

THE FLAME



April 21, 2025



Monday, April 21

Easter Monday

Chancel Bells 1
Weight Loss Group 3:30
Carillion Handbells 6:30
Scouts 6:30
FPC Bible Study 7
Annual Conference Zoom 7

Tuesday, April 22

Coryell Cupboard 8
Men's Coffee Group 8:30
Intercessory Prayer 9
Staff Meeting 1

Coryell Cupboard 4

Wednesday, April 23

Bible Study Via Christi 10
JAM 3:30
Youth Ministry 5:30
Wednesday Night Live Pot Luck 5:30

Thursday, April 24

Project Transformation 4
FPC Session 6

Friday April 25

UWF Sandwiches 2

Sunday, April 27

Sunday School 9
Church Service 10
Spring Fling 4

“It’s a gift to joyfully recognize and accept our own smallness and ordinariness. Then you are free with nothing to live up to, nothing to prove, and nothing to protect. Such freedom is my best description of Christian maturity, because once you know that your “I” is great and one with God, you can ironically be quite content with a small and ordinary “I.” No grandstanding is necessary. Any question of your own importance or dignity has already been resolved once and for all and forever.” Richard Rohr

Second Sunday of Easter



- Acts 5:27-32
- Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150
- Revelation 1:4-8
- John 20:19-31

W
Wednesday Night Live
 5:30 p.m.

April 23rd

ONE FAITH ONE FAMILY
 First Presbyterian First United Methodist

POT LUCK TIME!

**Bring your favorite dish
 to share and enjoy
 Food
 Fun
 Fellowship**

First United Methodist Church 200 S 6th Ponca City 580-762-1681
 Where First United Methodists & First Presbyterians Worship Together!

“Most of us were taught that God would love us if and when we change. In fact, God loves you so that you can change. What empowers change, what makes you desirous of change is the experience of love. It is that inherent experience of love that becomes the engine of change.”

~Richard Rohr

“The ego hates losing – even to God.” ~Richard Rohr

Sack Lunch Friday

April 25 @ 2:00

**Great
Fellowship**

**All are Invited
to Join!**

**Cookies are
Needed**

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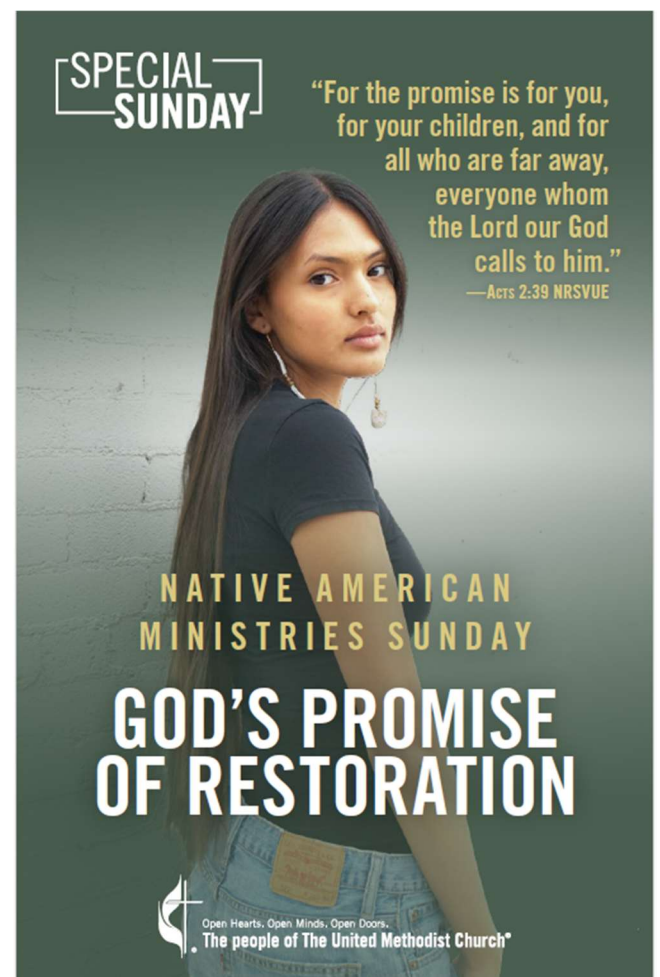
Join the United Women in Faith in our mission of providing sack lunches to students. We meet at 1:30 in the fellowship hall to prepare the lunches, & deliver them at 3:00

**First United Methodist Church 200 S 6th Ponca City 580-762-1681
Where First Presbyterians & First United Methodist Worship Together!**



Youth Breakfast was a huge success! Thanks to all who ate with us and special thanks to all who brought breakfast casseroles! We appreciate you.

Sunday is Native American Sunday. Please bring your Special Sunday donations to share in this Special Sunday.



SPECIAL SUNDAY

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY GOD'S PROMISE OF RESTORATION



In August, beneath a gorgeous sunset, a display of empty red dresses and a board gently floated in Tennessee's Lake Benson. Candles burned inside glasses on the board. The dresses and candles symbolized missing Indigenous women.

