

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](http://www.fumcada.org)

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

# The First United Methodist Church ADVOCATE



Vol. 63, Number 51

Tuesday, July 24th, 2018



**Brian Matthews**

As I type these words I am taking a break from sermon prep. The sermon I am working on, which will have been preached by the time you read these words, is from Philippians 2 where Paul mentions Timothy and Epaphroditus. Timothy is described by Paul as his "son in the faith." Clearly Timothy and Paul have a great relationship. Epaphroditus is someone Paul met while ministering in Philippi...and when the Philippians took up an offering to support Paul during his imprisonment, Epaphroditus not only delivered the offering, but also remained at Paul's side to care for him. I study these words from Philippians and cannot help but think of those people in my life (and ministry) who have been there with me...who have been my friends in the faith. In honor of Timothy and Epaphroditus I want to share some of these with you.

Shari Parks was (and is) a true disciple of Jesus. She served faithfully in many capacities at St. Paul's UMC in Okemah. Few days passed in my 5 years there where Shari and I didn't speak. She was my #1 sounding board, co-planner, confidant, and worker. I'm not sure what I would've done without Shari's support, guidance and friendship. She was a tremendous blessing to me and I thank God for the opportunity to get to know her.

Tim and Tracy Sanford were a tremendous blessing to my family and me during our time in Okmulgee. They took care of all the "behind the scenes" stuff for our Praise and Worship Service like leading the band, preparing the worship space each week,

programming all our multi-media, setting up and putting away communion supplies, and so much more. Their love of the Lord and His church was incredible. If that weren't enough they also took an interest in the Matthews' family and became not only good friends but our family doctors as well! Their love of the Lord led them to adoption, and as of today they have adopted 4 children with special medical needs from Chinese orphanages. What great disciples of Jesus!

Josh Leu and Ronnie Fields have been my primary sermon planning buddies for many, many years, and as such are my "go to" guys when I need thoughts or advice from other pastors. They have also become good friends who I truly enjoy seeing and hanging out with during our planning retreats. It's an added bonus that we all now serve similar size churches so we can kick ideas around. Josh and Ronnie are blessings in my life (though don't tell them that!).

Of course my number 1 "friend" in faith and life is Shannon. We have been a couple for 21 years and will celebrate 20 years of marriage next May. Shannon is my best friend and the person who knows me best. When I need help, advice, encouragement, or anything else, Shannon is there. Without her encouragement and support we would most likely not be in the ministry...meaning Ada would still be simply a place on a map instead of our home. Shannon is a fantastic person, mother and spouse.

I thank God for each of these people...and if I had more room I'd likely tell you about Chris Tracy, Sandi Rosson, Lance Dixon, Kevin Tully, Derick Belase and several others who have been my "Timothy and Epaphroditus." If this article hasn't sparked some thought for you, I hope you will spend some time considering your "friends in faith," and give thanks to God for them!

That's it for another month...make sure to check out the rest of the newsletter, mark your calendars accordingly, and do your best to participate in the upcoming events. AND as always, I hope to see you in worship real soon! Have a great week,

Jesus is Lord,

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

Pastor Brian Matthews

P.S. Thanks to the ECU Wesley Band and Bart and Cheryl McCortney for sharing with us during our first "Night of Praise and Testimony."

# Save the Date

This year our Chancel Choir Retreat Clinician is Mr. Bob Pfau, from First United Methodist Church of Ardmore. He is the Director of Adult Music and oversees the children's choir program and several hand bell choirs.

He has been a featured tenor soloist with the Amarillo Symphony Orchestra and the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. He has been a member of the American Guild of English Hand Bell Ringers, the American Choral Directors Association and the Choristers Guild.

He holds a Bachelor of Music in Church Music with emphasis in vocal (tenor), and Consecrated a Diaconal Minister in the United Methodist Church. We are happy to welcome Mr. Pfau. Also a quick reminder that the retreat is August 18th, from 8:30am there will be coffee and donuts, rehearse 9:00am to noon (with breaks) and lunch will be provided. Hope to see new members that love to sing join us for fun, faith, food, and fellowship. Call Rozzie for more information, (580) 332-6624.

Chancel Ringers and Chancel Choir will ring and sing in the new year on August 29th. Bells will be at 6:00 pm and Choir will be at 7:15 pm. Bring a friend!



