

THE FLAME

Volume 52, Issue 3

April 2022

Hallelujah! He Is Risen!



Holy Week Activities

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 10, 10:00 AM

Easter Dinner

Wednesday, April 13, 5:30 PM

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 14, 7:00 PM

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 15, 7:00 PM

Easter Celebration

Sunday, April 17, 10:00 AM

M&M Kids to Sing

M&M Kids will sing during worship

**Palm Sunday morning and
on April 24th!**



Farewell, Cathie G.

April 24th will be Cathie Gilliland's last Sunday. She has brought a very special life to the children's ministry at FUMC for 21 years. She shall be truly be missed. We wish Cathie and the new grand baby many happy days to come.





Pastor
Don Griffin

John and Charles Wesley, along with some other Oxford students, were searching for a way to be more holy and to serve the world in a more profound way. They were young University students and felt the Church of their day had lost her focus on mission field that God had given them. Begun in 1729 and led by John Wesley, *The Holy Club* members fasted until 3 PM on Wednesdays and Fridays, received Holy Communion once each week, studied, discussed the New Testament each evening in a member's room, visited prisoners and the sick, reached out to the miners and to children trapped in child labor, and systematically brought all their lives under strict review. Their meetings were marked by members asking each other, "Brother, how is it with your soul?"

It is amazing how many of the non-denominational churches today are growing and they are doing it by the Wesleyan model. The founder of Life Church was at one time a candidate for ordination in our very own Oklahoma Annual Conference. Do you not think he learned from his

"I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths."

2 Timothy 4: 1 – 4 (NLT)

Methodist roots? The home groups (accountability groups) are very much in The Holy Club model. Most people have a hard time when they find out John and Charles Wesley were never members of a Methodist denomination. They were Anglican priests. They sent members of their *Holy Club* to spread the good news to parts of England and eventually America. Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke came to give pastoral leadership to America after the Revolutionary war because most Anglican (Church of England) pastors were loyal to the crown and had left. Our denomination exists because of the United States fighting for and winning freedom.

Often, people will look at 2 Timothy 4: 1-4 and think the scripture is warning about the church becoming too much like the world and not clinging to trappings of the Church and the faith as it is known by the people today. I think it is quite the opposite. I believe this passage addresses what happens when the church becomes comfortable and has lost connection with the world we are called to reach. We accumulate preachers, teachers and ritual that fit us and our likes and dislikes. We cease to be the dynamic Jesus movement of the early church and become much like a social organization. The Wesleys and the other students wanted to be more like

the Biblical model of Jesus and his followers and that is what led to *The Holy Club*. *The Holy Club* eventually led to the United Methodist Church. We are the descendants of those who sought to be more Christlike.

I call upon you to deeply search your heart and ask if you too desire to be more like Jesus and his followers. Are you prepared to have others who will challenge you to grow in your faith? Can you answer without hesitation, "how is it with your soul?" Churches everywhere are dying, Methodist and non-Methodist, and it is because people have stopped seeking leaders who would *correct, rebuke and encourage* them with teachings that are Biblical sound. People have sought out groups to reinforce their comfort and often not challenge their spiritual growth. The time is now for us to hear the words of encouragement to Timothy and the example of the Wesleys and expect more of our faith and our commitment to God's kingdom. *The Holy Club* breathed life into a dying church and spread through out the world. What kind of change in the church are we leaving for those who are coming after us?

Pastor Don



UMW April Happenings

April 1st the UMW will be handing out sack lunches to the students at East again. Anyone who would like to help put together sack lunches is welcome to come to the church at 2:00 pm and help. If school is in session on the 15th of April, we will do it again. All are welcome to participate or purchase supplies for the lunches. The students seem very pleased to get the lunches. We have been making 50 lunches and they are gone in 10 minutes at the most.

April 13 is the UMW sponsored Easter Prayer and Praise dinner. UMW will again supply the ham, potatoes and rolls. We ask that the congregation to bring side dishes to go with the meal. A suggestion is that people whose name starts A-L bring a salad or vegetable and those with M-Z bring a dessert. (You can

choose if it's your first name or last name.)

The date of our UMW meeting has again been changed to April 11 at 6:30. We will be working on preparations for the Easter dinner.

Looking ahead to future plans: The UMW would like to make a nativity for the church. The one we used two years ago is in disrepair and the church has not had one on display for two years. We are asking for your help and expertise. In the very near future, we will be asking for artists, woodworkers, painters and wonderful people to help us with our project. We will have a part for everyone and would enjoy having you join us. (Below is a sample of what could be with your help and expertise. We can do this together!!!) Be watching for dates to get started.



