



photo by Louis Keeling

THE SPIRE

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
132ND YEAR
OF MINISTRY

February 2018
Newsletter
for the
First United
Methodist Church
in Pratt, KS

EVERY MEMBER IN MINISTRY

Live confidently with uncertainty



Uncertainty. I don't like it. I don't know many who do. But the truth is, we never know what each day, each hour, or each minute will bring. So we can live our lives in fear of uncertainty, or we can live our lives confidently in the certainty of God's love.

Some uncertainties are just part of life. In the life of the United Methodist Church, we are in the appointment season. This is the time of the year that District Superintendents and the Bishop look at the needs of the churches and the pastors of our Conference and consider what moves need to be made. At this time of the year, many of us pastors are anxious about phone calls. Some don't want to move, and are afraid to answer the phone for fear that it might be a district superintendent calling about a move. Some want to move and are afraid the phone won't ring. The uncertainty of life can put us in that proverbial category of not knowing whether we are coming or going. I'm sure you have your own uncertainties in life.

Many of the uncertainties in life are thrust upon us without any warning. Life changing news is only a phone call away. Life changing events can happen in split seconds. Which is why our relationship with God is of utmost importance in our lives.

Romans 8 helps me to live confidently in the certainty of God's love. It tells me that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Nothing. It also tells me that all things work together for good for those who love God. All things.

Nothing can separate us from God's love. All things work together for good for those who love God. In a world of uncertainty, we can be certain about God's love. And while that doesn't mean we won't experience pain and sorrow, it does mean that we don't have to be afraid. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. God's love for us and our love for God makes our future certain so we can live confidently today.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Marvin

YOUTH NEWS

February 2018

Sub Sandwiches

Don't forget to pick up your sandwich on Sunday, February 4th! We really appreciate your generous support of the youth!

Middle School Only:

Middle School Painting Night - January 31st

Come discover your inner artist and have some fun as Clay Wilson leads us through painting a canvas! No experience necessary! You will be amazed what you can create! Look for our paintings to be displayed around the church later this month!



Starting in February - "Said No Friend Ever"

Perhaps no other voices are as loud in a young person's life as those of their friends. In "Said No Friend Ever," youth will learn the importance of quality, God-focused friends.

High School Only:

February Series: Supernatural

We will talk about spiritual warfare and how we might experience attacks in our physical world. We'll help students realize that we know the outcome of this spiritual battle, and God's side wins! We'll answer questions that students ask about supernatural world to provide clarity and truth on the subject matter.



Spreading the JAM....



A Shout out to all our volunteers. We pulled together had a great time at the snack supper when we served Italian casseroles. After dinner we were a bit rowdy and sang our Fruit of the Spirit song very loudly... (sorry bible study) and played with the Oobleck. . The Oobleck feels solid enough to form a ball, but turns to mush when you open your hand. The lesson was about God's faithfulness. He never gives up on us, He never leaves us as mush.

Some of our Jam students are working on sermon notes each Sunday. A preprinted sheet with questions about the sermon and worship service is prepared and they fill it out and place it in the JAM box in the fellowship hall. Each Wednesday we look at the papers and give those that filled them out something from the treasure chest.

Next up will be the season of Lent. Don't forget there will be a Service of the Ashes that night.

Blessings, Sherri



CALLING....

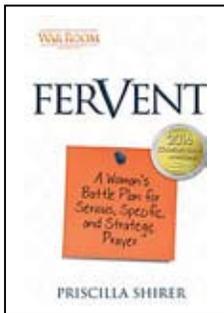
**Singles, Couples, Anyone
who is interested in taking an
adventure this fall into...**

Dig deeply into this letter from Paul to the Philippians and explore with Louise Reimer the truths about JOY! Bring your Bibles. No study guide is required.



Wednesdays
at 6:00 p.m.
Seekers Classroom
(Basement)

STUDY GROUPS FOR WOMEN



If you have an enemy . . . and he's dead set on destroying all you hold dear and keeping you from experiencing abundant life in Christ. What's more, his approach to disrupting your life and discrediting your faith is specific. Personalized. Targeted.

Contact Peggy Ellison 770-0469 to reserve a book.
We will meet in The Heritage Room.



In a world of uncertainty, pain, and struggle, where do you find solid assurance and unshakeable truth? The Shelter of God's Promises by Sheila Walsh is a video series with book available for those wanting a deeper study. Join us as we search Scripture for what God has promised us and how those promises provide the foundation for daily confidence, joy, and hope.

Contact Peggy Ellison 770-0469 if you prefer a book.

Men of Faith

February 3 at 7:00 a.m.

in Fellowship Hall

Breakfast, Devotions, Discussion, and Fellowship



United Methodist Women

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting Life.

February is the month of hearts and flowers, cards and candies. Which we all do for our loved ones. But who are we supposed to love? A small circle of family and friends? A larger circle that includes our church and school family? Perhaps the largest circle of all. God's world, people of needs, people who are different than ourselves. Let us take Valentine's month to express our love to a larger circle, just as God loves. Not just in February, but every month of the year!

