

*First Presbyterian Church, Salina*

# IN THE NEWS

September 2025 | Issue 9 | Vol 58

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Hello September





# news

## 40+ years of marriage:

**Lloyd & Anne Davidson** will celebrate their **58th** wedding anniversary on September 2.

**Dale & Kathy Hanson** will celebrate their **52nd** wedding anniversary on September 8.



Harper Hill plays tennis

*In Sympathy*  
to **Melinda Hoffman and family** for the loss of her mother, Amy Hoffman.

**DON SCHROEDER** is turning...

**90**

Help us Celebrate with an Open House and Cake!

Friday, October 3rd from 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Presbyterian Manor's Ivory Keys Dining Room  
2601 E Crawford St, Salina KS 67401\*

No gifts please. Cards and well wishes graciously accepted.  
\* If not in attendance, please send to 632 Wind Song Court, Salina KS 67401

**SJM** SOCIAL JUSTICE & MISSIONS

Assemble  
Weekend Food Bags  
After Worship  
**September 21**

**MATTHEW 25**

**Salina GRACE**



# AROUND THE CHURCH

## PARLOR RENOVATION

Our planned renovation of the parlor is just around the corner! The last time our parlor was renovated was 30 years ago, so it is a good time to think about and update our furnishings.

Here are some of the things we are doing:

- We are replacing the carpet with a durable and repairable carpet that will look fresh for decades;
- We are moving our chairs and sofas to other areas of the church and replacing them with smaller seating areas.
- We are installing high top tables for a conversation area by youth and others;
- We are adding much more lighting and chandeliers to brighten up the parlor on dreary days;
- We are adding a restroom so that it is not necessary to use the stairs or elevator to access it;
- We are painting the walls to give them a fresh look;
- We are rearranging the coffee area to make it more efficient;
- We are creating a "history nook" where members can see our historical items and research our church records.



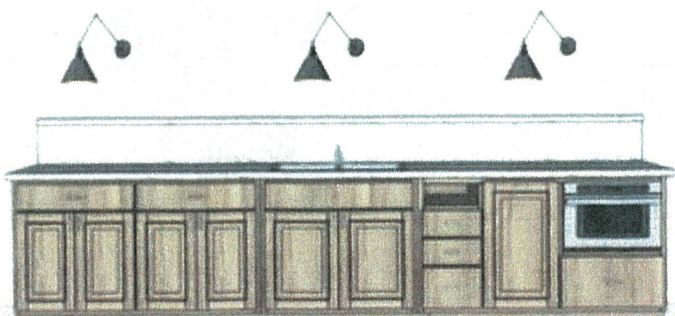
All of this work will be done in the fall and be ready for use to celebrate the Christmas season! During construction, our coffee time will be moved to another easily accessed area. We appreciate your patience as we undergo our parlor transformation.

Randy Hardy, chair  
Building and Grounds Committee

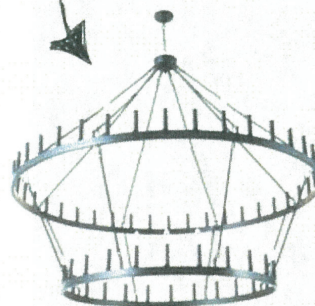
**PARLOR PACK UP!**

**September 13**  
**10:00 - 12:00 pm**

Please join Building & Grounds Committee in boxing books and light lifting, while enjoying coffee and donuts.



4 Chandeliers



3 Hightop tables w/  
3 Bar stools each



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE



# FPC PUMPKIN PATCH POTLUCK

SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER

28

11:00-1:00 FPC Potluck in the Barn

11:00-7:30p Enjoy the Patch!



