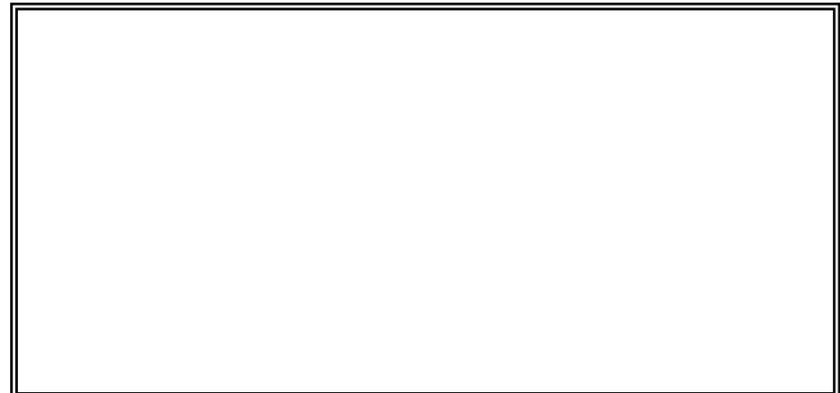


First United Methodist Church  
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**The Flame** (USPS 17) is published once a month, a total of 12 issues per year, by the First United Methodist Church.

**In Remembrance**

The Memorial Committee recently purchased four new Coffee Makers, one 101 cup and three 30 cup. Twenty round white tablecloths and four rectangular white tablecloths were also purchased to be used in the Fellowship Hall by our members. The funds for these came from the Memorial Funds of Ken Blake, Rosemary Davey, Tom Gray, Laverne Kreger, George Martin, June Meade, and Evelyn Spiva. These living memorials will continue to bless the church and its members for years to come.

**Looking for a job that allows you to give back?**

FRIENDSHIP FEAST, a free meal program, seeks a part-time Coordinator. Applicants should have good communication, computer, and organizational skills and work well with volunteers. This position requires 20-30 hours per week. Mail application/resume to Friendship Feast, First Christian Church, 210 North 5th Street, Ponca City, OK 74601 or email [FriendshipFeast1990@gmail.com](mailto:FriendshipFeast1990@gmail.com).

**FRIENDSHIP FEAST Ministry Annual Spaghetti Dinner FUND RAISER**

Friday, April 17th from 4:30-7:00pm at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Take out is available. All proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the "Friendship Feast Ministry". It provides the funds necessary to purchase food and supplies for the meals which are served 4 days a week to citizens of Ponca City who truly benefit from it. For questions, call: (580) 762-1667

**Can you help us?**

The church will be looking for Volunteers to mow from April through the beginning of September. We have all the equipment, including a riding lawnmower. If you are able to help please sign up at the Welcome Center.



**The Flame**

First United Methodist Church

Volume 45, Issue 4

April 2015

**Holy Week Events:**

- Our church is hosting the joint United Methodist Maundy Thursday service at 7:00pm with Rev. White from White Eagle United Methodist preaching.

**Easter Services:**

- Sunrise Service @ L.A. Cann Gardens at 7:00am
- Early Service at 8:00am
- Late Service at 10:00am

**The Day of the Sun**

The day of the sun is mine in early morning.  
Trees whistle the song of light carried  
by the breeze.  
Luna wades the horizon longer than she should  
And nobody minds her company.  
The sky lights up lavender and gold.  
People stop to smell the colors in the sky.  
Fog raises high to touch the red fire coming  
over the trees.  
A prayer is offered and sanctity resumes.  
The day of the sun is no longer mine.  
Early morn has faded into day.

By Dan Flewelling

**April Prayers**

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
If I settle on the far side of the sea,  
Even there your hand will guide me,  
and your right hand will hold me fast.  
Psalm 139:9-10 NIV

Pray in the spirit on all occasions  
with all kinds of prayers and requests . . .  
be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.  
Ephesians 6:18 NIV

It is good to praise the Lord  
and make music to your name, O Most High,  
to proclaim your love in the morning  
and your faithfulness at night . . .  
Psalm 92:1-2 NIV

Submitted by Wayne Moore



## The Church's Secret



*Reverend  
Mike Smith*

*Have you ever watched someone paint a picture and not figure out what it was until the last few strokes?*

In chapter 9: 9-10 Mark writes, "As they were coming down the mountain, he (Jesus) ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they (Peter, James, and John) kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean." Mark has Jesus place a unique burden upon his disciples that the other Gospels do not. Theologians call it the Messianic Secret. Jesus tells his disciples, "Don't tell anyone. The time for talking will come after I rise up again." The disciples were baffled. They could not understand the secrecy much less what rising from the dead meant. If I had been there, I, too, would have been baffled by Jesus' words.

