THE SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

131st Year of Ministry

photo by Louis Keeling

January 2017

Newsletter for the First United Methodist Church in Pratt, KS

Every Member in Ministry

Embrace diversity

I have been troubled for about the last decade about the level of division and polarity that is so pronounced in our country. I have become just as troubled about the same thing in my beloved United Methodist Church as it struggles with divisive issues and seeks a way to remain united.

I attended seminary at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, graduating in 2006. I still cherish deeply the relationships I formed with students and faculty members. I learned a lot at Phillips, but high on the list of what I value the most from my time at Phillips is learning to embrace diversity.

The student body at Phillips is made up of people from just about every denomination. The theological perspective of the students and faculty members ranged from extreme liberal to extreme conservative and every place in between. The group of people that I bonded with, spending much time together and sharing many meals together over that four years, many of whom are still dear, close friends today, was very diverse. We had many discussions with many differing veiwpoints, yet continued to love, respect, and value one another. It was an atmosphere the likes of which I have not encountered since. And I miss it.

So I was very happy to receive an Advent devotional booklet from my seminary this year. The devotions were written by faculty and staff members, and by students and alumni. It was a great way to start my morning devotions each day during Advent. But one of those devotions really struck a chord with me. On December 13th, the devotion written by faculty member Rev. Susanna Weslie Southard included these words:

"The worshipping community transcends the individuals in the room and offers something more, something expansive, something sacred, something both comforting and challenging, something that makes the dream of a just and peaceful world seem possible."

We are certainly not immune to diversity here at First United Methodist Church. There are differing views of how we should do worship and ministry and handle the administration of our church. So it is my prayer that our worshipping community can transcend our individual preferences and be something sacred and comforting and even challenging. It is my prayer that we can embrace our diversity, and love and respect and value one another, and create an atmosphere that not only makes better disciples of us, but also attracts new disciples to join us.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Marvin

Youth involvement, opportunities

Thank you for your warm welcome as the youth director! It was a great first month!

Where We've Been:

Middle School: Spent much of the month talking about Christmas! Thinking about ways to keep the focus on the reason for the season among so many fun Christmas events.

High School: Finished our study of "#struggles: Following Jesus in a Selfie-centered World" by Craig Groeschel. I think the youth leaders may have gotten as much out of this as the teens! We also talked about Why Christmas is celebrated. Throw in a bunch of games involving candy canes and wrapping paper plus a wildly competitive scavenger hunt spreading Christmas Joy in the community and December is a wrap!

Where We're Going Next:

We will be back on January 4th! We are planning a year of spending a lot of time together serving our church and community! If you have ideas of things we can do on Wednesday Nights from 6 - 8:30pm let me know!!!!

Middle School:

"Becoming a Young Man of God" & " Becoming a Young Women of God" By Ken & Jen Rawson will be our focus starting in January! This will involve lots of Girls Only and Boys Only activities! We are looking for Men & Women all ALL ages who would be willing to help one time or on a continuing basis!!!! Call me and we can talk about different ways you can help!

High School:

We are going to start January with a study called: "The End Of Me" by Kyle Idleman. The focus is on the upside down ways that lead to Jesus as we look at the Beatitudes.

Super Bowl Sunday:

The Sandwiches are coming!!! Be on the lookout for order forms!

THANK YOU:

Thank you to Jerree Fitzsimmons for planning, and preparing a fantastic Thanks for Giving dinner! This dinner could not be done without you! Thank you to the church for continuing to support this fundraiser!

Thank You to Brenda Fowler for helping with Snack Supper! Your help was so very appreciated!

Kelli

PRATT FUMC SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR SPRING SEMESTER

Attention: High School Graduates & College Students

Applications for Pratt FUMC scholarship awards for the Spring Semester 2017 are available in the church office and online at www.prattumc.org.

1. Look under the "Ministries" tab and click on "Scholarship"
2. You will need to click two places: one for Scholarship Application Instructions and one to print the actual scholarship application.

