

APRIL 2025

# THE CALLING



**FIRST  
METHODIST  
ARDMORE**



## A WORD FROM YOUR SENIOR PASTOR

*12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.*

*~1 Corinthians 15: 12-17 NIV*

I can't remember a time in my life when I wasn't surrounded by people who didn't believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. When I walk into my office, there is a picture of three crosses. Mike Blakemore and myself would get up and go out to these to have our sunrise service. We were charged with putting up the crosses. I'll never forget hearing the rooster crow while we were singing that Easter morning.

I've had moments of doubt and of questions in my faith journey, but by God's grace I have always been brought back to place of trusting Him and leaning on Him. I can't begin to think about what it would be like without knowing that I'm loved, forgiven, and called to be a servant of the Most High God. Imagine trying to navigate this world without the hope of the Risen Lord. Basing your life on something else other than the goodness and mercy of God would be a risky endeavor.

We are planning our next pilgrimage to Israel for September 2nd-14th. I share this with you because of my visiting the places in Jerusalem where we believe Jesus' body was laid to rest only to be vacated three days later. It is so powerful to go into that tomb and see for yourself that He is not there, He has risen from the dead. I try to preach Christ crucified and Christ resurrected every Sunday. I do believe. I trust and pray that you believe as well. Our God is so Good!

Jesus is Lord of all,

Rev. Dr. David L. Daniel



Thank you, Shelly Ojoe, for making sure our flower pots are always so beautiful!

**CHECK  
IT OUT**  
↓

Attention Seniors! Join Pat Garrett for a chair exercise class Thursdays at 3 pm in CMC 116 beginning April 3. All are welcome!



# HOLY WEEK EVENTS

## Palm Sunday Processional

Children ages 3 years to 5th grade are invited to participate in the Palm Sunday processional on April 13 during the 9 am Traditional Service and 11 am EPIC service.

## Holy Week Lunches, April 14-16

Enjoy a time of reflection with guest speakers, a brief worship, and an optional light lunch at 11:45 am. Boxed lunches are available for \$12 each. Please RSVP for lunch at <https://ardmorefirst.churchcenter.com/people/forms/924797>.

- April 14 - Rev. Dan Patman
- April 15 - Pastors David Daniel, John Hollon and Kira Calhoun-Wilson
- April 16 - Rev. Les Bussell

## Holy Week Worship Night, April 15

- 5:30 pm - Pizza in the CMC
- 6:00 pm - Worship Night with the EPIC band
- Childcare Available - Main Building (6 weeks through 5th grade)

## Maundy Thursday Service, April 17

Join us as we remember Jesus' last supper with His disciples and the washing of their feet at 6 pm in the Colvert Ministry Center. Dinner will be provided.

Speaker: Karen Chaffin.

Childcare is available by RSVP only for children 6 weeks through Pre-K.

## Good Friday Service, April 18

A solemn service to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. 12 pm in the Sanctuary

## Easter Egg Hunt, April 19

Join us for a fun-filled morning of hunting eggs and celebrating the joy of Easter!

Living Fulfilled Farms  
5919 Myall Road, Ardmore, OK

## Easter Sunday Services, April 20

- 8:00 am - EPIC Early Service - McClure Chapel
- 9:00 am - Traditional Worship Service
- 11:05 am - EPIC Worship Service

We look forward to celebrating Holy Week with you!

# HOLY WEEK LUNCHES



**MONDAY  
APRIL 14**

**Rev. Dan Patman** is a 1961 graduate of El Reno High School and a 1966 graduate of the University of Oklahoma where he received his Bachelor's degree in history. He attended the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa and graduated with his MDiv in 1972. Rev. Patman was an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church and shepherded UM churches in Piedmont, Norman, Stroud, Tuttle, Healdton and Ardmore. He formally retired in July of 2009 with the Oklahoma Annual Conference. He continued to serve part-time as an associate pastor with Ardmore First until December 2016. While serving at Ardmore First, Rev. Patman helped initiate a world-wide mission outreach through Faith Promise, directed an evangelism ministry and introduced Ardmore First to the Walk to Emmaus. Dan transferred his membership to the Global Methodist Church in April 2024. In August 2024, he became the founding pastor of New Hope Methodist Church in Tishomingo. Dan and his wife, Cheryl, were married 51 years at the time of her passing in 2023. They have three children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**TUESDAY  
APRIL 15**

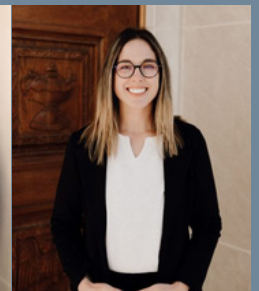
Your First Methodist Church Ardmore pastors will each be answering the question, "Why do you believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth?"



