

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

The Flame

**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 6

June 2017



FUMC VBS YOU ARE INVITED!

9:00 a.m. until Noon
Ages 4 years to 6th grade

Enroll online, www.fumcbixby.org, or stop by the VBS table in the North Hall

Combined Worship on June 4th

To celebrate Pentecost Sunday, we are going to combine our worship services and have just one at 10:00. There will be no Center Crew, Youth, or Adult Sunday School classes that day. Children's Church will extend to the younger elementary aged children, who will actually have their Sunday School during Worship.

Worship will be a great celebration with lots of singing: old classic gospel songs and contemporary ones too. Together we will celebrate the birthday of the Church, and reclaim the power the early Church received when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles.

Following Worship, we will move to the gym. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided, and we hope you will help furnish the side dishes and desserts. We want you to experience true fellowship on Pentecost Sunday, as we celebrate being one in Christ.



Out of the Lions' Den...

Tom Spann, one of our church's leaders, died last month. Tom served on many of our church's committees, and his wife, Janice, inspired this church's involvement in the United Methodist Circle of Care ministries with children, and the Stephen's Ministry which she helped initiate here. Perhaps Tom's greatest ministry was being part of the "Donut Team." He was one of those who brought the Donuts to church every Sunday, rain or shine.

Tom's son-in-law, Ray Crawford, a United Methodist pastor from Claremore, met with Tom a few days before Tom died, to help Tom think through his life and seek out any wisdom and insight he might have after 81 years of life. In sharing with Ray his formational spiritual experiences, Tom spoke of his conversion at a revival, and of his decision with his wife, Janice, to become tithers (giving 10% of their income to the Lord and His Church).

Throughout their early years of marriage, money had been an issue. There was never enough to go around, and it created hardship on their relationship. Following his conversion, Tom and Janice felt compelled to begin tithing, even though it seemed counterintuitive. When there is not enough money every month, tithing is not the first thing that seems natural, or even a good idea. Tom said their only disagreement was whether to tithe on their gross or net income. They decided to tithe on the gross income. Tom told Ray that from that decision forward, money was never an issue again. Together, Tom and Janice became generous in all their giving. There was always enough money to meet their needs. Their relationship grew so much stronger in the process.

When I heard Ray say this in the Eulogy at Tom's memorial service, I felt God nudging me to share this with the whole congregation. I sensed God telling me there were others in our church that needed to hear the story. This decision was one of the most important decisions Tom made when it came to his relationships with God and with Janice. It left a lasting impression on Tom. It was right up there with his conversion experience. It opened a door of deeper love that would otherwise have remained closed.

It made me wonder, at the end of our lives when we look back upon the most important things we've experienced spiritually, will the decision to give a full ten percent of your income to the Lord and His Church be one of them? Or will you continue fighting financial battles in your life, because you failed to put the **First One** first in your financial decisions? Evidently, this can be a life-changing decision. You could even include the church in your final giving, your will or trust.

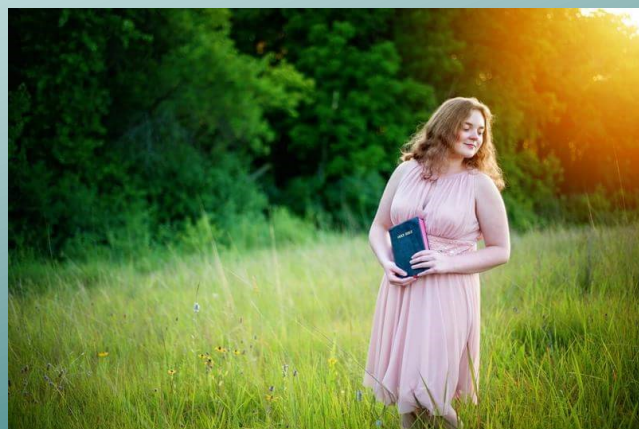
Bonnie and I made that decision so long ago, sometimes I need to remember how much of an impact it had on me then. Tom reminded me. Thank you, Tom!

~Daniel

One more graduate:

**Katie Collier
Graduated from Bixby High School**

Congratulations!



Morning Coffee



Everyone kept saying how nice I looked at church yesterday!



That's just the nice way to say you usually dress like a hobo.



Matt Thompson

Local Mission Project a Great Success

Kelly and Diana Sample led a 23 person team from our church to Egan Camp and Retreat Center, where they assembled Adirondack Chairs and two benches, and weather-treated them, so they can be placed around the Camp ground for campers to use and enjoy God's creation. The other members of the team were Mike and Nancy Stansifer, Eric and Katie Collier, Steve Foster, Ron Casteel, Rue and Mary Ann Galyean, Steve and Jessica Abel, David and Conner McNeer, David and Joy Ingle, Larry Wheeler, Joe Sweet, Jarod Dotson, Larry and Nevaeh Lee, Bonnie and Dan Pulver.

The next Local Mission Project is Saturday, September 16, from 12:00 to 5:00, as we host the "Love Bixby" event, sponsored by several churches. We will need lots of people to help us with hospitality, registration, and entertainment. Stay tuned for more information.

