

First Presbyterian Newsletter May 2026

First and Last – by Kimby Young

This is my last newsletter article as your pastor. This is Jodi's first newsletter as your office administrator. It is a momentous time in the life of this congregation. Exciting things are happening. You are in a marvelous position to attract a new pastor and to move forward in faith. Yes, the unknown is a little bit frightening. And change can be both good and bad. However, you know that God is holding you and leading you where you need to go. Follow Jesus and together you will grow in grace and faithfulness.

Although I will not be your pastor after June 1, and I am not able to do anything "pastoral" with you, we will move into a new relationship as friends. My phone number and Gmail will remain the same. I am currently still living in Gardner and when I find a house nearer to my nephew, I will let you know the address. We can keep in touch. I may see you around in the area. I will continue to pray for you and I ask that you continue to pray for me.

There is so much to say in this last article, so much to share and remember. I settle into gratitude for my time here in Gardner. I am grateful to God for bringing me here and guiding my steps. I am thankful for each of you as you have walked with me along this journey. You have lifted me in times of grief and celebrated with me in times of joy. You have forgiven my mistakes and blessed my attempts in ministry. You have invited me into your lives and your moments, and I have been grateful for your friendship. I feel blessed to have lived and served among you. I pray the best for you and this church as you grow in new and miraculous ways. I know that God has great plans for you. I can't wait to see what happens next.

Grace and Peace,
Kimby
913-481-7076
Kimbyyoung5@gmail.com

Scripture and Sermons

May 3 – Resurrection Appearances – Breakfast on a Beach - John 21:1-14

May 10 - Mother's Day - Feed My Sheep - John 21:15-19

May 17 – Ascension - Last Call - Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11

May 24 – Pentecost - Many Gifts One Spirit - I Corinthians 12:4-14; Acts 2 (selected verses)

May 31 - Fare Well – I Corinthians 3:5-11; 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

Three weeks of combined services at 10:00 a.m.

May 24, May 31 and June 7 at 10:00 a.m.

With the unusual circumstance of Pastor Kimby's retirement, session has called for three Sundays of combined services. The first is Memorial Day weekend when attendance is often low. That Sunday is also Pentecost, so we will worship together to feel the power of the church gathered and to celebrate the whole church together. Remember to wear red. (or perhaps red, white and blue.)

May 31 is Pastor Kimby's last Sunday so we will combine in order to have one reception following worship and to celebrate Kimby's retirement. On June 7 we will again gather in one worship service. The Presbytery staff leader will come to offer words of encouragement as this time of transition begins. On June 14, we will return to two services for the rest of the month.

Guest Preachers for June

Worship Pillar has arranged for guest preachers for the first month of Pastor Kimby's absence. All of the preachers for June represent Heartland Presbytery in the varied mission of the church.

June 7 - The Rev. Dale Jackson - Presbyter for Vision and Leadership

June 14 - The Rev. Dr. Aaron Stauffer - Associate Presbyter for Congregational Vitality

June 21 - Greg Mullinax – Commissioned Ruling Elder – Stated Clerk of Heartland Presbytery

June 28 – The Rev. Amgad Megally – Pastor for the Arabic Christian Fellowship of Heartland

Monthly Financial Report

At the end of March 2026 our records indicate:

total income this month is \$ 31815.99

total expenses this month is \$ 29932.13

The session and finance/operations pillar thank each of you for your contributions to the church – financial or any other contribution. A complete line-by-line expense report is available upon request. We will close finances for April after May 4.

Volunteer Help Wanted

Video Processing of Worship Services

If you would be interested in uploading, editing and posting worship videos each Sunday, or being a part of a team who works on videos, please contact pastor Kimby to volunteer.

Joy Closet Volunteers Needed

Garage Sale Saturday – May 2– extra volunteers needed – and for several days after.

In the afternoon of Saturday, May 2, after the city wide garage sale, we get many donations which need to be received from cars and processed or sorted quickly. We can use lots of help of any age. Just show up on May 2 or talk to one of the directors for details.

