

THE FLAME

Volume 51, Issue 6

June 2021



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Let's go on a
FIELD TRIP!



Splash Day
Thursday, June 3rd
Free



Adults are needed for all of the trips. If you are willing to chaperone and/or drive a car (our van and bus may not hold all of the attendees) please sign up in the office or with Cathie Gilliland. (580) 762-1681

New Life Trails
Tuesday, June 22nd
Free
Bring a sack lunch

Children, Youth and Adults **MUST BE** pre-registered, and appropriate permission slips signed in order to participate.



Exploration Place
Tuesday, June 8th
Adults & Youth \$10
Children \$8



Ultimate Air Trampoline Park
Tuesday, June 29th
\$10 per Jumper



Pastor
Don Griffin

A few years ago, my best friend and colleague faced a dilemma over the release of the Harry Potter movies. A young couple approached him wanting to know if he was going to condemn the movie from the pulpit and strongly recommend parents forbid the children and youth of the church from attending the movie. My friend had a son in his early teens who loved the books and was excited about the movie coming out soon. He asked the couple if they had read the books since they were condemning them as evil. Of course, they had not read the books. What would you do if you were in my friend's situation?

I have never read a Harry Potter book, nor have I seen any of the movies. It is not because I believe they represent some evil, but it is just not my thing. I never got into the Star Wars movies but will admit I am a Star Trek person...but only the original incarnation and the recent Abram's reboot. I prefer non-fiction to fiction; it is just a personal taste issue. I do not con-

demn those who love the Potter world or run around on May 4th wearing their Star Wars t-shirts, but I would much rather read a book about someone's life or thoughts that would teach me something about a subject. I particularly like books and information that challenges me to think and examine my own preconceived notions and ideas. The only way we grow is to be challenged.

My friend encouraged this couple to at least read the first book before they decided about it and to consider that other parents may have differing ideas about the appropriateness of the books and movies for their children. As you probably imagine, this couple immediately left my friend's church for not agreeing with them. Even though they disagreed on this book/movie, there was much they had worked together on in the past. I know how painful it was for my best friend to lose that family over a disagreement about a movie/book. Again, I have not read any of the books nor watched one minute of any of the movies and could not give an opinion on their content. I have seen most of the Star Wars movies and just do not care for them as much as other genres. I had a church member take me to see the opening night of Star Wars III-Revenge of the Sith. He was so excited and loved every moment and I enjoyed spending time with my friend. Sorry, but I will admit they are a cultural phenomenon. There is nothing wrong with losing yourself in a book or movie you for which you have a great fondness.

Unlike the fantasy world where characters tend to be totally good or bad (remember the old cowboy

movies - bad guys wear black hats and good guys wear white hats?) life is just not that way. Most people are not all good or all bad. We tend to be a combination of strengths and weaknesses that have developed over the course of our lives. In fact, most of us bear the scars of our brokenness that tend to shape who we are and what we believe. It is a mistake to judge people on their likes and dislikes. It is an even greater mistake to believe that people who differ from us or disagree with us over any subject are not capable of contributing to our lives and to society. There are many actors, athletes, public figures and even ordinary people who I disagree with on many issues but still believe they contribute positive things to society and to my life. Remember, you will never look into the eyes of a person that God does not love profoundly!

I can disagree with a person and still choose not to hate them. I can find value in their ideas and appreciate the contribution they make to my life and society without endorsing everything they have done or will do in their lives. In fact, the key to growing spiritually is when we stop judging others by our standards and begin seeing and loving them with God's. Come grow with me.

Serving Jesus,

Pastor Don



Music Notes

by Joycelynn Davidson



June is here and it's almost summer. The spring rains have been wonderful but I'm so ready for warmer weather!

Chancel Choir is back in the loft! It has been so good to be rehearsing again and able to enhance worship once more. We will continue rehearsal through June.

During July there will be

specials in the form of solos, duets, instrumental, etc. If you would like to be scheduled in, please let me know.

I am looking ahead to fall and Christmas with plans of being able to sing without masks and preparing a Christmas cantata. It's coming... "The Great Crescendo;" the world-wide return of choirs in their full glory.

"To stop the flow of music would be like the stopping of time itself, incredible and inconceivable."

~Aaron Copland

Handbells

Carillon Bells have had a great time this spring. We've been able to add ringers and bells until we are up to 2 1/2 octaves. It would be great to add two or three more ringers in the fall.

We were able to ring in April and May for worship. It was

well received and enjoyed by the congregation.

