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THE FLAME

Volume 50, Issue 10

October 2020



Fall Gathering

Wednesday, October 14th,

5:00 PM, in the Parking Lot east of the Church

Fun, fellowship and games

Food and drinks will be provided.

Bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on and lots of friends!



Children's Church will resume the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month starting in October. Proper distancing will be observed!



ARE YOU FAITHFUL IN YOUR GIVING?

BY TEXT: Just text the donation amount to 1(580) 324-3101 (no need to include the "\$" sign—just text the numerical amount). You'll receive a text back from Vanco prompting you with the next steps

ONLINE: On our website, www.fumcpc.org, go to the tab named "Donate" and you can donate by Paypal, credit or debit card.

BY MONTHLY AUTODRAFT: Call (580) 763-2196 and I'll get you set up for a monthly draft from your checking or savings account.

BY STOCK TRANSFER: We have an account with TD Ameritrade for easy transfer of stock to the FUMC account.

If you need help with any of these, please do not hesitate to call me at (580) 763-2196.

Cynthia



SPECIAL THANKS FOR ENDOWMENTS:

If you've driven by the church playground recently, you'll notice some really exciting things taking place...dirt was being moved & holes were being dug this week... and possibly by the time you are reading this newsletter, we will have the new playground shades installed. Hallelujah! This enormous blessing to all the kiddos that play on the playground was made possible by funds from the Robson Estate. The Robsons left funds for FUMC in their wills to supplement special projects in the Music, Youth, & TV ministries.

Thank you Allen & Elma Robson for your love of our church and for your continued legacy.

For the past several years, we've had issues with roof leaks in a couple spots in our beautiful church. In the next few weeks, repairs will be made to rectify these issues so that we don't incur any additional damage in our gorgeous facilities. FUMC has been blessed with several endowments over the years, and these roof repairs are going to be possible due to the generosity & foresight of Bonnie Irene Sims. She left FUMC a large gift in her will and recently the Endowment Committee and the Church board met and approved the use of funds

from this Endowment to fund the needed repairs. Thank you Bonnie Irene Sims!!

Bonnie Sims and Allen & Elma Robson and several other individuals have included FUMC-PC in their wills & estate planning. We are incredibly blessed to have these gifts for special uses such as these roof repairs and the playground sun shades. Our general operating fund would not have the funds to cover these repairs & improvements, but we are able to cover these needed projects thanks to these endowments. If you have an interest in something like this, please visit with your attorney or call Cynthia at 580-763-2196.



Pastor Don Griffin

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, summarized God's directives to His people in what he called "Three Simple Rules." Wesley said that if we could "Do No Harm, Do Good, and Attend to the Ordinances of God (or, more simply, Stay in Love with God)" that we would be following God's plan for our lives. This is easier said than done.

DO NO HARM

The first principle of healthcare is do no harm. Before any action is taken to help someone needing medical care, the professional should take all precautions to not make the situation worse by doing harm. It is obvious if someone has head/neck injury you want to take care to secure that area before moving on to addressing the patient's other issues. "Do no harm" is easy to see in healthcare, especially those facing life and death situations, but what about ministry. Wesley's first rule for his followers is the same, "Do no harm."

I cringe every time I see men and women using God's name in a manipulative way to further their

own ambitions or desires. I once had a friend whose husband would not set foot in a church. When he was a precocious little boy, he had a family member take him to a holiness revival service where the preacher had been told he needed God. Perhaps it was mostly his perception, but he felt that the judgement of the church and the focus of the preacher was on this pre-teen boy. They were pushing for him to give his life to Jesus and receive of the Holy Spirit. This spiritual trauma left him fearful of God and of church people. The desire of the relative may have been sincere, but the means to reach that good scared this person badly. In this case, I feel harm was done.