*To the family and friends of  
Billie Frank Turner  
And to the family and friends  
of Denny and Chris Lowry on  
the passing of their son Eric.*

## Memorials

- Elaine Lakey**  
By: Mary Ann Briggs
- Billie Frank Turner**  
By: Mary Ann Briggs
- Billie Frank Turner**  
By: Fellowship Class

# NewsLetter DEADLINE DATES

**Date it will be mailed:**  
August 28th  
September 25th  
October 30th

**Articles Due by:**  
August 15th  
September 12th  
October 17th



## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

During the 10:45 am service on Sunday, August 12th our Pastor Brian Matthews will be blessing the backpacks of any child who brings theirs to the second service.

Please make sure that your child brings their backpack to church that morning!



Congratulations to Karry Baker Griese and Joe Neil Griese on their new baby girl Baker Rose Griese. She was born on July 13th, 2018 weighing 7lbs 2oz and was 19 inches long.



## SAVE THE DATE!

September 30th– October 1st  
Muntz/Myers Lectures with Dr. Kevin Watson  
Church Wide Study Book: The Class Meeting

# UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR CHICK-FIL-A!!

We are so excited to officially announce our GRAND OPENING on Thursday, August 2nd!

**LOCATED AT:**  
1500 Lonnie Abbott Blvd  
Ada, OK 74820



## Join us for our 16th Annual Family Fun Day at Wintersmith Park.

Enjoy a great morning of carnival style games and getting to know the programs and businesses that are partnering with us to improve the lives in our service area in the areas of health, education and financial stability.

Event starts at 9am. Food will begin to be served at 10am.

# FAMILY SATURDAY FUN DAY AUGUST 18 DAY



Ada Regional United Way

Be A Fair Fan at the

**PONTOTOC FAIR COUNTY**

**ADA, OK - Since 1916**


**Aug. 30 - Sept. 1, 2018**

**Days:**  
Thurs., Aug. 30 through  
Sat., Sept. 1, 2018

**Hours:**  
6 pm- 11 pm  
\$25 wristband  
\$20 special 2 pm - 4 pm  
Sat.

# AUGUST 2018

**ALL UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE MONTH**



**TUESDAY 7th,**  
**6:00 pm**  
 ECU Wesley Board Meeting  
 (ECU Wesley Building)

**SUNDAY 12th,**  
**10:45 am**  
 Blessing of the Backpacks (Sanctuary)  
 \*during service\*

**SATURDAY 18th,**  
**8:30 am**  
 Choir Retreat  
 (Choir Room and Fellowship Hall)

**WEDNESDAY 22nd,**  
**11:00 am**  
 Golden Agers (Fellowship Hall)  
**4:00 pm**  
 Vacation Bible School Reunion Party (CLO)

**SATURDAY 25th,**  
**10:00 am**  
 Church Mission/Ministry Team Meeting  
 (Fellowship Classroom)

**WEDNESDAY 29th,**  
**4:00 pm- Awana**  
**5:00 pm- Mosaic Meal (Fellowship Hall)**  
**6:00 pm- Bell Practice**  
**6:00 pm- Bible Adventure**  
**7:15 pm- Chancel Choir Practice**