Check out the hard work done at Egan in the photos below.

Thank you church
for all areas of
support you give to
UMC camps!



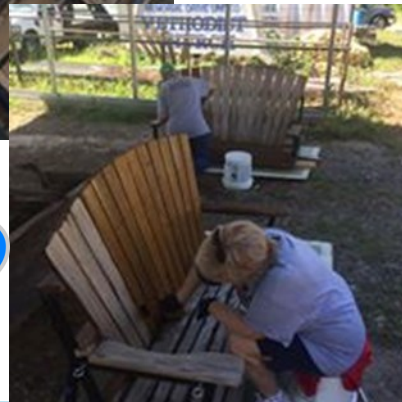
Thank you
for all of
your hard
work at
Egan



"Spreading
God's love
one bench
at a time!"



What
happens at
camp...
changes
lives!





Dive Deeper Into...Summer Sunday School

June 4: Courageous Disciples
June 11: Courageous Queen
June 18: Courageous Friends
June 25: Courageous Daniel

For more information on
Children's Ministry, contact:
Hannah Birney
hbirney@olp.net, 918-366-4463



Additional VBS Information "Hero Central" June 26-30

The teacher snack room will need donated snacks during VBS week. For example: muffins, cookies, fruit, granola bars, crackers etc.

These can be left in the kitchen marked "teacher snacks" any day during VBS week.
Call Elaine if you have any question, 918-366-9349.
Thank you.



Mark Your Calendars Church Camp coming soon!

Sonshine Camp, Egan, July 8-9 (entering 1st & 2nd grade)
Growing In Grace, Egan, July 24-26 (entering 3rd-5th grade)
6th grade Camp, Egan, July 24-28 (entering 6th grade)

There is one place to register:
okcamps.campbrainregistration.com
Go to our website, www.fumcbixby.org, click "children's ministries" then click "summer camps 2017" for a link.

What happens at camp...changes lives!

**Camp scholarships are available, ask Hannah for more information.*



Youth News

Summer Camps-sign up now

What happens at camp...changes lives!

Camp United: June 12-16, at Camp Egan.

Trek: July 22-29, Colorado, Minnesota, and Montana.

To enroll in all summer camps, go to :
okcamps.campbrainregistration.com

Scholarships are available. Shelly can give you details on all camp information or you can also refer to the youth website.

VBS Reminder

Please consider volunteering this year.

**Your help is always needed
and appreciated.**

Sign up at the table in the North Hall.

For more information on our
Youth Programs, contact:
Shelly Thompson
sthompson@olp.net
918-366-4463



New Youth Website

bixbymethodistyouth.weebly.com

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



BIXBY COMMUNITY SPIRIT

SAVE THE DATE FOR "LOVE BIXBY"

WHAT? A day of connecting with and caring for the people in the extended Bixby community

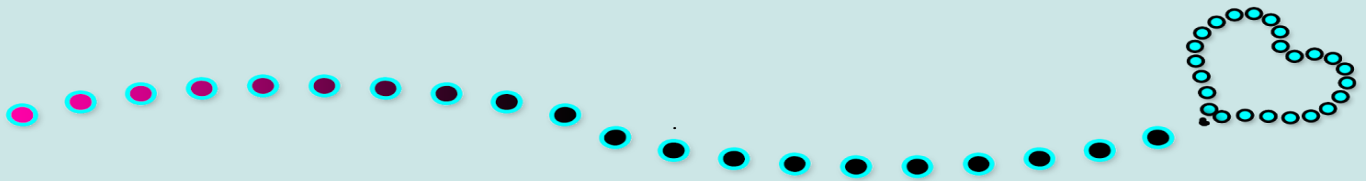
WHO? Partnering churches in Bixby, including Free Will Baptist; First United Methodist; South Community; Bixby Christian/The Crossing; New Beginnings

WHY? To be the hands and feet of Jesus by connecting children and adults to free resources that may meet some of their needs, such as dental screening, vision screening, haircuts, family photography, career support, food, fun and more

WHEN? Saturday, September 16, Noon – 5:00 p.m.

WHERE? We are hosting the event at our church this year. The event began last year at Free Will Baptist Church, and the plan is to rotate the host site each year.

YOU? We will need help with hospitality and logistics as we welcome several hundred people to our church, both outdoors and inside, on September 16. There are also opportunities to connect the planning team with resource people and to sponsor activities. See the Welcome Table for more information. Kelly and Diana Sample, as co-chairs of Local Missions, are contact people.



Local Missions/Project Transformation

PROJECT TRANSFORMATION: COLLEGE STUDENTS + CHILDREN + CHURCHES

Do you want to be a part of something that makes a positive difference in the lives of young people and children? This summer you can sign up to help our church support Project Transformation (PT) the week of July 23-27. Here are some facts and figures about PT:

- ♦ PT is a literacy-based summer day camp for underserved children, hosted by Southern Hills UMC in our area.
- ♦ This PT serves children who live near 61st and Peoria, most of whom attend either Marshall or McClure Elementary School.
- ♦ Nationally, 4 out of 5 children from low-income backgrounds are reading behind grade level, and lack of summer reading increases the gap between them and other students.
- ♦ Nationally, 85% of college students in PT stay active in some form of ministry or volunteer service after Project Transformation.

