

**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

**Sallisaw First United Methodist Church**

**Announces:**

**SUMMERFEST**

**Each Sunday in July**

**Sunday School for All Ages: 9:00 am**

**One 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*



JULY 2017  
NEWSLETTER

**Children's Ministry –Where Do We Go From Here?**

Friends,

I think many would agree that historically our “Wacky Wednesday” children’s ministry has been a flag ship ministry for our church. It is a ministry that dates back to our Wheeler Avenue building. Over the years, “Wacky Wednesday” has served many children in our congregation and community. The move to our new building, financial resources to employ an individual as Children’s Director, as well as willing volunteers have made it successful. However, this past year, the “Wacky Wednesday” ministry has faced challenges with securing enough volunteers and the resignation of a Children’s Director. SPRC continues to be committed to searching for a Children’s Director. However, that’s the easy part. I want us all to realize that locating a Children’s Director is not going to solve the problem. The more challenging issue is “Us”!.....Yes, you and me! The key to any vibrant, thriving ministry is the support it receives from volunteers who are God-led, passionate about the ministry, and willing to sacrifice in service to the Lord. I don’t have the answers, nor do I believe God is calling me to lead this ministry. However, I do feel as though I am being called to facilitate discussion about ministry in our church. I am asking each of you to consider where God is leading us as a church, and where He is calling us to minister. I am making a plea for each member of our congregation to pray about our “Wacky Wednesday” children’s ministry and its future. How important is this ministry to the mission of FUMC in Sallisaw? Do you have thoughts, ideas, skills, talents, or resources that God is calling you to share? Should we do things the same? Should we do things differently? Should we offer the “Wacky Wednesday” ministry at all? Please contact Al or myself this week with your thoughts and ideas about “Wacky Wednesday” and children’s ministry. Feel free to call, email, text, or schedule a time to meet. We want to hear from you. Your input is very important.

God is calling us to great things at FUMC-Sallisaw. Luke 12:48 says “...to those whom much has been given, much is expected...” I challenge each of you to pray about what God expects of us with the “Wacky Wednesday” ministry, as well as all the current and future ministries of our church.

Debbie Bartel Lay Leader-FUMC Sallisaw

479-650-3590 email: Debbie.Bartel@ictctech.com

Rev. Al Potts email: alw.potts@gmail.com

## United Methodist Men's Ministry



By the time you read this, some of our men will have provided a true outreach to our Sallisaw Fire Dept. that shows our personal appreciation for their public service as well as God's divine providence and intervention in their personal and professional lives as they serve and protect us. Our public servants are very much like any evangelical outreach whether it be with the homeless, hungry, or hurting. They tend to operate in an environment that's out of sight and out of mind until we personally want something from them. They have needs and

pains as we all have.

I often feel empty and small as I walk away from people I encounter that I think I'm ministering to and later find out that I'm the one who just got ministered to! While we'll be fellowshipping with firemen this go'round, we tend to overlook or pass by those we see that don't fit our comfort zones for sanitary evangelism. There are the spiritually homeless, hurting, lost, and lonely people around us everywhere. Why do we look away, ignore, or judge? Each of us need to ask ourselves if Jesus lives in us. Does His nature flow from us, do we listen to His voice?

While our firemen won't be homeless, their jobs do bring hurt, sacrifice, loss, and possible loneliness depending on the job at hand. Nevertheless, the evangelism should be the same with a public servant as it is with a homeless itinerant. I love what the book of Matthew has to say on this matter: "I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me." Our men are cuttin' down on the fishin'

and establishing a mission. If you feel more hungry for spiritual food than physical food, come join us next month. Hint: There'll be coffee and doughnuts!

Shalom,



## 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 July 12. Please come and SMILE with us!

*Janie Hensley*

## Free Community Breakfast

Come and help with our **Free Community Breakfast on Saturday, July 29.** 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\*

- Faye Norlander
- Earl Plumlee
- Sadie Thomas
- The Family of Cindy Lee
- Sue Lee
- The Family of Gus Fullbright
- Emmalene McCormick
- The Family of Bill Bane
- Sammy Boyd
- Jimmy Campbell
- The Family of Deborah Dean
- Louise Woodard
- The Family of Wag Wheeler

### 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, Pakistan	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, call the church office at 775-2538.

## Ministry Calendar

### Sundays

Connect Band Rehearsal at 9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.  
 Summer Fest 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.

### Thursdays

Alcoholics Anonymous at 7:00 p.m.

### Saturdays

Alcoholics Anonymous at 6:00 p.m.

### Sunday, July 9

Movie Night "The Shack" at 7:00 p.m.

### Thursday, July 12

SMILE lunch at noon.

