

**First
United
Methodist
Church**

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Our Mission

*Making disciples
of Jesus Christ
for the transformation
of the world.*



Pastor
Rev. Al Potts

Director of Music
Don Burris
Youth Director
Natalie Johnson

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Sallisaw, OK
74955
PERMIT NO. 106

**GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE
SANCTUARY—AUGUST 20 11 a.m.**

**Follow Jesus to:
Sallisaw First United Methodist
Church**

Sunday School for All Ages: 9:00 am

Worship Service: 10:00 am

A lively blend of contemporary and traditional
music and styles led by our praise team and
choir.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Connection



AUGUST 2017
NEWSLETTER



Everyone Needs Sunday School

Some have said, “We have an awful lot of people who realize they’re overweight, but they don’t follow a diet. Likewise, people realize the Bible has values that would help us in our spiritual health, but they just don’t read or study it.”

If they do read it, the majority (57%) only read their Bibles four times a year or less. Only 26% of Americans said they read their Bible on a regular basis (four or more times a week). Everyone needs Sunday School because everyone needs a plan to study God’s Word.

I recently heard someone say, “Sunday School is just not for me because I read my Bible on my own.” That approach is sorely lacking in any understanding of what it means to be part of the Body of Christ. Here are some other considerations of why everyone needs Sunday School.

1. It’s like the glue that holds a church together. In small groups like Sunday School classes, we form strong, caring, relational bonds. When that is missing, people fall through the cracks. Only one-fourth of our church is in Sunday School. As Sunday School and small groups go, so goes the church. Don’t be part of the problem.
2. We need accountability. When we miss Sunday School for any period of time you can bet that a caring group of people will be checking in with you to be sure you’re OK. Most people stop going to church because they “get out of the habit.” They get out of the habit because they lack accountability.
3. We need to systematically study the Bible. Some people only read selected passages of personal preference. All our classes have curriculum which leads us through a systematic study of the whole context of scripture.
4. We all need Sunday School because we need to be there for others. Others need us to be there to care and to share what God is saying to us. Isn’t it a bit self-centered not to be in Sunday School. . .
5. Children and Youth need to know God’s Word and how to connect with God. They need the example and support of adults who go to Sunday School.
6. We need more than spiritual information that we get from a sermon. We need spiritual formation and that happens in small groups.

Really– what good reason is there **not** to go to Sunday School?

Rev. Al Potts

United Methodist Men's Ministry



The men have decided to pick up another outreach to a group of public servants after the success we had last month with the Sallisaw Fire Department! I left it up to the men to pick the next group and we'll get behind that outreach as we did before. It may be law enforcement, it may be firemen, it doesn't matter. These public servants should ALL be in our daily prayers whether they get a hamburger/hotdog and devotional from us or not! I want to show all of you the covenant that some of our men signed last Fall as we set upon a different course than where we've been before. The men who signed this are to be commended, they are the future of our Church and have a true desire for spiritual growth. Please hold these men of this Church high in your prayers:

United Methodist Men Core Values Covenant

Our mission: To be a creative and supportive fellowship of men who seek to know Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually, and to seek daily His will. Our primary purpose is to declare the centrality of Christ in the lives of men and in all their relationships.

Our covenant: This covenant is our agreement with each other concerning core values and Christ-like attitudes and behaviors that are important in order for our group to work well together and fulfill the ministry and mission of Christ. These are our values that will guide our actions:

1. To encourage knowledge of and support for the total mission of The U M Church.
2. To engage in evangelism by sharing the fullness of the gospel
3. To clarify and speak to the identity and role of the man in contemporary society.
4. To seek commitment to discipleship.
5. To study and become familiar with The United Methodist Church, its organization, doctrines, and belief.
6. To cooperate with all units of United Methodist Men in obtaining these objectives through district, conference, and church-wide goals.
7. United Methodist Men shall subscribe to the personal objectives of daily Bible study and prayer, to bear witness to Christ's way in daily work and in all personal contacts through words and action, and to engage in some form of definite Christian service.

