

# THE FLAME

Volume 51, Issue 11

November 2021



Come, Ye Thankful People, Come!



Church Garage Sale  
November 5 & 6



UMW  
Thanksgiving Dinner  
Wednesday  
November 17th, 5:30 PM



Decorate for Advent  
Sunday, December 21st  
After Church  
Pizza Lunch for those who  
decorate. Lots of hands  
make for quick work.



Pastor  
Don Griffin

In Acts 5:1-11, we are told a very troubling story about Ananias and Sapphira. This husband and wife sold a piece of property and gave some of the proceeds to the church. Where they got in trouble was, they lied and told everyone they gave the entire amount to the church when they had conspired to hold part of it back.

3 Then Peter said, “Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. 4 The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!”

5 As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified.

The sad occurrence happens again later when Sapphira lies to the church about the money and meets the same tragic fate. The problem was not keeping part of the proceeds for themselves. It was thinking they could lie and get the adoration of those around them not realizing they

were trying to deceive God himself.

When you joined First Church, you made a covenant with God and with our church to “faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service.” Every time anyone has joined our church since, as part of the ritual, we recommit ourselves with the following words:

“we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”

I want to ask you to think about how faithful you have been in living up to the covenant you made with God and our Church family. Do you pray daily for our church family? Do you pray by name for the Pastor and staff and leaders of our church? Do you pray for God’s guidance in your own personal ministry as Jesus’ disciple? Do you attend worship each week? To support the church with our presence simply means just that, we are there! In the day of Covid this has been a challenge for many. Did you know you can join the live stream of our worship on Facebook and Sparklight Channel 68?

Did you know you can worship using our weekly service anytime on Facebook and on YouTube? In the past this was not possible but now it is very difficult to find an excuse not to worship God regularly since you can do it at your convenience. Did you know we have 35 - 40 who worship with us each week online? Do you offer your gifts to God through our church?

This question is about more than supporting the church financially. November 21<sup>st</sup> is stewardship Sun-

day, and you will have the opportunity to share with us your plans to financially support First Church in 2022. It helps us anticipate our resources to do God’s work in Ponca City. Do you seek to serve God through our church as part of your everyday life? This means taking the abilities and opportunities God has given you to help grow the kingdom and our church. I will give you a good example of something you can do every week, or every day, and it will not take much effort. You can like and share our worship each week on your Facebook page. I checked; it takes less than 5 seconds to do just that. In less than 5 seconds you can share God’s worship and our church with all who follow you on that format. A wonderful prayer ministry posts devotional type prayers on a regular basis on our Facebook page. Less than 5 seconds and you can share those.

The story of Ananias and Sapphira is not a warning that God will strike you down if you do not give enough. Instead, it is a warning to us not to take lightly our commitments to God and to our church. Ultimately the person we hurt and deceive the most when we fail to keep our commitments to God and the church is ourselves.

Advent begins in November. Christmas is just weeks away as is the New Year. What a tremendous time for us to revisit and renew our commitment to God.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Pastor Don



# Music Notes



## Coming up...

**November 14**  
Kids sing for worship

**November 17**  
Kid's field trip to NERA

**November 22—Monday**  
Extra rehearsal for cantata

**November 24**  
NO REHEARSALS

**November 28**  
Hanging of the Greens

**December 12**  
Christmas Cantata

## Chancel Choir

It has been a crazy fall for Chancel Choir with me being in and out of the hospital. I would like to extend a huge THANKS to Marta Sullivan for filling in as director during September. It was a blessing to know that the choir was in such good hands.

**I'm back!** And with that being said, we will be preparing a cantata this year. It is a little late to

by Joycelynn Davidson

start but we can do it. If you would like to sing with us, come to rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. The cantata this year is *Nativity Suites* by Benjamin Harlan which will be presented in worship on Sunday, December 12th. We will have guest instrumentalists to enhance the accompaniment along with all the beautiful Christmas decorations. Mark your calendars to attend.

