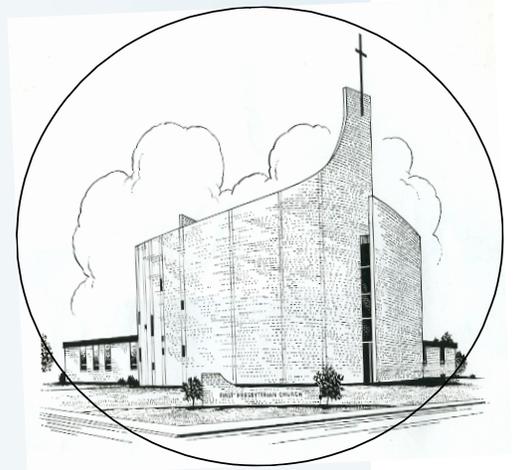


Focus

May 2019
Volume 56, Issue 5

News of the Community of Faith



Rich and Carol Schempp will be here to report on their time with the orphans in Tulcea, Romania. Session has voted to have a special offering that day—all funds will go directly to the orphans and help with their everyday needs.

Here's how your giving helps NOROC incarnate loving action:

- \$15 provides a month of psychological counseling for a child of trauma
- \$20 provides a month of speech therapy for a child who struggles to communicate
- \$75 supports a “Big-Hearted-Granny” for a month of daily relationship with the youngest, including school readiness activity
- \$100 sends one child to summer residential camp
- \$50 sends one child to summer day camp
- \$1,000 helps one young adult attend a year of university
- \$1,200 sponsors activities for one small group for one year. NOROC’s goal is to have each child in a small “family” group of 8 or 10 children. Small group mentors nurture ongoing relationships. Groups go on local field trips, celebrate birthdays, do crafts, sports, or cooking activities and spend quality time together. Small Group Sponsorships help donors feel personally connected to a cluster of children or youth.
- \$1,500 sponsors horse therapy day camp for 22 children for one week—five full days of grooming, riding instruction, horse therapy, ecological learning, outdoor free play, crafts and other therapeutic farm and garden activities.
- Please consider a regular monthly gift or a memorial legacy.

Dave's Doodles



In the last few months, we have seen an alarming rise in anti-Semitic attacks, and while the roots of some of them are difficult to trace, the most recent is blatant, and self-explanatory, and I feel it deserves some pastoral comment.

The perpetrator of the most recent shooting in a synagogue in Poway, California is a young Christian man, a member of one of our Presbyterian affiliate denominations, the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

The Orthodox Presbyterian Church broke away from the PCUSA in the 30's in response to a reorganization of Princeton Seminary which was felt by some to be excessively liberal. The overall theology of the OPC is conservative, women are not ordained to any office in the church, and in many ways the theology of the OPC has served as a theological model for modern evangelical thought, especially in its embrace of latter Calvinistic tendencies of the Council of Dordt (TULIP) and the Westminster Confessions.

While our denomination, the PCUSA, is in communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The Reformed Church in America, and the United Church of Christ, among others, we are not in communion with the OPC, which speaks to the depth of differences between our denominations.

On April 27th, John Earnest, the 19-year-old son of an OPC Elder, entered the synagogue in Poway on the last day of the Passover feast, and opened fire, killing one and wounding several others. In preparation for this act of terror, he had written a multi-page manifesto, incorporating the sort of white supremacy writings one finds in the darkest holes of the internet with a more mainstream understanding of the role of the Jews in Jesus' death and their relationship with God, including salvation.

This screed has sparked a (probably all too brief) conversation among evangelicals about how some of the rhetoric surrounding Christian and Jewish relationships has been interpreted to portray Jews as beyond the reach of God's protective love, that Jews throughout all time bear the burden for Jesus' death, and that Jews are not in any way related in faith to Christians.

Just a couple of rebuttals from a humble small-town pastor in West Texas:

No-one is beyond the loving embrace of God.

If there is any eternal guilt to be endured for the death of Jesus, it is shared equally by Gentiles and Jews alike. The Jewish people did not have a provision for a death penalty. That power was reserved to the Romans.

Over and over and over, the Apostle Paul speaks of the Jewish faith as being the root and branches of the Christian faith. Jesus was Jewish. Paul was Jewish. The Disciples were Jews. Most of the early followers of Christ were Jewish, in fact, in the ear-

ly church, in order to be a follower of Christ, one had to first convert to the Jewish faith.

