

THE FLAME



July 7, 2025



Monday, July 7

Project Transformation
Staff Meeting 3
Weight Loss Group 3:30
Scouts 6:30
FPC Bible Study 7

Tuesday, July 8

Project Transformation
Coryell Cupboard 8
Men's Coffee Group 8:30
Intercessory Prayer 9



To sign up: navigate to www.ucdir.com.
Church code **OK259**, password **photos**

Click on **View time slots**. 11 slots for Sept 2,
1 time slot for Sept 3. Fill in the needed
information. You will get a confirmation
email.

Coryell Cupboard 4
Trustees 6

Wednesday, July 9

Project Transformation
Bible Study Via Christi 10

Thursday, July 10

Project Transformation
FPC Building Ground and Finance 1:30

Sunday, July 13

Sunday School 9
Church Service 10
Finance Committee 11:30

Hey everyone! Get ready to strike a pose!

It's time to refresh our FUMC-FPC directory, and we want you to be a part of it! Whether you're a long-time member, a frequent visitor, just thinking about joining our family, or if you simply find yourself within the loving embrace of our church walls, we need your smiling face in our new directory!

Why sign up?

- Free 8x10 portrait! That's right, you'll get a complimentary 8x10 photo of your choosing just for participating.
- A keepsake directory! You'll receive a beautiful paper copy of the new directory to keep and cherish. It's a fantastic way to put names to faces and connect with our wonderful church family.

Don't miss out on this fun opportunity to be a part of our history and grab some awesome perks while you're at it! Sign up today and let's fill this directory with all the amazing people who make our church so special!

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



. Luke 10:25-37 (NRSV)



The Best Kept Secret in the Church

Team leaders Jack and Barbara Schmoll returned to Oklahoma to work in Barnsdall and Bartlesville after storms damaged homes in the area. ROAD (Recovering Oklahomans After Disaster) was the contracting agency that brought them to Oklahoma. ROAD is an Oklahoma VOAD member agency that assesses damage of homes after a disaster and coordinates volunteer groups for rebuilding and repairs. Photos by ROAD.

by Discipleship Ministries

A little-known but fascinating corner of United Methodist mission work consists of a small corps of retirees scattered throughout the country. They call themselves Nomads. The name fits because they spend their lives roaming the country in the RVs in which many of them live full-time. But as they roam, small groups of them converge at various locations – at United Methodist churches, children’s homes, camps or retreats, or at disaster sites. And where they meet up, good things happen. Dilapidated doors and windows get replaced, faded furniture refinished. Leaky plumbing and outdated wiring and electrical fixtures get modernized.

Parking lots get striped, storage areas deep-cleaned, floors replaced, sanctuaries painted — and sometimes, entire new buildings are built from the ground up. Oh, and jelly and salsa get cooked and bottled for charity sales. “They’re the best-kept secret in the church – a group of incredible servants who will do just about anything you ask of them,” said Rev. Ted Wood, pastor of Community United Methodist in Casselberry. Nomads have worked every year at the two Florida churches he has led for the past 17 years. “I’ve had them build a two-story garage for a church, but I’ve also had them just clean the floors, scrape off the old wax,” he said. “They’re some of the humblest and most Christ-like people you’ll meet. “The Nomads, with about 850 active members and 180 or so alumni, are actually a division of the United Methodist Church’s Global Ministries, but they’re based nowhere except on the Internet.

Most are retired contractors, craftsmen, or handymen of various kinds and their spouses, but some just provide labor and learn skills on the job. They come from all 50 states and can be male or female, single or couples, but they must have access to an RV, said Director Carla Kinsey, the only paid individual involved. She coordinates their work from her home in Hot Springs, Ark.

Churches or other Methodist agencies apply for their services. Nomad members go online to choose projects in locations where they want to work during any of 15 or more three-week project periods each year – and then hit the highway. The agencies benefiting from the work must provide nearby RV parking facilities, but Wood said a parking lot with access to a water source and power outlets are sufficient for the groups that have worked at his church. The agencies also provide most of the materials and supplies, but Nomads do the work.

They work nationwide and year-round, but winter is the busiest time of the year, Kinsey said. Many are warmth-seeking snowbirds and like to work in states like Florida, Texas, and Louisiana during the winter. According to the Nomads' website, <https://www.nomadsumc.org/>, one of them told the group, "I am bored; there must be some good we can do here." They approached local Methodist churches and offered their services. In their first year, 24 members finished five projects in Texas and Oklahoma.

