

Skiatook First United Methodist Church



Methodist Messenger

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

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November 2020

Pastoral Letter

Money and finance often feel like a topic that makes us a little squirmy in the church. Maybe it even feels taboo because we don't like to talk about it in society in many ways. But Jesus speaks about money frequently in his teachings, and the rest of scripture has a lot to say as well. That's because it is so closely tied to how we're growing as disciples.

Talking about money has an added layer of stress in the season we're in: COVID-19 and an economic crisis can set everyone on edge when it comes to finance. It's a reality we're all living with.

Instead of dancing around the issue, we're going to call out the elephant in the room. The theme for our stewardship initiative is "Our Money Story." Money is not neutral for anyone. We all have a story when it comes to money. We all have gut reactions. These come from what we were taught or not taught, what we've experienced, and stories we've compiled. Maybe there are stories of fear and shame. Maybe there are stories of provision and grace. Whatever your money story is, I think when we lift them up to God, there's space for transformation to take place.

This series will go through the first four weeks of November, and we'll look at our stories through four lenses: Remember, Release, Reimagine, and Restore.

To go along with the sermon series and worship elements, we have a reflection journal for you to use. There's scripture, questions, art, and prayers. If you did not receive the email with the journal, please contact the church office. I encourage you to engage with the journal and spend a little time thinking about what your money story is, and how God might reshape it.

In the midst of the chaos, ministry is still happening. We are reaching out to those who feel lonely and disconnected right now. We are reimagining ministry in creative ways to adjust to the challenges COVID-19 presents.

To go with the stewardship series, you can also expect to receive a narrative budget that tells in greater detail the impact your giving has on our community. Be on the look out!

Our church is making a difference, and your investment makes that possible. I pray you'll engage this stewardship initiative, reflect on your own money story, and pray on what God is calling you to give.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Sarah

Thankful

Can you believe it is November? In spite of all that is going on we still have so much to be thankful for. Our church family is one such thing. I am especially thankful for the children of this church! So, I have just a few updates concerning Children's Ministries. The **PRAYGROUND** is up and ready for children just as soon as we are back in the sanctuary. **CHILDREN'S CHURCH** is also up and ready. We now come to the LAF directly after the first hymn and parents will pick up after worship. We will continue to stay in worship on the Sundays we have communion and for special services such as baptism and confirmation. We have a lesson and fun time while being safe and distanced. We will update as soon as we are able to have **SUNDAY SCHOOL** again. At this time, **NURSERY** services are not available. Just as soon as we feel that it is safe to reopen we will! We look forward to the day we get to spend time with the young ones again!

As we navigate this unpredictable time please let me know if there is anything I can do to help keep your children interested and engaged on their faith journey!

In his service,

Miria



HILLSIDE CHRISTMAS FARMERS MARKET

SAT DECEMBER 5

Join many of your
favorite Hillside Market
vendors at our special
edition Christmas Market

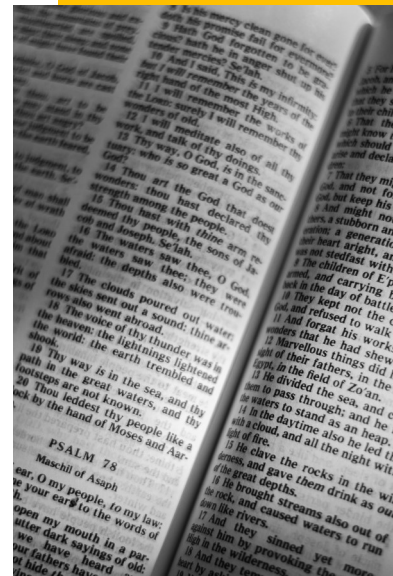
10AM - 3PM
SKIATOOK FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1007 S OSAGE

Vendor Fair

Get this on your calendar!

Vendors from Hillside Farmers Market will be in the LAF for one stop Christmas shopping. The proceeds will benefit our Children's Ministry department at FUMC Skiatook! One of the featured vendors is T3 Roasters (the Tuckers) who will be serving freshly brewed coffee, coffee themed gifts and home décor.