In June there will be another garage sale. If you have any furniture, summer clothing or household items you can bring them to the bus barn or call Connie Scott to make arrangements for those items to be picked up.

If you have pint or half pint jars you would like to donate for future pear honey or apple butter, please bring them to the church any time.



Birthdays and Anniversary Celebration

for

Mary Lou & Pat Lorette

Saturday, April 30, 2022

Creek Pavilion at Central State Park

Arcadia Lake

7900 E 2nd Street

Edmond, Oklahoma

(About 2 miles east of I 35)

Bring your lawn chair and

a side dish to enjoy at noon

Meat and cake will be provided

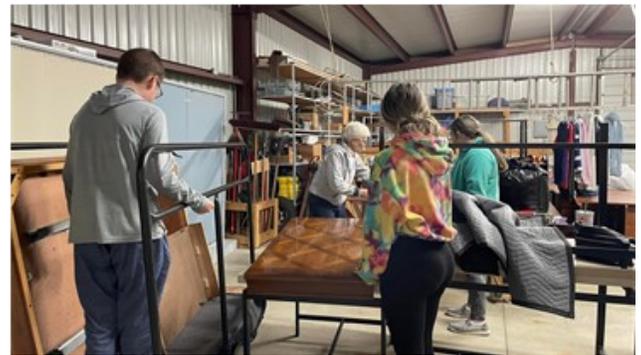
Children's Ministry

We have been blessed with tremendous leadership of our children's department from Cathie Gilliland. As noted earlier in this publication, Cathie is retiring after many years of dedicated service. The Staff Parish will be evaluating and looking for the next person in the coming months, but in the meantime, we are going to utilize lay members to fill in the role. We will need volunteers to do children's moments during worship. Ginetta Swanson is the VBS director this summer and we need volunteers to help her with this year's Vacation Bible School. Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me." When Peter responded he did, Jesus told him to feed his lambs. Come help feed our Lord's lambs this summer.



A much deserved "Thank You" to Andy Tubbs for building a special cross to be used during the Good Friday Observance and the Easter Sunday Celebration.

On Easter Sunday you may bring cut flowers from home to adorn the cross.



Hey Youth and Parents,

March was full of fellowship and fun.

We raised a grand total of \$3,500 at the youth dessert auction! Thank you to everyone who came and supported the youth. Thank you to everyone who made items to sale, and thank you to all the youth who helped with the auction.

We kicked off spring break with our service days. We started with cleaning up the playground, then we helped Connie Scott at the bus barn, lastly we sanitized the whole church with disinfectant spray and wipes.

We ended our spring break with a trip to OKC where we attempted an escape room called "prison break" located at The Red Door Escape Room. The youth had a blast and highly recommend we do it again.

This month we are back to normal youth, we will have W.O.W at 4 PM on Wednesdays. Can't wait to see everyone there!!!

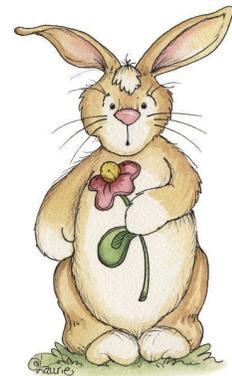
Blessings,
Lindsey

"The surest way to corrupt a youth is to instruct him to hold in higher esteem those who think alike than those who think differently."

~Friedrich Nietzsche

When you see one of our youth, make sure you tell them thanks for all they do around the church





The youth worked during Spring Break, cleaning inside and outside the church, and working in the bus barn with Connie Scott (do you think there is a garage sale in the near future?) Those who worked at least three of the five days were eligible to make a trip to The Red Door Escape Room. And of course what youth trip could possibly be made with food?

Mission: Rio Bravo



These are photos of the casita (with it's happy child) built in honor of Burton Casad in Rio Bravo, Mexico in February. If you would like to make a financial donation to help pay for this house, you can send it to the church in Burton's honor.



A huge 'Thank You' to everyone who donated shoes. Your donation made the mission project a great success.



MEMORIAL TREES

Recently four trees were planted by Keathly's Nursery and Landscape Company over by our new pavilion. Two of the trees were made possible by family and friends who gave to the Memorial funds of the following people: Gordon Holland, Dave Garrison, Velma Davis, James Page, Mike Garrity, Linda Gray, and Bob Green.

This "living memorial" will continue to bless the church and its members for years to come. Many thanks to Jayne Detten for providing the other two trees.

Thank you also to the Board of Trustees and the grounds committee for taking care of the watering.