If you are a member of the Pratt First United Methodist Church, you are eligible to apply. Please follow the application directions carefully and return the completed application to the church office by January 9, 2017. You must include your transcript of grades through the Fall semester along with your application. The Scholarship Committee awarded $800 to each student who qualified for the scholarship this past semester. The Committee will meet to review the completed applications in January

– Don Buhler, Chairman, Scholarship Committee

January Newsletter

Jesus And Me

100 N. Jackson, Pratt, KS 67124
www.prattumc.org T: (620) 245-8216

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your help and support with this year's Christmas program. This kids did a great job! Check out our Facebook page for pictures if you missed it.

We have several events this month that we can use your help with: Snack supper and Fire Department field trip. More information below on both of these events

Doing Our Part to Keep Us Healthy

Just a reminder as we are in the middle of cold and flu season: I have told the kids we are a church family, and as such, we look out for each other. One of the ways I am asking you to do that is to help keep sick germs out of the church as much as possible. We do have two children with auto-immune disorders, so are very susceptible to illness but don't have the strength to fight it off as an otherwise healthy person might.

Please stay home if you or your child(ren):

- Have/has a fever over 100.5
- Have/has a cough that disrupts normal activity
- Are vomiting or have diarrhea
- Have/Has strep throat, pink eye or other contagious disease

Our guidelines are very similar to that of our schools'. As much as we love to see the kids, if they haven't been feeling well, please let them rest and we'll see them the next week! If you need a copy of the letter that was sent home, please let me know.

Upcoming Events

January 4

J.A.M. Back in session

January 11

J.A.M. hosts Snack Supper

January 18

Field trip to Fire Station

Important Announcements

Jesus and Me will be hosting Snack Supper on January 11. This is a great way serve and give back to our church. If you haven't already, please see the sign up on the white board at check-in or check the sign-up on our Facebook group.

January Curriculum

As a new way to dive into learning more about the Bible, we will be playing Jenga, hopscotch and doing cup stacking.... Be sure to ask your kids what that has to do with the Bible. ☺

Kids' Family Room

Jesus and Me was awarded a grant from the South Central Community Foundation in November to purchase a Smart TV as well as 2 Ipads to use during Jesus and Me, as well as for those families who use our Family after school on Wednesdays. We were able to hang the TV over break and get our Ipads registered and loaded with games. I am excited about the opportunities these tools give us to help spread the Gospel in a way that kids are familiar with and are using on a regular basis.

Fire Department Blessing Bags

J.A.M. Kids will walk to the Fire Department on January 18 with our Blessing Bags and Sign. Please send home-made goodies for our firefighters to enjoy that evening. These men and women are unique to Pratt, as they are mostly volunteer and are on-call all the time. Most of them work elsewhere, for people and companies that allow them to drop and run when and if we need them. Let's show them our appreciation for all their hard work!

Family Lesson Nights

How do you study God as a family? Do you have your own worship? Short devotions? Lessons? Crafts? We want to hear about it! As a family, we would love to have you present a short lesson, about 5-10 minutes. It can include a video, a skit, a craft, music-anything you want. I can help facilitate as much or as little as you want. We learn best from others, and you may be doing something as a family that will help another family deepen their relationship with God. We have openings available January 25, February 22 or April 26.

Volunteer In Mission

The preliminary calendar is out for Great Plains VIM opportunities in 2017. Look at your calendar and see which opportunities work for you. We will be going to 5 United Methodist conference camps where lodging and meals are included with the registration fee.

Contact Chuck and Linda Buchmueller – 620-770-0411

We participated in 9 projects this year traveling to Louisiana, Texas, Colorado, 2 sites in Nebraska and 4 sites in Kansas. We helped with various projects including: put up paneling, prep work before flooring was installed, built 7 wheel chair ramps, replaced a privacy fence, repaired the covered wagon at Camp Horizon, built bunk beds, built pew/benches, built 3 rabbit hutches, cleaned carpet, applied many gallons of paint and enjoyed several sewing projects.

