



Spire Notes

a semi-monthly publication of

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OKMULGEE, OKLAHOMA

June 27, 2019

When I was in Seminary, a class was offered called Celtic Spirituality. I needed some elective credits, and so I looked into the class. It was a two week long class, and it had the added benefit of being held in Ireland. Now, my mom's maiden name is Murphy, and my grandfather's grandparents can be traced to have come over on a boat from Ireland, and so, I was gung ho to go!

Because this was a class in Celtic Spirituality, we didn't do the usual things one does in Ireland. No kissing the Blarney Stone, or going to the Guinness Brewery. We stayed mostly in Northern Ireland, looking at High Crosses, Cathedrals, Churches, cemeteries. What an incredible experience! We were each to lead worship one time during our trip. The day that I was to lead worship, we were at a cemetery, in an enclosure around some tombs. It was a beautiful day, and there were probably 10 or more tour busses at this particular site. Children and adults from all over the world were running and talking and yelling, and it was quite noisy.

As we began worship, I started by singing. I don't remember what I sang, but as I did, all the noise in the whole cemetery stopped. It was so quiet, that all you could hear was the wind, and the song. No one even moved, all those people of many different languages, cultures, religions even. It was a very holy moment, and one that I will never forget. We were in what the Celts called "Thin Places."

The ancient pagan Celts, and later, Christians, used the term to describe mesmerizing places like the wind-swept isle of Iona (now part of Scotland) or the rocky peaks of Croagh Patrick. Heaven and earth, the Celtic saying goes, are only three feet apart, but in thin places that distance is even shorter.

We all have "thin places" experiences: church, nature, the birth of a child, the death of a loved one, when we hear a beautiful song, weddings, and even funerals. These are only a few of the places that we feel that we could touch heaven. We just have to recognize when we are in one of those thin places.

As we are in mission and ministry together, I know that we will experience many of these worshipful moments, these thin places. I look forward to being here for you, and walking alongside you. I pray blessings upon this church and our relationships, as we get to know each other better.

Blessings, Sheri



Next Meeting:
Thursday, July 18
SPRC 6 pm; Leadership 6:30 pm



Recycle Your Aluminum @ FUMC

Rinsed...

Beverage Cans

Foil

Pie tins

Baking trays

Cat food cans

Vienna sausage cans

(No steel cans & No

soup cans please)



Ten Safety Tips for this 4th of July

Ensure your Independence Day weekend is filled with celebration and not regret with these 10 fire safety tips, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region V office in Chicago:

1. Be sure fireworks are legal in your area before using or buying them.
2. Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities and never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks. Sparklers alone account for one quarter of emergency room fireworks injuries.
3. If you set off fireworks, keep a bucket of water handy in case of malfunction or fire.
4. If fireworks malfunction, don't relight them! Douse and soak them with water then throw them away.
5. Never ignite fireworks in a container, especially one that is glass or metal.
6. Use your grill well away from your home and deck railings, and out from under branches or overhangs.
7. Open your gas grill before lighting.
8. Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below your gas or propane grill so it cannot be ignited.
9. Declare a three-foot "kid and pet-free zone" around the grill to keep them safe.
10. Avoid loose clothing that can catch fire when cooking on the grill.



Church offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4th, 2019.

See you on Sunday, July 7th at worship service.

Pantry Report for July, 2019

The Pantry will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, July 3 and 4, 2019, due to the July 4th holiday. We will be opened on Wednesday, July 10, 2019, and Thursday, July 11, 2019, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Please call Helen, Pantry Coordinator, at 918.756.6083.

CROSSFIRE

July, 2019

Sunday, July 7 - 4:00 Mission meeting for those going on trip. Please bring a parent to fill out final paperwork. Youth to follow meeting 5:00-7:30

Friday, July 12 8:00pm to Saturday July 13 8:00 am - Homeless fundraiser. The youth will be sleeping in cardboard boxes to raise money for mission trip to Louisville, KY. You can sponsor the youth by making a donation to the church with "Youth mission trip" in the memo.

Sunday, July 14 - Youth 5:00-7:30

Sunday, July 21 - No Youth

Sunday, July 21 - Saturday July 27
Youth Mission Trip to Louisville, KY.

Sunday, July 28 - Thursday Aug 1
5:30-7:30 Youth will be helping with VBS.

A huge thank you to the Church for supporting District Camp. We had a wonderful time growing closer to God at Camp Egan. Your prayers and support helped changed lives during the camp.

Also, thank you to everyone that has volunteered or brought food to the youth on Sunday nights. Susie Mueller, Kaylee Vaughn, Jeana Robinson, Corinne Pitts, Marie Harris, Page Hayden, and Donna Boss-Martin.

Children's Ministry News!

Sunday School for Children

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

Children's
Church

Will be held every Sunday
(except the 1st Sunday of the month)

Upcoming:

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Sunday, July 28 through August 1, 2019. VBS next meeting will be Tuesday, July 9, 2019, in the M&M Room, at 6 p.m. I am still looking for volunteers, so let me know. Call Jeana if you have any questions. Looking for a puppet master!

Theme: To Mars and Beyond

Vector Verse: Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!



SPIRE NOTES

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



**GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST
AS WE REACH OUT AND SERVE OTHERS!**

STAFF:

Bishop Jimmy Nunn, Oklahoma Conference
Rev. Emery Mason, District Superintendent
Rev. Roland Youngberg, Minister
Jeana Robinson, Children's Director
Kendall Warren, Youth Director
Susie Fuller, Secretary
Vacancy, Music Director
Corinne Pitts, Organist
Marie Harris, Pianist
Amber Walker, Nursery Coordinator
Jack & Janel Wright, Custodians
Helen Nygard, Pantry Coordinator

This free newsletter is sent to our members and recent visitors and is issued on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, contact Susie at the church office at 918-756-6083 or fumcokm@gmail.com
Our Website: <http://www.fumcokmulgee.org>

PRAYER CONCERNS (REVISED)

Susan Bain	Ron Polacek
Bob Barnard	Rick & Pam Potts
Nila Barnard	Kathy Rikard
Melissa Blain	Tammy Boss Scott
Rachel Cockburn	JoAnn Starr
Georgia Burgess Harjo	John Welch
Rev. Heather Jones	
Kevin Lund	<u>Continue to Remember:</u>
Lou Marbry	Alice Dangott
Janice Mars	David Harris
Sara McGown	Dan Jones
Mary Ann Murry	Kenneth Mann
Susie Niklas	Robert Roland
Barbara O'Brien	Service Men & Women
Vickie Palmer	Food Pantry Clients & Staff

OUR PRESENCE

	<u>May 12</u>	<u>May 19</u>	<u>May 26</u>
Sunday School	30	18	15
Worship Total	120	80	85