Potluck Style, Please bring to share a:

Main Dish: Last Names A-I

Side Dish: Last Names J-R

Dessert: Last Names S-Z



Sunnyside Pumpkin Patch, 11500 S Hopkins Road  
Assaria, KS 67416

*we give with  
grateful hearts  
and generous  
spirit*



## Stewardship 2026

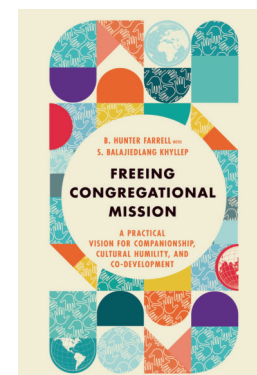
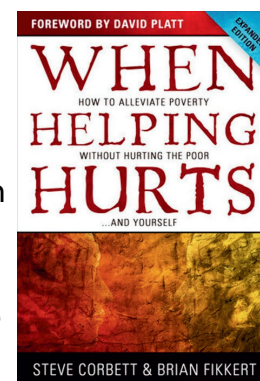
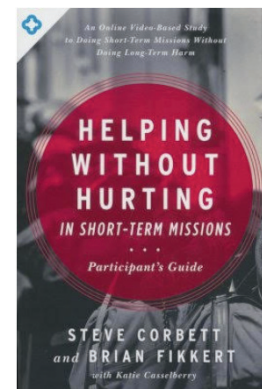
The congregation of Salina First Presbyterian Church has a long, strong and persistent legacy of women and men who established this town, nurtured this area, and have cared for this community for over 165 years! God has done and continues to do remarkable things through us and with us – things that matter in our community and our lives. This is possible because we generously give our time, talents and money.



## **Lessons Learned Along the Way**

Each FPC team commissioned to service in Guatemala has dedicated four months of preparations to our relational mission with Juntos GT. In the beginning teams utilized the “Helping Without Hurting: In Short-Term Missions” curriculum adapted from Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert’s book, “When Helping Hurts.” In 2022, “Freeing Congregational Mission,” by Hunter Farrell and Bala Khylllep was added as a guiding resource for the PCUSA congregations seeking healthy cross-cultural mission. Following are a selection of takeaway lessons that have been learned, experienced, and adopted along the way.

- Paternalism is poison. It perpetuates a superior and inferior roles. It soothes uncomfortable feelings about wealth disparity for the material resourced (rich) while inadvertently robbing the dignity of the “recipient.”
- Savior-complex: We are not “saving” anyone. Christ has already handled that work. We have a much better chance of participating in God’s work when we humbly respect that God is already present and moving in the communities we visit. When we assume that our ways and our perspectives are better, more advanced, more “efficient,” we miss out opportunities to interrupt the legacy of colonialism and break its underlying message of white superiority. We miss out on the gifts that are revealed in collaboration and companionship.
- Selfie Mission, those “likeable” and “shareable” activities, primarily meant to frame up individuals and groups in benevolent postures to market our “help of the less fortunate.” Whose mission is it, anyway? Charitable activities centered around the activity and devoid of mutually healing and restoring relationships is antithetical to the self-giving mission of Jesus Christ that constantly points to God.



## **A Mission Reforming: Companionship – Cultural Humility – Co-Development**

- Companionship acknowledges Jesus’ mission was built on human relationships and consisted of mutual accompaniment, shared vulnerability, a centeredness on the sending God, and mission from the margins: the presence, perspective, and leadership of those forced to live in the margins of society.
- Cultural Humility requires us to continually engage in a process of self-reflection and selfcritique, to assess and adjust to power imbalances, as a reflective, life-long learning practice.
- Co-Development, affirming that things are more complex and nuanced than what meets an unfamiliar eye, rejects the sense of power in “giver” and “receiver” dynamics and invites companions into a mutual process of bringing the gifts has entrusted to them to the circle to share with their mission companions.

*To be continued.*

Next month: Opportunities On the Horizon

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

On Sunday, August 17, 2025, during worship, Heidi shared a special prayer for all our children as they start the new school year. A charm with the word, "blessed" was given to each child in attendance. The charm can be added to their bookbags as a reminder of their church community and our prayers for a successful school year. We will continue to pray for a school year full of learning, acceptance, patience, curiosity, and love for each student, teacher, and staff throughout the Salina community.



