

First Methodist Church of Sapulpa
1401 E. Taft
Sapulpa, OK 74066
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December 2023

Sharing the Good News



It has been a joy to be able to share the Good News with you these past few Sundays. Laurie and I are grateful to be among you for a time—the church has so much to give to all who come.

I have focused the Sunday message on Philippians, primarily because I love the passages, but also because I believe the content dove-tails with the church today in the modern world. The way Paul and the Philippians Church collaborated to advance the Gospel is a model for our time. It's a textbook story of mutual ministry and love.

Starting in December, I will turn to selected passages in Luke. Together, we will study the amazing, almost incredible account of the birth of the Savior. One verse to consider: "Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem (Luke 9:51). This verse sets the scene for all that happened to Jesus in his journey and all we know now as the followers of Jesus.

The peace of Christ to all! Bill

Choir Christmas Presentation—First Sunday of Advent

As we enter this most special time of the year and begin to prepare our hearts for Christmas, the Sanctuary Choir and special guest musicians will be presenting a program of beautiful Advent music in the morning service on Sunday, Dec. 3rd. We will be presenting a collection of beautiful songs with powerful texts about the beauty, the mystery, and the meaning of Advent so that we all may begin this Advent season reflecting on the amazing gift that is to come.

Celebration of the Greens—Second Sunday of Advent

The Celebration of the Greens is a unique worship service that centers around the Advent symbols in our sanctuary, such as the Chrismon tree, manger scene, and sanctuary greens. This service is a beautiful way to celebrate the Advent season, and it presents a great chance to invite and bring friends along for the occasion.

Kids/Youth Sunday—Third Sunday of Advent

Join us this Sunday for a memorable morning worship where we will highlight and celebrate the children and youth of our Church by including them in our service. Take advantage of this opportunity to show our young ones how much we value and appreciate them.

Lessons and Carols—Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Lessons and Carols service tells the Christmas story from prophecy to fulfillment. It is a beautiful way to celebrate the season and perfect opportunity to invite friends.

Christmas Eve Communion Service

On Christmas Eve, at 5:30 p.m., we will be hosting a communion and candle-lighting service to celebrate the birth of Christ. This beautiful service will include hymns, scriptures, special music, and a candle lighting ceremony. Communion will also be provided to all attendees. For those unable to attend in person, we plan to post the service recording on YouTube by 9:00 p.m. We hope that everyone can join us to celebrate this special occasion.

Morning Messages

Dec. 3—*Finding Oneself Well*, Luke 7:1-10

Dec. 10—*The Storm Passes*, Luke 8:22-25

Dec. 17—*What Are You Waiting For?*, Luke 2:25-35

Dec. 24—*Special Speaker*

Dec. 31—*"Picturing a Better World"*, Revelation 21:1-6

Office: 918-224-3006

Web: www.sapulpafumc.org

Events and Opportunities



Advent Walk: Stations were placed around the church for a self-guided meditation walk over the story of Jesus's birth. Dec. 3rd to Dec. 31st.

SHS Blue Blaze Marvels presents Handle's Messiah:

Our church is pleased to invite you to the annual presentation of Handel's Messiah, which the Sapulpa High School Choir will perform. This special event will feature soloists from the high school choir and alums. The performance is open to the entire community and will take place on Tuesday, December 12th, at 7:30 p.m. We hope you can join us for an unforgettable evening of music and celebration.



Cookies for Messiah: Please bring cookies for the SHS Messiah performance on or before December 11th. The students and attendees eagerly anticipate this event and look forward to the following reception. Your contribution would make a massive difference in making it a memorable experience for everyone.

Christmas Dinner: Enjoy a delicious Christmas ham with various favorite sides and desserts. After dinner, we will have Christmas games and other fun events. December 13 at 5:30 p.m.



Ugly Sweater Day: December 15 is National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day! Wear your ugly sweater and share a picture of you on our Facebook post!