## SACK-OUT / SACK-IN SUNDAYS

### NOVEMBER 7 & 14

Kids' M&Ms take an annual field trip to NERA to deliver the food sacks collected during November. It's always a fun, lively, exciting afternoon that the kids look forward to doing. Be sure to get your sack on November 7th and fill it with non-perishable foods.

Bring your sack back on Sunday, November 14th. We'll

have the children sing that day as well. It's a fun, festive day of worship with the altar decorated for Thanksgiving and all the food sacks on display.

Then, on Wednesday, November 17th we gather all the food sacks and load them and the kids in the vans for a trip to New Emergency Resource Agency to deliver the food. This will be our last session until January.



Kids getting ready for Children's Sabbath. Some just saw themselves on the screens.



## Carillon Bells

My faithful ringers have suffered the most with my being out this fall. We are just now getting back into the swing of things. I'm looking forward to hearing the bells of Christmas! We will be preparing a couple of Christmas songs to be rung during worship in December. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm if you would like to ring with us.



## RIO BRAVO

First United Methodist Church in Ponca City continues to support the Rio Bravo Volunteers in Mission project by keeping their finances. This year church members prayed for the group during the week and sent them off with a card of support. The Rio Bravo team built two houses for two families during the second week in October.

Every Mission Trip to Mexico is an experience! This was no exception! We had a small (13 member) team this year coming from 5 states with just one new member. Experience helps! In three days, we built 2 new casitas

for a couple of very economically challenged families! These casitas are 16' x 20', one room concrete block structures with two doors and windows. One of them had an upper room (loft) for a play area or most likely a bedroom.

One family, having 5 children, had been waiting for a casita to move into for over one year! They were so excited as you can imagine! The other family, having 3 children, simply needed more space for survival. The wooden structure they had been living in leaked badly and had large openings cut in the old wooden siding which they covered with screening and used for ventilation during the summer heat. Both of these families lived within 40 feet of a railroad track which was known as a "squatter"

location. Before we build a casita, the family has to prove they own the property. This area had been inhabited by very poverty stricken, transient families with no place to go.

It is such a wonderful experience to bring God's love to these families. Both of them are Christians and go to church regularly, but to see Americans pay to come down and build a home for them, definitely showed them we were there as God's Hands and Feet! The appreciation showed through each tear that ran down their faces at the dedication. No greater joy can be felt by the blessing we received by our service. Thank each one of you for your prayers and donations.

Bill and Cherish Wentroth



## MISSION TEAM



## DEDICATION



# YOUTH NEWS



Hey youth and youth parents,

This last month was filled with so much fun. Along with our usual Wednesday night youth, we took a trip to Frontier City for Frightfest. The youth loved it and can't wait for next year. I want to give big thank you to Josh and Jeannetta Harbeson, and James and Laurie Seidel for going with us and helping.

This month we will continue Wednesday night youth along with a hayride and cookout at Travis and Teri Harris land. More details on that will be sent out soon.

We will not have Wednesday night youth on November 24 due to it being Thanksgiving break. I also want to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving. Can't wait to see everyone this month.

Blessings

Lindsey



**Get out your crayons!**

# Happy Thanksgiving!





## PRAYER CORNER

Lord God,

Our hearts are crowded with gratitude as we celebrate the feast of Thanksgiving.

We have come to this our feasting table with great joy and eagerness, for we are truly grateful to you, our God, for all that we have been given.

We pause now and, in silent prayer, do thank you for the great generosity of Your gifts.

We also thank one another for gifts—especially for the gifts of love and affection that we freely share.

We are thankful for all who are present at this our feast as well as for all those who have labored in love in order to bring this dinner to our table.

May You, our God, bless this Thanksgiving feast and all of us who shall share it in your holy name.

*- Hays, Edward, Prayers for the Domestic Church: A Handbook for Worship in the Home*



## November Haiku

We give Thanks to God.  
He is Wonderful;  
and All Mighty is His name.

