

Let Your **LIGHT SHINE**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OWASSO
DECEMBER 2020

Tie a Ribbon



Tie a Prayer

Join us in celebrating Advent outside the church, by the Blessing Box. We'll have a Christmas Tree for the church and the community, and all are invited to take one of the red ribbons there, and tie a ribbon and a prayer on the tree! I think we all have prayers that we can bring during these challenging times, to honor lives, and honor the coming of the Christ Child!

*First Presbyterian
Church of Owasso*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:30am YouTube worship

11:45am ZOOM Sunday
School

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

4:00pm ZOOM Prayer

6:30 Kids & Youth on
ZOOM

www.fpcowasso.org



December Birthdays

- 3 Kristi Buster
- 4 Emma Porter
- 8 Stella Thomas
- 9 Ron Brewer
- 18 Mollie Hill
- 24 Gary Baxter
- 28 Janet Parker
- 28 Kerry Hartley
- 30 Judy Owens

Congratulations!

Join us for Worship!

Available every Sunday morning at 10:30am on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChc7GC6lg2oxCi1qrjM8fZQ> We celebrate ‘virtual communion’ online on the first Sunday of the month, with whatever you have at home for the bread and cup. We hope you’ll use your Advent at Home Worship basket, with the candles, wreaths and readings. Our worship service is available to view online any time day or night!



Check us out online!

Listen to the sermons, check out our current events, or read the newsletter online at www.fpcowasso.org or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FirstPresOwasso, for video devotionals, updates, and other events.

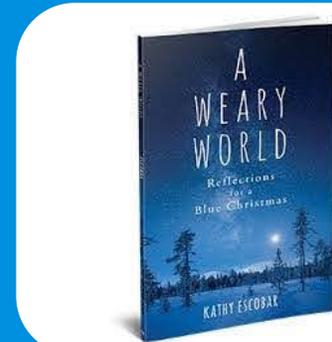
KIDS & YOUTH ON ZOOM

Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30pm

Join Ms. Susan on ZOOM for our Advent ZOOM series! Email her for the link!

At Home Advent Boxes

All homes received an Advent wreath, candles, greenery, a devotional, an Upper Room book and a special bag for the “Blue Christmas” service. If you did not receive one and want one, please contact the office or Pastor Natalie!



ZOOM SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays at 11:45am on ZOOM

A Weary World

Small Group study with
Pastor Natalie

Join us as we move through
Advent during this weary time in
our world.

PRAYER GROUP

Wednesdays 4:00pm

Join Pastor Natalie for online prayer and support! Email her for the Zoom link and password!



Stewardship is Heart Work

We have received 17 pledges, totaling \$86,886!
We invite you to send in your 2021 pledge. You can mail or email it to the church office.
Stewardship is using our hearts-through **time, talent, and treasure** - to work for God's Kingdom here on earth. Your generosity grows your faith and relationship with Jesus, and it truly changes lives! Join us in this season of giving!



KIDS & YOUTH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 13th

Our Kids & Youth are recording an online pageant - it will go live on Sunday, December 13th on YouTube (and at the end of the regular streaming worship!).

Starring:

<i>Stella Thomas</i>	<i>Harrison Wood</i>
<i>Kyra Pinkerton</i>	<i>Jackson McGillen</i>
<i>Lila Pinkerton</i>	<i>Logan McGillen</i>
<i>Emsley Bratcher</i>	<i>Alan Parker</i>



DECEMBER WORSHIP

- 6th Second Sunday of Advent
A Light in the Darkness
John 1
- 13th Third Sunday of Advent
Kids & Youth Pageant
- 20th Fourth Sunday of Advent
Blue Christmas
- 24th Christmas Eve Service (outdoors)
7:00pm
- 24th Christmas Eve lesson & carols
on YouTube
- 27th First Sunday of Christmas

ADVENT
— A SEASON OF —
PREPARATION
ISAIAH 7:14

SESSION MEETING

December 15th- 6:30pm on Zoom

OFFICE CLOSED
DECEMBER 23-25TH
FOR CHRISTMAS!



