



The Chandler Methodist

First United Methodist Church of Chandler, OK
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Tuesday, November 26, 2013

Vol. 32, No. 47

Special Points of Interest

- Advent Workshop
- UMW Christmas Party
- Kid's Choir
- Taize Service Moved
- Poinsettias

Bishop Robert Hayes, Jr.
Oklahoma UMC Bishop

Rev. Tish Malloy
Stillwater District Superintendent

Rev. Allen Carson Pastor

Shannon Freeman Lay Leader

Larry Freeman Organist

Gwen Aylor Pianist

Donald Ashwood Youth Director

Jerry Nelson Secretary

Tony Sickels Technology

626-1005 Pastor's Cell

258-1440 Church Office

258-2605 Fax number

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122 West 10th

Chandler, OK 74834

Website www.ourfumc.org

+Chancel Choir
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

+Youth Fellowship
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
Sundays 6:30 p.m.

+Children's Choir and P.I.G.G.Y.
Wednesdays 3:30 p.m.

+Early Morning Study Group
Every other Thursday 6:30 a.m.

+Sunday School
Sundays 9:45 a.m.

+Worship and Celebration
Sundays 10:55 a.m.

We exist to be a beacon for God, offering spiritual opportunity and service to those in need.

From The Pastor's Desk *Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam*

I recently came across this parable:
There was a far-away land that was ruled by a vicious king. His iron hand reached into every corner of his subjects' lives. Every corner - except one. Try as he might, he couldn't destroy their faith in God.

In his frustration, he finally summoned his advisors and asked them: "Where can I hide God so the people will end up forgetting about him?"

One suggested hiding God on the dark side of the moon. This idea was debated, but was voted down because the advisors feared that their scientists would one day discover a way to travel into space and God would be discovered again.

Another suggested burying God in the deepest part of the ocean. But there was the same problem with this idea, so it was voted down.

One idea after another was suggested, debated, and rejected. Until finally the oldest and wisest advisor had a flash of insight. "I know," he said, "why don't we hide God where no one will ever even think to look?" And he explained, "If we hide God in the ordinary events of people's everyday lives, they'll never find him!"

And so it was done. And they say people in that

land are still looking for God - even today.
This week officially begins one of the most chaotic, busiest, most stressful times of the year for many people. Thursday is Thanksgiving, and then Back Friday, Shop Local Saturday, Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday... These will be followed by work parties, children's programs, church parties, and family gatherings. These events are sometimes made more difficult not just by the people present, but also by those who are absent. Because Christmas sales, decorations, and music have flooded our senses since before Halloween, by the time December 25th arrives many people will just be glad "it's [Christmas] finally over!" Some will even wonder if Christmas really even happened?!?! In other words, did Christ come at all?

It is into just such circumstances that Christ came that first Christmas 2,000 years ago. In fact, it is into just such times that God has always come. This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent and our new sermon series "Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam." The Adult Sunday School classes will study Rev. James Moore's book by this same title. Each week in worship we will look at a piece of the Christmas story and listen for the ways God entered unexpectedly. My sermon this Sunday "It's Not Too Late" will be based on Luke 1:11-20. I invite you to read the scripture ahead and come with an open heart and mind as we worship together.

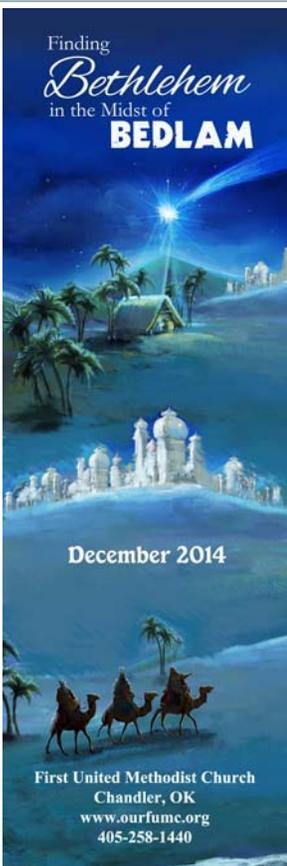
Blessings!
Pastor Allen

UMW News

An invitation to all women. Yes, we will be meeting on Tuesday, December 3 at 6:30 pm. Please join us at Rinda Alsip's home for a potluck supper, fellowship and fun as we share in a game of Dirty Santa Ornament Exchange. This is always fun.

