

*First Presbyterian Church, Salina*

# IN THE NEWS

December 2025 | Issue 12 | Vol 58

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*Hello*

DECEMBER



# NEWS

*40+ years of marriage:*

**Melinda & Bill Hoffman** will celebrate their **47th** wedding anniversary on December 30.

*In Memory*

**of Susie Stinson, 89**, passing away on November 27, 2025. She was an FPC member for **76** years!

[https://salina311.com/the-market-shop-finds-new-life.../...](https://salina311.com/the-market-shop-finds-new-life.../)



SALINA311.COM

**Breaking: The Market Shop Finds New Life Under Cole Family Ownership**



**Exline Inc.**

October 31 at 10:49 AM · 🌐

Exline Inc. Announces the Retirement of CEO Rob Exline after 34 Years of Service

SALINA, KS – 10/31/2025 – Exline Incorporated today announced the retirement of Chief Executive Officer and Owner, Rob Exline, capping a remarkable 34-year career marked by visionary leadership and unwavering dedication to the company and its employees. Mr. Exline's retirement is effective November 1, 2025.

Under Mr. Exline's guidance, Exline Inc. navigated new eras of growth and innovation, leaving an indelible mark on the industries and partners the company serves. "Dad's leadership has been a cornerstone of our success, and his commitment to excellence has inspired all of us," said Will Exline, President. "We express our deepest gratitude for his outstanding contributions and celebrate the remarkable legacy he leaves behind".

As part of a planned leadership transition, Will Exline will assume the role of Chief Executive Officer, effective November 1, 2025. This appointment marks the continuation of the sixth generation of Exline family leadership.

The entire Exline Incorporated family wishes Rob all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

**CHEERS TO**  
**100**  
*Years loved*  
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION HONORING  
**Betty Garrison**  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2:00-4:00 PM  
ROLLING HILLS ZOO  
625 N HEDVILLE ROAD SALINA, KANSAS  
Open House 2-4pm  
Treats will be served along with a cash bar



**Graham Norris** was Meadowlarks Student of the Month



**Women of Achievement**

October 2 · 🌐

🌟 Celebrating Salina's Women of Achievement! 🌟

W... See more



WORKPLACE

**DR. BRITTON ZUCCARELLI**





# AROUND THE CHURCH



Davidson Tree Farm helped us to add 3 new trees to the East side of the church.

## PARLOR RENOVATION

The finished product to be revealed on December 7th!



FPC's Annual Ladies  
**Christmas** Gathering **DECEMBER 04**  
6:00 - 8:00

*Fill the FREEZER* Tuesday *December 9*  
**5:00 - 7:00PM**  
Kitchen

*Dedicating the Parlor* **December 7**

★ **Children's Christmas Pageant!** **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH**

*Christmas Eve* 5:00 pm  
Candlelight Service

*Merry Christmas!* **FPC Closed**  
**December 25 & 26**

**Diaper Drive** December 28

*Fill the FREEZER*



Jen, Amanda, Eva, Kathy and Chandra got more than 50 pounds of Bowden Beef shredded and 11 pounds of ground beef cooked and ready for the freezer on Sunday. Our next Fill the Freezer date is 12/9 from 5-7pm. Join us as we assemble casseroles at our last FtF gathering of 2025!





First Presbyterian welcomed mission co-worker, Mirna Perez from Juntos Guatemala back to Salina along with brother, Gerber Perez on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Their week in Salina (and Lindsborg) was filled with activities that will continue to shape the shared ministries of First Presbyterian and our partners in Guatemala. Highlights of the week with various FPC hosts included:

- Saturday, after arriving in Wichita: A tour of the Mid-America All Indian Museum and viewing the Keeper of the Plains. A dinner at Charles and Amanda Littell's home when Mirna and Gerber arrived in Salina.
- Sunday: Reconnected with members of FPC after worship, lunch and activities with the Youth including a ping-pong competition. Dinner and conversation at Bob and Linda Salems's



- Monday: Introduction to the Staff at the morning meeting included shared readings of scripture for Sunday's sermon and a tour of the church. Presentation of the Perez's work in Juntos Guatemala to Salina Rotary.
- Tuesday: A Lunch & Learn opportunity arranged by Dr. Britton Zuccarelli with several of Salina's mental healthcare professionals to the City Teen Center.