## SUPPLIES COLLECTED FOR COTTONWOOD ELEMENTARY

Thank you so much for your generous donations of school supplies for our neighborhood elementary school, Cottonwood Elementary. These items will be very helpful to the school's students and teachers. This year we collected both regular and jumbo pencils, dry erase markers, lice kits, underwear and sweatpants. These items will be delivered to Cottonwood Elementary in Early September. Cottonwood Elementary is located at 215 S. Phillips Street. Cody Stockwell is the new principal at Cottonwood Elementary this year.

THANK  
YOU!



THANK  
YOU!  
♥





## WHAT IS "CROSS BORDERS" ABOUT?

Our FBI children will begin the year with the theme titled, "Cross Borders." Follow Me describes this unit in this way: "Borders can be many different things: geographic borders, limits on our emotional comfort zones, and encountering cultural expectations that are different from our own. Our faith challenges us to cross some of these borders so that we can learn more about God from different people and different faith traditions. Crossing any kind of border will require courage, a desire to accept, and a commitment to loving and being open to that which is unlike our own experience."

## ACTIVITIES TO TRY AT HOME

Ideas provided by Follow Me @ Growing Faith Resources: Practicing the Practice at Home

### THE MOVIE COCO

Watch the 2017, *Walt Disney Studios* movie *Coco* together as a family. An important part of the movie happens when the characters cross, or are unable to cross, the marigold bridge.

Wonder together:

- Why is the bridge important?
- What happens when the characters cross the bridge?
- Why are worlds different on the other side of the bridge?
- How does *Coco* learn about himself and his family from the other side of the bridge?

### CROSS A BORDER

Go for a walk or a drive in which you intentionally cross a border into another city, county, or state. When you are at the border, if possible stop, look at the ground, and note the crossing of one geographic place to another. Discuss the following questions together:

- Do you see the lines that show us where the border is between geographic locations?
- Since no line is visible, how do we know we have crossed the border?
- Does it look different on the other side of the border?
- When we cross borders, are we more likely to find people who are more alike or more different than we are?
- When can it feel scary to cross a border?

**ATTENTION**

## COLLECTING PILL BOTTLES



Our FBI is collecting both prescription and over-the-counter pill bottles (any size). We will be accepting both pill bottles with and without secure caps (child resistant). We prefer the labels be removed, but we will remove them if sent in with labels still attached. Thank you for supporting the children. Please leave with Heidi or deposit them with the other containers we are collecting.

### Try New Foods

Go to, or order from, a restaurant or buy foods in the grocery store that have a different cuisine, perhaps from a different cultural tradition or part of the world from food you usually eat. Try different foods and share them together so that everyone can try each thing. Talk together:

- How did it feel to try foods that you have never eaten before?
- Was there something that surprised you by how it tasted?
- How is trying new foods one way of crossing borders?

# FAITH FORMATION

By the time this issue of "The News" reaches you, the school aged children and youth of our congregation along with parents, teachers, administration and staff will be well into another school year. Now that classes and extracurricular activities have begun our Senior High Youth have been joining Phil for HeBrews every Thursday morning at 7 a.m. at Mokas' on Crawford. There we catch up and reflect on the week that has been with our highs & lows as well as prayer before the youth head off to school and Phil makes his way to church.

This month our Junior High group, God Squad, will resume. As has been our custom for the first God Squad of the new school year, we will gather at the church then walk over to Sonic weather permitting. God Squad meets twice a month, once at the church for food and activities, and once at an area restaurant for a meal and conversation.

Along with Phil, our youth are blessed to have Trey and Makenzi Cullins as adults who are gifted at conversation and care deeply for our young people. Makenzi and Trey plan to help both with HeBrews on Thursday mornings and God Squad throughout the month.