Looking forward, a quartet/quintet will be working on a couple pieces to present for worship in August. I'm so grateful for my ringers willing to rehearse in the summer. And a big THANK YOU to all who participated this spring!



Kids' M&Ms

As you know, we don't meet during the summer. However, check out Cathie's article for some awesome, fun summer

adventures. She is planning both in town and out of town experiences that you won't want to miss. Bring a friend! Call the church office, Cathie or Lindsey to sign up.





Hey, Youth and Youth parents,

May has been a fun month. Looking forward, June looks to be a fun and busy month!

Instead of doing WOW (Wednesday on the Word) each week, we will be splitting up the girls and boys and doing Girl Talk Bible study on Wednesdays at 10 AM; and then Boy Talk Bible study on Wednesdays at 4 PM.

All other events and activities will be done as one group. I will be sending out more information about all events just before they are scheduled. See the calendar at right for the youth activities for June:

Hope to see you all participate!
Lindsey

Date	Event	Start Time
1st	Fat Tuesday	11:30 AM
2nd	Girl Talk Boy Talk	10:00 AM 4:00 PM
3rd	Summer Adventure Day # 2 Splash Pad	10:00 AM— 30:00 PM
4th-5th	Garage Sale	8:00 AM- 2:00 PM
6th	Youth Lake Party	5:0 PM
8th	Summer Adventure Day #3 Exploration Place (Wichita)	8:30 AM –5:00 PM, \$10 per person
9th	Girl Talk Boy Talk	10:00 AM 4:00 PM
10th	Youth Work Day	10:30 AM
14th –17th	VBS	5:30 –8:00 PM
After VBS Youth Activities		
Monday	Night Swim	8:30 PM
Tuesday	Capture the Flag	8:30 PM
Wednesday	Minute to Win it Night	8:30 PM
Thursday -Friday	Youth Lock In	8:30 PM—8:00 AM
22nd	Summer Adventure Day #4 New Life Trails	9:30 AM—3:00 PM
23rd	Girl Talk Boy Talk	10:00 AM 4:00 PM
24th	Youth Work Day	10:30 AM
29th	Summer Adventure Day #5 (Ultimate Air Trampoline Park)	8:30 AM—2:00 PM \$10 per person



**Help With Garage Sale
June 4th –5th
8:00 AM—2:00 PM**



**Lake Party
June 6th, 5:00 PM
Lake Ponca**



**Youth Bible Study
Girl Talk - 10:00 AM
Boy Talk - 4:00 PM**



**Help With VBS
June 14 - 17
5:30-8:00 PM**



**Youth Lock In
June 17th
8:30 PM—8:00 AM**

The youth have several service days planned for the summer. If you have something you need done at your home, contact Lindsey to arrange a date and time with the youth.

Dates and work TBD.



See it all in pictures next month!



SENIOR SUNDAY

**Nate Harbeson
And Anisa Layton**

Nate Harbeson, Po-Hi.
Nate will attend
NOC-OSU Gateway in
Stillwater this fall. He will
be majoring in
Business Management.



*Congratulations! Now, go out there
and change the world!!*



Anisa Layton, Newkirk.
Anisa will attend
Oklahoma State University
in the fall. She is majoring
in Creative Writing.



The grads and their families enjoyed a breakfast before Senior Sunday prepared by Lindsey



If you did not get to hear the bells ring in May, go out on Facebook and check it out! AWESOME!!!



Our UMW ladies and Youth have worked hard to get ready for the garage sale. Who knows what treasures or items of fashion await. Be sure to tell your friends about the sale.





I'm sure there are a lot of people who think their children's sermons would go better if they had a cattle prod on hand, but I promise, it was never used, except as a prop!



When you are driving around, do you ever take time to read the signs posted by the Pioneer Woman on N 14th? For the last couple of years we have used these signs to promote every thing from Special Performances, to VBS, to Youth activities. Make sure you invite people you know to visit our church. We are open to ideas that will draw people to our church.



The next Adventure Day will be a trip to a local Splash Pad on Thursday, June 3rd, and it is free!
Meet in the parking lot wearing your bathing suit at 10:45 AM.
They will be at the splash pad until 11:30 AM then return to the church for pizza and to see the Veggie Tale movie Jonah. They need a t-shirt to wear at the splash pad, a towel, and a change of clothes. You may pick them up at 3:00 PM.



