

DECEMBER 2021 FIRST The United Methodist News

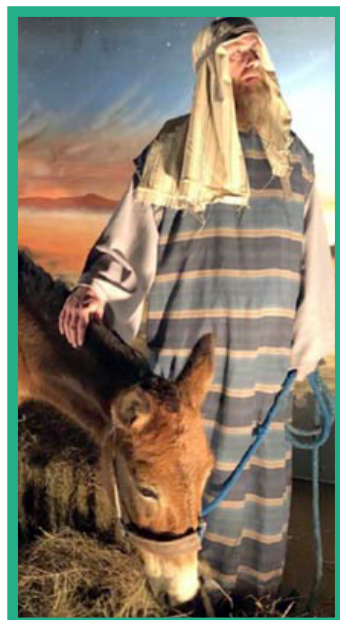
YEAR 29 VOLUME 12

POTEAU, OKLAHOMA

SERVING GOD 128 YEARS

Sunday School 9:30
Worship 10:30
On Line Live
Worship 10:30

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



Living Christmas Story
(See Page 7)

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PASTOR TO PEOPLE



One of my favorite characters in the Christmas story is Zechariah. When we meet the priest Zechariah he is in what was most likely the highest moment of his life. He has been chosen to enter the Holy of Holies to offer the sacrifice and light the incense. Just as he does so an angel of the Lord appears on the right side of the altar.....and Zechariah is overwhelmed with fear as the angel tells him that he and his wife Elizabeth, although very advanced in age, will have a son.

Zechariah can't believe it! He'd been praying all these years....and as the childbearing years for him and Elizabeth faded into the past the dream of having a son faded with them. Zechariah replied to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years."

God broke through in his life in an unexpected way. This was not the only time God breaks through in unexpected ways in our scripture.... not by a long shot...

Abraham and Sarah had a baby. Moses had a speech impediment. Joshua parted the Jordan River like Moses did with the Red Sea. The Jericho walls fall down just because people marched around them and blew through a trumpet. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego hang out in a fiery furnace. And Daniel just walks right through the lion's den. And these examples are only the start of how God breaks through in unexpected ways.

Over and over and over again it seems that God uses unexpected people and unexpected circumstances to birth amazing moments in the lives of his children and I think that teaches us that God is looking at you and me. God may use us to break into the world in unexpected ways.

You don't have to be perfect or all put together to be used by God and your Christmas doesn't have to be perfect or all put together in order for it to be amazing. The lights, the family gatherings, the presents are nice but God is looking for a place in your heart to birth a savior. I believe God wants to break through the Christmas noise and do something unexpected. Are you ready?

On the Journey with you,

Pastor Jim

Pastor Jim

Merry Christmas

• REV. JIM PERKIN •

Prayer List (As of November 28, 2021)

To add or remove a name call 918-647-2217.

Health: Diana Adams, Laton Allison, Melanie Anderson, Wanda Anderson, Astarte Baker, Kathy Baker, Lisa Barnes, Silas Blanchard, Steven Blaylock, Caren Bogart, Clint Bradshaw, Cindy Brody, Ed Brody, Sterling Brookfield, Jeff Burton, John Carbrey, Peggy Carey, James Carter, Paul Carter, Perry Carter, Audra Cooper, Pam Cox, Cynthia Crane, Ben Curtis, Darla Davis, Jim Davis, Matt Duschel, Emily Elkins, Cliff England, Mary Folsom, Brooke Gardezi, Bipriano Gonzalez, Clinton Howell, Connie Hancock, Joe Hardy, Jeremiah Hays, Heston Himes, Allen Inge, Donna Jackson, Bobby Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Teri Johnson, Terri Jones, Tasha Arnette Kane, Jane Kilgore, Ted Kilgore, Rope King, Colton Knight, Ron Knight, Vicki LaGrand, Arlene LeMaster, Lincoln Lester, Arlene Logan, Ty Mackey, Emily Maranto, Keith Miller, Patricia Ogden, Janna Owens, Kevin Payne, Jean Potts, Rose Price, Jeremy Quarry, Freda Reed, Case Ress. Kimberley Ritter, Lucy Richmond, Kathy Robertson, Joseph Sabatucci Jr., Angie Shaw, Jim Shore, Barbara Smedley, Marilyn Smith, Blake Standridge, Earl Steinmetz, Katie Strider, Madison Stuckey, Peggy Talley, Raegan Thomas, Mark Tillotson, Ed Toland, Linda Vise, Darren Ward, Barbara Wheeler, Britain Wilson, Keith Wright, Lori Yarberry.

Bereavement: The Family of Coy Smedley.