Finding the new normal

So far so good! The high school closed and we had to cancel our plans for a little while, but we've managed to keep our distance and wear masks. Our last youth get together was at John and Mona Keeline's house and we enjoyed stick ball, s'mores, a bonfire, and the story of David and Jonathan I can think of no better time to remind ourselves about the value of friendship as we drift through this time of distance and isolation! In November, we hope to launch a daily text interaction. When we get together, we study scripture and we can continue to reflect and grow throughout the week via WhatsApp.

Fix is back in full swing! Again, we've been fairly lucky and the last Wednesday in October has been the only meeting that has been cancelled due to weather. Thank you all so much for the snacks! My office runneth over. We should have enough to last us through the remainder of the semester. Thank you for your generosity!

STUFF TO KNOW

- Youth Bible Study via WhatsApp!
- FIX on Wednesday from 3:00-4:30. All field trips cancelled until further notice
- Questions? Call Meg at (918)906-0414. Texting is even better!

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Servant Spotlight

Thanks to:

- ♥ Our weekly greeters
- ♥ Debbie Bennett for changing the church sign during September
- ♥ Sandy Kimbrough and Jim Know for cleaning in the LAF building following a water leak
- ♥ Tom Weathers for replacing the ballast in the copy room and giving us light again
- ♥ Keifer and Will Jones for replacing light bulbs
- ♥ Cathy Allred & Beverly Dollar for setting us up for outside worship
- ♥ Tom Weathers for repairing a hole in the wall in the LAF



Charge Conference

Charge Conference is the Annual Business Meeting of the Church with our District Superintendent. This year, we will be holding Charge Conference here at Skiatook FUMC on Wednesday, Nov. 18th, at 6:30 pm. led by our District Superintendent Connie Gibson. This is a business meeting, but also a worship celebration of the work our church has done throughout the past year. We hope you'll attend.

PRAYER STATIONS

This election time has caused great stress for many. I found five prayer stations (produced by another clergy woman) very helpful in centering myself. I invite you, whenever you are, to take a few moments to engage with the scripture and reflections. Whether you're voting early or Tuesday, may these stations remind you of your foundation in Christ our hope!

-Pastor Sarah

Stations #1—4 are found on the back page of this newsletter. Contact the office for #5 or you can find it on our Facebook page.

Servant Opportunities

If you have been wondering how you can be of service, but you don't have a ton of time to spare. Please consider one of the following ways in 2021. We need greeters for Sunday mornings on a rotating basis. We also could use some folks willing to change the church sign. This would be done a month at a time on a rotation basis, also. Even if you aren't sure, and you have questions before you commit, please call Ka'Lu in the office

Welcome to our newest members!



On October 11th, we had the pleasure of welcoming two families into membership.

We welcomed father and son Bill and Will Clark. Will actually used to attend ASAC and he is an 8th grader at Newman Middle School. We also welcomed the Dunn Family. Parents Andy & Jan joined, along with their children, Abner and Edith. Jan is the daughter of Al & Marilyn Mullen, and the family has been attending SFUMC for a number of years.

Please help me extend a very warm welcome to both families!

CHANGES

This pandemic has changed so many things about our lives-how we worship, how we work, and how we interact with one another.

In other words, it has effected pretty much everything. Unfortunately, that includes our social gatherings. For the first time that I can remember, we will *not* be having our annual church wide Thanksgiving dinner together this year.

While we cannot fellowship together as a church, we pray that you will be able to be with those you love in a safe manner. And in all you do, continue to give thanks for all that God has done and will continue to do in our lives.



Red Cross Blood Drives

In an effort to continue practicing good safety measures, donors are still required to make an appointment and wear a face covering or mask. Donors must be at least 17 years old and weigh 110 lbs.



November 5th: 1:00 pm—6:00

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit Red-CrossBlood.org and enter: Skiatookumc

This month, every donor will receive a \$5 Amazon gift card by email. All youth donors (17-24) who donate will receive a \$10 Visa gift card via email as well.

