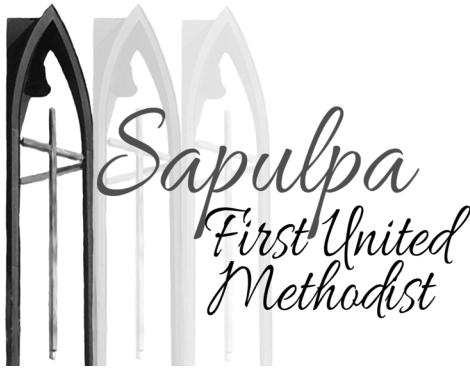


First United Methodist Church
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September 2023

Moving Forward



Dr. Allen Schneider

Our congregation is going through a major change as we disaffiliate from the UMC and I will be retiring on November 1st. With so many tasks and details to manage, it can be overwhelming. However, we trust that God will guide us every step of the way.

The Bible is filled with stories of people going through transitions, like Abraham's move to a new land, Jacob's family relocating to Egypt during a famine, and the Israelites' journey through the wilderness to reach the Promised Land. In all of these stories, the people of God faced challenges and difficulties, but they found comfort in God's presence and provision. God led them on their journey.

Our focus is to follow Jesus, taking one step at a time. If we remain committed to this, I'm confident that we'll be blessed on our journey.

What Is Next?

Our congregation recently voted by 91.2% to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. Many have been wondering what will happen next. Here are some important details to keep in mind:

Firstly, the disaffiliation will not be officially ratified until October 13th, which is when a Special Called Annual Conference will be held in Oklahoma City. On that day, approximately 30 churches will be voted on to ratify their disaffiliation, it will require a 51% vote of the Annual Conference to uphold the decision. If the decision is upheld, the official disaffiliation date will be October 27th.

Secondly, our discernment and transition team are working diligently to prepare all the necessary "legal exhibits" that must be submitted to the Conference by September 13th. One of these exhibits is a complete Membership Audit. If you have not yet mailed in your response card or responded at the Membership Table on a Sunday morning, please do so as soon as possible.

Thirdly, all payments associated with the disaffiliation must be placed into an escrow account by September 13th. You will receive a letter from our Finance Committee regarding the estimated costs, along with an invitation to make special contributions to help defray the expenses. We hope to avoid depleting all our Reserve Funds.

Fourthly, our Discernment and Transition Team will be studying options for denominational re-affiliation. Global Methodist Church, Evangelical Covenant Church, and North American Anglican Church are three of the churches they are currently considering. There will be presentations and an open discussion regarding our options at the appropriate time.

Fifthly, prayer is ongoing and essential. We ask that you continue to pray for our congregation and our leaders.

Morning Messages

Sep 3 - *In Times of Trouble, Ps. 34*

Sep 10 - *His Word is Strong, Pss 19*

Sep 17 - *When We Follow His Way, Ps. 1*

Sep 24 - *Mission Sunday: Guest Sp-eaker*

Office: 918-224-3006

Web: www.sapulpafumc.org

Welcome Newest Member

We want to welcome our newest member, Philis O'Shaugnessy. Philis originally moved to the Sapulpa area from New York. She has been a Christian for many years and a participant in several different congregations. Though she has lived in Sapulpa for some time she just recently found her way to our congregation. We are delighted to receive her as a member. She has already become active in the Passages Sunday School class. Please do all that you can to welcome her to this congregation of the United Methodist Church.



If You Are Ready To Join...

Pastor Schneider would be happy to talk to you about how you can become a Professing Member of this congregation.

Trustee Notice



The Trustees of the church have been busy this summer completing various tasks. They have built a new fence around the playground, fixed the North wall, and trimmed the trees on the grounds.

However, they need your assistance! Starting in September, the ladies will be cooking Wednesday night meals and need to have access to an already tidy kitchen. If you want sole use of food items, please label them accordingly. Additionally, try to conserve space in the refrigerator and freezer. Food items not marked will be disposed of after two weeks to make way for fresh items. After use of the kitchen and fellowship hall, please put everything back in its designated place and clean any surfaces used. We must work together to leave the kitchen cleaner than we found it.

In September or early October, there will be a church-wide clean-up day where we will organize and tidy all areas. Please keep an eye out for the date and come to help us clean. Many changes are ahead of us, so let us start off on the right foot.

If you are aware of any issues within the church, please inform the Trustees. We like to stay on top of any building issues before they become larger problems. The Trustees meet on the first Tuesday of every month in the library at 6:30.



