

APRIL 2024

THE CALLING



**FIRST
METHODIST
ARDMORE**

A LETTER FROM YOUR SENIOR PASTOR

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

~Ephesians 6:13 NIV

I enjoyed the TV show *West Wing* when it was airing and still like to watch it from time to time. There is an episode in the first season that has Leo McGarry talking to the Governor, Jed Bartlett, who Leo is trying to convince to run for President of the United States. At one point Leo looks at Governor Bartlett and says, “fake it till you make it.” Now, I’m not advocating for us to put on false fronts about who we are in Christ. I guess what I’m saying is that building a body of believers in today’s present world is and can be challenging!

There are normal days in our lives that just standing is all we can do for the Lord. It’s important we see that the Apostle Paul encourages us as fellow believers to put on the “full armor of God” in the spiritual battles we engage in on a regular basis. I take the Apostle Paul’s admonition to put on the armor of God literally. We were created by a Spirit. I believe that we are spirit, soul, and body. I believe in angels and demons. My experience in being a pastor has borne out that churches that repent of their sin, pray, and worship in Spirit and truth will engage in spiritual warfare on a regular basis.

This Lenten season was one where we concluded our Discipleship series for Midweek, concluded our Experiencing God study on the seven realities, and experienced a wonderful Holy Week and Resurrection Sunday. Now we begin to look forward to Mother’s Day, Confirmation Sunday, and celebrating our graduating seniors. Before you know it, summer will be here and we will be knee deep in camps, VBS and mission trips.

On behalf our church staff, thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in the giving of your tithes and offerings. As we grow spiritually and numerically, your faithful giving allows us to stand and be faithful to the Lord and His Kingdom. God bless you.

Jesus is Lord,

Rev. Dr. David Lloyd Daniel



MISSIONS OUTREACH UPDATE



The GO (Global Outreach) Mission team is off to a great start for 2024. We have received \$31,444.86 in Faith Promise Funds since January 1st. We were able to fulfill our 1st quarterly payments to our mission partners: Circle of Care Ardmore office for foster care, OU Wesley International, Gideon's International bible distribution, 111 Project for foster families' needs, our Faith Promise weekend expenses and the Waymaker jail and prison ministry here at our church. We were able to give 4 scholarships to our Ugandan team members. These expenses added up to \$11,889.35 through the end of February.

The month of March we were able to purchase 12 iPads for Holly Joy to take to the Ethiopian church as she traveled with some of the Global Methodist leadership. These iPads would be downloaded with the Jesus Film to share the Good News to them. We also purchased 50 Bibles for the Thailand church our members Thornton and Jantree Wheeler served at last summer on their short term mission.

We held our mission budget meeting and voted to add 4 new mission partners in addition to the ones we currently support. Because of your generosity to missions for 2024 our new budget is set at \$112,250. This is an INCREASE of \$61,500 over 2023!

Each month I will share something about each of our partners so you can know who they are. They are in need of prayer support as well as funding. This month's partner is WATS (West Africa Theological Seminary) in Nigeria. The United Methodist Church has a membership of over 1 million members spread out over four states in northeastern Nigeria where the threat of Islamic terrorism is a constant menace. In December of 2023 members of the Global Methodist Church met with leaders of the church. They are formally joining the Global Methodist Church at their 2024 conference. WATS is Africa's largest non-denominational seminary. They have been training United Methodist pastors over the last 10+ years and are planning a project called OPERATION 2025 with the new Global Methodist church pastors in training. They are asking for prayer for their 3 step process:

1. Raising at least 100 scholarships by September 2024 for Nigerian GM pastors (both undergraduate and masters levels) to study at WATS
2. Taking the GM pastors in training at WATS under close mentorship, praying to God for a great spiritual revival among them, as well as the rest of the seminary
3. Accompany 100 or more people back to the center of GM churches in northeastern Nigeria in June and July 2025 for six weeks of intensive spiritual awakening campaigns in at least 100 Nigerian Global Methodist churches

Our church has committed to fund 4 scholarships for Pastors in training at \$150 a month each. Please be in prayer for Operation 2025 as well as the 4 pastors and their families. For more information about the seminary go to <https://wats.edu.ng/>

Our Guatemala Young Adult Mission trip June 8 through 14 has 15 team members. Please keep them in prayer as they prepare to share God's word through service.

A Panama interest meeting will be held this Sunday April 7th after the Epic service. Lunch will be provided so please RSVP if you are attending, or, if you have questions and cannot be there, please contact me at reed@ardmorefirst.org or call 580-465-1540. Dates will be June 27th through July 4th.