Poor interpretations of the Bible have been used throughout the last 2000 years to kill and harass our Jewish ancestors. To our very great shame, our own Christian brothers in faith (and let's face it, for 1960 years, only brothers had this sort of power) used the words of the Bible to kidnap Jewish babies and baptize them, to persecute Jewish members of the community, and in the biggest sin of all time, to attempt to wipe them off the map during the holocaust.

In his letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul agonizes over the fate of his Jewish brothers and sisters, seemingly trapped between his conviction that we are saved in Christ alone and the eternal promises made to the Hebrew people by their God.

In the end, he confesses his belief in the mysterious desire of God to save who he will, for his own reasons, and we are not to say who is condemned and who is saved. My favorite, and to my mind, conversation ending scripture verse regarding the covenant between God and his people is this: "...the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." (Romans 11:29) After all, if the Jewish people cannot trust God to keep the promises God made to them, why should we trust the promises God makes to us?

We have to be very careful when we read certain parts of the Bible regarding the Jewish people, especially in the Gospel of John. We have to remember that the Gospel of John was written toward the last part of the first century, during a time when Christians were under attack from all sides, and their natural tendency was to develop a bunker mentality, one that is reflected in their version of the Gospel. Broad, sweeping indictments of the Jews are more reflective of the context of their time, rather than an eternal condemnation of the Jewish people for all time.

We live in a different era, in which Christians are not a persecuted minority, but rather are in the seat of power; and the Jewish people are, as they have been throughout their history, a persecuted minority. We, as Christians, would do well to remember our roots and temper our language when it comes to the salvation of the Jews (or anybody, for that matter), and look for ways to reinforce the relationship between our faiths, rather than seeking to exploit the differences.

We all are Children of God, and like siblings everywhere, we squabble, we fight, we taunt and call each other names. But in the end, we are brothers and sisters, heirs of the covenant, and if we are to honor that relationship, we must do everything in our power to support the Jewish community against the hate and theologically supported bigotry that seems to be on the rise.

May God be with us all during this troubling time.

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Kim Butler May 4
Grayson Tirey May 4
Sunny Coffey May 6
Scott Strovas May 10
Rob Kinkaid May 15



Noelle Garza May 18
Parker Adamson May 20
Maxine Goree May 21
Cyndy Walter May 23
Glenna Butler May 25
Taryn Garza May 26

David & Elise Adamson May 11
Kevin & Robin Sweeney May 19
Wilburn & Polly Lackey May 26

You are Invited

To a Ladies' Spring Luncheon and Purse Parade

on

Saturday, May 4th at 11:30 a.m.



*in the Fellowship Court of First
Presbyterian Church.*

*Please bring a spring salad to share
Hosted by the Naomi Ruth Circle*

Please consider contributing to the Birthday Offering:

The Birthday Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the spring each year, it gives women a tangible way to celebrate the blessings in their lives. The Birthday Offering funds up to five projects each year, in amounts of \$100,000 to \$300,000 each. The recipients are selected before the offering is received, so grant amounts depend on the gifts received.

May 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



			1 11 am – MoW 6 pm – WNF T-Bones 6:45 pm – Choir	2 5:30 pm – Mission & Min- istry Committee 6:30 pm – Cub Scout Parents	3	4 11:30 am – Ladies’ Spring Luncheon
5 9:15 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship 11:30 am – Potluck 6 pm – Pizza & Profs	6	7 6:30 pm – Cub Scouts	8 11 am – MoW 6 pm – WNF Disciples 6:45 pm – Choir	9	10	11 8 am – Men’s Breakfast
12 9:15 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship	13	14 6:30 pm – O&M Meeting 6:30 pm – Cub Scouts	15 11 am – MoW 6 pm – WNF Amazin’ Grazin’ 6:45 pm – Choir	16	17	18
19 9:15 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship 12:30 pm – Session Meeting Pick up FISH bag	20	21 6:30 pm – Cub Scouts	22 11 am – MoW 6 pm – WNF Groovy Grillers 6:45 pm – Choir	23 6:30 pm – Cub Scout Parents Mtg	24 Noon – Fourth Friday Fellow- ship w/Friends	25 Duquette Baby Shower
26 9:15 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship Return FISH bag	27	28 6:30 pm – Cub Scouts	29 11 am – MoW No WNF	30	31 	

Mission News from agencies we support!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

2019 Offering:
\$960.30



Our FISH workers report April has been another busy month at the food bank. The FISH is in need of bars of soap and plastic grocery sacks.

Is in need of substitute/on-call drivers in case a scheduled driver has to cancel last minute. Please contact Kim Horne at 292-9020 if you can help.



