

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

Crossbeams



January 2024

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH



During the month of January, I intend to communicate four of the basic (and critical) elements of living as a committed Christian. The Truths of Colossians are tested and timeless. I hope they will get us off to a good and sound new year.

Laurie and I are very much enjoying our time (however long it will be) with all of you. It's evident to me that this is a loving, caring community of Christians. I appreciate your kindness toward us, and we very much enjoy your company!

A New Year will soon dawn. I pray this will be a pivoted and productive year for the church. You have been through a lot of change in the year gone by. I trust that all you have done and the decisions you have made will bring others into this family of Christ.

God's peace and a happy new year to all!

Rev. Bill Clark

According to Wikipedia, "Methodism is a group of historically related denominations of Protestant Christianity whose origins, doctrine and practice derive from the life and teachings of John Wesley. They were called Methodists for the "methodical way in which they carried out their Christian faith." Scripture is considered a primary authority. Methodism is known for its rich musical tradition. In addition to evangelism, Methodism emphasizes charity and support for the sick, the poor, and the afflicted through works of mercy." These are all things that I have known our church to subscribe to and practice throughout our community.

All of these, and more, were considered when our Transition Team and Church Council reviewed the various denominations with which we might want to re-affiliate. From the research conducted, it is evident that the Global Methodist Church, although a new denomination, came closest to our congregation's beliefs and overall practices. The GMC promises transparency, openness, and adherence to the teachings in the Bible, qualities we found lacking in our previous affiliation. They have structured their organization so that they will have low overhead (meaning low apportionments), thereby allowing local churches to concentrate on local mission projects, outreach, and evangelism, along with adherence to the teachings of the Bible. They have built-in accountability in their Transitional Book of Discipline for clergy and churches and will hold each group responsible for their actions.

On January 14th, we will have an opportunity to hear more about the GMC and ask questions of the Rev. Dr. Ray Crawford, who is the current pastor at Claremore GMC and the presiding Elder of the GMC for our geographical area. Please join me at **1:00** after our church service for a church conference and potential professing member vote on the direction of our church. Sandwiches and potato chips will be available after Sunday service for those who want to stay in the building.

- Steve Collins, Chair - Church Council

Morning Messages

January 7th — *The Supremacy of Christ (Colossians 1:15 ff)*
January 14th — *The Freedom of the Christian (Colossians 2:6 ff)*
January 21st — *The Christian Life, Part 1 (Colossians 3:12 ff)*
January 28th — *The Christian Life, Part 2*

Office: 918-224-3006

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Epiphany Prayer Guide



According to the Bible, the Wise Men followed a star to Bethlehem to worship the newborn king and bring him gifts. They then returned to their own country to bring the light of Christ to a world living in darkness. We pray that this Epiphany to trust in God for generous wisdom, straight paths, and peaceful hearts, all for His glory.

A prayer guide will be available **on January 7th** to guide our church in daily prayer for the leaders, administrative, and ministry groups. We invite everyone to pick up one of these guides and join together as we pray for the ministry of this church in 2024.

January BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Audry Johnson, Heather Graham
- 02 Ginger Spencer
- 08 Marian Frazier
- 09 Dave Robertson
- 11 Ethel Davis, Jet Rider, Scott Neal
- 19 Virginia Helton
- 21 Joyce Justice
- 23 Elnora Bowen, Rick Watson, Weston Bock
- 24 Austin Pardinas
- 26 Gary Lake, Jim Gregory
- 27 Ellyana Petersen, Sue Skinner, Trish Prine
- 28 Mary Hollis
- 29 John Robert McCormick
- 30 Christy Cole, Leslie Schmidt, Randy Mullins

Altar Flower Update

One of our kind church members has generously offered to cover a significant portion of the cost of altar flowers. As a result, the price of altar flowers has been reduced to \$25.00 per arrangement.

Moving forward, Cheryl Cox will be in charge of creating the Altar Flowers. Cheryl is a certified florist who has completed Fresh Flower Design I, II, and III. She has previously worked for Burnett's Flowers and Design and has gained extensive experience creating flower arrangements. Whether painting or silk flower arrangements, Cheryl enjoys designing and creating them. She has already started building seasonal silk flower arrangements for the church and is excited to produce fresh flower arrangements for our church family.

