

# THE FLAME

Volume 52, Issue 8

August 2022



## Looking Ahead

Wednesday Night Fellowship will return on September 4th.

Kids' M&Ms	3:30 PM
Youth WOW	4:00 PM
Prayer & Praise Dinner	5:30 PM
Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM

The bus and van will pickup children at their schools for M&Ms.



For our children, schools, teachers, administrators, and other workers

Saturday, August 27th

7:00 - 9:00 AM

Walk begins at the

Performing Arts Center on Overbrook.

Walk at your own pace.

Signs along the way will prompt you to stop and pray for specific needs and concerns.



Get Ready to Rock the Spirit!

All Church Round Up & Sock Hop

Sunday August 29th, 6:00 PM

Hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks provided.

Please bring covered dishes (sides and desserts), lawn chairs and friends.



Pastor  
Leo Veazey

There's no way to estimate the power of hope in times of difficulty and despair! In a 2013 *Psychology Today* article online, Dale Archer (MD) wrote, "If I could find a way to package and dispense hope, I would have a pill more powerful than any antidepressant on the market." He goes on to say that Hope is often "the only thing between man and the abyss."<sup>1</sup>

There's no need to explain the importance of hope against the backdrop of our current world challenges. We are all experiencing the effects of a pandemic that seems to never go away. We live in a culture of great social unrest, increased political polarization, and climate patterns producing natural disasters in what seems to be increasing frequency. We awaken each morning to news of war and senseless acts of violence taking many lives and exasperating our society as a whole! All of us have personal challenges in our lives, some with health, others dealing with

## THE POWER OF HOPE

grief, and many of us wishing that relationships with people we love were healthier and more stable.

So, where is the hope? Just like always, we find God in the midst of the storm, in the struggle, engaging with us the battles we face! Jesus is "God WITH Us," and the Holy Spirit is God IN us. It's often in the trials and tribulations that God's people experience hope in deeper and more empowering ways. It's actually much more difficult to experience hope when we're on the "mountaintop." The Prophet Jeremiah directed the focus of the Hebrew people who were in bondage in Babylon towards the God who had a "future and a hope."<sup>2</sup> He says of God, "The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness ... I say to myself, 'The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!'"<sup>3</sup>

In John Maxwell's book, *The Winning Attitude*<sup>4</sup>, he tells of an experiment where a rat in a pail of water treads water until it almost gives out. Then, as the pail is tipped again where the rat can get a peek over the edge, it resumes paddling to stay afloat. Similarly, all of us need a "peek over the pail" on a regular basis. That's why we need the church, the local fellowship of believers together with whom we worship, grow spiritually, and engage fel-

lowship. We also need to hold space for divine encounters in our daily lives through engagements with the Word of God and prayer. The Spirit will empower us to see over the edge of our own limits and see the hope that we have in the Lord!

When John and Charles Wesley saw the waning hope of the Church of England in the eighteenth century, they knew they had to rise up to a new challenge. Their vigilance inspired the Methodist holiness movement which resulted in The United Methodist Church, and many other holiness expressions in the Church Universal. We, like our predecessors, must remember that our hope is in the Lord and that Christ's Church is the banner of that hope in the world.

I challenge you to join me in turning our attention to Christ and the Hope we have for renewal and revitalization in Him. We can be known in our community and world as a people of the redeeming hope of God by renewing our relationship with God and each other. Thank you for allowing me the great privilege and pleasure of being part of this journey of hope with you! --  
Love in Christ, Pastor Leon

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/reading-between-the-headlines/201307/the-power-hope>; <sup>2</sup>Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT); <sup>3</sup>Lamentations 3:22-24 (NLT); <sup>4</sup>*The Winning Attitude* (John Maxwell, 1993, Thomas Nelson publishers).



Staff met poolside for 'Dessert with Leon.'



If you did not fill out one of the forms asking you to verify your information (cells phone, address, birth date etc.), please do so. We need everyone to verify the information so we may correct the information in our data base. If you need the form mailed to you, please call the office.



Several people have asked for the address for the Bayless family. I'm sure they would love to hear from you during this time of grief, and know you are praying for them.

