

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Closed for lunch 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.)
Friday - closed

SUNDAY SERVICES

Praise & Worship 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Traditional Worship 11:00 a.m.

The First United Methodist Church
15502 South Memorial Bixby, Oklahoma 74008



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dan Pulver, Senior Pastor
Rev. Matt Thompson, Associate Pastor
Hannah Birney, Director of Children's Ministry
Shelly Thompson, Director of Youth Ministry
Anita Hayes, Chancel Choir Director
ZaQue Hutchings, Keyboardist
Jeana Malone, Office Administrator
Kim Campbell, Secretary
Matt Erickson, Facility Manager



Volume 19 Issue 8

August 2017

Have You Signed Up to Pray OUT?

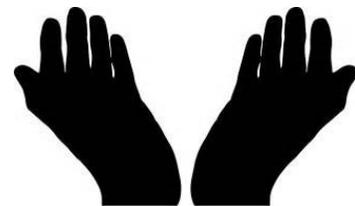
We are holding a prayer vigil on the 8 campuses and the Administration Building of the Bixby School System, and at the Church for surrounding public, private, and home school systems on Saturday morning, August 5th, at 8:00. We will have teams of people circled up in the parking lot of each school in our district, praying short prayers (aloud or silently) for students, parents, faculty, staff, sports and band participants, and for homeless students and their family systems, and for anything else God places on your heart that morning.

Following the 15 – 20 minutes of prayer, we will all meet back at the church gym for a breakfast and short sharing about the experience. We may also need to share what God placed on our hearts for further outreach to our schools.

If there is a Bixby school near you, you can just arrive a little before 8:00 to pray with the team. We simply want to give silent witness to the presence of God in all our schools. There will be no TV cameras, no news stories, no public relations attention.

We are just praying OUT for all our schools.

Please join us in this Pray OUT.



Dates to Remember:

Bixby Public Schools & FUMC Afterschool starts August 23. Shepherd's Fold Preschool begins August 24.
Wonderful Wednesdays will return on Wednesday, September 6.



Out of the Lions' Den...

Several people have let me know that one of my sermons in July really has affected them. It was the sermon entitled "Walk with Me." If you happened to miss that sermon, or wonder what others are struggling with, it is available on our web site, fumbixby.org, under the Media tab.

The comment several people have made to me is that they cannot stop thinking about the difference between God walking with us, and us walking with God. In my sermon, I referred to that moment in our faith journey when our faith is no longer about us, but is instead about God. We no longer ask God to bless our plans and our agendas; we instead start living by God's plan and God's agenda.

This is an important step in our maturing as disciples. At some point, the disciples of Jesus stopped thinking about what their discipleship was going to do for them, and they started thinking about what their discipleship was going to do for God and His mission to save the world that He loves.

Have you taken that step in your development? Or are you still trying to fit God into your little life?

I grew up hearing preachers and laity all saying we were supposed to invite Jesus into our hearts. I always imagined that was a biblical reference. It's not. Probably they were thinking about the image of Jesus standing at the door, knocking, which is in scripture. But nowhere are we instructed to invite Jesus into our hearts. That would make us the center of all things, and we were not made for such responsibility. Jesus knocks at our door, wanting us to come out of our prison cells of selfishness, to find our dwelling place in His heart. His invitation is always for us to "walk with Him." That's when life begins to change for the better. It's not easy – but it certainly is meaningful!

~Daniel

Come Honor Our College Students

On Sunday, August 6th, we will be welcoming back and acknowledging our college students before they all go or return to their campuses this Fall. We will invite them to the Altar, and we will pray for them, that God may shape them in His image through all their academic and social development, as God expands their minds and their skills to be utilized in His world-saving mission. We will offer this prayer at both the 8:30 and 11:00 services.

Plan now to attend.



PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

AUGUST 20TH

5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

BIXBY FUMC METHODIST CHURCH

Everyone is welcome to tour our facility and meet with the teachers.