Law Enforcement: Robert and Danielle Brenand, Robert M. Brenand, Jr., Brandon Durant, Bailey Hahn, Zack Hall, Kyle Kinman, Blake Wilson, and all our military and law enforcement men and women.

Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for October 2021

Average Attendance for October: 135
2021 Budget Requirements: \$365,000.00
Needed through October: \$304,166.67
Year to Date Received: \$345,084.57
October Received: \$40,104.96
October Expenditures: \$18,560.56

THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS

Published by the Communications Committee

Carol Baker, Editor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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website: www.poteaufumc.com

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Bishop
District Superintendent
Senior Pastor
Director of Music Ministries
Director of Children's Ministries
Administrative Assistant
Lead Nursery Attendant
Organist/Pianist
Facility Manager

Rev. Jimmy Nunn
Rev. Larry Bauman
Rev. Jim Perkin
Mary Lynn Perkin
Suzanne Klutts
Melissa Ward
Jayla Craig
Bill King
Phil Smith

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



DECEMBER CALENDAR

• SUNDAYS •

**In-Person Morning Worship and
Live On-Line Worship, 10:30 a.m.**

Youth Group, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

• MONDAY •

Boy Scouts, 6:00 p.m. (CFLC)

• TUESDAY •

Cub Scouts, 6:00 p.m. (CFLC)

• WEDNESDAY •

JAM (Jesus and Me), 3:30-5:05 p.m.

Handbell Practice, 5:45 p.m.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

• • •

- 1 Membership Care, 1 p.m.
- 2 Dinners With Love, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
- 4 Poteau Musical Arts, 1 p.m.
- 5 Drive Through Living Christmas Story, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Missions Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 7 JN Ross Christmas Party at Western Sizzlin, 5:30 p.m.
- 10 Natlynn Hayes Christmas Recital, 6 p.m.
- 12 Christmas Cantata during morning worship
Youth Progressive Dinner, 6 p.m.
- 16 Dinners With Love, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
- 17, 18 Good Times Theatre's Elf Musical, 7 p.m.
- 19 Good Times Theatre's Elf Musical, 2 p.m.
- 20, 21 Youth Trip to Branson
- 24 Christmas Eve Services, 5:30 and 11 p.m.
- 25 Merry, Merry Christmas!
- 27 Church offices closed
- 30 Dinners With Love, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

LITURGIST Laurie Bandy



ACOLYTES

- 5 Khia Brookfield and Lily Green
- 12 Sam Martin and Chloe Crane
- 19 Addison Sockey and Morgan Shockley
- 26 Annie Martin and Ellie Martin



CHILDREN'S MOMENTS



- 5 Jenci Quarry
- 12 Kim Hardaway
- 19 Pastor Jim
- 26 Tami Matos



First Sunday in Advent

The first Advent candle was lit by the Green Family – Dustin, Ashley, Lily and Jemma.



Christmas Love Offering

Poteau First United Methodist Church is very blessed with an outstanding staff that is always working very hard as a team to bring effective ministry to our congregation and community. This has been a very challenging year for the staff as they have addressed effectively all issues pertaining to the safety of our congregation as well as continually bringing ministries into our community.

Please join with me during this Christmas season as we honor members of our staff with a “love offering” as a way to show our love and deep appreciation for a job well done.

Please designate “love offering” on your check or offering envelope.

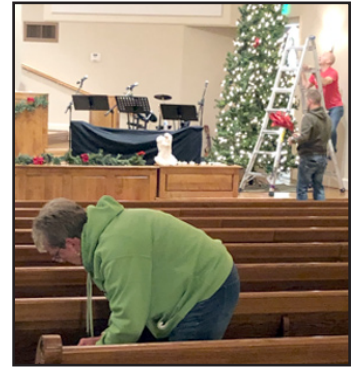
Blessings,
Keith Thomas, Chair,
Staff Parish Relations Committee



Our Love and Sympathy

Our love and sympathy is extended to the family of Coy Smedey, Vance Smedley's father, who passed away recently.

Volunteers Decorated in Readiness for First Sunday in Advent



Food Drive

Cub Scout Pack 453 and Boy Scout Troup 30 collected 1,100 pounds of food in their food drive.

Scoutmaster is P.J. Brown.



Special Music for Worship



Mary Lynn Perkin



Sadie Perkin



Handbell Choir Played "Heaven Bound" for us.

December Birthdays

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



December Anniversaries

- 1 Ed and Cindy Brody
- 2 Ron and Melissa Ward
- 3 Charles and Marilyn Meek
- 4 Marvin and Janet DeSpain
- 14 Fredric and Nina Ritchie
- 17 Brian and Mandy Roberts
- 18 Henry and Rozelle Hardaway
- 19 Kyle and Kimberly Hardaway



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.



