

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

# The First United Methodist Church ADVOCATE



Vol. 67, Number 55

Tuesday, November 27th, 2018



*Brian Matthews*

I realize I'm a month behind in doing this, but I still haven't synced my articles with our "once-a-month" schedule. I want to use my article to share some things for which I give thanks this year. This is surely not an exhaustive list, but these people and things are really on my heart, which to me means I should include them.

First, I want to give thanks for a great family. I have a wonderful partner in life...and together we have produced a pretty good kid. In addition, Shannon and I both have great extended families and we are thankful for their presence in our lives. Next, I am truly thankful to be serving the Lord in Ada! FUMC Ada has a great membership and staff. I can honestly say I love coming to work every day. Donna, Amber, Don and Bob are awesome to interact with daily and keep things fun. The preschool staff led by Laura bring joy and laughter to our lives. Brent, Kim and Lisa have done and are doing a fantastic job with our children and youth...and all 3 are a joy to be around. Roberto is always present with a kind and encouraging word...Rozzie's music program is uplifting in so many ways...Tresa and Billie serve tirelessly to provide great opportunities for table fellowship...Jason and Stephen keep things fun as they keep things set-up, torn down and clean...and Ryan rolls with the flow to lead our A/V ministry. We have a great staff and I am truly thankful to God for them. But it's not just our staff, we also have great people. It has been a blessing to get to know you over the past 2 and a half years, and I look forward to many, many more years together. And I am thankful for Ada itself. I have ministered in communities where I loved the church but not the community...loved the community but not necessarily the church...and loved and struggled with both! Ada falls into the best category: I love the church and community, and am blessed to be here. Third, I am thankful for the miracle of modern medicine. The past couple months have been full of (mostly) health and healing around the Matthews' house. I think most people are aware that I had spinal fusion surgery in September and have been in physical therapy three times a week for the past 6 weeks, but Noah also had oral surgery and has recovered nicely. In addition to our medical miracles, I am also thankful for the miracle the Holton/Dicus family received and many, many others we have experience in our church and community.

This list of things barely scratches the surface, but I'm about out of room! As you read these words we are entering full tilt into the Advent/Christmas season. Take note of all the activities listed here in the newsletter...and I pray you do your best to participate fully in the life of the church over the coming month. I know you will be blessed if you do! Take care, I hope your Thanksgiving was wonderful, and I hope to see you in worship real soon!

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

Jesus is Lord,  
Pastor Brian Matthews

We know you have noticed (and hopefully parked in) the new parking lot. This blessing was made possible through the generosity of FUMC members. They wish to remain nameless, but we want them to know we appreciate them!



- Brian, Donna and the Church Management Team

### VOICES OF PRAISE

Voices of Praise will resume rehearsal on Tuesday, January 8th. Bring a friend if you would like for them to join in the fun, food and fellowship. The Chancel Ringers and Chancel Choir will start the new year on January 9th.



The Children's Christmas Program will be December 9th during the 10:45 am service. The Voice's of Praise will join the Sunday classes for the Christmas Story.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

Senator Greg McCortney will be the guest speaker for the UMM breakfast December 5th at 8:00 am at the Aldridge Coffee Shop on Broadway. EVERYONE IS WELCOMED!!

**Newsletter DEADLINE DATES**

<b>Date it will be mailed:</b>	<b>Articles Due by:</b>
December 18th	December 5th
January 29th	January 2nd
February 26th	February 6th
March 26th	March 6th
April 23rd	April 3rd
May 28th	May 1st

### A Christmas Celebration for the Whole Family

December 16th, 2018 At 6:00 pm

The program will include Christmas caroling, devotional, a pinata, Santa Claus, refreshments and all the homemade tamales you care to eat. There will also be a special celebration of the 200th anniversary of the writing of "Silent Night" back in December 24th, 1818 led by Pastor Brian Matthews playing his guitar. In case of inclement weather the whole event will be held indoors at the Elliotts home. Please don't miss it and invite your friends!



Pickle Ball will be held in the CLC every Tuesday night at 7:30 pm.

Please join us to play or to just watch. We will have extra paddles if you would like to attend but don't have any. We would love to have you join us. There is no age limit!

