

THE FLAME

Volume 51, Issue 3

February 2021

Let's Go Fly a Kite!



Wednesday, March 31st

All Church Fellowship

5:00 PM at Lake Ponca in the area by the swim beach.

Kite kits and dinner provided. Bring friends and family.



Thursday, April 1st

7:00 PM

Place to be determined.

Make your face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me your statutes. -Psalms 119:135

Afalse witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaks lies shall not escape. - Proverbs 19:5

Rejoice not in iniquity, but rejoice in the truth. 1 Corinthians 13:6

Cast your burdens upon the LORD, and he shall sustain you.: he will not suffer the

Help us, O GOD of our salvation, for the glory of your name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for your name's sake. -



What Next?



Pastor
Don Griffin

This morning Larry brought a little directory into my office. Based on the name of the pastor, Dr. Robert Van House, and the family pictures, we know it is 30 to 35 years old. Most of the pictures are of people that are no longer here. Some Saints have gone to glory and some have moved elsewhere in the earthly kingdom.

This led me to look at the next directory I could find; it is during the ministry of Denny Hooks. Though I cannot find a date, this would be about 25 years old. This directory had more action pictures of ministries, classes, studies and such. Both were glimpses of this amazing congregation in the past.

I once heard a story about an older gentleman who was always telling his neighbor about these three amazingly beautiful ladies he knows. He would tell stories about each of them and talk about how fortunate he was to

have them in his life. One day the neighbor got to meet the three ladies in person and was a bit shocked. They were elderly just as his neighbor and though attractive enough they certainly did not live up to the image he had in his mind based on his neighbor's description. He said to the neighbor, "are you sure these are the ladies you've been telling me about?" With that the man immediately got his wallet out and opened to a picture of these women when they were in high school. He looked lovingly at the picture and said, "See how beautiful they are."

Looking at the pictures of the two directories, I loved looking at each picture and imagining that person and what they must have been like. A few of the people in the pictures are still around and look a little different now. More than the fact we have all aged in the past 25 – 35 years, I was struck by how different our congregation is now to when these pictures were taken. I have been told the story of the downsizing of the refinery and the loss of so many excellent jobs that Ponca City lost since these directories were made. Reading the church history in the older directory and looking at the large classes and groups in the more recent one just reinforced how different our congregation is now from that time period. I am so grateful for the ministry of my clergy predecessors and those wonderful saints

who have left this awesome church that is a blessing to all of us now.

As wonderful as it was to look at a piece of this church's history, the reality we face is different from the one that existed then. We can look lovingly at old pictures and see things the way they were, but it is a different time, and we face different challenges. Our church is at a critical point. One year ago, our church had a meeting to discuss our ministries - to evaluate what we needed to do to be more relevant for today. A conference official joined us for that discussion. It was an amazing exchange, and everyone left with a sense of excitement and urgency to get moving for the future of our congregation and God's kingdom. Then the world changed forever, again.

Covid-19 hit us hard. Over thirty of our faithful were infected with the virus. We moved to recorded online only worship for several months. Even after we resumed in person attendance, many continued to only participate online for fear of the virus. Though we have gradually added activities, it still feels like we are in survival mode. Before the virus, we recognized our congregation had to find new ways to connect with our commu-

(Cont'd on page 3)



Music Notes by Joycelynn Davidson

I have a couple of updates to pass along to the congregation. First, we will be interviewing applicants for the Organist/Accompanist position on March 2nd. SPRC and members of the Music Committee will make a decision (soon I hope).

Second, I would like to express my deepest appreciation for all the prayers, cards and calls with concern for my health. Please keep them coming. I will have had my cat scan by the time you get this email and waiting for results. I am facing 6 treatments of chemo over the next 18 weeks for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. I know with the help of your prayers and the grace of God I will beat this!

Chancel Choir

I don't know about you, but I am beyond ready to begin rehearsals again. Put March 3rd at 7:00 pm on your calendar for our kick-off. We will continue to wear masks and socially distance. Let me know if you plan to participate.

Carillon Bells

It was so good to return to rehearsals on February 22nd. We got a good start on a few pieces and I'm excited to get something ready to ring in worship soon!



(Cont'd from page 3)

nity, especially the younger families of our community, or 25 years from now all that may remain of our congregation are pictures in a directory and empty buildings where a once great church stood. With all that has happened, our challenge and that urgency has only increased.

It is time to move beyond survival mode. Are we prepared to make the necessary changes to reach new people? Are we willing to be committed to our church at the expense of other alternative activities?

