

Celebrating Labor Day

In celebration of Labor Day, it’s worth exploring the importance of work in Islam. Islamic teachings regard work with great significance and honor. Rather than viewing it as a burden, a mere necessity, or simply a means to earn a living, Islam considers work an act of worship and a vital component of a fulfilling life. Both the Quran and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) emphasize the value of honest labor and encourage Muslims to be productive members of society.

Spiritually, Islam views work as a form of worship when performed with the right intention. This includes aiming to help others, striving to perform one’s job perfectly to deserve the wages received, and adhering to Islamic principles. The Quran emphasizes this perspective in Surah Al-Mulk: “Blessed is He in Whose Hand is the dominion, and He is Able to do all things. Who has created death and life, that He may test you which of you is best in deed. And He is the All-Mighty, the Oft-Forgiving;” [Quran 67: 1-2]

This verse illustrates that God, the Almighty, tests us through our deeds, including our work. It emphasizes the importance of not just performing work, but striving for excellence in our actions. The concept of work in Islam extends

beyond one’s lifetime. In our previous article (The Stillwater News Press 8/10/24 C7), we explored how ongoing charitable work can continue to benefit a person even after death. This idea underscores the profound significance of work in Islamic teachings, highlighting its impact not only in this world but also in the hereafter. As a result, the work one undertakes in this life holds substantial importance both for the present and the afterlife, serving as a means of worship and a path to eternal rewards.

One of the clearest verses in the Quran persuading people to work is the following, “O you who believe (Muslims)! When the call is proclaimed for the Salat (prayer) on the day of Friday (Jumu’ah prayer), come to the remembrance of Allah [Jumu’ah religious talk (Khutbah) and Salat (prayer)] and leave off business (and every other thing), that is better for you if you did but know! (9) Then when the (Jumu’ah) Salat (prayer) is finished, you may disperse through the land, and seek the Bounty of Allah (by working, etc.), and remember Allah much, that you may be successful. (10)” [Quran 62: 9-10] A clear example that people should already be at work and when the prayer times come, especially the Friday prayer, they should leave work and go to mosques



Guest Column

HATIM HEGAB

so they would remember Allah (to glorify Allah and pray to him). An interesting order! When one is busy and doing business, sometimes calculating earnings and losses could take one over. One may not be fair sometimes, so through taking a break and remembering God, and the Day of Judgement, one would remember that one should be fair and honest in his dealing with people. When prayers are done, Muslims are asked to go back to work and ask God for his blessings and bounties. At the time of the revelation of the Quran, trading in markets was very famous among Muslims, but the verse applies to all types of work.

Among the verses that ask humans to search for basic elements of life we can read, “He it is, Who has made the earth subservient to you (i.e. easy for you to walk, to live and to do agriculture on it, etc.), so walk in the path thereof and eat of His provision, and to Him will be the Resurrection.” [Quran 67: 15]

The Prophet’s teachings also persuade Muslims to work. Prophet Muham-

mad said, “Seeking lawful earnings is a duty after the duty of prescribed worship (the five daily prayers).” This hadith (saying attributed to Prophet Muhammad) elevates work to a spiritual act, second only to obligatory religious duties. When Muslims work to support themselves and their family or to contribute to society, they are fulfilling a religious obligation and earning rewards from Allah.

Work is seen as a means to maintain dignity and self-reliance. The Prophet Muhammad emphasized this, stating, “It is better for any of you to carry a bundle of wood on his back and sell it than to beg of someone whether he gives him or refuses.” Islam encourages believers to be self-sufficient and discourages dependence on others or charity when one is capable of working.

In Islam, work is not just about personal gain but also about contributing to the welfare of the community. Work comes as a social responsibility. One could be good at something that might be useful to society or could make enough money to help those who may not have the means (physical or mental) to earn enough for themselves and their families, (Stillwater News Press 04/20/24 C7). The Quran states, “And say, ‘Work, for Allah will see your work and (so will) His Messenger and the

believers”’ [Quran 9: 105]. This verse encourages Muslims to work diligently, knowing that their efforts are observed and valued not just by society but by Allah, the Almighty, Himself.

Islam also places great emphasis on ethical conduct in all aspects of life. It is a cornerstone in Islam, and this applies to work. Muslims are encouraged to be honest, fair, and trustworthy in their business dealings. The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), who was known as Al-Amin (the trustworthy) even before his prophethood, set an example of integrity in his work as a merchant. He also ordered people to be nice in their trade and asked merchants to be clear about any mistakes or faults in their goods and that they should tell buyers about them.

Yet, while Islam encourages hard work, it also teaches balance. Muslims are reminded not to neglect their spiritual, family, and social obligations in pursuit of wealth or career success. The concept of barakah (divine blessing) suggests that it’s not just the quantity of work that matters, but also the quality and how it is performed.

Islam encourages believers to strive for excellence in their work. The Prophet Muhammad said, “Allah loves that when someone does a job, he perfects it.” This hadith promotes a

culture of quality, skill development, and continuous improvement in one’s profession or craft. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) emphasizes the importance of doing work with quality and perfection in Islam. It encourages believers to strive for excellence in all their endeavors, as this is pleasing to God.

Workers’ Rights In Islam: Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, “Give the hiring his wages before his sweat dries.” a clear indication that a worker deserves his wage(s) right after work. Delaying paying their wage(s) is a sin. A worker would feel happy when they receive their money, thinking of their families’ needs and obligations. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) also said, “There are three whose adversary I shall be on the day of resurrection: a man who gave a promise in my name then acted faithlessly; a man who sold a free man and enjoyed the price he received for him; and a man who hired a servant and, after receiving full service from him, did not give him his wages.”

