

THE FLAME

Volume 52, Issue 01

January 2022



“Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The staff would like to thank you for your loving generous gifts during the holidays. You are truly an amazing congregation and we appreciate working with you each and every day!

Pastor Don

Garden Mader

Simdang
M/Gu

Joycelyn Davidson

Sheila Foxworthy

Yanyan Dai

Cathy
Willard

Dianne Clark



Pastor
Don Griffin

Every year as January 1 approaches, people face the first decision for the brand-new year: Do I make a resolution or not? I must admit that in the past I was guilty of being overly ambitious as I established lofty goals and made a resolution to accomplish them. I am going to _____. It is the filling in of the blank that marks the challenge the new resolution establishes for each of us. I have in the past resolved to lose weight (probably my most common resolution), to exercise more (frequent resolution that fails about as quickly as any new diet), to spend more time outside exploring and taking pictures, getting involved with new activities so I can meet new people. Stuff like that. Do you have a resolution for this year?

My resolution this year is two-fold: First, I want to get more organized in my life. I have always been a spontaneous person and enjoyed the freedom to improvise. When younger, I was able to do this and still be very effective. I have always been one who could juggle lots of things and had the brain power to get it

accomplished on time. I find as I get older, I am facing more challenges in keeping control of the life chaos that seems to come. I have begun taking steps to be more focused on calendars, lists, and other tools to help me stay focused and organized. I think this will benefit me in my private life but especially as a pastor.

My second focus for 2022 is to work on my communication skills. I am a very demonstrative person, and my voice and nonverbal gestures served me well in competitive speaking, acting, radio work and preaching/teaching. When in a smaller setting or even in one-on-one conversations, my voice projection and nonverbal movements can be off putting to people and sadly can be misunderstood. I am going to work on being more reserved in my reactions in conversations. I seek to listen more and to be slower to respond and make sure I am more careful with how I present my thoughts. I cannot become someone different, but I can become a better version of myself.

What is it God would have you change to become more like Jesus? I think each follower can find something that is needed to grow into Jesus' image. Is there a spiritual area that needs your attention? Do you seek to read and learn more about our Lord? Are you being called to serve God in a new way in 2022?

I pray that you and I together will be church that God has called First United Methodist to be.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Don



I trust everyone had a blessed Christmas. Ours was quite a bit different, quieter than usual but was still a blessed time. It was a good time for reflection of the past year, of life in general, of friends and family.

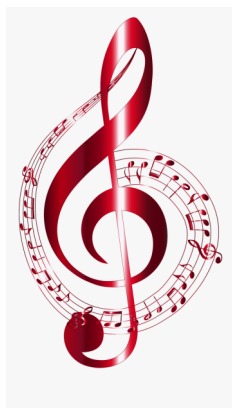
During one of the quiet times, Larry came home with an envelope the contents of which blew me away. Your out-pouring of love and support has truly been overwhelming. I'm not usually at a loss for words but you have managed to do that. I've thought about this note for days and am finally up against the deadline.

All I can say, for Larry and myself, from the bottom of our hearts Thank You! This church family is like no other we have known. You truly are the church!

With Love,
Joycelynn



Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!



Music Notes

by Suzi Lenhart



The Chancel Choir visited two retirement homes on Wednesday, Dec 15th. At Creekside we asked a group of about fifteen gathered in their fireplace area to sing along. Debbie Rue provided accompaniment (no fire that evening as the temps were in the 60s). At Via Christi, we serenaded the residents in the nursing area. Donna Long was among the residents and she came up and sang with us. Jean

Jennings got her own special serenade in her room which she enjoyed thoroughly. She sent greetings to the church membership. She always enjoys visits from church members.

Following the caroling, the choir gathered at the home of Debbie and Carroll Rue for refreshments.



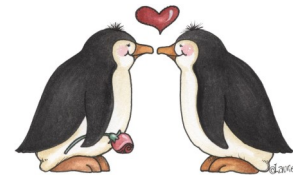
Ho, Ho, Ho!





This year's Christmas cantata was wonderful. If you missed it, or would like to share it with someone, it is available on our website or Facebook.

Nativity Suites by Benjamin Harlan



How blessed are we to have such wonderful musicians and our wonderful director, Joycelyn.

Fa la la la la

I PACK MY TRUNK

What shall I pack up to carry
From the old year to the new?
I'll leave out the frets that harry,
Thoughts unjust and doubts untrue.

