

THE FLAME

Volume 53, Issue 7

July 2023

Hello Summer!



Coming Events

Movie Night Sunday, July 9th, 6:00 PM

This event will be held at FUMC in conjunction with members of First Presbyterian. The movie will be *Jesus Revolution*. Of course, you can't have a movie without popcorn.

**Game Night in the Pavilion, Friday, July 14th,
Volunteers are needed, please sign up in the Welcome Center**

***Dr. Newheart's Neck-Up Check-Up* by Kathie Hill**

**As part of the 130th anniversary celebration,
Children are invited to participate in a summer musical.**

Grades 3 through Mid-High

Tryouts for solos and speaking parts in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 23rd, 4:00 PM,

Rehearsals July 31st-August 4th, 1:00-3:30

Rehearsals August 5th, 9:00-12:00

Public Performance August 6th, 4:00 PM

There will be cookie and coffee reception after the performance.



Pastor Leon Veazey

Onward To Greater Glory!

One of nature's most royal and beautiful icons is the butterfly! Did you know that the Monarch butterflies migrate some 3,000 miles each year from Canada and the northern United States to various parts of Mexico? The life span of the first few generations of Monarchs each year is only several weeks, but the last generation of the year will live up to 8 or 9 months. These are the ones that make the long trip to Mexico and then return to start the life cycle all over again with the laying of eggs. These new eggs go through the stages of development we term as larvae, pre-pupa, and pupa. Most of us are aware that these creatures first live as lowly caterpillars. During the pupa stage, the caterpillar's old body dies and a new body forms inside a protective shell known as a chrysalis.

While some people think of cocoons as a resting place, there's no resting going on inside the cocoon! On the contrary, there's a lot of activity which might be characterized as turmoil. Inside the cocoon the caterpillar is transforming into a new creature. This requires that the

old caterpillar body be broken down and turned into something new. Think of it as insect recycling! Inside a chrysalis, a caterpillar's body digests itself from the inside out. Then, the Insect that spins the cocoon must escape from it to complete its transformation.

I believe that our Creator not only gives us these marvels of nature to enjoy, appreciate, and turn us towards praise of God's majestic creative love, but also for us to learn about life and our own journeys. Our life metamorphosis, which includes turmoil and suffering, is a divine process of change and development that prepares us for our ultimate release and transformation. We are in the process of greater glory! Yet, we must endure the stages of our development. It's called Sanctifying grace, and it applies to individuals, families, churches, and larger faith communities. Things are difficult for each of us in various ways, for all of us as a church, and for our United Methodist Church extended family. Allow me to direct our hearts with the sacred text in Paul's writing to the Galatians: *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."* (Galatians 6:9-10, NIV).

Be ENCOURAGED, My Friends!
Pastor Leon



Creating A Culture of Renewal Don't Miss This Opportunity!

A little over a year ago, I was invited into one of the greatest opportunities of my pastoral journey thus far. Rebekah Simon-Peter invited me to take part in the Creating a Culture of Renewal three-year leadership development program, The Oklahoma Conference offered to pay my hefty three-year tuition for the program, and I couldn't turn down the opportunity! I'm so glad I didn't! I have just finished the first of three Tracks and am looking forward to beginning Track Two in August.

We also have a great opportunity to benefit from this journey together as a church family! Rebekah Simon-Peter is coming to us for a two-day event, August 26-27th. She will be leading a workshop all day on Saturday to help us develop our vision and potential for reaching our community and continuing our onward movement to be world changers! I would like each of you to consider being part of this opportunity. There is a registration fee, but it will be well worth your time and financial investment. If you haven't already received a registration invitation, please let us know and we'll see to it that you do! -- Pastor Leon



The audience.



The band.



It's a sure sign of summer if the chair gets up when you do.

~Walter Winchell



It's a Sock Hop!

A good time was had by everyone!