**Rev. Dr. David Daniel**



**Rev. John Hollon**



**Rev. Kira Calhoun-Wilson**

**WEDNESDAY  
APRIL 16**



**Pastor Les Bussell**, originally from Marietta, served 4+ years in the United States Navy. After returning to Oklahoma, he attended the University of Oklahoma where he received his bachelor's degree in Ethics and Religion. He then attended Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, OK where he graduated with a Masters of Divinity. He served an additional 23 years in the Army National Guard, most of which was with the 345th Transportation Battalion in Ardmore. Pastor Les served as a United Methodist pastor for more than 25 years and retired in 2021. He continued to work for Christ, and in May 2024 he accepted an ordination from the Global Methodist Church. In August 2024, Pastor Les and some friends started meeting in his home and started the Connections Church of Lone Grove, a Global Methodist Church, which is now located at 16484 HWY 70 in Lone Grove. He and his wife, Gay Lynn, have been married for 44 years. They have three children and 12 grandchildren.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



**KAREN CHAFFIN**

will be our speaker at the Maundy Thursday service on April 17 at 6 pm in the Colvert Ministry Center.

## Maundy Thursday

In a Bible study class 37 years ago, God lit Karen's heart with a passion for Him and the Word of God that launched a lifelong pursuit of teaching, writing, speaking, and organizing conferences. She hosted Getaway with God retreats for many years, drawing women across the region together. One of her most treasured experiences was being part of a team that hosted conferences for the mums in the Watoto Orphanages of Uganda, Africa.

Following a 30-year career in architecture, Karen authored Heavenly Minded for Earthly Good, an inductive Bible study that reveals scripture's blueprints of Heaven. For the past 18 years, she has had the great joy of launching Heaven study groups all over the country.

Karen and her husband Don recently moved from Ardmore to Edmond to be closer to their married children and seven grandchildren. They are attending Crossings Church OKC and enjoying this new season of life.

## Young Adult Summer Schedule

**Summer  
young adult**

**2025 Schedule**

Ardmore First Methodist Church

**Sunday Mornings**

9:00a Traditional Service  
10:00a Coffee & Fellowship  
11:05a EPIC Modern Service

**Weekly Coffee**

Pastor Kira will be stationed at Main Street Coffee on these dates, come get a free drink and if you wish, sit and chat!

9:00-11:00a  
May 20, 27  
June 10, 17, 24  
July 15, 22, 29

**Bible Study @ Hays' House**

Light Dinner @ 6:30p  
Bible Study @ 7:00p  
Swim & Chill until 8:30p  
June Dates: 9th & 30th  
July 14th

**Pastor Kira's Contact Info**

Cell: 580-938-1994  
Email: [kira@ardmorefirst.org](mailto:kira@ardmorefirst.org)

**Mission Opportunities**

June 2-6:  
Serve at VBS, contact Mrs. Katie ([katie@ardmorefirst.org](mailto:katie@ardmorefirst.org))

June 11:  
We are serving as a group at Sara's Project!

July 16  
We are serving as a group at The Cude Clothes Closet

**A dinner gathering  
Dinner @ 7:00p**

We will cover dinner. Come and join us on these dates:  
June 26: Ten Star Pizza  
July 30: Cafe Alley

**Lake Day on the Heller's House Boat**

June 22: Cook-Out & Lake Fun  
Aug 1: Sunrise Breakfast & Communion

# REBUILD NORTH CAROLINA INTEREST MEETING

Hurricane Helene (2024) and Hurricane Florence (2018) left widespread destruction in North Carolina, displacing many families. Rebuild North Carolina is working to restore homes through reconstruction, repairs, and new home builds.