John 14:34 A new Commandment I give unto you. That ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

Upcoming Events:

February 14, 2018 Ash Wednesday

March 6, 2018 Mother/ Daughter banquet

Betty Eubank
UMW President



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Great Plains Conference VIM



The Great Plains Conference VIM team started 2018 with another great January project in Dulac, Louisiana. While Kansas was cold, so was Louisiana. One night it got down to 16 degrees. They are not prepared for temperatures this low, thus fixing broken water pipes was

a high priority for the men. The women spent their time cleaning and organizing the thrift store. February 11-22 and March 11-22 the VIM team will do Hurricane Harvey relief work in the Rockport/Port Aransas area. If you were unable to participate in the church mission team in December and still want to help families rebuild after the hurricane, contact us about participating in one of the conference teams.

Serving Him,
Chuck and Linda Buchmueller
clbuch@sbcglobal.net
620-770-0410 (Chuck cell)



Texas Mission Trip



The First United Methodist Church Mission Trip to Sinton, Texas was very rewarding. With 22 team members, we were divided into two teams. The “roofing team” traveled about 20 miles northeast to Woodsboro and worked on Wendy’s roof. A tree had fallen on the house during the storm and caused major damage that needed to be repaired before roofing could begin. By the end of the 4 work days, the entire roof was fixed and new shingles were in place. The “drywall team” traveled about 30 miles southeast to Rockport and worked on Loyce’s home. A tree had fallen on an addition to the main part of her house.

Her family was able to start reconstruction by having the general framing done, but were unable to complete it. By the end of the 4 work days, the ceiling and walls were insulated and all but the attaching wall was sheet rocked. The siding and trim work was completed and it was ready to be painted. At both work sites, the neighbors to our assigned homes also received some assistance from our thoughtful youth.

The youth who participated were Andrew VanSlyke, Mark Schmidt, Jace Riggs, Kyle Hampton, Adison Hampton, Elly Fowler & Jenna Fitzsimmons. The college age volunteers were Emma Fowler, Kendall Davidson, Garrett Bell & Austin Black. The adults were Chad VanSlyke, Max & Carrie Vahsholtz, Dave Schmidt, Dean & Jerree Fitzsimmons, Pastor Marvin & Sherri Ewertt, Jeremy Demuth and Chuck & Linda Buchmueller. We all want to say “THANK YOU” to our congregation for all of your prayers and support!



VIM Project Calendar 2018

Contact Team Leaders for more information. All skill levels needed. Cost: \$150 solo/\$300 couple

- LOUISIANA, DuLac**..... **January 14-25, 2018**
Team Leaders: Bill & Janet Ward RV/nonRV
(H) 620.221.2973/ (C) 620.229.1393 / wgward@ispkansas.com
- TEXAS, Port Aransas and Rockport** **February 11-23, 2018**
Team Leaders: Chuck & Linda Buchmueller RV/nonRV
Chuck: (C) 620.770.0410 Linda: (C) 620.770.0411 / clbuch@sbcglobal.net
- TEXAS, Port Aransas and Rockport** **March 11-23, 2018**
Team Leaders: Chuck & Linda Buchmueller RV/nonRV
Chuck: (C) 620.770.0410 Linda: (C) 620.770.0411 / clbuch@sbcglobal.net
- KANSAS, Arkansas City, Camp Horizon**..... **April 8-13, 2018**
Team Leaders: Bill & Janet Ward RV/nonRV
(H) 620.221.2973/ (C) 620.229.1393 / wgward@ispkansas.com
- NEBRASKA, Chadron, Camp Norwesca** **April 29-May 4, 2018**
Team Leader: Bob Moore nonRV only
712.789.1084 / bobmo509@netins.net
- NEBRASKA, Cozad, Camp Comeca** **May 5-11, 2018**
Team Leaders: Rick and Annette Holbrook nonRV only
Rick: 316-765-4363 / imreholbrook8@gmail.com Annette: 316-648-4083 / imaholbrook8@gmail.com
- KANSAS, Newton, Youthville**..... **June 3-8, 2018**
Team Leaders: Rick and Annette Holbrook nonRV only
Rick: 316-765-4363 / imreholbrook8@gmail.com Annette: 316-648-4083 / imaholbrook8@gmail.com
- COLORADO, Bellvue, Buckhorn Camp** **July 8-20, 2018**
Team Leaders: Bill & Janet Ward RV/nonRV
(H) 620.221.2973/ (C) 620.229.1393 / wgward@ispkansas.com
- KANSAS, Perry, Alpha Christian Children's Home**..... **August 12-17, 2018**
Team #1 Leaders: Rick and Annette Holbrook nonRV only
Rick: 316-765-4363 / imreholbrook8@gmail.com Annette: 316-648-4083 / imaholbrook8@gmail.com
- NEBRASKA, York, Epworth Village**..... **September 2-7, 2018**
Team Leader: Bob Moore RV/nonRV
712.789.1084 / bobmo509@netins.net
- KANSAS, Scott City, Camp Lakeside**..... **September 16-21, 2018**
Team Leaders: Chuck & Linda Buchmueller RV/nonRV
Chuck: (C) 620.770.0410 Linda: (C) 620.770.0411 / clbuch@sbcglobal.net
- KANSAS, Perry, Alpha Christian Children's Home** **October 14-24, 2018**
Team #2 Leaders: Chuck & Linda Buchmueller RV/nonRV
Chuck: (C) 620.770.0410 Linda: (C) 620.770.0411 / clbuch@sbcglobal.net

