

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

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage PAID
 Permit No. 17
 Ponca City, OK 74601

THE FLAME

Volume 50, Issue 11

November 2020

SENIOR PASTOR
 Pastor Don Griffin
smugrad93@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR
 Joycelynn Davidson
fumcmusic@cablone.net

CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR
 Cathie Gilliland
cathieg@cablone.net

YOUTH DIRECTOR
 Heather Kubik
hl.kubik@hotmail.com

Youth/Children's Ministry Intern
 Lindsey McGee
Lmcge346@gmail.com

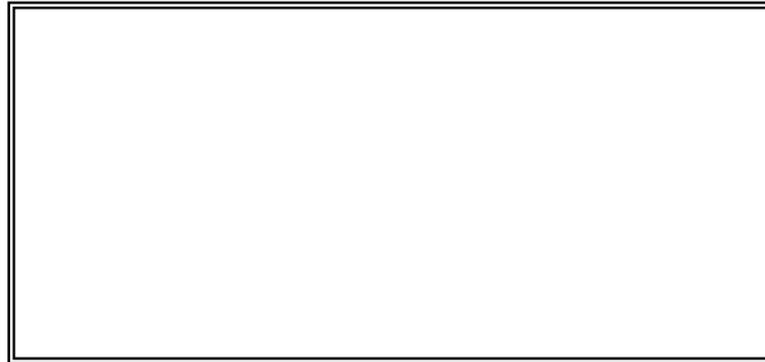
MDO & NURSERY DIRECTOR
 Ruth Harbeson

ORGANIST
 Sue Lippert
slippert2020@gmail.com

BUSINESS MANAGER
 Cynthia Wilson
cynthiaw@cablone.net
 (580) 763-2196

CHURCH SECRETARY
 Dianne Clark
fumcpc@cablone.net

BUILDING MAINTENANCE
 Larry Davidson
ldlarrydavidson@yahoo.com



The Flame (USPS 17) is published once a month, a total of 12 issues per year, by First United Methodist Church, Ponca City, OK.



STUDENT NEWS



Hey youth and youth parents, Last month went by so fast! We had so much fun at the all our church activities, fall festival and our Halloween party. This month we will continue the *Lunch with the Bible* every Sunday after church, but we will NOT have TYT on November 25th. We can't wait to see what this month will bring! Don't forget to watch for notifications from us on Facebook, and the remind app about other events! Bring friends!

-Heather and Lindsey

SAFE UNDER COVER!



Kid's M&Ms and Mother's Day Out can now enjoy the playground protected from the elements with the addition of the canopy provided by funds from our endowments.



Come On In!

Larry Davidson does a great job cleaning and disinfecting our facility. We wear masks, and practice social distancing.

**You are greatly missed!
 Come Home.**



Please plan on staying after church Sunday, November 22nd to help decorate for Advent. Lunch will be provided.



“We do well to remember that the Bible has far more to say about how to live during the journey than about the ultimate destination.” Philip Yancey



Pastor Don Griffin

Our church has begun having various committee meetings preparing for our annual charge conference scheduled for December 6 at 3 p.m. There are some necessary decisions and planning that must be made annually such as a budget for the following year. I really am not fond of meetings especially if there does not seem to be a concrete purpose for gathering. These meetings, as monotonous as they may feel, are particularly important to prepare for the coming year and to evaluate the past year. I was at one such meeting last night and found myself inspired.

The meeting was the Staff Parish, and we were completing the church profile. As we discussed goals from this past year and all the challenges we face, several individuals made comments that gave me great hope for the future of our church. One such comment was about a workshop a person had attended about having a joy filled church. Another was focused on growing our church spiritually. One by one these comments came together, and my heart was quickened by the Spirit of God. These are the seeds to

growing our church both spiritually and numerically.

The church is facing great challenges due to modern society. No longer do most people feel obligated to include faith practice in their lives. Many are even no longer identifying with organized religion but instead indicating that they are “spiritual, but not religious.” Even many who more closely identify with the “Christian” tag, are finding active participation as an option at best. I fear what has happened in many lives is that people have replaced their spiritual feeding with other activities. As a result, church participation has been on the decline for the past three decades. The Covid virus has quickened this process and placed further stress on churches. I believe that Christians are starving themselves with crumbs when we have a place at the very table of God.