~Wayne Moore

# Staff appreciation

Each year during November and December we collect a staff appreciation offering to be divided among the members of our staff.

Pastor Don, Joycelynn, Cathie, Sheila, Jordan, Lindsey, Debbie, Dianne and Larry work tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure our services go

smoothly and at the same time handle the needs of our congregation. Be sure to take this opportunity to thank them for all they do.



Thursday, November 4 at 6:00 UMW will meet in the fellowship hall. Mary Lou Lorette will be in charge of the meeting. Hope you all can make it.

Wednesday, November 17th at 5:30 PM we invite you to join us for our annual Thanksgiving dinner. UMW will supply the turkey and the dressing. We ask that you bring your favorite Thanksgiving side dish. UMW will also be selling pear honey, pear butter, apple butter, chunky apple butter and a special spicy jelly. The proceeds will go to the World Thank offering.



Pecans are also available for \$13 a pound. The pecans will be ordered as order forms are received.

If you are looking for a Christmas present, don't forget that Ponca City afghans are still available for \$50 each. They are multicolored.



## FUMUPC Family Christmas



**Wednesday  
December 15th  
5:30 PM  
Family, Food & Fun!**



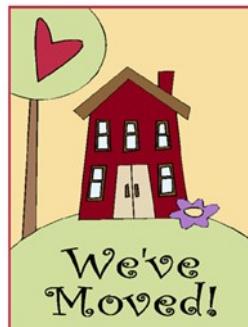
**Sunday, November 21st**

If you are unable to attend church that Sunday, your pledge cards may be mailed to the church: PO Box 72

Ponca City, OK 74602

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



Donna Walker  
Via Christi 1601 Academy Rd  
Rm 15, Bed 1  
Ponca City, OK 74604

Jim and Kathy Hughes  
Via Christi 1601 Academy Rd  
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John & Dianne Clark  
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Stan & Linda Long  
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## THANKSGIVING FUN FACTS

- A ripe cranberry will bounce.
- All turkeys and chickens have wishbones.
- Canadians celebrate their own Thanksgiving every October.
- Abraham Lincoln declared a national day of Thanksgiving in 1863.
- The first Macy's Thanksgiving Parade was held in 1924.



Gobbles the Turkey made his first appearance in the 1929 Parade. Designer Tony Sarge.



The Rockettes did not appear in the Thanksgiving Day parade until 1957.





# NOVEMBER

2021



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 3:30 Kids' M&Ms 4:00 WOW 7:00 Chancel Choir	4 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study 6:00 UMW	5	6
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Communion All Saint's Sunday Sack Out Sunday Children's Church 11:15 Church Council 11:30 UMW Executive Committee Meeting	8 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 2:00 Carillon Handbells 6:30 Bill's Bible Study	9 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 2:00 Carillon Handbells 6:30 Bill's Bible Study	10 3:30 Kids' M&Ms 4:00 WOW 7:00 Chancel Choir	11 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study	12	13 Youth Hayride & Cookout
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Veteran's Sunday Children's Church	15 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 2:00 Carillon Handbells 6:00 Trustees 6:30 Bill's Bible Study	16 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 2:00 Carillon Handbells 6:00 Trustees 6:30 Bill's Bible Study	17 3:30 Kids' M&Ms Trip to NERA 4:00 WOW 5:30 UMW Thanksgiving Dinner 7:00 Chancel Choir	18 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study	19	20
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Children's Church Decorate for Advent	22 5:00 Friendship Feast 7:00 Chancel Choir	23 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 2:00 Carillon Handbells 6:30 Bill's Bible Study	24 Office Closes at Noon Today	25 <b>Thanksgiving Office Closed</b>	26	27
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Hanging of the Greens Children's Church 1:30 Charge Conference at St. Paul's	29 9:00 Staff Meeting	30 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 2:00 Carillon Handbells 6:30 Bill's Bible Study	"Autumn! The greatest show of all times!" — Mehmet Murat ildan			