Bixby First will again partner with Jenks FUMC for our week of reading one-to-one with campers and providing a few snacks for campers and meals for the college interns. Your time commitment will be 9:30 a.m. to noon for 1-4 mornings. You will sit with one elementary child in 25-minute sessions, listening to and encouraging their reading. You *will* make a difference by letting "the little children" come to you.

Coming soon: More information about PT, including a video link sent via our church email.

Attention!! Please check the cart outside the kitchen for dishes that may belong to you. There are several that have been left and after this month any that remain will be given to a good cause. Thank you.



Monthly Meeting Reminders:

(known meetings from the office calendar)

VBS Orientation Meeting
Sunday, June 4 4:00 p.m. or
Tuesday, June 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Local Missions Meeting-Sunday, June 11
6:00 p.m.

Trustees-Sunday, June 11
5:00 p.m.



Dear Bixby First United Methodist Church Family,
 I wanted to write you and give you an update on the Pastor Education Fund that you so generously supported over the last few years. Through the grace of God, we exceeded our initial goal of a \$2 million endowment to provide scholarships to those gifted and called to ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church in Oklahoma. At this point we have over \$5million in clergy education funds.
 We now have 8 students in various stages of ministry training in several seminaries. They all will incur no seminary debt and we feel they will be very effective pastors for today and for the next generation.
 Thank you so much for your generous contribution. Your partnership with us is making a huge difference helping us find and recruit gifted and called leaders for the future of our church.

Sincerely,
 Bill Junk
 President, Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation



Stitchers of Love

Prayer Shawl Ministry

June 13, 10:00 a.m.

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



ATTENDANCE FOR WORSHIP SERVICES					
Sunday,	April 30	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
8:30 a.m.	96	99	90	87	74
11:00 a.m.	<u>195</u>	<u>172</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>118</u>
TOTAL	291	271	257	265	192

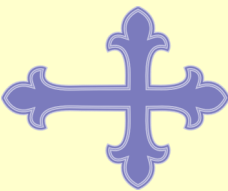
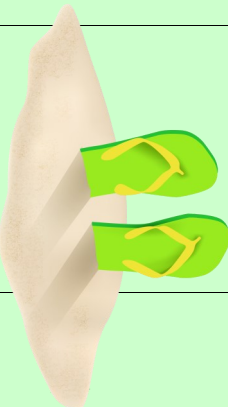







Find Us Here



Sermons are available online
www.fumcbixby.org

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1 Prayers for my church</i> 8:30 a.m. Quilters 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study	<i>2 prayers for my church</i>	<i>3 prayers for my church</i>
4 Pentecost/Communion 10:00 a.m. Combined Worship Lunch in Gym 4:00 p.m. VBS Orientation	<i>5 prayers for my church</i> 9:30 a.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scouts	<i>6 prayers for my church</i> 6:00 p.m. VBS Orientation	<i>7 prayers for my church</i> 9:30 a.m. Yoga 6:00 p.m. Praise Band 6:00 p.m. Youth 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	<i>8 prayers for my church</i> 8:30 a.m. Quilters 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study	<i>9 prayers for my church</i>	<i>10 prayers for my church</i>
	<i>12 prayers for my church</i> 7:00 p.m. Scouts	<i>13 prayers for my church</i> 10:00 a.m. Prayer shawl	<i>14 prayers for my church</i> 9:30 a.m. Yoga 6:00 p.m. Praise Band 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice	<i>15prayers for my church</i> 8:30 a.m. Quilters 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study	<i>16 prayers for my church</i>	<i>17 prayers for my church</i>
11 Trinity Sunday 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. Local Mission Team	Youth Camp, Camp United, Egan, June 12-16					
18 Father's Day 7:30 a.m. Worship Prep. & Prayer 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School	<i>19 prayers for my church</i> 9:30 a.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scouts	<i>20 prayers for my church</i>	<i>21 prayers for my church</i> 9:30 a.m. Yoga 6:00 p.m. Praise Band 6:00 p.m. Youth 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice First Day of Summer	<i>22 prayers for my church</i> 8:30 a.m. Quilters 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study	<i>23 prayers for my church</i>	<i>24 prayers for my church</i>
						
25 7:30 a.m. Worship Prep. & Prayer 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School	<i>26 prayers for my church</i>	 <i>27 prayers for my church</i>	<i>28 prayers for my church</i>	<i>29 prayers for my church</i>	<i>30 prayers for my church</i> 	

June 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 JACK & JOYCE MCKENZIE**

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

**ARMY: SGT. (E5) NATHAN HAMELUND
GRANDSON OF KEN & TOMMIE BOND
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**