

**First
United
Methodist
Church**

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Sallisaw, Oklahoma 74955

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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



Sunday—January 7th

For Adults and Youth: 11:15 am

Following Worship

Children: 9:15 am during Sunday School

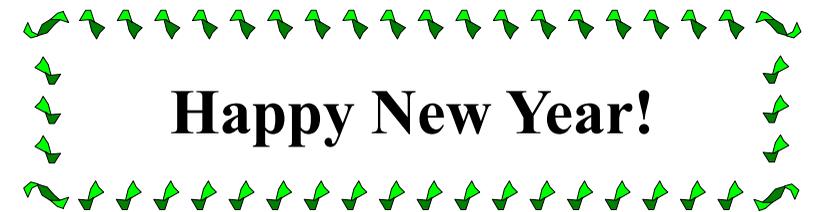
Add your name permanently to one of the beams that forms the support structure for the new sanctuary! Everyone is invited to sign.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Connection



JANUARY 2018
NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year!

The prophet Isaiah wrote “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” Isaiah 43

It’s so easy to lose sight of our purpose here on this earth. Our purpose in life lies in front of us not behind us. Our purpose is what God is calling us to next, not what we accomplished yesterday or in days long past.

As I write this, I am now officially retired, at least on paper. My last Sunday here will be Feb. 4th. For more than thirty-five years I have been in full time pastoral ministry. It will be a change and require some adjustments. However, I feel about this transition much the same way I felt about the transition from workplace to ministry. In the late ‘70s, I had what I considered a dream job. I was an engineer making good money, traveling all over, working on exciting projects. Then God called me into ministry. I had to break the news to my boss that I was leaving the company to go to seminary.

I flew into the home office and sat down with him to share what God was calling me to do. I’ll never forget the look on his face. He said, “I can’t believe you are leaving all this. If you stay you will make more money next year than I will. How could you just leave this bright future here?” In that moment God seemed to speak to me and I said, “You know, I don’t feel like I’m leaving all this. I feel like I’m going to my future. The future God has for me.” He was silent for a while and said, “ I wish I felt that way..”

When God is your life, He is your future. He is always doing a new thing!

A New year—a new beginning! God is our future—for each of us, for our church. May the New Year be filled with God’s richest blessings. Rev. Al Potts

Kids' Construction Zone

God at Work

Begins Wednesday—Jan 10th

For Kids 5 yrs—5th grade

Snack Supper: 5:00pm—5:30 pm \$2.00

(Adults invited too: \$3.00)

Construction Time: 5:30pm to 6:30 pm

Learn About Jesus New Mission Project

New Menu

Building Disciples

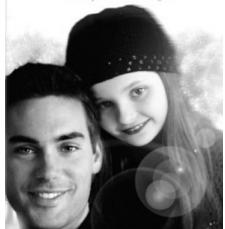


Movie Night

Sunday January 14 6:00 pm

theultimategift

Free Movie, Refreshments and Nursery



Spoiled Jason Stevens expects to inherit millions when his wealthy grandfather dies. Instead, the will requires him to complete 12 monthly tasks before receiving a dime. Can he rise to meet this beyond-the-grave challenge? Follow Jason on a yearlong journey that leads him to the last thing he ever expected!



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

Our S.M.I.L.E. group for senior citizens will be meeting for a potluck lunch on Thursday, January 11 at noon at the church. Please bring your favorite dish and come and SMILE with us!

Janie Hensley

Free Community Breakfast

Come and help with our **Free Community Breakfast on Saturday, January 27.** 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*

- Freda Lattimore
- Leslie Stump
- Tom Mitchell
- Margaret Bane
- Jessie Callaway

On-Going Needs

Joyce Brant	Corey Byford
Bea Anderson	Leon Long
Faye Norlander	Erleen Long
Jaime Wright	Don Bickel
Dr. Bert Corley	Max Nimmo
Yvonne Green	Joy Vann
Ruthann Gacey	Rev. Al Potts
Cindy Lattimore	Trad Latimore
Jo Cristel	

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, KY	Dalan Legg, GA

*Names on this list will remain for three weeks. Call Anne Botorff, (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.



Music Ministry

Greetings Church.

Glenda & I wish to express our sincere thanks for the Christmas cards and greetings. You overwhelm us. There is a Proverb that makes reference to a friend being closer than a brother. We can

vouch for that! From the moment we walked in to FUMC, we felt accepted and loved. You are our family and we love you dearly.

A special thanks to the SPRC for the monetary gift to both of us and to that choir fairy that left the card and the gift in my chair! (With instructions to share with Glenda) I should be giving you guys a gift for putting up with me.

