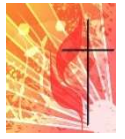


THE FLAME



May 12, 2025



Monday, May 19

Staff Meeting 3
Weight Loss Group 3:30
Suzi's Singing Practice 3:30
Friendship Feast 5
Pastor Meets with Committee Chairs
Carillion Handbells 6:30
Scouts 6:30; Pavillion
FPC Bible Study 7

Tuesday, May 20

Coryell Cupboard 8
Men's Coffee Group 8:30
Intercessory Prayer 9
Coryell Cupboard 4

Wednesday, May 21

Bible Study Via Christi 10
Youth Ministry 5:30
Choir 7

Sunday, May 25

Sunday School 9
Church Service 10

Monday, May 26

OFFICE CLOSED

To my Church family: There aren't enough words to adequately thank you for your support the past several weeks....the calls, the cards, the prayers, and the hugs have been so important as we transition to a new reality. Although Clark wasn't a regular churchgoer, he always willingly accompanied me if I asked. Clark was a true example of a Christian life well-lived. We were so very fortunate, at our ages, to create the many loving memories that will help carry me through the days ahead. God has been good to us, and will continue to hold me in the palm of his hand. I ran across a quote I had saved, author unknown, "No one really understands the love of Jesus until they have loved and been loved by someone else." I understand!!! Clark's family and my family are blessed by the love you have shown to us in his unexpected passing. We know that he is now enjoying the beautiful fairways and perfect greens in Heaven!

Sue Lunsford

Sixth Sunday of Easter



- *Acts 16:9-15*
- *Psalms 67 Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5*
- *John 14:23-29*
- *John 5:1-9*

Social Principles of the United Methodist Church

This is the completed formatted information from last week's Flame. . . Part 1. . . In the next few weeks, we are going to look at a few of the social principles of the United Methodist Church. The United Methodist Church has a long and rich history of concern for social justice. The Social Principles are not church law but they are based on the Wesley quadrilateral based on scripture, along with tradition, reason and Christian experience. They are a prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of the many General Conferences to adopt social teachings that express the United Methodist's official positions on complex society issues.

Community of All Creation

God is in all things and we are to see the Creator in the glass of every creature. We should use and look upon nothing as separate from God. . . who pervades and actuates the whole created frame, and is, in a true sense, the soul of the universe.

We are participants in the destruction of the ecosystems creating global warming and climate change. We are dependent on fossil fuels which contributes to global warming. Overconsumption, shortsighted policies, poor management of natural resources, and other unsustainable practices have severely impacted the fragile, natural ecosystem on which all of life depends.

Stewardship of Creation

In Genesis God put humankind in charge of all creation. The degradation of the natural world has fallen disproportionately on marginalized communities, including indigenous tribes, religious people living in poverty, and other vulnerable and ethnic communities. Therefore, we should pledge to resist all forms of environmental exploitation, neglect and inequality.

We urge United Methodists to adopt sustainable habits and practices, including refraining from overconsumption, repurposing and recycling materials, avoiding products that pollute or otherwise harm the environment, and reducing the carbon footprints of individuals and families by reducing overall reliance on fossil fuels from heat, transportation and other goods.

We endorse policies and practices designed to ensure access to healthy nourishment and clean drinking water, especially for communities that have been subjected to environmental degradation or deprived of adequate resources to produce or purchase their own food.

Excerpts from Social Principles 2020

Social Principles of the United Methodist Church-2nd set

This is the second in a series of social principles of the United Methodist Church. Since the beginning of the movement over 275 years ago, Methodists took a stance on the social ills of the day. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement in Britain and colonial America, advocated for prison reform, the abolition of slavery, ending hunger and poverty, and the elimination of child labor back in the early 1730's. The social principles document stands in the Wesleyan method of theological development based on Scripture, along with tradition, reason and Christian experience to live out the Gospel in every arena of life.

The Economic Community

As United Methodists, we profess that all we are and all that we possess, belong to God. We pledge ourselves to the establishment of just, equitable, and sustainable economies that work for all. (Amos 5:7-13, Matt. 25:3-46, James 2:15-16)

Economic Challenges

Globalization has undoubtedly provided certain financial and other benefits, but it has also undermined established wage and labor standards, weakened environmental protections, and accelerated the concentration of the world's wealth in the hands of a relative few. Because globalization transcends the capacity of any single individual, community or government to manage, we call on international bodies, including the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, and others, to hold multinational corporations and national governments accountable to provide for economies that promote people over profits and protect the environment. We decry the widening gap between the rich and the poor and the concentration of wealth in the hands of ever smaller percentages of the global population.

We condemn human trafficking and slavery as profound violations of the inherent dignity and worth of every person and of the fundamental rights related to autonomy, including the ability of every individual to make personal life choices.

We deplore the involvement of government officials, business executives, church leaders and other people of authority in graft, bribery and other forms of corruption as breaches of the public trust and impediments to the creation of just and equitable societies.