Happy Birthday, Phil



Our Facility Manager, Phil Smith, celebrated his birthday in November.

Welcome, New Members

We were happy to welcome a new family on October 10, 2021, Michael and Andrea Oliver joined by Transfer from Hosanna Christian Fellowship. Their sons are James and Raylan.



The Oliver Family

Next Confirmation Class Has Been Scheduled

Calling all 6th grade and above students! Your time is here. On Wednesday, January 5th, we will begin our 2022 Confirmation Class. Confirmation is an 8-week class studying our faith. The class ends in a service where those students will have the opportunity to take membership and faith vows for themselves and become full members of the church. The class will be on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Once you are in 6th grade you are eligible to join the confirmation class, but it is also open to any youth 6th grade or older who have not completed confirmation in the past.

If you are a 6th grade student, you will receive a letter with many more details inviting you to be a part of this fun and important time in your life. If your student is above the age of 6th grade, has not completed Confirmation, and you would like them to be in the class, please contact Pastor Jim to be put on that mailing list.



Youth Ministry

We had a blast at our November Hayride and Bonfire at the Gilliam's Farm and want to say a big thank you to Tracey and Jamie for hosting that event every year.

December is full of exciting events as well! Check out this schedule below:

5 Help with the Living Christmas Story Drive Through

12 Progressive Dinner and Christmas Party
20-21 Branson Retreat – Silver Dollar City, Sight & Sound Theater, and Outlet Mall Shopping!

As of the writing of this article, I only have 5 spots left! If you want to go, call Pastor Jim today!

Because of all these special events there will be no regular Sunday night Youth Meetings in December. They will return in January.

I hope you will join us for our events. We are having fun, growing as disciples of Jesus, and growing together as a youth group family. And there is always room for one more! Come, join us!

Membership Care

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. We would appreciate members bringing cards to the church office so we can bundle packets to be distributed. Please return signed cards to the box in the Narthex or the church office by Sunday, December 19th.

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:

Ed and Cindy Brody	Dorothy Gail James
Pam Cox	Lloyd Lee
Bill and Emily Cupp	Bessie Moreland
Mary Folsom	Jim Shore
Jo Gee	Peggy Talley
Joan Gerhard	Keith Wright
Ted and Jane Kilgore	Marcella Widmar

Christmas Eve Services

5:30 and 11 p.m.

Both services will include candlelight and communion.



• Missions Report •

By JoLynn Dixon



December finds the Missions Committee in full swing taking care of the Angels from our Prison Ministry. We have many Angels unas-

signed if you, your family, Sunday school, or community group would like to sponsor a child.

If you chose to help out by sponsoring an Angel, you can pick up your Angel packet from Melissa in the church office. In the packet is information about how to get in touch with your Angel's caregiver and reimbursement of the cost of the gifts you choose. If you are nervous about calling the Angel's family, someone on the Mission Committee can do that for you.

We need to have the wrapped gifts brought by Sunday, December 5th so we can organize and get ready for pick up for the following weekend. That date will be Saturday, December 11, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in the drive thru area. Come join us!

The next Missions Committee meeting will be scheduled after the start of the new year. As always, please consider joining us, everyone is welcome.

• Children's Moments •



Upper Room Devotionals

The Upper Room devotionals are available for November/December.

The devotional guides are provided for you by the church and can be found on the table outside the sanctuary. Be sure and pick one up to accompany your daily Bible study. They are published every two months.

Dinners With Love

SERVING:

- Dec. 2
- Dec. 16
- Dec. 30

The weather may be turning colder but the FUMC kitchen is heating up with Dinners with Love.

Thanks to our cook teams and now several delivery teams, this mission is now serving between 50 and 70+ each evening. All of this is possible due to the generosity of our church family.

Dinners with Love is a to go meal for anyone who is hungry and wants a meal. Due to the time change, meals are served every other Thursday from 5ish to 6:30.

If this is something that is close to your heart and you would like to volunteer, there are many opportunities to serve. Homemade cookies and brownies are always needed as well as anyone who would like to work on the cook or serve team.

If you would like to volunteer for this ministry, please contact the church office or Judy Pearson.





Drive Through Living Christmas Story



*Come join us
on the
journey to
Bethlehem
for the birth
of the
Savior.*

**Sunday,
Dec. 5
6:00 -
7:30 p.m.**

*Scenes tell the
Christmas Story
on the
South Walter Street
parking lot.
Drive through
as many times as
you wish.*

Poteau First United Methodist Church

Enter South Walter Street from Dewey Avenue.