Christmas VBS: Kids learn about the birth of Jesus in this very special two-day Christmas VBS: December 18th and 19th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Ornaments: The church is offering Christmas ornaments to be sold in memory or honor of someone special. These handcrafted ornaments are priced at \$15 per piece. The ornaments will adorn our church until Christmas Eve, after which you can take them home and display them on your tree. As there are only 50 ornaments available, we encourage you to place your order quickly to avoid disappointment.



Christ in the Manger: You will receive a letter containing an envelope to return to the church or put in the offering plate. The church will conduct a special offering on Christmas Eve, and the funds collected will be dedicated to missions supported by the church.



Partridge in the Prayer Tree: During this Advent season, take a moment to share your prayers with us. The prayer tree, located in the narthex, is waiting to receive your requests. Don't hesitate to drop off or pick up a prayer and join us in spreading hope and love this holiday season.

Advent Pamphlet: Looking for some spiritual guidance during the Advent season? You'll find a pamphlet filled with beautiful prayers and meaningful scripture waiting for you in the Narthex. Don't miss out on this opportunity to deepen your faith and connect with the true spirit of the season!



Christmas Card Exchange: There is a box in the narthex to place cards you wish to give to your church friends. Be sure to check your section each Sunday!

December BIRTHDAYS



- 07 Hannah Jennings, Philis O'Shaughnessy
- 09 Barbara Collins
- 11 Billy Wideman
- 13 Karen Linnington
- 15 Jennifer Johnson
- 16 Emily Linfoot
- 16 Jamie Harp, Pat Graham
- 17 Judy Fields
- 18 Sarah Jones, Ted Evans
- 20 Karen Engleman
- 23 Shannan Davis
- 26 Natalie Wideman
- 28 Jack Prine
- 30 Rusty Helms

Prayer REQUESTS



- Middle East
- Ukraine
- Homeless youth in the community
- Diane Gloden (health)
- Schneider Family (calmness/discernment for a home)
- Ken Henderson (health)
- Taysen Tuttle (RSV)
- Stanly Garvin (Infection)
- Tonya (Woolery Friend—Burnt in an accident)
- Ken Daily (friend of Vicky St. Clair—Health)
- Sarah Mouser (recovery from C-Section)
- Hunter Eugene Mouser (in NICU @ Hillcrest)
- Carolyn Nicholson's sister (stomach cancer)

Please inform us of prayer requests:
 Phone: (918) 224-3006
 Email: admin@sapulpafumc.org

Methodist Men

Methodist Men's monthly meeting will be on Thursday, November 2nd, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Ken Henderson will provide lunch. All men are welcome to join us for fellowship, lunch, and devotion.

Wednesday Dinner

December 6

Potato Bar & Dessert

December 13

Christmas Dinner Party!!!!

Dinner will resume in January.

Backpack Program News!



Our coat drive for the students at Allen Bowden is going great!!! Thank you for all who have donated coats, hats, gloves, scarves, hoodies, and made financial donations for the middle schooler's hoodies!!!!

We will continue our coat drive until Sunday, December 10th. Just a reminder we collect coats of all sizes that are new or gently used. The sizes and colors most needed are youth sizes small and medium in gender neutral colors. We do have a resource that will be donating hats and gloves but extras are always welcome! Money or checks for the hoodies can be placed in the offering plate or give to Laurie Kirk. Please mark clearly "hoodies".

Lastly, if you would like to meet me at church at 10:00 AM on December 11, we will sort the coats and deliver to the school. What a blessing it will be for the giver and receiver!!! God bless you and keep you always. Merry Christmas!

Laurie Kirk

Mission Update

Thanks to your continuing support of our church's Missions programs and the Blessing Box, we were able to provide Thanksgiving meals to 12 families in the Sapulpa area! Thank you to those who volunteered to help assemble and deliver those meals! We look forward to doing the same during the Christmas season. If you would like to help, please let us know!

May God fill you with His peace and joy as we celebrate the birth of His son, Jesus, this Christmas!

For The Record

Participation in Worship

11/05 Service: 115 Online: 22
 11/12 Service: 101 Online: 49
 11/19 Service: 105 Online: 11
 11/26 Service: 95 Online: n/a

Christ in the Manger special offering will be taken up to Christmas Eve.