## Now is the Time To Order

Each year we decorate the chapel and sanctuary with poinsettias in honor or in memory of a special someone. These names will be printed on a special insert on Christmas Eve. Bring or have your florist deliver a poinsettia wrapped in green foil to the church no later than NOON, DECEMBER 13th. The church secretary will need your names no later than NOON, DECEMBER 10th or even earlier so that she can start on the bulletin insert. The poinsettias will be displayed on December 16th and the 23rd in the chapel and sanctuary.

If you are interested in buying poinsettias from Byng High School they are \$17 each and you can pay Amber in the church office.



# CURRENT-PAST CHURCH EVENTS

## TRUNK or TREAT

Everyone had a blast at our annual trunk or treat event! From face paintings, crafts, cake walks and so much more. Cant wait till next year!



## IN HONOR OF OUR VETERANS

We enjoyed celebrating our Veterans Day Banquet on Friday, November 9th. We had wonderful food and music and great speakers. We were able to watch a flag folding service and had amazing helpers preparing our food and volunteering. Thank you to everyone that helped donate gifts, prepare food or volunteered of any kind. You are very appreciated!

ADA FUMC IS PROUD TO HONOR OUR VETERANS!



# DECEMBER 2018



**OFFICE CLOSED**

Monday 24th–

Wednesday 26th

Tuesday, January 1st



8:30 am: Worship Service (Chapel)

9:30 am: Sunday School

10:45 am: Worship Service (Sanctuary)

3:30 pm: Park Ministry (Glenwood Park)

**WEDNESDAYS**

10:00 am: Rebekah Bible Study (Library)

12:00 pm: Men's Bible Study (Library)

1:00 pm: Knitting Group (Parlor)

4:00 pm: J.A.M

5:00 pm: Mosaic Meal

6:00 pm: Youth Group (Youth Room)

6:00 pm: Mosaic Classes

6:00 pm: Bell Practice

6:00 pm: Bible Adventure

7:15 pm: Chancel Choir Practice

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
4:00 pm: Hanging of the Green (Sanctuary)	12:00 pm: Church Management Team Meeting (Library) 5:15 pm: Low Impact Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts (CLC/Classrooms) 8:00 pm: ECU Wesley Fusion Worship (ECU Wesley Building)	10:00 am: Talmidim Bible Study (Library) 11:00 am: Prayer Warriors (Sanctuary– Prayer Room) 3:30 pm: Voices of Praise	8:00 am: Methodist Men Breakfast (Aldridge Coffee Shop, 200 S. Broadway) 4:00 pm: Advent Workshop (CLC)	5:00 pm: Local Unit Leadership UMW Team Meeting (Library) 5:15 pm: Low Impact Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 pm: Stephen Ministers Supervisory Group Meeting (Lindsay Classroom)	7:00pm: Youth Group (Youth Room)	8
10:45 am: Children's Christmas Program (Sanctuary-during service)	5:15 pm: Low Impact Exercise Group (CLC) 5:30 pm: UMW Unit Leadership Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts (CLC/Classrooms) 8:00 pm: ECU Wesley Fusion Worship (ECU Wesley Building)	10:00 am: Talmidim Bible Study (Library) 11:00 am: Prayer Warriors (Sanctuary– Prayer Room) 3:30 pm: Voices of Praise	1:00 pm: Knitting Group (Parlor) 4:00 pm: Christmas Caroling	10:00 am: GSPS Christmas Program (CLC) 11:00 am: Fellowship Class Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall) 5:15 pm: Low Impact Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 pm: District Boy Scout Round Table Meeting (Fellowship )	7:00 pm: Youth Group (Youth Room)	15
10:45 am: Happy Birthday Jesus Party (CLC- during power up) 6:00 pm: Las Posadas (Elliotts Home)	5:15 pm: Low Impact Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts (CLC/Classrooms) 8:00 pm: ECU Wesley Fusion Worship (ECU Wesley Building)	10:00 am: Talmidim Bible Study (Library) 11:00 am: Prayer Warriors (Sanctuary– Prayer Room) 3:30 pm: Voices of Praise	8:00 am: Matthew 25 Mission Packaging (St. Luke's Episcopal)	8:00 am: Matthew 25 Mission Distribution (St. Luke's Episcopal) 5:15 pm: Low Impact Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 pm: Stephen Ministers Supervisory Group Meeting (Lindsay Classroom)	7:00 pm: Youth Group (Youth Room)	22
23	*Christmas Eve* <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6:00 pm & 11:00 pm: Christmas Candlelight service (Sanctuary)	*Christmas Day* <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	5:15 pm: Low Impact Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall) 7:30 pm: District Scout Leaders Meeting (Lindsay Classroom)	7:00 pm: Youth Group (Youth Room)	29
30	5:15 pm: Low Impact Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall)					



