

# APRIL 2021 FIRST The United Methodist News

YEAR 29 VOLUME 4

POTEAU, OKLAHOMA

SERVING GOD 127 YEARS

## **MORNING WORSHIP** **9:30 and 11:00**

*Drive Through  
Bulletin Pickup  
For On-Line Worship  
Thursday 11 to Noon.*

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



Parade of Palms, Pg. 4

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## **PASTOR TO PEOPLE**



Have you ever met a person who says “Oh yay! A construction zone!” when driving down the highway? Me neither. And I have certainly never been that guy. It makes everything tighter. It slows us down. Sometimes it even sends us a completely different direction than the way we want to go. I read a story recently of a man who was working on a part of the construction on I-40 although he was about to retire. He talked about his work and the interruptions that can happen like downpours of rain or a cold front and some ice. He talked about how people treated other drivers and the workers while they were driving in those construction zones. (That’s an article for another time.) The man interviewing him asked him if, even though he was retiring, was there a part of him that was excited when it finally came time to drive on the new road, all open and free. He said that he didn’t plan to ever drive that stretch of road on I-40 once it was complete. He was moving to Michigan to be with family. The interviewer told him that if it was him and he worked on a major project like this, he would want to at least experience driving on it once and enjoy how nice and new and smooth it was. The construction worker laughed, smiled, and said “I have the same philosophy about road construction that I have about life: Sometimes you do the hard things now in hopes that someone later just might have it a little easier. “That really caused me to stop and reflect. When is the last time I took something on that I knew was going to be difficult, but the end result, whether I was still there or not, just might make things easier or better for someone else? Can I see past my schedule, my interruptions, my day to day routine to find a way to do something now that just might bless someone else later on? That’s really one of the things that we are called to do as Christians. And we need to look no further than Jesus on the cross and resurrected to see this image played out. Doing the hard work so that things may be easier for others. I can’t find my way back to God on my own. But Jesus made the way for me. And now it’s our turn as Christ followers to do the same. Paul writes in his letter to the Philippians (Philippians 2:4), “Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.”

So let me just ask: What roads are you working on? What areas of your life are you willing to do the difficult work with God so that someone else’s life may be blessed later on? Where are you spending your time and resources so that someone later is saying “Thank God they did that...so now we can do this!” Don’t be afraid to do the hard work now, so that your work can turn into a blessing for someone else!

On the Journey with you,  
 Pastor Jim

• **REV. JIM PERKIN** •

## **MORNING WORSHIP**

You can watch the morning worship service live on our Facebook page at 11:00. Or you can watch it and past worship services anytime at [www.poteaufumc.com](http://www.poteaufumc.com)

## **Prayer List** (As of March 28, 2021)

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

**Health:** Diana Adams, Laton Allison, Astarte Baker, Lisa Barnes, Silas Blanchard, Steven Blaylock, Caren Bogart, Cindy Brody, Ed Brody, Jeff Burton, John Carbrey, Peggy Carey, James Carter, Paul Carter, Perry Carter, Pam Cox, Ben Curtis, Jim Davis, Cameron Disney, Debbie Drake, Cliff England, Peggy Escritt, Delana Luman Ester, Sam Flanary, Mary Folsom, Dolores Fuller, Brooke Gardezi, Seth Garner, Bipriano Gonzalez, Blake Gregg, Lawrence Gresham, Connie Hancock, Jeremiah Hays, Donna Hollingsworth, Allen Inge, Donna Jackson, Kay Jeffrey, Kevin Johnson, Teri Johnson, Terri Jones, Tasha Arnette Kane, Makali Kemp, Phyllis Kemp, Jane Kilgore, Ted Kilgore, Colton Knight, Ron Knight, Vicki LaGrand, Lloyd Lee, Arlene LeMaster, Lincoln Lester, Ty Mackey, David McNair, Keith Miller, Patricia Ogden, Janna Owens, Kevin Payne, Jean Potts, Jeremy Quarry, Paul Quirk, Joe Renfro, Lucy Richmond, Angie Shaw, Jim Shore, Marilyn Smith, Blake Standridge, Earl Steinmetz, Katie Strider, Madison Stuckey, Peggy Talley, Raegan Thomas, Jennifer Turner, Darren Ward, Barbara Wheeler, Kathryn Whitfield, Britain Wilson, Keith Wright, Lori Yarberry, Ann Young.

