

Skiatook First United Methodist Church



Methodist Messenger

*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the
transformation of the world!*

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In his book *Canoeing the Mountain*, Tod Bolsinger uses the explorers Lewis and Clark's trek westward as an extended metaphor. They were searching for the highly anticipated Northwest Passage: water that would connect the eastern portion of the US to the Pacific ocean. After a great deal of travel already, finally, Meriweather Lewis and William Clark reached where they thought this passage would be and were ready to canoe easily towards the Pacific Ocean. They were shocked to see not a water passage, but rather the Rocky Mountains. How in the world were they to canoe mountains? This was not what they had anticipated.

While this metaphor and the book are helpful generally for ministry in our changing world, the image rings true for me all the more in our present time when trying to move forward confronting the realities of a world with COVID-19. When imagining the day I step into the role of solo pastor (which I've thought about since I was 16), I never imagined masks would be a necessity for worship. There are so many elements that I never anticipated.

I wonder if it's similar to how Joshua felt when he was about to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land? This was the moment he and generations before him had dreamed of...but there was so much unknown, so much he wasn't prepared for, so much uncertainty. To this moment, God gives a word of hope in Joshua 1:3-9:

"Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

The call to be strong and courageous comes out three times in a relatively short passage. And the reason Joshua can be strong and courageous? Because God will go with them. God would be present every moment of their journey. An abiding strength and presence.

So as we navigate this uncharted territory of ministry together, I know God goes with us as well. We can be strong and courageous together. Though so much is unknown, I know there is goodness ahead and we'll have exciting new opportunities to share the Kingdom of God together. I couldn't be more delighted to adventure with you.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Sarah



Miria Jones, Children's Director

405-850-2253

Call or text any time!

S U M M E R at A S A C is F U N !!!

We've been to Woolaroc and every splashpad / park in sight!

Contact Miria for information and enrollment. We **WILL BE FULL** this fall, enroll now!

\$150 for before or after school care & \$250 for both, per month.

We need **VOLUNTEERS** for fall, too! Choose a day to come help with homework, crafts, games, read a book, teach a skill! It will be FUN!!!



SUNDAY SCHOOL / CHILDRENS CHURCH

**I can not wait to spend time with the children again!
Just as soon as the return date is set it will be posted
on the FB page "Skiatook FUMC Children".**

Stay tuned for ...



VIRTUAL VBS!!!





If at first you don't succeed...

This whole Coronavirus thing is really starting to cramp our style here at Skiatook FUMC. We had scheduled a movie night for the 19th but had to cancel due to possible virus exposure. But it'll be ok! We are going to reschedule as soon as possible. It's been months since we got to hang out and I am ready to see my people!

Zoom and FaceTime calls continue on Wednesday nights at 6:00. As we progress through the summer, if you or your kiddos have any ideas for OUTDOOR activities, let me know. We want to see each other, but we need to maintain proper virus protocol with hand washing, social distancing, and mask wearing when appropriate. I'm hopeful for a pool party at some point!

Remember to be healthy and helpful! And have a Happy 4th!

JULY CALENDAR

Movie Night.....TBD

All regularly scheduled meetings are cancelled until further notice from the bishop.

STUFF TO KNOW

- Youth on Wednesday nights via FaceTime or Zoom at 6:00!
- FIX is canceled until further notice
- Questions? Call Meg at (918) 906-0414. Texting is even better!

