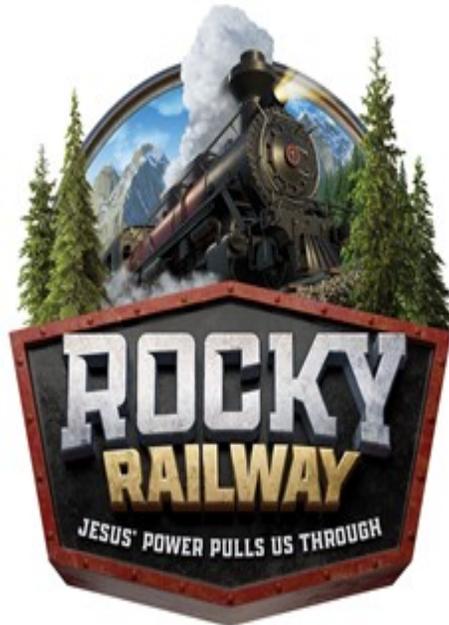
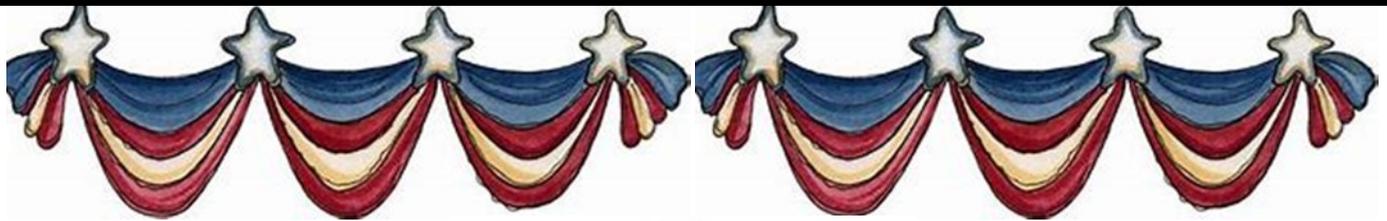


THE FLAME

Volume 51, Issue 7

July 2022



Climb aboard the...

Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School

July 18th-21st

6:30 PM—8:00 PM

Ages 4—11

Registration Available Online

(Scan QR Code on flier in Welcome Center)

Remember to invite relatives, friends and neighbors.



Pastor
Leon Veazey

I remember hearing the story of a little girl who was being accompanied by her Mom to her first day of Pre-School. Her Mother was concerned about the little girl experiencing separation anxiety or being socially awkward. All fears vanished when the Mom, hand in hand with her daughter, walked into the classroom where all the other children were, and the little girl exclaimed, "Look at all my brand new friends!" The Mother was relieved, but also saddened, as her little girl quickly released her hand and ran into the classroom to play.

As I enter this great opportunity as your pastor, I am overwhelmed by the blessings of seeing "all these brand-new friends!" I am excited and eager to get to know you and to become part of this great church family! But I want you to know that I understand how difficult transitions can be for everyone. Some of you are eager to scurry into a new chapter and embrace new opportunities and challenges. Others of you are having a difficult time of the letting go of the hand that has guided you and cared for you these

The View from Where I Stand!

past several years. Most of you probably have some mixed emotions, like the mom standing at the door watching her little girl move on without her.

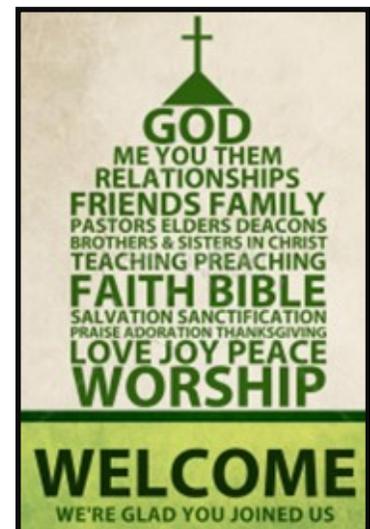
I assure you that it's okay to experience whatever you are. Together, we will prayerfully and expectantly move forward, our hands in the hands of Christ, and our hands clasped together as we engage the future as a family. My doors are open to you and my mind and heart open as well to assisting you through this continued time of transition. You won't hurt my feelings. I've been doing this for a long time and learned not to take things personally.

