

THE FLAME



February 3, 2025



Monday, February 3

Chancel Bells 1
Weight Loss Group 3:30
Friendship Feast 5
Carillion Handbells 6
Scouts 6:30
FPC Bible Study 7

Missions Committee 10
JAM 3:30
Wednesday Night Live 5:30
Youth Ministry 5:30
Choir 7

Tuesday, February 4

Coryell Cupboard 8
Men's Coffee Group 8:30
Intercessory Prayer 9:00
Worship Committee, 3-5
Coryell Cupboard 4
Project Transformation Planning 4

Thursday, February 6

Soroptimist 10:30

Sunday, January 26

Sunday School 9
Church 10
Ecumenical Partnership Advisory 1

Looking Ahead:

February, 16

NCD Leadership Training, Stillwater First
2 to 4:30 PM

Wednesday, February 5

Bible Study Via Christi 10
Communion Via Christi
Women's Bible Study 10
UWF Meeting

SCOUT TROOP 501

Thank
you!

Many thanks to the members of FUMC & FPC for making our inaugural Chili Dinner a huge success. We earned \$2,300! That will help us greatly in financing our trip to Philmont this summer as well as a few other activities we have planned. We are so blessed to be a part of your church family. Thanks again, the Troop 501 Mavericks



First United Methodist Church 200 S 6th Ponca City 580-762-1681 Where First Presbyterians & First United Methodists Worship Together!

February 9, 2025—Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



- Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
- Psalm 112:1-9 (10)
- 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
- Matthew 5:13-20

I have had several requests for directories. Please reply to this email and give me your name and I will reprint one for you.

Join us this Wednesday for the kick off of Wednesday Night Live. We have a great line up for you this semester.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE
5:30
FEBRUARY 5

Jane Edwards Sutter

HOPE
FOR AMERICA'S YOUTH
BEYOND THE BLUE DOORS
OF A BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

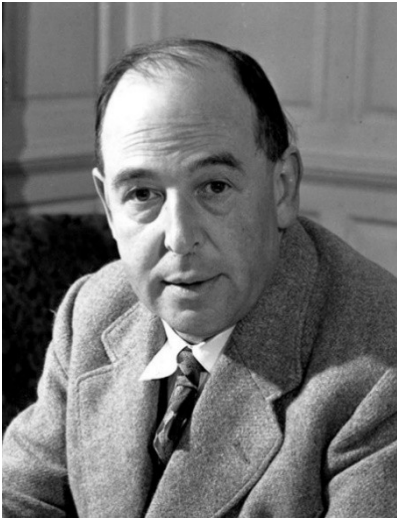
Good News/Good Sams
Snyders' Chicken,
vegetable, bread & dessert

Suggested Donation:
\$7Adult \$3Child

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Methodists Worship Together!

JANE EDWARDS SUTTER

FPC & FUMC **Mission Committee** meets this Wednesday at 11 am in the conference room. **Experience the joy of giving:** There's nothing quite like the feeling of knowing you're making a difference in the world.



Author Highlight – C. S. Lewis

Professor and author C.S. Lewis was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland in 1898. As a young child and then adult man he encountered a series of very difficult circumstances from the death of his mother when he was 10 years old, to his father moving him to boarding school in England shortly thereafter, to serving in WWI and becoming disabled for military service, and as a highly intelligent academic professor shunned by the Oxford elite for being from Ireland and not a local. Through all these hardships Lewis determined that there very well was no God and declared himself an atheist.

Slowly, however, little by little Lewis continued to feel a nudging in his heart that just maybe this “no God” he was so angry at really did exist after all or else, why was he blaming this God for such hardship. Lewis as an apologetic came to believe through reason. He converted to Christianity in 1931 after years of being a non-believer. By the time Lewis died thirty-two years later, he had written forty books and a long list of essays, articles, and poems. Through his former educational career as a university professor and living most of his adult life in Oxford, England, Lewis would have an influence that reached all over the world and continues to do so. Most of his books are still in print, sales grow each year, and his books are translated into dozens of languages. For three-quarters of century this Oxford don has been inspiring, edifying and spurring on people of all ages to Christian faith. Over the last two decades his writings have pointed people to Christ and countless others have explained how Professor Lewis served as their spiritual guide though his books when they could find no one else to help them.

