


### FROM THE PASTOR

Wouldn't it be fantastic if every day when we awakened, we'd jump out of bed and joyfully proclaim, "This is the day the Lord has made! Woo hoo! Let's go!" But what about those days when even the prospect of getting out of bed is daunting, engulfing us with fear, dread, or sorrow? When we open our eyes first thing in the morning and feel utterly alone. Abandoned. Not having the energy to lift the covers, put our feet on the floor, and start our day. Not knowing how we're going to be able to face whatever problem or person or peril is causing us to feel overwhelmed and defeated before we even leave our bedroom.

Struggles either can consume us ... or they can force us to grow stronger and the roots of our faith to sink deeper. That's not saying losses, setbacks, reversals, challenges, disappointments, and betrayals are endured easily. They're painful, often unbearably so. But we are not alone: As Isaiah wrote, the Lord our God, who knows us by name, has promised He will see us "through" whatever struggles we're experiencing: through the waters of grief or despair, through the rivers of nonstop problems, and through the fires of trials and tribulations.

*Pastor Ray*

March 2nd



**TRANSFIGURATION  
SUNDAY**

March 5th



**ASH  
wednesday**  
REPENT & BELIEVE

We will mark the beginning of Lent with a service on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm. Please join us.

**WORLD**  
*Way*  
OF PRAYER



March 7th

March 9th

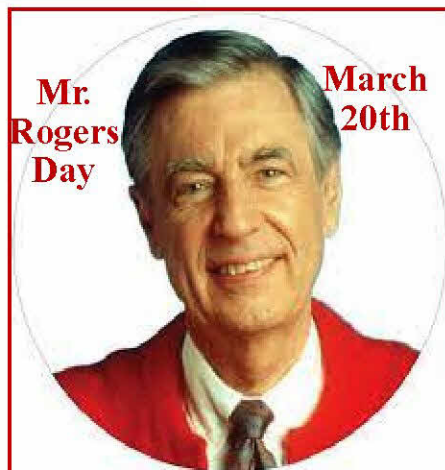
**SPRING  
FORWARD**

→  
DAYLIGHT  
SAVING  
TIME BEGINS!  
[+ 1 HOUR]




March 17th  
**St. Patrick's Day**

Mr. Rogers Day



March 20th



March 20th

**Spring  
Is Here!**



- March 2** You Gotta Practice Luke 9:28-43
- March 9** How Could This Happen to Me?  
Job 3:1-3, 11, 20-22; 38:4, 12-13, 16, 18; 40:3-14
- March 16** Rash Vows and Suffering Judges 11:1-3, 30-40; John 14:1-3
- March 23** Thorns in the Flesh II Corinthians 12:9-10, Matthew 26:36-46
- March 30** Carrying what Carried Us Mark 2:1-12



#### **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 5** ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
- March 12** Membership Benefits: Worship
- March 19** Membership Benefits: Unity
- March 26** Membership Benefits: Instruction

#### **Adult Sunday School**

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

- March 2** Body
- March 9** The Art of Public Theology
- March 16** The Many Faces of Jesus
- March 23** PC(US) Foundations
- March 30** PC(USA) Foundations

## 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 get a hold of Dave Foster or the office. To all of you who have volunteered your time to pack backpacks this year, we are thankful and grateful for all of your help.



## MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee did not meet during the month of February due to inclement winter weather.

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 **22 households and 37 individuals** from February 1 - February 25.



## St Patrick's Day Dinner Sunday, March 16th


Shepherds Pie and Corned beef & Cabbage  
Will be our main entrées.

Please bring a side that will go  
with these entrées



Below is a snapshot of one of the reports I can run with the Neighbor Intake program for the food pantry.

As you can see it breaks all the information out for me into households, individuals, and ages. This is just one report I can run with this system.



**Snapshot Overview**  
All data is aggregated based on selected filters, including the selected time range: 2/1/2025 to 2/25/2025. Last updated 2/29/2025 7:26:50 AM

We value your feedback. Tell us what you think here!

**Select Filters:**

Visit Start Date: 2/1/2025

Visit End Date: 2/25/2025

Food Bank: All

Agency: All

Program Location Name: All

Event: All

Program type: All

Service Display Name: All

Government Program: All

Neighbor State - County: All

Neighbor ZIP Code: All

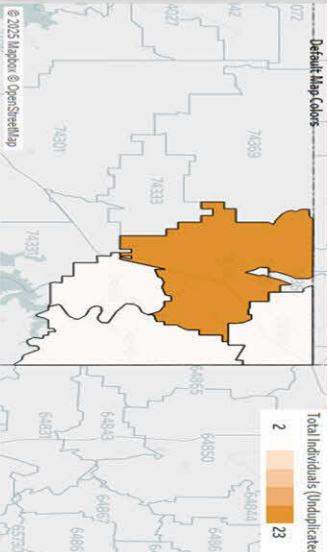
Navigate Elsewhere

Individuals		Households		Active Program Locations	
Unduplicated	Duplicated (Visits)	Unduplicated	Duplicated	New	Avg. Visits
35	37	21	22	16	1.05
				New	1
				Program Locations	

