

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

Rev. Brian Matthews, Lead Pastor
Rev. Bob Langston, Local Missions and Pastoral Care
Dr. Roberto Escamilla, Minister of Evangelism
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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
PAID
ADA, OK 74820
PERMIT NO. 237

The First United Methodist Church ADVOCATE



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Have a Merry Little
Christmas

*Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace,
good will toward men.
Luke 2:14*

**FROM ALL THE STAFF MEMBERS
AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!**



As this is the final newsletter before Christmas and New Year's, I thought I'd share with you what's on my "Pastor's Christmas List" and "New Year's Resolutions" for our church. Many years ago, before being assigned to serve St. Paul's UMC in Okemah, I read the book "Making a Good Move." The book outlines "best practices" for pastors leaving one mission field and entering another. One of the keys to making a good move is sitting back and observing the new congregation for 6-12 months. This allows a new pastor to learn the ins and outs of a congregation and discover what is working well, and what needs an infusion of energy or "tweaking." In my previous "pastor in charge" appointments I have not had the luxury of sitting back and observing. The reasons are not important, you can simply trust me. But when I arrived in Ada I was pleased to discover a healthy, functioning church, which afforded me the opportunity to sit back and observe. With the publication of this newsletter we have passed my 27th Sunday in Ada, meaning we are more than 6 months into our journey together, and thus I want to share some of my hopes and dreams as we journey into the future together!

First and foremost on my "to do" list in 2017 is implementing the changes that were approved by the church a couple years ago. Many of you will remember the *Readiness 360* process through which the church journeyed. As a result of that hard work the church approved a new mission statement and structure to achieve the stated mission.

Brian Matthews

Because of several factors (that are unimportant) the church has not fully implemented or embraced these changes. On your 2017 Stewardship Cards we asked everyone to volunteer for one of the new ministry teams developed in *Readiness 360*, which should allow us to hit the ground running in the New Year. If you have not yet filled out or turned in your Stewardship Card, please do so soon...we need you to ensure the church has every asset in place to make 2017 the best year ever!

Near the top of my list is a new sound system in the Sanctuary. The current sound equipment is woefully outdated and needs some help. It is a credit to Dennis Malm and the music department that the system has performed as long as it has. While I don't have an exact timetable, I hope to have an updated system in place before Valentine's Day. Several of our older members have asked about improving the sound for "experienced" ears. While simply updating the system will solve many issues, we are looking at adding personal in-ear monitors for those who need a little extra help. Since many people have asked about video (and I have mentioned several times how I wished we had the ability to project pictures, lyrics, videos etc), this is also on my radar, but there will need to be discussions about adding this capability. I am a firm believer in using technology in worship and look forward to having discussions about it. If you have thoughts/ideas/input about the subject, my door is always open.

On my list is the desire to see us continue to develop an excellent relationship with our community. While there are lots and lots of church options in Ada, and church attendance is greater here than in larger cities, the reality is the majority of Ada residents do not attend church. It is my hope that these unchurched families become so familiar with FUMC Ada and what's going on here that they instinctively think of us as their church home...or at least think of us when they want and/or need a church home. We can develop this every time we assist someone in the community, participate as a church in community events, host/sponsor activities for the community, and/or simply share with our friends and neighbors about the great things happening at FUMC Ada. I pray you will take every opportunity to share your faith (and your church) with your "sphere of influence."

Jesus is Lord,

Pastor Brian Matthews

If I see the accomplishment of these "wishes" this year it will be great! I hope you will be in prayer about your "faith" hopes/wishes/goals for the coming year. Have a great week, and I look forward to seeing you in worship real soon!



Join us for Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Worship in the Sanctuary at 6pm or 11pm.
nursery at 6pm only

On Christmas Day we will have one service only.
Join us at 10:45am in the Sanctuary.
Children are encouraged to bring their favorite toy for a "Blessing of the Toys."
Also on January 1st, 2017 we will have one service only at 10:45am as well.



