

JANUARY 2026

ISSUE 1 | VOLUME 59

First Presbyterian Church, Salina

THE NEWS



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Birthdays &
Calendar

Page 1

NEWS

Page 2

Around the
Church

Page 3

Pastor's
Post

Page 11

Faith
Formation

Page 12

A photograph of a snowy, frost-covered evergreen tree at night. The tree is heavily laden with snow and ice, and its branches are illuminated by warm, golden lights, creating a glowing effect. The background is a dark, clear night sky.

Stella
JANUARY

HAPPY Birthday



1 Amy Blackim
2 Amber Renfro
6 Jordan Zuccarelli
8 Ella Payne
10 Dale Hanson
13 Mary Exline
14 Katelyn Rupe
20 Sara Johnston

24 Rob Exline
24 Bob Salem
25 Helen Smutz
26 Sissy Morrison
26 Tom Winkler
27 Larry Werhan
30 Kendi Carlgren

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1 Happy New Year FPC CLOSED	2	3
4 ADULT ED, 9:00 WORSHIP, 10:00 ADULT ED, 11:15	5 CARD MAKING, 9:30 PERSONNEL, 3:30	6 FAITH FORMATION, 5:15	7 SALINA GRACE PREP & SERVE FBI, 4:00 WORSHIP, 4:30 CHOIR, 6:30	8 HEBREWS, 7:00 BUILDING & GROUNDS, 3:30	9	10 CHURCH OFFICER TRAINING
11 ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS ADULT ED, 9:00 WORSHIP, 10:00 WEEKEND FOOD BAGS ADULT ED, 11:15	12 SOUNDBITES, 12:00 SOCIAL JUSTICE & MISSION, 1:00	13	14 SALINA GRACE PREP & SERVE FBI, 4:00 GOD SQUAD, 6:30 CHOIR, 6:30	15 HEBREWS, 7:00	16	17
18 WORSHIP, 10:00	19 SESSION, 5:15	20 DEACONS, 4:30	21 SALINA GRACE PREP & SERVE FBI, 4:00 CHOIR, 6:30	22 HEBREWS, 7:00	23	24 NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION FILL THE FREEZER, 2:00
25 SCOUT SUNDAY WORSHIP, 10:00	26	27	28 SALINA GRACE PREP & SERVE FBI, 4:00 GOD SQUAD, 6:30 CHOIR, 6:30	29 HEBREWS, 7:00	30	31

News

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Helen Smutz
101 YEARS OLD
JANUARY 25

**Annual
Congregational
Meeting
February 8, 2026**

2026 Stewardship Update

- \$402,824 Pledged
- 86 Pledges
- 9% increase in individual pledging



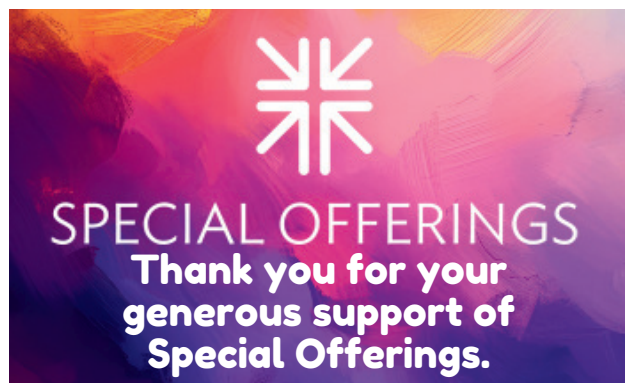
Session members celebrating a Certificate of Recognition from the Presbytery of Northern Kansas for First Presbyterian Church of Salina's 165th Anniversary!

Chili Supper Fundraiser

*Join Salina's Troop 2 Scouts for
Homemade Chili and Desserts*

- Friday, January 30th, from 5PM-8PM
- First Presbyterian Church, 308 S. 8th in Salina
- Tickets available for pre-sale or walk-in
- Adults - \$12 / Children - \$8
- Menu includes chili OR vegetable soup with dessert, crackers and veggies





Join us on for **SOUNDBITES** the 2nd Monday of each month from 12-1pm (room will be open and available at 11:45am) at the First Presbyterian Church conference room.

SOUNDBITES is a community conversation series designed to keep Salinans informed and engaged. Each session brings in local leaders, experts, and decision-makers to share insights on current events, upcoming initiatives, and programs that impact our community. The goal is to spark dialogue, strengthen connections, and provide a space where questions can be asked and ideas can be exchanged. Whether you're looking to stay up to date or contribute your voice to the conversation, **SOUNDBITES** offers an accessible and meaningful way to connect with what's happening locally.

SOUNDBITES is open to all community members. Bring your lunch, Bring a friend!