If that Saturday doesn't work for you, you can volunteer almost any time. Because the extra sorting and receiving will continue for the whole month. You may need to arrange specific times if you can't come on that Saturday, and every volunteer has to be trained, but help is always welcome.

If you have a question, find us at church or contact us at:

Cindy Rolf: 913-638-7989

Ginger Crist: 913-207-4401

Cathy Cochran: 913-484-3539

New Member Class

We have had a request from one of our frequent attenders to join the church as a member. Pastor Kimby will have one last new member class before she leaves. There will be other classes in the future, but we don't know when or how long that will be. If you know you would like to join the church, please contact Pastor Kimby or the office immediately. This will be an abbreviated class. Individuals will meet twice – once to inquire and a second time to be approved by session. Then

new members will be presented to the congregation on a Sunday morning. Contact Pastor Kimby Young (913-481-7076; Kimby@fpcgardner.org) for more information.

A Thank You from Connie Crabbs

Thank you for your prayers and thoughtful wishes during my recent surgery and recovery. I feel so much better since the surgery. I would also like to thank the congregation for your support and encouragement throughout my 20 years of working at the church. You made my job enjoyable, rewarding, and filled with many wonderful friendships.

A special thank-you to Kimby for her inspiring, loyal, and dedicated support. It was an honor to work with her.

Ron and I now look forward to traveling and visiting many of our military friends and family throughout the country.

God loves you, and so do I.
— Connie

PW Fellowship group will meet May 6th at 10 am in the church's Fellowship Hall. Glenda Blomquist will give the devotion, and Sandy McVey will provide refreshments. This group is open to all seeking Christian fellowship.

The young adult group is headed to Philippi and Moatsville, West Virginia June 13-21. We will be serving at the World Vision site in Philippi, and the New Vision Village in Moatsville. A presentation date will be announced later.

From Mission Pillar - Heart to Heart International is a non-profit humanitarian disaster relief and health care provider that travels the world to help those in need. Since 1992, Heart to Heart has delivered medical supplies and send volunteers for domestic and international crises. Charity evaluators rate Heart to Heart very high.

Heart to Heart delivers medical supplies and hygiene kits during natural disasters. Under resourced areas receive medications to their clinics and hospitals.

For the last several years, the members of this church have gone to the Heart to Heart headquarters in Lenexa to assemble hygiene kits that are distributed to disaster victims. Last year alone, we made approximately 1500 kits in about two hours' time. We had 32 volunteers and we worked quickly as a team. This year, we will go to make kits on June 27th at 10:00 am. We will need volunteers again and we're asking anyone who is interested to sign up to go. Travel to and from will be discussed closer to June 27th. Let me know if you have questions.

Lynn Moldrup

PW Women's Brunch held a luncheon April 25 to join the women of area churches in fellowship. Nina Kimbrough from the Johnson County Christmas Bureau spoke. Wonderful food was provided by the Presbyterian Women's Group. The next community brunch will be held at Divine Mercy June 13. You can sign up by calling the parish office or using the QR code below.



LADIES COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

Let it Go!

June 13 | 11:30 am

Divine Mercy Parish CFC Hall
555 W Main Street, Gardner

Let Go of Past Pains & Embrace Future Goals
Philippians 3:13-14

All women are invited to a luncheon at Divine Mercy Parish in the CFC Hall. Doors open at 11am and luncheon begins at 11:30 am. You can RSVP by calling the parish office or scanning the RSVP QR. Ladies of Divine Mercy Parish are asked to bring a salad-use the QR code Volunteer/Donate Sign-Up.



REGISTER



DONATE



Store Hours	
MONDAY	10 – 7
TUESDAY	10 – 7
WEDNESDAY	10 – 4
THURSDAY	10 – 7
SATURDAY	10 – 2



May 2026

A note of thanks:

She's 'Kimby' to those of us from First Presbyterian Church. Officially, she is the Rev. Dr. Kimberly Young, and she has been a supporter and friend to those of us who have been with JOY Closet through the early years and as we have grown. Her retirement draws near, and we pause to reflect.

