

THE FLAME

Volume 53, Issue 03

March 2023

Lent



Schedule of Activities for Lent

A Lenten Bible Study will be offered beginning on

Tuesday, February 28th, 6:00 PM—7:30 PM

Room

Seven Words, Listening to Christ from the Cross

By Susan Robb

Father, forgive them

February 28th

Today I will see you in Paradise

March 7th

My God, my God

March 14th

Woman behold your son

March 21st

I am thirsty

March 28th

Into your hands

April 4th



So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God,
and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.

I Peter 5:6 (NLT)



Please mark your calendars with the upcoming events:

Palm Sunday

April 2nd

Maundy Thursday

(First Methodist)

April 6th

Good Friday

(St. Paul's)

April 7th

Easter Worship

April 9th

Lent is About Making Room!

I remember the first time I was asked about what I was giving up for Lent I was at a loss to know how to answer. You see, I didn't even know what "Lent" was. I was from a free church evangelical world that didn't acknowledge the Christian seasons other than Christmas and Easter. So, when my friend Dave asked me that question, I reached in my pocket and pulled out some lint and said, "I'm giving up lint for Lent." I thought I was funny. Ha-ha. The sad thing is, I still do! It's interesting that my friend Dave, who was a United Methodist back then, is now a free church evangelical pastor, and I'm a United Methodist pastor. Go figure! The important thing is that now I see Lent as just as important and essential in the progressive movement of my faith as I do Christmas and Easter! That doesn't mean I like it as much. You see, Lent is a season in which we MAKE ROOM for more of what God has for us. We often emphasize what we give up. The true meaning of giving up things, however, is in order to make room for MUCH BETTER THINGS! So, as you're skipping lunch, or missing social media, or giving up something you normally eat or normally do, ask yourself, "for what in my life am I making room?" Be sure to fill that void with something good for your health: body, mind, and/or spirit. What is it you're adding? Is it prayer and meditation, scripture reading, fitness and healthy eating, more time spent with the people you love? Lent can be exciting if we understand the value of Making Room. It's not too late to start making room for something good in your life this Lenten season!

Pastor Leon



HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

130th Anniversary in 2023

Did you know.....

The First Methodist Church of Ponca City was established October 8, 1893, just 22 days after the opening of the Cherokee Strip Land Run which took place on September 16. The creation of the church was brought about at the close of the 11AM church service held in the home of one of its first members. This Sunday class was claimed to be the first such class held in the Strip. It was organized after the Wesleyan tradition under the direction of Rev. B.C. Swartz with the assistance of J.E. Irvine who had been appointed to a large circuit of American Indian and White settlers. His territory included the Ponca, Otoe, and Osage reservations.

Rev. Swartz's leadership continued until the Rev. E.C. Harper was assigned on April 1, 1894, as a supply pastor. Following, Rev. Harper was permanently appointed to the church on October 1 as its regular pastor. When Rev. Harper arrived from Nebraska, a new church building had already been built. The building was located on two 25 ft. lots at the southwest corner of 6th St. and Central Ave. where our church stands today. The lots had

been purchased as church property for \$50.

The new church building was dedicated on September 16, 1894, as the *Methodist Episcopal Church*, exactly one year from the original Cherokee Strip Land Run date. At the time of dedication, the building and its contents were entirely paid for. For that reason, the church claimed the distinction of being the first church organized in the new territory.

The structure was 28 ft. by 48 ft. with a small tower and vestibule. While there is no record of the exact cost, it was thought to be well under \$1000. Rev. Harper served as pastor thru 1898. During his tenure he never received more than \$250 per year in salary, although his annual salary had been set at \$500 per year.



New Email Addresses

Effective immediately, these will be the new addresses for the church and staff.

AdmAsst@fumcpc.org
Youth@fumcpc.org
Children@fumcpc.org
Music@fumcpc.org
BusMgr@fumcpc.org
Pastor@fumcpc.org
Info@fumcpc.org
MDO@fumcpc.org



40TH COMPOSER WORKSHOP AND CONCERT!



Voices from many choirs around the Ponca City area come together in a very special event. Participants meet many Sunday afternoons to prepare for the event.

It has been proven, a person who is singing correctly will burn as much oxygen in an hour as a lumber jack chopping wood. Food to replenish energy is an important part of this event. Friday night, lots of food and entertainment by Pepper Choplin.



Saturday morning, start with food!

Then on to rehearsal.

Pepper directs,
John Carleton plays the piano,
and the choir sings!





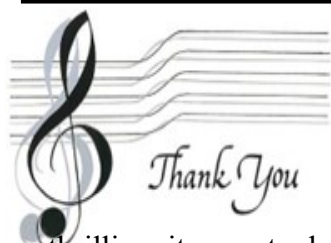
Lunch Time—
More Food!



More food, and then...
afternoon rehearsal.



Perfect ending to the day—dinner at the Barrell!



How thrilling it was to have such a special musical weekend at FUMC!