Angry words—ah, how I rue them!
Selfish deeds and choices blind—
Any one is welcome to them!
I shall leave them all behind.

Plans? the trunk would need be double.
Hopes? they'd burst the stoutest lid.
Sharp ambitions? last year's stubble!
Take them, old year! Keep them hid!

All my fears shall be forsaken,
All my failures manifold;
Nothing gloomy shall be taken

To the new year from the old.

But I'll pack the sweet remembrance
Of dear friendship's least delight;
All my jokes—I'll carry them hence;
All my store of fancies bright;

My contentment—would 'twere
greater!
All the courage I possess;
All my trust—there's not much
weight there!
All my faith or more or less;

All my tasks! I'll not abandon
One of these, my pride, my health;
Every trivial or grand one
Is a noble mine of wealth.

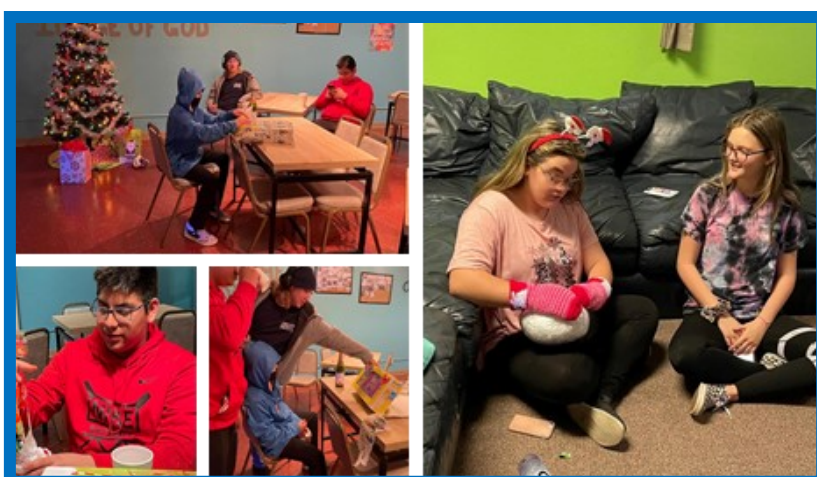
And I'll pack my choicest treasure,

Smiles I've seen, and praises
heard,
Memories of unselfish pleasure,
Cheery looks, the kindly word.

Ah, my riches silence cavil!
To my rags I hid adieu!
Like a Croesus I shall travel
From the old year to the new.

~Amos Russel Wells





Hey youth and youth parents,

The youth had so much fun on the Christmas light trip to Winfield and the Christmas party!

We kicked the year off with our sixth annual New Year's Eve Lock-in. I would say it was another great event. I want to thank everyone who helped chaperon and with providing food and drinks.

This month we start W.O.W back on January 5th at 4 PM. Due to having a big event on New Year's Eve we will not have a special outing this month. I can't wait to see everyone at W.O.W and hear all about being back in school.

Blessings

Lindsey McGee





Ok, so it wasn't ugly. Just Cute. Almost as cute as the girl wearing it. Congratulations Nayeli!





2022

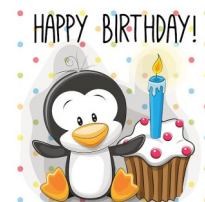
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1 8:00 Youth Lock-in Ends
2 10:00 Worship Children's Church 6:00 Bible Study	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	5 10:00 MDO 4:00 WOW 5:30 SPRC	6	7 10:00 MDO	8
9 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Communion Food Sack Sunday Children's Church	10 9:00 Staff Gathering 10:00 MDO	11 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:00 Trustees	12 10:00 MDO 4:00 WOW	13	14 10:00 MDO	15 9:45 UMW District Leadership Training
16 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Children's Church	17 9:00 Staff Gathering 10:00 MDO	18 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	19 10:00 MDO 4:00 WOW	20	21 10:00 MDO	22 9:30 UMW Planning Day
23 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Children's Church	24 9:00 Staff Gathering 10:00 MDO	25 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	26 10:00 MDO 4:00 WOW	27	28 10:00 MDO	29
30 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Children's Church	31 9:00 Staff Gathering 10:00 MDO					