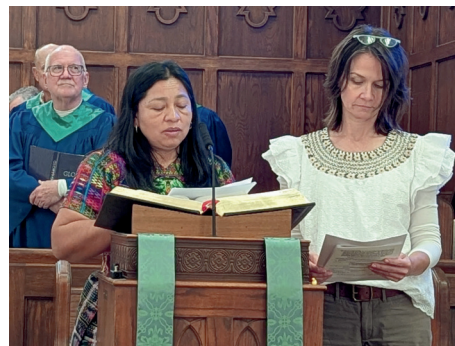
- Wednesday: Toured Salina Grace Resource Center and learned how integrating service agencies leverages care of individuals in need. Mirna spent time with the FBI kids sharing a Bible lesson and making fresh tortillas. Dinner was prepared by FPC cooks in the kitchen. Dinner attendees learned of the church's ministries through Gerber's illustrative message of legacy, call, and transformative collaboration in cross-cultural mission and ministry.







- Thursday: Mirna and Gerber were invited to the Child Advocacy & Parenting Services to meet their staff and tour the facilities. Thursday evening's event was the Salina Women of Achievement ceremony where Britton Zuccarelli was honored for her professional service in the community and internationally.
- Friday: Bethany Lutheran's Swedish Friendship Group hosted Fika, a Swedish tradition of coffee, sweets and conversation. Opportunity for connection/discussion with Church and Presbytery leadership representatives in the afternoon.
- Saturday: A little relaxation over breakfast and good coffee at the Blacksmith. Mission friends from Kansas City came to Lindsborg for more conversation/cultural exploration at the Ol Stuga.
- Sunday: Special brunch buffet in Blair Hall prior to morning worship. Q & A time afterwards Gerber experienced the "Fireworks" concert by the Salina Symphony while Mirna and Chandra explored the Smoky Hills river and valley.



Please read the detailed itinerary printed at the Guatemala bulletin board!



## CHILDREN'S CHOIR SHINES IN WORSHIP

The FBI children's choir added a beautiful highlight to our worship service on November 9, 2025. Their singing was a wonderful sound that was enjoyed by many, and the congregational feedback was overwhelmingly positive!

Thank you, Dr. Richard Koshgarian, Kathy Hanson, and Alice Herrman, for preparing our "young but mighty" singers. We also extend our gratitude to the parents for ensuring the children's participation.



## ROLE - PLAYING BORDER CROSSINGS

Our Faithful Bible Investigators (FBI) engaged in a wonderful lesson on understanding differences and teamwork. They created animal hand puppets, developed original skits, and performed their stories to explore the many differences among us. Through their creativity, they demonstrated powerful ways to solve problems and embrace the unique qualities that make each of us special!





## FAITH FORMATION

### CROSSING BORDERS: TASTE AND CULTURE FROM JUNTOS GUATEMALA!

We took our "Crossing Borders" theme to the next level this week with a very special visit from our Mission Partners, Mirna and Gerber Perez, from Juntos Guatemala! Mirna and Gerber gave us a fascinating, real-life lesson in the critical role of corn in the Guatemalan culture. We all got our hands busy and made our very own tortillas with Mirna's expert guidance. Then, Gerber heated up delicious refried beans so we could spread them on our freshly made tortillas and eat them just like they do in Guatemala! The cultural immersion was enhanced with Mirna speaking in her native language, while Britton Zuccarelli translated. What a memorable and delicious way to connect with our global neighbors!



### SWEET SUCCESS!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who donated baked goods and bought treats at our fundraiser! Your amazing generosity helped us raise an incredible \$1,557.00 for our summer camp! We couldn't have done it without you!