Kimby has quietly offered advice to the board and has greatly offered encouragement. Her assistance in transitioning to the larger building was remarkable. We respect and honor Kimby for her caring. She has seen us grow into a ministry in our community in ways which we would not have envisioned. Her wisdom and caring have helped shape our mission.

We wish Kimby all of God's many blessings in this new chapter of her life. May her sharing of God's love for each of us sustain us long into the future.

Volunteers Needed!



Men's and Women's

Clothing – You will be helping

in one of our busiest areas. An amazing number of customers visit our clothing racks, looking for good, wearable clothing that is budget-friendly. You may be surprised how much merchandise is barely worn or even has the original sales tag attached. These items are very attractive to our customers and we want them to be available for customers or, if out of season and almost new, be placed in seasonal bins.



Knick Knacks – If you love home décor, souvenirs, and mementos, you'll find this area interesting. Some are simply decorative, but many of them will remind you of a person or specific time in your life. A few good knick knacks make a house a home. **Bring your interest and come volunteer with some great people!**



From random donations to organized, usable merchandise!

Visit the front of our store and appreciate the work that goes into making merchandise available for shoppers.

Vouchers available for customers in need at churches and area schools.

Paying customers make our thrift store thrive economically.

All merchandise is donated.

All volunteers donate their time.



Extra Volunteers Appreciated!!

Saturday, May 2nd, anytime in the afternoon to assist with donations!



March & April Designated Donations will go to the Joy Closet Scholarship Fund!

In May, JOY Closet will honor six high school seniors at GEHS with scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 toward the first year of college or technical school.

This year, we have expanded the program to also award two high school seniors from Wellsville.

May Designated Donations will be given to the **Starfish Project** in Olathe. They serve people in a variety of ways from basic food and clothing needs to social services. More information here: [Starfish Project](#)



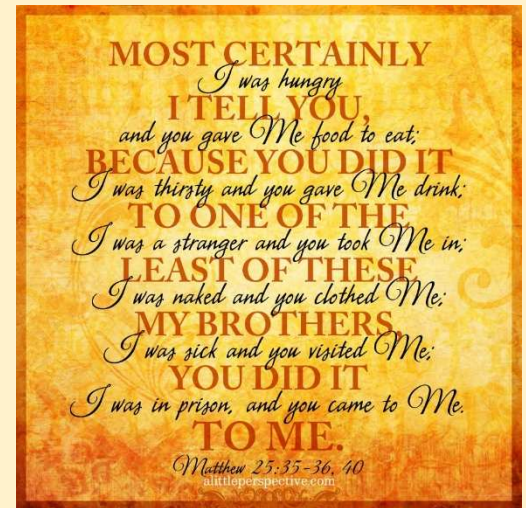
JOY Closet Board hosted our volunteers to the **annual dinner** at Warren Place on April 24th. A great meal was provided and many volunteers brought dessert to share. People were surrounded by old and new friends and an enjoyable evening was shared. Cathy Cochran highlighted the various duties of each of our managers. It takes considerable organization to accomplish what JOY Closet does on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis.

Part of Cathy's message centered on being 'called.' When we say yes to volunteering, we are helping in the ministry of serving others. There are shoppers amongst us who really cannot afford new shoes, and a voucher lets them choose what they need with dignity. Remember, you have been called.

Read the scripture on the back of the JOY Closet shirt.

For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes, and you clothed me. Matthew 25:35-36.

Jesus calls us to serve. There is no job more joyful than to give of yourself and to make the life of someone else better...**to love our neighbors as ourselves.**



For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes, and you clothed me.

Matthew 25:35-36 NIV



*JOY Closet Is a ministry of
First Presbyterian Church of Gardner, KS
Serving our community since 2013*