Pepper Choplin's joyous expression of his faith & humor through music was beyond compare. The composition he wrote in memory of Joyce-lynn, "Let All God's People Come Together" truly captured her spirit as the ecumenical choir & audience joined together to honor her and praise the Lord.

The Meet the Composer Committee deserves a special thanks for their many hours of planning and preparation: Dee Kutz, Arlene Jacobson, Kim Walling, Betsy Carter, Vicki Stokke, Marvis Soucek, and Rod Kutz.

A special thanks to all those "unsung" hero's that were involved in the practices, janitorial service, AV techs (Sunday service, the performance and the reception after the concert,) our most heartfelt gratitude. We could not have done it without you!



Sunday, Concert time. The singing was wonderful, and Pepper kept the audience involved. It is safe to say everyone, from the performers to the audience had a wonderful time.





2023



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THUR

FRI

SAT

			1 2:00 Handbells 3:30 JAM 5:30 WNL Fund Raiser for Funeral Dinner Fund 6:00 UMY 7:15 Choir	2 9:00 Lay Leadership Committee 6:00 UWF 6:00 Knitgiving	3 1:30 UWF Sandwiches for Mid High Wyatt Hollingsworth	4
5 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Communion Caring Fund Sunday 5:00 Confirmation Class 6:00 GLOW	9 9:00 Staff Meeting 5:00 Handbells	7 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:00 Lenten Study Betsy Pendleton	8 3:30 JAM 5:30 WNL Dessert Auction for Youth and Children Ministry 6:00 UMY 7:15 Choir	9	10 Amanda Biery	11
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:30 Nurture Committee 5:00 Confirmation Class 6:00 GLOW Larry Lenhart	13 9:00 Staff Meeting 5:00 Handbells Don Whitfill	14 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:00 Lenten Bi- ble Study 6:00 Trustees	15 3:30 JAM 5:30 WNL 6:00 UMY 7:15 Choir Colten Seidel	16 6:00 Knitgiving	17 1:30 UWF Sandwiches for Mid High	18
19 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 Confirmation Class 6:00 GLOW	20 9:00 Staff Meeting 5:00 Handbells 5:30 Friendship Feast	21 8:30 Men's Coffee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:00 Lenten Bi- ble Study	22 3:30 JAM 5:30 WNL 6:00 UMY 7:15 Choir	23	24 Krista Harbeson	25 Steve McGuire 
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 Confirmation Class 6:00 GLOW	27 9:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Quilters 5:00 Handbells	28 8:30 Men's Cof- fee Group 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:00 Lenten Bi- ble Study Marcia Caudle	29	30 9:00 Stephen Ministry	31	Birthdays shown in Red

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HAIKU FOR MARCH

Quarto-Haiku

(Earth, Water, Air and Fire)

Earth. Firm to our feet.
Sea to sea, mount, valley, plain;
Dear to all our heart.

Water. Count the ways
roaring, quiet, restless waves
calm my fearful heart.

Air. Pure - refreshing.
Needed for all living things.
Don't drive it away.

~Wayne Moore



PRAYER CORNER

Lord, I pray for strength whenever I face difficulties. I lift each worry and burden to You because I know You care for me. Remind me that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. May I gain strength from doing things that bring You joy. I also pray to live a life of discipline. Teach me how to guard the minutes and hours You've entrusted to me so I can use my time wisely. I pray that the desires of my heart will be aligned with Yours so I can get rid of unhealthy habits. Thank You for being my strength, protection, and provider Lord. Amen.

I am able to do all things through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13



MENU & PROGRAMS FOR MARCH

March 1 – The Basics regarding First Aid/CPR – Shell Emmel
Fundraiser for FUMC Funeral Dinners

Dinner: Creamy Chicken and Wild Rice Soup, Bread, and Dessert

March 8 – Youth and children
Dessert Auction Fundraiser
Dinner: Taco Salads

March 15 – My Journey from There To Here – Reverend Robert Montgomery
Dinner: Goulash, Green Beans, Dessert

March 22 – When Seconds Count – Teri/Travis Harris
Dinner: Breakfast and Fruit Salad

March 29 – Why Be United Methodist: The Strengths of Connectional Ministry – Carol Cook Moore
Dinner: Mexican Fiesta

OUR STAFF

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CHURCH SECRETARY
Dianne Clark
AdminAsst@fumcpc.org

March 2023

Daily



Prayers for YOUTH

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

1

You who love the LORD, hate evil! He protects the lives of his godly people and rescues them from the power of the wicked. ~ Psalm 97:10

Savior Jesus, I pray (name) will love You Lord and hate sin. Bless him with the conviction to avoid sin and evil people. Please rescue him from the power of the wicked. Amen!

2

He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds. ~ Psalm 147:3

Dear Father, please heal all the hurt and broken pieces of (name)'s heart and soul. Make her whole. Amen!

3

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. ~ Isaiah 41:10

Dear Father, may (name) have the courage to face down his fears and slay them, knowing You are always with him. Amen!

4

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." ~ John 16:33

Eternal Lord, please fill (name) with Your peace. May she take heart; be assured that You are in control of everything that concerns her. Amen!