The quote I shared at the beginning of this article is from Philip Yancey, one of my favorite Evangelical writers today. I think we are missing the spiritual life blessings from God because we simply do not take advantage of what we are offered as followers of Jesus. We think in terms of “being saved” and “going to heaven” but fail to realize that Jesus’ message was “The Kingdom of God is at hand.” It is here and now, and sadly so many are oblivious to it. One of the desires of my heart is to help our church discover the fullness of what God is offering us. It is more than just participating in a ritual or activity. This is growing in the very presence of God and being a traveler with other such people

who are searching for significance and meaning to their lives that transcend just existing.

We are a people who are called to the feast of God, not at death, but now. Each of us significant are and loved by God with a special purpose or calling to bless others in the world around us. As we come together in mission, ministry and worship, we use our God given opportunities to bless each other and find great blessing ourselves. Joy is what we seek in all things. Joy that God is present in our lives. Joy that we have each other and can depend on that fellowship carrying us through the rough moments of life. Joy that we can bring a transformation love to others in the world who are hurting and searching. I am excited because we are blessed with all the elements we need for a great awakening and explosion of hope right here at First United Methodist. We simply must embrace God and each other on this journey.

Do you not want more from your faith than just the promise that someday down the line you have heaven? If there is spiritual feast waiting for you today, this very minute, are you not ready to have it now? Join me this coming Thanksgiving and Advent season as we explore anew our great calling to be Jesus chosen people. Come feast with me at the table of God.

Pastor Don



2020



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 10:00 Worship Communion Food Sack Sunday All Saint's Day 5:00 Lay Leadership Team	2 2:00 Handbell Ensemble 6:30 Bill Elliott's Bible Study	3 Election Day	4 3:30 Kids' M&Ms 5:30 TYT 7:00 Chancel Choir Ensemble	5 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study UMW 1:30 Deborah 7:00 Miriam	6	7
8 10:00 Worship	9 2:00 Handbell Ensemble 6:30 Bill Elliott's Bible Study	10 6:00 Board of Trustees	11 3:30 Kids' M&Ms 5:30 TYT 7:00 Chancel Choir Ensemble	12 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study	13	14
15 10:00 Worship	16 2:00 Handbell Ensemble 6:30 Bill Elliott's Bible Study	17 6:30 Novels at Night	18 3:30 Kids' M&Ms 5:30 TYT 7:00 Chancel Choir Ensemble	19 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study	20	21
22 10:00 Worship 11:30 Decorate for Advent	23 2:00 Handbell Ensemble 6:30 Bill Elliott's Bible Study	24	25 OFFICE CLOSING AT NOON	26 	27	28
29 10:00 Worship	30 2:00 Handbell Ensemble 6:30 Bill Elliott's Bible Study					

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kay Lynn Pendleton	11/01	Jessica Meyer	11/17	Richard Hightower	11/29
Jacob Harbeson	11/03	Russ Pendleton	11/17		
Francis Nine	11/04	Ken Wilson	11/19		
Betsy Carter	11/06	Ginger Duval	11/20		
Debbie Hron	11/08	Lynn Hopkins	11/22		
Jayden Alexander	11/10	Katie Kirchenbauer	11/22		
Claire Davis	11/11	Amy Muegge	11/22		
Dick Jacobson	11/15	Kenneth Jones	11/23		
Brenda Kirchenbauer	11/15	Damien Flewelling	11/26		
Chris Campbell	11/16	Richard Fitzgerald	11/29		





PRAYER CORNER

A Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving

O My God, Thou fairest, greatest, first of all objects, my heart admires, adores, loves thee, for my little vessel is as full as it can be, and I would pour out all that fullness before thee in ceaseless flow. When I think upon and converse with thee ten thousand delightful thoughts spring up, ten thousand sources of pleasure are unsealed, ten thousand refreshing joys spread over my heart, crowding into every moment of happiness.

I bless thee for the soul thou hast created, for adorning it, sanctifying it, though it is fixed in barren soil; for the body thou has given me, for preserving its strength and vigor, for providing sense to enjoy delights, for the ease and freedom of my limbs, for hands, eyes, ears that do thy bidding; for thy royal bounty providing my daily support, for a full table and overflowing cup, for appetite, taste, sweetness for social joys of relatives and friends, for ability to serve others, for a heart that feels sorrows and necessities, for a mind to care for my fellow-men, for opportunities of spreading happiness around, for loved ones in the joys of heaven, for my own expectation of seeing thee clearly. I love thee above the powers of language to express, for what thou art to thy creatures. Increase my love, O my God, through time and eternity.

~ Valley of Vision, a Puritan Prayer



NOVELS AT NIGHT

What a good book we read in September. I hope most of you got a chance to read *The Lost Letter*. It is nice to read a well written love story once in a while.

I am still waiting for recommendations from you readers out there. We will meet next month on November 19, 2020 at 6:30. This month's book is a pick from KayLynn Pendelton. It is longer than our regular picks so you will want to get started.