MEMORIALS

NOVEMBER 2016

In Memory of Elroy Walden (LaDona Hill's Dad)
By: Homebuilders

In Memory of Harold Danielson (Dick's Danielson's Dad)
By: Dale Pflaum, Bart and Cheryl McCortney and Keta Morgan

WIDOWERS

The Sisters Hand-in-Hand Banquet will have their first year anniversary monthly widows banquet on Monday, January 9th, 2017 at 6:00 pm at the Asbury United Methodist Church. Widows attending need to R.S.V.P. by calling Debbie Wall at (580) 235-2090 no later than Friday, December 30th.



A New Year's Sermon Series beginning January 8th!

"A lie which is half a truth is ever the blackest of lies"
-Alfred Lord Tennyson

- January 08 - Everything Happens for a Reason
- January 15 - God Helps Those Who Help Themselves
- January 22 - God Won't Give You More than You Can Handle

Go beyond everyday sayings and experience the full message of Jesus!

Longest Night

December 21st, 2016 at 6 pm in the Chapel.

This year, for the first time in the history of our church (at least in recent times), Pastor Brian Matthews will be leading a Special Service for those seeking a quiet respite from the hustle of the holiday season.

The service is designed to bring those who may be experiencing some kind of brokenness. Perhaps there is sadness from having lost a loved one. Perhaps there is heaviness of unresolved personal circumstances. There may be a melancholy air that seems to persuade in daily life or just a need for peace and quiet in this busy season.

The "Longest Night" is indeed the longest night in the calendar year— it is the winter solstice. Make a difference in someone's life and invite them to a night filled with grace, peace and hope.

For further information call (580) 332-1398 and/or check our website at www.fumcada.org.



ECU Wesley had their Christmas Party on November 30!



ECU Wesley passed out 350 cups of hot chocolate at the end of the Parade of Lights on December 1. The group that stayed until the last cup was handed out posed with Santa!



- January 2nd-4th: Leadership Retreat @ Egan
- January 8th: ECU Wesley leads worship @ St. Paul's UMC, Shawnee
- January 9th: First day of classes
- January 9th: FUSION Worship resumes @ 8 pm @ ECU Wesley
- January 10th: ECU Wesley Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting @ 6 pm @ ECU Wesley
- January 12th: Faculty/Staff/Administration/Student Faith Discussion Group @ 12:15 pm-1:15 pm @ ECU Wesley
- January 16th: MLK Day (No Classes, No FUSION & ECU Wesley Closed)
- January 17th: Asbury Kidz @ 6 pm & Guys Group/Girls Group @ 8 pm @ ECU Wesley
- January 19th: Carry the Love Tour @ ECU
- January 22nd: ECU Wesley leads worship @ Sulphur FUMC
- January 29th: ECU Wesley speaks at Whitehead UMC
- January 30th: Night of Worship & Testimony @ Hallie Brown with Fullers Field & Ty Darlington @ 7:30 pm

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REMINDER!!

"Voices of Praise" will resume practice on January 10th, 2017.

Thanks,
Rozzie Purdy

Thank you to everyone who ordered poinsettias from the Byng F.F.A., the funds will go to all F.F.A. projects.

-Britney Black (Sue's Granddaughter)



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 (Glenwood)
5:00 p.m. Youth Meet-Up (Church)

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Talmidim Bible Study
12:00 a.m. Prayer in the Sanctuary Prayer Room
3:30 p.m. Voices Of Praise Practice

Wednesday

Noon Methodist Men's Bible Study (Library)
4:00 p.m. Awana
5:00 p.m. Mosaic Meal
6:00 p.m. Daniel's Adventure to Babylon
6:00 p.m. Mosaic Classes
6:00 p.m. Chancel Ringers Practice
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
6:30 p.m. Youth Worship

