

# First United Methodist Church

October 2013

## Worship In Skiatook

“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common....Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2: 42-47 (NIV)

This scripture in Acts is a description of the early church soon after the Day of Pentecost. It depicts the believers coming together frequently to praise God and to enjoy sharing and fellowship with each other. This picture of the church is a description of the public worship these new Christians practiced, and it was clearly powerful to others, as new believers were added daily to their number. Private devotions and prayer are important, but all throughout the Bible, we see the people coming together to participate in public worship.

Christian public worship is the heart of the life and the ministry system of the congregation. Worship is the heartbeat of the continuous reformation of faithfulness, without which discipleship dissipates into good intentions, and vague affirmations. (Anderson, *Worship Matters I*, p.16) Wow! When we attend worship services, we are reminded through music, prayer, scripture, sermon, and fellowship what we are called to be, and to do, in the world. Worship services are designed not only to uplift us and refill us spiritually, but also to call us to accountability and remind us what Jesus requires of us. It is all too easy to be lulled into a shallow faith life with no real discipleship when we only ever hear our own words and thoughts about God. Christians need the additional perspective one gains from attending worship, and being in relationship with other believers.

Recent surveys have shown that church attendance has declined over the years, and somewhat gone out of vogue. Many Christians are insistent that they can have personal holiness and a deep, true relationship with God without the hassles of attending, and participating in corporate worship. That may be true for some, but I daresay for most people, quite the opposite happens. Without regular participation in public worship, our faith life often quietly dries up and dies a slow death.

There is an old anecdote about a pastor who goes to visit a member who has not attended church in some time. While they are sitting, the pastor goes to the fireplace, picks up tongs, and removes a glowing, burning coal from the fire, placing it on the hearth. Without saying anything, the pastor later goes and picks up the coal, now completely cool and dark, and places it back into the fire. Within minutes, the coal is on fire again. As the pastor leaves the home, the church member understands the implications, and says “I’ll be in worship on Sunday.” A coal burning all alone doesn’t burn for very long! So the question to ask ourselves is, “Are we the glowing burning ember, on fire for God, surrounded by other believers?”, or “Are we the cold, dark coal that has been away from the fire for too long? See you in worship on Sunday!

Blessings,

Pastor Susan

## GriefShare

If you have experienced the death of a loved one, this support recovery group may be just the thing to help you come to terms with your grief as you begin to move forward in life.

Meeting every Tuesday, beginning October 1st, GriefShare is a caring and friendly group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult journeys. You don't have to navigate this road alone.



It's hard to believe, but it's that time again: time to prepare for our Community Angel Tree. Due to the restricted funds we have from monies given previously, we are not accepting monetary gifts at this time. However, we hope you and your family will decide to help in some other way.

There are letters to mail, shopping to be done, and gifts to be handed out. There is a lot to be done, and like always, we cannot do it without each of you. Please choose how you and your family can help another family that needs a helping hand this year.



## THUNDER UP!

You have slept since then, but if you signed up earlier this year to attend an Oklahoma

Thunders game in Tulsa, I hope you marked

October 17th on your calendar. This pre-season game against the New Orleans Pelicans will begin at 7 pm at the BOK Center.

## LET'S RUMBLE!



## Trunk or Treat

### TRUNK OR TREAT

Pull out your decorations. Buy up the candy. It's time to show your creative side.

We will be having a trunk or treat here at the church this year. We want you to decorate your vehicle, and wear your best costume. We ask you to please donate candy to help us give the kiddos a treat., and join us for some safe family fun!



CHARGE CONFERENCE  
IS OCTOBER 28, 2013  
AT 6:30 PM

This is a wonderful time to share the growth and life of the missions and ministries of our church, as well as share goals for the upcoming year.

Chairpersons: please be thinking about the report you would like presented during this "year in review."

\*\* We ask that all reports be submitted to the church office no later than October 7, 2013.



# SKI TRIP

## March 17-21



Shhh! Don't tell Linda I said so, but if you want to go on the ski trip during spring break, and you forgot to turn in your down payment, swing it by the office before Wednesday, October 2nd. It will be just between us. She doesn't have to know a thing. The most expensive base package is \$288 per person. There are a number of options to choose from. The down payment is \$25 person. Time is running out. You'd better hurry. And don't forget, it's just between us...

**TRUSTEES** will meet this Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at 6:30 pm. Please make plans to attend.



**STAFF/PARRISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE** will meet on Sunday, October 6, 2013, directly after the second worship service (11:45 am).

**TO ALL COMMITTEE MEMEBERS:** For your willingness to serve our church by giving your time, ideas, and energies, WE THANK YOU!! Every meeting, every plan, and every idea allows us a greater opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ. We appreciate your service to our church, which allows us to be the church, instead of "doing church".



Join us as we wrap up our "Games People Play" sermon series with a potluck dinner and family game night on Sunday, October 20th at 5pm. Bring a dish to share and your favorite game for a night of family fun!

**YOUTH:** Get ready for a Video Game Day—Sunday, October 6th, bring \$5 for lunch and a video game for an afternoon of fun. *\*Please, no rated "M" video games.\**



As we prepare for Charge Conference, we are looking for people willing to serve in areas of interest. We are looking to broaden our mission committee (to help provide a comprehensive mission plan for the year.)

We also need people on the Fellowship Committee. This committee helps with church dinners, funeral dinners, and planning other church wide activities. Please let Pastor Susan know if you are interested in helping with either of

**Youth Retreat October 11th—13th at Fort Gibson Lake**  
We will leave the church at 5pm. Please see Linda for details.



*We are in DESPERATE need of someone to vacuum the sanctuary for us. The time can be at your convenience! Please call the church office if you are able to help.*



Skiatook First United Methodist Church  
1007 S. Osage  
P.O. Box 910  
Skiatook, OK 74070

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## *TRANSITIONS*

We ask you to please remember Norma Gideon & Family in your thoughts and prayers. Our sympathies go out to them as they continue to grieve the loss of George (Jack).



## *CONGRATULATIONS!*

Blessings and many happy years together are our well wishes for Les Smart and Carla Willey, who were married on September 1st.

### CHURCH INFORMATION

Sunday Services:

Early Worship 8:30 a.m.

Sunday school 9:30 - 10:20 a.m.

Traditional Worship 10:30 a.m.

Office Phone 918-396-2519

Office Fax 918-396-7973

Your printable calendar can be found on our website, as well as picked up in the church office.

[www.fumcskiatook.com](http://www.fumcskiatook.com)

[office@fumcskiatook.com](mailto:office@fumcskiatook.com)

Facebook Pages: Skiatook First United Methodist Church  
Skiatook FUMC Youth

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH

Smart phones, iPads, 3G, 4G...and it seems like there's an App for just about everything. Don't you wish there were some "Apps" for life? Well, actually there are. While there are many Apps out there claiming to make your life easier, the truth is that the Bible is the ultimate App. Apps for Life is a series about applications from God's Word we can download into our lives. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity every Wednesday at 6:30pm.