Poinsettias For Worship



Once again the beauty of our sanctuary will be enhanced with our display of Christmas poinsettias.

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. 9.

Call the church with your information by Wednesday, Dec. 8 to be listed in the morning worship bulletin.

Poinsettias will be displayed in the sanctuary through December 26 and will be carefully watered and tended by our worship committee.

If you desire the church's prayer chain to pray for you, make your request known by contacting the church office at 918-647-2217.

Acolytes



On the First Sunday in Advent each year, all the acolytes are featured in an Acolyte Procession with each bringing in a Christmas item.

Those present this year were Chloe Mitchell, Lily Green, Chloe Crane, Annie Martin, Ellie Martin, Katlynn Figari, Caden Mitchell, Sam Martin, Alissa Figari, and two future acolytes, Lily Martin and Vincent Stout.

• Children's Ministry •

By Suzanne Klutts



For December, the JAM theme will be Jesus is the Reason for the Season. The kids will hear the Christmas story, make ornaments, sing carols and play fun games. We will meet on December 1 and 8, then resume on January 5.

Our Sunday School and Children's Church lessons will focus on Advent this month.



Happy kids on the JAM bus.



All Saints Sunday Was Observed in November

Candles were lit in memory of those loved ones who had passed away during the past year since last All Saints Sunday observation.

Those honored were:

Calvin Greenwood Beames, Jr.

Sandy Carbrey

Peggy Escritt

Bill Gage

JR Hendricks

Donna Hendricks

Donna Hollingsworth

Jane Ann Inge

Jennifer Johnson

Donna LaRosa

Ralph "Rocco" LaRosa, Sr.

Joan Lee

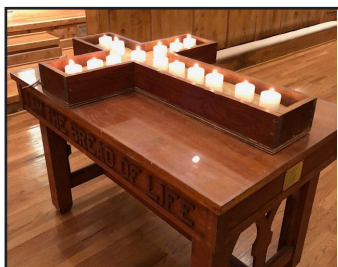
Thad Martin

Kay Martin

David McNair

Debby Shore Oakes

Elizabeth "Liz" Perry



Marguerite Powell

Roger Powell

Paul Pruitt

Paul Quirk

Joe Renfro

Jerry Vest

Jeannine Wilmeth

Ann Young

Advent Calendar

It is a common practice among many Christians to observe Advent with an Advent Calendar. Typically this calendar has a flap or door with each day of December numbered. Each day a door is opened and behind the door is a piece of candy or a small toy. It's loads of fun as we anticipate Christmas day. This year we would like to invite you into that process, but with a twist! Instead of a calendar that gives you a treat each day, we would like to ask you to provide a food item each day. Place these items in a box and bring the box to our Christmas Eve service. We will then use the items in our blessing box outside our church building. It is estimated that the cost of all items on this calendar is approximately \$42.00. Do the calendar by yourself, with your family, or grab a friend and have fun observing Advent while also blessing some of our community families.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 Box of Cereal	2 Peanut Butter	3 Box Stuffing Mix	4 Box Mashed Potatoes
5 Macaroni & Cheese	6 Canned Fruit	7 Canned Tomatoes	8 Canned Tuna	9 Dessert Mix	10 Jar of Applesauce	11 Canned Sweet Potatoes
12 Cranberry Sauce	13 Canned Beans	14 Box of Saltine Crackers	15 Package of Rice	16 Package Of Oatmeal	17 Pudding Cups	18 Canned Chicken
19 Chicken Noodle Soup	20 Tomato Soup	21 Canned Corn	22 Canned Mixed Veggies	23 Double Check all items	24 Bring your box to Christmas Eve Service!	25 Merry Christmas!

Christmas Schedule:

5 Drive Through Living Christmas Story

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

12 Choir Cantata

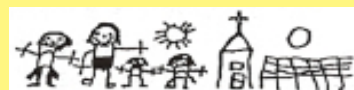
During morning worship

24 Christmas Eve Worship Service

5:30 and 11 p.m.

Both beautiful services will include candle-light and communion

United Methodist Church Preschool



By Tracey Gilliam, Preschool Director

December is here and with it comes a lot of fun activities.

The preschool memory verse for December is "God's Son is born for us." The weekly themes in December will be "Holiday Cheer", "Gifts are for Giving" and "The Christmas Story." The color of the month is green, and the shape is a star. The number five will be focused on also. We will review the letters A through K this month.

The Preschool Christmas Party is scheduled for December 16th at 10:30.

Merry Christmas everyone and remember the real reason for this wonderful season, J-E-S-U-S!

Preschool will be closed from December 17 to January 2, 2022. Preschool classes will resume on Monday, January 3, 2022.



A
Preschool
Thanksgiving