

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
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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
PAID
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The First United Methodist Church ADVOCATE



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Brian Matthews

This past week I gathered with all the United Methodist pastors from all across Oklahoma for a time of worship, fellowship and continuing education. Of course the worship, led by Bishop Nunn and including Wesley's Covenant Service, was inspiring and spirit-filled. Naturally the fellowship around the tables was nourishing for the soul. But my favorite part of the day was the presentation by Rev. Jim Ozier, a former Muntz-Myers presenter. I want to use my space here to reflect upon some of the statements Ozier made in his presentation...and if any of my reflections triggers something in you, please share it with me.

⇒ At the top of my short list of notes was the following quote: *People are not looking for a friendly church, but one where they might make a friend.* I wrote this down because I cannot tell you how many times I've heard people say (and said myself) that the church must be friendly to reach, attract and keep new people. After Rev. Ozier's quote and reflecting on it, I've decided we need to eliminate the thinking that we need to be a "friendly" church, because he is right! People are not looking for friendly people...they are looking for people who can become their friend. I pray will consider how you can shift your thinking from simply "being friendly and offering a smile and a handshake" and really consider how you can go out of your way to turn worship visitors into church friends.

⇒ During another section of his presentation Rev. Ozier referenced a survey that reported "80% of the people surveyed responded that the purpose of the church was to take care of me and my family." I would argue those with this point of view are not looking for a pastor...they are looking for a chaplain.

While pastors and chaplains do many similar things, they are not the same thing. Chaplains offer support during life's transitions, particular those involving transitions, sickness, death and dying. Pastors lead the church to fulfill the mandate of Jesus. While fulfilling their duties they also help people through these same transitions, but it is not our only or sole focus. On my desk is a note written to me by Bishop Hayes on the night he ordained me an Elder in the United Methodist Church. I view his note as his marching orders to me as a pastor. It simply says, "Brian, May your ministry be fruitful. Preach the Word. Bishop Hayes, May 30, 2007." While I get to know people best walking with them through life's transitions, and while it is an important part of any pastor's ministry, I know my primary job is to lead the church in fulfilling the mandate of Jesus.

⇒ While talking about the importance of evangelism and reaching out to new people, Rev. Ozier said, "If we're not fishing, we're not really following." The last thing Jesus told us to do in Matthew's Gospel was to "fish" for people. When calling his disciples Jesus told them to "fish for men." How would you rate us as a church in "fishing for people?" How would you rate yourself? How would you rate your Sunday school class? How would you rate your pastor? While I don't really believe we should grade each other, I do know we need to be better at engaging our family, friends, neighbors and associates with the Gospel and the invitation to join us in living together as the Body of Christ.

⇒ Near the end of the presentation Jim said, "Design all worship times with the first-time guest in mind."

I encourage you to think through each piece of our regular worship service by asking the question, "If I were a first-time guest with no church history and not knowing anyone in the room, would this make me feel included or excluded?" The worship committee recently did just this and you may notice some minor "tweaks" to our services (oooh suspense!).

I hope you'll spend some time with these comments from Rev. Jim Ozier and really wrestle with them. And then if you have any questions, comments or snide remarks, please share them with me! Have a great week and I look forward to being in worship with you Sunday!

Jesus is Lord.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Matthews".
Pastor Brian Matthews



ECU WESLEY

Night of Worship & Testimony
 Monday January 30th @ the
 ECU Chalmers Herman Theatre inside the Hallie Brown Ford
 Fine Arts Building @ 7:30 pm

Music by Fuller's Field
 from Ardmore



Testimony from former
 OU Football Center
 Ty Darlington



An evening of spiritual growth you aren't soon to forget. Everyone is so be sure to bring your friends! For more information, please contact ECU Wesley @ 580-436-3400.



ECU Wesley hosted a "Howdy Night" on Thursday, January 12, 2017. The leadership team planned and carried out this event. S'mores, hot chocolate, coffee, board games, laugh's and lots of conversation about the ministry of ECU Wesley.



Left: Lynzi Taylor and Autumn Kibbie taking a break from the first week of classes and enjoying a smore!

Right: Louden Johnson was caught in the middle of a conversation while fixing his



MARK THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR

- Monday's during the spring semester: Random Snacks of Kindness in the University Centre @ 11 am-1 pm; FUSION Worship @ 8 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 Whitebead UMC
- January 30th: Night of Worship & Testimony @ Hallie Brown with Fullers Field & Ty Darlington @ 7:30 pm

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 Twitter & Instagram:
[ecu_wesley](https://www.instagram.com/ecu_wesley)

CHILDRENS CHURCH - SAVE THE DATES!!

June 19th-22nd 6:00-8:00 pm **Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School**

March 25th **Morning with Disney**

(Disney Characters will perform some of your favorite songs and dances on our CLC Stage, and the sign autographs, eat with you and maybe play some games also! Featuring ECU Showtime!)

February 1st **Adult Mosaic Classes Start**

(While your parents are learning in the adult Mosaic classes you are invited to our Journey Through the Bible, upstairs in the children's wing! If you come to Awana from 4 pm to 5:30 pm you can have dinner with us, and we will take you upstairs while your parents are in class! We have started with Creation and will be going through the whole Bible this semester!)

welcome to our newest members!



We would like to welcome Charles and Billy Reed who joined our church on January 15th, 2017 along with their children Cathlyn and Raymond.



