

*Skiatook First United Methodist Church*



# **Methodist Messenger**

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

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## **September 2021**

### *Pastoral Letter*

As we wrap up a short series on part of the book of Ephesians, I am again reminded of the early church struggled with many trials we face today as well. Loving and being in community with other imperfect humans has never been easy, but this has always been the calling of Christ followers. The church in Ephesus found it difficult to put away bitterness and wrath.

And in our ever contentious society today, where we do not see eye to eye with our brothers and sisters in Christ on a whole myriad of issues, this challenge continues. As the pandemic continues, and we're all worn thin, it can be even harder.

I think that's where the way Paul calls us to live in Ephesians is helpful. To live in peace, forgive, and use words that build others up, as well as to take up the armor of God. In discussing the armor of God with my dad (whom many of you met when he preached at Skiatook FUMC a few weeks ago,) he suggested maybe armor of different times and places could extend the analogy. Soldiers in ancient Mongolia wore silk shirts because arrows could not penetrate the shirt, and it was pulling an arrow out of a warrior that caused the real damage. Thus, the shirt prevented the arrow from causing a real wound. My dad suggested there's a parallel in how grace functions in our lives. When we clothe ourselves in grace, barbs or unkind words roll off a little easier. We don't allow these things to sink in and fester. We let things go because we wrap ourselves in grace. Maybe Paul would have included this if it too was part of a Roman soldier's uniform.

In these days where heated words can be launched easily, let us put on the armor of God, and bonus silk shirt of grace, as we live as Christ's body.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Sarah





# SEPTEMBER

**1st—Happy Birthday to Henley!**

**1st—FIX, after school**



**2nd—Happy Birthday to Wade!**



**5th—1st Sunday, 9:30 Sunday School,  
Children stay in Worship for Communion**

**6th—Labor Day, NO SCHOOL / NO ASAC**

**8th—FIX, after school**

**15th—FIX, after school**

**17th—Football Homecoming 7:00pm**

**22nd—FIX, after school**

**29th—FIX, after school**



# YOUTH NEWS

After searching and praying, we have hired someone to be our next Youth Director! Her name is Lenox Johnson, and I included a bio and picture below to get to know a little about her! I am very excited for how Lenox's gifts and graces will minister to our young disciples!

Pastor Sarah

My name is Lenox Johnson. I grew up in Tulsa Oklahoma and have recently moved back after completing my course work at Denver Seminary in Littleton Colorado. I have a heart for teenagers and am passionate about telling and showing them that God loves and accepts them just as they are.

Outside of ministry and school work, I enjoy reading the newest books from my favorite authors, listening to the plethora of podcasts that I've subscribed to, and watching whatever new show I'm working my way through at the time. I am also blessed to live so close to my sister and her husband, which gives me lots of time to spend with my sweet little six year old niece who is my pride and joy. If I'm not here in Oklahoma, then I'm probably traveling up east to New Hampshire to visit my brother, his wife, and their foster daughter. Or traveling to Missouri to see my other brother, his wife, and their new son who was just born this month.

I am so excited and grateful for the opportunity to get to pour into the lives of the teenagers of Skiatook First United Methodist, and am looking forward to becoming part of the congregation as a whole.

So far I have been able to lead one FIX and one Wednesday night youth group. I have had the chance to meet and get to know some of the students, and have been blessed to hear a few of their stories. I look forward to continuing to build those relationships and to meet even more students as they trickle in as the weeks continue.

Lenox





# MISC. HAPPENINGS

## Servant Spotlight

### Thanks to:

- ♥ Debbie Bennett and Johnny & Nita Whitney for being our Sunday greeters during August
- ♥ Jon Underwood for changing the church sign during August
- ♥ Brandon Klassen, Keifer, Will Jones, & Keifer Jones for hanging the basketball goals in the LAF
- ♥ Debbie Bennett for cleaning and sorting out the candle closet
- ♥ Vernon Lester for bringing snacks for Sunday School
- ♥ Julie Guy for her time, energy, and service as SPRC chairperson



### Gifts were Given...



- ♥ To the LAF Building Debt Relief by George & Diana Snyder
- ♥ To the LAF Building Debt Relief by Glendell Brown
- ♥ To the LAF Building Debt Relief by Mary Nelson
- ♥ To the LAF Building Debt Relief by Elmer Mills

*This section is a **THANK YOU** in recognition of gifts given with specific requests to areas outside of general budget offerings. It in no way is*

**Generosity**  
changes everything

## Red Cross Blood Drive

On the first Tuesday of every other month, we host a Red Cross Blood Drive.

**Tuesday, September 7th,**

**12:00 pm—6:00 pm**

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment. (1-800-733-2767)

\*Masks and appointments continue to be required at this time by Red Cross.

## Thank You for Your Care

### From Vernon & Barbara Fuller:

Thanks for your prayers, cards, and calls. We are both on the mend, but the healing is slow. Hope to see you in Church soon.

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### From the Family of Billy Jo Swant:

Dear FUMC: Thank you so very much for providing the delicious meal after the memorial service for Billy Swant. Our family appreciated it so much and it was so thoughtful of all of you.