## Notes From The Park



*By Clay and  
Leslie Carley*

What a beautiful day at the park! We were concerned that people would think that we were never going to serve a hot meal again at the park, but no, they counted on our being there, and thankfully, we were there! Thank you to our servers, Fran, Jim, Nina, Don, Crystal, David, Treva, Tim, Debbie, and the two young missionary elders from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. With their help, we were able to provide about 700 meals today.

Today we were able to provide many new jackets for the cold days ahead. October 28, 2018

**November 4, 2018**

We had a difficult time at the park today. We did not have enough people to serve, so there were a few complaints about us being too slow. There were also complaints about people thinking that some people should not take meals to shut-ins or people without access to the park.

Our friends and volunteers give up part of every weekend to make sure that we can serve the hungry. We encourage people to take meals for their friends who cannot come to the park. We hope that the complaints of the few will not dampen the generous spirit of those who come to the park.

**November 11, 2018**

It was a bit chilly at the park today, but the sun was shining and the sky was blue, a beautiful day! Thank you to our volunteers, and to all those who came for dinner, we were glad to be there with you. We are preparing our menu for Thanksgiving Dinner, which will be served at 2:00 pm on Thursday, November 22nd (Thanksgiving Day). Turkey is definitely on the menu! Dressing, sweet potatoes, and pumpkin pie will be there also! As always, everyone is welcome. This meal is free for all.

**November 18, 2018**

It was only about 35° at the park today, but there was no breeze, and no precipitation. It could have been a lot worse! We were very fortunate to have plenty of extra chicken to hand out today. School is out this week, so many families will need a bit more food than usual. Several organizations will be serving Thanksgiving Dinner around town this week, including us. We will be serving dinner at the park on Thursday at 2:00 pm. As always, everyone is welcome. If anyone would like to join us in serving at the park, we would love to have you join us! Today, we handed out hats to those who had bare heads, and while doing this, we noticed one young woman who did not have a jacket. After speaking with her, we learned that she had given her jacket to someone in line who did not have one. What a special young woman, and what an example she set for those around her. We are currently collecting winter necessities to share at the park, and yes, we had one to give to her. The jacket we supplied wasn't a perfect fit, but it will keep her warm until we can supply one that fits better (she promised to bring it back so that someone else could have it). We are looking forward to Thanksgiving, because that is when we offer toys and games for the parents to select for as Christmas gifts for their children. We will offer items every week until Christmas. We also hope to offer a table of gift items for children to select for their parents. We continue to collect winter necessities, including jackets, hats, gloves, and blankets to share at the park. We are also collecting toys, games, dolls, and books for Christmas gifts. We will start having these available on Thanksgiving. Parents or guardians will be able to shop for gifts at special tables. We ask that they wrap the gifts before leaving the park. Gift wrap, ribbon and tape will be provided also. We call this Project Hope. Every child hopes that Santa will come to their home, and we hope to help that become a reality. Donations can be dropped off at the First United Methodist Church of Ada, or contact Leslie at ph. 436-3626, to arrange for a pick up. Thank you all for your prayers and support, and we hope to see you on Thursday for Thanksgiving at the park!!

### **ADVENT MEDITATION THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM**

**By Pastor Roberto Escamilla**

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.

**Reflections:** He is at the homeless shelter, in a nursing home., in a hospital, in a drug rehabilitation center, in a hospice, in a school, in our church, or in our home. But He is there and if we have eyes of faith and hearts full of charity, we will find Him and rejoice in His presence.

*"Annual Hanging of The Green"  
A Christmas Cantata*



Directed by Rozzie Purdy  
**Sunday, December 2nd  
at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary**

This festive event starts our Advent Season off with a worshipful and joyous musical celebration.