There were seven of us at our new widow support group when we met in June. We hope even more will join us when we meet in July. If you are a widow we would like to encourage you to join us. The next meeting will be Thursday, July 12th at 6:30 PM. We will meet at Danny's Barbecue on Prospect. If you would like to attend, but need a ride, please call the church office. Hope to see you there!



New Address

Charles & Mary Herrin
 28803 24th Ave. NW, apt. 113
 Norman, OK 73069
 (405) 868-9208



A great big thank you to Trish Goodman for designing the logo for our 130th anniversary.

Happy Birthday!



You are invited to join the family of Robert "Wayne" Moore Sr. as we celebrate his 90 wonderful years of life! Saturday, July 29, 2023 @ 2pm First United Methodist Church

Welcome Center
 200 South 6th Street
 Ponca City, Oklahoma

Join us for light snacks and refreshments.

In lieu of gifts, please make a donation to the

FUMC Caring Fund in Wayne's honor.

R.S.V.P by call or text to Ramona 580-491-9714



July Haiku

God bless our country:
 flag flies high for all to see,
 family, friends, foe.
 ~Wayne Moore



Prayer For Our Country

Almighty God,
 Ruler of all the peoples of the earth, forgive our shortcomings as a nation, purify our hearts to see and love the truth, give wisdom to our leaders, and steadfastness to our people, and bring us at last to that fair city of peace whose foundations are mercy, justice, and goodwill, of which you are the designer and builder; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

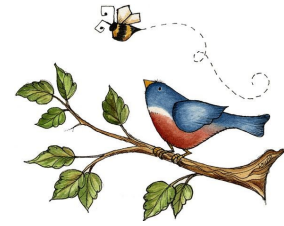


Game Night

Friday, July 14th
 7:00 PM—9:00 PM
 In the Pavilion

Invite friends, family and neighbors. There will be water games and hot dogs for everyone.

If you are willing to volunteer, the signup sheet is in the Welcome Center.



2023

SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THUR

FRI

SAT

Birthdays appear in red.						1
2 9:00 Sunday School Communion Caring Fund Sunday 10:00 Worship 6:00 UMY	3 8:30 Angel Academy 9:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Scouts	4 	5 8:30 Angel Academy Arleen Jacobson	6	7	8 11:00 Enloe Baumert Memorial Deanna Cohenour
9 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 6:00 UMY Ty Otto	10 8:30 Angel Academy 9:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Scouts	11 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	12 8:30 Angel Academy	13 6:30 Time To Be Me (This month at Danny's BBQ)	14 6:30 Family Movie Night	15
16 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 6:00 UMY	17 8:30 Angel Academy 9:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Friendship Feast 6:30 Scouts	18 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	19 8:30 Angel Academy Nate Harbeson	20 DeEtte Moon	21 Judy Million Clark Nickles	22 Dixie Kuehny
23 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 4:00 Musical Tryouts 6:00 UMY	24 8:30 Angel Academy 9:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Quilters 6:30 Scouts Linda Jantz	25 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer Susan Blake	26 8:30 Angel Academy Wayne Moore	27	28 Dee Kutz Andy Tubbs	29 1:00-4:00. 90th Birthday Celebration for Wayne Moore Fellowship Hall Geoffrey Cowan
30 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 6:00 UMY Jan Matheson	31 8:30 Angel Academy 9:00 Staff Meeting 1:00 Musical Rehearsal 6:30 Scouts			<p><i>I really miss complaining about the cold.</i></p> <p>~Anon.</p> 		

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Women in the Early Church

1770-Mary Evans Thorne is appointed class leader by Joseph Pilmore in Philadelphia; she is probably the first woman in America so appointed.

1768-Barbara Heck, known as the mother of American Methodism, urges Philip Embury to start preaching in New York and designs John Street Chapel in New York City.

