

THE FLAME



June 24, 2024

Adult Education Survey—forms are still being collected. Please bring to the church or mail it in. We want your opinion. There are printed ones that you can pick up in the church and fill out.



We were blessed to have Carol Cook Moore send us forth with a blessing as her last official duty from the Bishop and the cabinet Sunday at church. Carol was instrumental in bringing Leon into our lives as our pastor and helping Bill Elliott discern his nudge into serving as supply pastor at Kaw City and Grainola.

Carol has visited us often throughout her tenure as District Superintendent and we will miss her dearly. Her faith and wisdom have been a guiding light in our lives. We will carry her lessons with us always. We wish you and Henry all the best in your new chapter. May God bless you and your family abundantly.

Exciting News! We're excited to announce some improvements to our church communication system! To better serve you, all church staff members will be transitioning to new email addresses starting immediately. Our current email system is not working for us. We are unable to send group emails because of FCC rules. Therefore, we all have the new email addresses which are Gmail accounts which should fill our needs for a long time to come. The email addresses are somewhat generic in that they will continue to be used by the positions as personnel rotate in and out of jobs. This will give history to people as they look for historical information.

These new email addresses will be easier to remember and follow a consistent format: fumcpc.position@gmail.com. This will streamline communication and make it easier for you to reach the right staff person.

Pastor: fumcpc.pastor@gmail.com

Business Manager: fumcpc.business@gmail.com

Ministry Assistant: fumcpc.admasst@gmail.com

Music Ministry Director: fumcpc.music@gmail.com

Accompanist: fumcpc.accompanist@gmail.com

Youth/Children: fumcpc.kids@gmail.com

FUMC extends its deepest sympathy to Steffi Cowan on the passing of her mother, DeEtte Moon. We know that words cannot ease the pain of loss, but please know that we are here for you. Please keep Steffi and Geoff in your prayers. DeEtte was a cherished member of our church community her loss will be deeply missed. Her services will be July 1 at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference Delegate Report from Becky Hightower--How did she get picked? Easy - default. She was the only one to say yes about 6 years ago when she was working for Circle of Care. After this titillating report if you would like to experience an annual conference just talk to Pastor Leon and Becky is sure he will sign you up!

The theme for this year's annual conference was "The World Forever Our Parish". It was inspired by Matthew 28:19-20. "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always to the very end of the age."

One of the many advantages to being a United Methodist is that we are a connectional church. What we might not be able to do alone we can and do certainly support others to do. At annual conference each year we hear reports and approve plans for the continuing witness of Methodism throughout Oklahoma and around the world. We do hope our local churches will be inspired to take on new challenges to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

We heard reports from 6 of the second mile giving programs which churches are encouraged to support. These are connectional ministries which were taken off the list of required apportionments but churches are strongly encouraged to pledge to. We have had the privilege of having 4 of the six come to our church and speak in the past. Circle of Care which is a foster care ministry, Cookson Hills which is our Indian Mission in Tahlequah. CJAMM the ministry to assist those coming out of incarceration and Neighborhood Service Organization which assists those in need in OKC. The others are Skyline Urban Ministries in Oklahoma City and Restore Hope. All 6 need our support. More about these ministries and the work they continue to do can be found on the okumc.org website.

I visited with Marla Lobo who is the new director of Project Transformation. Many of you might know Marla. She grew up in the Presbyterian Church here in Ponca. For the past 12 years she has been a United Methodist minister. Hopefully she will be able to come to our church this fall and talk about Project Transformation - a summer program for churches to connect with children in the community and mentor them and get to know them.

We heard Jeff Campbell speak. Rev. Campbell has been instrumental in the creation of resources supporting the "See All the People" initiative which invites leaders to stop trying to fix their church and start seeing the people that God calls us to reach. This initiative is more focused on lay leadership in our churches - YOU and ME. Jesus didn't call on rabbis to make disciples. He called on fishermen, teachers, accountants oilfield workers, housewives to make disciples. You and Me.

It was really inspiring to see 40 young people at the conference. These were high school and college age people who attended every session and participated with enthusiasm

Four very meaningful worship services were held during the 3 days we were there. A memorial service to celebrate the lives of the ministers who have gone on before us is held each year. There is also an ordination and commissioning service for the four new elders and deacons. A retirement service for those 14 retiring ministers. Our own District Superintendent planned a meaningful service celebrating the old districts and weaving the 5



Gathering Dates Set

2 to 4 PM

All pastors and members of church council of each church should mark your calendar now.. Please plan to attend the gathering closest to your church. More information will be available in the next newsletter.

