

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1111 Downs Avenue
Woodward OK 73801

Nonprofit Organization
US POSTAGE
Woodward, Oklahoma
Permit #183



May 13, 2015

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Lora Bayliff, Administrative Assistant

Ann Laubhan, Financial Secretary

Evelina Lopez, Custodian

Michael Lewis, Audio-Visual Coordinator

Brianna Domnick, Nursery Assistant

Fax: 256.9590

MISSION STATEMENT

“TO MAKE DISCIPLES FOR JESUS CHRIST”

5/05 Larry & Rena Powers

5/12 Matt & Heather Harrington

5/13 Ray & Ruth Blumer

Charles & Kristel Horner

5/15 Mark & Kristi Moseley

5/18 Clarence & Edna Coldwell

5/19 Ken & Jo Arterberry

5/22 Kenny & Dayna Wederski

5/24 Chris & Jennifer Cockerham

5/25 Ron & Karla Wilson

5/28 Dale & Judith Moody

James & Jamie Sherman

Robert & Elise Solloway

5/29 Lance & Teresia England

Anniversaries
This Month

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Recent Hospital Stays:

Mary Spears, Linda Meyer, J'Dena Leahy, Patty Neely

At Home:

Tony Billings, Lola Stevens, Gene Ackers, Maureen Kitchens, Roy Best, Kathryn Upchurch, Mike Dean,

In Nursing Homes or Care Facilities:

Lahoma Grunewald, Maxine & Bennie Hammerstrom, Margaret Lewis, Barbara Carr, Merrylou Pummel, Bill Stout, Wilma Nelson, Artie Ware, Faye Riddle, Raymond & Dorothy File,

Other:

Our Troops and their Families

Sympathy Extended to:

Fred Craig & Family (Nephew), Margaret Rizley & Family (Husband-Jerry), Donnie Heckart & Family (Wife-Barbara)

Prayer Requests:

Our Prayer Team meets every Monday in the Library at 4:00 pm. You are invited to attend, or you may call the church office with specific prayer requests. (256-5515)

Birthdays of the Month

5/01 Tara Burnett

Lena Mae Regan

5/02 Norah Bryant

Kristi Johnson

5/03 Janet Merklin

Kellie Shirkey

5/07 Margaret Lewis

5/08 Edana Caldwell

5/09 Kitty Frech

5/10 Payton Rowley

5/12 Anita Patterson

5/14 Jo Arterberry

Debby Gore

Bonita Morris

5/15 Kyle Domnick

Tate Endersby

Kevin Parsons

5/17 Merrill DeWolf

Sara Lewis

Melanie Matt

5/18 Riley Moore

Bailey Nutter

5/20 Greg Cook

Maleah Stout

Krysta vonBidenfeld

5/21 Ray Bayliff

5/23 Emily Hall

Rick Hurst

Kathy Jones

5/24 Berylene Riddle

5/25 Lilly Mae Cole

Jennifer Flanery

5/26 Tegan Marlatt

Al Williams

5/27 Lori Freeman

Michael Lewis

5/28 Mickey Armstrong

5/29 Drew Grunewald

Shannon’s Shenanigans

"Train yourself to be godly. ⁸For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. ⁹This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. ¹⁰That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.”

– 1 Timothy 4:7b-10

A pastor in a college town recently told me that as soon as the semester ends, the church he pastors takes a significant drop in attendance. A certain degree of that is inevitable, of course, as the dorms empty out and the students spend the summer at home with their families. But it’s not just the students the church sees less of during the summer – many of the locals also seem to “take the “summer off” from church until returning for the fall. Churches in most towns experience the same thing to one degree or another.

I’m not a fuddy-duddy who thinks that you are putting yourself in grave spiritual danger if you miss a Sunday every now and again. I don’t believe that a fifty-year perfect attendance pin will get you a seat any closer to God in heaven. (And no, we don’t hand out pins like that anymore. But if you think you qualify, I’ll see what I can do!) Certainly health and other life issues that we can’t control can get in the way. Additionally, One thing I read said that as many as 1/3 of Americans have to be at work on Sunday mornings. That number seems a bit high to me, but there are plenty at work over the weekend.

But spiritual apathy is something that’s a lot more dangerous than a lot of people think. Church attendance is one piece of it. For too many people, going to church is something we do if there’s nothing else going on and we aren’t too worn out. For those with children and youth, Sunday School and other church activities are useful and good, but they had better not interfere with other activities and lots of parents leave it largely up to the child as to whether or not they go. I find that I need the faith community to help me keep focused on what’s most important in life – my relationship with Jesus. The church is not the only outlet where I’m trained in Godliness, as Paul puts it in 1 Timothy. Prayer and bible study and service in Jesus’ name are all huge as well. But church is an essential part of it. Taking months off at a time when not necessary causes my priorities to stray to less important things and sends a message that other things are more important than my relationship with Jesus.

So, as we get into summertime, what can become the “off season” for church, let’s make sure our relationship with Jesus is strong, and that we don’t let being a part of his body, the church, slip somewhere below mowing the lawn and Sunday morning nap. Don’t worry about what I, the preacher, or others might think of you if you don’t attend. That’s not our problem – it’s between you and God. I won’t think negative thoughts of you when you’re not here, but I will miss you. And it can make your spiritual muscles go flabby. No one wants that!

Our attendance at church has been up lately. That’s awesome! We had over 325 on Mother’s Day. You’re doing well! I realize, too, that if you are reading this newsletter, you are likely one who attends quite regularly and is quite engaged in the church. Thank God for you! Let’s keep our faith practices strong “in season and out of season” to quote from 2 Timothy 4. And let’s show the world that nothing takes center stage in our lives next to Jesus!