Have you ever watched someone paint a picture and not figure out what it was until the last few strokes? I have. The artist I watched was on the internet. He slung the paint onto the canvas only using brushes occasionally, manipulating the paint with crafted strokes. He even used his fingers to pull the paint in different directions gently blending the colors on the canvas. As he filled the canvas with lines, curves, and subtle hues of blacks, whites, and grays, I still could not make any sense of the image. I was, like the disciples, baffled by its meaning.

Without warning, as he made his last stroke on the canvas, the artist grabbed and turned the canvas from top to bottom on the easel. Suddenly the image popped into focus. It was a portrait, the face of Jesus. I could not see it until seen from a new perspective. The secret was not a secret anymore.

We have the advantage of reading the Gospels through the perspective of the resurrection today. What was laid down has risen up. I think the Easter story still works the same way today. People are still baffled by what it means until the artist turns things right side up in our lives. Jesus said, "When you see it, then you can tell it." That is my translation anyway.

I hope to see you this Easter. The artist will be there, lifted up revealing his secret in all of its beauty and grandeur! When you see it you can tell it.

## College Corner

This month we have three of our freshman girls for you all to write to. We're getting to the tail end of their first full year in college. What an exciting experience this year must have been for the three of them!

Bethany Bookout  
Chatham University Mailroom SMB# 316  
0 Woodland Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Sarah Davidson  
One Bear Place #81660  
Waco, TX 76798-1660

Caitlin Schultz  
215A Friend Hall  
Stillwater, OK 74077

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the faithful cards you have sent to me. It is so nice to receive them. I've been busy with therapy the past days. They have been keeping me busy (Monday-Friday) I have had speech therapy twice a week. I don't really know if all this therapy works! Spring is just about here— John and I have set out on the patio for several days— it is nice! There isn't much news. I've been busy playing cards most afternoons and that makes the time go faster. I get to meet other people that way. Again thank you for all the cards that you sent to me.

Sincerely,  
Marianna Counter

Dear FUMC,

The weather has caused many people to get behind on their bills. We have seen high utility bills, prescriptions for the flu and colds, and empty cupboards. You have helped keep the people of Ponca City as warm and well as possible. Thank you so very much for caring, and for your generous donation. Thank you!

Tom Short and Staff  
New Emergency Resource Agency

Dear Member's of FUMC,

On behalf of the Domestic Violence Program we would like to thank you for your generous donation of food items (nacho cheese and chips.) Your commitment to helping us provide a home-like environment for our clients is greatly appreciated. Charitable gifts like yours make it possible for us to assist these women and children on their path to a safe and secure life. Domestic Violence Program of North Central Oklahoma empowers individuals and educates the community and advocates for justice to end domestic violence and child abuse. We would not be able to continue this mission without help from donors such as you. The difference that community members make in the lives of our clients through donations is limitless. Thank you again for your kind support of victims.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Doran  
Executive Director

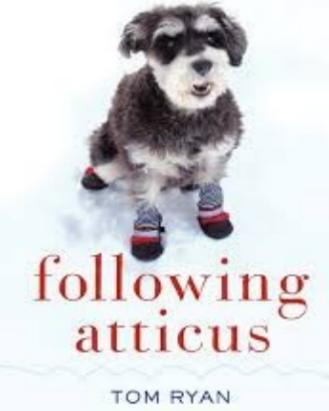
## Thank you First United Methodist Church!

You are invited to a Bridal Shower for  
Kayce Pendleton  
Bride-elect of Jacob Burton  
Saturday, April 18th, 2015  
2-4 p.m.



