



Open Door  
FEBRUARY  
2025

Ephesians 4:32 is a heartwarming invitation from God: “Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” These words serve as a loving blueprint for our relationships and urge us to mirror God’s love in our interactions.

God’s instruction is clear: Be kind. Compassion must be the foundation of our actions. It helps us to be tenderhearted and empathetic. Understanding the joys and sorrows of others enables us to create spaces where love thrives and wounds are healed. Christ also taught us to be forgiving—holding a grudge only weighs us down and blocks the freedom that comes with extending forgiveness. But by following God’s example, we break the chains of bitterness and embrace the liberating power of love.

In our daily life, we encounter countless opportunities to practice this divine kindness. A smile to brighten someone’s day, a listening ear to ease a burden, or a gentle word of encouragement—these simple acts can transform hearts and deepen connections. Let us not forget that we are called to love others as God loves us. God’s love is unconditional, extravagant, and all-encompassing. May Ephesians 4:32 be our guiding light this month, reminding us to live as we are meant to: full of kindness and love.

*Pastor Ray*





**February 2** An Uncomfortable Truth

**February 9** What's On the Line?

**February 16** Misrepresenting Christ

**February 23** Loving Your Enemies and People You Don't Like



*Sunday, February 16th*

*Installation and Ordination of  
Deacons and Elders*



**Kum Ba Yah aka Kum Ba Zoom**

We meet every Wednesday on ZOOM for fellowship, study and prayer.  
7:00 PM. The link to the Zoom Meeting is sent in the Wednesday eMail  
each week.

**Kum Ba Yah topics:**

**February 5** Difficult Sayings of Jesus

**February 12** Difficult Sayings of Jesus

**February 19** Difficult Sayings of Jesus

**February 26** Difficult Sayings of Jesus

**Adult Sunday School**

**Sundays at 9:30am on Zoom and in Person!**

**February 2** Voice

**February 9** Body

**February 16** The Art of Public Theology

**February 23** The Many Faces of Jesus

## BACKPACK PROGRAM

We are grateful for the leadership of Dave Foster and Janice Johnson who organize our weekly food program with children at Roosevelt Elementary School. Each week so far on average in 2025 we have delivered 32 backpacks per week. The number of backpacks delivered for January 2025 is approximately **96**.

If you have not helped with this ministry before and want info, please get a hold of Dave Foster or the office. To all of you who have volunteered your time to pack backpacks this year, we are thankful and grateful for all of your help.



## MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee met on January 21st. During the meeting they decided to give **\$350. to Bedtime Blessings** for a local mission giving and **\$300 to PDA** for fires in California for the Global Mission giving.

The Mission program is sustained in part by gifts from the Myers Sisters bequest as well as gifts from members. You can designate gifts to “Local Mission” or “Global Mission”.

**The Deacon's Shoe Ministry:** Distributed **0** pairs of shoes for the year of 2025. With each pair of shoes we also deliver 3 pairs of socks.

**Food Pantry:** The food pantry has served **36 households and 70 individuals** for the month of January.



## **IT'S STILL CHRISTMAS, BUT LENT IS COMING!**

Lent begins this year on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. To help us spend some time in prayer and contemplation, we would like to publish our own devotional guide, written by us.

We are inviting every person to submit one or two devotions.

### **Scripture verse/s**

(Perhaps one of your favorites)

### **A reflection on that verse**

Maybe this is a short story about an experience you have had with God, a favorite poem or hymn, why your chosen verse is a favorite... ) YOUR story is interesting to others.

### **Prayer**

(A one or two sentence prayer)

**Deadline will be February 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**Way to Go! We already have some devotionals turned in!**

Ross has already begun putting devotionals into a booklet form.

There is a blank Devotional page in this month's Open Door for you to use if you haven't already picked up a copy at church.