This church is such an important part of our community and God's kingdom. The past is in the history books, the future unknown

but we have today to serve God and do what we must to create a bright future. I do believe the best is yet to come, but only if you and I allow God to bring that glorious future into fruition through us.

I'm Ready. Are you?

Pastor Don



PRAYER CORNER

An Irish Prayer

May God give you...

For every storm a rainbow,

For every tear, a smile,

For every care, a promise,

And a blessing in each trial.

For every problem life sends,

A faithful friend to share,

For every sigh, a sweet song,



Hey, Youth and Parents,

I can't believe how fast February went by. This month we have Spring Break coming March 14th through the 20th. I have planned something for the youth group to do each day that week. Below is list of what we will be doing on each day.

Sunday 14th - TYT, 5:30 PM

Monday 15th - Work day, 2 PM

Tuesday 16th - Work day, 1 PM

Wednesday 17th - WOW, 5:30 PM

Thursday 18th - Work day, 1 PM

Friday 19th - Fun Trip, 3 PM to 7 PM

To qualify for the fun trip, youth must attend 2 out of the 3 work days. For all the work days, and the fun trip we will meet at the church and take the van to our destination. Please have your youth at the church by the times listed above.



We will not have any youth events

Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.

I Timothy 4:12





**DRIVE-THROUGH
EASTER DINNER**



UMW is dedicated to mission. Last year our local UMW donated \$5000 to local and statewide mission. Through our pledges to district and conference UMW we donated to worldwide mission. We are constantly thinking of ways that we can earn more money to bring some kind of hope and relief to people around the world. April 2, 2021, Good Friday, we are hosting a fundraiser drive-through Easter dinner. For just \$10 you can receive a ham steak, potato casserole seasoned carrots, a deviled egg, roll and cheesecake dessert. UMW members will be selling tickets ahead of time. Please tell your friends in the community how easy it will be to drive down the alley behind the church between the hours of 4:30 and 6:00 to pick up their meal. Please make your plans now to have a great meal!!



**CHICKS FOR
COOKSON HILLS**



his year our local UMW is supporting the **ADOPT A CHICK** program for Cookson Hills Mission in Tahlequah. One of the projects at Cookson Hills is supplying families with chicks so people in the area can have food they can raise on their own. It's the old adage "Give a Man a Fish, and You Feed Him for a Day. Teach a Man To Fish, and You Feed Him for a Lifetime." For \$5.00 you can "adopt a chick". Cookson Hills will supply the chicks to the families who will then have eggs and chickens to help feed themselves. The goal at Cookson Hills is to give 120 families a dozen chicks to raise. If you feel this is a mission you would like to support, look around the church for "chicks" that you can adopt to help support the mission at Cookson Hills. The decorated chick eggs you purchase are also supporting the artisans in the Holy Lands who are able to make beautiful crosses out of the olivewood that is so prevalent in their area. Each egg you buy will include an olivewood cross that would be a wonderful Easter present for someone special in your life.

**MARCH UMW
GROUP MEETING**

The Deborah Group and the Miriam Group are going to have a combined meeting on March 4, 2021 at 5:30. The Deborah Group will be in charge of the meeting. Several activities are planned so we hope you all can make it. We will have plenty of room to stay distanced and safe.



**Haiku for
St. Patrick's Day**

Lamb led to slaughter
Selected, rejected, spurned
By those whom He loved



~Wayne Moore





ELEMENTARY CAMPS!

GROWIN' IN GRACE CAMP EGAN

Entering Grades 3-4

Over three days and two nights campers will experience God's love in God's beautiful creation! In addition to traditional hikes, swimming and crafts, campers will experience creation through interactive learning sessions, and participate in worship. In small groups, kids are encouraged to start building relationships with adults and children from other churches that will last – so get ready for some new friends and a GREAT time!

June 21-23

Session EGN1

Cost \$178(early bird cost by

April 15th)
5th & 6th Grade Camp!
CAMP EGAN
(Entering grades 5 & 6)

A week-long opportunity for campers to experience living in community with others, with God, and in creation so that they begin to see and feel God's love every day within themselves, their friends, families and their local churches. Trained, experienced leaders facilitate faith development in small groups, in worship, and through fun activities with others.

June 21-25

Session EGN1

Cost \$300(early bird cost by
April 15th)

Scholarship help is available
for those in need.

Contact Don

We will have adult leaders
and youth counselors from
our church at camp!

Your registration must be
complete **ONLINE** between
February 15th & April 15th
to receive early bird prices.