This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger—1932, Minnesota—the Lincoln School is a pitiless place where hundreds of Native American children, forcibly separated from their parents, are sent to be educated. It is also home to an orphan named Odie O'Banion, a lively boy whose exploits earn him the superintendent's wrath. Forced to flee, he and his brother Albert, their best friend Mose, and a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi and a place to call their own.

Over the course of one unforgettable summer, these four orphans will journey into the unknown and cross paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls of all kinds. With the feel of a modern classic, *This Tender Land* is an en-thralling, big-hearted epic

that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole.

See you in the Welcome Center. Happy reading.

Gineta



THANK YOU!

Thank you First United Methodist Church. We appreciate your donation during these trying times and aiding in the fight to end hunger. September was *Hunger Awareness Month*. This month we were open 17 days, and aided 399 households and sent out 142 homeless bags. We absolutely could not do this without all of your generosity.

Sincerely,

Tom Short & Staff

New Emergency and Resource Agency (NERA).



Non-perishable food items collected the first Sunday each month (Food Sack Sunday) are taken to NERA for distribution. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, you may do so through the church. Be sure to mark your envelope or check "donation to NERA." Donations may also be made direct to NERA, 112 South First.



UMW News

Hopefully you have noticed the Super Hero board in the Welcome Center. UMW is collecting money to purchase socks and shoes for children in the Ponca City Schools. If you would like to help purchase shoes you may put checks or money in the box attached to the board of send money to the church. In the past we have purchased about 25 pairs of shoes a year because of the generosity of this congregation.

UMW is not selling pecans this year. There are still some that have been frozen from the fall that are still for sale. If you would like to purchase those they are \$10.00 a pound. All proceeds will go to missions of UMW.

There will NOT be a UMW Thanksgiving Prayer and Praise (thank you very much covid pandemic) this year but if you would like to show how thankful you have been this last year you can donate to the World Thank offering. As hard as this year has been for most of us, it is nothing compared to what others in the world have experienced. Although we should be so thankful all year long, this is the time of year that we make a concerted effort to be thankful. Every dollar that you are willing to share will make a big difference in the lives of so many women and children around the world.

UMW Sunday

UMW Sunday has been rescheduled from April to November 8. We are going to look at ways to connect

with the UMW current campaign to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline. Rhonda Bear is going to be our speaker. Rhonda has a very personal and inspiring story to tell.



Rhonda Bear is the program Director for Stand in the Gap's Women in Transition program. The Women in Transition program addresses twelve core issues that women must understand and address in their lives in order to position themselves to succeed in staying out of the prison system, living free from the bondage of their past and living successfully in the "free" world. Rhonda is the Founder and Director of 13 women's transition homes. She teaches the Stand in the Gap's Women in Transition program in multiple prisons and county jails. Rhonda is also the founder of She Brews Coffee House, an out of ordinary coffee shop that was created for the purpose of hiring formally incarcerated women, allowing a community to know the women instead of their criminal record. She is the mother of 3 wonderful children, grandmother to 7 amazing grandchildren and married to a wonderful husband who is helping her achieve her dreams. Rhonda has graduated from Tulsa Community College with a degree in Community Program Management and Northeastern State University with a degree in Social Work. She currently serves on the governor task force for 2nd chances and is an advocate in the legislature arena. Her hobbies include swimming, spending time with family and ministry.

How can you help the environment?

United Methodist Women are encouraging you to recycle. For those of you who are not aware of it, the Recycle Center is at 1001 W. Prospect right next to the Moto Cross track. It is open Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Presort all your items, put them in boxes in the trunk of your car or back of your truck. When you drive into the parking area, the workers will come to your car and unload it for you. This is a FREE service.

Items accepted: everything must be CLEAN

Cardboard: Corrugate, cereal boxes, paper towel and toilet paper rolls, paper bags

Paper: Newspaper, magazines, catalogs, office paper, telephone books, books, shredded paper in bags

Tin/Steel Cans

Glass: Green, brown/amber/clear

Aluminum Cans

Various metals: copper, brass, aluminum foil/pie tins, steel, hot water heaters

Latex paint: gallon or smaller in original cans. NOT RUSTED

Electronics: computer towers/laptops (hard drives destroyed by DocuGuard Certified Shredding for no charge); keyboards; mouse; printer/copiers/scanners; cell phones/PDAs; Wire/cables

The same company that runs the Recycle Center also has Curbside Recycle which comes to your house every Wednesday. The cost for Curbside is \$12 per month or \$120 per year. They collect ...



