

**First  
United  
Methodist  
Church**

PO Box 887  
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Sallisaw, Oklahoma 74955

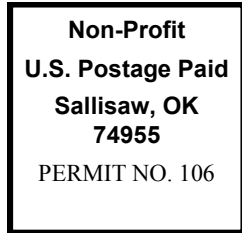
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**Our Mission**

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

**Pastor**  
Rev. Al Potts

**Director of Music**  
Don Burris  
**Youth Director**  
Natalie Johnson



**Farewell Service and  
Dinner for Pastor Al and Irene  
Sunday—February 4th—10 am**

Dinner following the service. Bring  
covered dishes and desserts.

Drinks furnished

**Welcoming Service for New Pastor  
Sunday—February 18th @ 10 am**

Let's all turn out for a warm, enthusiastic  
welcome for our new pastor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*The Connection*



FEBRUARY 2018  
NEWSLETTER



**Hail and Farewell**

The military has a term for the changing of command. It's called "Hail and Farewell." I've been to a number of these while at Ft. Sill. It's a time of celebration, appreciation, and anticipation. I know it will be so here. My last Sunday to preach will be February 4th. On February 11th, our District Superintendent, Emery Mason, will be preaching to celebrate the ministry of this great church and to prepare us for the reality that the best is yet to come. Then on February 18th, Rev. Jim Hollifield and his wife Donna, will assume pastoral leadership here.

This church could not have asked for a better, more qualified, caring, and spiritually grounded pastor than Jim. I have known him for many years. The Bishop and Cabinet recognized the potential of this church and its willingness to take risks and move forward. They selected one of their best, most effective pastors, to come here. Jim comes from a much larger church with many more ministries and programs. He is an equipper and knows how to help a church move forward. You will be blessed by his preaching, ministry, and pastoral leadership. Celebrate his coming! Make it a joyous occasion.

Irene and I are so very grateful for the three years we have had here. You have blessed us in so many ways. However, I know that it is time to retire and enter the new season that God has for us. I have changed appointments but I have never retired before. It will be a new adventure. God is not finished with us yet!

And so with our farewell, my relationship with you will change. I will no longer be your pastor. This church has only one pastor. I will be your friend but not your pastor. I will grieve at your funeral but not preach at it. I will dance at your wedding but not perform the ceremony. I will celebrate your successes and pray for you in your struggles but I will not offer my opinion on anything church related. Pastoral ministry is for a season but friendships have an enduring quality.

Let's enjoy the days we have left together and celebrate the future that God has for all of us. The best is yet to come! You are dearly loved,

Al and Irene Potts



Greetings Church.

Do you remember the old ketchup commercial? The words “anticipation” being softly sung while a bottle of ketchup is turned up awaiting that tomatoey goodness to finally make an appearance on some burger or a pile of French fries seemed irresistible. Well it seems we have our own brand of “anticipation” going on at FUMC.

Anticipation of our long awaited new worship center. Steel is going up! I can’t wait to see what God has in store for us as we transition into this new facility.

Anticipation of a new pastor. Let’s be honest. Seeing Bro. Al and Irene head down the road is hard to place in the anticipation basket, but we just have to look at it from their perspective. If we believe the Book, and we do, God is directing their paths and our paths. I can’t wait to see what lies ahead in this chapter for them. But we’re also anticipating our new Pastor and family. We welcome Bro Jim with open arms and trust the Lord for the plan He has for our paths with Bro. Jim’s ministry.

Anticipation for reaching our community for Christ. We have more than a just shiny new building, a new pastor, exceptional music, (*couldn’t resist*) great teaching, a super youth program, fantastic children’s ministry and great men’s and ladies’ programs. We have the answer that mankind has sought since the beginning which is “how can I be forgiven of my sins and make Heaven my eternal destination?” Everything else we anticipate must work toward “anticipating” reaching people for Christ” in 2018. Let us make this our goal in every ministry. I will make that the goal in the worship ministry, with God’s help.

A personal note to Bro. Al & Irene. You guys “adopted” Glenda & I as we made this “Baptist to Methodist” transition. It has been pretty comical at times but you never laughed at us!! You made us feel so welcome here at FUMC. Your friendship and fellowship have been invaluable and has forever impressed us with love and affection. God bless you.

Bro. Don



### 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, February 8 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, February 24.** 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\*

- Karen Robbins
- Linda Mattox
- Tyler Wilson
- Freda Lattimore
- Leslie Stump
- Tom Mitchell
- Margaret Bane

### 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 Lattimore
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.