October 6th Stillwater First

October 13 Ponca City St. Paul's

October 27th Enid Christ

November 3rd Kingfisher

new districts together. This service was followed by a meeting with our new District Superintendent for the North Central District, Tish Malloy.

The board of Church and Society presented 2 resolutions to the conference for discussion and voting. After some discussion the meeting was adjourned without a vote taking place. During the next year there may be discussion at the local levels of the two resolutions. The first resolution was affirming LGBTQ+ and the second was calling on the church to oppose Christian Nationalism. If you would like to read the resolutions we can have them available to you.

The Day of Learning was held the day before the start of annual conference. Treasure McKenzie led a session for Bridges Out Poverty. This training is part of making it possible for local churches to apply for grants for impacting our community regarding poverty. Hopefully we will be able to find meaningful ways to work to empower people in poverty to learn skills and behaviors that will reduce generational poverty.

Too many times we forget that the world is to be our focus. When our world is as small as our individual congregations we lose sight of the great work of ministry that is in front of us of us each and every day. We must engage our focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world as instructed by Jesus.

There are so many opportunities presented at annual conference for churches to embrace and become part of in some way. As laity we are the ones who have to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Our ministers can be the inspiration and leaders but they can't do it alone.

Thanks for the opportunity to be part of this conference. If you would like the experience in the future - have a talk with Pastor Leon.



Our new Stephen Ministers receiving blessings from Pastor Leon, Pam, and Pastor Bill, joined by the current Stephen Ministers. The new Stephen Ministers are: Betsy Carter, Diane Cavett, Larry Labuz, Marlys Cervantes, and Rhonda Alexander.

Existing Stephen Ministers are Ann Salmons, Bill Elliott, Dee Kutz, Pam Elliott, Paul Kuehny, Suzi Lenhart, and Teresa LeMonnier.

ICYMI. Now that both the SPRC of FUMC and the Session of FPC have received this news, I am sharing it with the rest of you.

Starting in July, I will be serving the third Sunday of each month at First United Methodist Church in Newkirk and Pastor Mark Southard will be serving the congregations of FUMC and FPC in Ponca City. The rest of the Sundays of the month will be as they have been. These changes are being made for the following reasons.

First, Newkirk FUMC needs support, and FUMC in Ponca City is a Lighthouse Church, meaning we are committed to supporting the needs of other United Methodist Churches. This is also consistent with our D.N.A. as a part of the United Methodist Connection.

Second, I was going to be the only pastor in the Ponca City area without a multi-point charge. Rev. Adam Lambel, who is coming from Missouri and is highly credentialed as an Ordained Elder, is going to be serving both St. Paul's UMC and Albright UMC. Nathan Oney, a Provisional Elder, will be serving Tonkawa, Prairie Chapel, and NOC Campus Ministry. It doesn't make sense for our church not to be part of this broader effort to strengthen the churches of our area.

Third, with the Presbyterian Church in Ecumenical partnership with us, it makes sense for their pastor to have the opportunity to serve in worship and preaching with our two congregations, and this appointment allows that to happen one Sunday per month.

With all that having been said, I want to thank you for the privilege I have of serving as your pastor! What a joy it is to be part of what God is doing in our church and community. Thanks for the honor!

Blessings, Pastor Leon



Monday, June 24

Staff Meeting 9 a.m.
Quilters 10 a.m.
TOPS 3:30 p.m.
Scouts 6 p.m.
Handbells 6 p.m.
FPC Bible Study 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 25

Coryell Cupboard 8-10 a.m.

Men's Coffee Group 8:30 a.m.
Intercessory Prayer 9 a.m.
Handbell Ensemble 1 p.m.
Coryell Cupboard 4-6 p.m.

Wednesday, June 26

Bible Study @ Via Christi 10 a.m.
Choir Practice 7 p.m.

Friday, June 27

Staff Lunch

Sunday, June 30

Sunday School 9 a.m.
Worship 10 a.m.

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor

Pastor Leon Veazey
580.304.5183
fumcpc.pastor@gmail.com

Business Manager

Sheila Foxworthy
580.716.0725
fumcpc.business@gmail.com

Music Director

Marta Sullivan
580.762.1681 Ext. 103
fumcpc.music@gmail.com

Organist

Debra Rue
fumcpc.accompanist@gmail.com

Youth Director

Dawn Spaulding
580.762.1681 Ext. 105
fumcpc.kids@gmail.com

Ministry Assistant

Brenda Stephenson
580.762.1681
fumcpc.admasst@gmail.com