

THE FLAME

Volume 52, Issue 6

June 2022

Time
TO
say
GOODBYE



Please Join Us

Sunday, June 19th, 11:30 AM
for a reception to honor
Pastor Don & Seth on their
last Sunday in ministry
to our church.



Please Welcome

Pastor Leon Veazey

Pastor Leon's first Sunday in
the pulpit will be June 26th.

Youth Summer Kick-Off Event

Sunday, June 5th, 5:00 PM

In the new Pavilion

Youth are invited to a time of
dinner, devotional, and lots of messy games.
Be sure to wear old clothes and bring a towel!





Pastor
Don Griffin

How do you say goodbye to a group who has been your spiritual family for the past three years? I've been under Episcopal appointment for 39 years in North Texas or Oklahoma and you would think it would be easy by now. I think this goodbye is the most difficult yet. You arrive full of hope and ready to do kingdom work in your new appointment. We were off to a very good start in the first six months of our time together and then Covid hit. My greatest regret is getting sick with Covid and seeing so many of you do the same. Our church, actually society as a whole, is still recovering from that horrible virus.

I used to be a very bad golfer. I say, "used to be" because I no longer play golf for health reasons. But when I did play golf, I was not good at it at all. I used to always ask, "How many mulligans do I get per side?" Many who played with me were usually generous enough to give me more

than whatever number was stated at the beginning of the round. I always tried my best, but golf just was not my talent. Bowling is a different story, but I digress. I feel like every pastor serving a church in the past 2 ½ years of Covid would like a mulligan. There is so much I would like to do over but that is not how life works. For any failings on my part, I ask your forgiveness. If I have done anything to offend you in anyway, again I seek your grace.

Seth and I will be leaving to serve the good people of Fort Gibson in a few weeks. Move day is scheduled for June 23rd and I am already feeling the sadness of saying goodbye to so many people who have blessed my life and I love dearly. There are always a handful of people you wish you could pack up and take with you. Just know I will cherish each of you who have loved and supported us both. Ponca City is an amazing community with much to offer and I know your new pastor will be accepted and blessed. Please be gracious with him and know he is not the Savior but just works for Him. I will pray for Him and for PC FUMC long after we have moved.

The United Methodist Church is at a critical time in history. The next few years may very well determine the fate of our beloved denomination. We are an aging denomination who is trying to figure out how we serve in a world that has changed so quickly and right in front of our eyes. How do we connect with younger generations who

have different priorities and understand the world in ways we are not familiar? How we address that question is of vital importance to our denomination, and to every congregation down to every single person who belongs. I have said many times that I believe the best is yet to come for this congregation and I pray your new pastor's arrival will mark the beginning of that wonderful future.

Please keep Seth and me in your prayers. We will always cherish you.

Pastor Don and Seth



Dear Friend

Poet: Grinnell Willis

Dear friend, 'tis hard to say farewell,
And harder yet it is to tell,
In parting words, how strong the tie
We sever now in this good-bye.
We all shall miss thy gentle grace.
Thy willing hand and cheerful face;
No other friend thy place can fill.
Though absent we shall claim thee
still;

God bless the work thou hast begun,
And guard thee in the years to come.
And when thy heart is weary, or
alone.

Come back and rest in this thy home.



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 spring temperatures. These 30 degree jumps up and down are bothersome.

Chancel Choir will continue rehearsal through June. Our last Sunday in the loft for awhile will be June 26th.

During July I hope for there to 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 forward to fall and Christmas and preparing a Christmas cantata.



The bigger plan, however, is for a *Meet the Composer* weekend in February 2023. We have postponed it a year already due to Covid and my health, but I am actively researching and preparing for an exciting comeback of our tradition! I'm so excited to be able to do this again. The exact date is not yet scheduled so watch for any updates.

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

~Aaron Copland

"Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring--it was peace."

~Milan Kundera



Who Am I...

If you guessed Jayne Detten as last month's 'Who Am I,' you were right.

Ready for this month's?

- I was an Electrician for the largest power company in Oklahoma.
- I used to be a Bull Rider.
- I spent a year in Okinawa, Japan.
- I have caught thousands of pounds of Catfish with my hands.
- I helped build Kaw Dam.
- Who am I?





Hey Youth and Parents,

This month is a very busy but fun one! We kick off TYT (that youth thing) on June 5th at 5pm. Please wear a white shirt and clothes you don't care about getting ruined.

We will continue TYT on all Sundays except for on June 19th (Father's Day.)