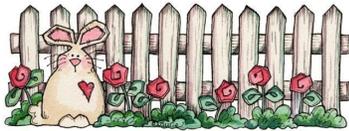
*We must be aware of
The nature of trees:
Sacrifice, sacrifice, sacrifice-
From the very foot
To the highest height.
~Sri Chinmoy*

Memorial Committee
Arleen Jacobson,
Chairperson



Haiku for April
Come Lord Jesus now.
Fill me with love forever;
know that I am saved!
~Wayne Moore





2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Communion 10:30 Children's Church 6:00 Back to Basics	4 9:00 Staff Gathering 10:00 MDO 5:30 SPRC	5 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:30 Bill's Bible Study	6 10:00 MDO 3:30 M&Ms 4:00 WOW 5:30 P&P 6:00 Difficult Words of Jesus 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	7	8 10:00 MDO	9
10 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Palm Sunday 10:30 Children's Church 6:00 Back to Basics	11 9:00 Staff Gathering 10:00 MDO 6:30 UMW	12 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:00 Boar of Trustees 6:30 Bill's Bible Study	13 10:00 MDO 3:30 M&Ms 4:00 WOW 5:30 P&P 6:00 Difficult Words of Jesus 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	14 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service  <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	15 7:00 Good Friday Service 	16
17 10:00 Worship  <i>Easter Sunday</i>	18 9:00 Staff Gathering 10:00 MDO 5:30 Friendship Feast Flame Articles Due	19 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:30 Bill's Bible Study	20 10:00 MDO 3:30 M&M Field Trip to Park 5:00 All Church Picnic 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	21	22 10:00 MDO	23
24 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 10:30 Children's Church 6:00 Back to Basics	25 9:00 Staff Gathering 9:00 Quilters 10:00 MDO	26 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:30 Bill's Bible Study	27 10:00 MDO 4:00 WOW 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30

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 Loret	04/17
Samantha Biery	04/06	Sally Tubbs	04/20
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		



Happy Birthday!

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



NEWS For KIDS' M&Ms

Hello Parents!

Pastor Don has asked the kids to sing on Palm Sunday (April 10th.) Teaching them a song is more a Joycelynn thing; but since she's so inspiringly fighting her cancer, I told them I would ask the kids come and sing "Allelu" from our VBS song CD. It's easy & the kids will actually be leading the congregation in the song. On that morning, the kids wave palms during the first hymn. They will sing before the Children's Sermon, and then go upstairs to Children's Church. I know that many of you attend other churches. If you wanted your family could come & go on to your own church as we transition to Children's Church.

I, personally, would like the kids to sing on my last Sunday, which is April 24th. The kids would sing "God Is Watching", sit down for the Children's Sermon & then have children's church upstairs on that Sunday as well.

Our last M&M's for the year will be on April 20th – as we do each year, we will go to the Lake Pon-

ca Park. You are invited to join the church for a hot dog dinner that evening at the lake. Parent will need to pick their children up at Lake Ponca that day..

Thanks for sharing your kids! They are such a blessing!
 Mrs. Cathie

Kids' M&Ms

Dates to Remember!

April 6 – Regular M&M's

April 10- Palm Sunday

Sing at church 10 AM

April 13 – Regular M&M's

April 20 – Last M&M's till Fall
 pick up kids at Lake Ponca
 Park (Stay for dinner!)

April 24 - (Sunday) Sing at
 church 10 AM



CHURCH SECURITY

Keeping our congregation, and especially the children in the MDO, safe is a priority for our church. We are sorry for the inconvenience that keeping doors locked has caused, but it is now a part of our lives. Please be aware if you have an event or meeting after hours to secure the doors and turn off lights before leaving the building.

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
fumc.business@gmail.com

CHURCH SECRETARY

Dianne Clark
fumcpc41@gmail.com

CUSTODIAL

Larry Davidson
ldlarrydavidson@yahoo.com



1

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

Almighty Lord, may XXX choose her friends carefully. May she make friends only with those who are wise and good influences. Even when lonely, may she not keep company with fools. Amen!

2

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ~ Lamentations 3:22-23

Adonai,
May XXX know You are faithful. May he anticipate and experience Your new mercies each morning. Amen!

3

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

My God, my Lord,
Please keep XXX's tongue from speaking evil and her lips from telling lies. Amen!

4

Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. ~ Psalm 119:37

Heavenly Father,
Any plan other than what You intend for XXX is worthless. Please turn him away from any desires outside what You have ordained for him. Amen!

5

He has made everything beautiful in its time. - Ecclesiastes ~ 3:11

All Powerful God,
Please imbue XXX with a joyful heart. May she trust be confident You have a purpose for all situations and will see her victoriously through them. Amen!

6

Don't make friends with an angry man, ... or you will learn his ways ... ~ Proverbs 22:24

Blessed Father,
Please deliver XXX from befriending anyone with an ungodly character so he does not learn that person's destructive ways. Amen!