October Financial Update

Income:

Unrestricted: \$ 40,616.92
 Revenues: \$ 343.82
 Restricted: \$ 34,645.00
Total Income: \$ 75,605.74
Expense: \$ 27,786.03
Net Income \$47,819.71
Fund Balance (\$33,626.88)

Wings

The rummage sale is over and yet I have started a "collection box" for next rummage sale!! Have you?

This has been a stressful time in our Women's Groups. But we are strong and we go forward and we love and appreciate and support each other. There is so much opportunity for all women to grow and to become part of a very giving group. Besides our 2 rummage sales and our June luncheon, we meet regularly on the first Thursday of the month and the second Thursday of the month. Our *Women IN Gods Service (WINGS)* group supports so many things in our church and in our community. Please think about joining us for fellowship and kinship.

December is such a wonderful month of sharing. From decorating the Narthex and Sanctuary, to the Angel Tree, to the Card box, and the Messiah. There is so much going on to participate in and get to know your church members. Christmas Eve service is always a wonderful evening to rejoice and just feel the comfort of Christ and your church family. And the MUSIC!!!! We are so thankful for Jim, Terry, Leslie and our choir. I just love the blended music of the Contemporary and Praise teams!!

Have a wonderful and Blessed Christmas and let's give our church a wonderful 2024!

Upcoming Events:

December 14	Esther & Joy Circles	Parlor	9:30 AM
	Christmas Auction		
January 6	Unit meeting	Fellowship Hall	Time to TBA

Ministry Team

Rev. Bill Clark (Interim Pastor)	
Trish Prine (Office Administrator)	admin@sapulpafumc.org
Nancy Green (Financial Administrator)	finance@sapulpafumc.org
Sheri Osborne (Family/Children Dir.)	kids@sapulpafumc.org
Gina Blansett (Nursery Director)	gina.blansett@gmail.com
Cabe Killingsworth (Youth Director)	youth@sapulpafumc.org
Jim Gregory (Organist/Director of Music)	jim@sapulpafumc.org
Terri Wadley (Music Associate)	dtlwadley1975@gmail.com
Leslie Schmidt (Praise Team Director)	leslieschmidt@yahoo.com
Sarah Jones (A/V Director)	sjones@sapulpafumc.org



Hey Everyone!

One of my favorite parts of the Christmas season is the lights. The bright colors and fun designs create a warm glow that cuts through the cold and dark winter nights. In Matthew 5:16, Jesus commissions us to be a light in the darkness. "Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify *your* Father in heaven." You have a heavenly Father who knows, sees, and loves you. He knows your joys and your pain. He has great plans for you, a unique purpose designed just for you, and He wants you to know how cherished you are. There is so much darkness and hopelessness surrounding us today. Shine your light. Point to our heavenly Father and share His love with those around you.

Merry Christmas!
Ms. Sheri

Coming up in December:

Power Up

Sunday, December 3, 12-2 pm

Power Up

Sunday, December 10, 12-2 pm

Children's Christmas Celebration

December 17 - worship service

Christmas VBS

Monday, December 18 &

Tuesday, December 19, 9-4 pm

to sign up or volunteer, contact Ms. Sheri

Our Flock Rocks!



Hey Sapulpa FMC!

Here's a quick look into what the Youth having going on for the month of December...

Wednesday Nights: We'll continue to have church dinners and Youth bible study from 5:30-7:00pm. We'll have a 2 week break for Christmas and the New Year at the end of the month.

Sunday Mornings: Join us in the upstairs Youth classrooms for bible study, games, and fellowship!

Events: We have a couple of fun things on the calendar this month. Sign up to volunteer for VBS through Mrs. Sheri or Cabe. VBS will be the 18th and 19th!

Shoulder2Shoulder is putting on a Sapulpa street missions week the 27th-30th. We will be spending the night at our church and going out on the streets of Sapulpa to serve and evangelize. Check out more information through Cabe, Facebook, S2S website, or use the QR code provided.



I hope everyone has a joyful and safe Advent season!

God bless,
Youth Director Cabe Killingsworth