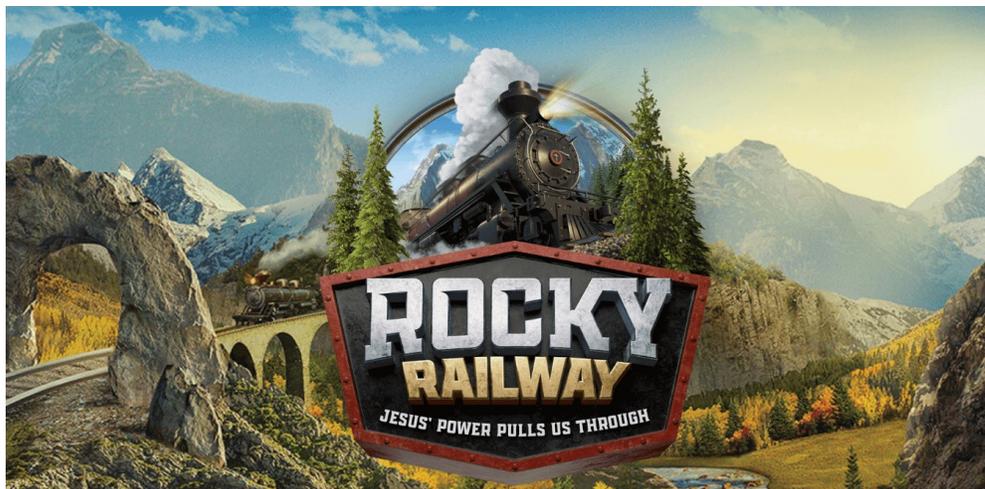
As I enter this opportunity, I see myself as an ordinary human being, insufficient to accomplish anything extraordinary. Yet, as you are, I am called, anointed, gifted and led by God who IS sufficient to accomplish ANY and EVERY extraordinary task ahead! My daily goal as your pastor is to live in true humility before God and to live in gratitude for the blessings and trials I experience. I seek to be a vessel of God's grace and mercy in this church and community. What a humbling and extraordinary blessing it is to be your pastor!

One thing more that I think you should know about my view, is how I view you as a church. I know there is always apprehension about what agenda or vision the incoming pastor may have, and what if it doesn't match ours? I understand that churches, like people, each have a unique "D.N.A.", history, cultural con-

text, and personality. First United Methodist Church of Ponca City is not just like any other church, nor do I want it to be! I view this church like a scrap book. How many of you had Moms that kept a scrap book of your childhood, year after year adding new things to your documented story? Well, scrap books aren't made for ripping pages out, but for adding new pages. Together, we're going to be the substance of new pages that God is adding to our book!

Thank you for receiving me into your journey! I am honored, blessed, and privileged to join you in what God is doing and going to do in this church and community. Let's go with God and go together! Grace and peace to you all. - -Pastor Leon





Hey everyone!

I am very pleased to be in charge of Vacation Bible School this year!

As many of you have seen on our social media we are doing **Rocky Railway (Jesus Power Pulls Us Through.)** VBS will be July 18th-21st, 6- 8PM. This program is one we have never done before so please, if you would like to help in anyway let me know.

VBS is for Children 4 years old through those going into 5th grade.

To register your kids, grandkids or friends kids just call or go into the church office or pick up a form in the Welcome Center.. If you have any questions please contact me at the church office.

Blessings,

Lindsey McGee

July Haiku

God bless our country:
flag flies high for all to see,
family, friends, foe.

~Wayne Moore

	<p>I want to express my gratitude to everyone who came to send Seth and me off to our new appointment. The cards, wonderful reception, and gifts of love have touched both of us. We have so many cherished memories. We will forever carry you in our hearts.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Seth & Pastor Don</p>
--	--



Without freedom of thought, there can be no such thing as wisdom – and no such thing as public liberty without freedom of speech.

