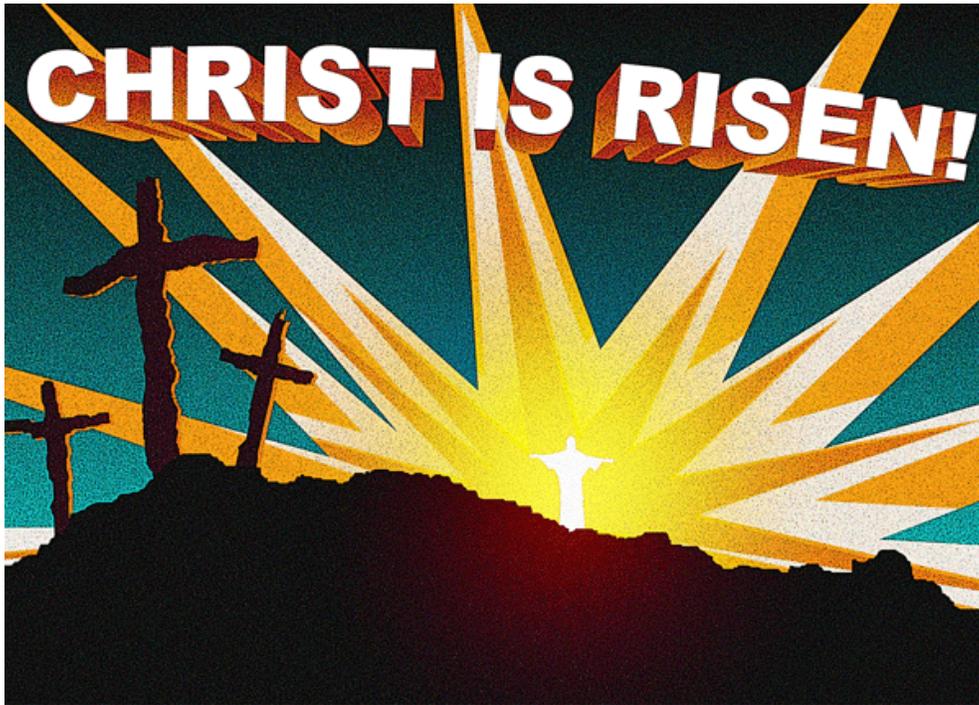


THE FLAME

Volume 51, Issue 4

April 2021



Worship Opportunities

Maundy Thursday

At FUMC 7:00 PM
(Communion Service)

Easter Services

FUMC Sanctuary 10:00 AM
(Sunday School will not meet)

A Prayer for Easter

Dear Father, my eyes lift to Heaven in total adoration of the one true God you are. Your incredible love for the world exceeds my imagination. And your gracious gift of life excels beyond my understanding. When I reflect on the cross of calvary my mind fails to grasp the depth of darkness the day you turned your back on your son as he bore the sin of the world. For everyone ever born. For me.

The price was so great yet his blood poured out to yield the highest return of investment ever known. O Death, where is your sting? O Grave, where is your victory? Death? It is extinguished. The grave? It has been conquered. And the Empty tomb? Celebrated. He is Risen and we praise you, Father!

Hosanna and Amen!

~Rachel Wojnarowski





Hope Found in an Empty Tomb



Pastor
Don Griffin

As the women approached the grave, they were expecting to discover the dead body of Jesus. He was hastily buried due to Passover and the beginning of the Sabbath; proper preparation of his body had not occurred. The women were going to carry out a solemn act of love for their teacher and friend. I can only imagine their hearts were heavy and gloom accompanied every step they took. The sun was coming up as they went to offer their final act for Jesus, little did they know His story and their service to Him was only beginning.

The period from Palm Sunday to Easter is my favorite week of the year. It is called Holy Week because of the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection. Most people do not realize that a fourth of Luke, a third of Matthew and Mark and almost half of John, take place the last week of Jesus' life. Out of Jesus' lifetime, most of the writings of the Gospels focused on just that one

week. Holy Week is that important! The basic tenant of the Christian faith is the empty grave that the women discovered Easter morning. Our faith is based on what those faithful women found and then shared with the world.