Rebecca Reed
Missions Outreach Coordinator

UGANDA MISSION TRIP 2024



mission team



playing with the orphans



praying for the widows



waiting for the medical team



Holly Joy

ETHIOPIA



THAILAND



Thailand Methodist Church



Jantree Wheeler



Thornton teaching an English Class

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Mike Dees
Technology Director



Joined FMC in 1994

Started working at FMC in 2010

Mike & his wife, Tonya, have 2 children and 2 grandchildren

14 years ago I was blessed with the position of Facilities Director and now Technology Director at my home church. I am so thankful to be part of your lives and the work the Lord is doing here at First Methodist Church.

EASTER EGGS!

Thank you to Brawn & Jaclyn Lide of Living Fulfilled Farms for hosting our annual Easter Egg Hunt!



PANAMA 2024 ADULT AND YOUTH MISSION TRIP

**INTEREST AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING
APRIL 7TH 12 PM CMC 116**



#seatstostreets

APRIL

- April 10 Youth Worship - Sanctuary 5:30 pm
- April 17 Youth Worship - Sanctuary 5:30 pm
- April 19 Friendly Neighbors - CMC Room 116 10:30 am
- April 21 Holy Lands Meeting - CMC Room 116 12 pm
- April 24 Youth Worship - Sanctuary 5:30 pm
- April 28 New Member Luncheon - CMC Room 116 12 pm
- May 1 Mission Update Presentation - CMC 6 pm

SUMMER 2024

KIDS VBS

(4yrs by Sept 1 - entering 5th)

JUNE 3-6

DECLARE

(entering 1st - entering 5th)

JULY 26-28

YOUTH DAYSPRING

(entering 9th - Graduates)

MAY 28 - JUNE 1

YOUTH FORCE

(entering 7th - Graduates)

JUNE 16 - 21

DISCIPLE

(entering 6th - entering 8th)

JULY 10 - JULY 13

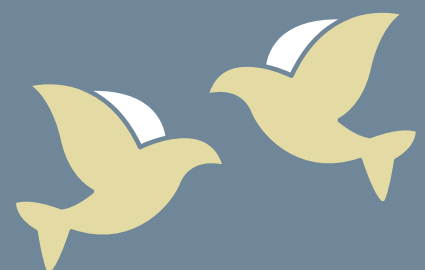
BAKED FRESH

Our church recently participated in a cookie bake for the Kairos Prison Ministry. Our goal was to bake 150 dozen cookies. Due to the enthusiastic response to serve, our church baked **300 DOZEN!**

Baking cookies for Kairos is a beautiful way to serve Jesus and to support our church's commitment to this ministry. Kairos is a lay-led Christian ministry in which volunteers bring Christ's love and forgiveness to prisoners and their families. The cookie is a rare treat for prisoners; more importantly it is a gift that symbolizes repentance, forgiveness, and commitment to Jesus.

Peggy Kahle and Jane Kucko are greatly appreciative of everyone who participated in the cookie bake. Each of you made a significant difference to prisoners and the ministry.

God Bless You!



FIRST METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Studies for the Month of April

Cora Carlock Class

The Gospel of Mark

Lenny & Lisa Frank

frank.lennylisha@yahoo.com

Young Parents Class

The Gospel of Matthew

Amy Hopper

amy@ardmorefirst.org

Love Class

Church History

Janet Faustner/Julie Altom

janetfaustner@yahoo.com

julie_altom@sbcglobal.net

Fellowship Class

Anxious for Nothing

Ginger Daniel

gingerbright@hotmail.com

Friends Class

Gospel of Matthew

Debbie Woodbridge

paisano@ardmore.com

Wesley Class

Indwelling Spirit

Justin Haynes

haynes777@hotmail.com

Young Adults

Core Christian Values

Pastor Kira Calhoun-Wilson

kira@ardmorefirst.org

Upper Room Class

Armor of God

Jacey Eubanks

jacey_eubanks@yahoo.com

Journey Class

The Book of Daniel

Hugh & Shelly Aljoe

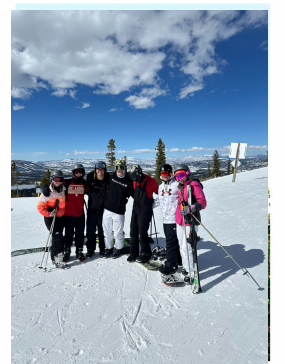
shellyaljoe@outlook.com



YOUTH SKI TRIP

First Methodist Youth went on a ski trip to Winter Park, CO over Spring Break. 18 youth, and six adults accompanied Youth Director, Harrison Boggs. Everyone had a great time!

Thank you to Craig, Meredith and Chandler Ladd, Carson and Kelli Brooks and Lizzie Jones for chaperoning our kids, cooking meals and making sure everyone was safe and having fun!



CALLING ALL BELL RINGERS!

The addition of the handbells on Palm Sunday was wonderful! We haven't heard our bells ring since 2020. I am asking everyone interested in playing handbells to contact me.

We will begin handbell practice on Monday, April 15 at 5:30 pm in the choir room. Let's build this part of the music ministry back up and play for His glory.