Dolan and Kathy Bayless  
9331 Cherry Brook Lane  
St. Louis, MO 63126



### MOTHER'S DAY OUT

Mother's Day Out will reopen on Wednesday, August 24th. We will be open throughout the school year, following the public school calendar for any closings. Our days and times of operation will be Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. through 3 p.m. Our classrooms are filling up for the fall! Contact Jordan Meador through the church office or at [mothersdayoutfmc@outlook.com](mailto:mothersdayoutfmc@outlook.com) to check availability for your child's age group. To read a copy of our updated Handbook, scan the code below.



### FOOD PANTRY

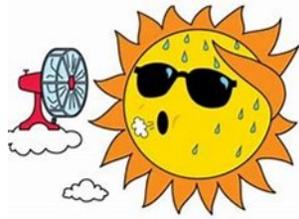
With the tough economic times we are having now, we are getting more and more calls for assistance. People need help to get them through to payday, and often need food on days other than when NERA is open.

We have set up a small food pantry to help on those days when someone calls the church and needs a little help. We would love to take your "in date" canned food donations. We would prefer to have pop top cans, but if you have others, they are welcome too.

Plastic spoons and/or napkins crowding your drawers would be put to good use. If you have silverware packets from carry out foods, those would be heaven sent! Please bring your items to church and set them in the pantry box in the Welcome Center. Thank you for blessing others!

**REMEMBER! THE FRIST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH IS DESIGNATED FOOD SACK SUNDAY!**





# Great time to be inside!

Hey youth and youth parents!

The month of July has gone by so fast, I can't believe that the school year is already here. I know some of you are not ready to be back in school, but I also know that others of you are ready for school to start.

This year we start a brand new curriculum for youth. I'm so excited, and I know all of you will enjoy it too. For the month of August we will be discussing the topic "CATALYST".

The new lesson series begins Sunday, August 7th and will continue through out the month. T.Y.T will continue through August with W.O.W starting in September.

The Youth Breakfast Fundraisers will continue throughout the year. August 21st is the next scheduled event.

I want to officially welcome our new youth students: Nicholas, Alex, and Samantha. We are so glade to have y'all in this group! I look forward to seeing everyone.

Blessings,  
Lindsey



**Service Project**  
**Making Our City**  
**Beautiful!**  
**(Marland's Grand Home)**





**Life Lessons for Our Youth  
And Those Young at Heart**

**1:** Think before you act. The simple but effective process of thought will help you avoid making critical mistakes that could cost you your freedom, education, or your life. “. . . Thinking ability will safeguard you.” ~Proverbs.

**2:** Find an adult mentor. A responsible adult knows what is best for your well-being. Even if you have to sacrifice your reputation with your friends, draw close to an adult who you know has your best interest at heart. Ideally this should be your parent. Friends will come and go but your parents will be an unconditional and lifelong source of love and support. Don't get this confused!

**3:** Do not be a follower. Avoid being part of the crowd. Without being a loner, you can separate yourself from the group of people who are not involved in positive things and still have a social life. Avoid following popular trends that could lead to a high-risk lifestyle, such as becoming so obsessed with materialism that you will do illegal activities to obtain certain things.

**4:** Be humble. In the current environment, it is popular to be haughty or arrogant. Such attitudes tend to prevent an individual from developing healthy relationships. Being humble allows you to be open to learning from elders and making ad-

justment to become a better person.

**5:** Establish a set of values. There are many deep cultural, social, and spiritual values that will benefit all people. However, I recommend three simple and basic set of values for youth: life, education, freedom. If you place a high value on each of these and consider them in your decisions, it will affect the choices you make. Put simply, if you value your life, you will think twice about drinking and driving. If you value your education, you won't threaten a teacher, which will get you expelled. If you value your freedom, you will avoid criminal behavior that could lead to incarceration.

**6:** Maintain emotional stability. Managing emotions is absolutely vital for navigating through these critical times that we are currently living in. Emotions run high in dealing with personal matters, family matters, and work relationships. Even in sporting events there have been incidents that go bad due to a loss of emotional control. If you are in control of your emotions, most incident will not escalate. Remember, *life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we react to it.*

~Charles Swindoll

~Deon D. Price





**PRAYER CORNER**

Come summer with me, Lord;  
summer deep down in my soul;  
restore my faith in summer's time,  
in rest, in joy, in play, in you...

Summer in my heart, Lord,  
and dwell there as if time would  
never end,  
as if all time were children's time,  
eternal time  
when school is always out and joy is  
ever in...