MINISTRY OF CARING

St. Matthew said that at the last judgment Jesus will say these words: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me” (Matthew 25:35-36).

One of the ways our congregation cares for others is through our trained Stephen Ministers, who go to those in need and care for them. Continue sharing in this ministry by praying for our Stephen Ministers and for their care receivers.

Karen Bell
Director of Stephen Ministry and
Congregational Care
First United Methodist Church
Woodward, Oklahoma

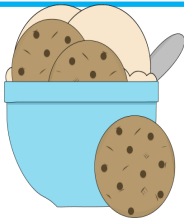
Woodward Senior Center Nutrition Program
To Temporarily Relocate to Our Church
May 21-June 5

Hungry senior citizens will be coming to our church each weekday for a couple of weeks as the Woodward Senior Center will be closed during that period for renovations. The kitchen staff will be arriving early each morning to prepare the meals, which are served midday. It's a privilege to work together with this local agency as they make sure older adults in our community have good nutrition.



Since 1955, UMCOR has implemented more than US \$1.51 billion worth of programs to alleviate human suffering and healing for the world's most venerable. Tis is US \$3.54 billion in today's value.

UMCOR spends 100 percent of designated donations on the projects our donors specify. UMCOR does NOT receive apportionment funds.



ALL CHURCH
ICE CREAM SOCIAL
MAY 31, 2015 AT 6:30 PM
BOILING SPRINGS NORTH
SHELTER

BRING ICE CREAM,
COOKIES, CAKES,
LAWN CHAIRS AND YARD GAMES.
THE CHURCH WILL PROVIDE PAPER
GOODS AND DRINKS.

THE BOILING SPRINGS POOL WILL BE
AVAILABLE FOR SWIMMING FROM
7:00 PM -8:00 PM.

COST IS \$2.00 PER PERSON TO SWIM
COME OUT FOR AN EVENING OF FUN
AND FELLOWSHIP!



Oklahoma United Methodists to Gather
May 25-28 in OKC

Our statewide denominational meetings will take place the last week of May. Shannon Davis will be our clergy delegate, and Jerry and Kitty Frech will serve as our lay delegates. This will be a busy time, as pastors will be commissioned and ordained, budgets and other business of the Oklahoma Annual Conference will be debated and voted upon, and delegates will be chosen for next year's General Conference. General Conference is the worldwide gathering of United Methodists, and meets only once every four years. General Conference is the only body that can make decisions and speak on behalf of the entire denomination. Please be in prayer for them and the Conference as important decisions will be made.



Vacation Bible School

June 8-12
9:00-Noon

Please register your children on the insert and bring it to the church office.

Watch the bulletin board in the lobby for Opportunities to help by bringing food and other Items to make this the best VBS yet! We appreciate your help!



Children's Church Camp

Remember, the deadline for camp registration is June 1. Sonshine

Camp for upcoming 1st and 2nd graders will be July 11-12 and Growin' In Grace Camp for upcoming 3rd-5th graders will be July 15-17. Mark your calendars! Pick up your registration forms from Debbie at the church office.

Upcoming Youth Events

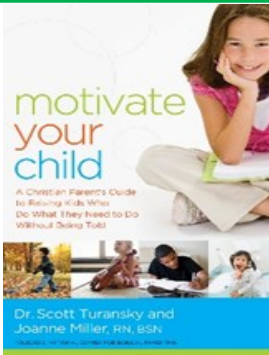
Summertime is here, and the youth calendar is about get busy!

First up in June, are two camps, mid-high CLEW (6/1-6/5) and Youth Force Perkins (6/14-6/15). It is not too late to sign up for these, but please contact Jamison ASAP if you would like to add a name to the rosters.

Then, beginning at the end of June, youth will have a couple opportunities for mid-week activities.

On Wednesdays, from late June through early August, the youth are invited to attend various outings and activities, such as bowling, swimming, and service projects.

Also beginning in late June, all Sr. High youth are invited to a weekly Bible study, slated for Thursday evenings. More details, dates, and times for both of these things to follow shortly!



I am so excited about this upcoming event!
Mark your calendars for this!!!!

On September 26, we will be hosting a parenting seminar!
The speakers are Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN.
Dr. Turansky founded the National Center for Biblical Parenting. We are so fortunate to be able to schedule him!
Look for more information to be coming closer to September!!!!



Thank You for your cards, prayers, the luncheon, and service for June Blakely Thornton. FUMC was very special to her for most of her life. She loved her Sunday School class, church dinners church services, and music, plus her church family. Thanks again! June Thornton Family

Great job, Church.. Through your generous giving we took \$170 and, 19 School Bags ,200 tooth-brushes,125 combs ,12 hand towels. 150 wash cloths, 162 pink erasers, 700 pencils, 51 scissors to the Sagar Brown Disaster Relief Warehouse in Baldwin, Louisiana. These will go into school bags and health kits-making life a little better for our neighbors around the world. I am blessed to be a part of this family of faith. Thank you for sharing in this mission. Jo Millard.

I want to thank all of my church family for the beautiful card, prayers, calls food, flowers and well wishes through my shoulder surgery and continued recovery. My church family is so precious to me. How do people make it through things without that kind of love. I love you all. Patty Neely

THANK YOU!!!

I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone that helped out with the planning, decorating, cooking, or anything else for Sr. Sunday. Your help is greatly appreciated!
-Jamison Rudd

UMW POT LUCK LUNCHEON
May 20th at 11:30 am
All Ladies "WELCOME".