Dates and places for VIM in 2017
Registration fee $150 per person per project

January 8-19 – Dulac Community Center-Dulac, Louisiana

February 5-16 – Southside Community Center-San Marcos, Texas

March 19-24 – Camp Jefferson-Fairbury, Nebraska

April 2-7 – Camp Horizon-Ark City, Kansas

April 30-May 5 – Youthville-Newton, Kansas

June 11-16 – Camp Norwesca-Chadron, Nebraska

June 18-23 – Camp Comeca-Cozad, Nebraska

July 9-20 – Buckhorn Camp-Fort Collins, Colorado

August 13-18 – Alpha Christian Children's Home-Perry, Kansas

September 17-22 – Camp Lakeside-Scott City, Kansas

October 8-19 – Alpha Christian Children's Home-Perry, KS

SNACK SUPPER SCHEDULE 2016-17

Hey everyone! Faye Kuhn and Ruth Ann Barker have agreed to be our snack supper coordinators for this coming year. They have worked on the schedule and have called to make sure these are workable dates. Please be responsible for all changes and make contact with those people involved. If you make a change, please call Jackie at the church office to let her know. (672-6473) As soon as you have decided what your group is serving call the office. Sometimes this information is posted a week ahead or needed. Thanks for all your help.

Jan. 4 - CAYA (Brenda Fowler)

Jan. 11 - M & M's (Liz Krehbiel)

Jan. 18 - UMW Bd. (Kim Claycamp)

Jan. 25 - Naomi Guild (Beth Rose)

Feb. 1 - Faith Builders (Kelli Barker)

Feb. 8 - Youth

Feb. 15 - Seekers (Ruth Ann Barker)

Feb. 22 - Outreach (Faye Kuhn)

March 1 - Puppets (Deb Withers)

March 8 - Camp Funding (Liz Krehbiel)

March 15 - Women's Bible Study (Lois Gray)

March 22 - Spring Break - OFF

March 29 - Circles (Jeanette Siemens)

Apr. 5 - Youth

Apr. 12 - Rebekka Guild (Diana Harris)

Apr. 19 - Naomi Guild (Beth Rose)

Apr. 26 - Mission Trip (Linda Broce)

May 3 - Ground Breakers (Mary Gordon

Meet Loaf Greeters for January & February

Thanks to our 10:40 a.m. Meet Loaf Greeters for January and February.
Feel free to trade during these months to cover vacation times!
Your ministry to new people is greatly needed and appreciated!

Sunday, January 1—Marvin & Eunice Proctor, Mary Gordon
Sunday, January 8—Mark & Earlene Ploger, Howard & Lois Gray, Renee Wilson
Sunday, January 15—Chris & Michelle Pfannenstiel, Dean Fitzsimmons
Sunday, January 22—Marvin & Eunice Proctor, Mary Gordon
Sunday, January 29 — Mark & Earlene Ploger, Howard & Lois Gray, Renee Wilson
Sunday, February 5— Chris & Michelle Pfannenstiel, Dean Fitzsimmons
Sunday, February 12—Marvin & Eunice Proctor, Mary Gordon
Sunday, February 19 — Mark & Earlene Ploger, Howard & Lois Gray, Renee Wilson
Sunday, February 26—Chris & Michelle Pfannenstiel, Dean Fitzsimmons

United Methodist Women News

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

Thanks to the leadership of Jeanette Garretson and Genny Schmidt, the evening of Tuesday, November 29th for the Taste of Christmas was a wonderful success. Twenty tables were decorated beautifully, and members and guests enjoyed the evening.

We appreciate everyone who furnished food and money. As a fundraiser for missions, plus giving through our gifts and pledges, we were able to give $2500.00 to local missions and beyond. The Rebekah Guild had their fundraiser of making peppernuts. and the UMW and all church mission project of health kits has been super-duper. The January 3 meeting will be a time to put the kits together, so Chuck and Linda Buchmueller can deliver them to our UMCOR station - Sager-Brown Depot in Baldwin, LA on their way to Mission Work in Texas. Thank you, Mary Gordon Vice President in Programs for your four years of service, and making us "mission minded" through birthing kits and health kits.