The past twelve months have been difficult for all of us. Our lives were literally turned upside down by the pandemic of the Covid virus. In March of last year, I was beginning to plan for a meaningful Holy Week with you. Palm Sunday the children were going to march in with palms waving as we celebrate the coming of King Jesus, our Messiah. We were going to join with the other United Methodist Churches on Maundy Thursday to share in the meaningful last supper Jesus shared with his disciples. A very moving Good Friday observance was to follow as we faced the reality of Jesus' death and burial. The service was to conclude with the sanctuary stripped of all color and the lights dimmed as we walked out in silence. Then would come Easter with great rejoicing for the empty tomb and Jesus' victory over sin and death. It was to be Seth and I's first experience of Holy Week with our new church family. Instead of my plans being carried out, I recorded an Easter sermon in the empty sanctuary on the Thursday before Easter. I was very weak from Covid when I recorded my part of our Easter ser-

vice. I do not remember anything from it other than how hard it was not having you there with me.

This year has had many moments of heaviness and gloom for our church family. We had thirty plus members sick with Covid. After a few months of shutting down our facility, we returned to in-person worship, but the attendance has remained less than half what it was before. We have streamlined our activities including not having our Wednesday Prayer and Praise, my second favorite time of the week. Oh, how I have missed the fellowship. We have suffered many losses as precious members died while others faced serious health challenges. Every one of us could easily approach this Holy Week with heavy hearts. But if we do that, we miss the true meaning of our faith.

Jesus came to offer us connection to God. Through sin we separated ourselves from God and others. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, that barrier was broken down. Jesus came to focus our existence on our spiritual life and connection to God. The women found an empty grave and experienced the resurrected Jesus. They thought they would finish burying him and instead became the messengers of hope. We must discover the empty grave today.

(cont'd on page 3)



Music Notes by Joycelynn

It was a blessing to have the choir back in the loft on Palm Sunday, as well as, some of the other traditional elements of worship. I am looking forward to being blessed again this Easter Sunday as we sing traditional hymns, as well as, an anthem by Allen Pote, "Risen Indeed!"

Chancel Choir will continue rehearsals at least through the end of May. We are keeping our distance spacing, as well as, wearing masks for now. We look forward to the day when we can see each others' smiles again!

Carillon Bells will be ringing for worship in the near future. We have enjoyed getting back in the swing of things.

Kids' M&Ms has been meeting weekly and the kids are having a blast. Our last session will be April 14th with a field trip to *Just for Kids*. Special thanks to Mr. Larry and Mrs. Desta for their added hands and love.

Thank You!

These two little words cannot begin to express my gratitude for all the cards, prayers and meals you have shared with me and Larry. Your love is overwhelming! Your prayers are felt every day and I look forward to the time I can hug your necks.

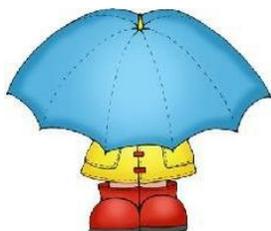
In Christ's Love,
Joycelynn



(cont'd from page 2)

We must shake off the doom and embrace the new thing that God is doing. I pray you will open your heart to experience a dynamic Easter of hope. The world may seem to be filled with nothing but bad news, but God is at work bringing hope. Join me Easter as we celebrate hope.

Serving the Risen Lord,
Pastor Don



Rain, Rain Go Away...



Deepest sympathy to Vicki Stokke and family of Marty Stokke (March 26th.)



Heartfelt sympathy is given to the family of Marilyn Krepps, (March 18th).





United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION



Have you adopted your chick? 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.

UMW is busy making baby/youth quilts. If you would like to help, they have several needs.

3/4 yard of cotton or cotton blend --solids colors such as yellow, red, shades of green or blue

5 yards of cream or white flannel for backing

or re-purpose flannel sheets

OR perhaps you would like to donate a few bucks for having these baby/youth size quilted. Do you know someone who is willing to quilt these on their sewing machine or perhaps a beginner that needs practice on a long arm quilter? You can bring the fabric to the Church Office Mary Lou Loret's name on the sack .

The next UMW meeting will be a unit meeting April 8th at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.



A Godly Woman

She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Proverbs 31:26



If you have not heard, our old refrigerator died. Behold, the new one! Just in time for the drive through Easter dinner.



Serenity Story, Mary Lou Loret's great granddaughter, has been awarded an academic and track scholarship to Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. Serenity was confirmed at FUMC as a young teenager. She now lives in Moore, Oklahoma. Southwestern College is a private Methodist College founded in 1885.

Palm Sunday



Chanel Choir
Welcome back to
the choir loft.
You have been missed!

Sing Hosanna
to the
King of Kings!





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 EGNX1

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
completed **ONLINE** be-
tween February 15th & April
15th to receive early bird
prices.

