim
March 10	Melinda

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

2024

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed Happy New Year! 	2 10-12 Food Pantry	3 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	4 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	5 10-12 Food Pantry	6 Epiphany of The Lord 
7 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Choir	8 10-12 Food Pantry	9 10-12 Food Pantry	10 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	11 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	12 10-12 Food Pantry	13
14 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Deacons Mtg 11:30 choir	15 Office Closed MLK JR Day 	16 10-12 Food Pantry 11:00 Mission Mtg 7:00 Session Mtg	17 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	18 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	19 10-12 Food Pantry	22
21 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship	22 10-12 Food Pantry	23 10-12 Food Pantry	24 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	25 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	26 10-12 Food Pantry	27
28 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 Annual Con- gregational Mtg Congregational Meeting 	29 10-12 Food Pantry	30 10-12 Food Pantry	31 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom			



Deanna Duvall.....1/2 Cari Allen.....1/18
 Clyde Shaffer.....01/3 Laura Shepherd.....1/20
 Dianna Minick.....1/11 Helen Hutchison.....1/22
 Henry Long.....1/14 Fortune Karleskint.....1/23
 Anna Milligan.....1/14 Christopher Rabel.....1/29
 Frank Denny.....1/15

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

1st Presbyterian Hanging of the Greens 2023



Servers in the Lord's House

	Coffee Host	Backpack Packers
January 7	Open	Jan 4 Diana S. & Cindy H.
January 14	Open	Jan 11 Open
January 21	Open	Jan 18 Open
January 28	Open	Jan 25 Open

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

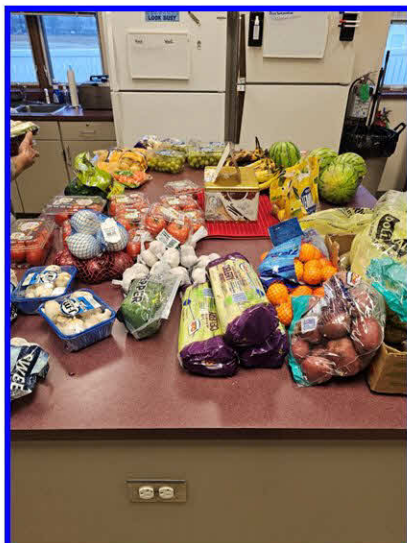


On the last Sunday of November, we had a Spaghetti dinner and made advent wreaths. This is a picture of the advent wreath that Nancy Gee made. Nancy's beautiful wreath was used during this advent season. Each week she was faithful to light each candle with the expectation of God doing something wonderful in her life and in the lives of others in the world. Each advent candle has a meaning or a representation behind it. They are Hope, Peace (or sometimes love which we did this year), Joy, and Love. Pastor Ray preached each week during the advent season on an aspect or quality of God that went along with each candle: "God is Like a Fort", "God is Like a Gardener", God is Like a River", and God is Like a Light".

Nancy thank you for sharing this beautiful picture with us.

My prayer for each of you is that you find hope, peace, joy, love, that God is your fortress, your gardener, your river, and that Jesus is the Light that fills your lives.

Ross

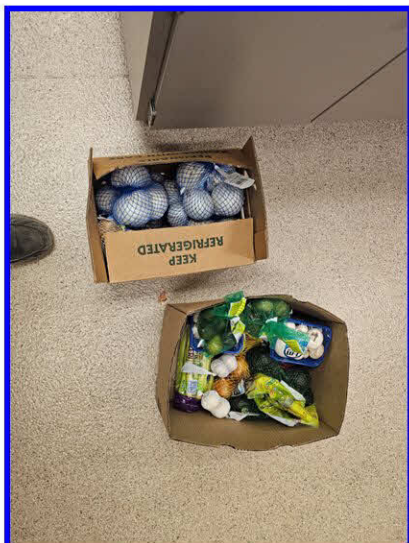


Dollar General Donations

This store has been such a blessing to our Food Pantry!

They are faithful to donate produce instead of throwing it away, knowing that there are hungry people in town that can benefit from this food.

God Bless You!



January

HELP US STORE THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS!

Can you plan to stay after worship for a few minutes on Sunday, January 7th, to help take down and store the Christmas decorations? We thank you in advance for your help!



All Saints' Episcopal Reverse Advent Calendar Donations

Thank you so much for the gracious donations of boxes and bags full of food for the food pantry. Your partnership with us in this ministry is greatly appreciated. Together we are touching the lives of people in our community that are hungry and showing them the love of Christ

May You Be Blessed With,
Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love

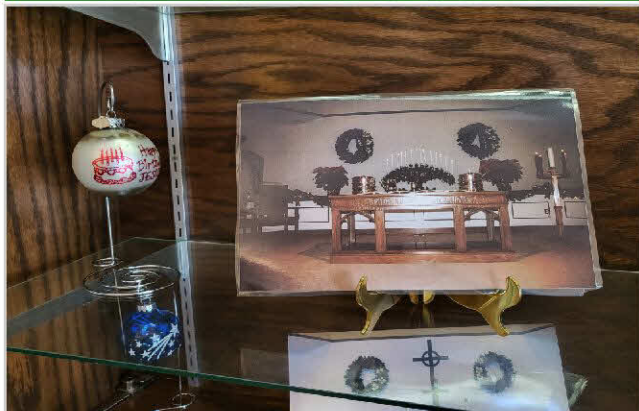


Matthew 25:44-45

44Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?'
45Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

Heritage Case Christmas 2023

Judy & Nancy will take you down memory lane
of Christmases passed.





1 Chronicles 16:11-12

¹¹ Seek the Lord and his strength;
¹² seek his presence continually.
¹² Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he uttered,



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