In addition to our regular Junior and Senior High gatherings there are occasions when we gather youth of all ages for activities such as a lock-in. On Friday evening, August 15<sup>th</sup>, we had a fantastic Youth Night from 6 p.m. to Midnight. A number of youth from First Presbyterian Church invited their friends for the largest lock-in Phil has had the privilege of attending since his own teenaged years!



The group gathered for pizza in the youth room.



Once it was dark the youth played their favorite game, Grog; there was much laughter, joy-filled screaming, and enjoyment all throughout our wonderful historic building! Here they are taking a break from all the running:



There was a photo-scavenger hunt throughout the building to help familiarize the many friends of our youth with the facility and then we enjoyed several rounds of Sardines, which is a reversed version of hide-and-seek. Can you guess where they are all sitting?



About midway through several rounds of Grog we stopped for a popsicle break in the church kitchen.



Can we **think, question, grow, and serve**, not only as part of our church's mission and vision statement, but also about tough topics? I ask because the school year is in full swing and there is a lot of hope and anticipation about all that this year to come will bring. But with the start of another school year, so too will many parents and family of both students, faculty and staff worry about school shootings.



Sadly, **gun violence**, is an all-too-common concern. Even if you don't have school-age children at home, our awareness of actual shootings and even the threat of mass-shootings plagues the world in which we live. As both a parent of a newly hired High School History teacher and a pastor to several school-aged children and youth; this time of year, marks both a time of excitement and dread. Hopefully our community never has to face the horror of being the subject of "breaking news", but I wonder, can we talk about gun violence as a congregation?

While I have only on rare occasions, the Sunday following the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut among them, have broached such a provocative subject in the pulpit I do see value as followers of Jesus practicing conversations

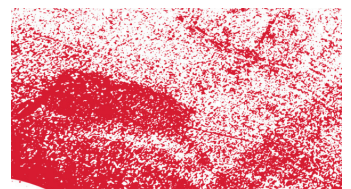
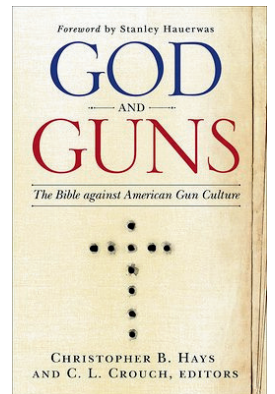
about challenging issues. And as a congregation who desires to be led by Christ, together in faith and love, as we joyfully think, question, grow, and serve, it is my hope that you will consider joining me on Sundays in September and early October making use of articles from the November 2023 Special Issue of the Presbyterian Outlook, titled "Gun Violence: How people of faith can stop this uniquely American epidemic".

"One of the greatest sins a church can commit," writes Christopher B. Hays, "is being boring and irrelevant—because doing so makes a lie out of a Gospel that is anything but boring and irrelevant. To represent the Gospel," Hays contends, "the church has to recognize and take a stand on the ethical issues of its times." I hope you will join me as we think, question, grow, and serve Christ together; even as we discuss as challenging an issue as Gun Violence.

Each Sunday, before (9 a.m.) and after (11:15 a.m.) worship, in the Conference Room by the south entrance I will offer an opportunity to discuss a different article from that Special Issue. Copies of the articles will be placed on the table across from the Pastor's Study, or if you prefer, I will email you a pdf copy to read on whatever device you prefer. Listed below are the dates and articles to be discussed:



- **September 7<sup>th</sup> "Gun Culture and the End of American Christianity"** – Christopher Hays ponders where we can find hope in a worsening situation.
- **September 14<sup>th</sup> "Enough Already"** – Otis Moss III wonders when we will love enough to recognize everyone's right to live.



## PASTOR'S POST, CONT.



- **September 21<sup>st</sup> “Do Not Destroy the One for Whom Christ Died”** – David Lincicum makes a Christian case for repealing the Second Amendment.

