

Presbyterian Disciples Church

The Ecumenical Parish



August 2026						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Pastor Update:

Pastor Kathy is working hard at her home in OKC with both physical therapy and occupational therapy. It has been cleared through her orthopedic doctor on July 30th, to start outpatient physical therapy at McBride the first week of August, and to return to the PDC pulpit on September 6th! She has been using her walker for everything and driving. Good news!



**Join Sunday mornings for
Corporate Worship**

Service begins at 10:00 a.m.

August 2

**Preaching: Errol Hada
(Lighthouse Director)
Elder: Steve Tolson**

August 9

**Preaching: Lori Hamburger
Elder: Steve Tolson**

August 16: AnnAline Drake

Elder: Missy Culver

August 23

**Preaching: Ron Eldridge
Elder: Missy Culver**

August 30

**Preaching: Lori Hamburger
Elder: Capie Woodhams**



August 7

To receive a Purple Heart, a service member must be wounded or killed as a result of enemy action while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The injury must be documented and verified, and the award can also be given posthumously to the next of kin of those who die from their wounds.

George Washington awarded the first Purple Heart, the Badge of Merit, to Soldiers in the Continental Army. Washington only provided three awards during his time. Back then, it was a piece of silk featuring a thin edge of silver bound through the material. However, Washington understood its importance and authorized others to provide awards when necessary. The Badge of Merit faded in its use over time but was revived in 1932 as the Purple Heart we know today, honoring those wounded in combat and for commendable actions. In 1944, it was to specifically honor those wounded

or killed in action. General Douglas MacArthur was the first to receive the modern Purple Heart during World War II and since, around 1.8 million have been awarded throughout the military. The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), formed in 1932, consists only of Purple Heart recipients and is the only Veteran's Service Organization of its kind, exclusively made up of combat wounded Vets.

<https://veteranlife.com/military-holidays/purple-heart-day>

Life is not always easy, and freedom is costly. We owe a debt of gratitude to all who answered the call and have stood for that freedom, some paying for it with their lives, and many with injuries that they carry with them always.

John 15: 13 "No one has greater love than this: that he lay down his life for his friends" TLV

Members' Corner



2 Marie Free.
5 Katie Williams
5 Josh Williams
6 Jack Grooms (youth)
10 Sheila Tolson
13 Trent Lawrence
14 Ashley Grooms
15 Quincy Drummond (youth)
22 Lindy Hudson
26 Andrea Renfrow
27 Whit Culver
27 Kyle Renfrow
31 Jamie McLain
31 Paige Drummond Anderson



Praises for Jack and Ashley Drummond expecting their second child. Prayers for this special time.

Prayers for health needs of
Carolyn Helmer
Randa Bloomfield
Kelly Bloomfield
Linda Priest
Kathy Weaver
Steve Thomas
Phil Davis (injuries from being bucked off a horse)
Leah Bighorse (post surgery)

Also, prayers for
Gentner and Wendy Drummond

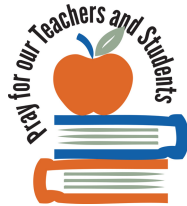


Martin & Donna Meadows,
8-2-1980 **46th**

Randy & Lynnette Kyler,
8-13-1972 **54th**

John & Carrie Manning,
8-30-1991 **35th**

Kyle & Laura Renfrow,
8-31-1985. **41st**



Please include prayers for all who are headed back to school. So many people are needed to make schools happen: Support staff of bus drivers, maintenance, kitchen staff, office staff, volunteers, paras in the classrooms, library staff, teachers, coaches, principals, and superintends and staff.
All this to help grow the children. Pray for all!

School Starts Friday, August 7 for staff and Tuesday, Aug 11 for Students



There are those among us (Me, being one) who believe that September is the month to think about going back to school. I believe that is due to the age of the thinker.

Just when did history shift and school begin in August?

According to Historytools, in the 1980s, it was more common for schools to start after Labor Day. By the 1990s, August start dates became increasingly common. In 2000, more than 76% of schools began classes by the end of August.

Why the shift from after Labor Day to early to mid August is not easy to answer.

I asked AI and received a number of possible factors. First, there is no nationwide standard for starting school.

Suggested factors included :

- *Regional climate
- *Local Traditions
- *Educational Policies
- *Economic Considerations
- *Public Opinion

The Bottom Line

When the calendar of the district says that School is starting, teachers go to prepare. Many have been preparing since they could get back in their classrooms. Then the eager students arrive. Not all are equally eager. June and July have passed and the month of School starting begins in August, not September.

