

Methodist Messenger

Prague/Arlington Charge

February 2018

A Word to Change the World

5 things to know about kindness

How are you doing on your gratitude lists? Are you writing down at least three things a day for which you are grateful? If you are, good for you! Keep it up! It will change your life. If not, it's not too late to start. Just make a list of three things every day for which you are grateful. Move past the usual and into things that you enjoy. Just do it! And keep doing it.

Now this month we are going to focus on how we can change the world through KINDNESS. Here are five things to know about KINDNESS:

1. **Kindness is something that applies to all and can be done by anyone.** Kindness doesn't require a bank account or an education. People from all economic and social classes can be kind. It isn't unique to any one religion. People from all political persuasions can (and should) practice it. No skill is required. Anyone, literally anyone, and be kind.
2. **Showing kindness impacts our disposition.** This should go without saying, but I will anyway. When we show kindness to others, it is a boost to us also. We are programmed to be happy when we brighten someone's day. Col. 3:12 tells us we are to clothe ourselves with kindness, as well as compassion, meekness, humility, and patience. Just like new clothes can make us feel better, clothing ourselves with these things affects our outlook.
3. **Kindness is one of the ways we are known as God's people, Spiritual people.** Spiritual fruit, or the product of the Spirit working in us, is listed in Gal. 5 as love, joy, peace, patience, *kindness*, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Showing kindness is one of the greatest witnesses to our faith, and being unkind can be one of the strongest ways we push people away from God.
4. **Kindness is a description of love.** Love is patient. Love is *kind*. 1 Corinthians 13:4a. In the gospels we are told to love God and neighbor. Among other things, kindness describes this love. Being kind to another, whether we know them or not, shows love of neighbor.
5. **One kind word can change someone's life.** In one community I lived in, the greeter at the door of the Walmart was a dour man, who rarely spoke let alone smiled or made people feel welcomed. I took it as my personal mission to make that man smile when I walked through the door. It took a few months, but each time I came in, the corners of his mouth curled up ever so slightly. I called it a win.

I recently read an article saying the nice things you think about people to them. I became more intentional in my efforts to compliment complete strangers on something. Their shoes or clothes. A kind act I noticed. I tried this during the crazy time in stores when folks are Christmas shopping. I do not always remember to do that, because I like everyone else get caught up in my life. But I have found it to be a worthwhile endeavor. And I believe the effort I make has an impact on others as well. People to whom someone has shown kindness, will show kindness to others.

So, this year, change the world! Make kindness a deliberate and intentional practice. Throw kindness around like confetti! And celebrate the times you get it right by smiling broadly at the next person you see.

Blessings, Rev. Tobey



UNITED METHODIST MEN

Information from Jerry Opela
 The UMM met Saturday January 6, Pres. Jack Vaughan presiding. Randy Eby offered the devotional, "When Christians aren't Christians?" Business discussed included taking down the nativity scene after January's meeting, Jack will talk to the art class about repairing the nativity scene. The potato bar was on January 21, next month will do something different than potato bar to another menu. Also discussed was to keep the same officers for 2018.

The next UMM meeting will be 7 am, Saturday, February 3, for breakfast, fellowship, devotional, and business. Jack Vaughan will be leading the devotional. All men and boys are invited to drop by and enjoy.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Information from Sharon Capron
 All ladies of the charge were invited and encouraged to attend a re-visioning gathering for the Prague-Arlington unit of United Methodist Women. Janet Baker, Sharon Capron, Destiny Donaldson, Charlotte Fouquet, MM Greene, Kristen Hamm, Allison Ogden, Molly Ogden, Melinda Pruet, Connie Reynolds, Sharon Smith, Tina Thompson, and Rose Vaughan gathered at the back tables during the UMM potato bar to view the display, discuss meeting time and days, suggest names for president, and – most importantly – to discuss our focus and programming. A preference sheet was distributed, so that attendees could record their views, which were later tallied and emailed to attendees for review before our next meeting. Obviously, the task was greater than could be completed in the short time we had available, but great progress was made.