Preschool begins August 24th

Monday Tuesday Thursday

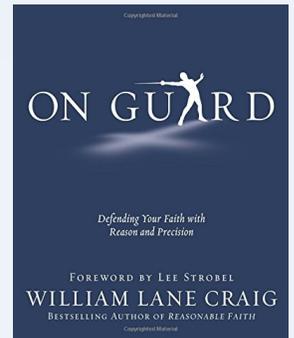
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 a.m.

**BACK
TO
SCHOOL**

I have been on an “apologetics” kick for the last several months. The word apologetics comes from the Latin apologia which means basically “in defense of.” So Christian apologetics is a reasonable, moral, scientific, archeological and thought provoked defense of the Christian faith. I have been learning things I feel I should have known for years. I have found answers to questions that I did not even know I had and as a result God has prepared me to answer questions in a reasonable and faithful way. I would love to share with you every bit of information that I have gained but for now I will simply recommend a book that can help you get a better understanding and be able to communicate reasons why you believe.

On Guard – By William Lane Craig

This was required reading in my Apologetics class at Oklahoma Wesleyan University. It is understandable and direct. If you are in the mood for discussion further into this subject then my door is always open and I am always willing to talk. Pastor Matt



RAISE THE ROOF



You who are new to our congregation do not know we have struggled for ten years (the life of our new facility) with water leaks. From Day 1, we have had water coming into the building through the roof, the walls, the windows and doors, and under the walls. We were in danger of our facility disintegrating all around us, if something were not done.

We didn't have the money to address all the issues we had, so we agreed to a mortgage loan with Mabrey Bank, for up to \$1.2 million, payable over 20 years at around 4% interest.

We had a campaign, called Raise the Roof, to raise gifts and 3 year pledges, to make the payments on this note. With initial funds raised and given up front, we kept our mortgage total to around \$900,000. The work has been done, with the exception of the bell tower windows which will have to be replaced soon.

Every time you give money to Raise the Roof, we get closer to paying off the note. It is critically important that we pay this note as soon as possible to keep from paying large amounts of interest, and to make it possible for us to meet other mission and ministry needs. Your gifts to Raise the Roof need to be over and above what you already give to this Church. Otherwise, we would have a facility where we couldn't afford to do ministry. Please give generously.

ATTENDANCE FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

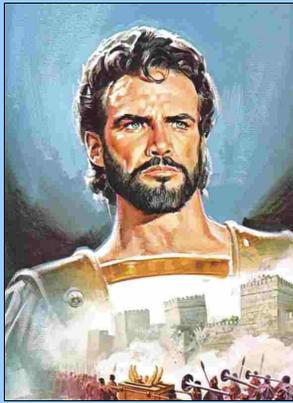
	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23
Sunday, 8:30 a.m.	89	76	100	91
11:00 a.m.	<u>187</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>157</u>	<u>161</u>
TOTAL	276	236	257	252



Children's Ministry

Sunday School God Chooses Joshua

August 6– God chooses Joshua
August 13– Spies in Canaan
August 20– Crossing Jordan
August 27– Jericho



School will be starting in just a few weeks!
There are still a few openings in our Afterschool program. The children are picked up from school and brought back to the church for homework help and play.
If you would like more information, contact Susan McKinney at 918-697-7326.

Also our Shepherd's Fold Preschool begins on August 24th. There are a few spots still available in the one and four year old classes. For further information on this program, contact Marsha Grimm at 918-261-1217.



YOUTH



Saint Yootz Day
Saturday, August 12, 2017

Tickets are \$25 per person
Includes: park admission and concert ticket
The "Newsboys" will be performing
If you are interested in going (youth and adults) contact Shelly. 918-366-4463

Youth Website

bixbymethodistyouth.weebly.com

One place to find everything you need to know about activities, events, photos, and all things youth.

Looking Ahead

We will be having a back to school pool party. More details to follow!



Operation Hope Prison Ministry



“Bridging The Gap”
Between Prison &
The Community

Dear Bixby First United Methodist Family,

On behalf of Operation Hope Prison Ministry, I'd like to thank the family for the heart-warming welcome we received during our recent visit at Bixby FUMC! It was great worshipping our Lord together...and we thank God for you!