DO GOOD

It is not enough that we just seek to keep from harming others, as faithful United Methodist followers of Jesus, we are compelled to act for the sake of others. It should be our nature to intercede on behalf of others, just as Jesus did through out his life. It is easy to respond when there has been a natural disaster. A tornado, hurricane, wildfire, earthquake or other natural occurrence that comes into people's lives, we are quick to respond. I believe we are hard-wired as humans to respond to the big traumatic life events. I want to focus for a moment away from the big events to some that may pass unnoticed. Consider the young single parent or the young couple with extremely limited resources and no one to help with their children. Imagine the older couple raising their grandchildren and feeling completely overwhelmed and cut off from their peers. How could "good" be done in their lives? You do not need a federal disas-

ter declaration to find opportunity to do good in other people's lives. Doing good should be a focal point of every day.

STAY IN LOVE WITH GOD

This may be the hardest rule that John Wesley gave his followers. Our lives are inundated with information and our calendars are filled with obligations to the point where we get lost in just following the schedule. I saw a woman at Homeland wearing a t-shirt that read "I can't. My kid has practice." I chuckled because I have lived that shirt. What happens to our spiritual wellbeing when we fill our lives with so much that we do not take time to stop and spend time with God? I have been in counseling situations with many couples who filled their schedules with so much that they stopped having time for each other. What about our time with God? What about our time of prayer? What about worship?

These are the three simple rules, but it turns out that simple does not mean easy.

Pastor Don

It's Over!

Daylight savings time officially ends on November 1st. Take advantage of that extra hour of sleep Sunday morning!

Spooky!

Due to a conflict in the DS's schedule, Charge Conference is now December 6th at 3:00 PM.



2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study UMW 1:30 Deborah 7:00 Miriam	2	3
4 9:30 Youth Bkfst with the Bible 10:00 Worship Communion Food Sack Sunday	5 2:00 Bell Ensemble	6	7 3:30 Kids' M&Ms 5:30 TYT	8 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study	9	10
11 9:30 Youth Bkfst with the Bible 10:00 Worship	12 2:00 Bell Ensemble	13 6:00 Board of Trustees	14 3:30 Kids' M&Ms 5:00 Fall Gathering	15 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study	16	17
18 9:30 Youth Bkfst with the Bible 10:00 Worship	19 Noon Flame Deadline 2:00 Bell Ensemble	20 6:30 Novels at Night	21 3:30 Kids' M&Ms 5:30 TYT	22 8:30 Stephen Ministry Meeting 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study	23	24
25 9:30 Youth Bkfst with the Bible 10:00 Worship	26 2:00 Bell Ensemble	27	28 8:45 Flame Mailed 3:30 Kids' M&Ms 5:30 TYT— Halloween Party	29 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study	30	31

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Ernest Jantz	10/01	Stacy McGee	10/24	Gineta Swanson	10/29
Valerie Huffer	10/03	Harrison Poet	10/24	Gene Rodgers	10/30
Darla Church	10/06	Vicki Stokke	10/24		
Chris Humble	10/06	Barbara Bridwell	10/25		
Ross Kubik	10/06	Sue Kistler	10/25		
Bill Elliott	10/08	Lynn Varner	10/25		
Charlie Poet	10/14	Brett Hightower	10/26		
Rod Kutz	10/17	Rod Alexander	10/27		
Diane Pendleton	10/22	Stan Long	10/27		
Dan Flewelling	10/23	Suzy Hron	10/29		





Rev. Mike Smith
October 15, 1958 -
September 2, 2020

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so very much for the visits, cards, calls and messages sent to our family and for your prayers during this time. They have given us great comfort! Losing Mike has been a shock to us as well as to the churches he loved and served. Mike treasured everyone that he got to know when serving as your pastor, performing baptisms, weddings or funerals or working along side you. He will be missed by us all. We are comforted in knowing that he is walking with Jesus and praising God as he sings and dances with the angels. We will see him again in heaven!

Thank you again!