**Bereavement:** Families of Donna Hendricks (Cliff Dixon's mother), Sandy Carbrey, Jeannine Wilmeth and Liz Perry.

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

### **Poteau F.U.M.C. Report for February 2021**

Average Attendance (Online) for February: 119  
 2021 Budget Requirements: \$365,000.00  
 Needed through February: \$60,833.33  
 Year to Date Received: \$75,501.06  
 February Received: \$30,416.67  
 February Expenditures: \$31,362.50  
 Average in person 9:30 a.m. worship service: 46  
 Average in person 11:00 a.m. worship service: 22

### **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

Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Bishop  
 District Superintendent  
**Senior Pastor**  
 Director of Music Ministries  
 Director of Youth and Young Adults  
 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  
 Rev. Amy Disney  
 Suzanne Klutts  
 Melissa Ward  
 Jayla Craig  
 Bill King  
 Phil Smith

District web page: [www.gbpm-umc.org/mc-dist/](http://www.gbpm-umc.org/mc-dist/)

## • **APRIL CALENDAR** •

### • SUNDAYS •

**In-Person Morning Worship, 9:30 and 11**  
**Beginning April 11 only one service at 10:30**  
**and On-Line Worship, 10:30**

**CHAOS Youth Group, 5:00 p.m.**

### • MONDAY •

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

### • TUESDAY •

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

### • WEDNESDAY •

**Confirmation Class, 3:30 p.m.**

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

**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.**

- 11 Return to one in-person worship, 10:30 a.m.  
Live on-line worship, 10:30 a.m.
- 19 Finance Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 26 Trustees Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

**Come and Go Wedding Shower**  
**for Cameron and Pastor Amy Disney**  
**Saturday, April 10th from 2 to 3 p.m.**  
**in the Narthex.**

## **United Methodist Church Preschool**



**By Tracey Gilliam, Preschool Director**

Hooray, Spring is here! The Preschool children will be working on the Bible verse, "Sing Praises to the Lord".

Weekly themes will be Tadpoles to Frogs; What's that Plant?; Creepy, Crawly Caterpillars; and Wonderful Weather!

The letters of the month are T,U,V and W. The number is 9 and the color is black this month.

Preschool Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year is on Thursday April 8th from 5 to 7.

Preschool classes are held Monday thru Thursday from 8:20 to 11:30. Please call the church at 918-647-2217 for more information.



## **Our Love and Sympathy**

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sandy Carbrey, to the family of Donna Hendricks (mother of Cliff Dixon), and to the families of Jeannine Wilmeth and Liz Perry.

## • Church Re-Opening •

### **From the Pastor –**

Your Re-Open team met again last week and through discussion and prayer have determined that it is time for us to make the following changes to worship procedures and start the process of Re-Opening our ministries.

**Sunday Morning Worship:** Beginning Sunday, April 11th we will return to one worship service at 10:30 a.m. This service will be in person and broadcast online. We will still ask all members to wear their masks as they enter the church, but you may take off your mask while you are sitting in your seat. If you need to move about the building, please wear your mask again.

You may sit wherever you want (please still attempt to social distance and sit only with people you regularly spend time with already).

The only exception to this is that there will be a clearly marked section for those who wish to know that all around them will be wearing a mask. If you sit in this section, please know that you will be required to wear a mask the entire service.

**Nursery:** Our church nursery will re-open this Easter Sunday, April 4th for both the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services.

**Sunday Schools:** Sunday Schools are now able to meet at the discretion of each class. When a class has a teacher ready to teach and enough members ready to come they may meet again. At least one teacher for the class must meet with Pastor Jim in their classroom to discuss safety protocols before the class begins meeting.

**Church Committees:** Church committees may

begin meeting in person again as long as each member on the committee is willing to meet in person. No person will be left out of their leadership position because they are not ready to meet in person yet. Pastor Jim is attempting to develop a system where hybrid (in person and people on zoom) meetings are a possibility to help with this transition.

**Vacation Bible School:** We will have Vacation Bible School this summer. We will make all attempts to keep each group small in numbers.

## • Children's Ministry •

**By Suzanne Klutts**



April will be an exciting month for our children. We will resume Sunday School and Children's Church on April 11.

Our Easter egg hunt was so much fun and a huge thanks to Lindsey Sockey for hosting!