Becca Glaser
Traditional Music Director
(580) 223-5390 ext 312 work
(580) 340-1056 cell



PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR OUR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Keilan Atencio
Brynley Burson
Dominique Coursey
Lila Cumming
Luke Cumming
Jett Frankum
Jera Good

Marlie Good
Hadley Kamas
Jay Lodes
Rory McMillan
Boston Neher
Charleigh Scott
Weston Wittliff



TROOP 5 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA 1924 - 2024

Troop 5 Boy Scouts has been chartered by our church for 100 years. We are planning a celebration for the first part of September 2024. We would like to extend an invitation to all past Troop 5 Scouts to join us.

We are gathering historical information about our Troop. Any prior Scout Masters who would like to contribute or join the Centennial Committee, please contact Rick Woodbridge at drjw@ardmore.com.

The next Centennial Committee meeting is April 15 at 6 pm at the CMC. We need volunteers!

Thank you,

Scoutmaster Chuck Smith



A WORD FROM YOUR LAY LEADER



“He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!”

Here we are, now in our post Easter season. What is next? First just a quick review. We had a wonderful series for the Holy Week Noon Day meetings, with great speakers, the Seder Meal and Good Friday service, and I am sure the Easter Egg Hunt was a blast for the kids. I hope you were able to catch some or all of them. Easter Sunday had 2 great services, with wonderful music and communion, with a full house in both services.

This coming Wednesday, April 3, we will have a night of praise in the CMC starting at 6 pm.

If you haven't been lately, it is a great time to get back in Sunday School. You are already coming to church, right? Why not spend another hour with a bunch of great people you already know, or getting to know some new ones, and at the same time learning more about the Scriptures? I know the Journey Class will be starting on Daniel, so a great time to start up with us. Other classes are possibly starting a new series now also.

Was life a bit busy recently to meet in your small group? Time to get back together! Don't have one? I bet if you contact Pastor John or myself we can help you find, or start, a new group!

Watch for new activities, studies, etc. to come soon. I am hearing there might be some interest in a new Women's Bible study, and we are planning on having a Men's Breakfast soon to kick off a new Men's Bible Study. Current plans are to do an 8-week study on “The Resolution for Men Bible Study” by Stephen and Alex Kendrick. Plans are for it to be an early morning study, and be led by Aaron Tibbets and myself, Paul Reed. Watch for more details and start up times.

Our Missioners returned from Uganda with tales of God at work. Soon we will have a trip set off for Guatemala and a group is forming for Panama.

The Walk to Emmaus will be held this month, so keep our pilgrims and team members in prayer. There will be a Fourth Day Meeting to facilitate a reunion group on April 30th, 6 pm. Are you curious about Emmaus? Want to know more? Feel free to contact me or the Hellers or Lodes' to find out a little more about it.

What else do we need to be doing? Where do you feel God is calling us to join with Him in serving? How else do we need to be equipping our leaders? If you have some ideas I would love to hear them! Give me a call 580-465-4699 or email reedp.rfp@gmail.com.

Blessings and Peace,

Paul Reed

DAVID DANIEL, SENIOR PASTOR
JOHN HOLLON, ASSOCIATE PASTOR
KIRA CALHOUN-WILSON,
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

SUNDAY SERVICES

9 AM TRADITIONAL
10 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:05 AM EPIC

PRAYER CHAIN

LISA & LENNY FRANK
(580) 465-7515
FRANK.LENNYLISA@YAHOO.COM

WADELL & SHEILA ALTOM
(580) 223-7272

501 W. MAIN
ARDMORE, OK 73401
(580) 223-5390
ARDMOREFIRST.ORG

TELEVISED AT 11 AM ON
SPARKLIGHT CHANNEL 56

BROADCAST AT 9 AM ON KVSO
1240 AM AND 107.5 FM
LIVE STREAM ONLINE AND ROKU

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Current Prayers Needed: Ongoing Prayers Needed:

Wadell Altom
Karen Chaffin
Janet Culley
Debbie Custer
Bryant Harmon
Peggy Harvey
Davida Long
Maytha Mead
Jennie Vanbuskirk

Mary Lou Bacon
Roger Hughes
Greg Lohden
Susan Mertes
Dana Murrah
Pat Padberg
Cleta Phillips
Kim Thompson
Penny Wells
Nation of Israel

WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT

- First Methodist Church Ardmore - ardmorefirst.org or find us on Facebook at First Methodist Ardmore.
- Global Methodist Church Heartland Conference heartlandgmc.org
- seedbed.com
- Wake-Up Call Daily Devotional - seedbed.com/wakeupcall/
- firebrandmag.com
- <https://www.111project.org/>

Follow us on Facebook to keep up with events and announcements:

First Methodist Church Ardmore



Follow our Kids and Youth on

Instagram

_fmckids
fmc Ardmore youth