Linda and family of
Mike Smith



PRAYER CORNER

Prayerlessness is the great enemy of true happiness. If we give up on prayer, or refuse to pray, we surrender our seat at the very source of the highest and fullest joy. “You do not have, because you do not ask” (James 4:2).

But even those of us who *do* pray can find ourselves in danger of forfeiting prayer’s fullness as we fall into stale ruts of familiar words and repeated requests. We wake up each day, say the same prayers, and wonder why it doesn’t feel more real and life-changing.

As we walk through the valley of the shadow of rut, many of us just put our heads down and hope for better days. But the Bible speaks too often and too highly of prayer for us to stay here long. Yes, we may know *the Lord’s Prayer* by heart, but those five verses are not the only guide we have to help us pray. God has given us all kinds of routes out of daily ruts in prayer.

Give me your strength.

Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant. (Psalm 86:16)

Some of us do not need to be convinced to work. We wake up ready to tackle our to-do list and take on the world. We just forget to ask for help, or to serve in anyone’s strength but our own. That kind of effort may work for a while, but

eventually we are out of gas and left with small, short-lived returns. “It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil” (Psalm 127:2).

Along with our prayers for guidance and direction, we need the physical and spiritual resources to walk and work well. Nothing of any real, spiritual, lasting value happens in our strength. “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain” (Psalm 127:1).

Work hard, but never in your own strength. Work in the strength that he supplies (1 Peter 4:11), and let him have all the glory he deserves. God will not lend his own strength to selfish or materialistic dreams, but he will supernaturally empower you to serve. He will give you the courage and resolve to lay down your life for others in the name of Jesus.

Article by Marshall Segal
Staff writer, desiringGod.org



Dear FUMCPC Family,

Thank you so much for the lovely cards, thoughts, and prayers upon the passing of my mother. She was a wonderful person and our family will miss her greatly. The words and prayers were very comforting during this time.

God Bless,
Lori Slater and family

Music Notes

by Joycelynn Davidson



Coming up... Kids

October 11
Children’s Sabbath

October 14
Trip to park if weather permits & church social at 5:00 with pizza—outside



Chancel Choir

Several Chancel Choir members have been meeting in the Welcome Center to rehearse. We’ve been practicing with masks on with plans to record several anthems for use during worship. We

will take a break during October and reconvene in November to work up some music for Christmas. We will not be presenting a Cantata this year but hope to have several different musical selections to enhance worship during Advent and Christmas.

Handbell Ensemble

Our Carillon Bell choir is not rehearsing at this time. We do have an ensemble that has been meeting on Mondays. We will have rung for worship by the time you receive this newsletter.

We have plans for ringing in worship again during November and December. It is good to have a little bit of normalcy



Kids’ M&Ms

We had a great day at our first meeting of Kids’ M&Ms. There were 16 children laughing, talking, playing, learning and generally having fun. It was so good to hear their voices and laughter inside the walls of our church. It’s been too long.

Of course, things are different this fall - face masks, limited singing, trying to keep the kids distanced (joke) and doing music creatively.

We are going to video the kids doing a skit about God’s creation and present that for worship on October 11th. Normally that would be Children’s Sabbath where the kids lead worship, but like I said, everything is different this year. We will record the video during Kid’s M&Ms on October 7th, so be sure your kids are here.



Hey Youth and Youth Parents,
I still cannot believe how fast this last month went by. As the Covid-19 virus continues to increase, Heather and I are working hard to come up with different activities and lessons that will interest you. This month we will continue to do Breakfast with the Bible on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. We will also continue to do TYT on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm.

On October 28th we will host our annual Halloween party for the youth. I will be sending out a list of everything we need for this event, so if anyone would like to donate, that would be great!

Please contact Heather or Lindsey at the church office with any questions you might have.

-Heather and Lindsey.

A great big *Thank You* goes to all the people who kept our property looking so wonderful this summer:

Earl Behara
Lynn Hopkins
Ernie Jantz
Paul Kuehny
Larry Murphy
Francis Nine
Ken Wilson

Great work guys!



