



Tiny Letters:
Giant Impact

*Called to make fully-devoted followers
of Jesus Christ:
Inwardly Strong,
Outwardly Focused.*

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023
11:00 AM
SANCTUARY

*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa
Born by grace in 1885*

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Words of Preparation

If Jesus is the Bread of Life, loss of Jesus means starving. If Jesus is the Light of the World, loss of Jesus means darkness. If Jesus is the Good Shepherd, loss of Jesus means wandering alone and lost. If Jesus is the resurrection and the life, loss of Jesus is eternal death. If Jesus is the Lamb of God, sacrificed for our sins, loss of Jesus means paying that price for ourselves.

Confronting Christianity, Rebecca McLaughlin

The Welcome

Dr. Miller

(Please sign, pass, and return the blue Friendship Register)

The Call to Worship

We are called to worship by the living God Himself --whose presence among us is assured:

“Where two or three are gathered in My name,” Jesus said, “I’m right there among you.”

“No one,” says Paul, “can lay a foundation other than that which is already laid, namely, Jesus Christ.”

From heaven He came and sought us to be His holy bride, with His own blood He bought us –and for our lives, He died.

Come then, lift your hearts and your voices –and let us worship God!

◆ The Hymn

The Church’s One Foundation

AURELIA

Acolytes: Jacob Case, Lucy Gingerich and Jayden Grosso

The Church’s one Foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord; She is His new creation by water and the Word; from heaven He came and sought us to be His holy bride; with His own blood He bought us, and for our life He died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth, her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth; One holy name she

blesse, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

The church shall never perish; Her dear Lord to defend, to guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end; though there be those that hate her, and false ones in her pale, against the foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war, she waits the consummation of peace forevermore; till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest, and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won: O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we, like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration, Confession and Thanksgiving**

Kirstyn Taylor

The Old Testament Reading Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

The Blessing of the Young Disciples Love Drives Learning!

Preston Ballard

The Sacrament of Baptism

Co-Clerk Joel Donohue

Colin Brian Curtis: son of Charles "Trey" and Alexandra Curtis

◆ **The Response**

ABBOT'S LEIGH

Draw us close, Lord, by your Spirit, make us faithful, strong and pure. Come and work your re-formation –in our sinful hearts, your cure. Send us out renewed, awakened, grant that fruitful we may be, doing justice, loving kindness, walking in humility.

◆ **The Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN.

The New Testament Reading Jude 1:1-25

The Sermon Is "Contending" Necessary?

I find it necessary to...appeal to you to contend for the faith. Jude 3

You are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the cornerstone. Eph. 3:20

The Offertory My Jesus, I Love Thee Gilbert M. Martin

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know thou art mine; for thee all the follies of sin I resign; my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou; if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now. I love thee because thou hast first loved me, and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree; I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow: if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now. Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him, how I've proved him o'er and o'er! Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus, O for grace to trust him more! In mansions of glory and endless delight, I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright; I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow; if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

A Word from the First Church *Transition Team*

(Allison Biggs, Jim Diacon (Chair), Brett Crane, Stephanie Madsen,
Urbanus Masaku and Gary Mathews)

The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

◆ The Hymn Onward, Christian Soldiers ST. GERTRUDE

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before: Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe; forward into battle, see his banners go.

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before.

At the sign of triumph Satan's host doth flee; on, then, Christian soldiers, on to victory. Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise; come now, lift your voices, loud your anthems raise!
Refrain.

Onward, then, you people, join our happy throng; blend with ours your voices in the triumph song; glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the King: this thro' countless ages we with angels sing. *Refrain*

The Congregational Meeting

◆ The Charge and Benediction

Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory

with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

◆ The Postlude Improvisation on the tune ST. GERTRUDE

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Reflections on the Tiny Letter of Jude

- The Christian faith has been once and for all entrusted to the saints.
- We are called upon to *proclaim and contend* for this faith.
- In every generation, the apostolic witness of this faith is threatened –both from without and from within the church.

The life of a Christian, it is true, is a perpetual warfare, for whoever gives himself to the service of God will have no truce from Satan at any time, but will be harassed with incessant disquietude. John Calvin

Today

A heartfelt welcome to each and all as we gather to worship in this House of Prayer. If you're here for the first time, we pray you'll sense the presence of Christ and the warmth of this congregation.