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### From Kathy Garza & Heaven Sent Food Pantry:

Dear Brothers & Sisters, I wanted to take this time to let you know how much your sponsorship with Heaven Sent Food Pantry has made a difference through the very rough Covid year. We have never had to turn anyone away. No one left without a week's worth of groceries. YOU made a difference. YOU were their blessings! Thank you, your Sister in Christ, Kathy Graza.



## Godspeed...

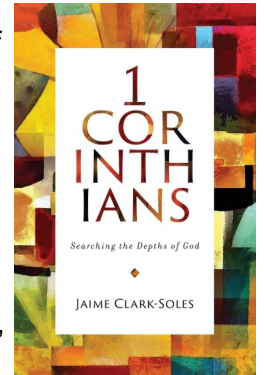
It is a pleasure to share that friend and former youth director Rev. Meg Burris was recently appointed as Senior Pastor to Drumwright First United Methodist Church. She also continues to be a chaplain at Hillcrest Hospital. You are invited to send your well wishes, prayers, and congratulations to Pastor Meg and the family, as she, John, and Char-



lotte continue to live out their faith and share God's Word.

## Bible Study

*1 Corinthians* is one of the most gripping books in the Bible. In this letter, Paul, the complicated, layered apostle, writes to the people trying a wild new social experiment known as a Christian community. Not unlike the church today, this community dealt with factions, sexual immorality, gender issues, money issues, theological questions, lawsuits, problems in worship, and problems in leadership.



In *1 Corinthians: Searching the Depths of God*, Jaime Clark-Soles explores these topics and the awe inspiring, breathtaking world of the first-century church. Examining the teachings of Paul, she addresses church history, the logic of the cross, spiritual gifts, death, afterlife and the resurrection, human sexuality, and the joys and challenges of living in community. Participants will learn to look at *1 Corinthians* from a variety of viewpoints and apply its lessons to their own faith.

Join Pastor Sarah for this 7-week study following Jaime Clark-Soles book on *1 Corinthians*, Wednesday evenings 6:30-7:30, starting September 8<sup>th</sup>!

*Books are \$12 each if ordered through the church. Please call Ka'Lu to sign up. eBooks for this title are available for those who prefer to order their own digital copy.*



# September



**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

**8/29**

9:30: Sunday school  
10:30: Worship

**8/30**

11:00: Yoga



**8/31**

**1**

11:00: Yoga

3:00: FIX

6:00-8:00 Youth

**2**

1:00: CHUMS' Game Day

4:30: Chair yoga

6:00: Level 2 Yoga  
Tulsa

**3**

10:00: Yoga

**4**

**5**

9:30: Sunday school  
10:30: Worship

**6** ASAC, OFFICE, & SCHOOLS CLOSED

11:00: Yoga

**LABOR DAY**

**7**

10:00: Staff Mtg.  
12:00—6:00: Red Cross Blood Drive

**8**

11:00: Yoga

3:00: FIX

6:00-8:00 Youth  
6:30: Bible Study

**9**

1:00: CHUMS' Game Day

4:30: Chair yoga  
6:00: Yoga

**10**

10:00: Yoga

**11**

**12**

9:30: Sunday school  
10:30: Worship

**13**

11:00: Yoga

**14**

10:00: Staff Mtg.

**15**

11:00: Yoga

3:00: FIX

6:00-8:00 Youth  
6:30: Bible Study

**16**

1:00: CHUMS' Game Day

4:30: Chair yoga

6:00: Yoga  
6:00—9:00: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the Park (Central)

**17**

10:00: Yoga

**18**

**19**

9:30: Sunday school  
10:30: Worship

**20**

11:00: Yoga



**21**

10:00: Staff Mtg.

**22**



11:00: Yoga  
3:00: FIX  
6:00-8:00 Youth  
6:30: Bible Study

**23**

1:00: CHUMS' Game Day

4:30: Chair yoga

6:00: Yoga

**24**

10:00: Yoga

**25**

**26**

9:30: Sunday school  
10:30: Worship

**27**

11:00: Yoga

**28**

10:00: Staff Mtg.

**29**

11:00: Yoga

3:00: FIX

6:00-8:00 Youth  
6:30: Bible Study

**30**

1:00: CHUMS' Game Day

4:30: Chair yoga

6:00: Yoga

**10/1**

10:00: Yoga

**10/2**





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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**PLEASE RECYCLE!**



An update on a few financial items for the church:

-Through a few designated gifts, we were able to order new Audio Visual equipment for the sanctuary. This will include new speakers (the current speakers are about 30 years old!), greatly improving sound for in person worship. It will also include new microphones, and new cameras that will enhance our ability to connect with people for online worship. Online worship has been a

wonderful tool for people to still join worship when they are out of town, not feeling well, unable to get out, or for guests to check us out for the first time! The company expects to be able to schedule installation in September. Thank you to those who generously gave to make these updates possible!

-In the dog days of Oklahoma summer heat, three air conditioning units at the church went out. These units had put in their time, and then some, so these updates were anticipated. Through two designated gifts, and reserve funds, we were able to cover the approximately \$22,000 with only about \$2,000 from the general fund.