February 2019

Pastor:
Rev. Mark Whitley

Administrative Council
Chair: Jim Igarta

Lay Leader:
Dolly Kirk

Trustee Chairperson:
Ray Roberts

Office Hours:
Monday thru Thursday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Church Office Closed Friday

February 23rd Hooks & Needles get together event from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm in the parlor.

It is open to anyone interested in crochet. Participants do not need to know how to crochet to attend. We will have supplies & several ladies ready to teach! Friends are welcome as well. Bring a dish to share :)

February 24th Valentine’s Dance from 5-7pm

Dancing, food, fellowship and lots of FUN for ALL (couples, singles, and children)

Donations will be accepted and will go toward funding our Youth in 2019, youth camps and children’s camps.

Hey, hey…good lookin…what you got cookin? Recipes due February 28th!

When was the last time you had a yummy dish at a fellowship meal and thought, I need that recipe?

Here’s our chance to get those recipes! We’ll be creating a new Meadowcreek Cookbook with all the yummy recipes from our top notch cooks from right here at Meadowcreek!

Please submit as many recipes as you’d like to melissaroberts661@gmail.com. Preferred format would be to type it up in either an email or a Word document that you can email to make it easier in assembling the cookbook. If you need to hand write it though, that’s fine. We still want your recipe! Please include the following information:

- Recipe title
- Category (appetizer, beverage, soup, salad, breads/rolls, main dish, dessert, vegetable, miscellaneous)
- Recipe submitted by:
- # of servings
- Ingredients
- Directions
- Any fun comments such as where the recipe came from; if it’s a favorite around the holiday; where you got the recipe from, etc...(optional)

Attention Women: SAVE THE DATE!!!

Coffee Talk, Women’s Sunday School Class, will be hosting a Women’s Retreat Friday, April 12th - Saturday, April 13th, 2019 at beautiful Camp Egan in Tahlequah, Ok!

All women, ages 18 and over are invited to attend! The retreat will begin Friday evening at 7:00 pm and conclude on Saturday by 4:00 pm. The cost is $60 per person and will include overnight bunk accommodations, snacks, breakfast & lunch on Saturday and all supplies for craft bible studies. More details to come!
Greetings in the name of The Risen Christ!

On Sunday evening, January 27th, our church hosted a Service of Worship and Holy Conversation called “A Gathering on The Way Forward.” The congregations from our sister churches, Skiatook First United Methodist Church, and Oologah United Methodist Church were in attendance. The service Sunday night was complex, informative, and beautifully sacred as we shared Holy Communion with each other and held hands as we sang “They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love” to close the service.

The service was led by Rev. Susan Whitley of Skiatook FUMC, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Long, of Oologah UMC, and me. I am very grateful for the prophetic leadership Susan and Jennifer brought to the service. I offer my special thanks to those in our church who supported the service: music was provided by Keith Abernathy, our tech team of Jr. Ludewick, Mike Dainty, and Richard Frazier, those who served as greeters. A special shout out goes to Carol and Tom Matthews who came back to church early Sunday afternoon after the morning worship to clean the church ensuring our beautiful church shined in its own glorification of God. God bless you all!

The service was designed to help our churches begin preparing for The 2019 Special Session of The General Conference of The United Methodist Church on February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. Susan and I will be in attendance to gain a firsthand perspective of what we can begin to expect in the early weeks following the General Conference. We presented the three plans most associated with the work of “The Commission on A Way Forward,” a group formed after the 2016 General Conference to address the tensions in our denomination regarding human sexuality that make it no longer tenable for our diverse denomination to maintain structural and theological unity. But know that other plans have been submitted for consideration among the 78 pieces of legislation 860+ people have to discuss and vote on at the GC in four days. Most of what will happen to our denomination in 2019 and 2020 is unpredictable and will take months to unfold, as your pastors believe we have a responsibility to begin preparing our churches as best we can. We will have more to share with our churches when we return from St. Louis. We look for direction from our Bishop and Conference Leadership.