12 bags of candy and a soft drink and 12 bags of personal hygiene items were delivered to the boys at the Reed Center on April 18. Thank you to all who brought items and helped put the Easter basket together.



Paws wants to make Mother's Day a little bit brighter for the 167 female residents in Plainview Nursing Homes. If you would like to purchase a Mother's Day carnation for \$5, please see Karen.

Paws is also having a yard sale on May 18 and is in need of items. Would you go through your closets and/or garage. Your "trash" might be someone else's treasure. You can also contact Karen if you have something to donate. Paws can pick up large items.

Presbyterian Night at the Sod Poodles!

The new Amarillo Minor League Baseball team, The Sod Poodles, will have a home game on Sunday, June 30 at 6:05p.m. Let's get a bunch of Presbyterians from all areas of Palo Duro Presbytery together to enjoy the game and one another! (Tickets will cost \$8 and must be reserved by May 30th.)



Each congregation is asked to tell Janell Blair how many tickets to reserve for their church by May 30! (Each church can decide who gets their reserved seats). Questions? Call (#361-920-2492) or email Janell at janellblair63@gmail.com.

Please let Sue or Karen know if you would like to join in the fun! We will be sure to let Janell Blair know how many tickets are needed for our congregation.

Summer Camp Dates!

At Buffalo Gap, Merkel, TX

Mini Camp (completed grades 1-3): June 11-14

Elementary Camp (completed grades 4-5): June 16-21

Middle School Camp (completed grades 6-8): June 23-28

High School Retreat (completed grades 9-12): June 30-July 5

Jr. High Jubilee at Mo Ranch, Hunt, TX

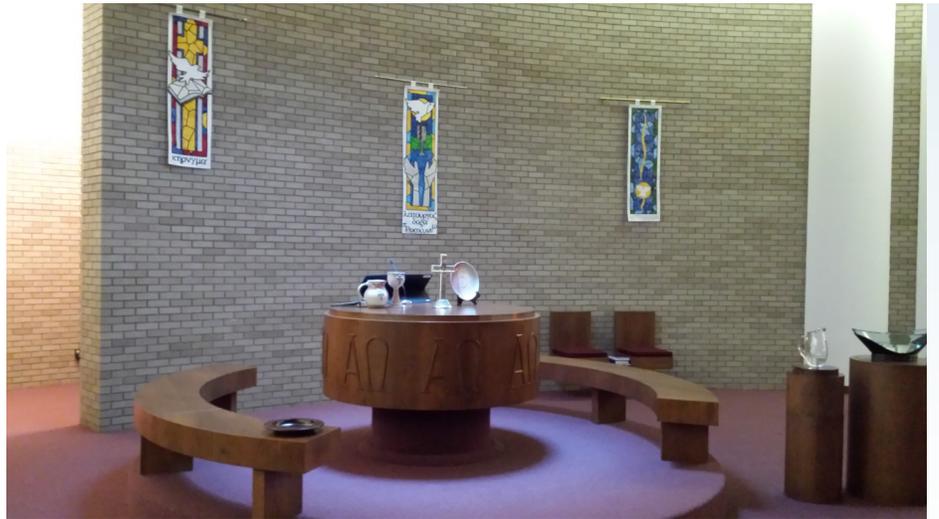
Session I: June 30-July 4, 2019

Session II: July 7-11, 2019

Focus

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MAY NEWS TO KNOW

Focus is published monthly by First Presbyterian Church, Plainview, Texas. Articles for inclusion in the FOCUS are requested by the 20th of the month.

Rev. David Hawkins, Pastor
Dr. Charles Teykl, Pastor Emeritus
Karen Hawkins, Publisher

Be sure to note these important dates and jobs to be done during the month of May

Ushers

Whit Hunt, Richard Morgan,
Gaylan Goddard, Chris Lewellen,
Larry Williams, Mike Craig, Graham Tirey

May Liturgist Stan Rigler

Wednesday Night Fellowship

5/1—T-Bones
5/8—Disciples
5/15—Amazin' Grazin'
5/22—Groovy Grillers

April Attendance

Apr 7	54
Apr 14	43
Apr 21 (Easter Sunday)	95
Apr 28	34

April Contributions

Apr 3 (online)	\$2,130.00
Apr 7	\$4,722.90
Apr 14	\$1,076.50
Apr 21	\$5,070.75
Apr 28	\$1,229.25
Total Income:	\$15,655.66
Total Expenses:	\$14,590.81
Total:	\$ 1,064.85