A Big Thank You to Kay Sewell for taking on the Lead person in charge of the Funeral Dinner Plan. Many church members have offered their assistance, and we love the team effort. We will hope to see you Tuesday, January 3 , 2017 at 12:30 for the Executive Board Meeting, and then Health Kit project.

Kim Claycamp, UMW President

United Methodist Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

We Invite You to United Methodist Women

An invitation to Membership...

Our Purpose:

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose Purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries
of the church.

Joining this group of committed women is a unique opportunity - no matter who you are or where in your life you are at this moment - to move in harmony with other women who have been responding to this Purpose for over one hundred years.

To the woman

who finds meaning in her church and is drawn to its fellowship,
who wants to combine fellowship with study, worship and outreach opportunities,
who feels she has gifts that are to be shared with others, who seeks a supportive community
to affirm her own sense of purpose and commitment to God...

United Methodist Women invites you to:

"grow spiritually through worship, Bible study and prayer, celebrate the person you are becoming in Jesus Christ, develop meaningful and lasting relationships,
share who you are and your gifts, take action and make a difference in your community and the world."

Please contact:
Kim Claycamp, UMW President
(620) 770-0281
Terry Olsen
672-1488

New books donated to library

The 50-50 Sunday School class has presented three new books for the Library in memory of deceased members. The first is a novel in memory of Marian Bush entitled Prayers for Sale. It is a story of quilting and prayer which we felt appropriate for Marian. The second is a story of Bonhoffer who was a prisoner of the Nasis, but whose faith grew in spite of the mistreatment. The book was chosen for Thad Hildreth. The third is Jimmy Carter's story after the presidency given for Corlis Goyen. We hope that you will enjoy reading these selections.

Pratt County Food Bank needs volunteers

The Pratt County Food Bank is looking for a few volunteers. We are busier and need more volunteers to work the hours we are open. We try to have 3+ workers each time. Jobs include: making boxes, waiting on clients, checking files, weighing donations and shelving donations.

Please consider filling one of the following times:

1st Monday of each month – 7-8 PM, and 4th Friday of each month 10-noon.

Volunteers can be couples or individuals. There is one experienced volunteer on each of the open times. You can contact Diana Harris by phone 672-6623 or dmharris@cox.net.

God Bless,

Diana Harris, Bd. Member

TOPS Club, Inc. encourages healthy lifestyle

There is an option in town to help residents of Pratt and the surrounding area realize a healthier lifestyle. TOPS Club, Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), a nonprofit weight-loss support organization, has established a local chapter. Weekly meetings are held each Tuesday at the Church of Christ. Experience for yourself the weight-loss support and wellness information for which TOPS is well-known.

"At TOPS, we understand that losing weight is a journey. It is the consistent encouragement, understanding, and strength from others who are struggling with similar issues that makes this organization so impactful," says Eda Woolf-Nixon, chapter Leader. "I encourage anyone seeking an affordable, informative, ongoing, weight-loss support program to experience the power of TOPS."

TOPS Club, Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) is the original weight-loss support and wellness education organization. Founded more than 65 years ago, TOPS is the only nonprofit, noncommercial weight-loss organization of its kind. TOPS promotes successful weight management with a "Real People, Real Weight Loss, " philosophy that combines support from others at weekly chapter meetings, healthy eating, regular exercise, and wellness information. TOPS has about 170,000 members – male and female, age seven and older – in nearly 10,000 chapters throughout the United States and Canada.

Visitors are welcome to attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge. Membership is affordable at just $32 per year in the U.S., plus nominal chapter fees. For additional information, contact Eda Woolf-Nixon at 620-594-2566.