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Enloe Baumert 01/01
 Gerry McFadden 01/01
 Deanna Varner 01/04
 Valinda Goeppinger 01/06
 Thomasine Rhodd 01/06
 Sheila Foxworthy 01/08
 Cole Wells 01/10
 Carolyn Hopkins 01/11
 Joyce Shreffler 01/12

Mary Mason 01/13
 Keni Ray 01/13
 Carl Renfro 01/15
 Deb Layton 01/22
 Lee Evans 01/24
 Nolan Overman 01/24
 Donna Walker 01/25
 Joshua Flewelling-Scott 01/26
 Scott Jackson 01/29

John Counter 01/30
 Larry Murphy 01/30



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 or
 instagram: fumc_pc



January Haiku

A New Year is here.
 If the ball fell at Midnight.
 Hope rose in the Morn.

~Wayne Moore



UMW NEWS

Hopefully your New Years started off with a bang! UMW is going to start off with a bang this year too with your support and help. Saturday, January 15th our unit is going to host the Northern Prairie District UMW leadership training. Fifty to 60 officers are going to come to our church for training. Registration begins at 9:45 AM and the meeting should be adjourned by noon. We will supply breakfast bites and coffee. If you have not signed up to bring something, please do. This session will cover new mission projects and ac-

tivities for 2022 and vital information to all Northern Prairie District United Methodist Women. We really need your help to host these women.

Saturday, January 22nd we will have our annual planning day. We will begin at 9:30 and continue until the activities of our year are planned. We would really like to have your input so hope you will put this on your calendar. You are important to our program and to the mission of the church.

Tuesday, February 15th our unit will be hosting a group from Independence, Kansas on tour in Ponca City. They have asked us to provide lunch for about 48 people. This will be our first fundraiser of the year and should be a good introduction to our church and to our city. It should be a fun time.

The group will arrive about 11:15 AM and be on their way by 12:30 PM. Watch for more details on how you can help us earn money for missions with this fun project.

Our first group meeting of the year will be Thursday, February 3rd at 6:00 PM. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to attend. Bring a friend or someone who has not been attending. If you have not been attending UMW we would really like to have you join us.



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

Jordan Meador
mothersdayoutfumc@outlook.com

ORGANIST

Debra (Debbie) Rue
Cougarue@sbcglobal.net

BUSINESS MANAGER

Sheila Foxworthy
sheila.foxworthy@gmail.com

CHURCH SECRETARY

Dianne Clark
fumcpc41@gmail.com

CUSTODIAL

Larry Davidson
ldlarrydavidson@yahoo.com

**- Today, in the name
of Jesus, I bless
you, XXX, with ...**



DAILY January 2022 PRAYERS for our YOUTH

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

1

To one he gave five talents, to another, two,
and to another, one, each according to his
own ability; and he went on his journey.
~ Matthew 25:15

... the ability to recognize your unique
God-given gifts and ABILITIES and use
them to glorify the Lord.

2

... no weapon forged against you will prevail,
and you will refute every tongue that accuses
you. ~ Isaiah 54:17

... the AUTHORITY over all the power
of Satan in your life. No weapon forged
against you will prevail, and you will
refute every tongue that accuses you.

3

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

... COMPANIONS who will encourage
you to walk in tandem with the
Father God. May you be protected
from falling in step with fools.

4

But Peter and John replied,
"Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's
sight to listen to you rather than God."
~ Acts 4:19

... the COURAGE to stand for truth
in the face of persecution, rejection,
or disapproval. May you always obey
your Father God rather than men.

5

For I know the plans I have for you," declares
the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not
to harm you, plans to give you hope
and a future. ~ Jeremiah 29:11

... the CONFIDENCE that the Lord
has great plans for your life; plans
to prosper you, not harm you, plans to
give you hope and a bright future.

6

When he had finished speaking, he said
to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and
let down the nets for a catch." ~ Luke 5:4

... clear DIRECTION on "where to let down
your nets for a God-ordained catch."
Like Simon, you will have the faith to follow
the Lord's directions even if they don't
make sense to you in human terms.

7

So give your servant a discerning heart
to govern your people and to distinguish
between right and wrong. ~ 1 Kings 3:9

... a DISCERNING heart and
a supernatural ability to distinguish
between right and wrong.

8

Listen to my instruction and be wise.
Don't ignore it. ~ Proverbs 8:33

... EARS open to wise instruction.
You will pay attention to the Father's
whispers and other godly counsel, not
ignoring it.