1787-Despite objections of some male preachers, John Wesley authorizes Sarah Mallet to preach as long as *she proclaimed the doctrines and adhered to the disciplines that all Methodist preachers were expected to accept.*

1827-Isabella Bomefree, a slave who later changes her name to Sojourner Truth, is emancipated when slavery is abolished in New York State. That same year, she co-founds Kingston Methodist

Church. In 1843, she feels *called in the spirit* and begins to travel and preach. She becomes involved in the abolitionist movement, and her public speaking combines her religious faith with her experiences as a slave.

1849-Charity Opheral is granted a preacher's license by the United Brethren Church.

1863-Fanny Crosby, a lifelong Methodist blind from infancy, writes her first hymn. She writes more than 9,000 hymns, many of which remain perennial favorites (for example, "Blessed Assurance," "To God Be the Glory" and "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior.")

1869-Margaret Newton Van Cott is the first woman in the Methodist Episcopal Church to receive a local preacher's license.

1876-Anna Oliver, the first woman to graduate from an American seminary, receives a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Boston University School of Theology.



Why Robin's Breast is Red

The Saviour bowed beneath his cross,
 Clomb up the dreary hill,
 While from his agonizing brow
 Ran many a crimson rill.
 The brawny Roman thrust him on
 With unrelenting hand,
 Till, staggering slowly 'mid the crowd,
 He sank upon the sand.
 A little song-bird hovering near,
 That immemorial day,
 Fluttered around and strove to wrench
 One single thorn away.
 The cruel spike impaled his breast,
 And thus, 'tis sweetly said,
 The robin has his silver vest
 Incarnadined with red!
 Ah, Jesu! Jesu! Prince of Peace,
 My dolor and my sighs
 Reveal the lesson taught by this
 Winged Ishmael of the skies.
 I, in the palace of delight,
 Or caverns of despair,
 Have plucked no thorns from thy
 dear brow,
 But planted thousands there!

~James R. Randall

OUR STAFF

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July 2023

Daily



Prayers for YOUTH

- Our Sons/Daughters, Grandsons/Granddaughters
& all the ones we love.

1

Don't do as the wicked do, and don't follow the path of evildoers. ~ Proverbs 4:14

Almighty King, please remove (name) from the sphere of influence of the wicked. May she remain vigilant and not follow the path of evildoers. Amen!

2

As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom. ~ Daniel 1:17

Eternal Father, please give (name) learning and skill in all literature. Give him wisdom and understanding in all his studies. Amen!

3

For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. ~ 1 Corinthians 14:33

Omniscient God, whenever (name) is confused about what to do, may she intentionally seek Your wisdom knowing that You are not the God of confusion but of insight, understanding and peace. Amen!

4

Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness ~ Joel 2:13
Awesome Lord, whenever (name)'s goes astray, please remind him it is not too late for him to return as Your arms remain wide open to welcome him back home. Amen!

5

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ~ Matthew 5:9

Gracious God, may (name) be a peace-lover and a peace-maker who resolves misunderstandings according to Your Word. Amen!

6

And when He comes, He will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment ~ John 16:8
Savior Father, please convict (name) in regard to sin, righteousness and judgment. May he feel a sense of disquiet when he is not aligned with Your will. Amen!

7

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. ~ Ephesians 2:10
God of All Hope, please open (name)'s eyes to see the good works You intend her to accomplish. Stir her to use her gifts and talents for Your divine purpose and glory. Amen!

8

Conduct yourselves with such honor ... they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us. ~ 1 Peter 2:12

Glorious Father, may (name) be inclined to conduct himself with honor, so others see his good deeds and glorify You. Amen!

9

Take hold of my instructions; don't let them go. Guard them, for they are the key to life. ~ Proverbs 4:13

Blessed God, please instill in (name) a hunger for knowledge. May she firmly take hold of Your instructions, and guard them, for they are the keys to life. Amen!