Rebecca Reed is assembling a team for a week-long mission trip to help rebuild homes and bring hope to families in need. No prior construction experience is required, but if you have skills in light construction, painting, flooring, etc., our project manager will match our team with the right project. All tools, supplies, and equipment will be provided.

## Trip Details:

- Dates: July 5–12, 2025
- Cost: Participants cover transportation to and from North Carolina and some meals.
- Lodging: Bunk-style housing with three meals provided (Monday–Friday).

## Interest Meeting:

Date: April 6

Time: After the Epic Service

Location: CMC 116

If you're interested but unable to attend the meeting, contact Rebecca Reed at (580) 465-1540. Join us in making a difference!





# ***Easter Egg Hunt***

April 19th - 10am

Living Fulfilled Farms

# **SAVE**

**KIDS**

**VBS - JUNE 2-5**

4yrs (by 9/1/25) - entering 5th

**DECLARE - JULY 18-20**

Entering 1st - 5th

# **DATE**

# **SUMMER** **KIDS & YTH**

**25**

# **THE**

**YTH**

**DAYSRING - May 27-31**

Entering 9th - Grads

**DISCIPLE - JULY 23-26**

Entering 6th-8th

FMC Ardmore held a marriage retreat February 28 - March 1. We were blessed to be led by Pastor Jaimie Willis and his wife, Jennifer, from the Claremore First Methodist Church. For our church couples, we offer this great tool to use on your next date night!

# DATE NIGHT

## **Communication and Support:**

1. In general, how are we doing with our communication?
2. What could I do to make you feel more loved and respected?
3. Do I make you feel seen and heard? How can I do better?
4. What rules of engagement do we need to put into place so that we argue well?

## **Friends and Family:**

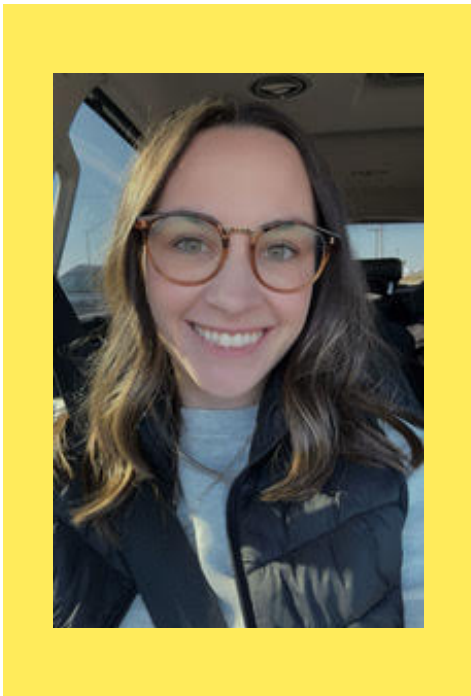
1. How are things going at home?
2. Is there something new we might do together that would bring greater joy to our marriage or family?
3. What specific relationships would we like to intentionally cultivate? Names and why?
4. Who are the friends we need to reach out to and pray for? Go ahead and do that.

## **Spirituality and Leadership:**

1. In general, how are we doing spiritually?
2. What can I do to help you grow spiritually?
3. Name one way that we could make our marriage more Christ-like.
4. How can we use our marriage to strengthen the church we are a part of?



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT



## BALIE CASEY

**BRIGHT BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL  
CO-DIRECTOR**



Started working at FMC in 2021



Balie is working on her associates degree in Child Development at Murray State College.



She loves to do anything with her family in her free time. She is excited to go camping this summer and enjoying lake days on her boat.



Balie and her husband, Colton, have two daughters - Kamryn and Kendall.

**"I ENJOY MY JOB BECAUSE IT ALLOWS ME TO NURTURE YOUNG HEARTS AND MINDS, GUIDING THEM IN BOTH FAITH AND LEARNING. IT'S INCREDIBLY REWARDING TO CREATE A LOVING, FAITH-FILLED ENVIRONMENT WHERE CHILDREN CAN GROW SPIRITUALLY AND ACADEMICALLY."**



# mission Trip 2025

Our youth group of 6th-12th graders (41 students and 9 sponsors) traveled to La Center, Kentucky to work with TEAMeffort Mission Trips. We were divided into teams and sent to help local homeowners and non-profits in the community. One of our teams deconstructed an existing privacy fence that had fallen down and completed the rebuild of a new one. The other team did numerous projects at numerous mission sites with landscaping, yard cleaning, tree removal, mulching, etc. We also helped with the demolition of a deck and sorted clothes at a nearby clothes closet. We had daily quiet times, mission site devotion times, and evening worship/chapel services.

