



# Spire Notes

*a semi-monthly publication of*

*FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH*  
*OKMULGEE, OKLAHOMA*

**November 13, 2019**

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A few weeks ago I was talking with a friend pastor of a church that is quite large, even though they are a new faith community. They are experimenting with new and different ways to connect with their community. He told me about how when the newest iPhone was released, his church decided to have an iPhone blessing. At first I laughed, because who has ever heard of an iPhone blessing? But then he explained the purpose behind this strange event. Their church recognized how important cell phones have become in our culture. We use them to stay in touch with important relationships in our lives, we use them to share our lives with others, and they connect us to our communities and to people far and near. If God cares about our relationships and cares about our connection to community, then of course we can bless these tools of relationship! This church prayed over the phone of anyone who was interested, praying that it be used in ways that are helpful, loving, and relationship-nourishing. I do not have any plans to host a cell phone blessing, but we are aware of the important role these little devices play in our lives. Some of us spend a little too much time on them getting sucked into Facebook or Candy Crush Saga or whatever else captures our attention. Some of us have cell phones but never use them, leaving people baffled about how to get in contact. For many of us our cell phones are vital tools of connection in our lives. But it's easy to get into a routine of how we use our phones.

My routine, more often than not, is to reach for it first thing in the morning before I'm even really awake. But is that really the most beneficial thing for me? Take some time this month to think about how you use your cell phone. How do you use it in ways that enhance your relationships? How do you use it in ways that harm your relationships? And what would it look like for your cell phone use to be blessed—for you to use it in a way that brings good for you and for others? Habits are hard to break and none of us will use our time or our devices perfectly. But it is worth the effort to remember that a tool is just that, a tool, and that God invites us to use all the tools in our hands in ways that do good. You might even consider asking the question: how does God call (pun intended) me to use this tool a little more intentionally? As you are contemplating that question, we invite you to reach out to the office and let us know your cell phone number! We have given to you, a family update sheet, and have received very few back! Even if you think we know your cell phone number we might not, but we want to! We promise we will not spam you with phone calls or text messages, and we will not give your number to anyone outside of OFUMC. We simply care about you and want to be able to communicate with you!

Love,

Sheri

## UMM Dinner Club

The Methodist Men will meet Wednesday, November 20, 2019 At 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

## Leadership Team

Thursday  
November 21, 2019  
Sub-Groups-6:00pm  
Leadership Team-6:30pm

## Come on ring those bells!

We will again be ringing the bells at Wal-Mart for the Salvation Army. A sign up sheet is in the office, or call Becky Whitaker @ 918-756-8614 to get your time! What a joy it is to help collect for such a great cause.



The *Chancel Choir* is busy working on the Christmas Cantata to be presented on December 15 at the early service as well as the late service. Because of logistics, both services will be held in the Sanctuary. It is something you will not want to miss! Thank you Sean for leading the choir, and thanks to all the musicians and readers that will be involved in this presentation!

The plan for the **Christmas Eve service**, a service of celebration, a service of music, a service of Holy Communion, a service of candlelight, will be at 6:00PM. If you would like to share your musical or liturgical reading talents with our community, please call the church office, or get with Sheri. I will start calling if I don't hear from you!



Thanks to the **United Methodist Men**, and to all those who helped in some way, big or small, for the wonderful Bean Dinners we had this past month. Those are truly the best beans I have ever had, and I met so many wonderful people from the community who came to eat beans, and help the men with the fundraising.

## Pledge Cards

Pledge Cards are being prepared to be sent out. We will collect them on November 24<sup>th</sup>, in both of the worship services. I hope that you will all be in worship that Sunday, but if you have to miss, please turn in the cards to the church office. I know some don't like to pledge, for many reasons. Know that it is a tool for the leadership of the church and not a way to control you and your family. We do send out quarterly giving sheets, only to let you know where you are in your pledged giving.

We also know that it's hard to talk about giving, and talk about what a tithe is. Dave Ramsey has a lot to say about giving. Most people forget about the giving part, because we think mostly about saving and spending for our pleasure, and our own personal futures.

But giving—specifically tithing—is important. It softens the heart of the giver and frees their soul from dependence on money. You'll never walk away from giving feeling bad! Giving comes in many forms, with your tithe being the most important, because it's a biblical mandate.

