

THE FLAME

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Behold, I bring you tidings of great joy!



'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

The staff of First United Methodist Church wishes you the merriest of Christmases and the happiest of New Years!



Christmas Eve
Carols, Candles & Communion
6:00 and 11:00 PM

Christmas Day, at 9:00 AM, there will be a time of fellowship before the worship service at 10:00 AM. Children are welcome to wear their pajamas.



ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 11th
5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall
soup & cookies
There is a signup sheet in the
Welcome Center.

Don't let Advent slip by you without benefiting from this essential Christian Calendar season! Advent is a time to RESET our spiritual values when life has busily taken us away from them. If we rush into the Christmas bustle of gift buying, parties, gatherings, and all those trappings of the holiday, we will not benefit in a deeply personal and spiritual way. Spend time this season returning to the biblical message of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. Participate in worship on Sundays, in the Advent Study on Sunday evenings, and utilize a good Advent devotional guide online to help RESET your heart. Blessings to you and yours this Holy Season!

Pastor Leon



The youth will have their seventh annual lock-in on New Years Eve. If you are willing to chaperon one hour during the event, or to furnish any snacks for the event, please let Lindsey know.



Santa has the right idea, visit people only once a year.

~Victor Borge

All About That Music

It is time to turn our focus to Advent and the birth of Christ. I mentioned at last week's rehearsal the need to have special music for the Christmas Eve services. One service is scheduled at 6:00 PM and the other at 11:00 PM. If you are interested in being part of an ensemble or providing a solo, please let me know ASAP via email. I will need to know which service you prefer or if you can do both services.

Also, you will be receiving an email regarding the *Meet the Composer* weekend scheduled February 17-19th. Please make every effort to clear your calendar for this event! This is the 40th anniversary of this amazing program and Pepper Choplin will be the composer. I promise, you will want to be a part of this great event.

Marta & Deb



United Women in Faith Sunday

December 4 is United Women of Faith Sunday. It is also Circle of Care Sunday. Our speaker will be Keith Howard who is the CEO of Circle of Care. He will be here at 9:00 AM to speak to the Sunday School classes. Anyone who is interested in knowing more about the programs in Circle of Care is invited to attend. Circle of Care is a mission ministry in the United Methodist Church which is partially funded by our apportionments. You will have the chance to make a contribution to Circle of Care.

Pot Luck Sunday

Following the service on December 4 the UWF will be sponsoring a potluck meal. We hope you will bring a dish to share and join us in fellowship with Keith Howard.

December 1st is UWF

December 1st at 6:00 PM we will have the December meeting of United Women in Faith. This is our *Gifts for Encouragement* meeting. We will have poinsettias to take to shut-ins and to others we feel will benefit from a small acknowledgement of our love and caring.

Sack Lunch Friday

December 2nd and December 16th we will be passing out sack lunches to the East Middle School kids as well as some children who ride the buses. If you would like to

come help make sack lunches and/or help pass them out please come join us. We make sandwiches at 1:30 PM and pass them out at 3:10 PM. We have been making 75 sandwiches. We do need more cheese to put on the sandwiches and will need other supplies on the 16th. If you would like to donate money to help purchase supplies or if you would like to make cookies for the sacks please let us know.

Pecans are Still for Sale

If you haven't purchased your pecans for all your Christmas cooking, it is not too late to purchase some. They are \$14 a pound. Please let your friends know that they are welcome to purchase some also.



2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1 6:00 UWF	2 1:30 UWF sandwiches for Mid-high	3
4 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Caring Fund Sunday 5:00 TYT 6:00 Advent Study	5	6 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	7 2:00 Handbells 4:00 YWN 7:00 Chancel Choir	8	9	10 
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 All Church Christmas Party	12 9:00 Staff Meeting	13 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:00 Board of Trustees	14 2:00 Handbells 4:00 YWN 7:00 Chancel Choir	185	16 1:30 UWF sandwiches for Mid-high Last Day of School Until January	17
18 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 TYT 6:00 Advent Bible Study	19 9:00 Staff Meeting	20 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	21 7:00 Chancel Choir	22	23	24 6:00/11:00 Candlelight Communion
25 9:00 Fellowship 10:00 Worship	26	27 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	29	29	30	31 8:00 PM Youth Lock In
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS						

Tom Carter	12/04	Ann Jackson	12/21	Natalie Grubbs	12/27
Grant Jackson	10/05	Steve Bookout	12/22	Phillip Rice	12/27
Lori Slater	12/07	Neil Hinch	12/22	Addison Kyler	12/28
Dennis Wilson	12/08	Trish Goodman	12/24	Bonnie Otto	12/28
Debbie Roland	12/10	Natalie McBride	12/24	Lisa Hinch	12/29
Edith Mears	12/13	Sue Lunsford	12/26		
Taylor Otto	12/14	Gary Cohenour	12/27		

People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and New Year, when they should be worried about what they eat between New Year and Christmas. ~Anon.

