

THE FLAME

Volume 53, Issue 8

August 2023

Exciting Things Happening in August!

We're Invited to a



BBQ



**First Presbyterian Church
Friday, August 4 * 5:30 pm
Grand St. @ 14th St.**



**The Platinum Rule for Thriving Congregations:
Practical Relationship Skills
for Expanding Your Emotional Intelligence**

**Seminar: August 26th @ 9:00 am
Special Worship Service August 27th @ 10:00 am**

**Featuring Rebekah Simon Peter
of Creating a Culture of Renewal**



EXPOSED BY THE CREATOR

a vulnerable people destined for glory

Pastor Leon Veazey

It is no secret that we live in anxious times, whether we're speaking of our personal lives, our families, our faith communities, our denominations, our country, or our world! Many of us are dealing with illness, grieving losses of various kinds, experiencing strained relationships, are uneasy about the future of our church or denomination, heartbroken over the senseless acts of violence in the news almost daily, are weary about the fragility of peace in the world; and I could go on and on.

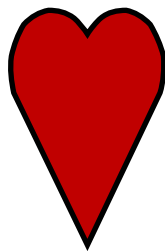
When times are difficult, and we once again wonder how suffering fits into the divine equation, we are compelled to the message of Romans 8. God has entered into our suffering as a human being, identifying with our plight. He, in Jesus Christ, was "tested in all ways as we are, yet without sinning." Even after he returned to the realm of the Father, he sent Divine presence to us in the person of the Holy Spirit. That Spirit 'groans with us' in our suffering, and prods us along with divine encouragement and empowerment. We are not alone!

We are admonished to understand that the sufferings we are currently experiencing are "not worthy of comparison" with the "glory that will be revealed in us." It is God, who knows that the glory of a redeemed creation supersedes the glory of the pre-fallen creation, who has exposed creation to this vulnerability. Yet, God promises that "all things," suffering included, "work together for our good." It's like the ingredients of the chocolate cake which are bitter or even nasty if consumed individually (e.g.—raw eggs, flour, baking powder, oil), but come together with the other ingredients into a scrumptious culinary masterpiece!

Be encouraged, my friends, for out of every season of suffering in the history of God's people on earth, there has arisen a movement of revival and renewal which has carried history forward into new bursts of evolving goodness for the ultimate glory of God and of creation! "Weeping endures for the night, but Joy comes in the morning!" — Pastor Leon (Rom. 8; Heb. 4:15; Ps 30:5)

Youth Ministry

Words can not express our gratitude for Alana and Melvin White stepping up to lead our Youth Ministry during the interim time between Staff Youth Ministry Directors!!!



I'm just here to hold the bags

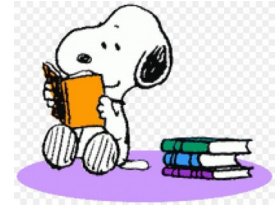
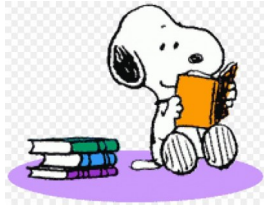
**THANK YOU
Alana & Melvin!**



Meet Dawn Spaulding



Dawn is our new hire for Youth Ministry Director. She is 30 years old and a Ponca City resident who attended Asbury United Methodist Church as a young child with her grandmother. Dawn experienced a personal conversion to faith in Jesus Christ in her early 20's and has been a very active member of First Presbyterian Church of Ponca City for a number of years. She has been the staff Youth Ministry Director there for the past year and will serve both churches' Youth Groups separately for a time, with the goal being merging the two groups into one ministry eventually. Dawn is single, and she lives with her father. She enjoys pottery making as a hobby, and is passionate about her relationship with Christ and the spiritual formation of Youth in the Christian faith. She has a Bachelor's in Christian Ministry from Rose State, and she has served as a para-professional for several years in the Ponca City Public Schools. We will welcome Dawn on Sunday morning, August 13th, and she will begin on staff that evening leading our Youth!