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 go-
ing so you can get future in-
formation!

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

PLEASE BE AWARE

EARLYBIRD

REGISTRATION ENDS



Cosmic City – VBS 2021

June 14-18, M-TH

From 6:00-8:15pm

OUTSIDE @ FUMC

**I need enough adults & youth
who are willing to lead in or-
der for this to happen!**

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

Cathie Gilliland



April 28th
5:00 PM



Hey youth and parents!
This last month was so much fun, I can't believe it's over. The kids worked so hard during spring break but they also had some fun while they worked. Just want to let y'all know that this month we will be having our annual bake sale! The money the kids raise will go toward their youth account for future trips and events. Below is a list of everything going on this month, can't wait to see y'all there!!



-Lindsey McGee

- April 4 - No TYT
- April 7 - WOW 4:00 pm
- April 11 - TYT 5:30 pm
- April 14 - WOW 4:00 pm
- April 18 - TYT 5:30 pm
- April 21 - WOW 4:00 pm
- April 23 - TYT 5:30 pm
- April 28 - bake sale 5:00 pm





LAY SERVANT TRAINING

The Northern Prairie District is excited to announce that we are offering a Lay Servant Training via ZOOM on April 23 and 24, 2021. We are offering the Basic Course and one advanced course. Specific details are found in the flyer available in the church office.

We encourage your laity to register early because the class size is limited to 12.

What is a Lay Servant? According to the UMC website, a United Methodist Lay Servant is an active member of a local church or charge who is ready and desirous to serve the Church and who is well informed on and committed to the Scriptures and the doctrine, heritage, organization, and life of The United Methodist Church and who has received specific

training to develop skills in witnessing to the Christian faith through spoken communications, church and community leadership, and care-giving ministries. Lay Servants serve by leading, caring and communicating.



**On April 19th, the NPD office
will be moving to
400 E Central Ave, Suite 302
Ponca City, OK 74601**

Please note this address change for future mail that you might be sending our way.

Our phone number and email will remain the same.

nothernprairiedistrict@okumc.org

(580) 382-4030



Resurrection Haiku

Jesus is my Lord
Arose from the grave He did
Living in my heart.
Wayne Moore



Ralph Waldo Emerson

For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!
For blue of stream and blue of sky;
For pleasant shade of branches high;
For fragrant air and cooling breeze;
For beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

(From *We Thank Thee* by Ralph Waldo Emerson)

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

Matthew Ware, Jr	04/02	Don Griffin	04/15
Tanner Otto	04/04	Colton Schultz	04/15
Alex Biery	04/06	Mary Lou Lorette	04/17
Samantha Biery	04/06	Sally Tubbs	04/20
Drew Palmer	04/06	Shawn Gray	04/22
Carole Rodgers	04/06	Karrah Mariyappan	04/23
Isaac Cervantes	04/09	Carol Bouldin	04/25
Jaron Meyer	04/09	James (Jim) Hughes	04/30
Jayne Detten	04/10	Shelby Swanson	04/30
Scott Layton	04/10		





2021

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THUR

FRI

SAT

				1 7:00 Maundy Thursday (Communion) 	2	3
4 10:00 Worship Easter No Evening Activities 	5 6:00 Bill Elliott's Bible Study	6 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	7 3:30 Kids M&Ms 4:00 TYT 6:30 SPRC 7:00 Chancel Choir	8 5:30 UMW Unit Meeting	9	10
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:30 TYT	12 2:00 Handbells 6:00 Bill Elliott's Bible Study	13 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:00 Trustees	14 3:30 Kids M&Ms fieldtrip 4:00 TYT 7:00 Chancel Choir	15	16	17
18 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:30 TYT	19 2:00 Handbells 6:00 Bill Elliott's Bible Study	20 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	21 4:00 TYT 7:00 Chancel Choir	22	23	24
25 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 Youth Bake Sale	26 2:00 Handbells 6:00 Bill Elliott's Bible Study	27 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	28 4:00 TYT 7:00 Chancel Choir	29	30	

“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”

Matthew 7:24-27

First United Methodist Church
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 (580) 762-1681
 Fax: 580-762-1839
fumcpc@outlook.com
www.fumcpc.org
 Like us on Facebook:
[PoncaCityFirstUnitedMethodistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/PoncaCityFirstUnitedMethodistChurch)



Welcome
 Debra (Debbie) Rue
 Our new organist/pianist.