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



Betsy Carter's mother, Freda, celebrated her 100th birthday with a sing-along in the Welcome Center



December Haiku

Silent Night so calm;
 your wonders we now behold.
 Jesus is His name.
 ~Wayne Moore



JOB OPENINGS

The positions of AV Tech, Music Director, Children's Director and Custodian have now been posted for hiring. If you know someone who would be interested, they can go to Indeed.com to see the information on the jobs, or they may file an application in the Church Office.



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

A great big thank you goes to the many people who helped put our nativity scene together and those who got it set up. Those people include Suzi Lenhart, Larry Lenhart, Marty Dadrack, Colleen Fleming, Sheila Foxworthy, Shirley Foxworthy, Marlene Foxworthy, Trish Goodman, Ed Goodman, Connie Scott, Don Selvey, Pam Elliott, Gineta Swanson, David Swanson, Peter Hightower and Richard Hightower. The United Women in Faith funded the project.



SUPPORT STAFF CHRISTMAS BONUS

Dear Church Family,

In that this is a season characterized by benevolence and kindness, I would like to ask you to consider a love offering for the support staff of our church family. Because of budgetary shortfalls, they have not received a raise in several years, and we depend on their service so much! We will be accepting contributions to this Christmas bonus the first three Sundays in Advent, November 27th—December 11th.)

It will be divided among them (Sheila, Dianne, Lindsey, Jordan and Deb) as a bonus on their December 15th paycheck. Please designate these offering as "Support Staff Bonus." Thank you so very much!

Pastor Leon

OUR STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR
 Pastor Leon Veazey
okchapleon@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR
 POSITION OPEN

CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR
 POSITION OPEN

YOUTH DIRECTOR
 Lindsey McGee
pcfumcyouth2020@gmail.com

MDO & NURSERY DIRECTOR
 Jordan Meador
mothersdayoutfumc@outlook.com

ORGANIST
 Debra (Debbie) Rue
Cougarue@sbcglobal.net

BUSINESS MANAGER
 Sheila Foxworthy
fumcpc.business@gmail.com

CHURCH SECRETARY
 Dianne Clark
fumcpc41@gmail.com

CUSTODIAN
 POSITION OPEN

December 2022

Christmas



Prayers for YOUTH

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

1

I will reject perverse ideas and stay away
from every evil. ~ Psalm 101:4

God of All Hope,
Please protect (name) from engaging in
anything that You deem evil. Amen!

2

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy
good health and that all may go well with
you, even as your soul is getting along
well. ~ 3 John 1:2

Blessed God,
May all be well with (name). Please bless
her with good health: physically,
emotionally and spiritually. Amen!

3

Give all your worries and cares to God, for
he cares about you. ~ 1 Peter 5:7

Glorious Father,
Please prompt (name's) to cast all his
worries and fears to You and give him
Your peace. Amen!

4

Cast all your anxiety on him because he
cares for you. ~ 1 Peter 5:7

Omnipotent Lord,
Please stir (name) to cast all her concerns
and worries upon You, Lord, knowing
that You care for her. Amen!

5

If you love me, keep my commands.
~ John 14:15

Dear God,
Please protect (name) from spiritual
indifference and spiritual lethargy.
May his fervor for You be
unquenchable. Amen!

6

Work hard and become a leader; be lazy
and become a slave. ~ Proverbs 12:24

Heavenly Father,
Please instill strong work ethics in
(name). May she work hard and
become a leader amongst her peers
Amen!

7

..For we walk by faith, not by sight.
~ 2 Corinthians 5:7

Lord God,
May (name) learn to walk by faith
and not by sight. Amen!

8

...But when you are tempted, he will also
provide a way out so that you can endure
it. ~ 1 Corinthians 10:13

All-Powerful God,
Please strengthen (name) so she is able to
resist the temptation to reject Your
authority and satisfy her own desires.
Open her eyes to see the escape You have
provided. Amen!