We will help with the garage sale on June 3rd and 4th. I will send a text about what time the youth need to be there!!

We also have Youth breakfast fundraiser on the 12th at 8:30 AM. The last one was a big hit; can't wait to do it again!

Lastly we will be have a movie night every other Saturday. Our first one is on June 4th at 6pm. Can't wait for a month full of Fun and Fellowship!!

Blessings, Lindsey



TYT
 Movie Nights
 Camps
 FUN

Garage Sale
 Breakfasts
 FUN

What should young people do with their lives today? Many things, obviously. But the most daring thing is to create stable communities in which the terrible disease of loneliness can be cured. ~Kurt Vonnegut

Youth served breakfast before and during Sunday School as a fundraiser.

Breakfast will be served again on Sunday, June 12th.





Last month I asked you to submit stories you would like to see in the Flame. Carolyn Hopkins came through. I hope to hear from more of you in the months to come!

Good morning, Church family!

~Submitted by Carolyn Hopkins

Letters! Notes! I love to write them. I love to receive them. Our mailbox is by the street. If you ever see me dancing up the driveway...I've received a letter from a friend.

When I was a little girl, I remember my mom, "taking a break", from using the wringer washing machine in the garage, hanging clothes "on the line," fixing three meals a day, cutting out a dress pattern on the floor, and making all my sister's and my clothes on her little black Singer sewing machine. When she sat down for a rest, it was always with pen and paper, writing her parents, or other family members, a letter...telling about our lives..."keeping in touch."

It was just something we did. I loved writing to my grandmothers. They wrote me back. I was encouraged to write thank-you notes. Letters were just a part of our lives.

I grew up on Ramona Drive in Enid. We had the same mailman, Gene, for twenty years. If I was outside playing with the neighbor kids and I saw Gene up the street - I'd run to fix him a glass of ice water, tea, or lemonade. He'd sit on the front porch with me in the shade to drink it.

To this day, I love to receive mail...but more than that, I love to send mail! Two people I write to are former members of our PCFUMC church family.

I know many of you remember Tina Sapp. She and Jim moved to Maryland to be closer to family who need their care.

Sandie and Dan Brandenberger left Ponca City and our church during the "Conoco move" years ago...first to the Houston area, then after retirement, back to their home state of Pennsylvania...again to be closer to family.

Both couples have been looking for a church family, interrupted by Covid, for many months. After trying out many, I think they have been led to the "right one." I want to share their comments with you.

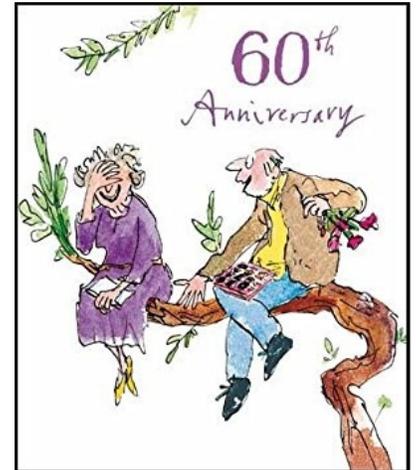
Sandie: "We have such fond memories of PC FUMC. It is the standard by which we evaluate other churches-it's outreach, activities, so many people using their "gifts." It is the "the little church that could."

Sandie is starting Outreach Communion in their new church, and she is a card sender." (She loves to write too!"

Tina, in Port Deposit, Maryland, writes "It was easier finding a church in Ponca City. When Bill Carmichael drove all the way out to Kaw Lake, where we lived, with a loaf of homemade bread, there was no doubt!!! FUMC was our new church home!"

Oh, Brandenbergers and Sapps...we are so glad God brought you here. You served him so long and so well with the gifts He gave each of you. We loved you then, we love you still.

Thank you for your encouraging words to us today..."the little church that could."



You're Invited!

60th Wedding Anniversary

Celebration for

Kathy and Jim Hughes

Sunday, June 12th,

2:00 PM

Fellowship Hall



June Haiku

God bless our Fathers:

Standing strong for all their tribe
Love shines bright through them.