- **October 5<sup>th</sup> “Presbyterian Gun Owners Address the Complexities”** – For gun-owning Presbyterians, control is—and isn’t—a cut-and-dried issue.



- **October 12<sup>th</sup> “From Despair to Hope: Mobilizing Your Church to End Gun Violence”** – Gun violence prevention minister Deanna Hollas unmask the powers behind the gun violence epidemic in the United States and provides proven actions we can take to help save lives.

## SESSION SNIPPETS

### SESSION AUG 18, 2025 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Received reports from the Clerk and standing committees including a financial report from the Treasurer. The annual financial review for 2024 will be presented at the September meeting.
- The Building & Grounds committee requests that a “Blessing of the Renovated Parlor” be scheduled at the completion of the work. Equipment to help improve lighting of the pulpit and lectern in the chancel area has been obtained. Bids for the work have been sought.
- Plans are underway for an all-church picnic this fall at a local pumpkin patch. Educational programming for the fall is scheduled.
- Annual staff reviews were conducted during July. The pastor’s review will occur this fall.
- A coat drive will occur during September. Long time mission partners from Guatemala will visit in early November. A \$5000 Kansas Health Foundation grant will allow FPC to purchase local meat and produce for serving at Salina Grace. It also funded the purchase of a freezer for storage of the food.
- A task force will be appointed to consider types of decoration that will be needed in the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. The existing decorations are in varied condition and some may need replacement.



1 Marj Morrow  
 2 Bev Zizumbo  
 3 Seara Weir  
 5 Jean Exline  
 5 Cary Renfro  
 6 Caleb Dupy  
 8 Kathy Price  
 11 Makenzi Cullins  
 11 Scott Salem  
 12 Margy Hogarty  
 14 Randy Graham  
 14 Danny Berg



16 Ronda Green  
 20 Aaron Morrison  
 20 David Wedel  
 22 Jesse Smith  
 23 Sarah Payne  
 24 Kathy Melander  
 25 Mark Speer  
 25 Kirsten Lilak  
 27 Peter Johnston  
 27 Mitzie Lewis  
 29 Monne Andersen



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1 <b>LABOR DAY</b> ★ ★ FPC CLOSED	2 NOMINATING CMTE, 4:00PM  FAITH FORMATION, 5:15	3 SALINA GRACE PREP & SERVE FBI, 4:00 WORSHIP, 4:30 CHOIR, 6:30 GODSQUAD, 4:30	4  HEBREWS, 7:00  BUILDING & GROUNDS, 3:30	5	6
7  ADULT ED, 9:00 WORSHIP, 10:00 ADULT ED, 11:15	8 COFFEE & CARD MAKING, 9:30 SOCIAL JUSTICE & MISSION, 2:00 PERSONNEL, 3:30	9	10 SALINA GRACE PREP & SERVE STEWARDSHIP CMTE, 3:30PM FBI, 4:00 CHOIR, 6:30	11  HEBREWS, 7:00	12	13  PARLOR PACK UP, 10:00 - 12:00
14 ADULT ED, 9:00 WORSHIP, 10:00 ADULT ED, 11:15	15  SESSION, 5:15	16  DEACONS, 4:30	17 SALINA GRACE PREP & SERVE FBI, 4:00 GOD SQUAD, 6:30 CHOIR, 6:30	18  HEBREWS, 7:00	19	20
21 ADULT ED, 9:00 WORSHIP, 10:00 ASSEMBLE WEEKEND FOOD BAGS, 11:15 ADULT ED, 11:15	22	23	24 SALINA GRACE PREP & SERVE FBI, 4:00 CHOIR, 6:30	25  HEBREWS, 7:00	26	27
28 WORSHIP, 10:00  ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK, 11:00	29	30	1	2	3 	4



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor Phil Price

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE PAID  
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### 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**