Our speakers for the first quarter of 2026 are:

- 1/12/2026 - Kelly Mobray (Director of Adult Education, Salina Adult Education Center)
- 2/9/2026 - Chelsey Eberwein (Manager of Adolescent Services & Community Engagement, Central Kansas Foundation)
- 3/9/2026 - Jaclyn Crow (Economic and Workforce Development Director, Salina Area Chamber of Commerce)

SALINA SOUPER BOWL OF HOPE



Project Salina Encourages Community Support for Souper Bowl of Hope

The Project Salina Board invites Salina residents and businesses to support the annual Souper Bowl of Hope campaign, with a community goal of raising enough cash donations to purchase 60,000 cans of soup for local agencies.



While soup donations are appreciated, the Project Salina Board encourages cash donations, which offer greater flexibility and impact. A \$30 cash donation can purchase up to 50 cans of soup when the need arises, while significantly reducing the transportation and storage demands placed on volunteers and board members.

HELP TACKLE HUNGER

FPC will collect donations and do our annual competition in relation to who will win the Super Bowl, starting **January 26** (when we know which two teams will be playing).

The Souper Bowl of Hope will conclude on **February 8**.



FPC participates in a program called CarePortal. Social Justice & Mission is the lead committee and receives the requests from this technology platform that connects children and families in crisis with local churches and community members who can provide tangible support.

In September 2025, FPC provided to a single mom with two children, the oldest having severe autistic and incontinence issues:

- Twin bed
 - twin mattress and bedding
 - couch cushions
 - waterproof cushion covers
 - vacuum cleaner
 - Christmas gifts for children
 - clothing - used from church members
- = \$530.16**



Diaper Drive

Boxes of Diapers various sizes 19
Boxes of Pull ups various sizes 6
Cases of wipes 3

Diapers will be delivered to:

Martin Luther King Jr Child Development Center
YMCA Early Learning Centers
Salina Child Care
Heartland Child Care

**Parlor Update
Dedicated December 7, 2025**



Parlor Update, Cont.



Parlor Dedication
Dec 7, 2025



Sanctuary Decorating

November 30, 2025



Annual Ladies Gathering

December 4, 2026

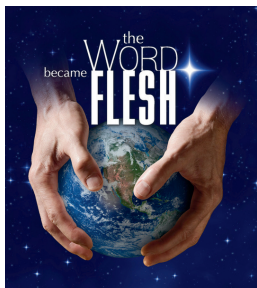


Supported DVACK by
bringing personal
hygiene items.



Choral Cantata

December 7, 2025



Staff Christmas Party

December 12, 2025



Pictured: Steve Fowler, Kathleen Pierson, Dennis Augustine, Kirsten Lilak, Pastor Phil Price, Regina Miller, Nicole Olson, Heidi Paquin, Parker Freeland

Not Pictured: Haley Lindenmuth, Makenzi & Trey Cullins, Richard Koshgarian, Jesse Smith, Meghan Hessman



Playing Games

December 24, 2025



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025



Avery Cooper,
Molly Michaelis &
Teressa Cooper

The Coopers and the Soderbergs brought a "Taste of Sweden" to the parlor for fellowship, which included Swedish bites, lots of candles and young women dressed in traditional Swedish dress!



Giving out the book
"Joy to the World!"



Nick & Scott Salem



Candlelight Service

Session Snippets

December 15, 2025 Meeting Highlights

- Received reports from the Clerk and standing committees including a financial report from the Treasurer.
- Received and concurred with the recommended Social Justice & Mission allocations for 2025.
- Approved the pastor's housing allowance for 2026.
- Approved the agreement with the Insurance Board, Partners in Protection, for 2026 insurance which includes Property, Liabilities, Directors and Officers Liability coverage.
- Approved the 2026 Communion Schedule.
- Elected 2026 Treasurer, Margaret Wyatt and 2026 Clerk of Session, Ruth Ascher. Elected Corporate Officers for 2026: President, Randy Graham; Treasurer, Margaret Wyatt; Secretary, Ruth Ascher.
- Approved participation with the community Souper Bowl of Hope food collection campaign.
- Set the date of the Annual Congregational Meeting for February 8, 2026 immediately following worship.
- Recognized the outgoing elders, Peter Johnston and Craig Renfro.

Pastor's Post

One of My Favorite Times of the Year!

If you have been reading "The News" for the last few years, then you know that one of my "happy places" happens every year with the "Best Books of the Year" come out. Whether it is NPR's "Books We Love" or any one of the national newspapers lists I pour over those lists looking for ones that I have read and others to add to my to-read in some vain effort to read as many titles as possible. Below are nine of my favorite books from 2025 in three different categories.

FICTION

West with Giraffes (published in 2021) by Lynda Rutledge, It's 1938. The Great Depression lingers. Hitler is threatening Europe, and world-weary Americans long for wonder. They find it in a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo.

Mona's Eyes by Thomas Schlessler, Ten-year-old Mona and her beloved grandfather have only fifty-two Wednesdays to visit fifty-two works of art and commit to memory "all that is beautiful in the world" before Mona loses her sight forever.

