

# The **FIRST** United Methodist News

YEAR 25 VOLUME 12

DECEMBER, 2017

SERVING GOD 124 YEARS

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

**New Office Hours:**  
Monday – Thursday  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Drive Through  
Living  
Christmas  
Story**

Sunday, Dec. 3  
6 to 8 p.m.

**Handbell Choir**  
Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m.

**Choir's Christmas  
Cantata**  
Dec. 17, 10:30 a.m.

**Christmas Eve  
Services**  
6 and 11 p.m.

**What's  
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## **PASTOR TO PEOPLE**

I love the Christmas story. I think the thing I like most about the Christmas story is Mary's response when she is told she will bear a child. Mary's words according to the Gospel of Luke, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Wow! God was asking her to do something extremely difficult and her words are, "Here am I..." An expression of her willingness to serve regardless of the task.

Then, God came into the world in the form of a baby, born in a manger, the feeding trough of livestock, and spent that earthly life touching the untouchables. Speaking to those who were not to be spoken to. And loving the unlovable.

And we are called to the same....

I want to challenge you this Christmas season. Find a way to do a Random act of kindness. Do something unexpected. Don't sit and plan it out now, just keep it in your thoughts that you want to do something. Make it a personal thing where you see the face of the person you are being kind to. An act of kindness like adopting an angel from a tree is a wonderful gift to many families and I encourage you to help out with something like that, but this project is about seeing the face of God, face to face in another person . . .

Take someone to lunch who usually eats by themselves or grab an extra meal from the fast food restaurant that you visit and drive around looking for someone to give it to. When you are out shopping keep your eyes open for someone who needs a hand opening a door or someone who needs a smile. Make a phone call and tear down a fence that has been built for far too long.

What matters is not what you do, but that you see the face of God in the person who needs you. I want to hear your stories of your act of Random Kindness. I know that there will be some incredible stories to be told as we look for ways to serve another person.

God is calling us to be a servant, and has provided us an example of how he wants us to serve in the coming of this Christ child that we celebrate. My hope is that when God calls you, you will be able to hear the voice of God and respond, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

On the Journey with you,



**REV. JIM PERKIN**



## Prayer List

(As of November 26, 2017)

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

**Nursing Home/Homebound:** Genny Dorsey and Maxine Nyberg,

**Health:** Landa Aubree, Don Baetz, Astarte Baker, Ed Brody, Sandy Carbrey, Perry Carter, Sue Covey, Allen Daniels, Jim Davis, Rob Ellis, Mendy Emmerling, Betty Evans, Mary Folsom, Dolores Fuller, Brooke Gardezi, Kay Gardner, Don Goforth Jr., Pam Hayes, Peggy Holstead, Allen and Jane Ann Inge, Donna Jackson, Lorene Johnson, Jim Kersh, Jane Kilgore, Colton Knight, Tim Lawrence, Lloyd Lee, Arlene LeMaster, Lucy McMillin, Maureen McPherson, Mason Mitchell, Christy Oehlschlager, Jack Oehlschlager, Pat Pate, Kallie Peck, Debbie Piovarchy, Jean Potts, William Quarry, Lucy Richmond, Bobbie Rowland, Joe Sabatucci, Ronnie Sanders, Charles Saviers, Jim Shore, Pat Smith, Randy Smith, Richard Sockey, Virginia Stanley, Earl Steimetz, Katie Strider, Rita Thomas, Darlene Ward, Darren Ward, Shelia Wilson, Keith Wright.

**Bereavement:** Ruby Shore Anderson (Jim Shore's mother) and Paul Stottsberry

### Military and Law Enforcement:

Nathan Berlin, Tyler Berlin, Kaigan LeMaster, Bailey Hahn, Zack Hall, Kyle Kinman, Kodee LeMaster, and all our military and law enforcement men and women.

### Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for October 2017

Average Attendance Figures for October: 180

2017 Budget Requirements: \$345,500.00

Needed through October: \$287,916.67

Year to Date received through October: \$276,324.25

October Receipts: \$38,614.12

October Expenditures: \$27,917.83

**Amount Owed on New Building Loan: \$440,298.43**

### THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

Published by the Communications Committee

**Carol Baker, Editor**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

109 S. Harper, Poteau, OK 74953

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website: www.poteaufumc.com

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

Bishop

District Superintendent

**Senior Pastor**

**Director of Youth Ministries**

**Director of Music Ministries**

**Director of Children's Ministries**

**Administrative Assistant**

**Lead Nursery Attendant**

**Organist**

**Facility Manager**

Rev. Jimmy Nunn

Larry Bauman

**Rev. Jim Perkin**

**Melanie Wheat**

**Mary Lynn Perkin**

**Suzanne Klutts**

**Melissa Ward**

**Jayla Craig**

**Bill King**

**Phil Smith**

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

## • DECEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR •

### • SUNDAY •

**Sunday School, 9:30; Morning Worship, 10:30**

**Bible Study, 4 p.m.**

**UMYF (CHAOS), 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

### • MONDAY •

**Christian Preschool Monday – Thursday**

### • TUESDAY •

**Cub Scouts, 6 p.m., CFLC**

**Boy Scouts, 7 p.m., CFLC**

### • WEDNESDAY •

**Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.**

**Celebration Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.**

### • THURSDAY •

**Senior Café, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., CFLC**

**Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.**

- 3 Drive Through Living Christmas Story, 6 to 8 p.m.
- 6 JAM/Church Family Meal, 5:05 p.m.
- 9 Cavanal Chorale/Treble Choir Christmas Concert, 7 p.m.
- 10 Handbell Choir performs in morning worship
- 13 JAM Kids Christmas program, 5 p.m.
- 17 Choir's Cantata during morning worship
- 18 Membership Care, 12 p.m.
- 24 Christmas Eve Services, 5:30 and 11 p.m.
- 25 Church Offices closed

## WORSHIP GREETERS

- 3 Bill and Linda Lancaster
- 10 Mike and Karen Hahn
- 17 Ben and Judy Curtis
- 24 Jon and Mandy Mitchell
- 31 Jerry and Mary Ford

*Welcome!*

## WELCOME TABLE VOLUNTEERS

- 3 Hank and Barbara Harris
- 10 David and Lisa Barnes
- 17 (Volunteers Needed)
- 24 Dorothy Gail James and Jean Whigham
- 31 Debby Puckette and Martha Renfro

## ACOLYTES

- 3 Warrick Quarry and Grant Thomas
- 10 Brady Perry and Burke Perry
- 17 Colton Frazier and Khia Brookfield
- 24 Caden Mitchell and Brock Call
- 31 Waylon Murray and Nathan Murray

**LITURGIST:** Laurie Bandy

## CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

- 3 Mary Ford
- 10 Morgan Greutman
- 17 Tami Matos
- 24 Mary Lynn Perkin
- 31 Suzanne Klutts



## All Saints Sunday

Candles were lit on All Saints Sunday for loved ones who passed away since last All Saints Day.

Those remembered were Scott Conn, Margaret Donaho, Duke Dunn, Susan England, Cecilia Enger, Walter Johnson, Janet Fox, Dana Lee, Jan Kelley, and Norma Sockey-Austin.



The cross box holding the candles was made from wood from the old church.

## Membership Care Committee

The Membership Care Committee will meet in December on Monday, the 18th instead of the usual third Wednesday of each month at 12 p.m.

### Christmas Card Ministry

Each year the Membership Care Committee collects Christmas cards signed by members of the congregation for those on our Care List. You may use your own cards or select a couple of packets of cards from the big Christmas box in the Narthex. You don't have to send a card to everyone on the list, but please take the time to write a personal note. Cards should be returned to the box in the narthex or the church office by Sunday, Dec. 17th. The Membership Care Committee will meet Monday, Dec. 18th to sort the cards and make deliveries before Christmas. Thank you so much for your help; it means a lot to those who receive them.

This year we are sending cards to the following persons:

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Pat Branson            | Bessie Moreland         |
| Ruth Ann DeCamp        | Debbie Piovarchy        |
| Genny Dorsey           | Jean Potts              |
| Mary Folsom            | Joe Renfro              |
| Jo Gee                 | Wade Rodgers            |
| Sam Harris             | Bobbie Rowland          |
| Curtis James           | Connie & Joe Sabbatucci |
| Virginia Kidd          | Jim Shore               |
| Jane Kilgore           | Virginia Stanley        |
| Lloyd Lee              | Lenora Williams         |
| Marilyn & Charles Meek | Keith Wright            |



We enjoyed hearing Kanaan Hardaway play our offertory during morning worship one Sunday in November.



## Baptism

Noah Daniel Sams was baptized in November surrounded by his loving family. He is the son of Landon and Melissa Sams.

## Our Sympathy



Our sympathy is extended to the family of Paul Stottsberry, and to Jim Shore and family. Jim's mother, Ruby Shore Anderson, passed away recently.

## BIBLE STUDY

"The Story" Bible study taught by Pastor Jim Perkin has resumed on Thursdays at 1 p.m. and on Sunday at 4 p.m. Choose whichever time best suits your schedule. Books are \$5.