UMM meet at 12:00 noon September 7, 2023 in the Fellowship Hall, for our regular lunch meeting. We hope to see you there!



Altar Flowers

Prices for altar flower bouquets have been increased to \$50. The church will cover the additional cost if you have already purchased flowers for the upcoming months.

September BIRTHDAYS



- 01 Ed Lisee, Judy Walton,
- Kristi Schneider
- 02 Lee Inbody
- 03 Addison Grant, Loyd Hollis
- 04 Kinzie Wagner
- 04 Phyllis Lowe
- 05 Graham Hershberger, Nikki Walker
- 06 Lana Greenfield, Marion Peacock,
- Ward Cheney Jr.
- 07 J.D. Johnson II, Lorna Knott,
- Michele Carter
- 09 Katie Blansett, Nicole McEnroe
- 10 Janet Rogers
- 11 Grady Streater, Keith Walker,
- Kenneth Helms, Susan Hoff
- 12 Myrtie Mozarko
- 13 John Rains
- 15 Jake Schmidt, Larry Higgs
- 16 Jim Reh, Joyce Myers, Lillian Crouch
- 18 Boyd Pentecost, William Rochester
- 19 Johnnie Rains
- 20 Darryl Walton, Michael Crouch
- 21 Beki Bianchi
- 22 David Ruth
- 23 Graham Streater, William Simpson
- 24 Ashley Bunch, Cathy Cheney
- 25 Cynthia Adair, Megan Harris
- 26 Roxanne Taylor
- 27 Maxine Conners, Michael Mundy,
- Phyllis VanDeven
- 28 Barbara Weaver
- 29 Karla Taylor, Mike Mozarko,
- Reggie Chambers
- 30 Jerry Stephens, Rachel Ging

Prayer REQUESTS



- Larry Fry (health)
- Diane Gloden (health)
- Sue Coonce (health)
- Christy Cole (health)
- Schneider Family (calmness/discernment for a home)
- Marian Frazier (health)
- Jackie Robertson (health)
- Maxine Conners (health)
- Sue Skinner (health)
- Cheryl Cox (Surgery recovery)
- Ed Mouser (eye surgery on 9/1)
- Brian Peterson (loss of Grandfather)
- Phyllis VanDeven (foot surgery)
- Jay Prine (surgery 9/5)
- Daniel Maris (Claire's brother—Kidney and Liver failure)
- Ted Evans (health)
- Terri Wadley (health)



BACKPACK MINISTRY

A new school year begun, and the Backpack Program is under way! Our first delivery of 75 weekly healthy snacks was August 31. I thank our awesome team of helpers that made it all happen. You are the best! We also had an opportunity to take 30 sack dinners for the Allen Bowden football team. We are building relationships with so many at the school and that is so exciting! If you would like to take part in helping children who are food insecure, we would love to have you join us. Please call Laurie Kirk at 918-521-9505



Faithful servants helping prepare sack dinners from the Allen Bowden football team.

First Annual Craft Show

Our Missions team is sponsoring our first annual Craft Sale, on Oct. 14, 2023, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The money raised will help fund the Blessing Box for the winter months. Our first annual craft show is open to church family and friends who are craftsmen, seamsters, painters, or have any hobbies they want to sell. The Missions have two booths, and they are looking for crafters who are willing to donate any items to help support the Missions. Contact Cheryl Cox (918-409-7997), Kathleen Rasco (918-232-1016), or the church office if you rent booth space for this event. Applications are on the church website.



Our Flock Rocks!



Please look for updates in your emails, our website, church activities and worship services.

For The Record

Participation in Worship

7/30 Service: 106 Online: 12
8/06 Service: 108 Online: n/a
8/13 Service: 125 Online: 09
8/20 Service: 107 Online: n/a
8/27 Service: 98 Online: n/a

Summer is here and we are behind in General Fund giving. Help us if you can!

July Financial Update

Income:

Unrestricted: \$ 35,291.19
Revenues: \$ 787.46
Restricted: \$ 0
Total Income: \$ 36,078.65
Expense: \$ 32,925.39

Fund Balance (\$ 12,457.20)



United
Women
in Faith

Are we ready for some cool weather? I am for sure!

There are some updates I need to address right off. The rummage sale has been rescheduled to October 27th -28th. Set up will begin October 23rd.