## *Palm Branch Delivery*



**Peggy Talley**

Peggy Talley and her daughter, Trish Pickle, deliver worship bulletins and the sermon text each Sunday to several friends who are unable to attend in-person worship.

On Palm Sunday, palm branches were added to the delivery.

Just another labor of love by these two.



**David McNair**



**Grace Dehart**



**Marcella Widmar**



**Bill and Emily Cupp**



**Ann Young and Tami Holt**

## Children's Parade of Palms



Children waiting to wave palms on Palm Sunday.

## ■ Cards of Thanks ■

Greetings to everyone and thanks for all the lovely Christmas cards and kind words. They meant so much to me. After spending 30 days in the rehab hospital in Enid, I am very glad to be home. I sure miss being in Poteau.

Virginia Kidd

Ladies of the Church,

We were surprised and excited to receive one of your handmade prayer shawls. It is beautiful and very cozy warm. Also thank you for all the thoughts and prayers for my husband during this time of illness.

In Christian Love,

Paul and Linda Carter

## Youth and Young Adults

By Pastor Amy Disney

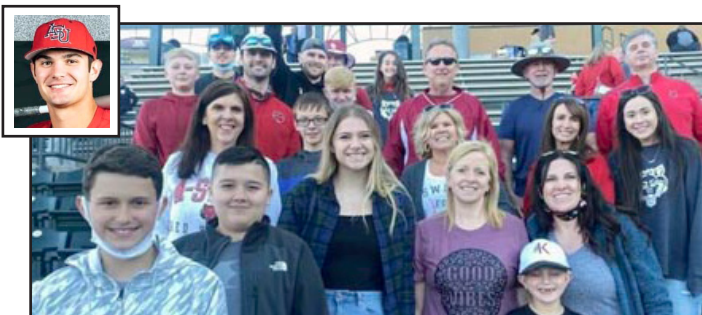


**Youth:** Mark your calendars now for summer mission trip June 14-19th! Be watching our group me for details on parent mission trip meeting, summer schedule and other exciting events we will be participating in.

Summer is almost here so finish strong in school. I believe in you and know you can do it.

See you all Sundays from 5 to 6:30.

**Young Adults:** Our Ben Klutts drew a crowd when Arkansas State Baseball took on the Oklahoma Sooners. We are so proud of all our athletes. Stay tuned, Young Adults, for information regarding a potluck dinner and game night coming soon.



The Ben Klutts Fan Club!

## Special Music for Worship



TRIO: Featuring Sadie Perkin, Alisha Smedley and McKinlee Thomas

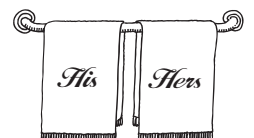
## April Birthdays

- 1 Janell Darneal
- 3 April Remy
- 5 Kendy Jo Traywick and Nathan Clark
- 6 Rece Ward and Haley Clark
- 7 Dana Wheat and Bill Lancaster
- 10 Jaxon Bradshaw and Jace Bandy
- 11 Drew DeCamp
- 11 Landon Perkin
- 12 Rachel Ware
- 13 Chad Bridges and Ted Bandy
- 14 Jean Whigham, AnnaClaire Yandell and Cindy Woolbright
- 15 Brian Shore and Kylanna Hardaway
- 16 Pat Shelton and Myrna Davis
- 18 Ron Cofer, Wayne Neuharth, Lily Shore and Kay Thomas
- 19 Melissa Reyes, Katie Cox and Joshua Mixon
- 20 Brandon Fruen, Jaimie Downing and Dustin Green
- 22 Melissa Ward
- 23 Marilyn Meek
- 24 Khia Brookfield
- 26 Ashley Plumlee
- 27 Katie Redhage and Laurie Bandy
- 29 Kody Whitehead, Dorothy James, Kyle Clark and Ryan Ward



## April Anniversaries

- 5 Michael and Karen Hahn
- 9 Gary and Linda Brown
- 11 Hank and Barbara Harris
- 18 Keith and Patty Wright
- 24 Bruce and Carol Darrow
- 28 Preston and Laney Plumlee
- 29 John and Nikki Perry



**The Upper Room devotionals for March/April can be picked up during morning worship or at the drive through sanctuary entrance on Thursdays from 11 to noon.**