

Chapel Worship 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sanctuary Worship 10:45 a.m.
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rev. Brian Matthews, Senior Pastor
Rev. Bob Langston, Local Missions and Pastoral Care
Dr. Roberto Escamilla, Minister of Evangelism
Physical Address: 129 West 14th Street
(580)332-1398 / PO Box 566 - Ada, OK 74821
e-mail: office@fumcada.org www.fumcada.org

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The First United Methodist Church

ADVOCATE



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Brian Matthews

For my final "Get to Know Me" article I thought I'd share with you my favorite passages of scripture, which is not really an easy thing to do since there are so many passages and so little room here to write! Since space is limited I'll dispense with formalities and simply get to it.

The passage of scripture that has likely meant more to me than any other is Psalm 23. I love these words because they remind me that come "heck or high water" God is with me. I love these words because they affirm what I've experienced, but what many Christians don't seem to understand: namely that even though we love God and He loves us, bad things can and will happen...each and every one of us spend time walking through the deep, dark valley. But because we are not alone we need not be afraid...and the valley is a place we walk "through," not a place we live. No matter how many times I hear or read these words, they continue to offer me hope and strength. On a side note, one of my favorite books (which I certainly recommend to you) is "The Lord is My Shepherd" by Rabbi Harold Kushner, which is a great commentary on Psalm 23 from a great man of faith who has experienced the valley in some terrible ways.

Matthew 25 became real to me while on a mission trip to Birmingham, AL. In this great scripture Jesus offers a glimpse into what will happen at the end of times. In this parable we see firsthand from Jesus what will serve as the criterion for judgement, and surprisingly enough it's not belief...it's Christian action. Those who are blessed by the Lord and inherit the Kingdom are those who have taken care of the needs of "the least of these." But what became real to me on that trip to Birmingham is that when you serve the least of these you are actually serving Jesus himself! In a sermon one of these days I'll tell you the encounter I had with a homeless man named Lyman.

Romans 8 is another favorite because of the picture it paints of God's never-ending, never-failing love for His children. "What will separate us from the love of God," Paul asks. And of course the answer is NOTHING! As a 6th grader who lost a brother to suicide and then again as an adult who lost a nephew to suicide this passage brought me great comfort. Because this passage is so important it is one I often use during times of grief and death...and you will often hear me quote Paul's words, "If God is for us, who is against us" often.

The final passage I'll lift up is Philippians 2, commonly known as the "Philippians Hymn," which many scholars believe was regularly spoken or sung in the Philippian church:

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

It is helpful to remember that our Lord Jesus was first and foremost a servant...and if God's son chose servanthood and humility, I must too.

I could go on and on sharing about these (and other) scriptures but I'll stop here. I hope these series of articles have given you some insight into my brain (and I hope what you saw was not too scary!). I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you over the coming months and years and know great things are in store for our ministry together here in Ada. Take care and I look forward to being in worship with you real soon!

Jesus is Lord,

Pastor Brian Matthews

The Oklahoma Annual Conference
of The United Methodist Church
Lake Country District
District Superintendent Office

Cookson Mission Golf Tournament

November 7th
Teams must register by July 31st
Various levels of sponsorship are
being asked for.

If you would like more information about this
event and would like to register please con-
tact Jacklin Drake the District Administrator
at (918) 423-0080 or email at lakecoun-
trydistrict@okumc.org

The Cookson Hills Center is a project of the United Meth-
odist Church. It is a rural mission program in Northeastern Oklahoma that
is a joint effort of the Oklahoma Conference, the Oklahoma Indian Mis-
sionary Conference, the United Methodist Women and the General Board
of Global Ministries. All of the above groups are the basic means of finan-
cial support of the programs provided by the Center.

Your support of the ministry at the Cookson Hills Center is one of the many
ways that we as a church reach out to persons in need. Our Mission Statement:
It is our command from the Gospel to care for those who are hungry, homeless,
naked, persecuted, and without the presence of
the saving grace of Christ in their lives. Because
we follow the example of Christ to go to those
who are in need, Cookson Hills Center carries
forth the ministry of Jesus Christ. The Cookson
Hills Center has been a very significant part of the
mission work of the United Methodist Women in
Oklahoma since 1948. The presence of the United
Methodists among rural low-income people in
Northeastern Oklahoma has shown an important aspect of
the way we care for others as concerned Christian people. The primary target
groups of the Center's services are Native American people, most being of the
Cherokee tribe.

ECU WESLEY

dates
to Remember

- July 9th-10th: Janey speaks at Poteau FUMC
- July 10th-15th: Emma & Devon represent ECU Wesley @ Dayspring South @ Cross Point
- July 12th: Janey at Campus Ministry Meeting at Grace UMC, OKC
- July 13th-16th: Janey gone to South Central Jurisdictional Conference in Wichita, Kansas
- July 17th-24th: Janey on vacation!