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Servant Spotlight

Thanks to:

- ♥ Craig Riggs for changing out all the light bulbs in the sanctuary light fixtures
- ♥ Gloria Hale, Meg Burris, and Sandy Kimbrough for measuring and marking off seating spaces for social distancing.
- ♥ Beverly Dollar for recording attendance and prayer requests each week for purposes of contact tracing.
- ♥ Dylan Reamy, Meg Burris, Ka'Lu Underwood, Debbie Bennett, and Beverly Dollar for cleaning up all the confetti after worship on Pastor Susan's final Sunday
- ♥ Lora Cartner, Sandy Kimbrough, Tish Burrell, Bobby Rosser, Meg Burris for ushering each Sunday
- ♥ Jake and Sandy Kimbrough for mounting the TV to the wall in Room 101
- ♥ To our Green Teams for doing such a great job mowing and weed eating each week: Tom Weathers, Vernon Lester, Tom Hobza, Jim Knox, Craig Riggs, and Mark Boynton
- ♥ Tom Hobza for taking care of the ditches
- ♥ Dick Allen for weeding the flower beds
- ♥ Tom Weathers for cleaning up the water in the sanctuary

Gifts were Given...



- ♥ To the Building Fund in honor of Pastor Susan, by Elmer Mills
- ♥ To the LAF Building Fund in honor of Pastor Susan Whitley's great service to SFUMC by Elmer Mills
- ♥ To the LAF Building by Glenn & Mary Nelson
- ♥ A love offering by Vernon & Barbara Fuller
- ♥ To the LAF Building Fund by Glenna Long
- ♥ Several have given to the benevolence fund, the LAF building debt, and asked to not be listed

PRAYER REQUESTS...

Out of respect for everyone's privacy, we will continue to limit names we share during worship service. We ask that if you are not making it to church on Sundays, please submit



your prayer requests to Ka'Lu by calling or emailing the church office. We believe in the sanctity of prayer and know that God hears our petitions. The office can be reached by phone at (918) 396-2519 or by email at office@fumcskiatook.com.



Thanks for the Sendoff!

Thank you all for the wonderful final sendoff on Sunday, June 14. It was a day of both tears and celebrations, both endings and new beginnings.

I loved the confetti cannons (They were everywhere!), the hotdogs, the cupcakes, the parade, everything. Thank you everyone for the many wonderful cards—so many heartfelt messages, I will treasure them! I appreciate the gifts, the gift cards—every instance of love and appreciation. It has truly been my honor to be your pastor these past years. I will keep all of you, as well as the church, in my prayers. I love you all.

Pastor Susan Whitley

Thank you to all who have

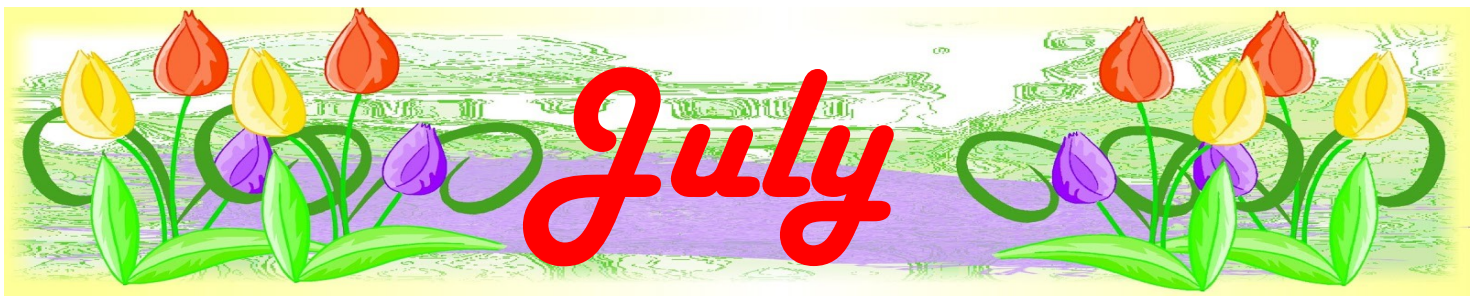


continued to donate and support our ministries. Please consider continuing your pledge or regular giving to the church during this season if you are at all able. We still have insurance, utilities, salaries, and other expenses that are fixed.