First United Methodist Church in the Welcome Center  
Kayce is registered at  
Prairie Rose, Wal-Mart, Target, Macy's and Sears  
Given by: Claudia Bellah, Barbara Bridwell, Betsy Carter, Grace Chism, Grace Collins, Cathie Gilliland, Arleen Jacobson, Linda Jantz, Sue Kistler, Peggy Krider, Alice Mires, Caiti Schultz, and Ann Strickland

FORTY-EIGHT HIGH PEAKS, ONE LITTLE DOG,  
AND AN EXTRAORDINARY FRIENDSHIP



## Hooked on Books

Hello readers and Happy Spring. We meet this month, April 16 at 7:00 in the Welcome Center. Hopefully many of us will have read our book selection; **Following Atticus** by Tom Ryan. This is a non-fiction selection about a man on an adventure of a lifetime and the extraordinary relationship he shares with his friend, miniature schnauzer Atticus M. Finch. Together they attempted to climb all forty-eight of New Hampshire's four-thousand-foot peaks twice in one winter while raising money for charity. YOU can join us, even if you have not read, or finished-uhum(me) the book. Our discussions are lively and fun! See you on the 16th.

### Update and April Challenge

Thanks to your generous support, we are rapidly approaching 1,500 boxes, bags, or cans of food donated for the year to the New Emergency Resource Agency since the first of the year. Additionally, your support in March for the Kids M&M Mission project to gather food donations for our troops has been wonderful. April is rapidly approaching and, once again, our focus is collecting food for NERA. For April, our challenge will be 400 cans, boxes, or bags. Thinking ahead to May, we plan to focus on the needs of babies in our community by gathering donations for the Living Hope Pregnancy Center. Details will follow later. Thank you for continuing to bless our neighbors, both those at home and those serving our nation overseas.



United Methodist Circle of Care Answers the Call  
Per capita, Oklahoma has twice the national average of children in foster care.



Oklahoma United Methodist Circle of Care's mission is to provide help, healing, and hope to children and families in crisis situations. Our largest program, Child SHARE, recruits, trains, and provides on-going support to foster parents in Oklahoma. Currently, Child SHARE supports over 200 homes.

Our program is expanding in the Ponca City area to address our state's critical shortage of loving homes for children who have been abused, neglected, and placed in state custody. A safe foster home is a preferable location for a child to be raised when compared to a county shelter. Our staff recruits, trains, and provides ongoing support to foster homes.

Circle of Care and the Child SHARE program have partnered with the First United Methodist Church in Ponca City which has agreed to expand the Child SHARE co-op and is now providing office space and support for our new foster parent Recruiters/Trainers, Carlan Kindred and Becky Hightower.

At the Circle of Care, our mission is to help our churches and our communities serve those children, youth and families in need. We can't do it alone. As this program expands, we will need your prayers. We also need new foster homes, volunteers, mentors and respite homes. Please prayerfully consider your chance to serve. Please give Becky or Carlan a call here at the church and ask how you can help or to get more information about the program.

# April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<b>The UMW will be making a delicious Easter Dinner for Prayer &amp; Praise April 1st at 5:30. They will provide the ham, mashed potatoes, and rolls. They ask that people please bring desserts or side dishes.</b>			1 3:30 Kid's M&M 5:00 Youth Bells 5:30 Prayer & Praise 7:15 Chancel Choir	2 Holy/Maundy Thursday 1:30 Deborah Meeting 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	3 No School No Mother's Day Out	4
5 Easter 7am Sunrise Service 8am Early Service 10am Late Service No Confirmation Class	6 5:15 Carillon Bells	7	8 3:30 Kid's M&M 5:00 Youth Bells 5:30 Prayer & Praise 7:00 SPRC No Chancel Choir	9	10	11
12 No Confirmation Class 4:15 Festival Singers Rehearsal 6:00 CORE	13 5:15 Carillon Bells	14 6:00 Young Lives 6:00 Board of Trustees	15 3:30 Kid's M&M 5:30 Prayer & Praise (Miriam Fundraiser) 7:15 Chancel Choir	16	17	18 2:00-4:00 Kayce Pendleton's Bridal Shower
19 4:15 Festival Singers Rehearsal 4:30 Confirmation Class 6:00 CORE	20 5:15 Carillon Bells	21	22 5:30 Leadership Team Meeting 7:15 Chancel Choir	23	24	25
26 4:15 Festival Singers Rehearsal 4:30 Confirmation Class 6:00 CORE	27 The Flame article deadline. 5:15 Carillon Bells	28	29 7:15 Chancel Choir	30 The Flame mails.		

# Music Notes

By Joycelynn Davidson

How can it be that the first quarter of 2015 is past? We have been extremely busy in the music ministry area preparing for weekly worship as well as Palm Sunday & Easter.