Since our visit, several members have expressed a desire to help with the work of OHPM. I look forward to connecting the heart of Operation Hope, which are the families affected by incarceration - to the caring hearts of Bixby FUMC.

I'm sharing a few photos of the outcome of a wonderful shopping spree at Gardner's Used Book Store provided by Frank and Peggy Ward! Al Nordean and other OHPM volunteers will bring these new books to several men's prisons where they will record Fathers and Grandfathers reading the book to their children/grandchildren. After the recording session, the book and CD will be mailed to their child's home. Often times a personal message is added by the Dad! Building the bond between the incarcerated parent and child is so important!

Looking forward to our work together serving! If any members would like more information they can contact Cheri Buschmann at 918 599-0663 or 918 697-9229.



Local Missions/Exodus House

SAVE THE DATE: Monday September 4th at 6:00
Annual Labor Day Reunion at Exodus House
Good Food and Great Fellowship with former and current residents,
volunteers and friends of Exodus House and Parsonage House!

Exodus House and The Parsonage are non-profit transitional living facilities for individuals recently released from prison. They fall under the umbrella of Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries, an outreach of the Oklahoma Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

More information will be provided at church and by email distribution,
or contact Nalani Nordean, 918-633-8193



Monthly Meeting Reminders:
(known meetings from the office calendar)

Trustees-Sunday, August 13
5:00 p.m.

Local Missions meeting-Sunday, August 13
6:00 p.m.

Preschool Open House-Sunday, August 20
5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.



Sermons are available online
www.fumcbixby.org

We would like to thank each and every one of you for the generous food donation to the Spartan Backpack Program. The school was able to distribute approximately 4,000 food bags to K-12 grade students.

Thank you,
Tina Francis and Supt. Kyle Wood



P90X3

—

DON'T BE SHY – WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

—

ALL AGES WELCOME

—

ALL EXERCISES CAN BE MODIFIED

—

I'LL SEE YOU IN THE YOUTH ROOM AT 5:00 AM

Starting:
August 14 – November 17
5:00 AM
Monday-Wednesday-Friday

BE FIT AND FEEL BETTER

Why we are offering this:
If you have every intention of starting a workout routine. But they are an hour long and something always gets in the way. I am the same way. We will be offering the P90X3 fitness program here at the church in the youth room. Come get healthy and have fun with others who will encourage you and do not judge.

**If you are interested let Shelly know.

SHELLY THOMPSON
13502 S MEMORIAL
BIXBY, OK 74008
918-857-9921
climber.shell@gmail.com
8/14-11/17
Monday-Wednesday-Friday
5:00 am each morning

Stitchers of Love
Prayer Shawl Ministry

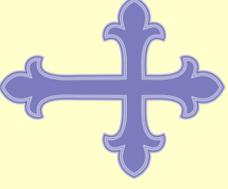
August 8 & August 22, 10:00 a.m.

If you know someone who is in need of a prayer shawl we have several available. Please contact the church office.