Howdy everybody,

On Sunday, December 13 at 3 pm we're having an all church Christmas party with a campfire, roasting marshmallows and making s'mores. Mmmm. There will be hot chocolate and singing around the fire accompanied by guitar/ukes.

Everyone will need to bring their chair, dress warmly and come have fun. Of course, if you prefer to sit in your car with your windows rolled down, that will be great, too. We don't want anyone to miss the fun. We'll bring your hot chocolate and treats right to your car.

We're going to have a service project, too, for those who prefer staying inside. We are going to make Christmas cards for children who are in the hospital with serious illnesses. The organization is "Cards for Hospitalized Kids."

So, put the date on your calendar, Sunday, December 13, at 3 p.m.

The Nurture Committee



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

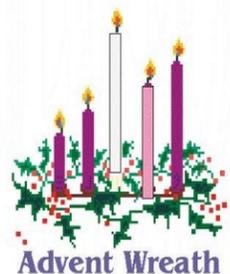
The worship team met in October to make plans for the upcoming season of Advent. As with everything else, we want to have worship opportunities, while keeping our congregation and visitors safe. The Christmas Eve services this year will be at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM. This will hopefully divide up those in attendance so that we may continue to maintain necessary distance.



HELP NEEDED!

The lights on our outdoor nativity are not working. Volunteers are needed to help replace bulbs or restring lights. If you are willing to help, please call the office. We will look at a Saturday or Sunday afternoon depending on when people are available. The more people we have, the less time it will take.

(580) 762-1681



It is hard to believe that FUMC is thinking and making plans for the upcoming Advent Season that begins November 29. A tradition that we have had for many years--who knows how long--is to have a family to light the Advent Candle each Sunday and at the Christmas Eve services. This year a "family" could be a group of friends or a traditional or non-traditional family. Lighting the candle involves reading an appropriate scripture and a prayer all of which Pastor Don will provide. Would you like to be part of this tradition? If so call Mary Lou, 763-2826 or the church office, 762-1681, and we will schedule you.

All Saints Day



They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from the God of their salvation. Psalm 24:5

Sunday, November 1st.

If you live outside of Ponca City, but would like to see the service, we are available on Facebook.

UMW Cont'd from page 2

everything listed above except NO Glass or various metals listed above. But they take plastic #1 and #2. To contact Curbside Recycle call 580-485-8884.

Besides helping the environment, the recycle center provides jobs for Opportunity center clients. This is a true win-win!

If you haven't tried recycling, it is time you do!!



Hi friends!

Most, if not all, of you reading this have received the heartfelt & personal letter from Teri Harris regarding the financial situation that FUMC is facing. Thank you to everyone that has responded with special offerings that total \$5,955 as of today!!

Please don't forget that we have a new mailing address for FUMC for all mail including checks, bill payments, letters, cards, etc : **PO Box 71 Ponca City, OK 74602**

(So if you are mailing anything to the church be sure to use the new mailing address & if you use bill payment for your offering, please notify your bank of the new address.)

We have several other options as well:

By Text: Just text the donation amount to 1-580-324-3101 (no need to include the "\$" sign – just

text the numerical amount). You'll receive a text back from Vanco requesting your payment info and the funds will be transferred to FUMC and you'll receive a confirmation text back from Vanco.

Online: On our website, www.fumcpc.org, go to the tab named "Member Info" and click on "Contributions" and you can donate by paypal, credit or debit card.

By Monthly Autodraft: Call my cell 580-763-2196 and I'll get you set up for a monthly draft from your checking or savings account.

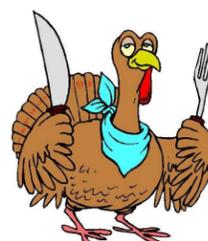
By Stock Transfer: We have an account with TD Ameritrade for easy transfer of stock to the FUMC account.

If you need help with any of these, please don't hesitate to call me at 580-763-2196.

Cynthia



Cathie Gilliland is here each Sunday for Sunday School Let the little children come!



Pastor Don is pictured with new members Jim & Kathy Hughes

LAY LEADERSHIP

Will Meet Sunday, November 1, at 5:00 PM. Members are: Arleen Jacobson, Teri Harris, Carolyn Hopkins, Betsy Carter, Akin Ogundipe, Heather Kubik, Johnny Caudle, Francis Nine, Joycelyn Davidson, Bill Elliott, Lindsey McGee, Wayne Moore, Chris Chism, Cathie Gilliland, and Pastor Don.



I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them

.To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy,

.To speak no evil of the person they voted against, and

.To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side."

John Wesley