# 2025 February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	 GROUNDHOG DAY February 2	 TACKLE HUNGER February 9th	 Valentine's Day February 14	 Presidents' Day February 17		1 Elder Training 10am - 2pm Tulsa
2 Ground Hog Day 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Fellowship	3 10-12 Food Pantry	4 10-12 Food Pantry	5 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	6 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	7 10-12 Food Pantry	8
9 SouperBowl 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Soup Dinner 11:30 Deacons Mtg	10 10-12 Food Pantry	11 10-12 Food Pantry 11:30 Ladies Luncheon	12 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 KumBaZoom	13 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 GA	14 Valentine's Day 10-12 Food Pantry 	15
16 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Fellowship	17 Presidents' Day 10-12 Food Pantry 	18 10-12 Food Pantry 11:00 Mission Mtg 7:00 Session Mtg	19 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	20 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	21 10-12 Food Pantry	22
23 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Fellowship	24 10-12 Food Pantry	25 10-12 Food Pantry	26 10-12 Food Pantry 7:00 KumBaZoom	27 10-12 Food Pantry 2:30 Backpack 7:00 GA	28 10-12 Food Pantry	



Jim Long .....2/1    Barbara Reeves .....2/15  
 Bill Good .....2/7    Scott Edwards .....2/21

*Should your name be here?  
 Please let the office know your birth date so we can include you!*

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**2025 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL SUBMISSION**

SUBMITTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

***SCRIPTURE VERSE/S***

***THOUGHT FOR THE DAY***

***PRAYER***

## Servers in the Lord's House

	Coffee Host	Backpack Packers	
<b>February 2</b>	The Shaffers	<b>Feb 6</b>	Open
<b>February 9</b>	Birthday Sunday...Tim & Ross	<b>Feb 12 (WED)</b>	Dave S. & Cindy H.
<b>February 16</b>	Bill	<b>Feb 20</b>	Open
<b>February 23</b>	Pastor Ray	<b>Feb 27</b>	Open



### SuperBowl of Caring will be February 9th

All money raised during this special offering remains here at the church to help support the Food Pantry and Backpack Program.

Soup Dinner after Worship  
to celebrate the Souperbowl

### FPC Miami Ladies Luncheon Tuesday, January 14, 2025

We had another wonderful time of fellowship at the Ladies Luncheon. Cari made some scrumptious Chili and all the other ladies brought sides to go along with the Chili.



**Next Luncheon  
Tuesday,  
February 11  
at 11:30 am**







## New Directories!!!



It is almost time for a new phone directory!

New phone number? New address?

Be sure to let the office know of any changes, additions, or corrections.

# FEBRUARY



February 2	Grace Goodeagle
February 9	Melinda Thiesing
February 16	Tim Keith
February 23	Ross Tomlinson
March 2	Clyde Shaffer
March 9	Karin Shaffer
March 16	Diana Schmiedeke
March 23	John Lomax
March 30	Abbey Amkenman

Please let Ross or Pastor Ray know if you cannot read the scriptures the week you are scheduled.

Thank you for your service in the House of the Lord

# Elder Training

SESSION 1  
10AM - 2PM WITH LUNCH PROVIDED

February 1 - Southminster, Tulsa  
February 8 - First, Broken Bow

Please Register @  
[www.eokpresbytery.org/eldertraining](http://www.eokpresbytery.org/eldertraining)



*The training will be recorded and made available to churches.*

The rescheduled dates for Elder Training are :

- Feb 1st Southminster, Tulsa
- Feb 8th First Church, Broken Bow

*Hosted by Oklahoma  
Presbytery Task Force*

JOIN OKLAHOMANS  
ACROSS THE STATE FOR  
*Wednesday Devotion*

STARTS JANUARY 8

WEDNESDAYS | 9:00 AM

30 MINUTES

CHECK YOUR PRESBYTERY  
WEBSITE FOR ZOOM LINK



## Statewide Presbyterian Wednesday Devotion Invitation

The Oklahoma Task Force will be having Wednesday morning devotions in 2025. If you are interested in taking part in this opportunity, please contact Ross in the office, and he will provide you the link for the devotions.



Lamentations 3:22-23 (NLT) "The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning."

Each day of the new year is a fresh start, filled with God's unfailing love and mercy.



The First Presbyterian Church  
1410 N.E. Veterans Blvd.  
Miami, OK 74354

February