## • Children's Ministry •

By Suzanne Klutts

November has been a busy month of preparing for our upcoming JAM Christmas program, Christmas Hang-Ups. You won't want to miss out on this, so mark your calendar for December 13 at 5:00. We invite you to stay for punch and cookies in Family Life Center following the program.

This will be our final JAM of 2017. We will resume on January 10th. A huge thank you to our volunteers that make all this possible.

### UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS

- 6 JAM Church/Family dinner, 5:05 p.m.
  - 13 JAM Christmas program, 5 p.m.
- Reception following program

United Methodist Church <b>PRESCHOOL</b> 	By <b>Tracey Gilliam,</b> Preschool Director
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Preschool students will be singing at The Community State Bank Dec. 6th and 7th at 9:15.

In class the preschool students will be reviewing the letters A - J. The shape of the month is a star and the colors are red and green. The memory verse for December is "God's son is born for us."

Weekly themes in December are Time for Hibernation, All Aboard for the Holidays, and the Christmas Story.

The preschool Christmas celebrations will be held on Dec. 18th and 19th at 10:30.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Christmas break will be Dec. 25 to Jan. 4 and classes will resume January 8, 2018.

## • LIVE WORSHIP •

If you are unable to attend worship on Sunday morning, you can watch our morning worship service live at 10:30. There is a place there where you may register your attendance. **Go to [www.poteaufumc.com](http://www.poteaufumc.com)**

## News of Youth

By Melanie Wheat

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

### DECEMBER

- 3 No Youth. We will be helping in the Living Christmas Story drive-through.
- 10 Youth shopping trip to Northwest Arkansas. We will leave at 12:30 p.m. and return around 9 p.m.
- 17: Youth Progressive Dinner. We will meet at the church at 5. Details will be posted on our Group Me message board.
- December 24: No Youth - Christmas Eve  
December 31: No Youth - New Years Eve

## Welcome the newest addition to our church family!



It's a 71-passenger bus with the name of our church and the Jesus and Me (JAM) logo on it. Its first trip was to pick up JAM kids from school on November 29th for the Wednesday after school activities, thanks to that day's driver, Daryl Wood.

## Card of Thanks

Dear Jim Perkin,

The singers of Cavanal Chorale appreciate the use of your wonderful church for our concerts. The support given to us is amazing! We could not do it without the generosity and "open hearts" of the church family.

Thank you so much!

Sandra Slater,  
Board Secretary

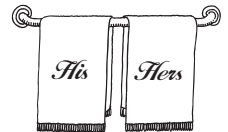
## December Birthdays

- 1 Connie Sabatucci
- 2 David Roberts, Ted Kilgore, Mike Sullivan and Tatum Shelton
- 4 Daryl Chastain, Judy Moore, Sam Shore and Adrianna Johnson
- 6 Jaydon Bandy
- 7 John Perry
- 8 Virginia Stanley, Shelley Johnson and Dale DeCamp
- 9 Sheri Zabala
- 10 Jason Bandy
- 11 Jamison Shackelford and Lenora Williams
- 12 Jo Gee, Curtis James, and Cole Forsberg
- 13 Bryan Gilliam
- 14 David Redhage and Kip Klutts
- 15 Pegee Werline and Sharon Mikkelson
- 16 Julie Lee, Judy Peerson and Kyle Matos
- 18 Justin Hebert and Jarot Garner
- 19 Morgan Bandy
- 20 Riley Sampson
- 23 Donna Kendrick and Bob Reynolds
- 24 Becky Fruen
- 25 Gary Brown, Jr., Seth Garner, Steven Sockey, Heather Emery and Holley Ambriz Johnson
- 28 Jim Skelton
- 29 Jolee Barnhart and Joe Sabatucci
- 30 Jerry Thompson
- 31 Rosalind Kendrick and Ronnie Oehlschlager



## December Anniversaries

- 1 Ed and Cindy Brody
- 2 Ron and Melissa Ward
- 3 Charles and Marilyn Meek
- 4 Marvin and Janet DeSpain
- 13 Mike and Lindsay Murray
- 14 Fredric and Nina Ritchie
- 17 Brian and Mandy Roberts
- 18 Henry and Rozelle Hardaway
- 19 Kyle and Kimberly Hardaway
- 23 Joe and Connie Sabatucci
- 26 Joe and Martha Renfro



## Poinsettias for Worship

We will once again display poinsettias in our sanctuary this Christmas season. If you would like to provide a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone, please have them delivered to the church by noon Thursday, Dec. 14th. Call the church with your information by Wednesday, Dec. 13 to be listed in the morning worship bulletin. Poinsettias will be displayed in the sanctuary through Dec. 31.