United Methodist Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION
"BOX 'EM UP"

NEWS

Nationally, the United Methodist Women are asking everyone to be ever watchful for human traffickers and to report suspicious activity. Just last year, a group of female truckers (organized by a woman from Tulsa) helped break up a large ring of traffickers. In Southern Oklahoma, a girl was rescued from her captor by an alert employee of the Chickasaw nation. We've all heard the song "Rescue the Perishing". Let's look for the possibility to do just that and "BOX UP" the traffickers.

Notes from the



Another windy Sunday in Oklahoma, bags were flying, but most of us were enjoying a beautiful afternoon at the park. We had plenty of food from KFC to share (chicken, baked beans, green beans, and biscuits), as well as desserts from Amber's Sweet Shoppe. We also had coats, blankets, socks, hats and gloves to share (thank you Jane, Denitia, Jerry, and others who have so generously given to those in need). As always, we thank our friends who serve at the park, Jim, David, Don, Nina, Fran, Joanne, Jeff, Julie, Colin, Clay, and those who also help to unload our vehicles to help set up for dinner.

Have a great week, and hope to see you all back next week, at the park.

-Clay and Leslie Carley

UPDATE AND REMINDER

The Altar flowers chart located by the office will no longer be in use.

If you would like to sign up to provide flowers for the Altar for a specific Sunday please call the front office at (580) 332-1398.



Congratulations to the newest addition to the Buxton-McNew Family!

They welcomed a new baby girl named Anne Katherine McNew (Annie) on January 15th, 2017. She weighed 6 lbs 7 oz and was 20 inches long. Proud Grandparents are David and Debbie Buxton.



Calling all Knitters and "Wanna-be Knitters

From time to time over the past few years, members have asked about the possibility of a knitting class.

The first step is to determine how many knitters we have in the congregation and how many members might be interested in learning to knit. If you fit into one of the categories, please call one of the members listed below.

If there is interest in having a class, we will set up a time for the class, meet and set some goals, and begin knitting! Also, be thinking about what the need might be for some hand-made items in our community.

- Loyleta Cacy (580) 436-1270
- Shannon Matthews (918) 304-9846
- Mary Ann Briggs (580) 759-2123

News from Ada Early Childhood Center



Happy New Year from Ada Early Childhood Center! 2017 is going great for us. We are so appreciative of the incredible support that FUMC is showing the faculty, staff and students at AECC. We want to extend a special thanks to the Fellowship Class for their continued support in mentoring and working with our students as well as the clothes, shoes, socks and other essential clothing that was provided for our students. These types of partnerships are critical to our success.

We are still collecting Box Tops for Education. These help support us financially. Of course, we covet your prayers for our students and faculty. We face many challenges every day and truly appreciate the prayers of the faithful.

Sincerely,
Cindy Brady, AECC

Evangelism

Sunday, May 7th from 4:00- 7:00 pm there will be a seminar on "Reaching Younger Generations" Facilitator; Rev Derrick Belace in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you letter from Sam Adams

Dear ECU Wesley donor

My name is Sam Adams. I am a sophomore from Alabaster My major is Elementary Education.

Thank you for your donations to the ECU Wesley. I came to the ECU Wesley because it brings me joy, fellowship, and a stronger connection to God.

Sincerely yours,
Sam Adams

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 Park)
5:00 p.m.	Youth Meet-Up (Church)
Monday	
6:00 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 13 Meeting
7:15 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop 13 Meeting (Scout Room)
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	
10:00 a.m.	Rebekah Bible Study (Library)
Noon	Methodist Men's Bible Study (Library)
4:00 p.m.	Awana
5:00 p.m.	Mosaic Meal (Fellowship Hall)
6:00 p.m.	Mosaic Classes
6:00 p.m.	Journey through the Bible (Education Wing)
6:00 p.m.	Chancel Ringers Practice
6:30 p.m.	Youth Worship
7:15 p.m.	Chancel Choir Practice

Upcoming events this week

January

SUNDAY 29th,
9:45 am All Church Meeting with
Pastor Brian Matthews
(Sanctuary)

February

WEDNESDAY 1st,
7:00 am Methodist Men Breakfast
(Aldridge Coffee Shop,
200 South Main)

THURSDAY 2nd,
5:00 pm Local Unit Leadership
Meeting (Library)

SATURDAY 4th,
9:00 am Emmaus Training
(Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall)



PRAYERS: Avery Anderson, Dudley Bricker, Dean Brown, Brenda Carter, Pat Christensen, Buck Cooper, Maggie Cooper, Oliver Cooper, Patsy Cobb, Ashley Elliott, **Donna Gault**, Kim Holton, Geoffrey Tritten, Hunter Johnson, Truman Johnson, Bobie Logsdon, Emma Lucas, **Johnny Moss**, Sonny Phillips, Ralph Rhodes, Larry Robertson, Lynn Snow, Carrie Ann Testerman, Phil Ryhnes, Adam Wood.

LONG-TERM PRAYERS: Bud Blackburn, Dale Buff, Ed Joshua Buff, Amy Evans Boatwright, Milt Donaghey, Wanda Goplen, **Jennifer Hood**, Randy Johnson, Mike Manning, Johnny Moss, Marty Skinner, Jimmy Smith, Lindsay Snow, Emma Stewart, Doc Stokes, Karen Williams.

EXPECTANT MOTHERS: Taylor Hayden Adams, Amber Blansett, Ashley Brady, Kelsey Eidson, Lili Giles, Molly Jackson, Leah Johnson, Stephanie Pyrum, Kayla Taylor, Sarah Walker.

ATTENDANCE

JANUARY 15th, 2017	
Sunday School	151
Chapel Service	65
Sanctuary Service	183
Total Worship	248

JANUARY 8th, 2017	
Sunday School	141
Chapel Service	50
Sanctuary Service	166
Total Worship	216