**Palm Sunday** will be busy with children singing and processing and Chancel Choir singing. That happens on March 29th preparing us to walk through Holy Week toward Easter.

The **Maundy Thursday** service will be hosted by FUMC at 7:00 PM on April 2nd. We will have a combined choir of singers from all the Methodist churches. If you would like to sing, music is available in the choir room. The combined rehearsal will be Thursday at 6:00 pm.

**Easter** always brings us exciting worship and music. Chancel Choir will be singing at both the 8:00 & 10:00 am worship services.

The Adult Choirs will be preparing and serving the meal for Prayer & Praise on April 8th. The menu will be Pulled BBQ Chicken with salads and desserts.

All Chancel & Carillon Bells members are needed—cooking, set-up, serving, clean-up, etc. We will not have Chancel rehearsal that evening.



## Kid's M & M

**April 12** will be a busy day in worship.

**Kid's M & M** will be participating in several ways that morning. All the children will be singing and the chimers and handbells will be ringing. If all goes according to plan, the Wesley choir will also present a short skit about Jesus appearing to the disciples. We need all the children in attendance!

The **Youth Bells** will be ringing with the Wesley Bells that same day. It has been a real challenge to get them together, but the results will be worth hearing.

**April 15** will be our last Kid's M & M for this spring. We will be taking the children to the park for our end-of-the-year celebration. It has been a pleasure working with your children. We could not have had this program without the help of many volunteers.

**Special thanks** to Pam Oster, Tawna Scantlin & Carrie Anne Kohler who directed the various choirs. Thanks to Dixie Kuehny, Betsy Carter, Tina Sapp, Destiny Sims, Desta Park, Isaac Cervantes & Lyric Cervantes for serving as helpers during choir, missions, crafts and games. A big thanks also to Claire Scott, Connie Scott, Stacy McGee and Paul Kuehny for driving the vans that brought the children from school.



**Carillon Bells** will be ringing a beautiful arrangement of *Hallelujah* on April 19th. The song written by Canadian singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen is the subject of the book *The Holy or the Broken: Leonard Cohen, Jeff Buckley & the Unlikely Ascent of "Hallelujah"* (2012) by Alan Light. In a *New York Times* review of the book, Janet Maslin praises the book and the song, noting that "Cohen spent years struggling with his song 'Hallelujah.' It originally had 80 verses before he paired it down.

In December of 2012, *Rolling Stone Magazine* featured an article on Leonard Cohen's career stating that "Cohen's career had reached a low point when he wrote 'Hallelujah.' It was 1984, and he had been out of the spotlight for quite a long time... When Cohen submitted the songs for his LP, *Various Positions*, label execs didn't hear 'Hallelujah,' the opening song of Side Two, as anything special. They didn't even want to release the album.

It took a few years for 'Hallelujah' to emerge as a classic. Bob Dylan was one of the first to recognize its brilliance playing it at a couple of shows in 1988. *The Velvet Underground's* John Cale tackled it on the piano for a 1991 Cohen tribute disc, and three years later, Jeff Buckley took inspiration from that rendition and covered it on his 1994 album, *Grace*. It was that version that eventually created a huge cult around the song, and it's since been covered by everybody from Bono to Bon Jovi. It's far and away Leonard Cohen's most famous composition, even though many people don't even realize that he wrote it."

Cohen is quoted as saying: "It had references to the Bible in it, although these references became more and more remote as the song went from the beginning to the end." As it exists on *Various Positions* 'Hallelujah' is both opaque and direct. Each verse ends with the word that gives the song its title, which is then repeated four times, giving the song its signature prayer-like incantation.

Now I've heard there was a secret chord  
That David played, and it pleased the Lord  
But you don't really care for music, do you?

It goes like this  
The fourth, the fifth  
The minor fall, the major lift  
The baffled king composing Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Your faith was strong but you needed proof  
You saw her bathing on the roof  
Her beauty and the moonlight overthrew you  
She tied you to a kitchen chair  
She broke your throne, and she cut your hair  
And from your lips she drew the Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

You say I took the name in vain  
I don't even know the name  
But if I did, well really, what's it to you?  
There's a blaze of light

In every word  
It doesn't matter which you heard  
The holy or the broken Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

I did my best, it wasn't much  
I couldn't feel, so I tried to touch  
I've told the truth, I didn't come to fool you  
And even though it all went wrong  
I'll stand before the Lord of Song  
With nothing on my tongue but Hallelujah

Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