The majority determined we would meet on Sundays, directly after the Prague service, but the number (6, 9, or 12) of meetings we would have in a

year was not determined. Several options for food at meetings were considered, but decision will require further discussion. We made better headway with officer positions. We will vote on interim officer(s) at our next meeting. Personal comments ranged from defining our missional focus to building community to very specific suggestions for service programming. An amazing amount of business was completed in little over an hour!

The next Prague/Arlington UMW gathering will be Sunday, February 25, lunch provided. Ladies, young and old, are welcome to come and see!



united methodist youth fellowship

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

Written by Youth Coordinator Destiny Donaldson



On January 12-15 the youth went to Winter-Retreat Camp Spark, shown above is a picture of the whole camp. The theme was Known; God, Self, Others, Fully. The youth had so much fun! It was a very moving experience not just for me but for the youth as well. Camp taught us that God knows each one of us, fully. How do you know God? Yourself? Others? To your fullest potential. If you ask any of the youth, they will be very excited to share their experience with you. My favorite part of camp was the devotions and worship. The devotions were very moving, and several people talked about how God affected their lives in a positive manner. During worship you could feel God's presence moving around the room as everyone joined in song.

Happy Valentines Day! Well Almost. The Youth Valentine's Dinner fundraiser will be after church on February 11th, 2018. This consists of a meal and desert. Tickets are \$10 a piece. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket for you and someone you love, please feel free to call the Church at 405-567-3126. I am looking forward to serving along with my youth at the Valentine's Day Dinner.

God's Grace, Destiny



LADIES DAY OUT

Information from Destiny Donaldson
Love, support, and confidentiality is what this group is all about. These Ladies meet on Wednesdays at 11 in the morning in the Sunday School classroom next to the nursery. Everyone enjoys the fellowship and emotional and spiritual help that everyone gives. This group is beginning to grow and would love if you joined as well. If this sounds interesting to you stop by on Wednesdays and see some familiar faces.



QUOTABLE QUOTES

One of my all-time favorite scriptures is:
"Be Strong & Courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1.9

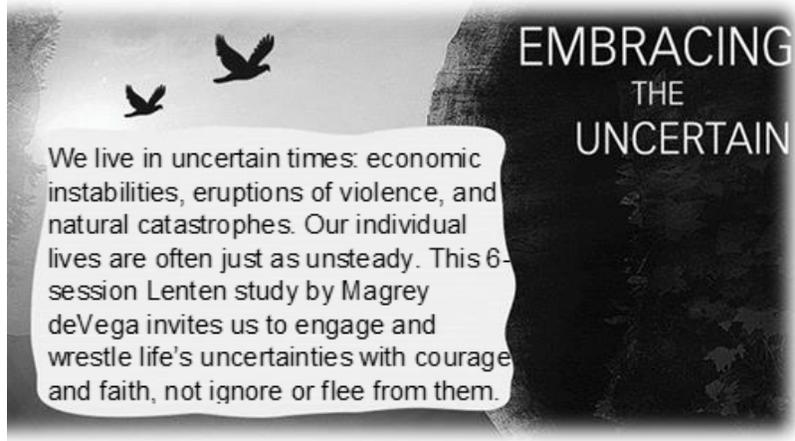
CONGRATULATIONS

Information from Rev. Sharon Capron
Kami Dawn Grissom (on left) was presented the "Pride of Prague" award at the Chamber of Commerce banquet on Thursday, Jan 18. This prestigious award is given to one or two outstanding citizens each year. Kami, daughter of Debbie Grissom and the late Mike Grissom, received the award for her instigation of the "Coats for Kids" charity event. Participant entry fee for the event is a child's coat. This year participants brought coats and participated in a big volley ball tournament. This is, now, an annual event. This event sprang out of Kami's own poverty at a time when she could not afford to buy her own little girl a coat. Kami grew up in this church, still comes on occasion.

God's grace, Sharon



LENT STUDIES



We will begin this study on February 11 at 2:00 pm. There is a book and a 40-day devotional. The cost of both of these is \$16. If you would prefer to read in an eBook, both the book and devotional are available through Amazon and Cokesbury. Please contact the church office to sign up for the class, or you can sign up in the narthex.