Janey Wilson,
Campus Minister
Email: ecuwesley@gmail.com
ECU Wesley Website:
ecuwesley.org
Office: (580) 436-3400
Cell: (405) 651-4191
Follow us on social media:
Facebook: ECU Wesley
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[ecu_wesley](https://www.instagram.com/ecu_wesley)

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

To the Family and
Friends of
Dr. Larry W. Cartmell
And
Curtis Smith



GOLDEN AGERS

This event will be moved from July
27th to July 20th. If you have any
questions please contact June Mur-
phy or the front office.



From
**Ms. Lauren, Ms. Kim
and Ms. Lisa**

Hey Kids!! Are you ready to
catch the wave of God's amaz-
ing love? That's exactly what
we will be doing at Surf Shack Vacation Bible School,
July 25 – 28 (Monday to Thursday) from 6 to 8 pm! We
will have awesome crafts, delicious snacks, fun games,
Tidal Tunes with Miss Rozzie and much more! Your
parents can register you by picking up a form from the
church office or from your Sunday School Teacher or
online at 2016.cokesburyvbs.com/fumcada! Be sure to
invite all your friends, because, of course, God's amaz-
ing love is for everybody!



**FROM
RYAN
KILBY**

I remember like it was yesterday. I was in my living room watching tv and 9/11 happened and it literally shook my world. It stopped me completely in my racks and held me breathless without an idea on how to help or move forward. My family did like most Americans, we did whatever we could to show our unity with our country and fallen brothers and sisters. I felt like even the news had changed. Crime was being reported differently and even declining for a few days it seemed like.

This went on for a while and then we began to hear about it less and less. We began talking about it less and less. The world was slowly starting to turn again, and we began to go back to life as we knew it.

Well, fast forward to 2016 and a host of shootings and terror attacks later and I hate to admit it, but I feel like it's easier to move on and I don't want it to be. But it feels like nothing has changed. Tragedy strikes and the level of our concern is high, and in a flash as the news begin to die down we go back to life as usual and we move on.

This is not a bash on moving on or forward. It's a call to fight against the routine of being *desensitized* to tragedy. It's a call to allow tragedy to wreck our hearts and align our focus on what really matters. It's a call to not let the media or culture dictate our response as citizens or the church to tragedy.

I know there are people who believe the solution is legislation. And I'm not against legislation, but we must realize that the battle is deeper than that. This may not be a battle that can be won with legislation. You see, you can legislate behavior, but not the heart. And I believe the problem is deeper than behavior.

Matthew 16:18 talks about Jesus endowing his power to the church which is the body of Christ, not the government. Let's not get distracted, because when we do, the enemy wins on all fronts. We need to know that it's not about spiritual mysticism (being deep and super spiritual), it's about a biblical response to evil. I don't want to fall prey to being desensitized or distracted. I believe I don't have to. I believe we avoid both when we:

- **Know the real enemy** - *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."* Ephesians 6:12
- **Fight against being desensitized and distracted; be watchful** - *"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour."* 1 Peter 5:8
- **Understand our healing is solely in your connection to God** - *"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."* 2 Chronicles 7:14

Let's fight to stay focused and engaged, instead of fighting each other over solutions that don't target the real problem. Let's not let the world tell us how to respond or fall for the distraction of thinking government can fix problems that deals with the heart. And by the way, we have the awesome opportunity to help our students lead the church and the world in a new direction. I believe teaching these principles to our students is one of the best things we can do for them, as they lead the church into the future.

Ryan

The best thing about,
Memories
... is making them

MEMORIALS FOR JUNE 2016

In Memory of Betty Williams

By: Ed & Judy Anderson
Mary Ann Briggs
Fellowship Class for Care Ministry

In Memory of Bob Somerholder

By: Mary Wallace to Lambs Fund

In Memory of Merle Boatwright

By: Ed & Judy Anderson
Mary Ann Briggs
Bill & Sheila Chapman to Foundation
Fellowship Class to Care Ministry
Gayle Logsdon
Tom & Diane Criswell
Regie & Katherine Rowe
Mary Jane Muntz for Landscape
W.D. & Paula Watkins
Cathy Battles
Jim & Janice Herndon for Foundation



The student ministry will be making a fun trip to Six Flags on August 6th. This event is \$25 per person and they will have to provide money for their own food and gift items.

If you would like to attend this event please register with Ryan Kilby by Sunday July 31st.

Dear family of FUMC ADA,

My heart truly sings! Our Youth Force experience at your facility was fabulous. It was a well oiled machine all the way around. You have many unsung heroes. Who worked tirelessly for us. Please express my gratitude to them one and all!