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue   | Wed  | Thu  |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <p><b>8:30 am:</b> Worship Service (Chapel)</p> <p><b>9:30 am:</b> Sunday School</p> <p><b>10:45 am:</b> Worship Service (Sanctuary)</p> <p><b>3:30 pm:</b> Park Ministry (Glenwood Park)</p>   | <p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>5:15 pm:</b> Low Impact Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall)</p>   | <p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>10:00 am:</b> Talmidim Bible Study (Library)</p> <p><b>11:00 am:</b> Prayer Warriors (Sanctuary-Prayer Room)</p> <p><b>1:30 pm:</b> Staff Meeting (Library)</p> <p><b>6:00 pm:</b> ECU Wesley Board Meeting (ECU Wesley Building)</p> | <p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>7:00 am:</b> Methodist Men's Breakfast (Aldridge Coffee Shop, 200 S. Broadway)</p> <p><b>12:00 pm:</b> Men's Bible Study (Library)</p> <p><b>6:00 pm:</b> Youth Group (Youth Room)</p>   | <p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>5:00 pm:</b> Local Unit Leadership UMW Team Meeting (Library)</p> <p><b>6:00 pm:</b> Stephen Ministers Supervisory Group Meeting (Lindsay Classroom)</p>       |
| <p><b>8:30 am:</b> Worship Service (Chapel)</p> <p><b>9:30 am:</b> Sunday School</p> <p><b>10:45 am:</b> Worship Service (Sanctuary)</p> <p><b>10:45 am:</b> Blessing of the Backpacks (Sanctuary)</p> <p><b>3:30 pm:</b> Park Ministry (Glenwood Park)</p> | <p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>5:15 pm:</b> Low Impact Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall)</p>   | <p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>10:00 am:</b> Talmidim Bible Study (Library)</p> <p><b>11:00 am:</b> Prayer Warriors (Sanctuary-Prayer Room)</p> <p><b>1:30 pm:</b> Staff Meeting (Library)</p> <p><b>6:00 pm:</b> ECU Wesley Board Meeting (ECU Wesley Building)</p> | <p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>12:00 pm:</b> Men's Bible Study (Library)</p> <p><b>1:00 pm:</b> Knitting Group (Parlor)</p> <p><b>6:00 pm:</b> Youth Group (Youth Room)</p>   | <p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>5:30 pm:</b> GSPS Board Meeting (Parlor)</p>   |
| <p><b>8:30 am:</b> Worship Service (Chapel)</p> <p><b>9:30 am:</b> Sunday School</p> <p><b>10:45 am:</b> Worship Service (Sanctuary)</p> <p><b>10:45 am:</b> Blessing of the Backpacks (Sanctuary)</p> <p><b>3:30 pm:</b> Park Ministry (Glenwood Park)</p> | <p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>5:15 pm:</b> Low Impact Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall)</p>  | <p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>10:00 am:</b> Talmidim Bible Study (Library)</p> <p><b>11:00 am:</b> Prayer Warriors (Sanctuary-Prayer Room)</p>   | <p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>8:00 am:</b> Matthew 25 Mission Packaging (St. Luke's Episcopal)</p> <p><b>12:00 pm:</b> Men's Bible Study (Library)</p> <p><b>5:15 pm:</b> Low Impact Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall)</p>   | <p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>8:00 am:</b> Matthew 25 Mission Distribution (St. Luke's Episcopal)</p> <p><b>6:00 pm:</b> Stephen Ministry Supervisory Group Meeting (Lindsay Classroom)</p> |
| <p><b>8:30 am:</b> Worship Service (Chapel)</p> <p><b>9:30 am:</b> Sunday School</p> <p><b>10:45 am:</b> Worship Service (Sanctuary)</p> <p><b>3:30 pm:</b> Park Ministry (Glenwood Park)</p>   | <p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>7:15 pm:</b> Boy Scout Troop 13 (Scout Room)</p>  | <p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>10:00 am:</b> Talmidim Bible Study (Library)</p> <p><b>11:00 am:</b> Prayer Warriors (Sanctuary-Prayer Room)</p> <p><b>1:30 pm:</b> Staff Meeting (Library)</p>  | <p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>11:00 pm:</b> Golden Agers (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p><b>12:00 pm:</b> Men's Bible Study (Library)</p> <p><b>1:00 pm:</b> Knitting Group (Parlor)</p> <p><b>4:00 pm:</b> VBS Reunion Party (CLC)</p> <p><b>6:00 pm:</b> Youth Group (Youth Room)</p>                                      | <p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>6:30 pm:</b> District Scout Leaders Meeting (Lindsay Classroom)</p>   |
| <p><b>9:30 am:</b> Sunday School</p> <p><b>10:45 am:</b> Worship Service (Sanctuary)</p> <p><b>3:30 pm:</b> Park Ministry (Glenwood Park)</p>   | <p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>9:30 am:</b> Sunday School</p> <p><b>10:45 am:</b> Worship Service (Sanctuary)</p> <p><b>3:30 pm:</b> Park Ministry (Glenwood Park)</p> | <p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>10:00 am:</b> Talmidim Bible Study (Library)</p> <p><b>11:00 am:</b> Prayer Warriors (Sanctuary-Prayer Room)</p>   | <p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>12:00 pm:</b> Men's Bible Study (Library)</p> <p><b>4:00 pm:</b> Awana</p> <p><b>5:00 pm:</b> Mosaic Meal</p> <p><b>6:00 pm:</b> Youth Group (Youth Room)</p> <p><b>6:00 pm:</b> Bell Practice</p> <p><b>6:00 pm:</b> Bible Adventure</p> <p><b>7:15 pm:</b> Chancel Choir Practice</p> | <p><b>30</b></p>   |

# ECU WESLEY

## FUSION WORSHIP



The Bible says whenever two or three come before thy midst, they will be blessed. I am Joel Keith Nalere an International student from Uganda going to East Central University in Ada, I was raised in a family that respects God and made him the number one priority all throughout our childhood and also early adulthood. God was and is a big deal in my family that it became the culture and norm to go to church on Sunday and also pray or have overnights at home throughout the week. All this that we did for God as a family enriched my life in Christ and gave me the building I greatly needed to spread the word of God to nations as Matthew 28:19-20.