January Birthdays

January 1 Michelle Schmidt
January 1 Thomas Galle
January 2 Betty Onstott
January 2 Barbara Harris
January 4 Ellen Hair
January 4 Katie Buhler
January 5 Tracy Trimpe
January 5 Ian Clarkson
January 6 Sharon Winklepleck
January 6 Nancy Bailey
January 6 Ronnie Prater
January 7 Ron Ingram
January 8 Kaidie Winklepleck
January 8 Deb Withers
January 8 Tom Post
January 8 Caiden Smiley
January 9 Corbin Keeling
January 9 Kale Wilson
January 9 Cade Clarkson
January 10 Kent Goyen
January 10 Steve Henke
January 11 Marvin Proctor
January 15 Gale Carroll
January 15 Genny Schmidt
January 16 Rosalie Rose
January 17 Jordan Garrett
January 19 Pat Klassen
January 19 Gina Bates
January 19 Reagan Blasi
January 21 Delaney Skaggs
January 22 Ryan Jarmer
January 23 Lu Sherer
January 23 Chelsi Koehn
January 23 Noah Malone
January 24 Eunice Proctor
January 24 Rich Sanders
January 24 Ken Van Blaricum
January 24 Betty Jean Baus
January 24 Tonya Younie
January 25 Denise Sanders
January 25 Joe Kendall
January 26 Kendra Elliot
January 26 Janie Bishop
January 27 Elizabet Ingles
January 28 Vicki Howell
January 28 Mindy Miller
January 28 Ronald Prater
January 29 Audra Metzinger
January 30 Betty Davis
January 30 Jim Bergner
January 30 Ashley Fitzsimmons

January Anniversaries

January 2 Adam & Sara Wyatt
January 17 John & Georgie Fowler
January 18 Darrel & Sharon Brehm
January 27 Scott & Kendra Elliot

Thank you

Thank you for all the cards, prayers, and food during Ben's illness and funeral. A special thank you to Pastor Marvin, Jim Norrish and Tom Frazier for their many visits. Ben really appreciated their company. Thank you to the UMW for the lovely funeral dinner. We are so blessed to have such a giving Church Family.
Love, Helen Bailey and family

I would like to thank the prayer groups, the 50/50 Sunday School class, friends, and everyone in the church for their thoughtfulness. I am still confined to home, and I really appreciate and enjoy the cards and well wishes.
Betty Onstott

January 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 672-3198 by the 20th of the month before the next Spire.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 AM 10:00 Service only	2 Church Office closed	3 12:30 PM UMW Executive Board Meeting 2:00 PM UMW General Meeting	4 5:00 PM Snack Supper	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 5:00 PM Snack Supper 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting	12	13	14 6:00 PM Pitch Party
15 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	16	17	18 5:00 PM Snack Supper	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 5:00 PM Snack Supper	26	27	28
29 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	30	31	1	2	3	4

Regular Happenings

Sunday:
8:15 a.m. Informal Service
9:05 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. 50/50-Kum Double Class, Parlor
10:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
10:40 a.m. Meet Loaf, FH
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

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

Wednesday Activities begin again Sept.7
7:00 a.m. Ladies Prayer Group, CR
4:15 p.m. Puppets
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. Middle School
6:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship Practice
7:30 p.m. Senior High

Friday:
10:00 a.m. Mom's Day Out

I have created a QR (quick read) code that once scanned will take you to the website. The home page is then viewable from your mobile phone. Other QR codes can be generated for facebook, church event info, videos… ect. You should be able to download the code by clicking on it for printing in the bulletin and Spire. Let me know if you have questions, email me or call at 620-341-8473

Your web servant, Sherri Ewertt

Recycle at FUMC

Recently while staying with our granddaughters, Sylvie and Julia went to a nearby playground. When Sylvie came home, she had her arms full of items from the playground and for the recycling bin. I complimented her on "saving the earth".

You can make a difference by looking around, and picking up trash, and sorting it for recycling.

Love, the UMW Recycling team of Helen Bailey, Kim Claycamp, and Annette Van Blaricum

REDUCE,
REUSE,
RECYCLE,
REJOICE!

First United Methodist Church
The Spire
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Phone: (620) 672-6473
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Pastor Marvin's cell (316) 655-1716
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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
Children's Ministries.....Liz Krehbiel
Youth Director.....Kelli Barker
Business Manager .....Jacqueline Johnson
Facilities Coordinator.....Louis Keeling
Organist/Pianist .....Jane Biles
Audio/Video Coordinator.....Stan Reimer
Nursery.....Georgie Fowler