- Benjamin Franklin

I believe in freedom of speech, but I believe we should also have the right to comment on freedom of speech.

– Stockwell Day

Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom.

- Albert Einstein

Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.

– George Washington Carver

Overcomers YOUTH GROUP



ADVICE TO YOUTH

Always obey your parents, when they are present. This is the best policy in the long run, because if you don't, they will make you. Most parents think they know better than you do, and you can generally make more by humoring that superstition than you can by acting on your own better judgment.

Go to bed early, get up early--this is wise. Some authorities say get up with the sun; some say get up with one thing, others with another. But a lark is really the best thing to get up with. It gives you a splendid reputation with everybody to know that you get up with the lark; and if you get the right kind of lark, and work at him right, you can easily train him to get up at half past nine, every time--it's no trick at all.

~Mark Twain

Hey youth and parents!

This month is slightly busy, at least it is for me. We will continue to have T.Y.T every Sunday night from 5 - 7 PM. Since I will be out of town from July 6th through July 10th, we will not have T.Y.T on July 10th. This month we have V.B.S (Vacation Bible School) July 18th through the 21st, 6 - 8 PM. We will have youth activities after VBS, 8 - 10 PM. If any youth or parent want to help with VBS please let me know ASAP! As always I can't wait to see all the fun we have this month. Don't forget to join our Facebook group, and follow our Instagram account for more fun activities!!

Facebook: The Overcomer's
Instagram: the_overcomers_pc

Blessings,
Lindsey McGee
Youth Ministry Director



Saying goodbye to Seth.





Perfect fellowship for a hot summer afternoon!



I don't know about you, but when I think of the 4th of July, my mind always goes to homemade ice cream. This is my favorite recipe.

- 2 Cans of Eagle Brand milk
- 60 ounces of fruit flavored pop
- About 8 oz of fruit
- Mix & freeze

Use your imagination, strawberry pop with frozen strawberries, or orange pop with crushed pineapple. Yum!





Special friends say goodbye to Pastor Don

Sack Lunches for Students

United Women of Faith (UMW) is again going to make sack lunches for students when school starts. We invite you to share this mission project with us. We would welcome anyone who would like to help put lunches together to sign up. It takes about 1 hour to fill the sacks. If you would like to hand the lunches out to students it takes about 15 minutes. If you would like to donate to the lunches we would welcome chips, applesauce, bread, ham, cookies or money to purchase any of the supplies. Our fall semester schedule will be August 26, September 9 and 23rd, October 7 and 21st, November 4 and 18 and December 2 and 16. Please join us for one Friday or for many Fridays. It is good fellowship. The students have been so appreciative.



PRAYER CORNER

Lord... remind us today that You have shown us what is good in what You require of us; to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God. We ask that as a people, we may humble ourselves before You and seek Your will for our lives and for this great nation. Help us in our nation to work as never before to strengthen our families and to give our children hope and a moral foundation for the future. So may our desire be to serve You, and in so doing, serve one another. This we pray in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.
(by Billy Graham)



Out contest is not only whether we ourselves shall be free, but whether there shall be left to mankind a asylum on earth for civil and religious liberty.

~Samuel Adams

Remember democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet, that did not commit suicide.

~John Adams



JULY

2022



SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THUR

FRI

SAT

					1	2
3 10:00 Worship Communion No evening Activities	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	6	7 9:00 Stephen Ministry	8	9
10 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	11	12 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:00 Board of Trustees	13	14	15	16
17 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 TYT	18 5:30 Friendship Feast	19 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	6:00 VBS			23
	8:00 Youth	8:00 Youth	8:00 Youth	8:00 Youth	8:00 Youth	
24 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 TYT	25	26 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 TYT						

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Joycelynn Davidson	07/04	Judy Million	07/21	Geoffrey Cowan	07/29
Arleen Jacobson	07/05	Dixie Kuehny	07/22	Jan Matheson	07/30
Aaron Millemon	07/07	Trent Fry	07/23		
Deanna Cohenour	07/08	Bernice Whitfill	07/23		
Ty Otto	07/09	Linda Jantz	07/24		
John Davis	07/11	Susan Blake	07/25		
Darlene Petty	07/17	Wayne Moore	07/26		
Nate Harbeson	07/19	Gregg Grubbs	07/28		
Reed Jackson	07/20	Dee Kutz	07/28		
DeEtte Moon	07/20	Andy Tubbs	07/28		



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



Guess Who?