## 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.

### Sunday, February 4

Farewell service and dinner for Pastor Al and  
 Irene Potts

### Thursday, February 8

SMILE potluck lunch at noon.

### Sunday, February 11

Movie Night at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday Service at 5:30 p.m.

### Sunday, February 18

Welcome the new pastor, Rev. Jim Hollifield  
 and his wife Donna

### Saturday, February 24

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

## February Birthdays

1	Maco Warner
3	Linda Millspaw Jessica Wood
4	Teagan Lattimore
5	Reba Green Ruth Ann Dickerson Heather Wilson
6	Earlene Ford
14	Gilbert Green
18	Ciersten Wilson
23	Machell Trimble Jack Wright
26	Lynn Dickinson

## February Anniversaries

10	Dow & Jimmie Duke
27	Bob & Karen Walden

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

# Kids' Construction Zone

## God at Work

Each Wednesday

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**

Building  
 Disciples



New  
 Menu for



**Children's Ministry Providing  
 Shoes for Children in Chii,  
 Guatemala**

On Wednesday nights our children will be  
 raising money to purchase shoes for children  
 in the village where we helped to bring  
 electrical power back in October. Bring your kids on Wednesday for  
 this important mission project. Help them help others as Jesus did.



**Sallisaw First UMC  
Welcomes  
Rev. Jim and Donna  
Hollifield as New Pastoral  
Family on Feb. 18th**

Jim and Donna have two grown children, Peter and Melody, and a grandson, Aidan.

Donna is currently transitioning out of her job as Office Manager for KLVV radio station.

Jim has been an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church since 1990. He holds BaTh, MaTh, and MDiv degrees. Jim has given pastoral leadership not only to the local church but to the districts and Conference as well. Some of these areas of service include:

Chairperson, Commission on Small Church Membership  
Member, Conference Board of Church and Society  
Chairperson, Conference Taskforce on Evangelism  
Member, District Committee on Ministry  
Member, Conference Mission Strategy Team  
Camp Dean, Woodward District  
Member, Lay Servant Training Committee  
Member, Local Church Leaders Workshops Design Team  
Director of Southwest Cooperative Parish  
Taught Small Church Workshops  
Led Modern Worship Workshop  
Led Newkirk UMC through a rebuilding campaign

Jim is also proud of his Cherokee and Scottish heritage. His strengths in ministry include preaching/teaching, Logistics, Empowering Laity, Prayer, Grief work, and Relational Ministries.

His hobbies include marksmanship, Hunting, Fishing, Carving, Reading

Jim and Donna are excited about their appointment here!



**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.



Happy 2018!!! This year is off to a great start. We ended 2017 with a pizza and game night at our house. My goal is to have pizza and game nights on a regular basis.

On Sundays we are joining another Sunday school class watching and discussing the movie, Is Genesis History? It is packed full of information and research teaching us about the beginning of time. On Wednesdays, the youth are serving the meal and we have been watching The Ultimate Gift. It is such a great movie!

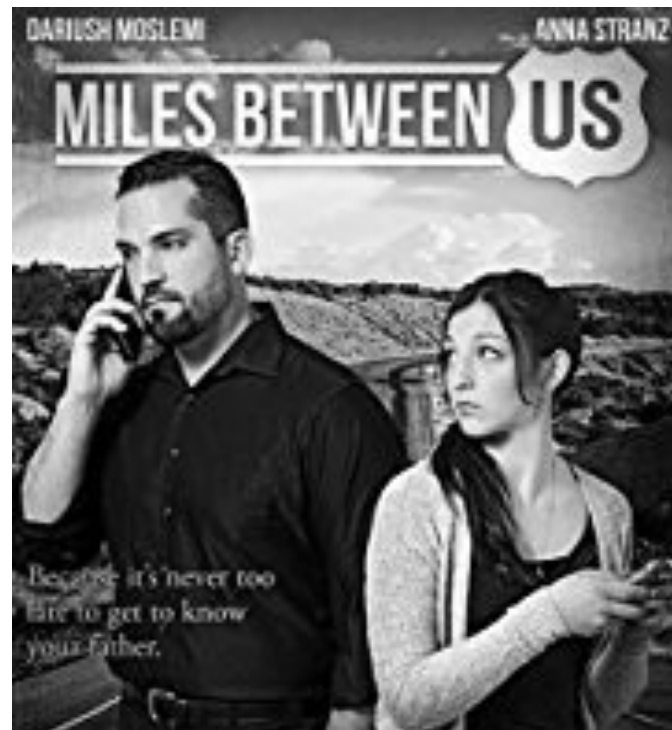
Natalie Johnson

**Youth: Prepare for Summer Activities Now!**

This summer there will be great opportunities for lots of different activities like camps, float trips, movies, mission projects, etc. Attending youth group each Wednesday is the way to be part of planning for all these and to raise funds to participate in these great activities. The church does not pay everything for these activities. Each participant is expected to participate in the fundraisers to pay for a significant portion of their personal costs. Prepare now for lots of summer fun. See you on Wednesdays.