When I moved to Ada for college, I found a church to go to but needed more than just a Sunday visit to church, I needed another family of people that had hearts on fire for Christ, prayer warriors, Bible or theological intellectuals and Christian friends to keep up my hype for God and help me avoid distractions that could lead me into deviating.

I found the ECU Wesley that had exactly and perfectly what I wanted. But one thing that caught my eye was their Fusion Monday Night Worship. I saw a poster around campus and passed by one day and since then, I knew this was my war room. A room and environment that would not let my candles go out for Elohim. Let me tell you about it, first of all, it had very welcoming people that made me feel a taste of angels in heaven, how welcoming they were! Secondly, these people showed me around the campus ministry and made sure I knew the schedule of whatever they do throughout the week.

We kicked off the Fusion Worship with a band of college students singing familiar worship songs that kept all of us involved and dancing, you could feel the spirit of the Lord in the room. We had time of greeting each other and I met a bunch of my current friends that day and later it was sermon time; the guest preacher was the pastor of the First United Methodist Church Ada, Pastor Brian Matthews who I made a statement on sight to my neighbors that, "He was too cool to be a pastor". His sermon was so interactive, clear, full of relatable examples and inspirational quotes, he knew how to make college students love church or the sermon, that sermon enlightened me and since then, it has always been my culture and norm to go to fusion worship and other campus ministry events like the Bible studies, game nights and other fellowships.

All the other guest speakers that share their knowledge about God in this fellowship week after week all semester were adorable and on the other hand, some of them even bring to us snacks, job opportunities, perform the Holy Eucharist of the Holy Communion which is exciting. We get a chance to listen to our own and fellow college fellas preach too which is admirable and awesome.

In a long run, I got too involved in this Fusion worship that I later started to want to participate in it and it was not too long before I joined the Fusion Worship Band that led the worship. Currently I am one of the back up singers in the Fusion choir and my involvement keeps me strong in the Lord and occupied because an idle mind is a devil's workshop.

I give all the credit to God and to our campus ministry leader Ms. Janey Wilson for her underrated effort to make this fellowship a blast, she always sermons the Wesley leaders for ideas day in and day out on how to improve this one-hour worship and I have seen her steadily progress. God also gave her a gift of patience with college students that enables her to effectively encourage us to stick to and worship God. I love her and May My God Bless Her. The Fusion is a blessing to my life and to many other college students, and it has led many to Christ. This fellowship and ministry completes a divine mission that inevitably needs to be supported in anyway possible.

God bless You all.

## Notes From The Park

By Clay and  
Leslie Carley

On Father's Day. Thank you to the men in our crew who gave up their day to come out and serve. We had a special line for men today, with a few extra treats for them. It seemed as though we had more men in line than usual today...Many fathers were getting meals for their families and friends! We also had some shirts and shorts for men (it was their day after all!)

**Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>:** we had a get together at our home. All who have had a part in this ministry were invited to come out and put their hand prints on our Glenwood Family Tree.

**June 24<sup>th</sup>:** What a day! The forecasters said that the rain would arrive at 3:00 in the afternoon, and they were right! We served all who came, but we were all drenched, and the food was starting to get a bit watered down! Apparently we also experienced 70 mph winds with the heavy showers! However, when the thunder started booming, we had to pack up quickly.

**July 1<sup>st</sup>:** It was a joy to be at the park, serving dinner with no concerns about storms! Serving went very quickly, and no one got overheated in the sun.

**July 8<sup>th</sup>:** After the storm that we experienced during dinner a few weeks ago, we were concerned that we would not be able to serve today because many areas were starting to flood this afternoon. But we left it in the hands of the Lord, and we were able to provide about 600 meals! We had a little rain, heard some thunder, but nothing severe.

**July 16<sup>th</sup>:** Thank you to our crew today, especially David, who served with us on his birthday, and newcomer Glen who joined us for the first time (we hope not for the last time). It seems as though I always mention that we are accepting donations for clothing, bedding, fans, toiletries, and other essentials, and it is true, there is always a need for these items, so, if anyone has anything to share, please let us know, and we can arrange to pick up if items cannot be dropped off at the First United Methodist Church of Ada on 14th St.

As always, thanks to KFC, Amber's Sweet Shoppe, and J.D.'s Cafe, for their generous donations of food, and thanks to Dick, Gail, Tim, Fran, Crystal, and Betty for their donations.