The truth of the matter remains, there's no one best way to reach others for Christ. The fact is that even God's Word does not spell out a specific strategy for evangelism. I suppose God thought men and women down through the ages would be smart enough to find ways to share the gospel with their own generation. We've chosen hotdogs, devotionals, and outreach to get 'er done! Shalom,
Howard Davidson



S.M.I.L.E. News Senior Ministry Is Life Enhancing

Our S.M.I.L.E. group for senior citizens will be having our monthly potluck lunch on August 10. Please come and SMILE with us!

Janie Hensley

Free Community Breakfast

Come and help with our **Free Community Breakfast on Saturday, August 26.** Cooks arrive at **8:00 a.m.** The Breakfast is served from **9:00 to 10:30 a.m.**

Prayer List

New & Short Term Requests*

- Jason Brumbaugh
- Jackie Rogers & Family
- Sweeney Family
- The Family of Steven Griffith
- Karen & David Long
- JoAnna Rogers
- Jean Ferriell
- Charlotte Claussen
- Cindy Claussen
- Barbara Neau

On-Going Needs

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Jo Cristel | Gary Griffin |
| Bea Anderson | Leon Long |
| E. B. Sanders | Erleen Long |
| Jaime Wright | Don Bickel |
| Dr. Bert Corley | Max Nimmo |
| Yvonne Green | Kathy Allsup Merry |
| Ruthann Gacey | Rev. Al Potts |
| Joyce Brant | |

Our Service People

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jeremy Rogers, MD | Caleb Ganster, OK |
| Nathan Ganster, TX | Richard Lopez, FL |
| Earl Plumlee, Philippines | Greg Luttrell, NC |
| Jonathan Ganster, AZ | Canaan Harrison, Germany |
| Tim Hintz, MO | Jessica McMillian, MD |
| Pearce Linker, AK | Jennifer Rogers-Cooper, Germany |
| Brett Sandum, Italy | Tanner Ely, Italy |
| Matt Walkingstick, WA | Conner Bryan, TX |
| Hobbs Stroud, GA | Dalan Legg, GA |

*Names on this list will remain for three weeks. Call Anne Bottorff, (918) 775-2072, to start the Prayer Chain. If you want to add a name to this list, please call the church office at 918-775-2538.

Ministry Calendar

Sundays

Connect Band Rehearsal at 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
 Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Mondays

Covenant Group at 1:30 p.m.
 Alcoholics Anonymous at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesdays

Wesleyan Way Share Group in the Parlor
 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

Wesleyan Way Share Group from 6:00 to
 7:00 p.m.
 Choir Rehearsal from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00
 p.m. beginning August 16

Thursdays

Alcoholics Anonymous at 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays

Alcoholics Anonymous at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 10

SMILE lunch at noon.

Sunday, August 20

Sanctuary groundbreaking after church

Friday, August 25

UM Women's meeting at 1 p.m.

Saturday, August 26

Free Community Breakfast from 9—10:30
 a.m.

Sunday, August 27

UM Men's Breakfast at 7:45 a.m.

August Birthdays

1	Nathan Dickinson
2	Kelly Wright
5	Ray Dickinson
6	Will Reyna
8	Brennen Asbill
11	Amanda Trudeau Hatcher
13	Debbie Bartel
18	Kristi Trimble
23	Sherry Gean
	Kiersten Weaver
24	Sara Reyna
25	Jana Wood
26	Todd Martin
29	Nancy Wheeler
31	Megan Bartel Werschem

August Anniversaries

5	Larry & Jean Oard
9	Gary & Linda Winton
14	Ross & Anne Bottorff

Visit our website to get
 more information about
 upcoming events:
www.sallisawfumc.org

Church Council



The Church Council convened on Sunday, July 30 for consideration of business issues presented to the council. Among these issues was the commencement of the construction of the new sanctuary. The building committee chairperson Gary Winton submitted a report to the church council stating that the building committee's mandate from the charge conference was to build a new sanctuary using such funds as are on hand for the new sanctuary. Since the cost of construction exceeds designated funds the building committee met with the architect to discuss potential

cost reductions and plan modifications. The building committee decided not to make changes that would significantly alter the original design and worked with the architect and contractor to make changes that have reduced the construction costs. This also includes waiving the performance and payment bond saving \$14,000. The building committee has much confidence in Beshears Construction for the building process. Even with these reductions, we remain short of funds to fully complete construction. Therefore the building committee submitted the following proposals for the church council's consideration and vote:

Build in phases (as funds become available) as follows:

1. Build the exterior shell now using funds on hand of approximately \$980,000. This includes the entire exterior structure with HVAC, lighting, sprinkler system, and stage but does not include a finished choir room, but is ready to finish. The interior otherwise is not finished. The windows in the front would be replaced with stucco with cross and flame logo.
2. Using funds available: Complete the interior at a cost of approximately \$182,297.
3. Using funds available: Install audio/visual system and chairs of approximately \$115,000.