9

our constant love and truth will always
guard me. ~ Psalm 40:11

Lord Jesus,
May Your love and truth keep
(name) safe. Amen!

10

If you return to the LORD, ..., for the LORD
your God is gracious and compassionate.
He will not turn his face from you if you
return to him." ~ 2 Chronicles 30:9

Righteous Father,
When (name) errs, may she never forget
that You, the Lord her God, are gracious
and merciful. You will not turn Your face
from her if she repents. Amen!

11

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

Holy Lord,
When (name) lays down to sleep, may he
dwell in safety, with his sleep peaceful and
restful. Amen!

12

... 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit
says the LORD Almighty. ~ Zechariah 4:6

Lord All-Powerful,
When (name) faces an obstacle, may she
always remember that the solution is not
by her might or power, but by Your Spirit
Amen!

13

By this everyone will know that you are
my disciples, if you love one another."
~ John 13:35

Eternal King,
Please stir (name) to live as Your
disciple, loving others the way You
love him. Amen!

14

A gentle answer deflects anger, but
harsh words make tempers flare.
~ Proverbs 15:1

Savior Jesus,
in acrimonious situations, please give
(name) soft words to deflect anger as
harsh words make tempers flare.
Amen!

15

... "I am the light of the world. Whoever
follows me will never walk in darkness, but
will have the light of life." ~ John 8:12

Awesome God,
as (name) admires the bright and shiny
Christmas decorations may he be
reminded that Jesus is the light of the
world and as Your follower, he is to shine
Your light in his community. Amen!

16

Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God ~ 3 John 1: 11

Dear Father,
Please strengthen XXX's faith so she does not imitate what is evil, only what is good, for she who does good is of God. Amen!

17

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.
~ 1 Corinthians 16:13

Eternal God,
May (name) grow into a mighty man of valor, courageous and strong, constantly on guard against temptations and firmly rooted in his faith. Amen!

18

So they called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. ~ Acts 4:18

Jehovah God,
Please infuse (name) with the courage to be a bold witness for You. May she speak Your truth and uphold Your word even if she is mocked. Amen!

19

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,
~ James 1:19

Sovereign Father,
May (name) learn to be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to become angry. Amen!

20

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ~ Colossians 3:23

Everlasting Lord,
May (name) learn to work with all her heart at any tasks she embarks upon, knowing she is actually serving You, Lord, not man. Amen!

21

... Everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.
~ Isaiah 51:11

Father God,
May everlasting joy crown XXX's head, joy and gladness be his portion, with sorrow and despondence finding no home in him. Amen!

22

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
~ Galatians 5:16

Abba Father,
Please infuse (name) with an unshakeable resolve to walk in the Spirit, so she does not choose to gratify the desires of the flesh. Amen!

23

For everything in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--comes not from the Father but from the world. ~ 1 John 2:16

Gracious Lord,
Please give (name) a heart that craves You above his worldly human desires. Amen!

24

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;... ~ Psalm 32:8

Savior God,
Whenever (name) has the decision to make, please stir her to seek Your will first, as You have promised to instruct and teach her the way she should go. Amen!

25

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ~ Luke 2:10

Holy Father,
as (name) enjoys the celebrations, may he exude joy, telling others of the good news that brings great joy to all people. (JOY = Jesus + Others + Yourself). Amen!

26

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
~ Isaiah 40:29

Almighty God,
Please strengthen (name). Increase her conviction and power so she chooses to do the right thing each day. Amen!

27

Respect everyone, and love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God, and respect the king. ~ 1 Peter 2:17

Almighty Father,
Please teach (name) how to develop good and respectful relationships with the people in his life; his family, friends and even acquaintances. Amen!

28

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." ~ 2 Corinthians 12:9

Precious Lord,
May (name) understand that Jesus' grace is sufficient for her, as His strength is made perfect in her weakness. Amen!

29

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
~ James 4:7

Loving God,
as (name) makes choices throughout his day, may he submit to You Lord, resisting the deceitful lures of the devil. Amen!

30

Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.
~ Proverbs 19:20

Dear Lord,
May (name) listen to advice, and accept constructive criticism and instruction. Amen!

31

... that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, ... and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ~ Philippians 2:10 -11

Everlasting Father,
Please cultivate in (name) a heart for You, knowing at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, ...and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord. Amen!