

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
Physical Address: 129 West 14th Street
(580)332-1398 / PO Box 566 - Ada, OK 74821
e-mail: fumcada@gmail.com www.fumcada.org

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
PAID
ADA, OK 74820
PERMIT NO. 237



The First United Methodist Church ADVOCATE



Vol. 53, Number 41

Tuesday, December 12th, 2017

FROM ALL THE STAFF MEMBERS
AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!



* MERRY *

CHRISTMAS



HAPPY NEW YEAR

LOVE • PEACE • HAPPINESS



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

Luke 2:14



Brian Matthews

It is with ice packs on my swollen jaws (and only a little loopy from pain meds) that I write my final article of 2017. And I'm sure it comes as no surprise to anyone that Christmas, Christmas, Christmas is my topic. Specifically I want to lift 3 upcoming events in which I hope you will fully participate and embrace. Here they are in order of occurrence:

* On Sunday, December 17th we will celebrate "Bring a Friend Sunday." Although our society continues to become more and more secular, the Christmas season is one of those regular times of the year when people are more open to hearing the message of Jesus, and accepting an invitation to attend church. Combine that with the fact that most people, when asked why they began attending their current church, stated they did so because someone invited them. While the friendliness of the congregation, quality of the music and sermon, and overall "feel" of the service might play a part in a person's decision to return, the initial decision to attend is most often because someone invited them. SO, we are encouraging everyone to do just that on the 17th...and don't just invite someone, ask them to attend with you...save them a seat...offer to pick them up. In other words, make the invitation a little more personal and let's see what happens!

* On Wednesday, December 20th at 6pm in the Chapel we will have our 2nd Annual "Blue Christmas" service. If 2017 has been a year of change, loss, hardship or trouble, the holidays can be difficult to navigate. For so many in our church and community, Christmas will not be "the most wonderful time of the year." On the 20th we will have a worship service designed to address this reality, and offer hope, comfort and healing in the midst despair, difficulty and sickness. If you need a little extra "pick-me up" this time of year, or if you know someone who could, please be present and help us spread the word.

* Christmas Eve will be a wonderful day in the life of FUMC Ada. The day will begin with our regular Sunday morning schedule, and then we will gather in the Sanctuary at 6 and 11pm for Candlelight Communion Services, which happen to be my favorite services of the year.

With that my newsletter article writing for the year is complete! I want to close by again saying "thank you" for allowing Shannon, Noah and me to be your pastoral family. The year and a half we have been in Ada has been AWESOME, and we look forward to many years to come. Take care, and I look forward to the rest of our Advent and Christmas season, and then the beginning of 2018! Have a great week, and I look forward to being in worship with you real soon!

Jesus is Lord.

Pastor Brian Matthews

ADVENT MEDITATION THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

There are many images that come to our mind when we think of the journey to Bethlehem. It is a journey in search for life— true and abundant life. We find ourselves traveling through the wilderness of our contemporary world.

There are always uncertainties and sundown's.

There are detours and sometimes dead-end highways. Our journey is not in vain. We will find the child and we shall be made whole.

"In Him is life— He is the source of life.

He is light and the darkness will never put it out." John 1:4-5.

Pray: May we be open to your leading us, Oh Lord, and may we respond with love to your coming even now. Amen.

Mosaic

**Classes start January 3rd
at 6:00 pm**

If you would like to register for one of these classes please fill out the registration form or you can sign one of the sign up sheets located by the office or in the Narthex. Also check your bulletins for a registration form and turn it into the usher during service. There will be youth and children activities going on simultaneously. Please take advantage of these opportunities to grow spiritually and intellectually. Below is a list of classes that are going to be held and the dates offered. If you would like details on each class please contact the church office.

- Acts 29 Fifty Days of Prayer to Invite the Holy Spirit (January 3rd)
- Playing With Beads (Starts January 10th)
- Knitting (Starts January 3rd)
- Christian Spirituality (January 3rd, 10th, & 17th)
- Uppity Women and the Bible (January 24th, 31st, February 7th & 21st)
- Stories About Jesus Not in the Bible (February 28th & March 7th)

ECU WESLEY



ECU Wesley celebrated Christmas at the home of Brian, Shannon & Noah Matthew's on Sunday, December 3rd before Finals Week kicked off!

Merry Christmas from the ECU Wesley!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ECU Wesley Leadership Retreat @ Wesley: January 2nd-4th
- Feed ECU Men's Basketball Team: January 3rd
- ECU First day of spring semester: January 16th
- First FUSION of the spring semester: January 22nd @ 8 pm

Check out our
NEW WEBSITE!

Be sure and check out the updated ECU Wesley website at: ecuwesley.org

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

REMINDER!!

Poinsettias and Luminarias

If you have ordered poinsettias they should be delivered to the church NO LATER THAN December 21st by 12 pm. If you still would like to order a luminaria please fill out a form in the office along with your payment. Also if you have ordered poinsettias from your own floral shop please fill out a form and turn it into the church office so your information can go into the Christmas Bulletin.



BAKE SALE THANK YOU!!

Thanks to everyone who made the UMW bake sale a success. Also to those who provided baked goods and those who purchased them.

With Sympathy
To Marty Hall and family on the passing of her brother.

STEPHEN MINSTRY

Have you felt that desire to help someone who is going through a difficult time in their life but just weren't sure what to do? Stephen Ministry provides the means by which you can provide skilled care to a hurting person. You can share your gift for caring with confidence knowing that God is in charge and you are supported by Stephen Leaders, the Stephen Ministers and your church. A new class begins in February and applications are available in the church office.

Applications due in by Wednesday, December 20th.