The church council was well attended by its elected members and spent much time discussing the proposals. After voting, all three proposals passed unanimously. While the church council and the congregation would prefer that the sanctuary be fully completed, the building committee and church council also realize that any delays in constructing the exterior will only increase in cost in the future. The groundbreaking ceremony has been scheduled for August 20.

Keep your faith in God. While our human nature is to solve all problems ourselves, Jesus tells us in Matthew 19:26: "with man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

WAR ROOM
 PRAYER IS A POWERFUL WEAPON

Movie Night

Sunday August 13 7:00 pm

Free Movie, Refreshments and Nursery



The Wesleyan Way Group Meetings

Sundays @ 9 am Tuesdays @ 2 pm
 Wednesdays @ 6pm

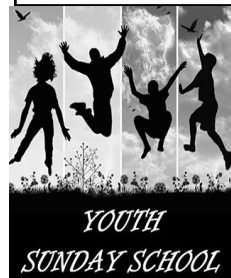
In our groups we'll share together what we've been learning from our weekly readings and praying for each other and our church. Pick a group that works for your time schedule. Child care is available on Wednesdays and Sunday School classes for children and youth on Sundays.



July has flown by so quickly!! We have started a new curriculum for both Sunday School and Wednesday night youth. The lessons are great!! They are requiring all of us to do a lot of soul searching and teaching us the importance of turning to God to help us with our choices.

Wednesday night youth will not meet Wednesday, August 9th. We will resume on Wednesday, August 16th from 3:45-5:15. We are trying to get a back to school bash planned for August 23. Stay tuned for more information. Youth is for grades 6th-12th. Invite your friends and join us for Sunday School at 9 am and Wednesdays after school.

Natalie Johnson, Youth Director



9:00 am in the
 Youth Room
 Jr and Sr Highs



Wednesdays at
 5:30 pm



Music Ministry

Don Burris, Music Director

Greetings to my fellow believers of the Sallisaw FUMC in Christ Jesus!

Well that sounds a little “churchy” doesn’t it? I “borrowed” the style from the Apostle Paul. Have you ever noticed his greetings at the beginning of most of the letters to the churches? Romans, both Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians and on and on, always greeting in the name of Jesus or the Father or both. He knew he was writing to fellow believers but still felt compelled to invoke the name of Jesus or to thank God for those about to read the letter. Of course Paul had a special relationship with God; he depended on God for every need and in every situation. In times of plenty, he praised God, in times of need he praised God and while in prison awaiting death, he praised God! (sang a few hymns too!) That same special relationship with God is available to us as well. Praising God is not complicated but does require our *intentional* attention. Guys, our “to do” lists sometimes are treated like #do this when it’s convenient and I feel like it or something breaks and I have no choice. Why don’t we create a separate list that looks like this:

First thought of the morning: Praise God in all things!!

In every conversation, find a way to acknowledge, praise or thank God!! (Use me to practice)

Spend at least 60 seconds (cringe.....) in reading the word and praying. There are free Bible apps for your phone. Your friends will think you are tweeting and then napping!

Last thought before going to sleep: Praise God in all things!!

Worship is a habit that’s worth being hooked on!!

“I will praise God’s name with song and exalt Him with thanksgiving.”

Psalms 60:30 HCSB

Calling All Choir members.

Vacation has been nice but we are approaching our Fall kick off. Rehearsals resume Wednesday, August 16th at 7:00 PM. I’ll see you there. Bring a friend!!

I’m looking for some additional musicians. If you can play an instrument or sing, please contact me. I’d love to visit with you about the worship ministry of FUMC.

Bro. Don.