10

This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. ~ Psalm 118:24
Dear God, when (name) wakes up each morning, may his attitude be "This is the day the Lord has made". May he arise with enthusiasm, rejoice and be glad in it. Amen!

11

Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. ~ Romans 12:18

Omnipotent Lord, please preserve (name)'s family ties. Protect her family from irreparable discord. May she learn to live peaceably with all people. Amen!

12

for God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind; ~ 2 Timothy 1:17

Thank You Heavenly Father for giving (name) a spirit of love, power, and a sound mind, capable of absorbing knowledge. Amen!

13

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: ... that they may do it with joy. ~ Hebrews 13:17

Lord God, may (name) recognize and respect the authority of her teachers and elders. May she be a pleasure to care for, contributing to the joy of their responsibilities. Amen!

14

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ~ Colossians 3:20

All-Powerful God, may (name) be one to heed wise counsel. May he obey his parents in everything, for this pleases You Lord. Amen!

15

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, ... will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ~ John 14:26

Righteous Father may the Holy Spirit teach (name) all she needs to know and remind her of everything she has been taught, so she answers her questions accurately. Amen!

16

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!" ~ 1 Chronicles 16:11

Lord Jesus, whether when at peace and happy, or restless and unhappy, may (name) learn to turn to You, seeking Your presence continually throughout the day. Amen!

17

Some time ago, the LORD appeared to me and told me to say: Israel, I will always love you; that's why I've been so patient and kind. ~ Jeremiah 31:3

Holy Lord, may (name) be convinced, deep in her soul that You love her, and will always be patient and kind towards her. Amen!

18

And may the Lord our God show us his approval and make our efforts successful. Yes, make our efforts successful! ~ Psalm 90:17

Eternal King, as (name) studies for his tests and exams, please show him what to study and how to study most effectively so his efforts are successful. Amen!

19

After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ~ 1 King 19:12

Savior Jesus, please unplug (name) from the clamor of the world so she hears Your gentle whisper as You speak with her. Amen!

20

Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments. ~ Psalm 119:66

Awesome God, please teach (name) knowledge and good judgement. May he trust Your commands. Amen!

21

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ~ 1 John 4:11

Lord All-Powerful, please grant (name) a soft heart, one that is loving to others as freely as You love her. Amen!

22

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good... ~ Romans 8:28

Dear Father, when (name) is puzzled or uncertain of what to do, may he take comfort knowing that in all things You work on his behalf according to Your purposes. Amen!

23

And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ~ Ephesians 5:20

Eternal Lord, please give (name) an attitude of gratitude. May she learn to give thanks to You Father, under all circumstances. Amen!

24

... those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance ~ Hebrews 9:15

Jehovah God, please deepen (name)'s faith so he is convinced that the eternal inheritance of Your promises applies to him. Amen!

25

'Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. ~ Leviticus 19:18

Everlasting Lord, please grant (name) a forgiving heart so she does not seek revenge or bear grudges against those who offend her. Amen!

26

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. ~ 1 John 2:15

Sovereign Father, may (name)'s heart be turned to You and only You. May he not love the world or the things of this world. Amen!

27

The LORD is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. ~ Nahum 1:7

Father God, when scared, frightened or afraid for any reason, may (name) remember that You Lord are good. You are her refuge in times of trouble. Amen!

28

When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. ~ Proverbs 3:24

Abba Father, please bless (name) with peaceful, refreshing and sweet rest when he sleeps; free of nightmares and fear. Amen!

29

Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. ...then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. ~ 1 John 2:24

Savior God, may Your Word be firmly rooted in (name)'s heart. Give her a deep desire to abide by Your will. Amen!

30

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ~ Ephesians 6:1

Gracious Lord, please remove all willful rebellion from (name)'s heart. May he be obey Your Word to respect and honor his parents. Amen!

31

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ~ Hebrews 13:5

Almighty Father, may (name) learn to be content with what she has, knowing each of his actions, words and attitude reflect her choice. Amen!