And let others summer in my shade,  
Lord,  
and share whatever summer's peace  
is mine to give,  
whatever summer's light is mine to  
shed,  
whatever summer's warmth is mine  
to share...

Good God of every season and every  
day this week,  
come summer with me, Lord, and let  
the child in my heart  
spend this summer in your love...  
Amen.

*Fr. Austin Fleming  
who blogs at  
"A Concord Pastor Comments."*

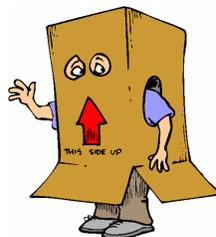
*A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawnmower is broken. ~James Dent*

*I'm glad it's finally hot enough to complain about how hot it is. ~Anonymous*

*The weather is like the government — always in the wrong. ~Jerome K. Jerome*

*Then, there's the one about the fellow who complained of the excessive heat the other day, when the thermometer read 90. 'It isn't hot, brother,' comforted a war correspondent just back from Ethiopia, 'until the chair gets up when you do!' ~Walter Winchell*

**Guess Who?**



If you guessed Suzy Lenhart as last month's "Guess Who", you were correct. Time now for August. Guess Who?

I was born in Bossier City, LA.

I had a chihuahua as a child to help with my asthma.

I was a senior in high school when the Challenger exploded.

This year is my 10th wedding anniversary.

Pastor Leon and I once attended the same school at the same time.



**Haiku for August**

Dog Days of Summer;  
Panting for a shady space,  
Praying for God's grace.

~Wayne Moore



Dear First United Methodist,  
Ponca City,

Thank you for being a supportive community and for paving this educational opportunity I have been endeavoring in my first year at Oklahoma State University. My semesters have been full of growth, learning opportunities, and hard work. I am grateful to have a community in the church that has allowed me the experience that I have and produced the results I have experienced this school year. I have been a part of band, the honors college, SUMMIT, a leadership program, the President's Honor Roll, and several creative writing endeavors. I cannot wait, and am looking forward to the future and what opportunities next year will hold. I'm thankful for your support in the present one.

I appreciate the love, help and prayers,

Anisa Layton





**2022**

**SUN                  MON                  TUES                  WED                  THUR                  FRI                  SAT**

	1 9:00 Staff Meeting	2 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	3 6:30 Dessert w/ Leon	4 6:00 Knitgiving	5	6
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Communion 5:00 TYT	8 9:00 Staff Meeting	9 9:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:00 Trustees	10 6:30 Dessert w/ Leon	11 9:00 Stephen Ministry	12	13
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 TYT	15 9:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Friendship Feast	16 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	17 6:30 Dessert w/ Leon	18 6:00 Knitgiving	19	20
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 5:00 TYT	22 9:00 Staff Meeting	23 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	24 10:00 MDO 	25	26 1:30 UWF Sandwiches for School Kids	27 7:00 Prayer Walk
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 6:00 All-Church Round Up & Sock Hop	29 9:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 MDO	30 9:00 Intercessory Prayer	31 10:00 MDO			

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

Peter Hightower	08/04
Blaine Markle	08/06
Matt Biery	08/08
Steffi Cowan	08/11
Ann Bandy	08/12
Nicholas Biery	08/14
Pastor Leon Veazey	08/17
Pat Gray	08/20
Marge Parker	08/23
Bill Bridwell	08/27