~Wayne Moore



Sundae Sunday



**Ice Cream and Fellowship,
Who could ask for more?**



**Everybody had a dog-gone
good time!**



**Leave it to Oklahoma Weather...
light jackets felt good!**



**The new Pavilion was
picture perfect!**



2021



SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THUR

FRI

SAT

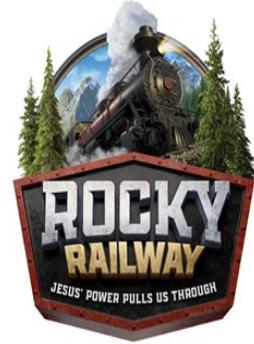
			1 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	2	3 9:00 Garage Sale	4 9:00 Garage Sale 6:00 Movie Night
5 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Communion 5:00 TYT Summer Kick-off	6 5:30 SPRC 6:30 Bill's Bible Study	7 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	8 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	9 9:00 Stephen Ministry	10	11
12 8:45 Youth Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 2:00 Hughes Anniversary 5:00 TYT	13 6:30 Bill's Bible Study	14 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:00 Trustees	15 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18 6:00 Movie Night
19 8:45 Youth Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Father's Day	20 5:30 Friendship Feast 6:30 Bill's Bible Study	21 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	22 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 TYT	27 6:30 Bill's Bible Study	28 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	29 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	30		

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

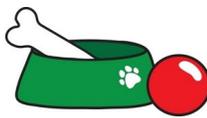
Dan Petty	06/06	Terry Stephen	06/17
Becky Hightower	06/08	Ron Matheson	06/18
Don Nuzum	06/08	John Gilbert	06/20
Tom Burton	06/10	Desta Parks	06/20
Dianna Dawdy	06/12	Jarod Hinch	06/22
Becky Poet	06/12	Diane Cavett	06/24
Paul Kuehny	06/16	Kara Wells	06/24
Ann Powell	06/16	Viviane Wells	06/25
Earl Behara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



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



**Who says it's a Man's world.
 The ladies did a great job putting together carts for the chairs to be used in the Pavilion.**



PRAYER CORNER A Prayer for Peace

We are molded, each one of us, in the image of God, and within our souls there is a fingerprint none can erase.

We pray for those who have no regard for anyone but self, who put no value on human life.

For nations and individuals who abuse and kill.

We are not called to be judge or jury, but we are called to be agents of change.

And if the butterfly that flaps its wings should be our attitude to others, then so be it, Lord.

May the hurricane this generates somewhere within the world reach into the hearts and souls of those for whom we pray and reveal to them how precious are those for whom they have no love, and how precious are they who now bring tears to the eyes of God.

- John Birch

Vacation Bible School

Rocky Railway

Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through

July 18th—21st

Gineta Swanson has volunteered to lead VBS this year. Your help is needed. Please let Gineta know if you are available to teach or assist in other ways.



Kids' Camp

June 20—22

See Lindsey for details

OUR STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR

Pastor Don Griffin
smugrad93@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Joycelynn Davidson
fumcmusic315@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

Position Open

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

June 2022 Daily Prayers



for our YOUTH

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

1

Teach me good judgment and knowledge,
for I believe in your commandments.
~ Psalm 119:66

Lord of Peace,
Please teach (name)'s knowledge and good
judgment. May she trust Your commands.
Amen!

2

And we know that for those who love God all
things work together for good... ~ Romans
8:28

All-Powerful God,
When (name) is puzzled or uncertain of
what to do, may he take comfort knowing
that in all things, You work on his behalf
according to Your purposes. Amen!

3

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

Blessed Father,
as (name) matures, may her light shine
as a role model. May she increase in
wisdom and stature, and favor with You
Lord God, and with man. Amen!

4

... God gave them knowledge and intelligence
in every branch of literature and wisdom ...
~ Daniel 1:17

Glorious Lord,
Just as You blessed Daniel and his
friends, please bless (name) and his
friend group with supernatural
knowledge and understanding. Amen!

5

And give thanks for everything to God the
Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
~ Ephesians 5:20

Merciful Father,
please help (name) cultivate an
attitude of gratitude. May she learn
to give thanks to You, Father, under
all circumstances. Amen!

6

Remind the people to be subject to rulers
and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready
to do whatever is good, ~ Titus 3:1

Almighty King,
May (name) be obedient and always
ready to do whatever is right. Amen!

7

But if I say I'll never mention the LORD or speak in
his name, his word burns in my heart like a fire. It's
like a fire in my bones! ~ Jeremiah 20:9

Omniscient God,
May (name) be on fire for You, with
an anointing that she cannot hold in.
May her conduct draw people to You.
Amen!

8

Do not be anxious about anything, but in
everything by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your requests be made
known to God. ~ Philippians 4:6

Eternal Father,
May (name)'s response to anxious
thoughts be to pray, make his requests
known to You, seek Your will, and give
You thanks for Your leadings. Amen!

