

The United Methodist News

YEAR 24 VOLUME 1

JANUARY, 2016

SERVING GOD 122 YEARS

Sunday School
 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship
 10:30 A.M.

*Happy
 New
 Year!*

New Bible Study
 (See Page 4)

**What's
 Inside**

Church Calendar.....	2
Prayer List.....	2
Finance Report	2
Cards of Thanks	3
Sermon Series	3
Preschool Report.....	3
News of Youth.....	3
Bible Study.....	4
Birthdays, Anniversaries	4

PASTOR TO PEOPLE

Back when electricity was first being introduced to a little Scottish village, almost everybody in a particular church switched from the propane lanterns to electricity just as soon as it could be hooked up. However, one couple in the congregation couldn't get their electricity because they were waiting for the poles to go up and the wire to be strung. So they continued to use their propane lanterns.

The day finally came when electricity was brought into their home. Everyone came for the festive event. The man waited for it to get extra dark; then he told his wife to go turn on the switch. When she did, the light filled the room, and everyone rejoiced. The man grinned from ear to ear, picked up a propane lamp and said, "It sure makes lighting my lamps easier!" And with that he lit a lamp, and his wife turned off the electricity.

I feel like that after Christmas sometimes. It seems like there is all this energy pushing towards Christmas eve and Christmas day. Everybody is a bit more cheerful and generous. Our lives are tuned into Christ. We make conscious efforts to be the light of Christ to the world. But then the day after Christmas happens and it starts to fade. And I wonder where all the light has gone. The day to day activities return. Now it's cold and winter blues start to set in and it feels like all that light that we were celebrating has now been turned off.

Jesus told his audience in the middle of his Sermon on the Mount, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

You are the light of the world! As Christians, that means when we look into the world and see many dark places our job is to bring the light of Christmas forward into those dark places. The light of Christ is the most powerful weapon in the world. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." I don't know about you, but this little light of mine? I'm gonna let it shine! This year as I take down my Christmas decorations I'm going to choose an ornament from my tree and hang it somewhere I will see it every day to remind me to take this light we've been celebrating and let it shine through me. I invite you to do the same.

On the Journey with you,

Pastor Jim

REV. JIM PERKIN



Prayer List

(As of December 27, 2015.)

To add to or remove a name from the list, call the church office at 918-647-2217.

Nursing Home/Homebound:

Slim Durham, Maxine Nyberg

Health:

Ed Brody, Darrell Brown, Maria Burnett, Perry Carter, Kelly Cox, Dale DeCamp, Deborah Dee, Janet DeSpain, Bob Durrett, Mary Folsom, Janet Fox, Grady Garner, Peggy Gartner, Vickie Gillion, Ann Halloran, Ken Hammond, Sam Harris, Allen and Jane Ann Inge, Donna Jackson, Virginia Johnson, Walter and Lorene Johnson, Colton Knight, Lloyd and Dana Lee, Arlene LeMaster, Don Lindeinier, Sandra Lum, Jake McMillin, Marilyn Meek, Sharon Mikkelsen, Sunny Muse, Dortha O'Neal, Kallie Peck, Jean Potts, William Quarry, Lucy Richmond, Joe Sabatucci, Gabriella Saidleman, Charles Saviers, Jim Shore, Richard Sockey, Jackie Tosto, Dorothy Watkins, Ann Young.

Bereavement:

The Mae Slavens family

Military and Law Enforcement:

Ashlin Hensley, Jared Baughn, Kyle Kinman, Taylor Baughn, Tyler Berlin, Victor Murray, and all our military and law enforcement.

Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for November 2015

Average Attendance Figures for November: 143

2015 Budget Requirements: \$340,000.00

Needed through November: \$311,666.67

Received through November: \$347,223.37

November Receipts: \$28,019.25

November Expenditures: \$19,562.97

New Building Fund Figures:

Deposits: \$1,951,036.44; Expenditures: \$2,579,843.28

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

Published by the Communications Committee

Carol Baker, Editor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

109 S. Harper, Poteau, OK 74953

Telephone 918-647-2217

e-mail: adminassistant@poteaufumc.com

website: www.poteaufumc.com

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Bishop	Robert E. Hayes
District Superintendent	Larry Bauman
Senior Pastor	Rev. Jim Perkin
Director of Youth Ministries	Kimberly Hardaway
Director of Music Ministries	Mary Lynn Perkin
Administrative Assistant	Melissa Ward
Lead Nursery Attendant	Jayla Craig
Organist	Bill King
Custodian	Phil Smith

District web page: www.gbpm-umc.org/mc-dist/

JANUARY CHURCH CALENDAR

• SUNDAY •

Open Gym, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
UMYF (CHAOS), 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Bible Study, 5 p.m.

• MONDAY •

Christian Preschool Monday – Thursday
8:30 - 11:30 a.m., Education Building

• TUESDAY •

Cub Scouts, 6 p.m., CFLC
Boy Scouts, 7 p.m., CFLC

• WEDNESDAY •

JAM Children's Activities, 3:15 p.m.
Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 5:15 p.m.
Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

• THURSDAY •

Senior Café, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., CFLC
Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

- 10 Youth Council, 11:30 a.m.
- New Sunday Bible Study begins, 5 p.m.
- 14 New Thursday Bible Study begins, 1 p.m.
- 18 Finance Committee, 6 p.m.
- 20 Membership Care, 12 p.m.
- 23 Neighborhood Breakfast, 7:30–10:30 a.m.

WORSHIP GREETERS

- 3 Mike and Karen Hahn
- 10 Bill and Linda Lancaster
- 17 David and Lisa Barnes
- 24 Ben and Judy Curtis
- 31 John and Mandy Mitchell



ACOLYTES

- 3 Maggie Wheat and Kendy Traywick
- 10 Nathan Murray and Waylon Murray
- 17 Burke Perry and Brady Perry
- 24 Sadie Perkin and Lexe Pickle
- 31 Ryker Holt and Wyatt Holt



LITURGIST

Krissy Manning



CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

- 3 Mary Ford
- 10 Taryn Shelton
- 17 Tami Matos
- 24 Kim Hardaway
- 31 Mary Lynn Perkin





Cards of Thanks

The preschool staff – Ms. Tracey, Ms. Kim, Ms. Pep and Ms. Kathleen want to all say thank you for the special love offerings we received at Christmas. We are proud to represent this church through the many families that attend the Preschool.

Dear Church Family,

We so appreciate being remembered with a Christmas love offering. It is a pleasure to take care of our church's little ones in the nursery. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Jayla Craig
Kaycee Quarry

Dear Friends,

Words cannot express how overwhelmed and blessed I feel for the love, prayers, and generosity you have shown. May God bless you this Christmas and into the future.

Thank you!
Dale DeCamp

Dear Church Family,

Lloyd and I appreciate all your love and prayers. You have helped us through our illness with the love you have shown us.

We thank you for all the visits, cards and food.

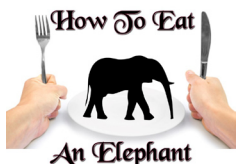
Special thanks to the JAM kids for the get well cards they prepared for us.

May God bless all of you,
Lloyd and Dana Lee

The staff would like to thank everyone for the generous love offering. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Sermon Series

A 5 Week Journey Towards Holiness



Here we are at the beginning a new year and many of us are already thinking about how to better ourselves. But what does God want? Is holiness possible for my life? It seems like such an overwhelming task to undertake especially if I don't know where to start.

Join us in in worship during January for a five-week journey of working toward holiness, one bite at a time.

News of Youth

By Kimberly Hardaway

UMYF (CHAOS) meets Sunday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. and is for all youth 6th through 12th grade.

January Schedule:

- 3 Movie Night, 6 to 9 p.m.; (Meal by Perry's)
- 10 Youth Council Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- 10 Regular UMYF
- 17 Regular UMYF
- 24 Regular UMYF
- 31 Regular UMYF

Our study for January will be Current Events.