A Congregational Meeting has been called by the Session and will meet today, September 17, immediately following the 11:00 sanctuary service. The Nominating Committee, led by Elder Amy Russell, offer a new slate of officers (elders, deacons, trustees, Class of 2026) and invite congregational approval.

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to Dr. Henry Lederle and family. Henry is suffering from a recurrence of cancer and is on hospice care.

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in memory of my husband Harold E. Kunkel, Sr. and in

honor of our children Harold Kunkel, Darryl Kunkel and Cheryl Kunkel by Joyce Kunkel.

Thank you for your faithful support of the ministries of First Church! Weekly tithes and offerings to the Lord may be given electronically at firstchurchtulsa.org, text 405-276-4141 or by using the QR code below.



The Session has formed a Transition Team (Allison Biggs, Jim Diacon, Brett Crane, Stephanie Madsen, Urbanus Masaku and Gary Mathews) whose duties will be to prepare for Dr. Miller's upcoming retirement. If you have questions, concerns or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the members of the team or send an your inquiries to *FPCTransition@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

Presbyterian Women's mission project for September is First Church's Helping Hand Ministries. This ministry offers assistance to Tulsans in need. They will be collecting full-sized toiletries, small bottles of laundry soap, and toilet paper. You can leave these items in the PW collection bin, in the atrium on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Foundations Class – today at 9:30 a.m. in E104. The class is open to anyone interested in studying the basic foundations of the Bible and the principles of the Christian faith. Rev. Hutchinson will lead the class on a deep dive into the letters of Paul, beginning with the book of Romans.

Ireland and Kenya Trip Reviews – Today (Ireland) and next Sunday, September 24 (Kenya) we join in the Stephenson Hall at 9:30 a.m. to hear reflections on the recent Ireland and Kenya mission trips.

Faith Partners Addiction Ministry – If you or a loved one is suffering from an addiction, visit the Faith Partners table in the atrium today to learn more about this ministry.

Happening This Week

Wednesday Night Downtown

Dinner at 5:15 p.m. in Stephenson Hall – Class starts at 6:15 p.m.

The Meaning Behind the Marquee meets in Stephenson Hall. The First Church pastors will lead a five-week series on the meaning of orthodox, reformed, and evangelical. These words speak to First Church's identity – who we are and where we come from. But what do they signify? What is it that we are declaring to be true about this community? This fall, we will be considering

each of these words, the history and theology that give them meaning, and how they might shape our life together.

Seekers Sermon Series - led by Rev. Wambugu in E104. Join us as we study and discuss the sermon scriptures from the week.

Mark Your Calendar

Interested in a Kerr Chapel history tour? Join FPC docent Joan Hoar on Sunday, September 24 following the 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service in the Kerr Chapel. For more information contact Patricia Hall 918-301-1028 or phall@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Inquirers Class – If you're interested in learning more about First Church, please join us on Sundays, September 24, October 1, 8 and 15 from 9:15 - 10:40 a.m. in the Miller Library. Registering for the class is very helpful; use the QR code below or contact Patricia Hall at phall@firstchurchtulsa.org or 918-301-1028.



Music Lovers! You are invited to the 50th Annual Organ Concert presented by Ron Pearson, on Sunday, October 8, at 4:00, in the Sanctuary. The university of Tulsa Chamber Orchestra will participate; a reception will follow in the Atrium.

Deacons Day of Care: Saturdays, October 7 and 28. On the first Saturday, the team will be at Anderson Elementary School working on the grounds. On Saturday, October 28, teams will deploy to the home of First Church members who have requested help with yard work and light home-maintenance jobs. To offer your help, use the QR code. To request a team to visit your home on October 28, please call Julie Steiner at 918-640-6955.



Save the Date!

Come and add to the joy! Mr. Austin Stember and Miss Courtney Miller cordially invite you (and each member of the congregation) to share in the blessing of their wedding, **Saturday, October 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.** A reception follows in the Courtyard.

Ministry Opportunities

Young Adults – First Church is committed to cultivating faith within the next generation, providing a place for young adults to connect with one another and with the larger church. Find us on Facebook, Instagram at *@fpcyoungadults*, or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

Realm – the church database – Every member of the church has a profile in the church's database. Unfortunately, many members do not have a photo in their profile. Having your photo on file is very helpful to the pastors, staff and other members in your groups. Visit the table in the atrium today or next Sunday, the 24, and visit with Kathy Wilson who will help you check your profile.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, David Dunning, Mary Ann Elliott, Gaye Graeler, Gena Gray, Dana Grogan, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Brenda Johnson, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, Jan Miller, Jim Miller, David Osterholt, Bill Peacher, Shari Postier, Lyle Proffitt, Helen Quiring, Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Asa Smith, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, and Susan Waldie.