2023

SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THUR

FRI

SAT

Birthdays appear in red.		1 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer Ministry	2 8:30 Angel Academy	3 6:00 pm United Women in Faith	4 BBQ @ 1 Presbyterian Church, 5:30 pm Peter Hightower JJ Brizendine	5 Special Called Annual Conf. OCU Kirkpatrick Auditorium, 10:00
6 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 3:00 Young Adult Gathering @ Parsonage 5:30 UMY	7 8:30 Angel Academy 9:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Scouts	8 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:00 Board of Trustees Matt Biery	9 8:30 Angel Academy	10 9:00 Stephen Ministry 6:00 SPRC	11 9:00 Lay Leadership Committee Steffi Cowan	12 Ann Bandy
13 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 6:00 UMY	14 8:30 Angel Academy 9:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Scouts Nicholas Biery	15 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	16 8:30 Angel Academy	17 9:00 Good Sam SS Class Breakfast @ Fraziers Leon Veazey	18	19
20 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 6:00 UMY	21 8:30 Angel Academy 9:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Friendship Feast 6:30 Scouts	22 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	23 8:30 Angel Academy Marge Parker	24 Northern Prairie Dist. Pastor's Gathering in Perkins, OK	25 11:00 Rebecca Simon Peter	26 9:00 Rebekah Simon Peter Seminar!!!
27 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship (Rebekah Simon Peter Preaching) 5:30 UMY	28 8:30 Angel Academy 9:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Quilters 6:30 Scouts	29 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer Chris Wheeler	30 8:30 Angel Academy	31		

The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you."

Psalm 32:8

Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:9

First United Methodist Church
 P.O. Box 71
 Ponca City, OK 74602
 (580) 762-1681
 Fax: 580-762-1839
 fumcpc41@gmail.com
 www.fumcpc.org
 Like us on Facebook:
 PoncaCityFirstUnitedMethodistChurch

Upcoming Worship Series Themes ...

AUGUST 6th, 13th, & 20th

Why I choose to be a United Methodist

Pastor Leon has a diverse theological and religious background. He has intentionally chosen to be a Wesleyan-Arminian and specifically a United Methodist against all odds. WHY would he make such a choice?

SEPTEMBER 3rd, 10th, & 17th

A Journey Through Philippians: What are the foundations of Christian Stewardship? Why should I give of my time, talents, and treasures to the ministry of the gospel?

OCTOBER 1st & NOVEMBER 5th

What does that even mean?

A journey of discovering the meaning of our liturgies and customs in Sunday morning worship.

OUR STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR

Pastor Leon Veazey
 (580)304-5183
pastor@fumcpc.org

INTERIM MUSIC

Marta Sullivan
 (580) 762-1681

NURSERY DIRECTOR

Cassie Steiner
 (580) 762-1681

YOUTH DIRECTOR

Dawn Spaulding
Youth@fumcpc.org

ANGEL ACADEMY

Ashley Coggins
AngelAcademy@fumcpc.org

ORGANIST

Debra (Debbie) Rue
Cougarue@sbcglobal.net

BUSINESS MANAGER

Sheila Foxworthy
BusMgr@fumcpc.org

CHURCH SECRETARY

Position Open
 (580)762-1681
AdminAsst@fumcpc.org

August 2023

Daily



Prayers for YOUTH

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

1

Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. - Psalm 96:3

Precious Lord, may (name) develop a heart for missions. Please help him share his knowledge of You with friends, acquaintances, and all the people around him. May it be his strong desire to see Your glory among the nations; Your marvelous deeds among all people. Amen!

2

Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. - Colossians 2:7

Loving God, may (name) be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus. May her faith grow strong in the truth, and she live a life that always overflows with thankfulness. Amen!

3

I cling to you; your strong right hand holds me securely. - Psalm 63:8

Holy Father, please instill in (name) a soul that clings passionately to You in times of challenge, and just as much in times of ease. May he know Your right hand upholds him at all times. Amen!

4

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. - Ephesians 6:18

Dear Lord, may (name)'s life be marked by prayerfulness. May he learn to 'pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. Amen!

5

Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair. - Proverbs 1:3

Almighty God, may (name) develop self-discipline and prudent behavior, always striving to do what is right, just, and fair. Amen!

6

The explanation of your teachings gives light and brings wisdom to the ignorant. - Psalm 119:130

Everlasting Father, may (name) seek the explanation of Your teachings, which gives light and brings wisdom to the ignorant minds of ordinary people. Amen!

7

In your strength I can crush an army; with my God I can scale any wall. - Psalm 18:29

Loving Lord, in Your name, I claim victory for (name) over all the obstacles in his life. With Your help, he can crush an army against him; with You, he can scale any wall. Amen!