Help save a life!

November



Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2 11:00: level 1 yoga	3	4 11:00: Yoga Lev- el 1 3:00: <u>FIX</u> 6:00-8:00 Youth Video Chat	5	6 10:00: Yoga	7
GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD <i>His LOVE endures FOREVER!!!</i>						
8 10:30: Worship	9 11:00: Yoga	10	11 11:00: Yoga Lev- el 1 3:00: <u>FIX</u> 6:00-8:00 Youth Video Chat	12 10:00: UMW Meeting 4:30 Chair Yoga 6:00: Level 2 Yoga	13 10:00: Yoga	14
15 10:30: Worship	16 11:00: level 1 yoga	17	18 11:00: Yoga Lev- el 1 3:00: <u>FIX</u> 6:00-8:00 Youth Video Chat	19 4:30: Chair Yo- ga 6:00: Level 2 Yoga	20 10:00: Yoga	21
22 10:30: Worship	23 11:00: level 1 yoga	24	25 11:00: Yoga Lev- el 1 12:00: Church Office closes	26  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27 10:00: Yoga	28
THANKSGIVING BREAK—Contact Ms. Miria if you need a drop in spot at ASAC						
29 10:30: Worship Church decorating following worship	30 11:00: level 1 yoga	Dec. 1	Dec. 2 11:00: Yoga Lev- el 1 3:00: <u>FIX</u> 6:00: Hanging of the Greens Ser- vice	Dec. 3	Dec. 4	Dec. 5 10am—3pm: Hillside Farmers' Market Vendor Fair



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLEASE RECYCLE!

PRAYER STATION #1 BREATHE 	READ John 20:19-23 REFLECT Breathe deeply focusing on your breath. As you inhale, imagine Christ coming close to you. As you exhale, imagine yourself going toward Christ. (Repeat as you like) Now on your inhale, name a place - in our community, in our nation, or in our world - that needs to know and experience God's peace. With your exhale, repeat Jesus' words: "Peace be with you." (Repeat as you like) PRAY Prince of Peace, draw near to us. Calm our fears and anxieties. Help us to share your peace with others.	PRAYER STATION #2 PRICKLY PRAYER 	READ Matthew 5:43-48 REFLECT Throughout this election season, surely there have been folks who have pricked your nerves. Perhaps it was a particular candidate or party... or an opinionated friend or family member... or someone who wouldn't speak up at all. Take a moment to name who or what has been a thorn in your side. Acknowledge the pain. And then lift them up to God. PRAY God of us all, we praise you for your creative work in the world. We give thanks that each human bears your image. We confess that it's difficult for us to recognize you among prickly personalities. Remove our blind spots and help us love one another better, even when it is hard.
PRAYER STATION #3 LOVE WINS 	READ Romans 8:38 REFLECT Consider this quote by Archbishop William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-1944): <i>"If we choose wisely, God reigns. If we fail to choose wisely, God reigns."</i> What fears do you have regarding our nation's future? What hopes do you have regarding our nation's future? Do these have a place in the Kingdom of God? PRAY Sovereign God, help us to remember that regardless of the election results, you are the one who rules our lives. Our primary identity is as a citizen of your Kingdom and our allegiance belongs to you. In you, there are no winners and losers. All belong. Your love reigns. Always. Thank you, God.	PRAYER STATION #4 UNITY 	READ Ephesians 4:1-6 REFLECT Read these instructions from the founder of Methodism. Then reflect: Which of these is the easiest to follow? Which is the hardest? What is one practical step you can take to be intentional about living in unity those who vote differently than you? PRAY Jesus, we pray for the fruit of your Holy Spirit to be evident in our lives - in the words we speak, in the things we do, and even in the posts we make on social media. Help us to put relationships with people over our opinions, the policies we support and our disagreements. May we seek unity in Christ above all.

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I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them.

1) To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy;

2) To speak no evil of the person they voted against;

And 3) To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.

-John Wesley, October 6, 1774

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