Sympathy and Prayers to: Joe Dillsaver on the death of his brother, Guinn C. Dillsaver, on September 8.

With Gratitude for the Resurrection: Beverly Dale, a member since 1935, died on September 4.

Worship Notes

Services are broadcast on Cox channel 3 (each Sunday) at 11:00 a.m.,

5:00 and 10:00 p.m., on the FPC Facebook page, or *FirstChurchTulsa.org/YouTube*.

Please notify the church if you have a pastoral need, change of address/phone number or other important family news. Contact Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 or *kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

For those who need hearing assistance in the Sanctuary or Stephenson Hall, audio headsets are available from the ushers. Also available are large-print hymnals and Bibles.

First Church Cancer List – Do you or a loved one have cancer? Members of the Guild of Intercessors pray every day for those on the Guild's Cancer List. If you would like to add yourself, a loved one, or a friend or colleague to this confidential list, please contact Paula Peterson at 918-296-5548/*mandppeterson@msn.com* or Monte Prater at 918-605-9719/*monteprater@aol.com*.

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY 9/17

- 8:00 am Worship: Kerr Chapel
8:30 am Worship: Stephenson Hall
9:00 am First Church Chorister and Celebration Singers
9:30 am Christian Apologetics, E104
 Cornerstone, E102
 Covenanters, E101
 Faith and Family, Prayer Room
 Forum, E200
 Harbingers, E202
 Morning Glory Class, B318
 Young Parents, E104
 Pastor's Study, E104
 Foundations, E104
 Reflections, E103
 Shepherds, E203
 Sojourners, E204
 Ukirk, E201
 The Vine, E100
 Westminster Class, Tower Room
 Young Adults, E104
11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall
12:00 pm Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary

Monday 9/18

- 10:00 am Little Lambs, Wiseman Hall
11:30 am Monday School, Kirkland Library
11:45 am Guy's Monday Bible Study, E103
7:00 pm Overtone Rehearsal, Bell Choir

Tuesday 9/19

- 9:30 am Precepts, E100

Wednesday 9/20

- 9:30 am Watercolor the Word – Creative Art Class, E100
11:30 am Pastor's Study, E104
5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner, Stephenson Hall
6:00 pm Awana, Children's Area, POW, Amass Exodus, Powerhouse
6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Saturday 9/23

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103
6:30 pm Rebecca McLaughlin Lecture and Dessert, Stephenson Hall

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 17, 2023, 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Election of Officers

Each year the congregation is charged with identifying leadership within this family of faith. A nominating team gathers to wait upon the Lord, consider the needs of the Church, and present to the congregation their sense of the Lord's leading. It is hard to overemphasize the importance of this task. It is one of the most significant responsibilities delegated to any committee.

We are grateful for the special and prayerful consideration that the 2023 Nominating Committee brought to this task and we offer to the congregation the following persons whom we believe God is calling into specific leadership positions within First Church:

Elders – 2026

DD Blackman
Jenni Dollahon
Cip Frizzell
Jerry Hall
Kim Hall
Bill Huffman
Betty Marshall
Paul McEntire
Jan Miller
Mary Lee Torbert

Deacons – 2026

Diane Austin
Lisa Berry
Dave Davis
Amy Fiegener
David Grigg
Andrew Hand
Nelly Ndungu
Jana Neal
Katy Swan
Clare Williams

Trustees – 2026

Ricky Jones
Bill Lawson
Jennifer Porter

2024 Nomination Committee

Clay Bird
Tamra Bird
Cindy DeVore
Allen Kanyeki
Breanna McIntosh
Jennifer Philp
David Russell
Todd Schuster
Porter Schultz

With gratitude to the 2023 Nominating Committee:

Co-Chair Amy Russell, Co-Chair Denise Rounds, Jane Crain, Pam Farris, Patrick Grogan, Gary Johnson, Becca Kibui, Janet Mercer, Jason Pugh, Carol Rowland, Grace Shelton, Spurgeon Wambugu and Laurie Winslow