### Sunday, July 23

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

### Friday, July 28

UM Women's meeting at 1 p.m.

### Saturday, July 29

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

## July Birthdays

8 Gail Cullens  
 10 Carol Wyrick  
 12 Cindy Lattimore  
 20 Trad Lattimore  
 25 Jennifer Basford  
 30 Tom Mitchell  
 Janet Luttrell  
 31 Marilyn Elliott

## July Anniversaries

3 Cheryl & Wendell Mills  
 9 Todd & Tami Martin  
 12 E. B. & Cherie Sanders  
 15 Lea & Leigh Ann Lessley  
 24 David & Sherry Gean  
 29 Gearl & Janet Luttrell

Visit our website to get more information about upcoming events:  
[www.sallisawfumc.org](http://www.sallisawfumc.org)

### **WIDE RULED LOOSE LEAF NOTEPAPER NEEDED!**

Catholic Charities is asked for our help to provide 172 packages of WIDE RULED LOOSE LEAF NOTEBOOK PAPER for the annual school drive. Please bring your contribution to the church by July 30.

## Building Committee



We are as anxious to see this new sanctuary coming out of the ground as you are! However, we are limited by the resources that we have to work with at present.

Here's our situation. The bids came in higher than expected and we would need about

\$400,000+ more to complete the present design. We are charged to build what we can debt free and do not have authorization from the Charge Conference or the District Committee on Church Location and Building to borrow any additional funds. For every \$100,000 we borrow, that would add about \$1100 per month to our budget which would stretch that too thin. We would have to cut staff and programs. So, we are working with the general contractor to see about the possibility of building in stages using what funds we do have available. For instance we could complete the basic building without the decorative rock exterior and landscaping or finished interior. The rest could be added later as funds are available. We expect to have the proposal for building in stages from the contractor in the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, please keep this project in your prayers. God has brought us this far and God will see us through.

## Movie Night

Sunday July 9th

7:00 pm



This run away best seller novel is now a movie that helps us understand the love of God and the ways of God using new images.

Free Movie, Refreshments and Nursery



### The Wesleyan Way Group Meetings

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

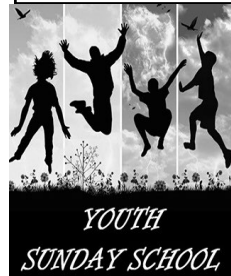
In our groups we'll share together what we've been learning from our weekly readings and praying for each other and our church. Pick a group that works for your time schedule. Child care is available on Wednesdays and Sunday School classes for children and youth on Sundays.



June has been a busy month for the youth!! We just returned from a fun week at Green Country District Camp at Camp Egan. This was the first year for our district to offer only one session. There were 300+ campers and a waiting list of kids that wanted to come but there wasn't space, every bed was full!! Our church sent 5 youth plus Lisa Lessley and I. We came home faith filled and exhausted!!

Earlier this month, we took a group on an exciting float trip down the Illinois. I feel like the trip was a success because we all made it back in one piece! We also set off after church to go watch the Tulsa Drillers.

We have a few more activities planned for July. Please join us for Sunday School at 9:00 am and Wednesday night youth from 5:30-7:00. Youth group is for all kids in grades 6th-12th!!



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



Check the schedule for meeting times



### Music Ministry

Don Burris, Music Director

“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound.....” The lyrics just flow out don't they? It's so easy to sing about grace, love and goodness but when given the opportunity in our “fast paced scheduled to the max” world we sometimes get ahead of our grace, love and goodness. That's what makes the origin of our beloved song “Amazing Grace” so meaningful.

John Newton was an evangelical lay-leader for the Church of England in the mid 1700's. He applied to become a priest to several denominations, (one of which was the Methodist Church!) and was eventually ordained as a priest under the Church of England. John Newton wrote many beloved hymns, the most notable, in my view, was Amazing Grace.

But, John Newton, like many of us, had a past. His life before he was converted to Christianity was that of a slave ship sea captain. There were few legal professions in his day that were more disdainful than being a slave ship operator. Cruelty and abuse toward the slaves was a way of life in which he participated. But, also like so many of us, his sins were washed white as snow by the blood of Jesus.

Some people believe the tune of Amazing Grace likely came from the tune of a song the captive slaves sang as they were being transported across the ocean. If you close your eyes and hum the tune, you can almost see the ship and smell the salt air!

There are many good books and at least one movie about the life of John Newton. This summer would be a good time to read one of the books or watch the movie. It is also a good time to thank our Heavenly Father for His grace toward us and reset our grace, love and measure of goodness toward each other.

"Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord,  
give praise, O servants of the Lord,"  
Psalm 135:1