The National Crime Information Center indicates that there were 5,712 reports of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls in 2016. Murder is the third-leading cause of death among this population, and rates of violence on reservations are as much as 10 times the national average. It's believed sex traffickers are to blame for some of the missing women and girls.

"A daughter, an auntie, a grandmother, a cousin—someone maybe not even allowed to grow up and mature," said Mary T. Newman, a lifelong United Methodist of Cherokee ancestry who works with the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference and assists the conference with having a better understanding of Native cultures.

"We have to stand for justice," she continued. "We have to lift up prayers and we have to say, 'It needs to stop.' An epidemic of women and girls who are dying has got to stop, and we are the ones that have to stand up and say there should be justice."

The event was a solemn beginning to the Native Moccasins Rock conference, a relaxed and convivial annual meeting for all things Native American. It's held at Camp Lake Benson, a bucolic Christian camp and retreat center about an hour west of Nashville.

"My interest in Native American culture is not just a curiosity," said Linda Quick of Nunnally, Tennessee, one of several conference attendees who suspects they have Native American heritage but haven't taken steps to confirm it. "I love the prayers, and I love the thought of the Great Spirit."

The Native Moccasins Rock conference, known as "Mocs Rock" for short, is directed at Native and non-Native Americans, said Debbie Fitzhugh, a member of the Secwépemc Tribe and cochair of the Native American Ministries Committee of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference. The conference illustrates the importance of how building relationships and awareness can strengthen Native American culture and ministries.

When you support Native American Ministries Sunday, half of your gift remains with local ministries in the annual conference and half benefits national ministries. One of the denomination's six Special Sundays with offerings, this Sunday's offering equips and empowers Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students.

Highlighted Author

Richard Rohr



Richard Rohr is an American Franciscan priest and writer based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. PBS called him "one of the most popular spirituality authors and speakers in the world". Rohr has written over 30 books on spirituality, faith and contemplation which include notable works *The Universal Christ*, *Falling Upward*, and *Everything Belongs*. His spirituality is rooted in Christian mysticism and the perennial tradition.

Rohr founded the New Jerusalem Community in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1971 and the Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1986 where he serves as founding director and academic dean.

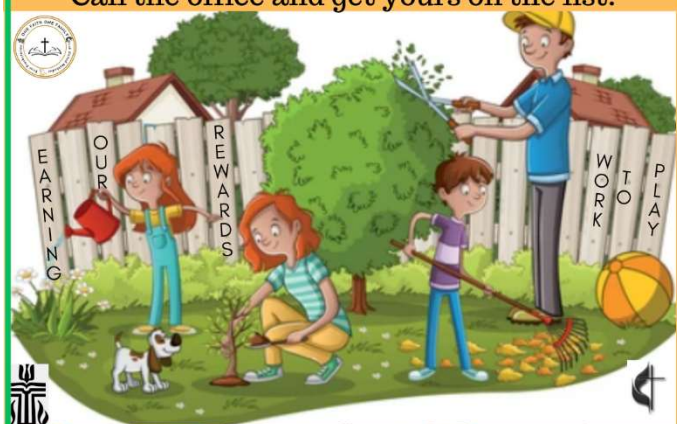
According to Rohr's teachings, following Jesus is the "best path" to salvation, but one does not necessarily have to practice formal Christianity. The key is to "fall in love with the divine presence, under whatever name." Rohr says people are sometimes disillusioned with conservative churches that teach that nonbelievers and followers of non-Christian religions go to Hell. I'm trying to invite people into the depth of things... and that's why I still encourage people to be loyal to their primary tradition; to go deep in one place, as I've often put it."

Rohr calls the Biblical record a human account of humanity's evolving experience with God, "the word of God in the words of people." In one of his daily meditations, Rohr writes:

The Bible is an anthology of many books. It is a record of people's experience of God's self-revelation. It is an account of our very human experience of the divine intrusion into history. The book did not fall from heaven in a pretty package. It was written by people trying to listen to God. I believe that the Spirit was guiding the listening and writing process. We must also know that humans always see "through a glass darkly . . . and all knowledge is imperfect" (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Richard Rohr has had a profound influence on the spiritual development of hundreds if not thousands of people. He is relatable no matter what faith denomination a person may follow and for the non-believer....he gives pause to think and seriously consider Christ in all his glory.

Have Yard Work to do????
 Our Youth are looking for a few yards/projects
 to help with to fund their summer activities.
 Their work is by donation AND they will be
 supervised!
 Call the office and get yours on the list.



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 Sun Day School 9am Worship 10am

Help the youth earn money for summer projects! This is an ongoing project for all summer long.

Survivor Resource Network would love your broken or unused jewelry!

We want to provide families housed in the domestic violence shelter a fun creative activity making new jewelry. Please drop off your blessings in the basket in the welcome center!



First United Methodist Church 200 S 6th Ponca City 580-762-1611
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