In case of bad weather we will meet at BancFirst.

The **Meals on Wheels** program for Dec. has changed and now includes Thursdays and Fridays once again. I have volunteers for the Dec program as follows: Robin Crouch and Shelly Hailey for Mondays, Dec 2, 9, 16, and 30; Robert and Judy Mascho for Tuesdays, Dec 3, 10, 17, and 31; Noble and Judy Nordahl for Wednesdays, Dec 4, 11, and 18; Ben and Bonnie Walkingstick for Thursdays, Dec 5, 12, 19 and; Marilyn and Ruth Ann Young for Fridays, Dec 6, and 13. Thank you each one for your service in this effort. If for any reason someone has a conflict contact Charles or Virginia Frazier, 258-1279 or 258-6166.



Advent Workshop

**Advent Family Workshop
Sunday December 1st at 5:00 P.M.**

The Advent Workshop is approaching and should offer a great night of fun and fellowship from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. We will have a lot of fun Family activities like Advent candle wreaths, Family picture ornaments, decorating cookies and crafts for the children to make. We look forward to seeing each family there!



Family Ministries

Quo Vadis (Early Morning Study Group)

We will NOT meeting this coming Thursday, however will continue to read our new fictional book, "How far to Bethlehem" by Norah Lofts. Some in our group have read it from years ago, while others, this is the first time. It is a story of how the author visualized characters and events that surrounded Jesus' birth. It is intriguing and thought provoking and brings ideas to conversation and discussion that we might not have normally thought about. If you like to join our group, we meet in the fellowship hall of the church at 6:30am every other Thursday, with our next gathering on December 5th. We have orange juice, sonic breakfasts and diverse conversations. This is a wonderful way to start your day, please come and join us if you can.

Mission Outreach News

Please pray for Aleen who is in Paraguay even as you read this, with Feed the Children. She will be there in the days to come spreading the love of Christ through her service as a nurse. Also be in pray for our pastor and the team he and Lee Denney will be leading in January to Costa Rica. This will be the third mission our church has helped sponsor through those who have gone there. This Costa Rican Methodist church in Belen continues to add to their physical space with Sunday school classrooms and a much needed bathroom. These areas are for adults and children. Thanks to your finances and love for mission, they already have a new fence in front of the church and well on their way for those 3 classrooms.

Also, Your efforts on the Operation Christmas child was wonderful. Those 26 boxes that you or your classroom did was received at the First Baptist Church and will be sent out to parts unknown unless you attached a tracking label. You can go online to see where your box went. Each of those boxes were blessed by you and our church so that those who received them will not only be receiving physical gifts, but the gift of knowing that someone cared enough for them to send it with Jesus' love. Thanks to each and every one of you who helped in any form or fashion with this program of giving.

Peace, Missions Outreach

CHILDRENS SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES



We studied II Kings 22 and learned that King Josiah was 8 years old (our age!!) when he became king. After learning of his devoted love and care for God and his children, we filled our



Christmas Child boxes and blessed them with our prayers.

Thank you so much for your donations for the Thanksgiving families.

The Angel Tree is up in the sanctuary with items for our Christmas families. Please take an angel or two and bring the items back to the church by Sunday December 15th. Items may be wrapped but please attach the tag to the gift. Thanks for all your help in making this Christmas special for this family!!