While giving for June has picked up, it is still below what we need for budgeted expenses. If you have considered making a gift, we would encourage that, and appreciate it very much. In addition to our own expenses, we have been able to continue to help community members in need by offering gift cards, utility assistance, and groceries. Additionally, our after school is providing care all day this summer, for reasonable prices. It is indeed a mission. Skiatook FUMC is committed to being a missional church in the community. Thank you for your gifts in every capacity! We are building the Kingdom of God.

BUILDING RENTAL/USAGE

While we are meeting in-person for worship, we continue to follow social distancing guidelines, as well as wearing masks. However, we are still limiting building usage. Groups are limited to 10 people or less and sanitation and social distancing guidelines should be adhered to. Please call the office for room availability.



Mon

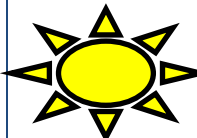
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	11:00: level 1 yoga		1 11:00: Yoga Level 1 6:00-8:00 Youth Video Chat	2	3 10:00: Yoga	4 FAMILY CAMP @EGAN July 3–5
5 10:30: Resume Worship in Sanctuary FAMILY CAMP @EGAN July 3–5	6 11:00: level 1 yoga	7	8 11:00: Yoga Level 1 6:00-8:00 Youth Video Chat	9 4:30 Chair Yoga 6:00: Level 2 Yoga	10 10:00: Yoga	11
12 10:30: Worship	13 11:00: level 1 yoga FAMILY CAMP @EGAN ~ July 13–15	14	15 11:00: Yoga Level 1 6:00-8:00 Youth Video Chat	16 4:30: Chair Yoga 6:00: Level 2 Yoga	17 10:00: Yoga FAMILY CAMP @EGAN July 17–19	18
19 10:30: Worship FAMILY CAMP @EGAN July 17–19	20 11:00: level 1 yoga	21	22 11:00: Yoga Level 1 6:00-8:00 Youth Video Chat	23 4:30: Chair Yoga 6:00: Level 2 Yoga	24 10:00: Yoga FAMILY CAMP @EGAN July 24–26	25
26 10:30: Worship FAMILY CAMP @EGAN ~ July 24–	27 11:00: level 1 yoga FAMILY CAMP @EGAN ~ July 27–29	28	29 11:00: Yoga Level 1 6:00-8:00 Youth Video Chat	30 4:30: Chair Yoga 6:00: Level 2 Yoga	31 10:00: Yoga It's SUMMER Time	



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLEASE RECYCLE!

Resuming In-Person Worship

We recently had our Re-Launch team meet to determine a date and appropriate protocol to re-open. We had representatives from our Leadership Team, Worship Committee, and two medical professionals. We are excited to announce that we will begin meeting in person on Sunday, June 7 at 10:30. However, there will be some significant changes, and worship will feel and look very different. We will also be re-opening in phases. We encourage **anyone** who feels unsafe to stay home and worship with us online.

There will be an in-depth, more explanatory e-mail and letter going out June 2 but for now, here is a little of what we are planning:

- Each family unit or individual party of one must be seated at a distance of 6 feet apart. We will have pew spaces clearly marked, and every other pew will be utilized to maintain social distancing.
- We are asking every person in attendance to please wear a mask. This is for the safety of others. If you have medical issues that prevent this, we hope that you will remain in the safety of your home and sacrifice for the sake of others. We will have masks available at church for those who need one.
- There will be no congregational singing. Music will be provided via video.
- There will be no Sunday School classes for now. Worship only at 10:30 a.m.
- The first phase means that we can have no children's church or nursery. Children may sit with family, and Miria will have activities for them. But for now, until we implement phase 2, no kid's activities. We understand this is a hardship for young families and we wish it were different.
- Attendance will be taken for purposes of contact tracing in the event someone is later diagnosed as Covid positive.
- Small group ministries may resume after June 7, but must have less than 10 in attendance, and must maintain social distancing of 6 feet.
- Ushers will seat folks as they walk in, to ensure distancing, and maximize use of a limited space.
- Spaces will be sanitized after each use.
- Worship will continue to be posted online for viewing.