After serving in Kentucky, we traveled to Branson, Missouri, with our first stop being at Sight and Sound Theaters to watch "David." To conclude our trip, we spent the day on Friday enjoying junk food and roller coaster fun at Silver Dollar City.

Throughout our trip, we also personally handed out hundreds of salvation bracelets to complete strangers. Our theme for the week was to be Kingdom Minded, thinking on the outward rather than on the inward, with our scripture coming from Colossians 3:1-2. We are very grateful for our church family, for the prayers and support of this mission trip. Your Faith Promise dollars helped make this mission trip possible. We give thanks to the Lord for His abundant provision in every detail of our trip. If you would like to hear testimonies from our trip, please ask any of our students or sponsors to hear how God did an amazing work throughout the week, and we pray and know that He is still working in the lives of those we met during the trip.





For our March get-together, we celebrated those with March birthdays! Thank you to birthday girl, Maytha Mead, for providing the birthday cake!



# Report from the Finance Committee for the month of February 2025

	Budget	Actual
Receipts	\$337,016.66	\$313,717.32
Expenses	\$337,0163.74	\$323,460.28
% of Apportionments paid for the year	16.7%	16.7%

We ended February with a budget deficit of \$9,742.96. All of our bills and apportionments are paid in full. We sincerely appreciate the support of the congregation and those who gave and continue to give in support of the ministries of the Church.



# APRIL 2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 1 ELECTION DAY

April 2 Sack Lunch Ministry - 9 am CMC  
Mid-Week - 5:30 pm CMC  
Mid-Week Youth - 5:30 pm  
Sanctuary Choir - 7 pm Choir Room

April 6 Communion Sunday  
North Carolina Interest Meeting - 12:15p  
CMC Room 116  
Youth - 5:30 pm

April 8 Preschool Spring Programs - 6 pm  
Sanctuary  
Celebrate Recovery - 6 pm CMC

April 9 Sack Lunch Ministry - 9 am CMC  
Mid-Week - 5:30 pm CMC  
Mid-Week Youth - 5:30-7 pm  
Preschool Spring Programs - 6 pm  
Sanctuary  
Sanctuary Choir - 7 pm Choir Room

April 13 PALM SUNDAY  
Administrative Church Council - 12:15p  
CMC  
Youth - 5:30 pm

April 14 HOLY WEEK LUNCH - 12 pm CMC

April 15 HOLY WEEK LUNCH - 12 pm CMC  
Celebrate Recovery - 6 pm CMC

April 16 Sack Lunch Ministry - 9 am CMC  
Holy Week Lunch - 12 pm CMC  
Holy Week Worship Night - 5:30 pm CMC  
Mid-Week Youth - 5:30-7 pm  
Sanctuary Choir - 7 pm Choir Room

April 17 Maundy Thursday - 6 pm CMC

April 18 GOOD FRIDAY  
Friendly Neighbors - 10:30 AM CMC  
Good Friday Service - 12 pm Sanctuary

April 19 Easter Egg Hunt - 10 am  
Living Fulfilled Farms

April 20 EASTER - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL  
EPIC Early Service - 8 am McClure Chapel  
Traditional Service - 9 am  
EPIC Service - 11:05 am

