

# 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



## Construction Update

By the time you read this you will see concrete being poured! There was a little delay in pouring concrete due to rain in the forecast. It would not have been good to get caught with dug foundations full of water and rebar. It would have delayed us even further. Now we are catching up. Next will come the steel and that will go up fast.

As we get ready to erect steel there will be a beam signing where each person gets to sign their name on one of the major supporting beams. The kids will have their beam signing on a Wednesday evening and the rest of us will have our beam signing as part of a Sunday worship service.

**Don't miss the beam signing!**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# The Connection



NOVEMBER 2017  
NEWSLETTER



## Thankful For It—Thankful In It?

A lay leader in a local church announced to the congregation that the church was in financial trouble. As he spoke to the congregation he reminded them of all the blessings they had received over the years. He talked to them about the spiritual reality that we can always find something to be grateful for. With that, he prayed and passed his hat out into the congregation encouraging them to be thankful and give in a spirit of gratitude. When the hat came back, it was completely empty—not one thin dime. The lay leader looked at it in disbelief. A rather surly man in the front row grinned and said to him, “Well what have you got to be thankful about now? The lay leader thought for a moment and replied, “I’m just grateful to God that I got my hat back!”

In his letter to the church at Philippi, Paul reminds them to be thankful for all things and in all things. I find it easier to be thankful for all things because that only requires hindsight. I can look back and see what God has done and how he did it. I must tell you that giving thanks in all things required an extra measure of faith on my part. That’s because sometimes the things I’m in are not all that pleasant. In fact, some things are downright scary. I can’t see how God is going to work this thing out.

That’s where faith comes in. Faith is about unseen realities. In some things I have not yet seen God’s provision but I must learn to thank him and be grateful to him as if the answer has already come. That stretches my faith! On one hand I’m in the middle of a great need for which I see no help from God, yet I work at being grateful just as if God has already supplied my need.

Usually in this Thanksgiving Season, we take some time to be thankful to God for what he has done for us. But I want to challenge us to also thank him in the midst of whatever we are struggling with.

*...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.* Phil 4:6

Rev. Al Potts

## New Pastor Announced



On February 18, First United Methodist will officially welcome Rev. Jim Hollifield and his wife, Donna. Jim and Donna will be moving from Wagoner First United Methodist Church, a church more than twice the size of Sallisaw First UMC, with many more ministries. Jim is decidedly evangelical with traditional views of scripture, marriage, and social responsibility. While Pastor at Newkirk for some twelve years, that church

burned to the ground. He led the rebuilding effort and completed the new facility debt free. He has been a leader in the Oklahoma Annual Conference, chairing numerous boards and committees. He has also been the dean of the district youth camp.

They have two children, Peter, a CPA in OKC, married to Katie, and Melody, a homemaker in Ft. Worth, married to Kevin who works for EXXON. Donna is an office manager for a radio station, doing that from home by cyber connections.

Jim enjoys marksmanship, hunting, fishing, carving, gardening, and reading. He is proud of his Cherokee (North Carolina tribe) and Scottish (Byrd Clan) heritage. Sallisaw First is truly blessed to receive such an experienced pastor.



Luke 3:11 Jesus said, "Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who doesn't have any. Whoever has food should share it with those who have little." In Matthew 25: 40 "The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me".

Are you looking for an opportunity to put your faith in action? If so, how about donating to the grocery cart in the church hallway for the collection of food and hygiene items to help the pantry at the Catholic Charities Helping Center? If all of us brought just one non-perishable item of nutritious value for the cart every week, we could make a big difference in helping to feed those in our own community who have a need. Won't you help.....

A Mission of United Methodist Women



## 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, November 9 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, November 25**. Cooks arrive at **8:00 a.m.** The Breakfast is served from **9:00 to 10:30 a.m.**

## UM Women

Karen Walden will have the Rada Cutlery on display in the church foyer the first weekends of November and December. This is an ongoing project of the UMW to raise monies for missions. The cutlery makes wonderful gifts. It's made entirely in the US and has an excellent reputation for lasting. It even makes great gifts for yourself!!! Take a minute and stop and check what all Karen has in stock. If you don't see what you want, perhaps she can order it for you.

# Prayer List

## New & Short Term Requests\*

- June Rolston
- Charlie Werschem
- Claire Campbell
- Edwin Brumbaugh
- Charlotte Covington and her Family
- Victor Sr. & Dora Sr. Rojas
- Cindy Lattimore
- Trad Lattimore

## On-Going Needs

Jo Cristel	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
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.  
 Wesleyan Way Share Group at 10:00 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, November 9

SMILE potluck lunch at noon.