BACKPACK MINISTRY



Backpack Ministry News! The Coat Drive was a huge success, and Allen Bowden Public School appreciated our efforts! We supplied them with over 50 warm coats, 100 hoodies for the middle schoolers, numerous hats, gloves and scarves, and socks. The students took home two backpack bags of food on the Friday school was out. Our church supports the students, and I am grateful for your generosity!!! A special thank you to our church members, Senior Life Services, and WINGS. I'm incredibly thankful to God, who provides it all. God bless you in the New Year as we look forward to all He has in store for this ministry, our church, and its people. Laurie Kirk



Prayer REQUESTS

- Middle East
- Ukraine
- Homeless youth in the community
- Schneider Family (calmness/discernment for a home)
- Ken Henderson (health)
- April White (health)
- Taylor Family (Ivan, Lauren, and Nephew Travis in hospital)

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



It was a special time with some of the residents of Lynx Crossing. Jennye, Janet, Vicki, and Laurie took 30 cozy wraps made with love by the ladies from the Cafe Chocolat Retreat, held in September. Each wrap had a special card with a handwritten message in the pocket to bless each recipient. Thank you to all the ladies who worked so hard at the retreat to provide the residents with these gifts.



Wednesday Dinner

January 10

Ham & Beans, Cornbread, Dessert

January 17

Chicken & Noodle, Veggies, Dessert

January 24

BBQ Porkchops, Veggies, Dessert

January 31

Chicken Cacciatore w/Angel Hair Pasta, Salad, Dessert

Methodist Men

We want to invite all the men to join us for our monthly Methodist Men's group meeting. The meeting will commence at noon on Thursday, January 4th, in the Fellowship Hall. The Methodist Men meeting is an excellent opportunity for all the men to come together, enjoy fellowship, and participate in a devotion session. Ken Henderson has generously offered to provide us with lunch. All men are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you there!



Happy New Year!

It is easy to get caught up in the excitement of something new. New opportunities, new traditions, new friendships, new places...the list can go on and on. But sometimes "new" things bring challenges, frustrations, and fears. No matter what your "new" thing is this year, remember that God promises to guide, protect, and provide for you. Isaiah 43:19 says, " See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." I don't know what is in store for this year, but I know that God's plan is perfect, and I trust in Him. You are loved.

Ms. Sheri

For The Record

Participation in Worship

12/03 Service: 138 Online: 45
 12/10 Service: 90 Online: 06
 12/17 Service: 148 Online: 17
 12/24 Service: 103 Online: n/a

Christmas Eve Service: 100

October Financial Update

Income:

Unrestricted: \$ 34, 709.14
 Revenues: \$ 443.54
 Restricted: \$ 75.00

Total Income: \$ 35,227.68

Expense: \$ 21,809.25

Net Income \$ 13,418.33

Fund Balance (\$20,060.55)



Happy New Year! Let's all have a wonderful 2024!

Our church is starting a new season, and we are excited about it!

WINGS are ready for all the challenges we face. Electing new officers, rummage sales, June luncheon, collecting school supplies, and anything else God lays on our hearts.

On a rainy day in Boston a century and a half ago, eight women gathered at Tremont Street Church in Boston to form the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the then-Methodist Episcopal Church. Though they were small, they were determined. The following week, they more than tripled their number, and years later, they sent out more than 1,500 missionaries to work on four continents and in 17 nations. We are a force to reconed with!

Please join us for a Circle meeting or the Unit meeting to meet strong women in the church!

Upcoming Events

January 3	Executive Meeting	Library	3:30 PM
January 4	Joy Circle	Parlor	6:00 PM
January 6	Unit meeting	Fellowship Hall	10:30 AM
January 11	Esther Circle	Parlor	9:30 AM



Greetings all!

Happy New Year!

I hope you had an amazing Christmas break filled with joy and happiness.

Wednesday Evening: Join us on Wednesday nights from 5:30-7:00 pm for a fantastic time! We've got delicious food, exciting games, and a thought-provoking bible study that will inspire and uplift you. Don't miss the fun - we can't wait to see you there!

Sunday Mornings: Come and join us at 9:30 am for Bible study, games, and fellowship in the upstairs Youth classrooms!

Cabe Killingsworth, Youth Director

2023 Year in Pictures



AB Pumpkin Patch/Party



Youth Ski Trip—Winter Park



UWF/WINGS Tour of local programs



Back to School Bash



Community Easter Egg Hunt



Dinner for Football Team



Trunk or Treat



AB Easter Egg Hunt/Party



Youth/Kids Back-to-school party

VBS ROAR



Community Outreach with S2S



Our Flock Rocks!



Aloha Luncheon with AB Teachers