After almost 2 decades of faithful service to our church family, Cynthia Wilson has submitted her resignation effective April 15, 2021. She is so involved with many charities and other work in our community and has come to a place in life where she is ready to lighten her load. As sad as I was to accept her resignation on behalf of the church, I am excited for her in this new chapter in her life.

The Staff Parish Committee will be meeting soon to begin planning to find the next person to come and join our church family in this capacity. If you know of anyone who might have the qualifications and would be interested, please direct that person to Bill Elliott (SPR chair) or our church office.

We love you Cynthia and thank you for a job very well done.

In Christ,
 Pastor Don



If you had your email with Cableone, you know that email system will no longer be in service after April 15th.

We have a new e-mail address:
fumcpc@outlook.com.

Joycelynn's new address is
fumcmusic315@gmail.com.

Cathie's new address is
Fumc.kids@outlook.com.

If your email address has changed, please send us your new address. Once we have all the email changes, we will send them out in an email to the congregation so you have them for your directories.



OUR STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR

Pastor Don Griffin
smugrad93@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Joycelynn Davidson
fumcmusic315@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

Cathie Gilliland
Fumc.kids@outlook.com

YOUTH DIRECTOR

Lindsey McGee
pcfumcyouth2020@gmail.com

MDO & NURSERY DIRECTOR

Ruth Harbeson
 (580) 401-0440

ORGANIST

Debra (Debbie) rue
Cougarue@sbcglobal.net

BUSINESS MANAGER

Position Open

CHURCH SECRETARY

Dianne Clark
fumcpc@outlook.com

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Larry Davidson
ldlarrydavidson@yahoo.com

**April
DAILY**



2021

for our YOUTH

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



1

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ~ John 13:14

Adonai, may XXX embrace the truth of who she is - Your beloved child! May her love for others flow freely as she humbly serves others like You did.

2

... "They will look on the one they have pierced." ~ John 19:37

My God, my Lord, may the highlights of the day - sin, the cross, redemption and love have a new meaning to XXX and pierce his heart, leading to a deeper relationship with You.

3

All of you are God's children because of your faith in Christ Jesus. ~ Galatians 3:26

Lord of Peace, please help XXX comprehend what it means to be a child of God; chosen, forgive, redeemed, justified, sanctified, and glorified.

4

He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. ~ Matthew 28:6

HAPPY EASTER - He Has RISEN!!

Majesty, may today remind XXX to choose to live in the joy and grace of the triumphant life You lovingly offer him as You have risen just as You said You would!

5

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." ~ Luke 22:42

Blessed Father, may XXX have the humility to submit to Your authority, even when he knows submission would result in pain and suffering.

6

Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have. ~ Hebrews 13:5

Glorious Lord, may XXX learn to be content with what she has, knowing each of her actions, words and attitude reflect her choice.

7

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up. ~ Ephesians 4:29

Merciful Father, please season XXX's conversations with the salt of wisdom and grace, so he responds to everyone in a manner that builds them up according to their needs.

8

...let us also lay aside every weight, and the sin which clings so closely,... run with endurance the race that is set before us. ~ Hebrews 12:1-2

Almighty King, please strengthen XXX, so he acknowledges and lays aside every weight and sin that so easily ensnares him. Help him run with endurance the race of life You set before him.

9

But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. ~ 1 Samuel 12:24

Omniscient God, may XXX have a reverence for You and serve You faithfully with all her heart and soul. When doubts arise, remind her of all the great things You faithfully have done for her.

10

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ~ 1 John 1:9

Eternal Father, you are faithful and just. Please convict XXX of his sins. Forgive him and purify him from all unrighteousness.

11

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share. ~ 1 Timothy 6:18-19

Awesome Lord, please prompt XXX to do good, be rich in good works, be generous and always ready to share her blessings.

12

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm. ~ Proverbs 13:20

Gracious God, may XXX wisely seek friendships only with wise people who are good influences, knowing a companion of fools will eventually suffer harm.

13

Respect everyone, and love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God, and respect the king. ~ 1 Peter 2:17

Savior Father, please teach XXX how to develop respectful, good relationships with the people in her life; her parents, relatives, friends, and even acquaintances.

14

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you. ~ 3 John 1:2

God of All Hope, may all be well with XXX. Please bless him with good health; physically, emotionally and spiritually.

15

And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. ~ John 8:32

Blessed God, please soften all areas of XXX's heart that dishonesty has hardened. May she yield to Your truth which offers her grace and sets her free from the bondage of all sins.

April
DAILY



2021
for our YOUTH

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

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