If you guessed Andy Tubbs last month, you were correct. See how you do with our July 'Guess Who.'

I spent a year traveling in Europe with a friend in 1969-70.

I'm first generation Norwegian. (My dad moved to USA when he was 4 in 1906.)

I suffer from stage fright.

I lived on a farm until age 5.

Guess Who!



Friendship Feast

The position of Custodian for Friendship Feast, a free, hot-meal feeding program located at First Christian Church, is open for application. The successful applicant will provide custodial services for the meal program and should be able to interact cordially with guests and volunteers. Due to COVID all meals are served "to go." Hours are approximately 4:30 -6:30 PM, Monday-Thursday. Call 580-763-2633 for more information and to apply.



Pastor Don & Seth Griffin
 205 Gladd RD
 Fort Gibson, OK 74434

* * * * *

Judy Million
 Via Christie, Villa L2
 1601 Academy RD
 Ponca City, OK 74602

* * * * *

Margie Parker
 Via Christie, Apt 112
 1601 Academy RD
 Ponca City, OK 74604



LIBRARY NEWS

These books have been added to the church library recently.

Someone Like You by Karen Kingsbury – "Science raises questions only love can answer in this moving and thought-provoking novel from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of life-changing fiction."

A Lineage of Grace by Francine Rivers - Five stories of unlikely women, in the lineage of Jesus Christ, who changed eternity. Tamar is a woman of *hope*, Rahab is a woman of *faith*, Ruth is a woman of *love*, Bathsheba is a woman who received *unlimited grace*, and Mary is a woman of *obedience*.

Two Weeks by Karen Kingsbury – This is a tender and deeply moving novel about love, faith and what it really mean to be a family.

A Prophet with Honor by William Martin – This is the biography of Billy Graham who touched millions of lives around the world.

OUR STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR

Pastor Leon Veazey
okchapleon@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
sheila.foxworthy@gmail.com

CHURCH SECRETARY

Dianne Clark
fumcpc41@gmail.com

CUSTODIAL

Larry Davidson
ldlarrydavidson@yahoo.com

July 2022 - Daily



for our YOUTH

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

1

He has saved us and called us to a holy life-not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. ~2 Timothy 1:9

Savior Jesus, may **(name)** believe You chose to save him, and call him to a holy life, not because he deserves it but for Your own purpose and grace. Amen!

2

And the LORD came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening." ~ 1 Samuel 3:10

Awesome God, thank You for pursuing **(name)**. I pray her ears be tuned to the frequency of Your voice and she eagerly respond to Your instructions. Amen!

3

I cry out to God Most High, to God, who vindicates me. ~ Psalms 57:2

Dear Father, please stir **(name)** to turn to You for the confidence and courage to fulfill all You planned for him to accomplish today. Amen!

4

You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. ~ Psalms 139:3

A graphic with 'USA' in large, stylized letters, flanked by fireworks. Below it, the text reads: 'Everlasting Lord, I pray You fill **(name)** with Your joy as she goes about her daily tasks today. Amen!'

5

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ~Matthew 11:29

Sovereign God, whenever **(name)** is distressed, may his first response be to turn to You for counsel and rest. Amen!

6

And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. Your suffering is over." ~Mark 5:34

Abba Father, may **(name)**'s faith be root deep. May she go through life physically, emotionally and mentally at peace because she knows You. Amen!

7

... 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' ~Acts 13:22

Gracious Lord, may **(name)** be a man after Your own heart, whose thoughts, words and actions are pleasing to You as he does Your will. Amen!

8

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. ~Hebrew 6:10

King of Kings, please open **(name's)** eyes to see the many opportunities when she is to love and serve You obediently by serving others. Amen!

9

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. ~Psalms 147:3

Holy Father, please heal any hurt or broken pieces of **(name's)** heart and soul. Make this child whole. Amen!