Find Us

Here

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>6 prayers for my church Communion 7:30 a.m. Worship Prep. & Prayer 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Honoring College Students 9:45 a.m. Sunday School</p>	<p>7 prayers for my church 9:30 a.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scouts</p>	<p>8 prayers for my church 9:00 a.m. Prayer Group 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl</p>	<p>9 prayers for my church 9:30 a.m. Yoga 6:00 p.m. Praise Band 6:00 p.m. Youth 6:00 p.m. Entrusted Study</p>	<p>10 prayers for my church 8:30 a.m. Quilters 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study</p>	<p>11 prayers for my church</p>	<p>12 prayers for my church St Yooitz Day-youth</p> 
<p>13 prayers for my church 7:30 a.m. Worship Prep & Prayer 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 5:00 p.m. Trustees 6:00 p.m. Mission Ministry Council</p>	<p>14 prayers for my church 9:30 a.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scouts</p>	<p>15 prayers for my church 9:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p>	<p>16 prayers for my church 9:30 a.m. Yoga 6:00 p.m. Praise Band 6:00 p.m. Youth 6:00 p.m. Entrusted Study 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>17 prayers for my church 8:30 a.m. Quilters 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study</p>	<p>18 prayers for my church</p>	<p>19 prayers for my church 9:00 a.m. CPR Training 10:30 a.m. Summer Lunch Water Games</p>
<p>20 prayers for my church 7:30 a.m. Worship Prep. & Prayer 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Preschool Open House</p>	<p>21 prayers for my church 9:30 a.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scouts</p>	<p>22 prayers for my church 9:00 a.m. Prayer Group 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl</p>	<p>23 prayers for my church 9:30 a.m. Yoga 3:30 p.m. Afterschool 6:00 p.m. Praise Band 6:00 p.m. Youth 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>24 prayers for my church 8:30 a.m. Quilters 9:30 a.m. Preschool 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 3:30 Afterschool</p>	<p>25 prayers for my church 3:30 Afterschool</p>	<p>26 prayers for my church</p>
<p>27 prayers for my church 7:30 a.m. Worship Prep. & Prayer 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School</p>	<p>28 prayers for my church 9:30 a.m. Yoga 9:30 a.m. Preschool 3:30 Afterschool 7:00 p.m. Scouts</p>	<p>29 prayers for my church 9:00 a.m. Prayer Group 9:30 a.m. Preschool 3:30 Afterschool</p>	<p>30 prayers for my church 9:30 a.m. Yoga 3:30 Afterschool 6:00 p.m. Praise Band 6:00 p.m. Youth</p>	<p>31 prayers for my church 8:30 a.m. Quilters 9:30 a.m. Preschool 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study 3:30 Afterschool</p>		
			<p>School starts-Bixby </p>	<p>FUMC Preschool 1st day</p>		
						<p>5 prayers for my church 8:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil for area schools</p> 

August 2017



The Flame



Or Current Resident

Please pray for these active duty military personnel :

**AIR FORCE: SENIOR AIRMAN KYLE SEAMAN,
SON OF LEE & JEAN SEAMAN
SERVING AT SHAW AFB, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**AIR FORCE: CJ GRIFFITH,
SON OF ERIC GRIFFITH
GRANDSON OF JOYCE MCKENZIE**

**AIR FORCE: JOE McMATH
SON OF CAROL McMATH**

**ARMY: CONNER WALCHER,
GREAT NEPHEW OF JUNE & DAVID SKAGGS
SERVING IN GERMANY**

**ARMY: SERGEANT E-5 TONY McAMIS
SON OF RICK & SARAH McAMIS
SERVING IN HAWAII**

**ARMY: ANTHONY HALBAUER
SON-IN-LAW TO CAROL McMATH & BROTHER-IN-LAW OF BETH & RYAN HILTON, LEXIE McMATH
SERVING IN AFRICA**

**MARINE: STAFF SGT. BRAD TOWERY
GRANDSON OF BILL & LOETA TOWERY
SERVING AT CAMP PENDLETON, CA**

**MARINE: LT. COL. ROB CARLSON
GRANDSON OF BILL & LOETA TOWERY
SERVING IN NC**

**MARINE: JAKE BROOKSHIRE
NEPHEW OF BECKI FREEMAN & MARIA RHODES
BOOTCAMP**

**NAVY: KOLE HILTON
SON OF RYAN & BETH HILTON, GRANDSON OF CAROL McMATH
SERVING IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH THE MARINES**

**NAVY: LT. SCOTT SIDES
BROTHER OF MELISSA MORROW, BROTHER IN LAW OF PHILLIP MORROW**

**NAVY: LT. CMDR. CLAY COOPER
SON IN LAW OF SUSAN MCKINNEY**

**OKLA. NATIONAL GUARD: WYATT RITTER
SON OF JACQUE GRIFFITH
SERVING IN UKRAINE**