The Everlasting by Alix E. Harrow, a genre-defying quest about a lady-knight whose legend built a nation, and the cowardly historian sent back through time to make sure she plays her part—even if it breaks his heart: I enjoyed it so much I made myself ration the last hundred pages!

NONFICTION

My Beloved Monster: Masha, the Half-wild Rescue Cat Who Rescued Me (published in 2024) by Caleb Carr, the story of Caleb (human) and Masha (the author's cat) is an inspiring and life-affirming relationship for readers of all backgrounds and interests—a love story like no other.

The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder by David Grann, a page-turning story of an eighteenth-century shipwreck, survival, and savagery, culminating in a court martial that reveals a shocking truth.

Careless People: A Cautionary Tale of Power, Greed, and Lost Idealism by Sarah Wynn-Williams, is an unbelievably wild memoir about the rise and fall of Facebook. An unflinching look behind-the-curtain of one of the world's most powerful corporations.

THEOLOGY

For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional by Hanna Reichel, offers practical wisdom for navigating our uncertain times, a deeper understanding of Christianity's resources for resistance, and renewed energy for the urgent tasks that faithful discipleship demands today.

The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage by Richard Rohr, turns to the writings of the Jewish prophets, revealing how some of the lesser-read books of the Bible offer us a crucial path forward today.

Separation of Church and Hate: A Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists, and Flock-Fleecing Frauds by John Fugelsang, beyond its lengthy title with humor and wit this book makes an impassioned plea for the love, mercy, and service that are at the heart of Christianity.

Now that you know what my favorite books for 2025 were, what's a title that you would like to share with me?



Youth News

On Sunday evening, December 14th, FPC Youth gathered at Phil & Kathy Price's home for an evening of fellowship. Pizza arrived just in time for the youth to gather in the Price's living room to watch the conclusion of the Denver Broncos and Green Bay Packers football game. Then it was time to decorate sugar cookies! Once again, our youth showed off their artistic and creative abilities with cookies that were decorated with everything from silly faces to holiday themes and even two nearly lifelike hamburgers that Makenzi and Trey Cullins bravely sampled. Following cookie creations, the boys settled into the living room and wound down their day watching the conclusion to the movie "Elf" while the girls visited with the adults around the dining room table. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship, fun, and relationship building!



Parents and Youth,
please note that
HeBrews will resume
on Thursday,
January 8th and God
Squad will resume
with a meal out on
Wednesday,
January 14th.

PRAYER GROUND SPACE IN THE PARLOR

Get ready to explore! We've given our parlor a vibrant new redesign, and it's officially open! Come check out the children's area and the brand-new items we've added just for the kids. This welcoming space is available for you to enjoy before, during, and after worship!"



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Our children did such a good job acting out the nativity story! They worked hard and it definitely showed. The also sang like angels in their performance of Away in the Manger and On That Very First Christmas! Thank you to all our parents for your support!





HEARTLAND SUMMER CAMP 2026

Heartland Summer Camp is Coming: June 8th!

The biggest and most anticipated event of the summer is right around the corner! Heartland Summer Camp 2026 is scheduled for the week of June 8th, and we are already preparing for an incredible week of fun, learning, and community.

Camper Registration is Coming Soon!

Parents, get ready! Information regarding registration for children in grades K-6 will be released in the very near future. Watch your inbox and this newsletter for the official announcement!

Call for Counselors and Volunteers

Do you know a young person or young adult looking for an opportunity to lead, serve, and have a blast? We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to fill these vital roles:

Position	Requirement	Role Description
Lead Counselor	Age 16+	Co-lead exciting activities, mentor K-6 children, and manage a small group.
Junior Counselor	Completed Grade 7	Provide support to the Lead Counselors throughout the week.
General Volunteer	Open	Help with set-up, tear-down, snacks, and administrative tasks.

Did you know? Volunteering is a fun way to gain valuable community service hours and explore a career in education? Contact Heidi now if you are interested in serving as a lead or junior counselor. (heidi@fpsalina.org)



First
Presbyterian
CHURCH SALINA
Pastor Phil Price

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The News (PE 708620) is published monthly by First Presbyterian Church,
PO Box 585, Salina, KS 67402-0585. Periodical postage paid at Salina, Kansas.

STAFF

Pastor/ Head of Staff: Rev. Phil Price
Administrative Coordinator: Nicole Olson
Bookkeeper: Kathleen Pierson
Building & Grounds Coordinator: Steve Fowler
Week Day Custodian: Dennis Augustine
Sunday Custodian: Regina Miller
Children's Ministry Director: Heidi Paquin
CE Assistant: Meghan Hessman
Nursery Caregivers: Kirsten Lilak & Haley Lindenmuth
Youth Volunteer Leaders: Makenzi & Trey Cullins,
Music Director: Dr. Richard Koshgarian
Musician: Parker Freeland
Worship A/V Tech: Jesse Smith