Listen

Have you ever misplaced your phone—which is on vibrate of course—and then asked someone to call it? We get really still and really quiet. Our ears perk up in all directions in order to be ready to hear that little buzz. It is a quieting down and high alert all at the same time. This Lent we will quiet things down and heighten our attention to the "still, small voice" of God and our own True Self. Listening through prayer as well as meditation on holy texts is an ancient Lenten practice. Come and rest, come and listen.

It will be a different pattern of worship through Lent, but it will be meaningful, especially for a season of reflection such as Lent. We will have prayer stations in the narthex and sanctuary. Each station is a form of prayer that is contemplative and evocative. You may come any time the church is open to walk around, praying at each station. Come as you are; lay the fullness of your life before the Maker.

Feb 14—Ash Wednesday—Finding Your Life: Listening Deeply (Luke 1:9-15)
 Feb 18—Finding Your Cave: Listening Spaces (1 Kings 19:11-12)
 Feb 25—Finding Your Breath: Listening to our Bodies (Romans 8:26-30; 38-39)
 Mar 4—Finding a Word: Listening to the Texts (Proverbs 1:20-23)
 Mar 11—Finding Your Power: Listening for Healing (Mark 5:24-34)
 Mar 18—Finding Your Mystic: Listening Beyond the Voices (Romans 12:2-12)
 Mar 25—Palm Sunday—Finding Your Purpose: Listening to Your Heart (Matthew 26:36-46)
 Mar 29—Maundy Thursday—Hearing the Still, Small Voice: Finding Your Own (John 17-19)



A NOTE OF THANKS

Information from Rev. Sharon Capron
 A note to say, "Thank you" for the prayers you offered. Last Sunday, Jan. 21, Lilley Prison was shut down due to excessive illness among the inmates. Our sign language Christmas party, already five weeks overdue, had been rescheduled for Monday, Jan. 22. If the men were so sick on Sunday, how could the prison possibly be open to volunteers on Monday? Re-scheduling would probably take another week or two. I had to leave by 11 am to make class on time. The authorizing phone call came in at a quarter to ten.
 Although our car was out of commission, our farm truck was running, and Reese helped me securely pack up the two ice chests and huge sack of paper goods. The prison parking lot is steep and graveled, but a space as near the gate as the Warden's space was vacant when I arrived. The CO (correctional officer) saw me coming, opened the gate, and immediately called another CO to check my supplies and then two chapel orderlies to push my heavily loaded cart across the yard. We had perfect attendance even though the men did not know if I would be able to come in. My senior students donned gloves and went to work spreading the serving table. We said grace together and lined up to fill our bowls with ice cream and our small plates with chips and dip. There was no ice for the pop, but no one seemed to care. Twenty men sat quietly around the large rectangle of tables, savoring every bite. One man selected the butter brickle ice cream. He said he remembered that when he was a child, his mother often served it as her favorite, but he has been so long in prison, he had forgotten ... The conversation was subdued. Quietly, as our time passed, each man stopped by me to say, "Thank you."

Your prayers did more than make my work easier. Your prayers did more than merely give the guys a reprieve from prison routine. Your prayers created an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to move in hearts that have long been growing hard. Thank you.



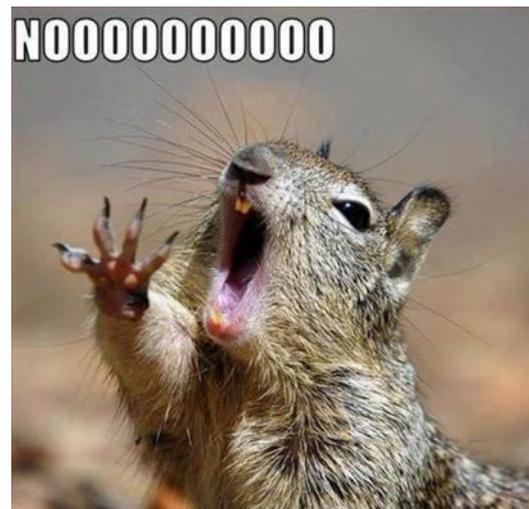
Written by Children's Coordinator Melinda Pruett
 January has been wild and crazy with everyone being sick and cold weather. February is coming I am so excited we are going to start a Children's Worship around Lent the kids will be learning about prayer stations. Also, camp dates are coming up if your child is interested in going to camp this summer come talk to me. We have a VBS date June 3-8th if you would like to volunteer let me know.