HAIKU FOR JUNE

June is Bursting out.
 God touches His folk
 to Shout!
 Praise His mighty Name.
 ~Wayne Moore

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Dan Petty	06/06	Earl Behara	06/17	Viviane Wells	06/25
Becky Hightower	06/08	Janet Ray	06/17	Colton Grubbs	06/26
Don Nuzum	06/08	Terry Stephen	06/17	Rylee Webster	06/28
Tom Burton	06/10	Ron Matheson	06/18	Jean Jennings	06/29
Dianna Dawdy	06/12	John Gilberg	06/20		
Becky Poet	06/12	Desta Parks	06/20		
Brice Chism	06/16	Jarod Hinch	06/22		
Paul Kuehny	06/16	Diane Cavett	06/24		
Ann Powell	06/16	Kara Wells	06/24		





Friendship Feast Coordinator Needed

FUMC serves the clients at Friendship Feast every third Monday of each month. We are in need of someone who will coordinate the meal each month. This will only take about three hours of your time. We already have four very excellent cooks and a family who provides the ingredients for each meal. The coordinator just needs to check with the cooks to be sure they are available and keep track of what ingredients are needed for each month's meal to let the family who provides the ingredients know what they need to purchase. Right now the clients are getting the meals as a takeout but when we start serving inside again, there may be a need for servers. You would also need to be at the Christian Church on the Monday that we provide the food for a couple of hours just to help where needed. If you can serve in this capacity, please let me know. My email is ajrj@swbell.net or you can call me at 580-763-3460.

Arleen Jacobson



PRAYER CORNER

Giving Thanks For Summer

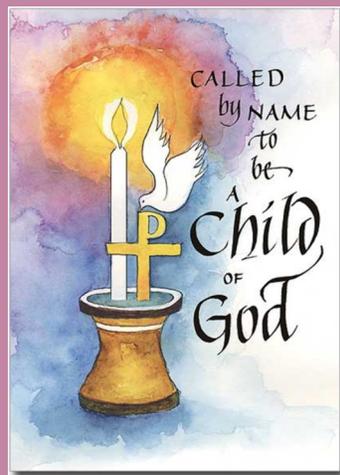
Father, Creator of all,
 thank You for summer!
 Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight.
 Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside
 and enjoy Your creation.
 Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season.
 Draw me closer to You this summer.
 Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing.
 Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence and light my path with Your Word and Counsel.
 As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You.
 - Author Unknown



The Fifties

We spent those stifling endless summer afternoons on hot front porches, cutting paper dolls from Sears catalogs, making up our own ideal families complete with large appliances and an all-occasion wardrobe with fold-down paper tabs. Sometimes we left crayons on the cement landing, just to watch them melt. We followed the shade around the house. Time was a jarful of pennies, too hot to spend, stretching long and sticky, a brick of Bonomo's Turkish Taffy. Tomorrow'd be more of the same, ending with softball or kickball, then hide and seek in the mosquitoey dark. Fireflies, like connect-the-dots or find-the-hidden-words, rose and glowed, winked on and off, their cool fires coded signals of longing and love that we would one day learn to speak.

~Barbara Crooker



Church is more than putting on your Sunday best and going to worship on Sunday morning. Each of us serves as a minister in service to the Lord. If you are willing to help or serve, these are your opportunities for June:

- 1) Volunteers for VBS and the Outdoor Adventure Days.
- 2) Supplies for VBS. The list of items needed and sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board by the Fellowship Hall.
- 3) Friendship Feast Coordinator.



2021

SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THUR

FRI

SAT

		<p>1 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 11:30 Youth Fat Tuesday 7:00 VBS Leaders Meeting</p>	<p>2 10:00 Girl's Bible Study 4:00 Boys Bible Study 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>3 10:00 Summer Adventure Day Splash Pad</p>	<p>4 8:00 Garage Sale</p>	<p>5 8:00 Garage Sale</p>
<p>6 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Communion Food Sack Sunday 5:00 Youth Lake Party</p>	<p>7 8:30 Summer Adventure Day 6:30 Bill's Bible Study</p>	<p>8 8:30 Summer Adventure Day Exploration Place 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:00 Trustees</p>	<p>9 10:00 Girl's Bible Study 4:00 Boys Bible Study 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>10 10:30 Youth Work Day</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship</p>	<p>14 6:30 Bill's Bible Study</p>	<p>15 9:00 Intercessory Prayer</p>	<p>16 4:00 WOW 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>OUT DOOR VBS 6:00—8:15 PM</p>						
<p>Youth Activities after VBS 8:30 PM</p>				<p>Youth Lock-In 8:30 PM—8:00 AM</p>		
<p>20 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Father's Day Father's Day</p>	<p>21 6:30 Bill's Bible Study</p>	<p>22 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 9:30 Summer Adventure Day New Life Trails</p>	<p>23 10:00 Girl's Bible Study 4:00 Boys Bible Study 7:00 Choir</p>	<p>24 10:30 Youth Work Day</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship</p>	<p>28 9:00 PM Patches 6:30 Bill's Bible Study</p>	<p>29 8:30 Summer Adventure Day Ultimate Air Trampoline Park 9:00 Intercessory Prayer</p>	<p>30 10:00 Girl's Bible Study 4:00 Boys Bible Study</p>			