With the vote of the church to disaffiliate, the United Women of Faith have many steps to go through. One thing on the agenda will be *what will we call ourselves?* There will be discussions at both Circle meetings in September to consider the steps we should follow, and there will be special called Unit meeting to discuss what the Unit needs to do to proceed and a new name on October 1st at 2:00 PM. We will keep you posted if there are any changes.

The school supply collection was successful, and the supplies were delivered during the Aloha luncheon at the church for the teachers and staff of Allen Bowden.

Please join us at one of the two Circle Meetings. What a great way to get to know other women in the church and be a part of all that we do to support our community and our church.

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 7th	Joy Circle	Parlor	6:30 PM
Sept. 14th	Esther Circle	Parlor	9:30 AM
Oct. 1st	Unit Meeting	FH	2:00 PM
Sept. 16th	Council Oak District Annual Meeting Skiatook UMC 10:00 AM		

Registration of \$15.00 is due to Amber Helms or Judy James by August 30th.

Café Chocolat

God's
extravagant
grace is for you.

Café Chocolat is a relaxing chocolate-themed women's retreat that will be held at the church in the Fellowship Hall. The gathering comprises worship, Bible study, moments of laughter, and moments of peaceful contemplation. And while the name of our retreat sounds indulgent, we'll be using chocolate as a metaphor for God's extravagant grace. We'll begin with dinner on the evening of September 29th and finish at approximately 9p.m. Women can stay overnight at the church or return in the morning for breakfast. We will close at 5 p.m. on Saturday, September 30th. Childcare will be available! To register, come by the church office during the week or stop by our table in the Narthex on Sunday morning. The cost is \$35. T-shirts will be available to purchase at the retreat.

Hey everyone!



I am excited to announce a fall programming change- Power Up! is moving to Sunday afternoons!

Power Up! will begin immediately following worship service and end at 2:30 p.m. We will serve lunch, work on Bible skills and memory, play games, and make crafts. PowerUp! will be a fun time of learning and sharing God's word. We hope you can join us!

Our sensory-friendly ministry, OASIS, is expanding to include all ages - from the young to the young at heart! Keep an eye on your bulletin and social media for upcoming details.

Upcoming:

Sock-tober: our annual sock drive for Allen Bowden students Oct 1-29

Trunk or Treat: Sunday, Oct 29

"I ask God from the wealth of His glory to give you power through His spirit to be strong in your inner selves, and I pray Christ will make His home in your hearts through faith. I pray that you may have your roots and foundation in love." Ephesians 3:16-17

You are loved. Ms. Sheri



Hey Sapulpa FUMC!

The Fall semester is finally here, and here is what the Youth have planned for the month...

Wednesday Nights: Community dinner and Youth bible study happen every Wednesday night starting at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come for some great food, fun games, and Jesus' time!

Sunday Mornings: Sunday School is every Sunday morning at 9:30am in the upstairs Youth classrooms! Join us for games and bible study!

Activities: We will have a Parent and Student meeting scheduled soon to discuss plans for the next year, so be on the lookout for that announced date. Keep an eye out for fun events and opportunities to serve.

God bless, Youth Director Cabe Killingsworth



In response to the recent extreme heat in Sapulpa, we were able to provide ten air conditioning units to those in need thanks to the generous donations from our congregation. As a result of the high temperatures, the Chainsaw Gang has suspended all activities until the weather cools down. If you come across any situations that may pose a threat or danger to someone, please don't hesitate to contact us and we'll do our best to help. Otherwise, we kindly ask that you get in touch with us in about a month.

We'd also like to take a moment to acknowledge Willie Garvin and Juanita Johnson for their fantastic work in maintaining the Atrium Garden recently. We're looking for others to contribute their gardening and decorating skills, so if you're interested, please sign up for a month throughout the next year. The sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex starting next Sunday.

We would greatly appreciate your help and support! A meal was already provided to the Sapulpa girls' softball team, and the Allen Bowden football team, and a meal will be provided to the Sapulpa football team in early November. Feel free to join us in this outreach if you are interested.

Additionally, we plan to assist Shoulder2Shoulder with their worship and food outreach in the next few months, just as we did last year. We have many other programs planned for the near future, and we'd love for you to join us. You can find more information about these programs in our newsletter.



Wednesday Dinner



September 13

Chicken Salad/Ham Salad Croissant sandwiches, chips, salad & dessert

September 20

Chicken Spaghetti, Cucumber/Tomato Salad, French Bread & Dessert

September 27

Grilled Chicken, roasted veggies, rolls & dessert

October 4

Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls & dessert