The all-volunteer organization grew and eventually incorporated under the church's General Board of Global Ministries.

Kinsey was working in a church camp in New Mexico when Nomads came through in 2004 and got recruited to replace the director who was then retiring.

Their services, said Wood of Community UMC, are particularly valuable to small and mid-sized churches that don't have a lot of money to pay for contractors, but he believes comparatively few church leaders nationwide know about them.

He learned about them from a pastor friend in Jacksonville, FL, and said more churches could benefit. "They come with a lot of skills –painters, plumbers, electricians, you name it," Wood said. "But the big thing is, they come with a servant's heart."



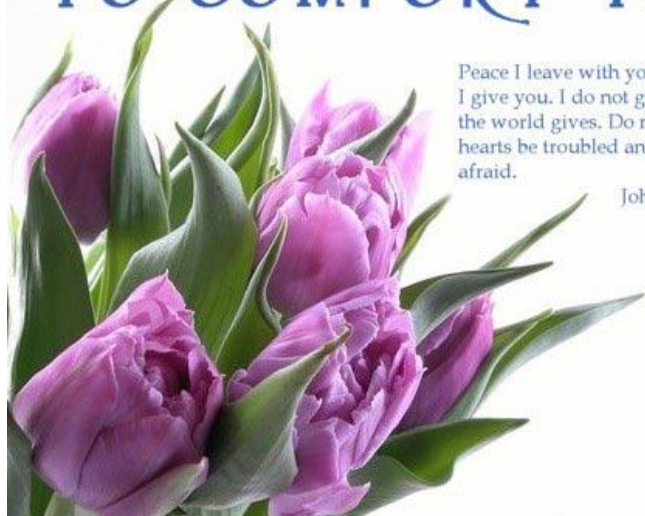
Have you noticed the delightful hum of progress around our beloved Pavilion and playground? Our hearts are simply overflowing with gratitude as we witness the beginnings of a **much-needed new sidewalk** gracing our property!



Earlier this week, the City of Ponca, with their incredible foresight and generosity, meticulously prepared the ground for this wonderful addition. They diligently dug the trenches for the new sidewalk, encompassing our entire property along 7th Street and extending gracefully down the side street nestled between the Pavilion and the bus barn.

We're thrilled to share that the sidewalk on the side street is already beautifully finished, and the one along 7th Street looks like it's just days away from being poured, promising a smoother, safer pathway for all. We truly are so incredibly **blessed by the City of Ponca's investment in our cherished property**. Their commitment to enhancing our shared spaces fills us with immense appreciation!