Stacey Mauch

The Me I Want To Be Class

We read and discussed chapter 7, "Let Your Desires Lead You to God". This chapter let us know that desires, in and of themselves are not bad, it's how we focus those desires. God gave us desires for a reason, so that our lives might be full of joy. During this week of Thanksgiving we have alot to be full of Thanks for. Some might wish to wallow in their sorrow or doom. A Hee-Haw song comes to mind, ...gloom, despair, agony on me..."..."if it weren't for bad luck, I'd have no luck at all..." Some might not wish to find and feed ourselves with the good-

ness that God brings or blesses u with. God wants us to enjoy what He has created and as Ortberg puts it..."his heart is pleased." Some may think we have to avoid desires because it would make us more spiritual, but Ortberg reminds that us that we wouldn't be human then either. As he put it, "*a slab of cement doesn't have to worry about weeds--but it will never be a garden*". Our desire should be to find ways, things we are passionate about, things we care about and allow God to work through us so that we will become closer to Him. This is not be-

cause we should, but because we want to. Let this week, as we come closer to Advent, see perhaps new avenues, new ways or paths, that lead us down the road to a more meaningful relationship with Jesus the Christ.

Don't forget..meet in the women's classroom for our first Advent study in our new book "Finding Bethlehem in the midst of Bedlam." There are only two books left for anyone who might need one.

Blessings, Richard

A BRIEF HISTORY OF 'TAIZE'

(pronounced Tah - Zay)

In 1949, in the Burgundy region of France in the community of Taize', Brother Roger dreamed of a way to heal and unite people after the devastation of World War II. He began by having services in his small home.

Young people throughout Europe were attracted to the simple beauty of the candlelit services of music, meditation and silence. Since that time the tradition has grown to include thousands of people of all ages, ethnicities and languages throughout the world.

The Taize' services, scheduled each Sunday at 5:00 p. m. during Advent beginning December 1st has been changed from the Sanctuary to the Conference Room. The Conference Room can be accessed through the east garden door or the Fellowship Hall. As we prepare our hearts for a spiritual Journey to Christmas you are invited to step back for a few moments from what can become a season too busy with shallow entanglements and meet together for a time of quiet reflection.

Prepare for the Journey!



STRENGTH IN SHARING

This week we join the Adult Sunday School Classes for the Advent Season to read and discuss the book, "Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam" written by James W. Moore. If you need a book, please contact Richard Covington.



An excerpt from the author: Christmas or confusion, Bethlehem or bedlam---which will you choose this year? The truth is, we don't have to choose, because Christmas always happens right in the midst of confusion. God breaks into the confusion and is made known in Jesus Christ. Christmas and confusion---weren't they intimately related at the first Christmas when Jesus was born? Sometimes we forget that. But that is what this study is about--how Christ breaks into our confusion and brings Christmas, how Bethlehem always happens in the midst of bedlam.

Please read Chapter 1 "Bethlehem or Bedlam" plus the scripture Luke 2:18-14. It will be nice to gather together to being our Advent Season.

Sunday, December 8th at 6:00 p.m. we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a Christmas Pot Luck and a gift exchange. We are needing two to three couples to volunteer to set up for our dinner and provide the drinks and paper goods.

If you want to participate in the "Dirty Santa" gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift---we have had lots of different gifts in the past!

All adults who attend a class or teach a class or invited to attend. If you would like to be one of the hosts for the party, please contact me. Thanks.