Members' Corner *This and That*



Rock Removal

The decorative rocks have been removed from the beds around the outside of the church.

The issue was that rain was washing rock minerals into the soil and disturbing the soil balance. The rocks will be replaced with mulch, which should help with the balance and make the plants happier..

These rocks had to be removed by hand, and three young men from The Light House in Bartlesville have been moving them with shovels and buckets. It has been hard, and at times, hot work.

Exactly where these rocks have been moved is a mystery to me. All I know is that John Manning has taken them away on a trailer. For the curious: Ask John M



Popcorn and a Movie

A conversation after church became a 'Let's just do it' event on Thursday evening on July 16. A 90 minute documentary about Henrietta Mears, who shaped the future of Christian education and inspired some of the most influential Christian leaders of the 20th century, including Billy Graham, Bill Bright, Jim Rayburn, Louis Evans Jr, and more.

As a youth, our Kathy Runkle was a member of the Bel Air Presbyterian Church that was close to First Presbyterian Church in Hollywood, CA, which is where Henrietta Mears was a member. Kathy said that the two churches did a lot of things together. Kathy and husband David Benjamin were talking about the documentary with Joel, and decided to meet and enjoy the movie. Well done!

Several attended, but a number who expressed they wanted to attend were unable to do so. The movie is available to rent or buy on Amazon Prime

If anyone gets an idea in the future, remember that Joel likes to pop corn.



Have you seen it?

You may have been watching TV or looking at reels on FB, and then you see our church sanctuary and our member Gentner filling the screen. I must say, it all looks great!

Very tasteful, Gentner!

It was important to Gentner to show that his faith is an important part of his life. He asked if he might have a video of himself in his place of worship.

The letter was forwarded to Council, who met and approved the request.



Helping

Investing in MISSION WORK



At the Council meeting on July 21, 2026, council voted to support the Mission work of Mackinsey Darrough with CRU's humanitarian Ministry in the amount of \$2,500.



Dear Faithful Supporters,

Hello, I am Mackinsey Darrough. I hope you are doing well! I grew up attending Bristow Presbyterian Church, where our small but mighty congregation played a significant role in shaping my faith. Additionally, I grew up just outside of Bristow, Oklahoma, on my family's cattle ranch, where my love for agriculture first began.

Beginning in August, I will be serving as a missionary staff intern with Unto, the humanitarian aid ministry of CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ). I am excited to combine my passion for agriculture, research, and serving others as I share the love of Jesus Christ with communities around the world.

I recently graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in Plant Biology. During college, I was involved with CRU for four years and had the privilege of leading a Bible study for the past three years. Through mission trips to San Diego and Guatemala, God shaped my heart for serving others and ultimately led me to Unto.

Unto strives to meet people's physical and spiritual needs in the toughest places. Unto can respond to specific needs identified by local ministry teams. When a need arises, my agriculture team researches the culture, climate, and available resources before developing sustainable solutions that help relieve suffering, restore dignity, and reveal the hope of Christ.

Like most missionary organizations, I am responsible for building a team of ministry partners who make this work possible through prayer and financial support. Unto is supported entirely through the generosity of individuals, churches, and organizations. I am currently 100% supported toward my financial goal and am trusting God for this next season. Approximately 95% of every gift goes directly toward ministry, with only 3% used for fundraising and 2% for administrative expenses.

Mackinsey will be sending monthly emails to the congregation and will return at some point to share a report of her mission work with the congregation.

She asks for prayers for their team, the communities they will serve, and the lives that will be transformed through the Gospel.

Our financial support was paid through the giving link for Mackinsey at unto.com/darrough



Bible Nuggets

MY CONFESSION

I'm going to say it like it is.... I have a severe lack of desire to slave over a hot stove creating something to eat. I usually won't attempt anything with over five ingredients. Actually, I'm being generous here, I prefer no more than three ingredient recipes. Left to my own doing, I'd prefer something easy with the difficulty level at -1. I have become a master of avoidance techniques and will go so far as to call a peanut butter sandwich dinner. In the summer, I dread the hour leading up to dinner as I haven't planned and don't care.

The flip side is that I do appreciate a good meal, something tasty and filling with a bit of something that calls me to want more. I'm not really a lazy person, but there seems to be something entirely too intimidating about a recipe that calls for ingredients that I've never heard of and excessive chopping and blending, with dirty pans filling the kitchen. I will admit that there is a spark of pleasure when I do manage to create something pleasing to eat. However, I much prefer eating what someone else has created. I enjoy it and appreciate the work that has gone into the creation. That's the truth, the plain raw honest truth.