December 2020 Newsletter Pastors Letter

Wow-What a year! I cannot wait until 2020 is over, what about you? But first, we are approaching the most holy season of the Christian year. This year will be different. It will be harder. It will be filled with some sorrow, and some longing for years past. The challenges facing all of us are real and often overwhelming. For many of us, it will seem darker than other years.

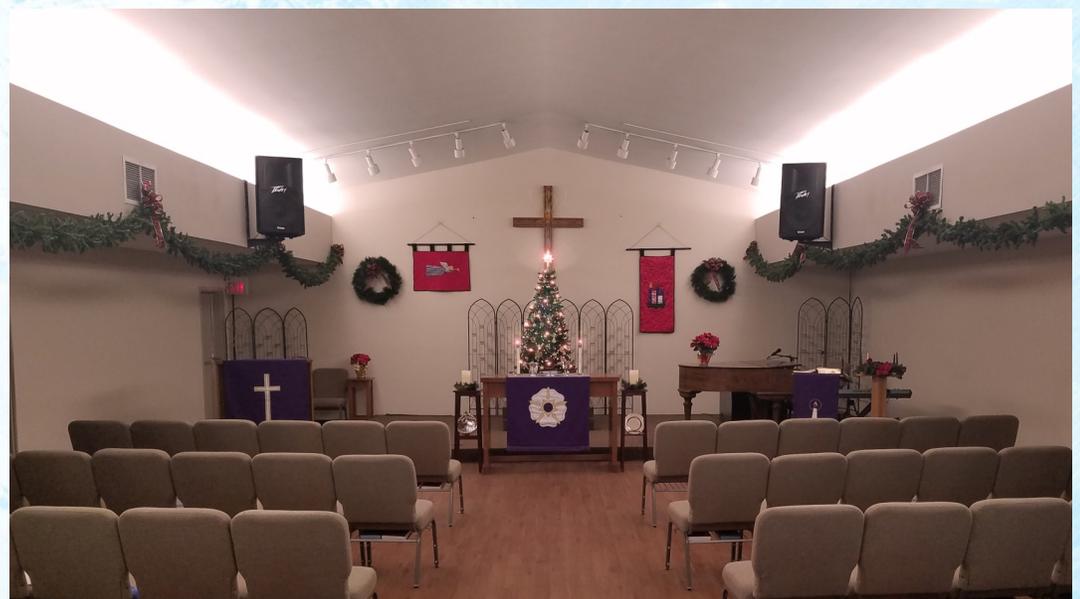
But the Good News of our Gospel is that the Light of Jesus Christ actually shines brighter in the darkness. The darkness cannot overcome it. (John 1). And we can see the goodness of God in new and different ways when we are walking through the dark valleys of life.

So let's pray for that. Let's pray for God's light to shine into the darkness of our world and our lives. Let's pray for the eyes to spot some God-sightings this Christmas (didn't you love hearing Angela Porter's God-sighting from Easter and the poppy flowers?). Let's pray for a new understanding of the Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace that only Jesus Christ can bring. We will probably find this in some unlikely places, and in strange and small ways this year. Let's pray we are open to every little ray of light.

At FPCO, we pray that the Home Advent boxes, the Tie a Ribbon Tie a Prayer, and the Kids and Youth pageant will all lift our spirits. We are still united, even when we gather online for worship! This year we'll have a recorded Christmas Eve lesson & carols available on December 24th, and at 7pm on Christmas Eve you are invited to the parking lot for a brief outdoor candle-light service (provided no ice or snowstorm!). That service is always so special, so we will do it as best we can this year!

Thank you for your prayers and understanding, as we work together to love one another in a difficult season. May God grant you courage and strength this Advent.

Grace and Peace to you,
Pastor Natalie





BLUE Christmas

Sunday, December 20th

What is a *Blue Christmas* service? (Is this about the Elvis song?)