9

If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to
do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.
~ James 4:17

Awesome Lord,
May (name) have a solid moral
compass. May she choose to do
what is good and right each day
even when unobserved. Amen!

10

"And he said to them, "Take care, and be on
your guard against all covetousness, for one's
life does not consist in the abundance of his
possessions.'" ~ Luke 12:15

Gracious God,
May (name) guard against covetousness,
understanding his purpose in life goes
beyond accumulating possessions or
accolades. Amen!

11

"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against
anyone among your people, but love your
neighbor as yourself. ~ Leviticus 19:18

Savior Father,
Please grant (name) a forgiving heart so
she does not seek revenge or bear
grudges against those who offend him.
Amen!

12

"Your eye is the lamp of your body. ... Therefore be
careful lest the light in you be darkness."
~ Luke 11:34-35

God of All Hope,
May (name) be careful to allow only
good things into his heart and mind.
Amen!

13

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God,
who gives generously to all without reproach,
and it will be given him. ~ James 1:5

Blessed God,
May (name) grow in wisdom and
understanding. In addition to being
smart, may her conduct be good and
right. Amen!

14

As soon as I pray, you answer me; you
encourage me by giving me strength.
~ Psalm 138:3

Glorious Father,
Please assure (name) that when he
seeks You, he will find You; when he
prays, You will answer him and give
him knowledge, wisdom, and
strength. Amen!

15

"Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom
come. Give us each day our daily bread, and
forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive
everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not
into temptation." ~ Luke 11:2-4

Omnipotent Lord,
may (name) turn to You, not the work
for her daily bread. Prompt her to see
Your forgiveness every day. Amen!

16

If I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve me from the anger of my foes; You will extend Your hand, and Your right hand will save me.
~ Psalm 138:7

Dear God,
Please protect (name). If he walks amid trouble, please save him from all dangers and anyone who means him harm. Amen!

17

Brothers, do not be children in thoughts, yet in malice be babies, but in thoughts be mature.
~1Corinthians 14:20

Heavenly Father,
May (name) not be childish in her spiritual walk. Mature her thinking while she remains a child when it comes to evil thoughts. Amen!

18

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him." ~ Psalm 91:15

Lord God,
when (name) calls to You, please answer him. When he is in trouble, I pray that You be with him, rescuing him and honoring him. Amen!

19

For the Scriptures say, "If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies." ~ 1 Peter 3:10

All-Powerful God,
May (name) enjoy life and see many happy days because she keeps her tongue from speaking evil and his lips telling lies. Amen!

20

... 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

~ Mark 12:31
Righteous Father,
please teach (name) how to love his neighbor as himself, knowing there is no commandment greater than to love as You love us. Amen!

21

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." ~ Psalm 46:1

Holy Lord,
I thank You for Your presence in (name)'s life. You are her refuge and strength, her ever-present help in times of trouble. Amen!

22

"and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them." ~ Daniel 3:26

Lord Jesus,
Please give (name) the confidence that just as You preserved Daniel and friends through their trials, so would You save him if he serves You faithfully. Amen!

23

And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ~ Luke 23:42

Eternal King,
May (name) know You are a forgiving God. Therefore, it is never too late for her to repent and turn to You. Amen!

24

But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life."
~ John 4:14

Lord All-Powerful,
May (name) thirst for all things pertaining to You. May he constantly drink from Your living waters. Amen!

25

It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes. ~ Psalm 118:9

Savior Jesus,
Please give (name) supernatural confidence. May she know it is better to take refuge in You than to trust man, no matter how highly placed. Amen!

26

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' ~ Matthew 25:21

Awesome God,
May (name) be faithful in all things, including the seemingly minor and mundane aspects of life, so he may be blessed with much more. Amen!

27

I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.
~Psalm 138:2

Dear Father,
May (name) bow down and worship only You giving thanks for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness. May she exalt Your name and Your Word above all things. Amen!

28

The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.
~ Psalm 145:8-9

Eternal Lord,
Knowing You LORD as merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love, may (name) crave and pursue a deep relationship with You. Amen!

29

The LORD will fulfill His purpose in me. O LORD, Your loving devotion endures forever — do not abandon the works of Your hands.
~ Psalm 138:8

Jehovah God,
When (name) is feeling unsettled, please assure him Your love for him is everlasting, You will not abandon him, and will work out Your perfect plans for his life. Amen!

30

...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,
~ Hebrews 12:1

Sovereign Father,
I pray (name) will fulfill the destiny You have marked out for her. Help her throw off all that hinders her and give her the endurance to persevere as she runs her race. Amen!