We are looking forward to 2018. I know sometimes it seems like it's all uphill. But we are not called to only serve if it's easy, we are called to be faithful. Serving (that includes all of us, not just the staff) in a small church is a challenge. When we travelled and offered free concerts, we almost always included the song "Little is Much When God is In It". Here's my favorite verse and a chorus.

Does the place you're called to labor
Seem so small and little known
It is great if God is in it
And He'll not forget His own
Little is much when God is in it
Labor not for wealth or fame
There's a crown and you can win it
If you go in Jesus' name

Thank You!

Irene and I would like to thank everyone for making this Christmas so special and so memorable. Your cards, gifts, food, and notes of appreciation all meant so much. We will remember this as a very blessed Christmas. We are praying that God will richly bless you in the coming year as you continue your journey of faith. All our love, Al and Irene Potts

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

Snack Supper from 5:00—5:30 p.m.
Kids' Construction Zone from 5:30—6:30 p.m.
Youth meet from 5:30—6:30 p.m.

Wesleyan Way Share Group from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Thursdays

Alcoholics Anonymous at 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays

Alcoholics Anonymous at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 11

SMILE potluck lunch at noon.

Sunday, January 14

Movie Night at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 26

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

January Birthdays

Jim McCalman	5
Shirley Herndon	7
A. O. Campbell	12
Linda Mattox	16
Larry Oard	17
Wayne Ford	21
Ron Wyrick	24
Jason Bartel	25
Sarah Bane	29

January Anniversaries

Dale and Jana Wood 21

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

Thank You!

Dear FUMC of Sallisaw, I was so blessed to be able to share in worship with you guys! Y'all touched my life more than you know. Thank you so much for having me! I'd love to come back sometime. God Bless and Merry Christmas!

Love, Ashton Davis

Preparing for a Pastoral Transition



This new year will bring a pastoral transition here at First United Methodist Church. As noted previously, Pastor Al will be retiring. His last Sunday in the pulpit will be February 4th. He will continue administrative responsibilities through February 14th. Our new pastor, Rev. Jim Hollifield and his wife, Donna, will be here February 15th and Jim's first Sunday in the pulpit will be February 18th.

Jim and Al have been meeting, bringing Jim up to speed on the history and functioning of the church in detail. Jim has also met with the SPRC as well as with the church leadership team for 2018. The meetings will continue as we approach the transition date.

There is a lot for any new pastor to learn but remember this is not this pastor's first rodeo. He has experience in making pastoral transitions and knows the ministry of The United Methodist Church. He is a quick learner. It will be a smooth transition.

Here are some things you can do to make the transition easier:

1. Pray for Jim, Al and their families as they transition. Any transition is stressful. Packing and moving require enormous amounts of energy and time. These pastors have all their usual responsibilities in addition to packing and moving, including Conference and District meetings.
2. Pray for your church. Pray for unity and continued focus on the mission and ministry of the church. Laity need to lead better than ever.
3. Expect change. Every pastor is different and does things differently. This is actually a good thing. A new pastor has fresh eyes on all aspects of the church and its ministries. He can see better and more effective ways of doing things. See it as a blessing not a stressing! Embrace change
4. Take the initiative! Think of things you can do to make the transition easier for the new pastor. Introduce yourself, invite them out to eat, bring over a meal, give a restaurant gift card, etc. If you are a leader, come by the office and introduce yourself and make the new pastor aware of your role and what's happening in the ministry you lead.



The Wesleyan Way Group Meetings Resume Jan. 9, 10

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.



December has been such a blessing for the youth and myself!! We were asked to join a very important part of each service during advent. The youth have loved painting, lighting candles, and reading every Sunday. Our trip to see the lights was very fun! We walked around, visited, & enjoyed dinner at Hideaway Pizza as a yummy Christmas gift from a wonderful family!! 2017 was a great year.

Can't wait to see what 2018 brings all of us!!

Blessings,

Outreach Team News

2017 Angel Tree was a success!! A big "Thank You" to everyone who participated. We had time to visit with the families and heard their stories of struggle and hope. Every family expressed appreciation of the gifts and that you cared to take time for shopping. Most of these families attend a local church, but they also acknowledge that family members have made mistakes. During the year remember to pray for these families and their life challenges.

Also thank you for all who brought cranberry sauce! We met the goal of 275 cans. And thanks to those who helped Catholic Charities prepare and distribute the food baskets!

We're still collecting coats and blankets for Catholic Charities through January. If you have any gently used or new coats or blankets that need a new home, bring