8

Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. - Proverbs 3:9

Sovereign God, may (name) live a life of excellence, honoring You Lord with all she has, and with the best part of everything You bless her with. Amen!

9

Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; serve the Lord. - Romans 12:11

Gracious Father, may (name) work hard and not be lazy. May he not let his zeal subside. Stir him to serve You Lord with a heart full of enthusiasm. Amen!

10

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. - Philippians 2:4

Blessed Lord, please give (name) a heart that is sensitive to the needs of others. Help her overcome any self-centered tendencies. Amen!

11

A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones. - Proverbs 17:22

Everlasting God, may (name) cultivate a cheerful heart so he is a joy to all those he interacts with. Amen!

12

Therefore, my dear friends, ... continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. - Philippians 2:12

Jehovah Father, may (name) make every effort to work hard and show the results of her salvation to others. May she worship and obey You with deep reverence and awe. Amen!

13

Make sure you don't take things for granted and go slack in working for the common good. - Hebrews 13:16

Savior Lord, may (name) not take life's joys for granted. May he recognize Your hand at work, and continually celebrate and praise Your name. Amen!

14

In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety. - Psalm 4:8

Loving Father, when (name) lays down to sleep, may she dwell in safety, with her sleep peaceful and restful. Amen!

15

But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. - 1 Corinthians 7:7

Eternal God, may (name) not envy other people's gifts. Please make his gifts apparent and teach him on how to develop and cultivate them to glorify You. Amen!

16

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith virtue... - 2 Peter 1:5-7

Mighty God, may (name) strive diligently to add the following virtues to her faith - goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love.... Amen!

17

Love one another warmly as Christians, and be eager to show respect for one another. - Romans 12:10

Sovereign Lord, stir (name) to love the people in his community, and eagerly show respect and honor to others. Amen!

18

"Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell. - Matthew 10:28

(Name) knows right from wrong yet there are times she hedges and hesitates to take a stance for good. Please embolden her Father, so she does not fear the repercussions of man. Amen!

19

But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. - Colossians 3:8

Awesome Father, please help (name) get rid of anger, rage and malice. May he not get caught up in careless talk or slander. May filthy language not escape from his lips. Amen!

20

Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. - Psalm 23:4

Adonai, please remind (name) that no matter how dire or hopeless a situation she may face, You Lord are always with her. Amen!

21

Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. - Hebrews 13:15
Almighty Lord, as (name) goes about this week, please open his eyes to see Your hand at work in his life. Stir his heart to offer You an unceasing and joyful sacrifice of praise. Amen!

22

Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. - Ephesians 3:17

My God, my Lord, may (name)'s self-image, self-worth and identity be rooted and established in Your love for her, so she does not measure herself against the yardstick of the world. Amen!

23

In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. - James 3:5

Lord of Peace, if the tongue is not under guard it can spark an uncontrollable fire of destruction. Please keep (name) aware so each word he utters plants a seed of grace. Amen!

24

Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions. - Psalm 119:18

Open (name)'s inner eye All Powerful God to see the wonder of Your Word. Infuse her with love so she is on fire for You, resisting the temptation to grow cold and fall away. Amen!

25

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. - John 14:6

Blessed Father, I pray You convict (name)'s heart to accept that Your Word, every single word of it is true. May he read it. Study it. Memorize it. Believe it. And, live it. Amen!

26

I am a friend to anyone who fears you— anyone who obeys your commandments. - Psalm 119:63

Merciful Father, may (name) choose her friends carefully. May she seek only those who fear You and obey Your commands. Amen!

27

The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray. - Proverbs 12:26

Glorious Lord, please bring godly friends into (name)'s life. People who will pull him up higher in his walk with You so he eats the good of the land. Remove anyone who will bring him down to wallow in shame. Amen!

28

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. - 1 Peter 2:9

Almighty King, may (name) be the light among her group of friends. May her life and decisions reflect Your goodness and draw people to You. Amen!

29

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. - 1 John 3:1

Eternal Father, whenever (name) feels alone, please remind him it is Your desire to love him, simply because he is Your child and You are his Father. Amen!

30

Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." - Luke 6:38

Omniscient God, please stir (name) to random acts of kindness, not because she wants to be good but simply because she loves You. Amen!

31

Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Awesome Lord, please help (name) develop an attitude of gratitude, so he does not take his blessings for granted. May he recognize that he always has reason to give thanks to You. Amen!