Cost goes up \$20 after

April 30.

More info at [https://
okcamps.org/2021-virtual-
camp-book](https://okcamps.org/2021-virtual-camp-book)

After you register online,
let the office know you are
going so you can get future
information!

**COME TO CAMP! WE'LL
HAVE A GREAT TIME!**



Cosmic City – VBS 2021

June 14-18, M-TH

From 6-8:15pm

OUTSIDE @FUMC

However, it won't happen un-
less I have enough Adults &
youth who are willing to lead!

Please let me know if you can
be a part of the fun!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

Steve Fields 03/02
Wyatt Hollingsworth 03/03
Betsy Pendleton 03/07
Jill Jackson 03/09
Amanda Biery 03/10
Larry Lenhart 03/12
Don Whitfill 03/13
Kelly Campbell 03/14
Laura Evans 03/14
Francis Rhodd 03/14

Colten Seidel 03/15
Drew Markle 03/16
Daniel Bergfield 03/17
Madison Bookout 03/17
Cathie Gilliland 03/17
Marilyn Sanders 03/17
Craig Poet 03/18
Larry Davidson 03/19
Dorothy Dewan 03/20
Knox Campbell 03/22

Krista Harbeson 03/24
Marcia Candler 03/28
Chris M 03/28





MARCH

2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 6:30 Bill Elliott's Bible Study	2 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:00 SPRC	3 3:30 Kids' M&Ms 5:30 WOW 7:00 Chancel Choir	4 5:30 UMW Unit Meeting	5	6
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Communion Food Sack Sunday 5:30 TYT	8 9:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Bill Elliott's Bible Study	9 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:00 Board of Trustees	10 3:30 Kids' M&Ms 5:30 WOW 7:00 Chancel Choir	11	12	13
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:30 TYT Daylight Savings Time Begins	15 1:00 Youth Work Day 6:30 Bill Elliott's Bible Study	16 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 11:00 Fat Tuesday 1:00 Youth Work Day	17 5:30 WOW	18 1:00 Youth Work Day	19 3:00 Youth Day Trip	20
SPRING BREAK						
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	22 6:30 Bill Elliott's Bible Study	23 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	24 3:30 Kids' M&Ms 7:00 Chancel Choir	25	26	27
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Palm Sunday 5:30 TYT	29 6:30 Bill Elliott's Bible Study	30 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	31 3:30 Kids' M&Ms 5:30 WOW 7:00 Chancel Choir			

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

John 3:8

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DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Yes, it is that dreaded time again. Daylight saving time will begin Sunday, March 14th. Be sure to set your clocks one hour ahead when you go to bed on the 13th or you will be really late to church. In fact, it will be over.



Mother's Day Out



...a fun place to
play and learn!

With Covid, snow storms and cold weather we have had a difficult time having Mother's Day Out since the new year began. Today the sun is shining brightly, so hopefully that pattern is changing; we even got to play outside today.

A lot of our regular families have started bringing their children again. I have had a few calls from new parents who also want to enroll their children in our program, so our prospect of a "full house" is now a good possibility.

Our teachers began getting their Covid shots; some of us have even had our second one. For this we are grateful.

We thank you all for your prayers, support and good thoughts through this difficult time.

Ruth Harbeson



Something I cannot see
Makes a leaf dance in a tree.
Makes my hair fly in my face
Takes the ball for me to chase.
Here it is and there it goes,
Every time the wind blows.

~Patricia Gable



OUR STAFF

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March DAILY



2021

for our YOUTH

- Our Sons/Daughters, Grandsons/Granddaughters
& all our loved ones.

1

Awesome God, for thoughts and actions to be pleasing to You, the heart must yield. Please break apart XXX's stubborn heart of stone. Give him a new heart and mind that is obedient & receptive to Your will.

I will give you a new heart and a new mind. I will take away your stubborn heart of stone and give you an obedient heart. ~ Ezekiel 36:26

2

Dear Father, when adversity has XXX downcast, please give her words to praise You. Assure her that even in the midst of turmoil You are her hope.

Why, my soul, are you downcast?... Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. ~ Psalm 42:5

3

Eternal Lord, please grant XXX a caring heart, so he not only looks out only for his own interests but takes an interest in other people's needs and concerns.

Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ~ Philippians 2:4

4

Jehovah God, thank You for staying in pursuit of XXX. May her ears be tuned to the frequency of Your voice and she eagerly respond to Your voice and instructions.

And the LORD came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening." ~ 1 Samuel 3:10

5

Sovereign Father, as XXX goes about this week, please open his eyes to see Your hand at work in his life. Stir his heart to offer You an unceasing and joyful sacrifice of praise.

Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. ~ Hebrews 13:15

6

Everlasting Lord, may Your steadfast love forever be before XXX's eyes, and she walk steadfastly in Your faithfulness.

For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness. ~ Psalm 26:3

7

Father God, please keep XXX aware that contrary to the worldview, being gentle is not a weakness. May he serve You by being humble and gentle, patient and kind.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ~ Ephesians 4:2

8

Abba Father, how great is the goodness You have stored up for XXX, who fears You. You lavish Your goodness on her, blessing her before the watching world.

How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world. ~ Psalm 31:19

9

Gracious Lord, please make known to XXX the path of his life. May it always lead to Your presence where he finds fullness of joy.

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; ... ~ Psalm 16:11

10

Savior God, please stir XXX's heart to refrain from paying back wrong for wrong. May she be kindhearted, always striving to do good.

Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:15

11

Almighty Father, may XXX's heart be turned to You and only You. May he not love the world or the things of this world.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. ~ 1 John 2:15

12

Precious Lord, may XXX prove herself by her purity, understanding, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit within her and by her genuine love for others.

We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us, and by our sincere love. ~ 2 Corinthians 6:6

13

Loving God, please give XXX the gift of peace of mind and heart, so he is not troubled or afraid.

I am leaving you with a gift--peace of mind and heart. ... So don't be troubled or afraid. ~ John 14:27

14

Holy Father, may XXX discipline her body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others, she be found to be disqualified.

But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. ~ 1 Corinthians 9:27

15

Dear Lord, may XXX learn to be a friend who lovingly sharpens his friends. Likewise, may he have "sharpeners" in his friend group.

People learn from one another, just as iron sharpens iron. ~ Proverbs 27:17

16

Almighty God, may XXX be one who reaches out in friendship to others, easily offering love and kindness. May she be a peace-maker.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ~ Matthew 5:9

17

Everlasting Father, please instill strong work ethics in XXX. May he work hard and become a leader amongst his peers

Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and become a slave. ~ Proverbs 12:24

18

Loving Lord, when XXX is in trouble, may she cry to You, trusting You to save, rescue and heal her from her distress.

You were in serious trouble, but you prayed to the LORD, and he rescued you. ~ Psalm 107:19

19

Sovereign God, please transform XXX's mind so he focuses on things that are true, pure, right, holy, friendly, and proper. May his mind be filled with reasons to praise You.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. ~ Philippians 4:8

20

Gracious Father, please give XXX a distaste for sin, so she mends her ways and obeys Your commands.

Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God. ~ Jeremiah 26:13

21

Blessed Lord, when fearful, please remind XXX that You have given him the authority to overcome all his enemies. Nothing will injure him.

Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, ... Nothing will injure you. ~ Luke 10:19

22

Everlasting God, as XXX goes about her day, may she not be terrified or afraid, as You, The Lord her God, goes before her, fighting all her battles for her.

Then I said to you, "Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them. ~ Deuteronomy 1:29-30

23

Omnipresent Father, please prompt XXX to stay on the path of purity by living according to Your Word.

How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. ~ Psalm 119:9

24

Savior Lord, when XXX hears Your Word, may it pierce her heart, turning her to You.

Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart,... ~ Acts 2:37

25

Eternal God, may XXX declare with his mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe wholeheartedly that God raised him from the dead, so he is saved!

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ~ Romans 10:9

26

Loving Father, please grant XXX an unwavering commitment to love You Lord and serve You all the days of her life.

... But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." ~ Joshua 24:15

27

Sovereign Lord, please bridle XXX's tongue. Keep him from evil or deceitful speech. May his words be positive, a source of health & blessing to others.

Then keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies! ~ Psalm 34:13

28

Mighty God, please help XXX run with perseverance the race which You have marked out for her. Convict her to strip off all the sins that hinder her efforts.

...let us strip off ... the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has marked out for us. ~ Hebrew 12:1

29

King of Kings, may XXX's life choices fill him with the fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

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

30

Awesome Father, may XXX honor You with all her heart, and not just her lips. May her worship be heartfelt, not simply a pretense to conform with culture.

And so the Lord says, "These people say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. And their worship of me is nothing but man-made rules learned by rote. ~ Isaiah 29:13

31

Almighty Lord, please free XXX from the shackles of fear and worry today. May his heart rejoice as he recalls how good You are to him.

I will sing to the LORD, Because He has dealt bountifully with me. ~ Psalm 13:6