Kolache baking dates are here February 23 wet mix and the 24 is baking. April 13 wet mix and 14 is baking. Come see me.

Thank you, Melinda

SPECIAL THANKS

Information from Melinda Pruett
 To our squirrel wrangler, Bruce Pfeiff thank you so much for helping remove our squirrel from upstairs children area. You are truly a blessing!



@pragueokumc



FEBRUARY 2018

01 Thursday,

02 Friday,

6 pm New Beginnings
BD Sue Farmer

03 Saturday,

7am United Methodist Men

04 Sunday,

Worship/Sunday school – Arlington
Sunday school/worship – Prague

05 Monday,

06 Tuesday,

6 pm New Beginnings

07 Wednesday,

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out
3:30 - 7 pm Quest
6:30 pm vocal choir

08 Thursday,

09 Friday,

6 – 7 pm AA & Al-Anon

10 Saturday,

11 Sunday,

Worship/Sunday school – Arlington
Sunday school/worship – Prague
Youth Valentines Dinner Fundraiser
BD Bonnie Smith

12 Monday,

13 Tuesday,

6 pm New Beginnings

14 Wednesday,

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out
3:30 - 7 pm Quest
6:30 vocal choir
Ash Wednesday
BD Bruce Pfeiff

15 Thursday,

WA Gary & Debra Kinslow

16 Friday,

6 pm New Beginnings
BD Ned Burleson

17 Saturday,

18 Sunday,

Worship/Sunday school – Arlington
Sunday school/worship – Prague
BD Tanner Peterson
BD Aaron Fridrich
BD Lucille Sargent

19 Monday,

No Prague School- President's Day
BD Vicki Pfeiff

20 Tuesday,

6 pm New Beginnings

21 Wednesday,

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out
3:30 - 7 pm Quest
6:30 vocal choir

22 Thursday,

23 Friday,

6 pm New Beginnings

24 Saturday,

BD Danny Morgan

25 Sunday,

Worship/Sunday school – Arlington
Sunday school/worship – Prague
UMW Meet after Prague Church
BD Kim Beachler
BD Derrek Belase
WA Donnal & Janette Smith

26 Monday,

BD James Pruett

27 Tuesday,

6 pm New Beginnings
BD Seabrook Griffin

28 Wednesday,

11 am Arlington Ladies Day Out
3:30 - 7 pm Quest
6:30 vocal choir

BD = birthday

WA = wedding anniversary





Methodist Messenger

Prague/Arlington United Methodist Churches
1103 Klabzuba
7901 NBU
Prague, OK 74864

Address Service requested

Rev. Dr. Sonja Tobey, revsonja@hotmail.com

Assoc. Pastor	4538	Rev. Sharon Capron	Lay Minister	343-4368	JoeAnn Pritchett
Children's Leader	202-8550	Melinda Pruett	UMM president	4067	Jack Vaughn
Director of Worship Arts	3528	Barbara Holman	UMW president	382-2954	Lisa Hefner
Youth Coordinator	404-1344	Destiny Donaldson			

PRAGUE

0988 Terri Tackett
 0988 Terri Tackett
 4536 Robert Clark
 0127,7860 S. Martin, D. Kinzey
 3470 Brian Baker
 382-2954 Richard Hefner
 3792 Bob Thompson
 2846 Delores Bradley
 Manuel Rivas

Office 9am-2pm, Mon-Thurs, **567-3126**

Secretary
Treasurer
Church Council chair
Lay Member Annual Conf.
Lay Leader
Staff/Parish Relations chair
Finance chair
Sunday School supt.
Custodian

ARLINGTON

4183 Jean Bradburn
 4722 Paula Brauer
 4183 Jean Bradburn
 4183 Jean Bradburn
 4183 Jean Bradburn
 3595 Banks Weeks
 2880 Charlotte Fouquet
 343-4368 JoeAnn Pritchett
 4722 Paula Brauer