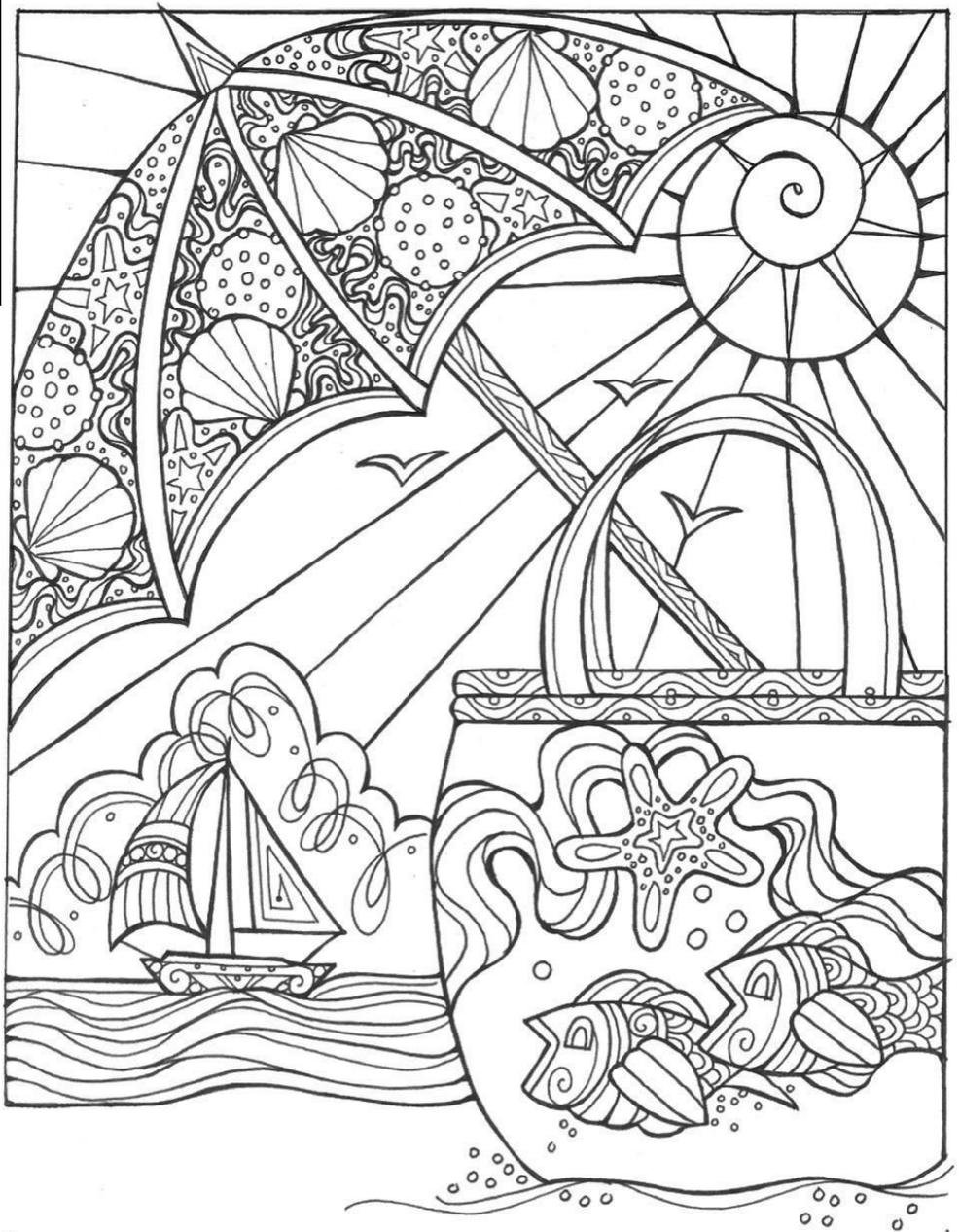
**AUGUST FUN FACT**

Originally, August was named Sextilis because it was the sixth month in the 10-month Roman calendar. After a calendar reform, it was then named in honor of Augustus Caesar, the Roman emperor. The emperor was said to choose August because it was when he had several of his great triumphs, including the conquest of Egypt.

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***It's a great time  
 to plan indoor ac-  
 tivities! Get out  
 your crayons or  
 colored pencils,  
 pour yourself a  
 large iced drink  
 and have fun!***



## OUR STAFF

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# August 2022 Daily Prayers



## for our YOUTH

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

**1**

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

Savior Jesus,

May (name)'s faith be rooted deep. May she go through life in peace; made whole physically, mentally, emotionally, and mentally. Amen!

**2**

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

Awesome God,

May (name) be a model showing integrity and dignity as he walks in the good works You Father prepared in advance for him to do. Amen!

**3**

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. ~ Proverbs 4:23

Dear Father,

Please protect (name's) heart and mind from evil. May she not be drawn to evil of any kind. Amen!

**4**

And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching." ~ Luke 10:38-39

Eternal Lord,

Please give (name) a craving for Your Word. May he enjoy sitting at Your feet and listening to Your teaching. Amen!

**5**

"Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." ~ 1 John 3:18

Jehovah God,

May (name) love not only in word or talk, but in deed and in truth. Amen!

**6**

Let your heart, therefore, be wholly devoted to the LORD our God. ~ 1 Kings 8:61

Sovereign Father,

I pray (name) will not only believe in You but his heart would be fully and completely devoted to You. Amen!