To God alone be the glory-

Nurse Gina
Duncan FUMC

Thank You



Opportunities of the Week

Church Family Prayer List

Worship times are the same each week, unless announced

Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship (Chapel)
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:45 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
- 3:30 p.m. Park Ministry Dinner (Glenwood Park)

Tuesday

- 9:30 a.m. Talmidim Bible Study (Postponed till further notice)
- 12:00 a.m. Prayer in the Sanctuary Prayer Room
- 6:00 p.m. Grief Share (Lindsay Classroom)

Wednesday

- Noon Methodist Men's Bible Study (Library)

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- 3:30 p.m. Students are allowed in Youth room & CLC
- 6:00 p.m. Jr. High Small Group (One Room)
- 6:30 p.m. Joint Worship (Jr. & Sr. High (Youth room)
- 7:00 p.m. Jr. High dismissed, Sr. High starts with sermon & Small groups (wreck room)

PRAYERS: Janet Bare, Pete Canfield (Vicki Creed's Brother in law), Coleen Bledsoe, Twilah Blue, Steven Brown, Tom Cook, Jeanne Dark, Harold Danielson (D. Danielson's father), Nancy Dickerson, Mary Dixon, Betty Dupuy, **Donna Gault**, Austin and Michelle Gibson, Lili Giles, Trina Hemmerling, Jovan Hodges, Kim Holton, Pastor Earl Hood, Maggie Hood, Jeanette House, Helen Jaquess, T.J. Johnston, Bill Larney, Donna Long, **Mike Manning**, Bobbie Martinez, Lynn Marquis, Nicole McDonald, Elaine McKnight, Duane Murray, Mary Beth Myers, Wes Perkins, Jason Richardson, Lawanna Ronald, Tom Runnells, Jessica Sasser, Corinne Schwandt, Marty Skinner, Lynn Snow, Jodie Standard, Sandra Stafford, Rev. P.J. Stewart, Alexis, Doc and Taylor Stokes, Stephanie Sill, Greg Tillman (Pam Wall's Nephew), Don Venable, Julie Vike, Buddy Watkins, Glenn Watkins, Buddy Watson, Lillian Williams, Michelle Williams, Alice Willis, Zac Wilson.

LONG-TERM PRAYERS: Bernie Belletini, Brent Bidy, Bud Blackburn, Dale Buss, Joshua Buss, Dr. JoAnn Carpenter, Wanda Coplen, Steva Cottingham, Amber Cox, Tyler Cox, Kathy McKain Dargel, Ron Davidson, Joe Davis, Chip Dudley, Ervin Findley, Mary Fogle, Joe Glasgow, Dakota Gray, Bishop Hayes, Jennifer Hood, Joyce Horton, Mel Hutt, Tara Humphers, Ron Jackson, Shawna Jackson, Geneva Jamar, Randy Johnson, Sarah Johnson, Janet Larney, Helen Lee, Roger Morgan, Marissa Morris, Johnny Moss, Jane Muntz, Sheila Odom, (S. Bricker's sister), Brenda Pflaum, DiAnn Readnour, Jennifer Reynolds, Jon Ross, Diann Smith, Lindsay Snow, Emma Stewart, Pam Stewart, Kay Tillman, Lesa Ulrich, True Wallace, Charles Waller, Debbie Cowling Whitley, Karen Williams, Richard Williams, Terry Wood.

EXPECTANT MOTHERS: Danette Balliett, Callie Christian, Sarah Dailey Cody, Brooklyn Harris, Molly Jackson, Charissa Reed

Watching Our Figures

OFFERING 7/3/16 \$ 7,925.11

ATTENDANCE 7/3/16

- Sunday School 144
- Chapel Service 96
- Sanctuary Service 133

Total Worship 229

OFFERING 7/10/16 \$ 12,550.75

ATTENDANCE 7/10/16

- Sunday School
- Chapel Service 76
- Sanctuary Service 155

Total Worship



Summer Calendar

JULY

- 13th- W.O.W. Meal @5:30 pm 6:30-8 pm
- 17th- "Meet Up" Trampoline Park

AUGUST

- 6th- Six Flags

Follow the latest student ministry news Instagram @fumcadastudents and twitter@fumcadastudents

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

- Monday 18th,**
12- 1:00 pm **Trustees Team (Lindsay Classroom)**
- Tuesday 19th,**
12-1:00 pm **Finance Meeting (Lindsay Classroom)**
- Wednesday 20th,**
8-11:00 am **Matthew 25 Packaging (St. Lukes Episcopal Church)**
11:00 am- 1:00 pm **Golden Agers (Fellowship Hall)**
- Thursday 21th,**
8- 10:30 am **Matthew 25 Distribution (St. Lukes Episcopal Church)**
6- 7:00 pm **Stephen Minister Supervisory Group (Library)**
- Monday 25th,**
6- 8:00 pm **Vacation Bible School (25th-28th) (Whole Church)**