The Chancel Ringers, Chancel Choir and the Voices of Praise will fill the sanctuary with festive sounds of Christmas. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

*We will  
have two ser-  
vices one at  
6:00 pm and  
the other at  
11:00 pm on  
December  
24th  
in the  
Sanctuary.*



*If you have  
questions  
please  
contact the  
church  
office at  
(580)  
332-1398.*

**Come to our  
Advent Workshop**

*Wednesday, December 5th  
From 4 to 6 pm in the  
Christian Life Center*

**FUN FOR ALL AGES!!**

*We will have Christmas  
Crafts, hot dogs, cookie  
decorating area and  
Crismons to decorate.*

*If you have any questions  
please call the office at  
(580) 332-1398 or  
Lisa Elliott at  
(580) 272-8264.*

*Blue Christmas*

*Wednesday, December 19th  
6:00 pm in the Chapel*

**Blue Christmas Services are  
a comfort for many!**

This services has a more quiet,  
somber feel than a traditional  
Christmas worship service.

Scripture, music, meditations and  
sermons focus on the comfort God  
offers during dark times.

This can comfort those that may be  
facing a holiday after there's been  
death of a loved one, after a divorce,  
or have suffered through an  
emotional trauma.

Perhaps they even feel pressured  
and overwhelmed by holiday  
preparations.

# Opportunities of the Week



For several years now we have celebrated this great program in our church. It includes a great variety of activities that include children, youth and

adults. You will be hearing from Pastor Brian Matthews and others about ways in which you may wish to get involved and participate in one or more of these significant events. Please read the advocate, bulletins and announcements during service to keep informed. We have one great thing in mind and that is the celebration of the birth of our Savior that brings salvation, peace and joy to the world!

Have a Merry Christmas!  
-Pastor Roberto Escamilla

# Church Family Prayer List



Avery Anderson, Raymond Annanders, Jan Baltimore, Pat Beasley, Don Birdwell, Sandy Bixler,

Andrea Blackburn, Sam Bumpus, Kyra Cooper, Ann Dicus, Larry Drennan, Ed Echalk, Scottie Furiminsky, Michelle Gibson, Jeff Hayes, Rob Holloway, Kim Holton, Luann & Jack Hoover, Ruthie Kerr, Bill & Janet Larney, Ray Larsen, **Brian Matthews**, Joe & Lynn Marquis, Betty McCutcheon, Johnny Moss, Joe Murray, Stephanie Sill, Marty Skinner, **Jodi Standard**, Darrel Thompson, **Betty Townsend**, Richard Williams, Rance Willis

**LONG-TERM:** Bud Blackburn, Cliff Chapman, Wanda Goplen, Floyd Gurley, Holly Hawk, Jennifer Hood, Randy Johnson, Chuck Lindholm, Mike Manning, Lenora Mayer, Greg Perry

**EXPECTANT MOTHERS:** Taylor Adam, Victoria Aquilar

## ATTENDANCE

<b>October 28th, 2018</b>	
Sunday School	152
Chapel Service	52
Sanctuary Service	164
Online	11
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>227</b>
<b>November 4th, 2018</b>	
Sunday School	134
Chapel Service	75
Sanctuary Service	146
Online	16
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>237</b>
<b>November 11th, 2018</b>	
Sunday School	167
Chapel Service	82
Sanctuary Service	163
Online	17
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>262</b>
<b>November 18th, 2018</b>	
Sunday School	166
Chapel Service	55
Sanctuary Service	182
Online	15
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>252</b>
<b>November 25th, 2018</b>	
Sunday School	158
Chapel Service	70
Sanctuary Service	158
Online	9
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>237</b>

## Memorials

**Dimples Walden**

By: J David and Debbie Buxton



**Dates  
to  
Remember**

- ECU Wesley Weekly FUSION Worship Service: Monday's @ 8 pm (unless there is no classes)
- Random Snacks of Kindness each Thursday @ 11 am behind the University Center
- Football Bible Study each Tuesday @ 7 pm @ the ECU Wesley (Big Room)
- #freshman18 Bible Study each Thursday @ 8 pm @ the ECU Wesley (Big Room)
- Upperclassmen Bible Study each Thursday @ 8 pm @ the ECU Wesley (FUSION room)
- Prayer Group Thursdays @ 9 pm @ the ECU Wesley

Janey Wilson

ECU Wesley Campus Minister

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