First United Methodist Church
 P.O. Box 71
 Ponca City, OK 74602
 (580) 762-1681
 Fax: 580-762-1839
 fumcpc41@gmail.com
 www.fumcpc.org
 Like us on Facebook:
 PoncaCityFirstUnitedMethodistChurch



Song of the Open Road

Afoot and light-hearted I take to the open road,
 Healthy, free, the world before me,
 The long brown path before me
 leading me wherever I choose,
 Henceforth I ask not good-fortune, I
 myself am good-fortune,
 Henceforth I whimper no more,
 postpone no more, need nothing,
 Done with indoor complaints, librari-
 es, querulous criticisms,
 Strong and content I travel the open
 road.

~ Walt Whitman

No matter where your travels take you this summer, be sure to take us with you each Sunday on Facebook.



THANK YOU

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.

It takes a generous heart to do what you do. Thank you, First United Methodist Church, for your generous donation. We appreciate your generosity in these trying times and aiding in the fight to end hunger.

Sincerely,

Tom Short & staff
 New Emergency Resource Agency



A heartfelt thank you for your prayers, visits, calls, cards, and loving care through Marty's illness and following his death. I have felt enfolded in God's love because of you. What a blessing!

Love,

Vicki Stokke



Cosmic City VBS
June 14-17
Monday - Thursday
Outdoor VBS
From 6:00-8:15 PM
Sign-up cards
available in the
Welcome Center.
If you would like to
donate snack items
for Bible School, the
sign-up list is on the
Fellowship Hall bulletin board.
We are asking for a
donation of \$5 for
the purchase of a
VBS t-shirt.
There will be a VBS
leaders meeting
Tuesday, June 2nd,
At 7:00 PM

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

Sheila Foxworthy
sheila.foxworthy@gmail.com

CHURCH SECRETARY

Dianne Clark
fumcpc41@gmail.com

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Larry Davidson
ldlarrydavidson@yahoo.com



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

**Daily
FUMC
Youth
Prayers
for our Sons/
Daughter,
Grandsons/
Granddaughters
& all our loved
ones.**

If you would like to receive these daily prayers by text send your NAME + the word "YOUTH" to 405/564-3260

1
Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and become a slave.
-Proverbs 12:24

Loving God, Please instill strong work ethics in XXX. May he work hard and become a leader amongst his peers. Amen!

2
"I am the LORD; that is My name! I will not give My glory to anyone else, nor share My praise with carved idols.
-Isaiah 42:8

Sovereign Father, May XXX worship You the Creator giving You all the praise and glory in life. Amen!

3
Let your face shine on Your servant; save me in Your unflinching love.
-Psalm 31:16

Holy Lord, Let Your face shine on Your servant, XXX. May he enjoy Your gracious presence. Save him in Your unflinching love. Amen!

4
For we are God's handwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
-Ephesians 2:10

Almighty God, Please open XXX's eyes to see the life You intend for her. Stir her to use her gifts and talents for Your divine purpose & glory. Amen!

5
As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.'
-1 Peter 1:14

Glorious Father, May XXX be holy in his conduct, as an obedient child, not conforming to the evil desires of the past. Amen!

6
Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
-Ephesians 6:17

Lord Jesus, May XXX don the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, each and every day! Amen!

7
After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.
-1 King 19:12

Everlasting Lord, Please quiet XXX's mind so he may hear Your quiet voice as You tell him the direction to go. Amen!

8
But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."
-Matthew 14:27

Awesome Father, Please help XXX control her mind. May she take courage and not be afraid for You are with her whenever, wherever she is. Amen!

9
The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.
-Psalm 25:14

Eternal Lord, Please calibrate my children's ears to hear You as You confide Your desires to them. Convict them to obey promptly. Amen!