See you on Sunday! Shannon

Joys & Concerns

- **JOY:** Rinda reports the blessing of serving Thanksgiving dinner for Park Road and East Side this week
- **JOY:** Carson Cravens was born Sat. to bless the Cravens family
- **JOY:** Jerry Kashwer is healing well from heart surgery
- **Pray for Aleen Ball** leaving Thursday for Paraguay Mission trip
- **Pray for travel safety** for the Thanksgiving holiday weekend
- **Pray for Cindy Ashwood**—fall with broken ribs
- **Pray for Drake Irby**—knee growth plate problems
- **Joseph Irby** asks for prayer for his sister, Paula
- **Pray for Dave Peden's father** back at home; **Dave & Belva** will be travelling Thursday to visit
- **Continue praying** for the local Food Bank Ministry, this week 75 households (249 people) were served
- **Pray for Wayne Prater**—rehab at Jim Thorpe, struggling
- **Pray for Shirley Nichols** diagnosed with Alzheimer's
- **Pray for the UMW and their Backpack Ministry**—they currently serve over 80 kids between Park Road and East Side, in addition to the food pantry at the High School
- **Remember Vianne Waite** in Chandler Nursing Center
- **Pray for those affected** by the recent typhoon in the Pacific
- **Remember our military families,** those abroad and those at home

TITHES & OFFERINGS

November 24, 2013

Sunday School: \$39.00

Worship: \$1,864.00

Op. Christmas Child: \$64.00

Thanksgiving Family: \$105.00

KIDS CHOIR NOTES

The children's choir will be performing their Christmas musical, For the Glory of the King on Sunday, December 15 at 6:00pm.

ALL the children in our church who would like to be a part of the program are invited to come to our practice on Sunday, December 8 at 6:00pm. They are also invited to practice on December 4 and December 11 from 4:00-5:00pm.

If you have any questions, please call me at 405-596-7120.

Thank you!
Shelley Haley

*A Prayer of
Thanksgiving*

Shout with joy before the Lord, O earth! Obey him gladly; come before him, singing with joy.

Try to realize what this means—the Lord is God! He made us—we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Go through his open gates with great thanksgiving; enter his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name. For the Lord is always good. He is always loving and kind, and his faithfulness goes on and on to each succeeding generation.

~Psalm 100

UMM News!

This coming Saturday will be our last D.O.G. event of the year. We have given away again over 1000 hot dogs again this year as well as countless waters, chips and cookies. Because of your efforts and finances, we have fed many adults and children of all ages. The love of Christ goes beyond that though, because of your handshakes, smiles and touches of God's spirit that brings life to the physical food they received. We will be helping a family or families this year during the holidays. Danny is working on our finances to let us know how much we have to give. We may even need to consider giving some funds towards an UMCOR campaign with all the destruction in the Philippines and other areas in the US due to tornadoes. Our next fellowship is December 11th, so be thinking or let me know before then your thoughts. Blessings to you all and many Thanks from a grateful member for all each of you does in body and in spirit.

Your
brother,
Richard



Nursery Schedule

December 1:	Stacey Mauch
December 8:	Katharine Carson
December 15:	Robin Crouch
December 22:	Katrina Herndon
December 29:	Lori Vaughan

We are on the WEB!

www.ourfumc.org

First United Methodist Church
122 West 10th
Chandler, OK 74834

Poinsettias!

Christmas is just a few weeks away! If you would like to purchase a Poinsettias for the Sanctuary you may do so by calling the church Office, 405-258-1440. We need to know if it is in memory or in honor of a loved one that you want to remember. The cost will be no more than \$10.00. The list of those that participated will be listed in the Christmas Eve Program. You may pick your flower up December 24th after the Service.

Thanks, Pastor Allen



THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, November 27

3:30 p.m. Children's Choir
6:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

THURSDAY, November 28

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Early Morning Study Cancelled

FRIDAY, November 29

Church Office Closed

SATURDAY, November 30

9:00 a.m. Food Pantry

SUNDAY, December 1

9:00 a.m. Agra UMC Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:55 a.m. Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Advent Workshop (Fellowship Hall)
6:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship

MONDAY, December 2

Newsletter Articles Due by Noon

6:00 p.m. Worship Committee (Conf. Room)

TUESDAY, December 3

6:30 p.m. UMW Christmas Party (Alsip Home)

WEDNESDAY, December 4

3:30 p.m. Children's Choir
6:00 p.m. Education Committee (Conf. Room)
6:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship

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