THE CONNECTION

I love seeing commonalities in the everyday things of life and the spiritual life. Sometimes we do strive and wrestle where God would rather us just lean into Him.

With my confession in mind, perhaps consider my joy in knowing that God has prepared a Biblical Feast and my part is to go sit at the table and eat.
Read On...

ANOTHER WAY OF THINKING

Studying the Bible with a Middle Eastern mind.

"To the Middle Eastern way of thinking, Scripture is something that God prepares as a feast...the Word of God. We come to the table believing that the Living God will feed us. We are not orphans or fatherless. We do not have to scrounge, strive or strain to feed ourselves the Word of God. We can simply, yet profoundly, posture ourselves to receive the feast the Lord has prepared for us"
(Kristi McLelland *Jesus and Women* pg 12)



God also loves it when we do things in Community. Middle Eastern thinking is all about doing things in community. A person's very identity is about Community.

In Middle Eastern thinking, to gather with others to feast on the Word of God, is the highest form of worship. (Read that again slowly)

IF ITS GOOD ENOUGH FOR JESUS, IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.

When Jesus was a kid, he studied Torah and the Talmud just like all the other kids. He memorized it and also had to know all the other writings and what the great Rabbis said about them. He also spent time in the temple library area debating with other students about theology. Two boys would stand at separate podiums and debate. That's how the boys studied... met with others to discuss and debate and ask for guidance to know the truth.

There was a balance in their education. Time to quietly read, think, memorize and pray. Time to be in community to share and learn from each other. Both had value.

We are learning to ask the questions differently with a focus on God. Rather than ask how something happened, we ask Why would God do that? What was His purpose? Rather than ask what something teaches me about myself, we ask What does that teach me about God?

"The Bible gives us God's perspective on the events that shaped Israel as a nation. It not only tells us what happened, but why. The purpose of the Bible's account is to form a people of faith- to demonstrate what God is like, what he has done for his people, and how he expects his people to live in response to his saving grace." (quote from Dr. Carmen Joy Imes.)

WE'VE TRIED IT, WE LIKE IT

Approaching the study of Scripture with a Middle Eastern mind has made a difference for the Wednesday Community Women's Bible Study class.

Our gathering is our weekly feast day. We've always felt a close bond, but it is growing and we are a community.

Rather than saying we are studying, we say that we are eating the Word of God. It is sweeter than honey (Ps 19:10)

We do not scrounge, strive, or strain to feed ourselves the Word of God. We posture ourselves to receive from God (Ps. 81:10)

We tend to stare at our lives and glance at God. We want to stare at God and glance at our lives.

(Ideas we learned from Kristi McLelland)

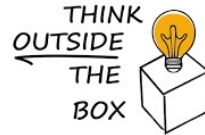
A Few Extras

An important date to remember!

August 25th

Vote in the Runoff Elections.

Every vote matters! Equip yourself with knowledge, and prayerfully vote for those you feel are best qualified to lead.



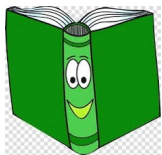
There has been some discussion about what to study in the adult Sunday school class starting in September.

I imagine that most of us can agree that we tend to get into a routine and stay there. Maybe it is time to try something different. Perhaps you think of Sunday School and remember when you were last there as a child. You may have attended as an adult, but haven't been in the habit for a while.

One of the nice things about Sunday school is the ability for open discussion of the Scriptures. You hear Scripture read in church, but you aren't going to ask to pause the sermon to ask questions and have a discussion about your thoughts.

What is written in Bible Nuggets about the value of community study is so true. Approaching the Word of God as a feast to be eaten together can be a wonderful experience.

I invite you to consider it, and let James Allen, LuAnn Christian, or me (Carolyn J) know what you might like to study (oops, Feast on). Ideas are very welcome. Let's put together something you will enjoy.



Church Directories

An updated directory is hot off the press. Make sure you get one. I do hope that I've managed to make all of the corrections and updates.

If something is not correct, break it to me gently, please I do thank all who have let me know of any needed changes. .



Hint.. James and Lindy

Certain people, who are brother and sister, are out seeing the world by hiking in the mountains across several countries. They will be back soon. Their spouses stayed home to hold down their respective forts, plus there is no way they want to hike 10-12 miles a day in the mountains.

Pics in September Newsletter.... I hope.