## Major Motion Picture Comes to Movie Night

Sunday—February 11th—6:00 pm



A father and daughter who have been estranged by divorce for twelve years find themselves on a trip across the country that becomes a more complicated journey than they imagined. It's a story of pain, hope, healing, and redemption. First UMC has acquired a special license for this advance showing. Check out the trailer at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQqNXTgUNW8>

Free Movie—Free Popcorn—Free Nursery  
Invite Your Friends!

## First United Methodist Leadership for 2018

### Church Council Membership for 2018

Chairperson: David Gean

Lay Leader: Debbie Bartel

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference: Fred Mos; Alternate: Mary Sue Mos

SPRC Chairperson: James Trudeau

Trustees Chairperson: A. O. Campbell

Finance & Stewardship Chairperson: Freda Lattimore Roberts

Treasurer: ( a staff position) Sherry Gean

Sunday School Dept. Chairperson: Linda Winton

Welcoming and Greeting Chairperson: Mary Jo Trudeau

Children's Council Chairperson: Pat Heflebower

Youth Council Chairperson: Rob Johnson

Outreach Chairperson: Linda Millspaw

UMW Representative: Anne Bottorff

UMM Representative: Jason Blalock

Building Committee Chair: Gary Winton

At: Large: (youth, young adults, future leaders)

1. Trajan Lattimore      5. Carla Campbell

2. Jason Bartel      6. Tami Martin

3. Jason Scott      7. Trad Lattimore

4. Bryan Warner      8. Mirna Duke

### Finance and Stewardship:

Chairperson Freda Lattimore Roberts

Eva England

Todd Martin

Earl Roberts

Terry Rogers

Craig Heflebower

Glenda Burris

6 members plus 6 Ex-officio

Ex-Officio: Church Council Chair, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Lay Leader, Lay Delegate, SPRC Chair, Trustees Chair, Building Com. Chair

## First United Methodist Leadership for 2018 continued

**SPRC: Chairperson James Trudeau**

2018	2019	2020
James Trudeau	Carol Mitchell	Fred Mos
Bryan Warner	Tom Scott	Brenda Johnson

6 members plus Lay Leader and Lay Delegate to Annual Conf.

**Nominating and Leadership Development:**

Chairperson: Pastor

2018	2019	2020
Freda Lattimore	James Trudeau	Todd Martin
Trad Lattimore	Max Nimmo	Carol Mitchell

6 members plus Lay Leader

**Trustees: A. O. Campbell**

2018	2019	2020
Dow Duke	Charles Wyckoff	Lisa Lessley
Wingo Johnson	Matt Duke	A. O. Campbell

6 members

**Sunday School Dept.: Chairperson: Linda Winton**

Lisa Lessley, S.S. Secretary	Linda Millspaw
Sarah Bane	Ruth Dickerson

4 members

**Worship Team:** (Pastor has final authority in all aspects of worship)

Team Leader: Pastor

Music Director: Don Burris    Media: Glenda Burris

Janie Hensley, Communion, decorations, etc.

Sound: Trad Lattimore and Don Bickel

Camera: Craig Heflebower

## First United Methodist Leadership for 2018 continued

**Outreach:**

Chairperson: Linda Millspaw

Linda Bickel	Don Bickel
Kelly Miller	Jason Blalock

4 members

**Welcoming and Greeting:**

Chairperson: Mary Jo Trudeau

Karen Walden	Jana Wright
Earlene Ford	Jack Wright

4 members

**Children's Council:**

Chairperson: Pat Heflebower

Pat Heflebower	Mirna Duke
Linda Winton	Maco Warner

4 members

**Youth Council:**

Chairperson: Rob Johnson

A. O. Campbell	Cindy Lattimore
Chris Magie	Lisa Lessley

**Building Committee: (established by Called Charge Conf.)**

Gary Winton, Chairman

Don Burris, Vice- chairman

Max Nimmo, Treasurer

Trad Lattimore    A.O. Campbell    Tami Martin    Jason Bartel

On the arrival of our new pastor, one of the first orders of business will be to update the Strategic Plan and bring it the full Church Council for approval.