10
Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!
-Proverbs 6:6

Savior God, May XXX be like an illustrious ant, hardworking and wise, and not a sluggard. Amen!

11
And so the Lord says, "These people say they are mine. They honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.
-Isaiah 29:13

Merciful 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 church culture. Amen!

12
Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart,...
-Acts 2:37

Dear Lord, When XXX hears Your Word, may it pierce him to the heart, turning him to You. Amen!

JUNE 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Therefore, ¹³ if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! -2 Corinthians 5:17</p> <p>Father God, May XXX live as a new creation leaving the old behind, and embracing the exciting new life God has ordained for her. Amen!</p>	<p>Above all ¹⁴ else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. -Proverbs 4:23</p> <p>Omnipresent Father, May XXX be mindful that above all else, he is to be careful to guard his heart, for everything he does flows from it. Amen!</p>	<p>Blessed ¹⁵ are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. -Matthew 5:9</p> <p>Lord of Peace, May XXX one who reaches out in friendship to others, easily offering love and kindness. May she be a peace-maker. Amen!</p>	<p>God saved ¹⁶ you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. -Ephesians 2:8</p> <p>Blessed God, Please save XXX by Your grace. May he understand this was Your gift when he believed, not something he earned or deserves. Amen!</p>	<p>A good man ¹⁷ brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart,... For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. -Luke 6:45</p> <p>Almighty Father, The mouth speaks out of the abundance of the heart. May XXX be a good woman whose heart store is full of good and worthy things pleasing to You. Amen!</p>	<p>Cast all ¹⁸ your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. -1 Peter 5:7</p> <p>Savior Lord, May my children cast all their anxieties on You, because you care for them. Amen!</p>	<p>Satisfy us ¹⁹ in the morning with Your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. -Psalm 90:14</p> <p>Jehovah God, Please satisfy XXX in the morning with Your unfailing love. May he sing for joy and be glad all his days. Amen!</p>
<p>I will give ²⁰ 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</p> <p>Eternal Father, Please break apart XXX's stubborn heart of stone. Give her a new heart and mind that is obedient & receptive to Your will. Amen!</p>	<p>Ears that ²¹ hear and eyes that see-- the LORD has made them both. -Proverbs 20:12</p> <p>Precious Lord, Please make XXX listen to Your voice and see Your hand at work in his life. May he be prepared and willing to obey You. Amen!</p>	<p>When I am ²² afraid, I will trust in You. -Psalm 56:3</p> <p>Mighty God, Whenever XXX is frightened or afraid, may she place her trust in You and seek refuge in You. Amen!</p>	<p>For no word ²³ from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. -Luke 1:37-38</p> <p>Loving Father, May XXX know that there is absolutely nothing that is impossible with You Lord. Amen!</p>	<p>Look, I have ²⁴ given you authority over all the power of the enemy, ... Nothing will injure you. -Luke 10:19</p> <p>Almighty Lord, When fearful, please remind XXX that You have given her the authority to overcome all her enemies. Nothing will injure her. Amen!</p>	<p>... making ²⁵ your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; -Proverbs 2:2</p> <p>Eternal God, May XXX's ears perk up at wisdom and his heart be inclined to understanding, so he can easily distinguish between right and wrong. Amen!</p>	<p>A ²⁶ generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. -Proverbs 11:25</p> <p>Heavenly Father, May XXX be a generous person who prospers. May XXX refresh others as she is also refreshed. Amen!</p>

JUNE 2021



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

Then I said ²⁷ to you, "Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them."
-Deuteronomy 1:29-30

Sovereign Lord, As my children go about their day, may they not be terrified or afraid of anything, as You, Lord God go before them, making a way for them. Amen!

But Jesus ²⁸ Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.
-Luke 5:16

Lord God, May XXX yearn for You. May he make time to be alone with You to pray. Amen!

But Moses ²⁹ told the people, "Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the LORD rescue you today."
-Exodus 14:13

Everlasting Father, May XXX stand firm, and fear not! Prompt her to stand still and watch You at work, bringing her deliverance . Amen!

Jesus said, ³⁰ "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up His clothes by casting lots.
-Luke 23:34

Loving Lord, Please forgive XXX when he acts badly out of ignorance. Amen!

**Daily
FUMC Youth
Prayers
for our Sons/Daughter,
Grandsons/Granddaughters
& all our loved ones.**

If you would like to receive these daily prayers by text send your NAME + the word "YOUTH" to 405/564-3260