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[PoncaCityFirstUnitedMethodistChurch](#)  
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*There are still openings for children in the MDO program. They meet on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 AM–3:00 PM. While this program is not intended to serve as full time child care, it gives children an opportunity to socialize with other children, hear wonderful stories, play outside and give Mom a break in routine.*

*For more information contact the director,  
 Jordan Meador.*



### A List of Things Kids Say They Were Thankful For

Ceiling fans

Hot Wheels

Gas

Shoes. Getting new shoes. People who make shoes.

Toilet paper.

The Statue of Liberty.' — When asked her why, she shrugged her shoulders and said 'Well, why not?!?



We have a thankful tree and my 5-year-old daughter and 3-year-old son put up a leaf on it daily. My son has so far been thankful for the trash truck driver, Paw Patrol, drummers, my parents' dog, and the vacuum cleaner

Cookies, Lots Of Cookies

A boy, age 5, made a hand turkey. He wrote he was thankful for his dog. He didn't have a dog.

I'm thankful for snowmen, daddy, and quesadillas.

Dinosaurs and peanut butter & jelly sandwiches.

I am thankful for... my new scissors!

I am thankful for everything... except tigers and lions and sharks, because they bite.

Sparkles



## OUR STAFF

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# November 2021

## Daily Prayers



### for our YOUTH —

- Our Sons/Daughters, Grandsons/Granddaughters  
& all the ones we love.

**1**

...be strong and brave. Don't ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the LORD your God, and I will be there to help you wherever you go.  
~ Joshua 1:9

Sovereign God, may XXX be strong and brave, knowing You are always with him to help wherever he goes. Please fill him with courage even when feeling persecuted. Amen!

**2**

Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness; let him rebuke me ... let my head not refuse it... ~ Psalm 141:5

Gracious Father, please bring righteous people into XXX's life who will lovingly rebuke and correct her as necessary. May she recognize this reproof as a blessing and not reject or resent it. Amen!

**3**

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ~ 1 John 4:11

Omnipotent Lord, please grant XXX a soft heart, one that is loving to others as freely as You love him. Amen!

**4**

But you, LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high.  
~ Psalm 3:3

Everlasting God, please heal and release XXX of the pain of any past hurts, rejections, humiliations, or abuse. Be her glory, the One who lifts her head high, so she is shaped into a woman after Your own heart. Amen!

**5**

Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. ~ Romans 6:12

Omnipresent Father, may XXX not let sin reign in his mortal body. May he be self-disciplined, in control and not give in to sinful desires. Amen!

**6**

"Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure." ~ 1 Timothy 5:22

Savior Lord, please grant XXX discernment. May she not get caught up in the excitement of sinful activities. May she stay pure in thought, words and deeds. Amen!

**7**

"If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; ~ Jeremiah 15:19

Eternal God, if XXX has engaged in any behavior of which he is ashamed, reassure him it is not too late for him to repent and be restored with the joy of Your salvation. Amen!

**8**

"In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality." ~ 1 Timothy 5:21

Loving Father, may XXX love justice and fairness. May her judgments not be marred by favoritism. Amen!

**9**

"But he said, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!'"  
~ Luke 11:28

Sovereign Lord, may my child hear the word of God and strive to keep it at all times. Amen!

**10**

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. ~ Psalm 119:11

Mighty God, may XXX hide Your Word in his heart so it guides him and he does not sin against You. Amen!

**11**

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty pride, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves... ~ Philippians 2:3-4

King of Kings, please prompt XXX to act in humility, and not out of selfish ambition or empty pride. May she hold others more important than herself, considering their interests, not just her own. Amen!

**12**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding; ... acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.... ~ Proverbs 3:5-6

Awesome Father, please help XXX resist the temptation to lean on his own understanding as he goes through his day. May he submit to Your direction, trusting You to make his path straight. Amen!