Here is the link to the handout from Sunday evening highlighting the three main plans considered by the Commission on A Way Forward. (Sorry the link is so long.)

Also, here are the links to other resources that were in Sunday evening’s worship bulletin.

1. Oklahoma Conference of the UMC Resources: https://www.okumc.org/GCdiscussion
2. The Commission on a Way Forward Report - What You Should Know
   http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/the-commission-on-a-way-forward-report-what-you-should-know
3. 20-minute video presentation by Rev. Tom Berlin:
   http://um-insight.net/in-the-church/a-way-forward/tom-berlin-updates-video-on-lgbtq-inclusion/
4. Ask The UMC: Can you explain Way Forward plans:
6. United Methodist Bishops Recommend a Way Forward:
   http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/united-methodist-bishops-recommend-a-way-forward

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

Pastor Mark
Memories from Sunday evening, January 27th, as our church hosted a Service of Worship and Holy Conversation called “A Gathering on The Way Forward.”
I offered this Thomas Merton prayer as a “Saving Grace” when I first got to Meadowcreek. I invoked this prayer as Rev. Susan Whitley, and Rev. Dr. Jennifer Long prepared for our worship service and presentation for the “Gathering on A Way Forward” on Sunday evening, January 27th.

On Sunday night, to start the service, I absolutely flubbed the “Call to Worship.” We all broke out in laughter at my humanity on full display, which now in hindsight, I am quite sure was a blessed, intentional inbreaking of the Holy Spirit to dissolve some of the tension we all felt going into the service that night. One of my favorite theological concepts is “holy mischief,” and the Holy Spirit ensured there were healthy doses of holy mischief sprinkled through the evening to keep things from getting too heavy for too long.

When I finally was able to get us through the “Call to Worship,” as part of my welcoming and opening statements, I again invoked lines from the Merton prayer, in particular, the lines about “having no idea where we are going” and praying that our “desire to please you does in fact please you.”

So, here again, is Merton’s prayer in its entirety. The road ahead for our beloved United Methodist Church is obscured by the dust and clouds of uncertainty, but God our Good Shepherd will guide us through and keep us safe, and is already about the work of creating certainty out of uncertainty though “we may know nothing about it” for now.

Keep the faith, God is with us.
In Christ,
Pastor Mark

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always,
though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

-Father Thomas Merton
## February 2019

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We have church postcards available in a basket in the Narthex. Please take one to send a “thank you”, a “thinking of you”, or a “get well soon”. The postcards are the result of Ron Alexander’s hard work. The Alexanders have generously donated the postcards to our church. The Evangelism Committee will be using these to send out to visitors.

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**February Birthdays**

- Don Clark: February 2
- Jeannie Ablott: February 3
- Belinda Risley: February 4
- Donna Alcorn: February 5
- John Childs: February 8
- Trina Stumpff: February 11
- Clayton Loos: February 13
- James Hodge: February 14
- Gary McBurney: February 15
- Sharon Wilkinson: February 18
- Richard Sisemore: February 19
- David Wilkinson: February 19
- Jim Ablott: February 21
- Jane Alexander: February 22
- Julianne Hayes: February 24
- Derrell Morrow: February 25
- Rick Phelps: February 25
- Janene Dainty: February 28
- Jackie Horton: February 28
- Pam Rubottom: February 28
- Tom Mathews: March 2
- Sam Shoulders: March 2
- Bonnie Childs: March 3
- John Dougherty: March 3
- Randy Johnston: March 4
- Kamryn Lumsden: March 6
- Dan King: March 8
- Rosalea Fuser: March 12
- Cindy Ludewick: March 14
- Benjamin Gillam: March 16
- Verna Maulsby: March 16

If your birthday does not appear on this list of church members, please contact the church office, and we’ll be sure to add you to the list for next year!