Economic Justice

As members of God's oikos and followers of Jesus, who taught that we must "give to those who ask and not turn away from those who want to borrow," we embrace our charge to share the abundance of God's creation in just and equitable ways (Matt. 5:42). We, therefore, urge governments, businesses and civic associations to ensure that individuals, families and communities not only survive, but also thrive.

We urge consumers to exercise their economic power to encourage the manufacture of goods that are beneficial to humankind while avoiding those produced through exploitative labor practices.

We endorse measures that protect the continued operation of local, family, and communal farms and call for the elimination of government programs that disproportionately benefit large corporations and agribusinesses.

We believe in the dignity of work, not merely as a means of subsistence, but as a way for individuals to contribute to the flourishing of their families and contribute to the common good.

We recognize the Sabbath as a gift of God for all people. We affirm the importance of taking time away from work to rest and renew the mind, body and spirit, engage in play and recreation, and serve the needs of our communities.

We believe that corporations and businesses, like all other human institutions, are charged with doing good, promoting equity and justice, and making positive contributions to communal life.

Excerpts from Social Principles 2020



UWF Memorial Day Crosses for Sale. By donation in the Welcome Center on the ledge! All contributions go towards missions and mission projects.

The North Central District would like to invite you to celebrate Tish Malloy's retirement. The celebration will happen at 3:15 during the break at the annual conference in the Chapel at Boston Avenue UMC. It will be a time to say a few things and pray for her as well as give her gifts and cards. This is a surprise event, please DO NOT MENTION IT TO HER!

Blessings!

If you would like to share in this exciting moment for our District Superintendent by sending Tish a card, please give it to Becky Hightower before Annual Conference-Tuesday, May 27.



Sue Lunsford has 9 pint canning jars to give to anyone who might use them. In replacing the jars for my Oriole feeder, I found I couldn't buy just a couple, so I ended up with a dozen. Just give her a call and she'll be happy to bring them to you.

Do you have any free time on Thursday mornings during June and July?

Consider this your personal invitation to read/listen with children for an hour and a half on Thursday mornings at FUMC. Please send your name and contact to Marlys Cervantes. She is organizing the summer "listeners." Every child gets an adult to read with every day they are here. We need your help! Send your name and number to Marlys Cervantes

Marlyscervantes@yahoo.com



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

Sue Lunsford had the Youth come help her with cleaning out her garage and some yard work last Saturday. What a great group of workers they were! "I highly recommend these young people, and will no doubt request their help again."

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!



Bracelets
Pendants
Necklaces
Rings
Earrings
Watches
Cuff Links

Broken/Unwanted Jewelry

First United Methodist Church 200 S 6th Ponca City 580-762-1611
Where First United Methodists & First Presbyterians Worship Together!

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.



First United Methodist Church 200 S 6th Ponca City 580-762-1681
Where First United Methodists & First Presbyterians Worship Together!
Sunday School 9am Worship 10am



September 3 we are taking pictures of everyone for our new online/printed directory. We do not want to miss you. They will be here one day to take everyone in church, please put it on your calendar now so you don't schedule and appointment that day!

Book Review: *What's So Amazing About Grace?*

By Phillip Yancey

Right in the introduction, Philip Yancey explains that his book, *What's so Amazing About Grace*, is most certainly not a theological primer. Despite the split in expectations, Yancey's book is excellent. There are many anecdotes from his life and a number of varied stories all connecting to grace. The result is not only an enjoyable read but also an insightful one.



Here are some observations from *What's So Amazing About Grace?*

- Yancey uses the story of *Babette's Feast* to demonstrate the example of grace by the giver. Babette gave all she had—10,000 francs—to bestow a feast upon the tiny community. Grace always costs its giver something, and this element is too easily overlooked and taken for granted. To do so treats poorly the grace that God offers through Jesus.
- Yancey defines “grace” as follows: “Grace means there is nothing I can do to make God love me more, and nothing I can do to make God love me less. It means that I, even I who deserve the opposite, am invited to take my place at the table in God's family.”
- Yancey discusses a weekend event he helped facilitate to build community between a group of Jews, Christians, and Muslims. A Jewish representative commented: “I believe we Jews have a lot to learn from you Christians about forgiveness. I see no other way around some of the logjams [between reconciling our groups]. And yet it seems so unfair, to forgive injustice. I am caught between forgiveness and justice.”
- Yancey makes a comment I haven't heard before: “the opposite of sin is grace, not virtue.” I don't know that I would have answered, “what is the opposite of sin?” with the answer of grace. It's far too easy to fall into the legalism trap that virtue is the right answer when it's only God's grace that overcomes sin. This idea is central to living in freedom and not according to rules. The challenging corollary of this freedom is you can't just follow the rules. Living by the Spirit means being open to His guidance.

It is a final point on politics where I give my strongest endorsement of *What's So Amazing About Grace?* Any Christians who have an interest in politics should place this book at the top of their reading lists. The most recent election cycle has been shockingly harmful to the reputation of Christians among non-Christians. Yancey's book places politics in the right focus. This book was not what I expected. *What's So Amazing* is a quick and enjoyable read, and it is one I expect to recommend to others in the future.

Book review written by Nathan Eberline.

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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