TO COMFORT YOU

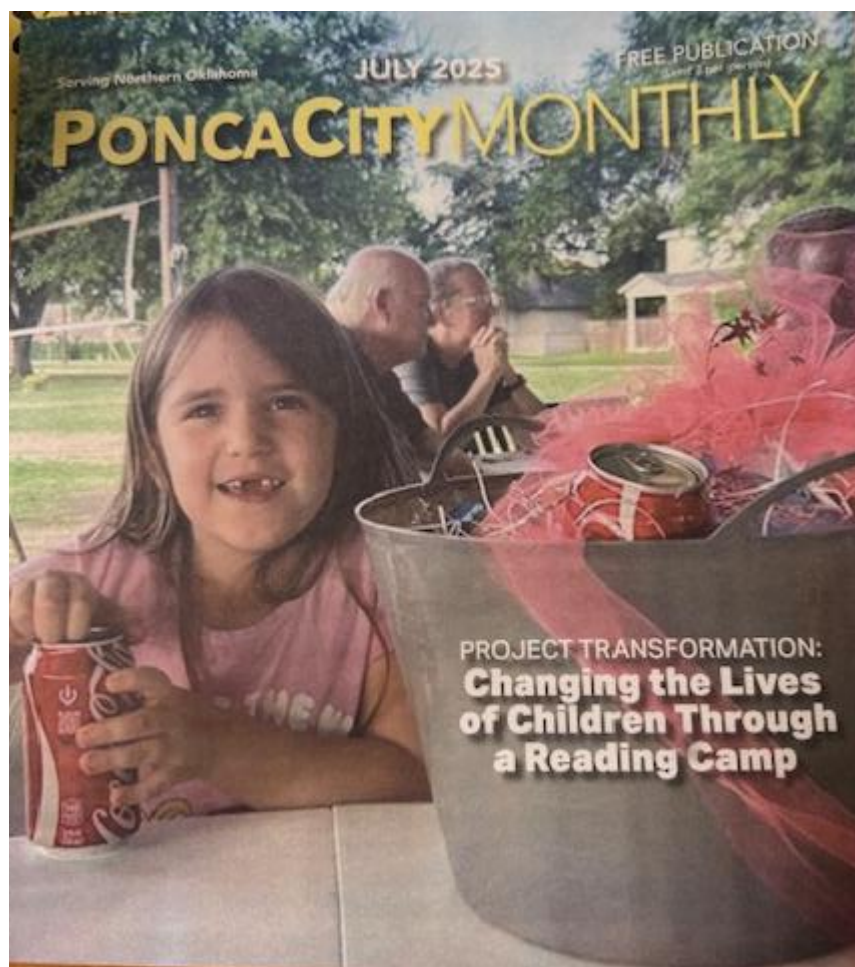


Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27

After our beloved pastor, Mike Smith, passed away in Muskogee. . his wife, Linda, went back to her hometown of Guymon, OK to care for her mom. We have just received word that her mom has “closed her eyes on earth. . and opened her eyes in Heaven.” Thanks be to God.

If you would like to drop Linda a note her address is: Linda Smith, 1207 N. Ellison, Guymon, OK 73942 If you would like more information, please contact Carolyn Hopkins on her HOME phone!



We've Got Mail – And a Feature Story!

Get ready to feel a surge of pride, because our incredible church and our groundbreaking Project Transformation summer reading camp have been the subject of a wonderful feature in this month's Ponca City Monthly!

The article highlights the truly transformative work we're doing through Project Transformation, detailing how our dedicated volunteers and enthusiastic campers are making waves in our community. It speaks to the heart of what we believe in: fostering a love for reading, building strong relationships, and providing a nurturing environment where children can thrive.

This recognition is a testament to the hard work, passion, and generosity of each and every one of you who has supported Project Transformation, whether through volunteering your time, donating books, or offering financial contributions. Your commitment is making a tangible difference in the lives of these children!

We encourage everyone to pick up a copy of the Monthly Publication and read the full story written by our very own Marlys Cervantes. It's an inspiring read that beautifully captures the spirit of our church and the vital work of Project Transformation. Let's celebrate this fantastic achievement together!

WE ARE



HIRING A DEDICATED YOUTH DIRECTOR



Position Requirements:

- Active individual interested in leading a church youth group.
- Must be flexible in hours, able to organize and lead both Bible study and recreational activities for youth.
- Promote growth in the program.
- Position is 29 hours per week, paying \$30,000 annually. Includes day time office hours, Wednesday evening activities, and Sundays. Regular staff meetings, as well as other church meetings. Report on the program and keep up with church activities.
- Ideal person will be energetic, organized, work well with other staff, volunteers and advisory board, and able to provide spiritual training and guidance in a fun environment for the youth.
- Resumes, including a list of three references, and questions (include your phone #) should be emailed to ***fumcpc.pastor@gmail.com*** . EOE



*First United Methodist Church & First Presbyterian Church
Where we worship together!*

If you signed up for your picture directory photo after church on Sunday, you should have received an email confirmation Sunday after the signup was completed by Trish and Sheila. If you did not get one, please let one of the two of us know and we will investigate. Thanks!

July Highlighted Author – Lysa TerKeurst



Lysa TerKeurst is an American speaker and author of Christian non-fiction. She has written more than a dozen popular books, including *Uninvited: Living Loved When You Feel Less Than, Left Out, and Lonely* and *Forgiving What You Can't Forget*.

TerKeurst is president of Proverbs 31 Ministries, which started as a small newsletter published in 1994. After growing the organization, TerKeurst led the way for the newsletter to be transformed into Proverbs 31 Ministries reaching millions of

women daily with Biblical truth and wisdom.

The author unveils her heart amid shattering circumstances, inviting you to live assured when life doesn't turn out like you expected. Life often looks so very different than what we hoped for. Some events may simply catch us off guard for a season, but others shatter us completely. We feel disappointed and disillusioned at best and overwhelmed and hopeless at worst. We quietly start to wonder about the reality of God's goodness and why he allows us to suffer and experience grief and loss.

TerKeurst understands this deeply. But after many tears, godly counseling, and prayerful seeking, she's also discovered that our disappointments can be the divine appointments our souls need to radically encounter God.

Lysa TerKeurst lives with her family in Charlotte, North Carolina.



To unsubscribe, please send an email to fumcpc.business@gmail.com. Flame articles should be submitted by 5 p.m. Sunday evening.

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