**7**

The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out. ~ Proverbs 20:5

Everlasting Lord,

Please give (name) clarity about the purpose and calling for which You created her. Amen!

**8**

"But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'" ~ Luke 10:29

Father God,

As (name) makes decisions each day, open his eyes to see his neighbors and care for them as You do. Amen!

**9**

With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. ~ Matthew 19:26

Abba Father,

Please spur (name) to pray about everything pertaining to her. Remind her nothing is too big or impossible for You. Amen!

**10**

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. ~ Romans 12:2

Gracious Lord,

May (name)'s mind be transformed and renewed to accept and appreciate Your good, pleasing and perfect will for his life. Amen!

**11**

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. ~ Hebrews 12:6

Savior God,

I pray (name) will be caught whenever sin creeps into her life, so she may be corrected. Amen!

**12**

"He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, who despises the gain of oppressions. ~ Isaiah 33:15

Almighty Father,

May (name) despise evil. Please prompt him to walk righteously and speak uprightly. Amen!

**13**

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

Precious Lord,

Please keep (name's) tongue from speaking evil and her lips from speaking lies. Amen!

**14**

"Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends." ~ Proverbs 17:9

Loving God,

May (name) seek to love others well. May he forgive others easily. Amen!

**15**

"He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend." -Proverbs 22:11

Holy Father,

May (name's) be of pure heart and her speech always gracious and kind. Amen!

**16**

"And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment." ~ Philippians 1:9

Dear Lord,  
It is my prayer that (name)'s love abounds more and more, with knowledge and all discernment.  
Amen!

**17**

Trust in the LORD, and do good.  
~ Psalm 37:3

Almighty God,  
I pray (name's) good works will be recognized and encouraged.  
Amen!

**18**

Love one another earnestly from a pure heart." ~ 1 Peter 1:22

Everlasting Father,  
May (name) love others earnestly from a pure heart. Amen!

**19**

A wise man's heart directs him toward the right, but the foolish man's heart directs him toward the left. ~ Ecclesiastes 10:2

Loving Lord,  
May (name) have a heart of the wise which is inclined to do right, not the heart of the fool which leads astray.  
Amen!

**20**

"Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, 'and tell the people all about this new life.'" -  
~ Acts 5:20

Sovereign God,  
Please give (name) the courage and conviction to tell the world about the new life he has found in You Christ.  
Amen!

**21**

"Strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, ~  
Acts 14:22

Gracious Father,  
Please strengthen (name)'s soul and encourage her to continue in the faith despite any challenges she may face. Amen!

**22**

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
~ Ephesians 2:10

Blessed Lord,  
May (name) believe the truth of who he is in Christ; a masterpiece, created for good works. Amen!

**23**

Those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people."  
~ Titus 3:8

Everlasting God,  
May (name) be careful to devote herself to good works; to things that are good and beneficial to all people. Amen!

**24**

"There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." ~ Proverbs 12:18

Jehovah Father,  
May (name)'s words be edifying, bringing healing and hope to who listen. Amen!

**25**

"Even a child makes himself known by his acts, by whether his conduct is pure and upright." ~ Proverbs 20:11

Savior Lord,  
May (name)'s conduct always be pure and upright.  
Amen!

**26**

"Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."  
~ 1 Timothy 4:12

Eternal God,  
May (name) set an example for other believers in his speech and conduct, by the depth of his faith, purity, and how he loves others. Amen!

**27**

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.  
~ John 10:27

Loving Father,  
May (name) be sensitive to Your still small voice. May she hear and obey You despite the noise of the world. Amen!

**28**

"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" ~ Ephesians 4:15

Sovereign Lord,  
I pray (name) would learn to speak the truth in love so he grows in every regard to resemble Christ.  
Amen!

**29**

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.  
~ 1 Corinthians 10:31

Mighty God, May (name) desist from doing, eating, or drinking anything, that does not glorify You.  
Amen!

**30**

Who may dwell [continually] on Your holy hill? He who walks with integrity and strength of character. ~ Psalm 15:1-2

King of Kings,  
May (name) walk with integrity and character. May he do what is right, and speak and hold the truth in the inner chamber of his heart. Amen!

**31**

Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. ~ Romans 12:10

Awesome Father, Please transform (name's) heart so she loves and shows compassion to others as generously as she loves herself. Amen!