Conclusion: In Islam, work is not merely an economic activity but a comprehensive concept that encompasses spiritual growth, personal development, and social responsibility. Muslims see their daily labor as acts of worship.

To contact the author: hatim@gmx.us

First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater welcomes Rev. Diane Janssen Hemmen as new pastor

First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater is excited to announce the installation of Reverend Dr. Diane Janssen Hemmen as the church’s new pastor. After a thorough and prayerful search process, FPC is confident that Diane is the right leader to guide the congregation in efforts to live out God’s call as part of Christ’s church in this world.

Diane brings an outstanding blend of experience, theological depth, and pastoral compassion to First Presbyterian Church. Her educational background

includes a Doctorate of Ministry, Cum Laude, from Columbia Theological Seminary, a Master of Divinity, Summa Cum Laude, from The Divinity School at Duke University, and a Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude, from the University of Sioux Falls. Diane has a strong faith background and her theological teachings will provide sermons to cause reflection and thought.



HEMMEN

The journey to this call began in October 2022, when a Pastor Nominating Committee was elected to find a new pastor for the church. The PNC, comprised of FPC members Ed Arquitt, Casey Campbell, Virginia Charter, Claire Leffingwell, Denise Rex, Tammy Wasson, and Tim Schlais, dedicated themselves to a comprehensive search process. Their commitment and discernment, guided by the Holy Spirit, led them to Diane, whose sense of mutual calling and vibrant spirit stood out among many talented candidates.

Throughout the 20-month process, the PNC sought a leader who not only possessed the necessary skills and experience but also resonated deeply with the church’s vision and values. Diane’s compassion, joy, and love for people have been evident, and we are excited for her to bring these qualities to our congregation.

Diane is married to Rev. Dr. Gregg Hemmen, who serves as the Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region. They have two children, Ainslee and Eli.

The First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater invites all members and friends to join in welcoming Rev. Dr. Diane Janssen Hemmen. We are confident that her leadership will help us fulfill our mission to live up to God’s call and be an integral part of Christ’s church.

For more information about Diane or upcoming church events, please contact the church office at 405-372-5580 or visit our website at <https://www.stillwaterfpc.org>.

– Submitted

Worship at the church of your choice this week

“Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen.



Revelation 1:7

Stillwater Bible

Proclaiming Christ, Training Believers

JB Bond, Senior Pastor

Sundays

Worship Service.....8:30 a.m.

G.R.O.W. Groups.....9:45 a.m.

Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.

Kids' Church.....11:20 a.m.

Tuesdays

Cornerstone @ The Union (RM 297).....7:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Stillwater Bible Institute.....6:30 p.m.

Impact Youth.....6:30 p.m.

Bible Kids.....6:30 p.m.

7617 W. 6th Ave.

Stillwaterbible.org (405) 564-5794

Crosspointe

CHURCH

Sunday School - 9:30

Sunday AM Worship - 10:30

Sunday PM Family Service - 6:00

Wed PM Bible Study - 7:00

1807 N. Jardot

gocrosspointe.com

FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH

701 S. DUNCAN • 405-372-5212

SUNDAY

Bible Study • 9:30am

Worship Service • 11:00am

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

Begin at 6:00pm

Watch our worship service on Facebook

www.fbcstillwater.org

FIRST UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

www.fumcstw.org

400 W. 7th • 372-5854

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship.....8:30am & 11:10am

Sunday School.....10:00am

Closer Walk.....10 am Family Life Center

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

BAPTIST CHURCH

4th & Knoblock • 372-2744

Sunday School

9 am

Worship Service

8 am & 10:30 am

GRACE BAPTIST

CHURCH

Independent Baptist

Expository Preaching

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday10:30am

Thursday7:30pm

723 E. 17th

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

524 S. Duncan • 405-372-5580

www.stillwaterfpc.org

Sunday Worship

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - in person, online

On KSPI radio AM 780 & FM 94.3

and the Stillwater FPC Facebook page

SUNNYBROOK

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

421 E. Richmond Rd. | sunnybrookccc.org

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:15 AM | 9:45 AM | 11:15 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 AM - Student,

College & Adult

KIDS

CHURCH

All Services

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHURCH

6:30 PM - Kids, Students & Adult Studies

Stillwater

Church of Christ

stillwatercoc.org

Your place for

"Faith, Family and Friends"

SUNDAY

Meeting Times

Bible Study.....9:30 AM

Worship.....10:30 AM

Bible Study.....5:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible study.....7:00 PM

821 N. DUCK • 372-7439

Southside Baptist

Church of Stillwater

1223 S. Perkins Rd.

Perfectly • Purposely • Placed

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 AM + 6 PM

WEDNESDAY

YOUTH & ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6:30

Paul Hutchinson - Pastor

Address - 1223 S. Perkins. Rd.

Phone: 408-372-2411

Email: southsidesillwater@gmail.com

The Islamic

Society of Stillwater

616 N. Washington St.

Friday (Weekly) Prayers

1:40 PM - 2:10 PM

For Daily Prayer Times

www.icstillwater.org

St. Francis Xavier

Catholic Church

711 N. Country Club Rd.

Sunday Mass

8:30 | 11:15 a.m.

1 p.m. (en español)

Tue & Thu Mass

12:10 p.m.

Wednesday Mass

12:10 p.m.

6 p.m. (en español)

Friday Mass

12:10 p.m.

Saturday Mass

9 a.m. | 5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

Confessions

Tues-Fri | 11:30-12 p.m.

Wednesday | 5 p.m.

Saturday | 9:45-11 a.m.

405-372-6886

www.sfxstillwater.org

Zion Lutheran

Church - LCMS

Sunday - 8:00, 10:30 AM

www.zionlutheranstw.org

John E. Wackler, Pastor

504 S. Knoblock • 372-3703