**Age Distribution of All Individuals (Unduplicated)**

6 to 17	3%
18 to 49	43%
50 to 59	37%
60 to 64	11%
65+	6%

**Service Details by All Zip Codes**



**Children, Adults, and Seniors Living in Households With/Without Children (Unduplicated)**

Households with Children	1
Households without Children	20

**Visits by Rolling 12 Months (Duplicated Households and Individuals)**

Dec-2024	OK
Jan-2025	OK
Feb-2025	OK

**View by Households or Individuals**

Adults	OK
Children	OK
Seniors	OK

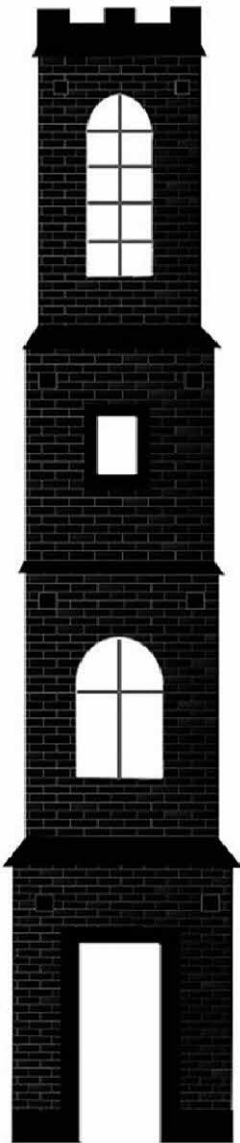
# MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b>Transfiguration Sunday</b> March 2nd Transfiguration of the Lord	 <b>ASH Wednesday</b> REPENT & BELIEVE March 5th Ash Wednesday	 <b>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER</b> March 7th World Day of Prayer				1
<b>2 Transfiguration Sunday</b> 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>3</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	<b>4</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	<b>5 Ash Wednesday</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 Ash Wed Service	<b>6</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	<b>7 World Day Of Prayer</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	8
<b>9 Daylight Savings</b> 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Fellowship 11:30 Deacons Mtg	<b>10</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	<b>11</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 11:30 Ladies Luncheon	<b>12</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 KumBaZoom	<b>13</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 GA	<b>14</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	15
<b>16</b> 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Dinner	<b>17 St. Patrick's Day</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	<b>18</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 11:00 Mission Mtg 7:00 Session Mtg	<b>19</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	<b>20 Mr. Rogers Day</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	<b>21</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	22
<b>23</b> 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Fellowship	<b>24</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	<b>25</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	<b>26</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	<b>27</b> 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	<b>28</b> 10-12 Food Pantry	29
<b>30</b> 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Fellowship	<b>31</b> 10-12 Food Pantry		 <b>Spring Forward</b> March 9th Daylight Savings begin	 <b>ST. PATRICK'S Day</b> March 17th St Patrick's Day	 <b>Mr. Rogers Day</b> March 20 Mr. Rogers Day	 <b>HELLO SPRING!</b> March 20th 1st day of spring



*Jamie Gray* ..... 3/7    *Dottie Liwai* ..... 3/13  
*Josh Gray* ..... 3/7    *Frankie Gray* ..... 3/13  
*Sally Whalen* ..... 3/8    *Emily Gray* ..... 3/21  
*John Wilcox* ..... 3/10    *Fred Niehaus* ..... 3/31  
*Ross Tomlinson Jr.*..... 3/12

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



**2025**

## **Lenten Devotional**



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First Presbyterian Church  
Miami, Oklahoma

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*Please pick up your copy of the brand-new Lenten Devotional!!*