10

... whatever is true, ... noble, ... right, ... pure, ... lovely, ... admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. ~Philippians 4:8

Blessed Lord, please transform **(name's)** mind so he only focuses on things that are true, pure, right, holy, friendly, and pleasing to You. Amen!

11

...I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ~Ephesians 4:1-2

My God, my Lord, may **(name)** live in a manner worthy of Your calling; in humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with others in love Amen!.

12

... open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins ... ~Acts 26:18

Gracious Father, please open **(name's)** eye and heart to walk in Your light, so he may receive forgiveness of sins and have everlasting life. Amen!

13

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; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. ~Isaiah 41:10

Glorious Lord, may **(name)** have the courage to face down her fears and slay them, trusting You are always with her. Amen!

14

Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ~Hebrews 10:23.

Adonai, please deepen **(name's)** faith. May he hold fast to the knowledge You are ever-faithful; Your promises will never fail. Amen!

15

Whoever heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray. ~Proverbs 10:17

Blessed Father, I pray that **(name)** will not ignore or resent correction. May she accept discipline and learn from it. Amen!

16

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ~Romans 10:9

Awesome Lord, may **(name)** declare with his mouth that Jesus is Lord, believe wholeheartedly that God raised Him from the dead, and that he is saved! Amen!

17

I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint." ~Jeremiah 31:25

Today Omniscient God, I pray **(name)** will feel Your presence today. Please refresh her body and restore her soul. Amen!

18

Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me. ~John 12:26

Savior Father, I pray that it would be **(name's)** heartfelt desire to serve You, follow You and be in Your presence - nowhere else. Amen!

19

"O Sovereign LORD! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you! ~Jeremiah 32:17

Omnipotent Lord, please give **(name)** the unshakeable confidence that You prevail in all situations as nothing is too difficult for You. Amen!

20

... 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' ~Acts 13:22

Gracious God, may **(name)** be one after Your own heart, whose thoughts, words and actions are pleasing to You. Amen!

21

The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still." ~Exodus 14:14

Righteous Father, may **(name)** learn to walk in faith. May his soul be calm and his spirit strong as he rests in the assurance You Lord fight for him. Amen!

22

Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to His name. ~Hebrews 13:15

Almighty King, please open **(name's)** eyes to see Your hand at work in her life. Stir her heart to offer You an unceasing and joyful sacrifice of praise. Amen!

23

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

God of All Hope, may **(name)** honor You with all his heart, and not just his lips. May his worship be heartfelt, not simply a pretense to conform with society. Amen!

24

No weapon that is formed against you will prosper; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. ~Isaiah 54:17

Dear Father, please protect **(name)**. May no weapon formed against her prosper. May every tongue that accuses her in judgment receive Your condemnation. Amen!

25

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." ~John 16:33

Eternal Lord, please fill **(name)** with Your peace. May he take heart, assured You are in control of all that concerns him. Amen!

26

I will not look with approval on anything that is vile. I hate what faithless people do; I will have no part in it. ~Psalm 101:3

Jehovah God, please strengthen **(name)** to resist the temptation to set anything vile before her eyes. Grant her a strong resolve to look away from sinful images. Amen!

27

He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." ~Luke 11:28

Sovereign Father, please sensitize **(name's)** ears and heart to Your Word, and may he strive each day to keep it! Amen!

28

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ~Ephesians 3:20

Everlasting Lord, may **(name)** trust You wholeheartedly, confident You can do more than he can ask or imagine. Amen!

29

... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Let us look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, ... ~Hebrews 12:1-2

Father God, may **(name)** run with endurance the race that is set before her, looking to You, the author and finisher of her faith. Amen!

30

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. ~Mark 12:30

Abba Father, may **(name)** love You, the Lord our God, with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his mind and his strength. Amen!

31

We faithfully preach the truth. God's power is working in us. ~2 Corinthians 6:7

Gracious Lord, may the Word of truth penetrate **(name's)** heart and the power of God work in her, transforming all her thoughts, words and actions to be more like Him! Amen!