## Christmas Pageant!

DECEMBER 14TH





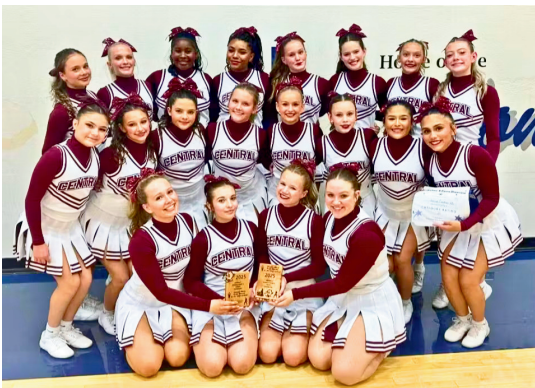
# FAITH FORMATION

What an exciting late fall it has been to walk alongside our youth as they have excelled in sports, academics, and school activities! Cheers to the Central High School football team for an amazing season and especially to Stratton and Gannon Cole for their contribution to this year's team. The football team's success on the field would not be possible without those cheering them on from the sidelines and stands, both Danielle Peckham on the Cheer Team and Tommy Payne were among those at this year's most pivotal games. We are also grateful to know that sports are not the only thing on our youth's minds as Colin Rupe was inducted into the National Honor Society and Marshall Zuccarelli competed in the Math Relays this year in Hays!

Throughout December, please look for information about special activities for our youth and young adults. The sixth through twelfth graders will once more be invited to Phil & Kathy's house for a get together on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 p.m., for pizza, sugar cookie decorating, and more!

HeBrews and GodSquad will continue to meet until school let's out for winter break. And there will be a get together for returning college students, along with our three High School Seniors at a local restaurant in late December: the date is still TBD!

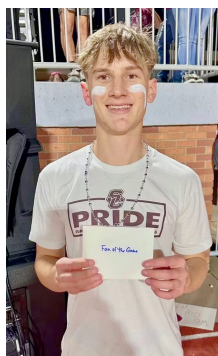
It has been a great fall of gathering with both our young people and working alongside Trey and Makenzie Cullins who continue to offer their time and abilities of connecting both with young people and their aging Pastor! We are blessed by an amazing group of young people in this congregation and stellar young adults in Trey and Makenzie who have helped to make our youth ministry a success.



Danielle Peckham and Central Cheerleaders' Best Overall Performance (front row, left)



Stratton & Gannon Cole after Central's win of State Football



Tommy Payne received "Fan of the Game" at Central's win on 11/14



Colin Rupe inducted into National Honor Society





### WHAT DO YOU FEAR?

This Advent theme, which will guide our worship and prayer throughout December is “What do you fear: insisting on hope this Advent”. The creators of the art that will line the south-entry hall and the liturgy that will lead us to the manger remind us that Luke’s Gospel begins the story of Jesus with this opening line: “In the time of Herod...” While this detail may seem minor, it reveals layers of information about the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with oppression, uncertainty, and instability. A world not unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ’s birth, the whispers of angels deliver a surprising message: “Do not fear.”



The creators and contributors of our Advent theme also remind us that fear can divide and paralyze us. But what if we formed a different relationship with fear? Can we acknowledge fear without letting it rule us? Might we catalyze our fears into love and action? What if naming our fears helps us see more clearly how God is breaking into our lives and where God is at work?

There is much about our world that can make us afraid, both at a macro scale (nationally and internationally) and at the micro level (personal, familial, and spiritual concerns). But our faith and the one born for us continually tells us that we are led by Christ together in faith and love. One way we become resilient in the face of fear is gathering as a community of faith to think, question, grow, and serve.

Throughout this month’s newsletter you will find numerous ways that we will gather throughout the month of December: The Ladies Annual Christmas Gathering, the Annual Choral Cantata, dedicating the remodeled Parlor, a Children’s Pageant, Church Staff and Youth Parties, recognizing the retirement of our Sunday Custodian, Christmas Eve Candlelight worship, and a mission-minded service in the Chapel on the Sunday after Christmas; all are opportunities help us insist on hope, no matter the fears that linger.

Every Advent, we light candles, sing carols, and pray for Christ’s coming because we believe God enters a frightened world to bring good news. We hold onto hope because we believe that Christ did come—that is the promise of this season. Our hope is not flimsy or fleeting. Our hope is gritty, resilient: hope endures—no matter what we fear or face!





## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

A sincere thank you is given to everyone who made or will be making a generous financial commitment for this congregation. Each gift makes a real difference in our collective ability to carry out our mission and our ministry to God and to each other.

Because of your support our church is able to provide opportunities for us to grow and strengthen our faith; to have inspirational worship experiences and fellowship; to support and care for each other; to maintain our beautiful, historic building; to responsibly manage our resources; and to actively work to address unmet needs of the church, our community and beyond.

Thank you for your willingness to give with grateful hearts and a generous spirit.

**83% of**  
**Pledge commitment**  
**forms returned**

**\$389.789**  
**Pledge commitment dollars,**  
**\$23,837 less than 2025**

**of the amount given,**  
**there was a**  
**9.8%**  
**increase in dollars given,**  
**compared to 2025**



*"God can bless you with everything you need,  
and you will always have more than enough  
to do all kinds of good things for others."  
2 Corinthians 9:8 (CEV)*

## SESSION SNIPPETS

### SESSION AUG 18, 2025 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Received reports from the Clerk and standing committees including a financial report from the Treasurer.
- The nominating committee was thanked for their work.
- The parlor renovation is nearing completion. The lighting of the pulpit and lectern in the sanctuary has been tabled until more information can be considered. The Building & Grounds committee is considering plans and projects for 2026.
- Sunday custodian, Regina Miller will retire at the end of the year. There will be recognition for her at the December 21 service.
- Gave approval for a special offering to be held on Sunday, December 28. This will be a diaper drive with the items donated to several local childcare centers.
- Advent and Christmas decorating will occur on November 30 following the service.
- The bake sales in October raised at least \$1,577 to help with costs of the 2026 Heartland Day Camp.
- A task force was appointed to review strategic planning options to be considered in January.
- Approved conducting the three denomination wide special offerings during 2026.
- A gathering for potential new members was scheduled for Saturday morning, January 24.



1 Jim Cram  
1 Chuck Elsea  
1 Mac Steele  
3 Connie Stevens  
5 Marilyn Holgerson  
7 Dan Norman  
9 Martha Murchison  
10 Jimmie Lewis  
12 Patty Landes  
15 Bill Cathcart-Rake  
15 Judy Morrison  
15 Pat Neustrom  
15 Alice Herrman



16 Chloe White  
16 Doug Matthews  
16 Joseph Coachman  
17 Colin Rupe  
21 Betty Garrison  
21 Amy Cole  
21 Carolyn Werhan  
26 Zachary Ketcher  
28 Katie Krug  
29 Ruth Ascher  
30 Azbey Peckham  
31 Thomas Struble



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 	1 COFFEE & CARD MAKING, 9:30  PERSONNEL, 3:30	2  FAITH FORMATION, 5:15	3 SALINA GRACE PREP & SERVE FBI, 4:00 WORSHIP, 4:30 CHOIR, 6:30	4 HEBREWS, 7:00 BUILDING & GROUNDS, 3:30 FINANCE CMTE, 4:00 LADIES GATHERING, 6:00	5	6
7 CHOIR CANTATA ADULT ED, 9:00 WORSHIP, 10:00 DEDICATE PARLOR WEEKEND FOOD BAGS, 11:00AM ADULT ED, 11:15	8	9  FILL THE FREEZER, 5:00	10 SALINA GRACE PREP & SERVE FBI, 4:00 CHOIR, 6:30	11  HEBREWS, 7:00	12	13 
14 CHILDREN'S PAGEANT  ADULT ED, 9:00 WORSHIP, 10:00 ADULT ED, 11:15	15  SESSION, 5:15	16  DEACONS, 5:30	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 ADULT ED, 11:15	22	23	24 SALINA GRACE PREP & SERVE  <i>Christmas Eve Service, 5:00</i>	25  FPC CLOSED	26  FPC CLOSED	27
28  DIAPER DRIVE WORSHIP, 10:00	29	30 	31	1 Happy New Year	2	3





## 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**