Equally adept in writing fantasy using his vivid imagination, Lewis is best known for his study of the Christian faith and the life of Jesus. He is remembered for his popular books including the Narnia series of children’s literature and his best seller, Mere Christianity, which came from a series of radio broadcasts to the people of Europe during WWII when morale was low, and people needed something hopeful to hang on to.

Liberian, Jayne Detten

UWF Meeting Thursday February 5 at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come see the mission projects the women of the church are doing. There’s something for women of all ages and abilities.

From the conference office: Rev. Tish Malloy, the District Superintendent of the North Central District, has indicated her intention to retire effective July 1, 2025. Tish has served effectively in our conference for 34 years, as a local church pastor, conference VIM director and District Superintendent. In addition, she faithfully served for two years assisting with the conference's disaffiliation and redistricting processes. She has also been a leader at the general and jurisdictional levels. We know that Tish will continue to make a difference in the UMC even in retirement.

New District Superintendent

Bishop Merrill intends to appoint Rev. Valerie Steele, senior pastor at Quail Springs UMC in OKC, as the next District Superintendent of the North Central District, effective July 1, 2025. Valerie has been an effective pastor in urban and rural areas as well as serving as the chair of the Order of Elders for the last 5 years. She was a delegate to the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference and the 2020 General Conference. She served in non-profit ministries before becoming a pastor, including time at the OCU Institutional Advancement and the Center for Non-Profit Management.

Reflecting on this appointment, Steele shared, "I give all gratitude to God for the privilege of serving as District Superintendent of the North Central District, Oklahoma Annual Conference. I consider it a blessed opportunity and am thankful to be appointed by Bishop Laura Merrill. With great anticipation, I look forward to encouraging, supporting, and working alongside both laity and clergy as the Body of Christ in ministry and mission in the local church, various communities, and beyond."

"I give God thanks for Rev. Steele's willingness to serve in this way. She brings a beautiful spirit, a listening ear, and a commitment to the vitality of the church. I trust that the Cabinet team and the conference will be blessed by the addition of her voice to this leadership role," said Bishop Merrill.

Save the Date! We will be celebrating the beginning of our second year together on February 23 with a catered luncheon at noon in the Fellowship Hall.



Within the week FPC AND FUMC will be having a basket for egg cartons and paper sacks. NERA purchases these things if they are not donated. Please bring your unwanted Braums, Trader Joes, etc. sacks to the church along with your egg cartons.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

For weeks, a hushed anxiety hung in the air, a collective holding of breath before every sermon, announcement, or performance. The church sound system, our faithful companion in worship had fallen silent, plagued by a mysterious gremlin in its wires. Whispered prayers for a swift repair echoed in the pews. Well, rejoice, for the silence will be broken! The repairmen are slated to be onsite today to fix the system.

After a valiant effort by the Trustees along with our sound technicians, the sound system is being gloriously resurrected! The crackling static will be vanished, the muffled whispers have been amplified, and the once-wavering microphones now stand tall and proud, ready to carry our voices in song, prayer, and proclamation.

Remember those strained necks, the squinted eyes trying to decipher the barely audible message? Those days are over! Now, every word, every note, every nuance of Pastor Leon's voice will reach every corner of the sanctuary, filling the space with clarity and power.

This restoration isn't just about fixing a piece of equipment; it's about restoring connection. It's about ensuring that the message of hope, love, and community can be heard loud and clear in the church and online. It's about allowing the music to soar, lifting our spirits and uniting our voices in praise. It's about removing a barrier to participation and ensuring that everyone feels fully engaged in the shared experience. Stay tuned for full recovery!



As we are in the planning stages of Project Transformation, we have a few needs we are requesting help with. Our 6 AmeriCorps workers will be staying at Four Square church in their units. We need two full beds, a full bed, and a twin bed, a futon or some combination thereof. If you have beds you would like to donate to the cause, please let me know. We are also in need of sheets to match those beds and linens for our guests to use. Gently used unwanted bath towels, wash clothes, etc. Thank you!



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