February Birthdays

February 2 Priscilla White	February 13 Clay Wilson	February 18 Lisa Conner
February 4 Sandy Lane	February 14 Maci Hanvey	February 18 Sandra Hetrick
February 4 Mark Ploger	February 15 Jo Hoener	February 18 Debbie Veatch
February 5 Madison Mcatee	February 16 Elmer Baus	February 19 Janet Hearn
February 5 James Norrish	February 16 Ulanda Jackman	February 19 Helen Miller
February 7 Jace Riggs	February 16 Madeline Martin	February 19 Suzan Patton
February 9 John Havens	February 16 Grant Mcatee	February 20 Cindy Snell
February 10 Dawn Irvin	February 16 Kent Moore	February 22 Kay Sewell
February 10 Clayton Parsons	February 16 Lexi Trimpe	February 23 Garrett Bell
February 12 Glee Becker	February 17 Aldo Cilliers	February 26 Andrea Wilson
February 12 Abed Ingles	February 17 Travis Conner	February 28 Beth Rose
February 12 Cassandra Mathes	February 17 Jessica Garrett	
February 12 Gracelyn Mazzanti Beltz	February 17 Robbie Humble	



February Anniversaries

February 11, Edwin & Shirley Boots

February 14 John & Jana Mathes

Thank You

Thank you church family for 42 years together...Ken and Annette Van Blaricum joined this church in 1975. We have enjoyed being mid-high youth leaders in the 80's, United Methodist Men and Women, Rebekah Guild, Sunday School teachers, Circles food Coordinator, and on various committees. February 15 we will be moving to our new home 1985 N. McLean Wichita, KS 67203.

But we will be back Saturday, August 4th to celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary in Fellowship Hall 2-4 p.m. with a short program at 3 p.m. Hope to see you then, or you're welcome to visit us on the west side of Wichita.

Love,
Annette & Ken Van Blaricum

February Calendar

If you have something that you would like to put in The Spire, please email Jane Bolen jane.bolen@yahoo.com or call her at 620 770-2110 by the 20th of the month before the next Spire.

January 2018	February 2018	March 2018
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 5 6 7 8 9 10
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
21 22 23 24 25 26 27	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3 7:00 AM Men of Faith
4 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	5	6	7 5:00 PM Snack Supper, Youth 6:00 PM Outreach Committee	8	9	10 6:00 PM Pitch Party
11	12	13	14 11:45 AM Lenten Luncheon, First United Methodist Church 5:00 PM Snack Supper, Seekers 6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM Rebekah Guild	15 8:30 AM Sarah Guild 9:30 AM Naomi Guild 2:00 PM Martha Guild	16	17
18 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	19	20	21 11:45 AM Lenten Luncheon 5:00 PM Snack Supper, Outreach 7:00 PM Trustees Committee Meeting	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 11:45 AM Lenten Luncheon 5:00 PM Snack Supper, Puppets	1	2	3

Regular Happenings

Sunday:

- 8:15 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Monday:

- 9:30 a.m. Quilters
- 10:00 a.m. Moms' Group

Wednesday Activities

- 7:00 a.m. Ladies Prayer Group, CR
- 10:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study, Heritage Room
- 5:00 p.m. Snack Supper
- 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Jesus & Me, Basement
- 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Ladies' Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
- 6:30 p.m. Praise Band Practice
- 7:15 p.m. High School Youth

FUMC Service Times

8:15 a.m. Worship in Fellowship Hall

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Joint DEVOHUB
provided by

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Go to the Apple, Google Play, or Kindle Fire app stores, search for "DevoHub" and download the app.

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Web site: www.prattumc.org

Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



You may pick up your copy of The Spire at the church. If you wish to have your name added to the email list, please advise Jacqueline jjohnson@prattumc.org or Jane Bolen jane.bolen@yahoo.com of your address.

Staff

Pastor.....Marvin Ewertt
Youth Director..... Kelli Barker
Business ManagerJacqueline Johnson
Facilities Coordinator..... Louis Keeling
Organist/Pianist.....Jane Biles
Audio/Video Coordinator.....Sherri Ewertt
Don Buhler..... Praise Team Director
Nursery.....Georgie Fowler