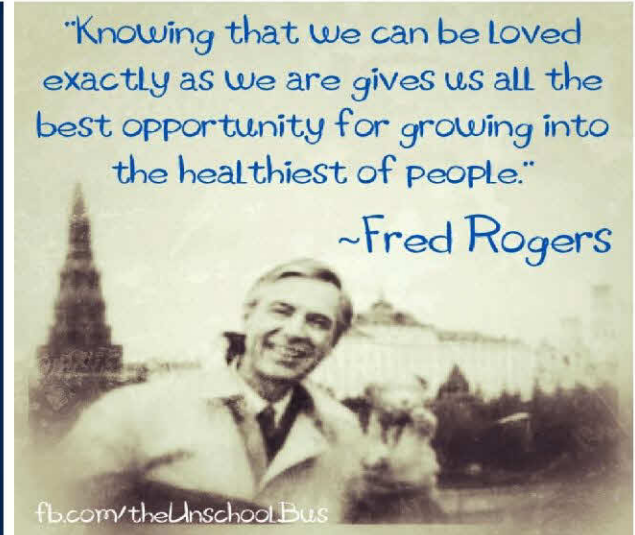
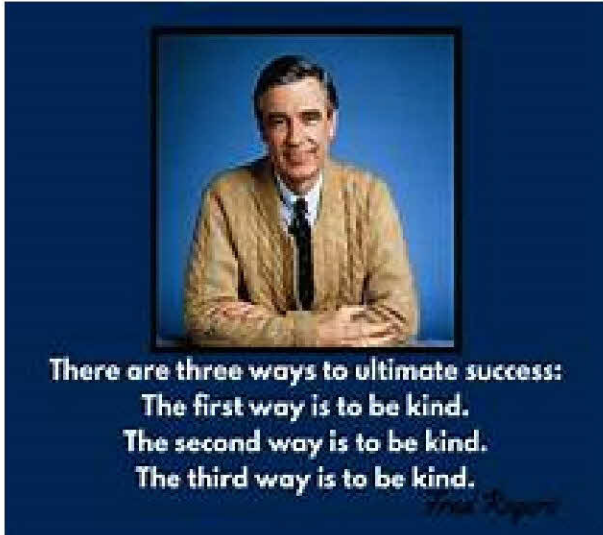
*Created by the congregation here at FPC Miami.*

Servers in the Lord's House			
	Coffee Host	Backpack Packers	
March 2	Clyde & Karin	Mar 6	Clyde & Karin
March 9	Birthday Sunday	Mar 12 (WED)	Open
March 16	St. Patrick's Day Dinner	Mar 20	Spring Break
March 23	Open	Mar 27	Open
March 30	Open		

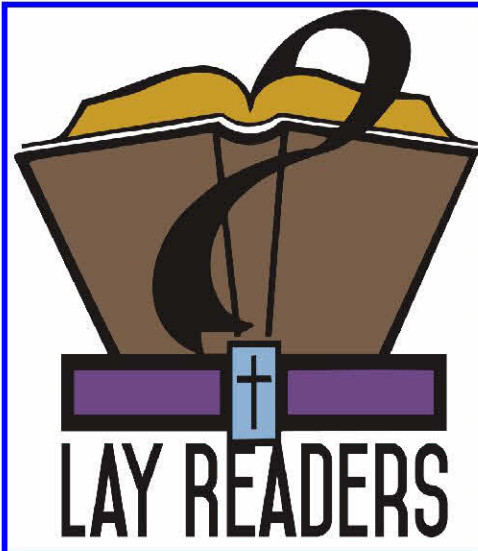
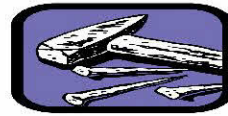
**MARCH**

February  
**Ladies Luncheon**  
 was  
**CANCELED**  
 Due to Inclement Weather  
 See you on March 11th





# Lent



March 2	Clyde Shaffer (Transfiguration Sunday)
March 9	Karin Shaffer
March 16	Diana Schmiedeke
March 23	John Lomax
March 30	Abbey Ankenman
April 6	Grace Goodeagle
April 13	Melinda Thiesing (Palm Sunday)
April 20	Tim Keith (Easter Sunday)
April 27	Ross Tomlinson

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



# M·A·R·C·H

Several people asked for this recipe from a recent Coffee Hour:

## EASY PECAN BARS

For the Crust:

- 1 C. unsalted butter, melted
- ½ C. granulated sugar
- 2 t. vanilla extract
- 2 C. flour

For the Pecan Filling:

- ¾ C. brown sugar
- ½ C. corn syrup (light or dark)
- ¼ C. unsalted butter, melted
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- ¼ t. salt
- 1 ½ pecans, chopped

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Line 9 x 13 baking dish with parchment paper or grease well.

For the crust:

In a bowl, mix together melted butter, sugar, vanilla extract, and flour until combined.

Press mixture evenly into the bottom of the prepared pan.

Bake for 15 minutes, or until lightly golden.

Prepare the Pecan Filling:

In a separate bowl, whisk together brown sugar, corn syrup, melted butter, eggs, vanilla extract, and salt until smooth.

Fold in the chopped pecans.

Pour pecan mixture over the warm, pre-baked crust.

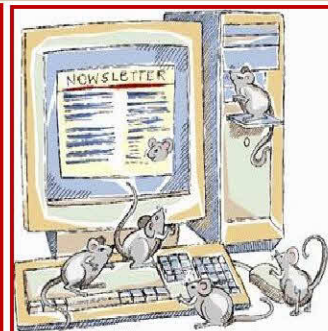
Bake for 25-30 minutes, or until the filling is set but slightly jiggly in the center.

Cool and slice.



Do you have a quick little story, a poem, a favorite scripture, a picture, a song?

Let Ross know, and he will be happy to add it to the monthly Open Door.



**Newsletter**  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

### Lamentations 3:22-23



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