April 21 CHURCH CLOSED

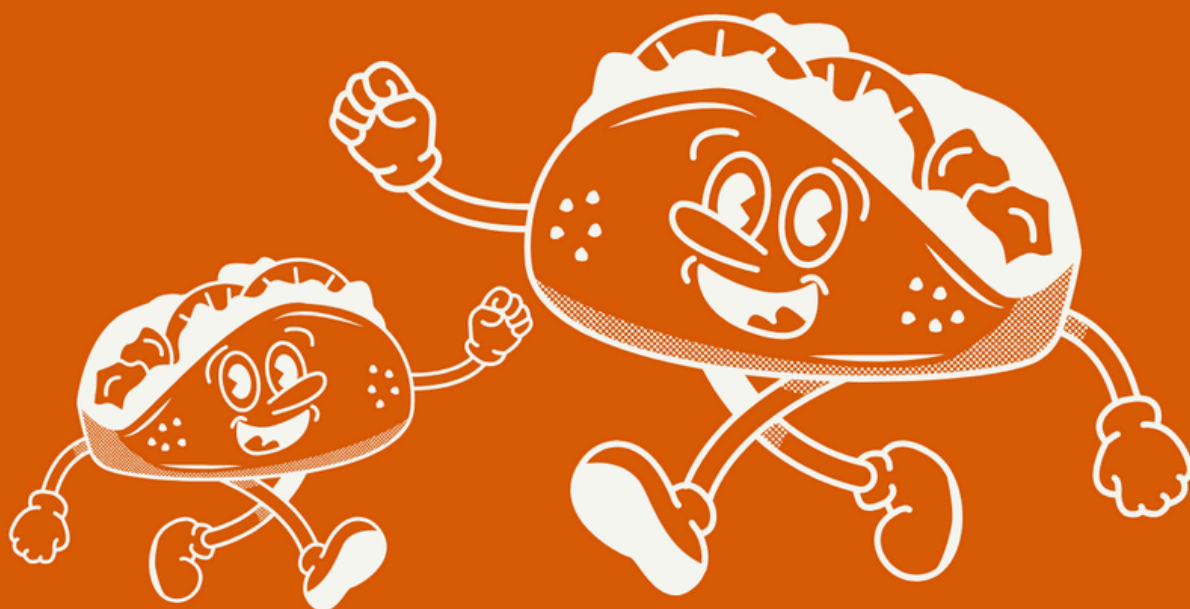
April 23 Sack Lunch Ministry - 9 am CMC  
Mid-Week Youth - 5:30 pm  
Sanctuary Choir - 7 pm Choir Room

April 27 Confirmation Sunday  
Youth & Senior Game Day - 3 pm CMC

April 30 Sack Lunch Ministry - 9 am CMC  
Mid-Week Youth - 5:30 pm  
Sanctuary Choir - 7 pm Choir Room

# INDIAN TACO THURSDAY

10 AM - 2 PM



.....  
**Every  
1ST  
THURSDAY**  
.....

Benefitting Naomi House



.....  
**\$10  
TACO AND  
DRINK**  
.....

**PICK UP AT 1105 E ST NW**  
.....

**FREE DELIVERY**

**CALL: 580-798-0397 OR SHARRY: 580-341-7987  
OR CHERYL: 580-465-1940**

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](http://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

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

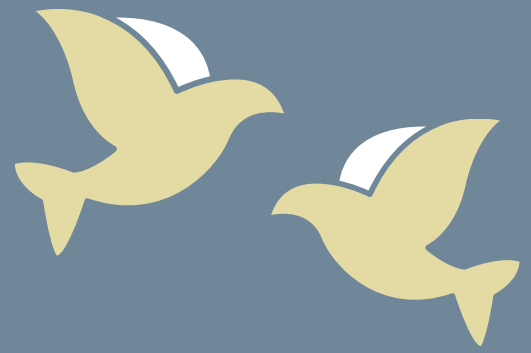
First Methodist Church  
Ardmore



**Clothes Closet Hours**

Mondays 1-3 pm  
Wednesdays 9-11 am

114 F Street NW



## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### Current Prayers Needed: Ongoing Prayers Needed:

Betty Sue Clarke  
Doug Cude  
Rondy Hunt & Family  
Mary Pruitt  
Carol Rose  
Jim and Jerrie Williams  
United States of America  
Local & National Leadership

Mary Berhend  
Lanie Chambers  
Beverly Enderby  
Neal Hill  
Carolyn Lemmon  
Greg Lohden  
Susan Mertes  
Gay Morgan  
Audrey Peters  
Kim Thompson  
Don & Carolyn Yeager  
Nation of Israel

### WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT

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

### Do you know?

Pastor David is on the  
radio, **7:38-7:50am** daily,  
with "Perceptions"

GTO/KYNZ – 107.1  
KTRX – 92.7  
KKAJ – 95.7