9

I will refuse to look at anything vile
and vulgar. ~ Psalm 101:3

... EYES that celebrate God's
creations. You will have the desire
and willpower to refuse to look at
anything vile or vulgar.

10

For we live by faith, not by sight.
~ 2 Corinthians 5:7

... enduring FAITH. You shall live
all aspects of your life by faith,
not by only what you can see or feel.

11

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature,
and in favor with God and man.
~ Luke 2:52

... the FAVOR of the Lord and that
of man. With the passage of each day,
you will grow in wisdom and stature.

12

So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
~ Isaiah 41:10

... unwavering ASSURANCE that you are
never alone, for the Lord is always with
you. He will strengthen and help you
through any difficulties.

13

Give all your worries and cares to God,
for he cares about you. ~ 1 Peter 5:7

... the assurance that the Lord God
cares for you. You will live FREE of
ANXIETY and fear as you give all
your worries and fears to Him.

14

As iron sharpens iron, so one person
sharpens another. ~ Proverbs 27:17

... FRIENDS who will sharpen you.
Friends who will challenge and
inspire you, holding you accountable
in your walk with the Lord.

15

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you
and that you may be in good health,
as it goes well with your soul. ~ 3 John 1:2

... GOOD HEALTH, physically,
mentally, emotionally, and most
importantly, spiritually.

16

Bless all his skills, O Lord,
and be pleased with the work of his hands.
~ Deuteronomy 33:11

... creative skills and abilities that are
pleasing to the Lord. May He establish
the work of your HANDS.

17

Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; ...
~ Psalm 95:6

... a HUMBLE spirit that willingly
bows down in worship and kneels
in adoration before the Father God.

18

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

... conviction to walk away from obscene
stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes.
Impure, crude conversations will be
repugnant to your MIND.

19

Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said
... "The LORD has done great things for them."
~ Psalm 126:2

... a MOUTH full of laughter and
songs of praise. May all who hear you
say, "The Lord has done great
things for you."

20

You shall have no other gods before me.
~ Exodus 20:3

... the conviction to avoid any form
of IDOLATRY in your life. You will
have the determination not to allow
anyone or anything to take God's
rightful place as Lord.

21

A cheerful heart is good medicine,
but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.
~ Proverbs 17:22

... joyful OPTIMISM, a cheerful
heart—one that nourishes your
spirit, mind, and body, not draining
your soul.

22

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step
with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners
take or sit in the company of mockers.
~ Psalm 1:1

... the conviction to resist
PEER PRESSURE to do wrong. You will not
befriend wicked, rebellious people, no
matter how much fun they appear to be
having or successful they seem to be.

23

With God we will gain the victory, and he will
trample down our enemies. ~ Psalm 27:5

... the PROTECTION of the Most High.
In the day of trouble, you will emerge
victorious as He keeps you safe while
trampling down all your enemies.

24

Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear
me and keep all my commands always, so that
it might go well with them and their children
forever! ~ Deuteronomy 5:29

... a heart inclined to REVERE THE LORD
and keep all His commands so that it
might go well with you, leaving an
edifying legacy for your children.

25

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

... the unwavering commitment
to love the Lord and SERVE Him
all the days of your life.

26

She ... said, "Come to bed with me!"
But he left his cloak in her hand
and ran out of the house. ~ Genesis 39:12

... the strength to resist the seductive
lure of SEXUAL TEMPTATION.
You will have the strength to run far
from it, not succumbing to curiosity.

27

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and
pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love,
endurance and gentleness. ~ 1 Timothy 6:11

... a deepening love for the Lord.
You will grow SPIRITUALLY as you
pursue righteousness, godliness,
faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

28

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.
~ 2 Corinthians 6:14

... a SPOUSE who knows the Lord
and loves Him dearly.
You will not be unequally yoked
with an unbeliever.

29

God is my strength and power, And He
makes my way perfect. ~ 2 Samuel 22:33

... the awareness that the Lord is your
STRENGTH and POWER. He equips
you each day to do all He has
called you to do.

30

The one who gives an answer before
he listens-- this is foolishness and disgrace
for him. ~ Proverbs 18:13

... a controlled TONGUE.
May you have the wisdom to listen
without interrupting.

31

... the righteous gives and does not hold back. ~ Proverbs 21:26

... a heart that TRUSTS THE LORD will provide for all your needs.
You will give generously without holding back.