Actually, it is a special service acknowledging the weariness of our world this year, the losses we've seen and the grief we carry. It's a service where we recognize that Christmas, especially in 2020, is not like a Christmas Card. This year many of us will not gather with family and friends at all, or if we do gather, there will be empty seats at the table. For many of us, Christmas is more "blue" than red and green, or full of sparkles. And Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us comes to us in our sorrow and sadness, to bring us the hope, love, joy and peace that only He can bring.

There is a special "Blue Christmas" bag in your Home Advent Box, especially for this service, and you can use it then! It contains candles for our losses, matches, a bandage to write hurts, a card to encourage yourself or write scriptures, some play-doh for stress relief, and a tiny bottle for "tears."

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH AT 11:30AM ON ZOOM
TO ELECT ELDERS AND DEACONS

NOV 29 - DEC 24



JOIN US EACH SUNDAY, AND CHRISTMAS EVE, IN LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (IN YOUR HOME ADVENT BOX), WITH OUR READINGS AND PRAYERS. AN ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BROCHURE IS IN YOUR GIFT BOX!

CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight SERVICE

**DEC 24TH AT 7PM
IN THE PARKING LOT
JOIN US FOR A BRIEF
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE!**



YOU CAN STILL ORDER POINSETTIAS THIS YEAR! WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE THEM, TO BEAUTIFY OUR SANCTUARY FOR ONLINE WORSHIP. YOU CAN EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE (FPCWASSO@ATT.NET) BY DEC 9TH TO LET STEPHANIE KNOW HOW MANY AND WHOM TO HONOR OR REMEMBER. WE WILL MAIL OUT THE LIST OF THOSE HONORED TO YOUR HOMES. WE WILL SET THEM OUT ON THE SIDEWALK ON CHRISTMAS EVE, AND THOSE WHO WISH MAY TAKE THEIR PLANTS HOME, OR LEAVE THEM FOR THE WORSHIP SERVICES AFTER CHRISTMAS.



Our Mission Focus - FPCO Blessing Box!

Join us in stocking our Blessing Box in the parking lot! The Box has nonperishable foods and small packs of toilet paper and diapers. Our most needed items are peanut butter and jelly, diapers, tuna, canned chicken, canned ravioli, mac-n-cheese, spaghetti, pasta, & rice. This box is being used over 100 times a week, serving at least 50 families weekly! You can leave your donations in the box, or ring the church doorbell to drop off Monday - Thursday 9am-Noon. Thank you for your donations!



CONTACTING THE STAFF

Office Phone: 918-272-1063

The office is open Tues -Thursday, 9:00am-12:00pm.

*Rev. Natalie Bell can be reached Tuesday-Thursday at the Church or on her cell. **Monday** is Rev. Natalie's Sabbath.*

Pastor	Natalie Bell	(918) 671-7203	fpcowassopastor@att.net
Children's Minister	Susan Hammond		
Music Director	Alan Parker		
Office Administrator	Stephanie Jennings	(918) 272-1063	fpcowasso@att.net

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Sherry Sossamon's sister, Kay (COVID), Lindsey Crowder (facing scoliosis surgery in Arkansas), Patti Perkins (praise --back surgery), Ron Brewer (COVID), Kristi Buster, Laura Marty (Allen's granddaughter - missionary), Dorothy and Floyd Stevens, Anne Klein, Claudette Howe, Rev. Natalie's Uncle John-cancer and COVID, Sheader's friends--Frank Flanagan (COVID) and Sandy Marsh (cancer), Sandy Freeland, Mary Ellen Johnston – for improved eyesight, Sue Thornton (friend of the Brewers), Patti Perkins, Burnes Family, Eileen Croslin, Fornwald Family (Patti's sister), Judy Jones, Amy Lachney, Barry Lutz, Barbara Lytle, Paul Warne, Cathy Streight (Susan Hammond's sister), Judy Owens, Nikki Lalonde, Nora Sheader and her sister, Jerry Pinkerton, Margie Hawkins, Anna Strom, Cheryl Brooks, Barry & Mary Beth Ward, victims of COVID-19, victims of storms, victims of violence, prejudice, and persecution, our country, our leaders, first responders, our military men and women, our veterans, our sister church in Malawi, and our church staff. *Please let us know of any updates!*