Notes from the



By Leslie and Clay Carley

I am beginning to sound like a broken record...but it is true, another beautiful day at the park. A very comfortable 78° with a nice breeze. Not bad for December! It was a very good day at the park, we served about 535 meals, and we had more toys, stuffed animals and games for parents and guardians to select and wrap for their children's Christmas gifts. We also had blankets, jackets, socks, and other cold weather gear available! Thank you to our crew, Tim, Fran, Crystal, Jim, Rick, Kevin, Karen, David, Clay, and Colin, and also thank you Don and Nina who worked raising money for us to provide more Christmas gifts. We also send our thanks to Donna, Marty, Pat, and to Donna's Sunday School Class. To all of you, we are very grateful, and our friends at the park also send their thanks to you. We will have Christmas gifts at the park each Sunday until Christmas, if you would like to join in on the fun, please join us, everyone is welcome! That's about it for today, thank you all for your prayers and support, and we hope to see you again next week, for Dinner at the Park.

youth group SCHEDULE

Sundays at 9:45 am:
Youth Sunday School
(Room 302N- the green room).

Wednesday's from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm:
there will be a meal and games, followed by a discussion of the book of John.

Friday's from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm:
Youth Group- A lively night of fun and connecting.

Grades 7th through 12th are welcomed for these nights!

Evangelism

What is Las Posadas?

- Christmas Caroling in the area
 - Devotional Special Music
 - Santa Clause
 - Piñata
 - Hot Chocolate, Cider and Cookies
 - All the home made tamales you can eat
- Please bring all your children and friends!

December 17th at 6:00 pm at John and Lisa Elliot's home

Opportunities of the Week



Church Family Prayer List

Worship and Event 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)
Monday	
6:00 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 13 Meeting
7:15 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop 13 Meeting (Scout Room)
Tuesday	
10:00 a.m.	Talimidim Bible Study (Library)
12:00 a.m.	Prayer in the Sanctuary Prayer Room
3:30 p.m.	Voices of Praise (Choir Room)
Wednesday	
10:00 a.m.	Rebekah Bible Study
Noon	Methodist Men's Bible Study (Library)
4:00 p.m.	Awana
6:00 p.m.	Bible Adventure
6:00 p.m.	Mosaic Classes
6:00 p.m.	Youth Meet-Up (Church)
6:00 p.m.	Chancel Ringers
7:15 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Friday	
7:00 p.m.	Youth Meet- Up (Church)

EVENTS IN



TUESDAY 12th, 12:00 pm	Minister Fellowship Meeting (Lindsay Classroom)
WEDNESDAY 13th, 1:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:15 pm	Knitting Group (Parlor) All Church Caroling and refreshments (Fellowship Hall) Chancel Choir Christmas Party
THURSDAY 14th, 10:00 am	GSPS Christmas Program (Sanctuary)
FRIDAY 15th, 1:00 pm	Christmas Caroling—Choir Members (Nursing Homes) BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY Las Posadas (Elliott Home, 312 N. Hillcrest)
SUNDAY 17th, 6:00 pm	
TUESDAY 19th, Noon	Combo Trustee/Finance Team (Lindsay Class)
WEDNESDAY 20th, 6:00 pm	Blue Christmas Service (Chapel)
THURSDAY 24th, 6:00 pm 11:00 pm	Both morning services WILL take place. Communion Candlelight Service (Sanctuary) Communion Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)
MONDAY 25th, 3:00-5:00 pm	CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY Davo's Diner (CLC)
TUESDAY 26th, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm	CLOSED FOR CHISTMAS HOLIDAY HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS



MONDAY 1st, **CLOSED FOR NEW YEARS HOLIDAY**



PRAYERS: Betty Abert, Roy Allen, Avery Anderson, Jane Baltimore, The Barton Family, Pat Berne, Clarice Bowman, Dudley Bricker, Dean Brown, Larry Brown, Jim and Connie Bryan, Morris Cane, Pat Christensen, Larry Cole, Jewel Collins, Giulietta Cook, Buck Cooper, Patsy Cobb, Linda Cox, Win Cramer, Shawn Dail, Norma Donaghey, Sheila Dunn, Ashley Elliott, The Green Family, Cindy Fugendes, Michelle Gibson, Jill Harris, Jim Harris, Captain Andrew Hill, John Holt, Kim Holton, John Holton, Russell Holton, Mary James, Bobby Johns, Hunter Johnson, Wilma and Gary Lawson, Theresa Loring, Truman Johnson, Emma Lucas, Jim Martin, Jayme and Stan McLaughlin, Johnny Moss, June Murphy, Darla Murray, Joe Murray, Jane Muntz, Janet Powell, Lisa Rhynes, Katherine Roberts, Pam Shernuk, **Jodi Standards Daughter**, Linda Staples, Jeanene Stevens, Peach Stone, the Teague Family, Darrel Thompson, Brad Wheelen, The Wilcox Family.
LONG-TERM PRAYERS: Bud Blackburn, Wanda Goplen, Jennifer Hood, T.J. Johnston, Randy Johnson, Mike Manning, Cindy Minor, Glen Ray, Mary Jo Schoepflin, Jimmy Smith, Lindsay Snow, Doc Stokes, Kathy Wilkin, Karen Williams.
EXPECTANT MOTHERS: Stacy Brady, Holly Brady Clay, Jenny F., Amanda Jamar Herrin, Sarah Johnson, Krystina Phillips, Courtney Glasgow-Samuelson, Kayla Taylor.

ATTENDANCE

DECEMBER 3rd, 2017	
Sunday School	172
Chapel Service	65
Sanctuary Service	187
Total Worship	252
HANGING OF THE GREEN	
	319
DECEMBER 10th, 2017	
Sunday School	168
Chapel Service	58
Sanctuary Service	263
Total Worship	321