

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

The First United Methodist Church ADVOCATE



Vol. 68, Number 56

Tuesday, December 18th, 2018

Thom Rainer is the President and Chief Executive Officer of LifeWay Christian Resources, and a respected author on all things "church." Rainer is fond of reminding church people about the importance of Christmas Eve, which he lists as one of the 4 most attended church services of the year. In fact, in one sense it is the MOST important in his eyes: **"From an evangelistic perspective, Christmas Eve services may be the most important services of the year."** When commenting on the reason for this, Rainer believes, **"Many unchurched are attracted to the traditions of Christmas, particularly those demonstrated in Christmas Eve services."** As we prepare for our Christmas Eve Services, I think it would behoove us to remember his advice.

I response to the above paragraph I want to ask 3 things of our church. It would be great if everyone did all 3...and I hope you will...but I challenge everyone to at least do 2 of



Brian Matthews the 3.

1. Invite someone to attend the service with you. We've already stated that Christmas Eve is a great time to invite a guest...so I challenge you to invite someone (or multiple someone's). Here's the key to the invitation: don't just invite them to come...invite them to come and sit with you...establish a time and location where you will meet outside the church, or better yet ride together and save a parking spot for someone else. The Christian faith in general, and churches in particular only grow when we do the job of disciples and invite others to join us on our journey of faith. Challenge 1: invite someone to attend the service with you.
2. Serve at one service. While some might not be aware, we need many, many people working in front of, and behind the scenes for the services to "go off without a hitch." We need greeters, communion servers, candle giver-outers, hospitality people, a set-up and clean up crew, and many more. Challenge 2: serve at one of the services (talk to Brian or Donna for specifics and to volunteer).
3. Attend the other. I separate this one into its own because it can be very difficult to be fully present while serving. Therefore the challenge is to serve in some way during one of the services, and attend the other service to worship and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Challenge 3: attend the other.

I pray you and yours have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year...and as always, thanks for allowing me to be your pastor!

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

Jesus is Lord,
Pastor Brian Matthews

**The Dream is Alive!**

December 11, 2018

Africa University Development Office
Elaine Jenkins, JD — Director of Planned Giving**TRANSMITTED ELECTRONICALLY.**

Rev. Brian Matthews
First United Methodist Church of Ada
P. O. Box 566
Ada, OK 74821-0566

Dear Rev. Matthews and the First Church Family:

Grace and Peace to you in this Holy Season of Advent!

Thank you very much for your generous gift of Two Hundred Fifty (**\$250.00**) Dollars, which you have designated for the Africa University **Endowment Fund**. You will be pleased to know that the permanent endowment now totals approximately **\$80 million**. The interest income and earnings thereon provide needed **scholarships** and other **financial assistance** for our students as well as meet new and emerging needs of the institution to ensure its long-term sustainability. **Thank you** for investing in Africa University's transforming ministry.

I am also pleased to share with you that **all is well** on the Africa University campus. The academic year is off to an excellent start. The first semester has ended, and the university is on hiatus until January 9, 2019, when the second semester begins. The university has an enrollment of approximately 1,900, inclusive of part-time students; **53%** of our students are female; **27** of the **55** nations of Africa are represented in the student population; and there are now **7** new post-graduate degree programs in place. Africa University continues to be the place where **Africa happens every day!** **Thank you** for helping make this possible.

May this Yuletide season bring blessings of peace, hope, and joy to you and to a chaotic and hurting world! Take excellent care!

PEACE!

Elaine Jenkins

EJ/mos

Enclosure: AU At A Glance Fact Sheet

Post Script: *Friends, do you know that you can support Africa University's mission with a gift that **costs nothing** during your lifetime? For more information about planned gifts and the **Richard E. "Dick" Reeves Legacy Society**, please visit the planned giving website at www.africau.plannedgiving.org/ or call me at (615) 340-7428. I would be **delighted** to speak with you. Thank you!*

CURRENT-PAST CHURCH EVENTS



Children's Christmas Program And Happy Birthday Jesus Party

We had a great children's Christmas program during our 10:45 am service with our Happy Birthday Jesus party afterwards where the kids make beautiful Christmas ornaments and ate cookies.



ADVENT WORKSHOP

We had hotdogs, chips and drinks along with a cookie making station, ornaments station and so much more. There was even a surprise by someone special, SANTA CLAUSE!