PRAYERS: Avery Anderson, Janet Bare, Country Beard, Neal Beasley, Don Birdwell, Greg Belcher, Amy Boatwright, Dudley Bricker, Twilah Blue, Mae Hodgkins Caves, Marsha Crook, Tom Cook, Phyllis Danley, Nawatha Dodge, Milt Donaghey, Ansley Elliott, Bobbi Finley (Bonnie Shields Sister), Donna Gault, Kelley Haragan, **Katie Harris**, Jovan Hodges, Kim Dicus Holton, Jeanette House, Franklin Karner (Krystina Phillip's Grandfather), Bill Larney, Mike Manahan, Mike Manning, Nicole McDonald, Tommy McKay, Sharon McNary, Cameron Millard, Wes Perkins, Ralph Rhodes, Dale Rice, Kimm Rich, Jason Richardson, Lawanna Ronald, Tom Runnells, Jessica Sasser, Caden Sharp, Karsen Sheffield, Hicks Smith, **Jerry Snow**, Lynn Snow, Jodie Standard, Ryan Stockton, Don Prather, **Sonny Phillips**, Nellie Philips, Phil Rhynes, Glenn Watkins, Buddy Watkins, Buddy Watson, Janet Wilburn, Deborah Williams, Michelle Williams, Alice Willis, Zac Wilson, Linda Wood, Madison Yates.

LONG-TERM PRAYERS: Bernie Belletini, Brent Biddy, Bud Blackburn, Dale Buss, Joshua Buss, Wanda Coplen, Steva Cottingham, Amber Cox, Tyler Cox, Kathy McKain Dargel, Chip Dudley, Mary Fogle, Joe Glasgow, Dakota Gray, Jennifer Hood, Mel Hutt, Tara Humphers, Ron Jackson, Shawna Jackson, Randy Johnson, Sarah Johnson, T.J. Johnston, Helen Lee, Roger Morgan, Marissa Morris, Johnny Moss, Jane Muntz, Brenda Pflaum, DiAnn Readnour, Jennifer Reynolds, Jon Ross, Diann Smith, Lindsay Snow, Emma Stewart, Pam Stewart, Doc Stokes, Lesa Ulrich, True Wallace, Charles Waller, Linda Wheeler, Debbie Cowling Whitley, Karen Williams, Richard Williams, Terry Wood.

EXPECTANT MOTHERS: Taylor Hayden Adams, Amber Blansett, Ashley Brady, **Kelsey Eidson**, Lili Giles, Katie Buxton McNew, Molly Jackson, Leah Johnson, **Stefanie Pyrum**, Kayla Taylor

DECEMBER

Upcoming events this week

SUNDAY

18th,
6 pm Los Posadas
(Elliott Home- 312 North Hillcrest)

TUESDAY 20th,

12 pm Finance Team Meeting
(Lindsay Class)
8 am Matthew 25 Packaging

WEDNESDAY 21st,

6 pm Blue Christmas Service (Chapel)
No Awana, Mosaic Meal or Classes

SATURDAY 24th,

6 pm & 11 pm Candle Light Communion Service

SUNDAY 25th,

10:45 am One Service ONLY
3 pm- 5 pm Davo's Diner (CLC)

MONDAY 26th,

ALL DAY Church Closed

TUESDAY 27th- FRIDAY 30th

8 am- 12 pm Office Hours

SATURDAY 31st,

Jack and Cassidy Malm Wedding/
Reception (Sanctuary and CLC)

JANUARY

MONDAY 2nd,

ALL DAY Church Closed

WEDNESDAY 4th,

7 am- 8 pm Methodist Men Breakfast (Aldridge
Coffee Shop, 200 South Main)

THURSDAY 5th,

5 pm Local Unit Leadership Team Meeting
(Library)
6 pm Stephen Ministry Supervisory Group
Meeting (Library)

ATTENDANCE

DECEMBER 4th, 2016

Sunday School	197
Chapel Service	67
Sanctuary Service	210
Hanging of the Green	377
Total Worship	277

DECEMBER 11th, 2016

Sunday School	197
Chapel Service	53
Sanctuary Service	251
Total Worship	304