5

I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill his purpose for me. ~ Psalm 57:2

Jehovah God, please stir (name) to turn to You for the confidence and courage to fulfill all You planned for him to accomplish today. Amen!

6

We faithfully preach the truth. God's power is working in us. We use the weapons of righteousness in the right hand for attack and the left hand for defense. ~ 2 Corinthians 6:7

Sovereign Father, may the Word of truth penetrate (name's) heart and the power of God work in her, transforming all her thoughts, words and acts to be more like You. Amen!

7

"O Sovereign LORD! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you!" ~ Jeremiah 32:17

Everlasting Lord, please give (name) the unshakeable confidence that You prevail in all situations; nothing is too difficult for You. Amen!

8

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes. But a wise man is he who listens to counsel. ~ Proverbs 12:15

Father God, please open (name)'s ears so she seeks and listens to wise counsel. Amen!

9

Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. ~ Hebrews 10:23

Abba Father, please deepen (name)'s faith. May he hold fast to the knowledge You are ever-faithful; Your promises never fail. Amen!

10

May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from Christ. ~ 2 Thessalonians 3:5

Gracious Lord, I pray (name)'s heart receives a full understanding and expression of Your love and the patient endurance of Christ. Amen!

11

The LORD himself will fight for you. Just stay calm. ~ Exodus 14:14

Savior God May (name) learn to walk in faith. May his soul be calm and his spirit strong as he rests assured that You Lord, fight for him. Amen!

12

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. ~ Ephesians 3:20

Almighty Father, may (name) trust You wholeheartedly, having the faith that You can do more than she can ask or imagine. Amen!

13

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. ~ Psalm 23:6

Precious Lord may goodness and mercy follow him all the days of his life, and he dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Amen!

14

So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ~ James 4:7

Loving God, as (name) makes choices each day, prompt her to make righteous choices. Stir her to resist the devil, submit to You, so the devil flees from her, beaten and ashamed. Amen!

15

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promises. ~ Romans 15:13

Holy Father, please fill (name) with all joy and peace as he believes and trusts in You. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may he abound in hope and overflow with confidence in Your promises, knowing that You are faithful and Your promises are true. Amen!

16

... put off your old self,... and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." -Ephesians 4:22-24

Almighty God, may (name) put off her old self and cultivate a new attitude reflecting true righteousness and holiness like You Lord. Amen!

17

When doubts filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer. ~ Psalm 94:19

Dear Lord, even when anxious and uncertain, may thoughts of You delight (name's) soul, filling him with joy and peace. Amen!

18

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. ~ James 1:5

Everlasting Father, whenever (name) does not know the answer, may she pause to ask You for wisdom, trusting that You in Your generosity will give it to him. Amen!

19

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ~ James 3:17

Loving Lord, as (name) interacts with people, please grant him wisdom that is pure, peaceful, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy, good fruits, impartial and sincere. Amen!

20

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share. ~ 1 Timothy 6:18-19

Gracious Father, please prompt (name) to do good, be rich in good works, be generous, and always be willing to share her blessings. Amen!

21

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. ~ Proverbs 8:7

Sovereign God, may (name) always speak the truth and detest every kind of deception. Amen!

22

The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure. ~ 1 Corinthians 10:13

Blessed Lord, please bless (name) with the strength and conviction to withstand temptations and resist the devil's evil schemes. Prompt her to seek and take the escape routes You faithfully provide. Amen!

23

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. ~ Psalm 19:14

Everlasting God, I pray that the words of (name's) mouth and the meditations of his heart will be acceptable to You. Amen!

24

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. ~ Colossians 4:6

Jehovah Father, as (name) speaks to people today, may her SPEECH be seasoned with wisdom, each word, kind and gracious, building others up. Amen!

25

Then I said to you, "Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them. The Lord your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes." ~ Deuteronomy 1:29-30

Savior Lord, as (name) goes about his day, may he not be terrified or afraid. May he know You, the Lord his God, goes before him, fighting all his battles for him. Amen!

26

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. ~ Psalm 42:1

Eternal God, as (name) matures, may she develop an unquenchable yearning for You. As the deer pants for streams of water, may so her soul pant for you, O God. Amen!

27

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ~ Colossians 3:12

Loving Father, as one of Your chosen people, holy and dearly loved, please stir (name) to clothe his self with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Amen!

28

Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity... ~ Titus 2:7

Sovereign Lord, may (name) shows herself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in all her behaviors exhibit integrity and character. Amen!

29

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. ~ 2 Thessalonians 3:16

King of Kings, You are the Lord of peace. Please be with (name) and grant him peace at all times, in every way and in every circumstance. Amen!

30

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" ... "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." ~ Ephesians 6:1-3

Awesome Father, may (name) not have a rebellious heart. May she obey and honor her parents so all may be well with her. Amen!

31

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. ~ Galatians 5:22-23

Mighty God, please fill (name) with Your Spirit. May he be filled with the fruit of the Spirit; overflowing with love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Amen!