JANUARY 2019



OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday 1st



SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAYS

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
<p>6 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 am: Brunch in the CLC 10:45 am: Happy Birthday Jesus Party (During Power-Up in the CLC)</p>	<p>7 DECEMBER 31st OFFICE HOURS 8:00 am to 12:00 pm</p> <p>12:00 pm: Church Management Team (Library) 5:15 pm: Low Impact Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts (CLC/Classrooms) 6:00pm: Jodi Standard Small Group Meeting (Parlor)</p>	<p>1 OFFICE CLOSED </p> <p>10:00 am: Talmidim Bible Study (Library) 11:00 am: Prayer Warriors (Sanctuary- Prayer Room) 3:30 pm: Voices of Praise 7:30 pm: Pickle Ball (CLC)</p>	<p>2 8:00 am: Methodist Men Breakfast (Aldridge Coffee Shop, 200 S. Broadway) NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES</p> <p>1:00 pm: Knitting Group (Parlor) ALL WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES START BACK UP</p>	<p>3 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)</p> <p>10 5:15 pm: Low Impact Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall) 5:30 pm: GSPS Board Meeting (Parlor) 6:00 pm: District Boy Scout Round Table Meeting (Fellowship)</p>	<p>4 7:00pm: Youth Group (Youth Room)</p> <p>11 7:00 pm: Youth Group (Youth Room)</p>	<p>5 10:00 am Group 10 Meeting (Room TBA)</p> <p>12</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14 10:00 am: Ruth Rachel (Parlor) Group (Fellowship Hall) 5:15 pm: Low Impact Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall) 5:30 pm: Mary Martha Women's Group Meeting (Parlor) 6:00 pm: Jodi Standard Small Group Meeting (Parlor) 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts (CLC/Classrooms) 8:00 pm: ECU Wesley Fusion Worship (ECU Wesley Building)</p>	<p>15 10:00 am: Talmidim Bible Study (Library) 11:00 am: Prayer Warriors (Sanctuary- Prayer Room) 3:30 pm: Voices of Praise 7:30 pm: Pickle Ball (CLC)</p>	<p>16 8:00 am: Matthew 25 Mission 16 Packaging (St. Luke's Episcopal)</p>	<p>17 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)</p>	<p>18 7:00 pm: Youth Group (Youth Room)</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>21 5:15 pm: Low Impact Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts (CLC/Classrooms) 6:00pm: Jodi Standard Small Group Meeting (Parlor) 8:00 pm: ECU Wesley Fusion Worship (ECU Wesley Building)</p>	<p>22 10:00 am: Talmidim Bible Study (Library) 11:00 am: Prayer Warriors (Sanctuary- Prayer Room) 3:30 pm: Voices of Praise 7:30 pm: Pickle Ball (CLC)</p>	<p>23 1:00 pm: Knitting Group (Parlor)</p>	<p>24 5:15 pm: Low Impact Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall) 7:30 pm: District Scout Leaders Meeting (Lindsay Classroom)</p>	<p>25 7:00 pm: Youth Group (Youth Room)</p>	<p>26 10:00 am: Church Mission/ Ministry Team Meeting (Fellowship Hall)</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28 5:15 pm: Low Impact Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 pm: Cub Scouts (CLC/Classrooms) 6:00pm: Jodi Standard Small Group Meeting (Parlor) 8:00 pm: ECU Wesley Fusion Worship (ECU Wesley Building)</p>	<p>29 10:00 am: Talmidim Bible Study (Library) 11:00 am: Prayer Warriors (Sanctuary- Prayer Room) 3:30 pm: Voices of Praise 7:30 pm: Pickle Ball (CLC)</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 5:15 pm: Low Impact Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall)</p>		

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 a 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.

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



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



Shaun and Amber Keiser dressed up as our Mary and Joseph and their daughter Karley even participated.

LAS POSADAS

Everyone had such a great time eating great food and drinks along with amazing fellowship. We had Santa Clause show up and surprise all the kids and great stories told about Mary and Joseph's travel. We cant wait till next year!



Monthly Newsletters DATES



Date it will be mailed:

December 18th
January 29th
February 26th
March 26th
April 23rd
May 28th

Articles Due by:

December 5th
January 2nd
February 6th
March 6th
April 3rd
May 1st



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!

MOSAIC

There will be a new series of studies await for the new year in 2019. It will be under the leadership of our Lead Pastor Brian Matthews. The subject is "World Living Religions":

- January 9th– The Wise Men (Introduction)
- January 16th– Hinduism
- January 28th– Buddhism
- January 30th– Judaism
- February 6th– Islam
- February 13th– Christianity
- February 20th– A visit with Dr. Imam Imad Enchassi of the Islamic Society of Greater OKC (Possible trip to a Synagogue)
- February 27th– A visit with Rabbi Vered L. Harris of Temple B'nai Israel in OKC (Possible trip to a Mosque)

Be sure to register on January 2nd, 2019!

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.



Many thanks to the Voices of Praise, the Chancel Ringers and the the Chancel Choir for making our advent season start with such beautiful and meaningful music. Your musical talents are such a gift. I truly hope each and everyone of you have a wonderful Christmas!

Thanks,
Rozzie Purdy

Evangelism

Part of our goal of this office is to reach out for New Members. By the end of 2018, we would like to have received 25 new members. If you have any "leads" or suggested names of prospective members. Please share that information's with me.

Thank you,
Pastor Brian Matthews.

Welcome New Members

Welcome Kate and Brandon!

Kate Moore and
Brandon Prince
joined on
December 9th
during the 8:30
am service.



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

Memorials

Jewell Collins

By: Mary Ann Briggs
Fellowship Class
Jan Harris
June Murphy

Mary Jo Schoepflin

By: Annette Murphy

ATTENDANCE

December 2nd, 2018	
Sunday School	172
Chapel Service	67
Sanctuary Service	181
Online	
Total Worship	248
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<b>December 9th, 2018</b>	
Sunday School	157
Chapel Service	75
Sanctuary Service	175
Online	
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>250</b>
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December 16th, 2018	
Sunday School	156
Chapel Service	53
Sanctuary Service	209
Online	
Total Worship	262

Church Family Prayer List



Roy Allen, Avery Anderson, Raymond Annanders, Annelle Ashcraft,

Jan Baltimore, Pat Beasley, Don Birdwell, Sandy Bixler, Andrea Blackburn, **Tammy Brown**, Sam Bumpus, Kyra Cooper, Larry Cole, 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, Joe & Lynn Marquis, Betty McCutcheon, Johnny Moss, Joe Murray, **June Murphy**, Stephanie Sill, Marty Skinner, Jodi Standard, Darrel Thompson, Betty Townsend, Richard Williams, Rance Willis
LONG-TERM: Bud Blackburn, Cliff Chapman, Floyd Gurley, Holly Hawk, Jennifer Hood, Randy Johnson, Chuck Lindholm, Mike Manning, Lenora Mayer, Greg Perry
EXPECTANT MOTHERS: Taylor Adam, Victoria Aquilar



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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