 *Thank You*

For:

- * strong arms that got me safely up those dreadful steps,
- * those who carried my heavy music,
- * the young ones who were interested in talking about music and their key boards,

I am so grateful and thankful. I appreciate everyone who helped me.
Thanks so much!
Sue Lippert

MOTHER'S DAY OUT

MDO has been back in session for over a month now! As expected, our enrollment is down, however we are slowly regaining our numbers. These last few months have been a challenge for all involved, but we are fortunate that all of our teachers chose to come back. We are limited in our daily activities as we don't want to have any field trips or outside activities at this time. We have become very innovative in figuring out ways to keep the children entertained while learning at the same time.

The church has been instrumental in keeping our programs moving forward and for that we are very grateful. We are very diligent in keeping our facilities clean and sanitized and are in need of cleaning supplies: baby wipes, disinfecting spray and disinfecting wipes. If you would like to contribute any of these items it will be greatly appreciated. It truly does take a village.

Ruth Harbeson
Director, Mother's Day Out

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The Intercessory Prayer group will no longer be meeting on Tuesdays, or any other time. Also, the weekly updated prayer list will not be compiled and emailed out.

The interest in this ministry has dwindled lately, only Wayne Moore and Carolyn Hopkins have been attending. Members have died, moved away, changed churches or otherwise not been able to be there.

You may still go to the prayer request page on the church website and send in your requests.



UMW Mission Funds

One of the organizations that our UMW unit chose to support with our mission funds last year was the Survivor Resource Network, Inc. (SRN), located in Ponca City. The SRN (formerly Domestic Violence Shelter), has been helping to combat domestic violence and sexual assault for over 40 years. The most recent data places Oklahoma sixth in the nation for domestic violence related deaths per capita. Nation-wide statistics estimate that one in four women will be victims of domestic violence and sexual assault at least once in their lives. Rural women are at an increased risk and Native American women experience intimate partner violence at double the normal rate. The staff and volunteers of SRN are working hard to end this plague and ensure safety for all families through prevention and education.

SRN will assist with:

- ◇ Emergency Safe Shelter
- ◇ Sexual Assault Victims Advocacy
- ◇ Court Advocacy
- ◇ Counseling
- ◇ On-Scene Advocacy
- ◇ Transitional Housing
- ◇ Prevention Education



National Domestic Violence Statistics

- ◆ 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men will experience severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. (CDC, 2017)
- ◆ 1 in 10 women in the United States will be raped by an intimate partner in her lifetime. (CDC, 2010)
 - * Approximately 16.9% of women and 8.0% of men will experience sexual violence other than rape by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime. (CDC, 2010)
 - * Data on sexual violence against men may be underreported.
- ◆ An estimated 9.7% of women and 2.3% of men have been stalked by an intimate partner during their lifetime. (CDC, 2017)
- ◆ Nearly half of all women and men in the United States will experience psychological aggression by an intimate partner in their lifetime. (CDC, 2017)
- ◆ Over half of female and male victims of rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner experienced some form of intimate partner violence for the first time before 25 years of age. (CDC, 2010)

First Methodist UMW meets the first Thursday of the month September—May. There are two groups; Deborah meets at 1:30 PM and Miriam at 7:00 PM. You are invited to attend either group.



Novels at Night

It was so nice to be together again. We had so much to talk about we ran out of time. Next month we will meet to discuss *The Lost Letter* by Jillian Cantor. Two of our members recommended this book.

This book is a historical novel of love and survival inspired by real resistance workers during World War II Austria, and the mysterious love *letter* that connects generations of Jewish families. Sounds like something we will enjoy.

I will have the list of recommended books for us to finalize. Please send me any others you have read. So far we have novels about the Civil War, WWI, WWII, the Depression, and current day.

We will meet on October 20th at 6:30 in the Welcome Center. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Gineta Swanson