**13**

In your strength I can crush an army; with my God I can scale any wall. ~ Psalm 18:29

Almighty Lord, in Your name, I claim victory for XXX over all the obstacles in her life. With Your help, she can crush an army against her; with You, she can scale any wall. Amen!

**14**

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. ~ 1 Corinthians 16:13

Adonai, please give XXX the courage to be strong; to stand up, stand firm in faith and stand together with the marginalized in his community. Amen!

**15**

This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. ~ Psalm 118:24

My God, my Lord, when XXX wakes up each morning, may her attitude be "This is the day the Lord has made". May she arise with enthusiasm, be joyful and glad to be in it. Amen!

**16**

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves... that they may do it with joy. ~ Hebrews 13:17

Lord of Peace, may XXX recognize and respect the authority of his teachers and elders. May he be a pleasure to care for, contributing to the joy of their responsibilities. Amen!

**19**

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. ~ James 1:5

Glorious Lord, whenever XXX does not know the answer, may he pause to ask You for wisdom, trusting that You in Your generosity will give it to him. Amen!

**22**

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, ... will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ~ John 14:26

Omniscient God, may the Holy Spirit teach XXX all she needs to know and remind her of everything she has been taught, so her answers when examined are accurate. Amen!

**25**

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ~ 1 John 4:4

Gracious God, may XXX meet the day with pure excitement and joyful expectation confident that greater is You who is in him than he who is in the world. Amen!

**28**

And may the Lord our God show us his approval and make our efforts successful. Yes, make our efforts successful! ~ Psalm 90:17

Blessed God, as XXX studies for his tests and exams, please show him what to study and how to study most effectively so his efforts are successful. Amen!

**17**

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

Majesty, whenever XXX is terrified or afraid, may she learn to turn to You before anyone else. Amen!

**20**

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,... ~ Ephesians 3:20

please give XXX the confidence that You can and will do immeasurably more than she can ask or imagine in all aspects of her life. She is therefore not to worry. Amen!

**23**

Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. ~ Ephesians 5:4

Eternal Father, may XXX decline to engage in obscene, foolish talk and coarse jokes as these poison and pollute the mind. Amen!

**26**

So we must not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up. ~ Galatians 6:9

Savior Father, even when some classes and aspects of life stop being fun, may XXX continue to strive to do good, knowing at the proper time she will reap a reward of her labor if she does not give up. Amen!

**29**

... not everything is good for you...though "I am allowed to do anything," I must not become a slave to anything. ~ 1 Corinthians 6:12

Glorious Father, please protect XXX from the dark side of social media and the internet. Grant her self-control so she is not enthralled by it. Amen!

**18**

for God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind; ~ 2 Timothy 1:17

Blessed Father, thank You for giving my child a spirit of love, power, and a sound mind, capable of absorbing knowledge. Amen!

**21**

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ~ Colossians 3:20

Almighty King, may XXX be one to heed wise counsel. May he obey his parents in everything, for this pleases You Lord. Amen!

**24**

... the LORD appeared to me and told me to say: Israel, I will always love you; that's why I've been so patient and kind. ~ Jeremiah 31:3

Awesome Lord, may XXX be convinced deep in her soul that You love her, and will always be patient and kind towards her. Amen!

**27**

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!" ~ 1 Chronicles 16:11

God of All Hope, whether when at peace and happy, or restless and challenged, may my child learn to turn to You, seeking Your presence continually throughout the day. Amen!

**30**

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. ~ Proverbs 15:22

Omnipotent Lord, when XXX's teachers etc. become aware of bullying incidents, may they not ignore, minimize or excuse the behavior. Grant them knowledge and wisdom on how to courageously respond. Amen!

## November 2021 Daily Prayers



for our YOUTH

- Our Sons/Daughters, Grandsons/Granddaughters  
& all the ones we love.