Thank you all for your prayers and support, and if you would like to join our crew, just let us know, we would love to have you!

REMINDER!!

ONE

REMINDER!!

**Combined Service****On Sunday, July 29th****10:45 am service ONLY****Meal to follow in the Christian Life Center (CLC)**

## Razzle Dazzle

Razzle Dazzle Music Camp was a huge success. We had 20 campers, a host of kitchen helpers Jane Johnston, Rhonda, Trulee and Guiletta Cook also to our music interns- Zach Teague and Emmy Robinson. Thanks to Jason and Stephen for setting up for the concert and last but certainly not least, our wonderful Golden Agers for ice cream for the reception. The campers had a week full of singing, ringing, learning about composers, drawing, music terms, music games and other fun activities.

Thanks to all who donated to help us out!

# Opportunities of the Week



# Church Family Prayer List



**PRAYERS:** Avery Anderson, Raymond Annanders, Janet Bare, Tonya Biggerstaff, Mitchell Boyd, Kyler Bowman (Mary Beth Myers' Great Grandson), Sam Bumpus, Marian Craig, Larry Drennan, Ed Echalk, Scottie Furiminsky, Olivia Griffin, Jeff Hayes, Kim Hill, John Holt, Kim Holton, Lisa Larios, Janet Larney,

Ray Larsen, Denny and Chris Lowry and Family, Emma Lucas, Joe and Lynn Marquis, Lenora Mayer, Tim Mummey, Joe Murray, Greg Perry, Willard Rhynes, Amanda Ricker, William Quinn Senior, Eileen Sharpiro, Kylelyn Sheppard, Marty Skinner, Suzanne Simmons, Debbra Smith, Florence Stanich, Ella Strader, Darrel Thompson, Buddy Watkins, Dimples Walden, Jefferson Walden, **Richard Williams, Linda Wood**

**LONG-TERM PRAYERS:** Bud Blackburn, Cliff Chapman, Wanda Goplen, Holly Hawk, Jennifer Hood, Gary Jackson, Randy Johnson, Chuck Lindholm, Mike Manning, Cindy Minor, Johnny Moss, Glen Ray, Mary Jo Schoepflin, Jimmy Smith, Lindsay Snow, Doc Stokes, Kathy Wilkin, Karen Williams

**EXPECTANT MOTHERS:** Megan Broderick, Amber Keiser, Megan Leach



**From Dale Pflaum**

**Why I enjoy/love/feel called to serve on our ECU Wesley Board:**

## ATTENDANCE

|                        |     |            |
|------------------------|-----|------------|
| <b>July 1st, 2018</b>  |     |            |
| Sunday School          | 151 |            |
| Chapel Service         | 60  |            |
| Sanctuary Service      | 133 |            |
| <b>Total Worship</b>   |     | <b>193</b> |
| ~~~~~                  |     |            |
| <b>July 8th, 2018</b>  |     |            |
| Sunday School          | 151 |            |
| Chapel Service         | 77  |            |
| Sanctuary Service      | 119 |            |
| <b>Total Worship</b>   |     | <b>196</b> |
| ~~~~~                  |     |            |
| <b>July 15th, 2018</b> |     |            |
| Sunday School          | 159 |            |
| Chapel Service         | 60  |            |
| Sanctuary Service      | 141 |            |
| <b>Total Worship</b>   |     | <b>201</b> |
| ~~~~~                  |     |            |
| <b>July 22nd, 2018</b> |     |            |
| Sunday School          | 135 |            |
| Chapel Service         | 56  |            |
| Sanctuary Service      | 130 |            |
| <b>Total Worship</b>   |     | <b>186</b> |
| ~~~~~                  |     |            |

I was on the First United Methodist Church Trustees when the chairman felt it necessary to leave that position and the Pastor asked if I would be the chair and I said yes. I didn't know that that made me an immediate member of the ECU Wesley Board 'in charge of the facility!' And that is how I became a member of the ECU Wesley Board. It is now about a year and a half since that happened and I have really enjoyed my time being on the Board. I am so encouraged by the young people I see and meet there and get a chance to work with a little. I look at them and remember what I was like at that age and wish that there had been such a group on my campus when I was in college. I have helped with the last two ECU Wesley Golf Tournaments which I have found encouraging that the young people (and Janey) work so hard and enthusiastic for the benefit of the Wesley.

I think it is really important for young people in college to have someone/something to direct them as this is the first time they are away from home and the guidance of parents. It is good to have some place to hang out, to share successes and failures, heart breaks and all the other emotions that happen in those formative years and I am glad to be a part of it.