7

... to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. ~ Titus 3:2

Glorious Lord,
Please give XXX the courage to obey Your commands; may she speak evil of no one, avoid quarreling, be gentle, and be courteous toward all people. Amen!

8

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. ~ 3 John 1:2

Merciful Father,
May XXX, enjoy good health as he matures physically and spiritually. May he succeed and prosper in all his efforts. Amen!

9

Avoid worthless, foolish talk that only leads to more godless behavior. ~ 2 Timothy 2:16

Almighty King,
Please give XXX a distaste for gossip. Prompt her to avoid speaking or listening to worthless, foolish chatter. Teach her how to redirect the conversation or move away. Amen!

10

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. ~ Psalm 23:6

Omniscient God,
May goodness and mercy follow XXX all the days of his life, and he dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Amen!

11

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promises. ~ Romans 15:13

Eternal Father,
By the power of the Holy Spirit, may XXX abound in hope and overflow with confidence in Your promises because she knows You are faithful and Your promises are true. Amen!

12

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. -Psalm 51:10

Awesome Lord,
Please create a pure heart in XXX. Renew a steadfast spirit within her. As she goes about life, may she be inclined to lean on You and only You. Amen!

13

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ~ Matthew 5: 6

Gracious God,
With each passing day, Savior Lord, may XXX develop an unquenchable yearning for You. May she be blessed with a hunger and thirst for righteousness. Amen!

14

Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity... ~ Titus 2:7

Savior Father,
May XXX show himself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in all his behaviors exhibit integrity and character. Amen!

15

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ~ Colossians 3:12

God of All Hope,
As one of Your chosen people, holy and dearly loved, please stir XXX to clothe herself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience each day. Amen!

16

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

Blessed God,
May XXX be filled with the fruit of the Spirit, overflowing with love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
Amen!

17**He is Risen! Happy Easter!**

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him."
~ Psalm 40:3

Glorious Father,
May the new song of praise and worship You have placed in XXX's mouth never be silenced. May others hear her sing and be drawn to put their trust in You. Amen!

18

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" ... "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." ~ Ephesians 6:1-3

Omnipotent Lord,
May XXX not have a rebellious heart. May he obey and honor his parents so all may be well with him. Amen!

19

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. ~ 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Father,
You are the Lord of peace. Please be with XXX and grant her peace at all times, in every way, and in every circumstance.
Amen!

20

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority ... Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you. ~ Hebrew 13:17

Lord God,
Please give XXX a heart that respects and submits to those in authority. May he obey, knowing that You Lord have charged them to protect him physically and spiritually.
Amen!

21

I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. ~ Psalm 139:14

All-Powerful God,
Please imprint the knowledge on XXX's heart that You lovingly and deliberately created her with talents for Your purpose. Stir her away from comparing herself unfavorably to other people. Amen!

22

Blessed is the man ... He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers." ~ Psalm 1:1

Righteous Father,
May XXX delight in Your law. May he bear fruit like a tree planted by streams of water. May all his efforts prosper.
Amen!

23

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around looking for someone to devour. ~ 1 Peter 5:8

Holy Lord,
May XXX be self-controlled and alert, mindful Satan prowls for careless people to devour. May she do right and resist the temptation to sin. Amen!

24

And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. ~ 2 Timothy 2:24

Lord Jesus,
Please give XXX an understanding that You have chosen him to serve on Your behalf. May he be good-natured, kind to everyone, and patient even when wronged. Amen!

25

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ~ Ephesians 5:3

Eternal King,
Please give XXX a distaste for all sexual immorality and indecent behavior. Teach her to control her impulses, so there is no hint of impropriety about her. Amen!

26

All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything. ~ 1 Corinthians 6:12

Lord All-Powerful,
Please protect XXX from the dark side of social media and the internet. May he use it in moderation and not be enslaved by it. Amen!

27

... pray without ceasing...
~ 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Savior Jesus,
Please teach XXX how to pray. May she learn to pray continually; about anything and everything, not just when she is in need or trouble. Amen!

28

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. ~ Psalm 42:1

Lord God,
As XXX matures, may he develop an unquenchable yearning for You. As the deer pants for streams of water, so may his soul pant for You, O God. Amen!

29

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

Awesome God,
May XXX look forward to her future with great joy and anticipation, trusting in Your unique plans to prosper her and give her a future filled with hope. Amen!

30

Therefore, my dear friends, ... continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ~ Philippians 2:12

Dear Father,
May XXX make every effort to work hard and show the results of his salvation to others, obeying You with deep reverence and awe. Amen!