What is a tithe? Let's start with the basics. Simply put, the tithe is the first 10% of your income that should be given to your local church. It's strictly measured in money, so you can't replace it with giving your time or your talents.

What does the Bible say about tithing? According to Leviticus 27:30 (TLB), "A tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, is the Lord's, and is holy." And 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV) says, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

What's the difference between tithing and offerings? A tithe is an amount (a percentage of your income and an offering is anything given beyond that, but not in place of the tithe. An offering comes from excess, a sacrificial giving.

After you've tithed, you can give in other ways: Giving a cash offering to your church above and beyond the tithe, giving money to a charity you support, giving to a friend or neighbor in need, or giving of your time or talents. Not only does giving of your money or other resources generate good in the lives of others, it also generates contentment in your heart.

Please pray for discernment in your family will tithe, or work toward a tithe. I have struggled in my life with this, so I understand. If you can't tithe 10%, then at least do more than you did last year. And know that you are a blessing to God, and the Kingdom.

*Nursery Coordinator needed! This is a paid position. Sunday mornings 8:45-12:00. If you know someone or if you are interested please call the Church office, 918-756-6083. We need volunteers in the nursery starting Dec. 1st until someone is hired full time. PLEASE HELP!*

# Crossfire

Wednesday, November 13

6-7:30—Youth Bible Study  
Harmony Building

Sunday, November 17

5-7:30—Youth

Wednesday, November 20

6-7:30—Youth Bible Study  
Harmony Building

Sunday, November 24

5-7:30—Youth

Wednesday, November 27

6-7:30—*No Youth Bible Study*

## Children's Ministry News!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Meets every Sunday at  
10:00 am in the Children's  
Building.

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Meets every Sunday @  
11:00 am except the  
1st Sunday of the  
month.

### KIDS PRAISE CHOIR

READY...SET...SING!  
Kids Praise Choir—

Every Wednesday @  
5:30—6:30 pm  
In the Children's  
Sunday School Room  
Children & Youth are  
welcome!

The children are practicing on a  
Christmas Program to be presented in  
the church for both services. It will  
be on December 1, early service in  
the sanctuary, and late service in the  
Rowe Center. The children's program  
Christmas is always so meaningful,  
and something you will not want to  
miss!

Rehearsals: Directed by Nancy Droemer

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12:00. If you know someone or if you  
are interested please call the Church  
office, 918-756-6083.**

**We need volunteers in the nursery  
starting Dec. 1st until someone is hired  
full time. PLEASE HELP!**

If you need a ride, please contact:  
Jeana Robinson, Children's Director,  
918-756-6083

## **SPIRE NOTES**

First United Methodist Church  
302 S. Seminole  
Okmulgee, OK 74447



### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

**Growing together in Christ as we reach out and serve others.**

#### **STAFF:**

Bishop Jimmy Nunn, Oklahoma Conference & Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference  
Rev. Terry Koehn, District Superintendent  
Rev. Sheri Lashley, Minister  
Jeana Robinson, Children's Director  
Kendall Warren, Youth Director  
Vacancy, Music Director  
Corinne Pitts, Organist  
Marie Harris, Pianist  
Vacancy, Nursery Coordinator  
Jack & Janel Wright, Custodians  
Helen Nygard, Pantry Coordinator  
Susie Fuller, Administrative Assistant  
H. June Marshall, Secretary

This free newsletter is sent to our members and recent visitors. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, contact the church office at 918-756-6083 or [fumcokm@gmail.com](mailto:fumcokm@gmail.com).  
Our Website: <http://www.fumcokmulgee.org>.

#### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Amanda	<u>Continue to Remember:</u>
Bob & Nila Barnard	Alice Dangott
Rachel Cockburn	David Harris
Oma Daniel	Dan Jones
Eddie Evans	Kenneth Mann
Archie Fuller	Dr. R. D. Miller
Georgia B. Harjo	Robert Roland
Kenneth LeBlanc	JoAnn Star
Jack Lylis	Service Men & Women
Lou Marbry	Food Pantry Clients & Staff
Sara McGown	Homeless Shelter
Susan Niklas	
Barbara O'Brien	
Vickie Palmer	
Kathy Rikard	
Carol White	

#### **OUR PRESENCE**

	<u>Oct. 27</u>	<u>Nov. 3</u>	<u>Nov. 10</u>
Sunday School	18	16	16
Worship Total	100	59	67