### Sunday, November 12

Movie Night at 6:00 p.m. "The Resurrec-  
 tion of Glavin Stone"

### Saturday, November 25

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

### Sunday, November 26

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

## November Birthdays

- 3 Dale Wood
- 4 Robert Fox Glander  
Elliot Reyna  
Colby Wilson
- 10 Jarrett Blair
- 14 Tom Scott
- 15 Joyce Brant
- 17 David Long
- 18 Karen Long
- 19 Lisa Lessley
- 21 Ginger Brant Albin
- 23 Gary Winton
- 24 Jason Long  
Brooke Wilson
- 29 Jean Oard

## November Anniversaries

- 15 Mike & Clara Clark

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

Movie Night  
 Sunday November 12 6:00  
 pm

### The Resurrection of Glavin Stone

If a church can change him  
 it will be a miracle

Free Movie, Refreshments and  
 Nursery



Wednesdays

For Kids 5 yrs—5th grade

Snack Supper: 5:00pm—5:30pm \$2.00

(Adults invited too: \$3.00)

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

Stories

Games

Music Crafts

Drama



### Dinner Menu for November

Nov. 8: Spaghetti, salad, dessert

Nov. 15: Casserole, vegetable,  
 salad, dessert

Nov. 22: Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 29: Casserole, vegetable,  
 salad, dessert

Great Food! Great Price!

Seconds are usually available.

### Thank You for Making

### Construction Zone a Success!

Special thanks to Pat Heflebower and  
 Debbie Bartel who organized this great  
 ministry.

Also "Thank You" to our teachers,  
 support team, start up team, clean up  
 team, and helpers. You are a blessing to  
 all of us here!



## The Wesleyan Way Group Meetings

Sundays @ 9 am    Mondays @ 10 pm  
 Tuesdays @ 2 pm    Wednesdays @ 6pm

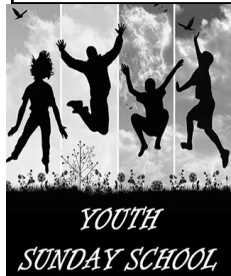
In our groups we'll share together what we've been learning from our weekly readings and praying for each other and our church. Pick a group that works for your time schedule. Child care is available on Wednesdays and Sunday School classes for children and youth on Sundays.



Where did October go??

Wednesday night JAM and Sunday School continues to be full of excitement!! We have been learning about reaching out to others that don't know Jesus OR might just need a little encouragement to follow in His footsteps. Starting this month, the youth are greeting and ushering the second Sunday of every month. I am so proud of them for accepting this responsibility. We had 9 show up to help out!!! On October 11th, we went to the Campbells for a hayride, hotdog roast, and s'mores. Thank you so much A.O. and Carla, we had a lot of fun!! Our next event is Sunday, November 5th. We will be travelling to Camp Egan for a hayride. We will depart from the church at 1:45 and return in the evening. Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers for our youth.

Happy November Blessings,  
 Natalie



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



Wednesdays at  
 5:00 pm



## Music Ministry

Happy Thanksgiving 2017! The year is coming to a close and I am just now able to write 2017 without giving serious thought to the last digit. It still seems like the future to me. I guess that's another way of expressing the exponential acceleration of time directly attributable to the number of years in one's rear view mirror! Praise the Lord and pass the gravy!

Thanksgiving for Glenda & I, like many of you, is the best of the "holidays". Of course I am not including the holy and reverent observance of the birth and resurrection of Christ. Those events sometimes get lumped together with our "holidays", but should not. But that's a discussion for another day. But for the "holidays, I like Thanksgiving. Good food, family gatherings, no gift pressures, lots of football, naps, board games, grandchildren, and at our house, the turkey bowl! But the most important aspect of thanksgiving is the thanks. Thanks for our families, our heritage, our health or, in too many cases, lacking health, sufficient grace.

In 1863, Follitt S. Pierpoint was wandering through the English countryside. As he looked on the peaceful beauty surrounding him, he was inspired to reflect on God's gifts to his people in creation and in the church. Above all, Pierpoint thought of the sacrifice of Christ, in the greatest of sacrifices, that of his life in return for ours. He was inspired to write these words:

### FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
 for the love which from our birth, over and around us lies.  
 Christ, our Lord, to you we raise, this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Please take time this thanksgiving season to thank the Lord for your blessings. Look up from your busy schedule and look through the eyes of Christ for a few minutes. There may be someone nearby who could use a blessing during this season. Who knows, write a poem or a song about God's provision; we may be singing your song a few hundred years from now.

Bro. Don