United Methodist Church
PRESCHOOL

By
Tracey Gilliam,
Preschool Director

Preschool begins classes for the new year on January 4th. In January the memory verse is "A friend loves at all times." We will be focusing on the letters L, M, N and O. The colors of the month are white and blue. The shape is a rectangle. Hands-on-projects involving object counting will be emphasized as well as reviewing the letters A through K. The weekly themes will focus on the new year 2016, winter weather, ways we can love our friends, polar bears and penguins.

Happy New Year everyone!!!

Membership Care Committee

The Membership Care Committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the Christian Family Life Center from 12 to 1 p.m.

They try to stay in contact with those in need through cards, phone calls and visits.

If you know someone they need to add to their list, please contact the church office or call Kay Thomas at 918-647-3491.

Upper Room Devotionals

The Upper Room devotional guides are provided for you by the church and can be found on the tables outside the sanctuary. Be sure and pick one up to accompany your daily Bible study.

They are published every two months. The January/February issue is available now.



• BIBLE STUDY •

New Bible Study begins in January “One Thousand Gifts”

A Bible study based on the New York Times bestseller *One Thousand Gifts* by Ann Voskamp will begin in January. Participants can choose to attend Sunday evenings at 5 (beginning January 10th) or Thursday afternoons at 1 (beginning January 14th). In this five-session, video-based study, participants will be challenged to really look at life and find the good in it. By expressing gratitude for the life we already have, we can discover what it means to be deeply fulfilled, wholly happy, and finally fully alive in all circumstances.

Kay Thomas will be leading the study. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex; study guides may be purchased for \$9.

A Gift from Tate Newland

Many in our church remember Tate Newland who was an important part of our church in the past. He was Youth Director, Children's Director, Choir Director, and Handbell Director and was much loved and respected.

Tate now lives in Ohio and has a business making custom conductor batons.

He remembered Kaycee (Baker) Quarry when she was a child and when he heard about her eight-year-old son's love of the choir and that he had been “directing” since he was three years old, he made a special baton just for him.

This is the note he sent with the baton:

Dear Warrick,

A true sign of leadership is a conducting baton. Here is one I made just for you. 12” long, large egg “Nature” handle with 3/4” fiberglass shaft.

Continue to make beautiful music all your life and you will have a foretaste of heaven.

In His Grip,
Tate Newland

If you would like to see it, Warrick will be bringing it to church the next few Sundays and will be happy to show it to you. It is a beautiful work of art.

Please get on the church email list if not on already. Email the church office at adminassistant@poteaufumc.com. You will receive announcements and information that comes up between newsletters.

January Birthdays

- 1 Bernice Hurst
- 3 Michael Brown and Grace Ford
- 4 Alisa Slater
- 5 Jessa Craig
- 7 Katie Hopper
- 8 Zach Stubbs and Blake Lillard
- 11 Gloria Plummer and Susan Norgeot
- 12 Irene Beasley, Sharon Simmons and David Oehlschlager
- 13 Artie Stivers and Terri Martin
- 14 Wyatt Holt
- 16 Brian Roberts
- 17 Andy Baker and Orville McDonald
- 19 Versile Johnson III and Blake White
- 20 Ted Williams
- 21 Alexis Ramirez and Ron Ward
- 22 Ashlee Sconyers, Slim Durham and Randee Hallmark
- 23 Kanaan Hardaway and Andrew Barkley
- 24 Jeremy Quarry
- 25 John Clark, Baleigh Quarry and Haleigh Stone
- 26 Mary Folsom, Holly Durant and Hammond Yandell
- 27 Bill Slater
- 30 Jennifer Miller and Paula Midgley
- 31 Jayla Craig and Davey Bullard



January Anniversaries

- 22 Keith and Kay Thomas



Help make our birthday and anniversary lists complete. If we do not have your family members' birthdays and anniversaries, please give the office that information by calling 918-647-2217.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Anyone who knows of someone who would benefit from a prayer shawl, whether a church member or not, should call Cindy Brody at 918-385-1542 or the church at 647-2217.

The Sweetest Things in Life

*The best things in life are nearest:
breath in your nostrils, light in your eyes,
flowers at your feet, duties at your hand,
the path of right just before you.*

Do not grasp at the stars, but do life's plain common work as it comes, certain that daily duties and daily bread are the sweetest things in life.

– Robert Louis Stevenson