



# ***In the First Place***

*the monthly newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Sheridan, Arkansas*  
*November 2019 Volume 2019/Issue 11*

## **Welcome Our New Members**



We welcome Dave and Paula Vance as new members of our church. They joined during our 10:50 service on September 29.

Dave and Paula recently moved to Sheridan from Dickson, Tennessee, near Nashville. Dave is a Manufacturing Manager at the Evergreen Mill in Pine Bluff, and Paula is a Human Resources Manager and Special Education Teacher. Their son, Eric, graduated last April from the University of Pittsburgh with majors in Accounting and Finance and recently started graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin pursuing a PhD in

Finance. Their daughter, Sarah, is in her final year of college at The Ohio State University pursuing degrees in Psychology and Criminology with plans to for graduate school to become a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner (DNP).

When asked what they would like to say, their reply was, "We are so excited to have quickly found our church home here at First United Methodist Church! " So are we! Welcome, Dave and Paula!

## **Youth Halloween Carnival**



The UMY had a fantastic Halloween carnival on Sunday, October 27! They raised \$837 for Cookson Hills in Kansas, Oklahoma, which provides home, school, and therapy for kids at risk. Thank you to all the youth and adult volunteers who made it an extra-special event, and to everyone who came out to have fun and support this vital mission. Visit the church's Facebook group page to see more photos.

**The UMY Coat Drive continues until November 9!  
Please donate new or gently-used coats for the  
coat giveaway on November 9!**

## **FLC's Cookoff Winners**

The Family Life Committee under the direction of Chairperson, Dona Glaze, held their annual Chili, Soup, Cornbread, and Kids Dessert competition on October 13. Everyone had a great time sampling everything and judging each entry! The winners are listed below, and more photos from this event can be found on our church's Facebook group page.



**Best Chili:** Seth Glaze, 3rd, Buffalo Chicken Chili, Stephen Shirron, 1st, Chili Dog Chili, and Deric Wyatt, 2nd, Chili-licious Chili

**Best Soup:** Peggy Schee, 1st, Chicken Rellano Soup, Emily Baker, 3rd, Wedding Singer Soup, and Mandy Schee, 2nd, Chicken Gumbo



**Best Cornbread Winners:** Seth Glaze, 3rd, Crawfish Cornbread, Becky Baker, 2nd, Jalapeno Business Cornbread, and Lezleigh Robinette, 1st, Broccoli Cornbread



**Best Kids Dessert Winners:** Tatum Cody, 1st, Banana Pudding, Reagan & Madison Shirron, 2nd, Spooky Spider Cookies, (tie) Ella Reed, 3rd, Are You Fall-o-Ween Jesus? cookies and Mattie Glaze, 3rd, Chocolate Pumpkin Turnovers

## From the Pastor's Desk....

Some of you may remember Bob Ross' The Joy of Painting that aired on PBS for about 10 years in the mid-80s though the mid-90s. Amazingly, even though Bob Ross died in 1995 and his show was about as basic as it gets, it has enjoyed a renaissance through Netflix and YouTube. I confess that I love watching The Joy of Painting. I don't paint and don't really have any interest in doing so. I don't even find Ross' paintings all that spectacular. I enjoy the show because Bob Ross is so astonishingly positive and he has such a wonderful, soothing voice.



Bob Ross served 20 years in the US Air Force, retiring as a master sergeant. I was astonished to learn that this man with a giant, mushroom shaped head of hair and a voice as mellow as a sunset had positions in the Air Force that required him to be, in his own words, "tough" and "mean" and "had to make people clean the latrine." And while he obviously served well, he vowed that if he ever got out of the military, he would never raise his voice again.

Now you can watch The Joy of Painting and listen to Bob Ross paint "happy, little trees" and "beat the devil" out of his paint brush. When he was asked about his laid-back demeanor and pleasant voice he said, "I got a letter from somebody here a while back, and they said, 'Bob, everything in your world seems to be happy.' That's for sure. That's why I paint. It's because I can create the kind of world that I want, and I can make this world as happy as I want it. Shoot, if you want bad stuff, watch the news."

Our world could use a lot more happy, little trees these days. There is an over-abundance of "bad stuff." It isn't just that the news displays the horrors of warfare and mass shootings; the seemingly insurmountable problems of global warming and wealth/income inequality; the results of racism, classism, sexism, and homophobia; and the gaping rifts between "thems" and "us" these days. It is also that one just can't escape it! The news is not on only at five o'clock and ten o'clock now. The news is at our fingertips. It is instantaneous. Gosh, even our social media is filled with news (and it is difficult to discover if it is "news" or "propaganda" at that!). Oh, how I love to see the pictures of my friends and their children. And oh, how I hate that my Facebook feed is so full of snarky memes and hateful rhetoric.

I don't need any scientific study (which do exist) to tell me that people are more depressed and more anxious these days. I experience it. I can feel in my own body and soul the impact of a constant stream of ugliness. People these days are undergoing a deep trauma that is so deep-set that it will take years to heal. What is more, our kids (particularly our teens), whose brains are still developing, are being impacted even more (and more permanently). What to do? We can't watch The Joy of Painting all the time!

We cannot avoid news all the time. Christians must be present and active in a hurting world, especially so that we might share the Good News (that God loves us and redeems us in spite of our shortcomings) with those who are traumatized by these trying times. On the other hand, we cannot share something that we do not have or do not experience. In other words, Christians who only experience the ugliness of the world will find themselves too empty of love and thus, unable to share it.

So, we must, must, must be intentional about taking time to rest, taking time to heal, taking time to be in the presence of the Holy Other who provides such grace. We also live in a culture that tells us that overwork and exhaustion are badges of accomplishment rather than signs of a deep imbalance and illness. But we Christians are supposed to live counter-cultural lives! We are supposed to be defined by Jesus who went to the cross, rather than by Caesar. Therefore, we must reclaim time for silence and solitude in order to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. We must turn off our phones and tablets and engage with Scripture. We must spend time with one another listening to experiences of holiness (and not complaining about whatever displeases us).

Even in this world of violence, inequity, and greed, God is present. We have drowned out God's voice with a cacophony of noises that are mostly destructive. Perhaps it is time for us to silence the loud voices and listen instead for the still, small voice. Perhaps we can find Joy in quiet and rest. Perhaps we should set about to create a world that is happy.

*-Pastor Todd-Paul*

## *In Sympathy*

To Pauline, Sheila, and family of Tom Waller, who passed away on October 24 .

## All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 3, is All Saints Sunday. We will remember these church members who passed away in the last twelve months: Robert Simpson, Irene Blake, Marcia Gartman, and Bill Clark.

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*Todd-Paul Taulbee, Pastor*  
*Betty Lancaster, Church Secretary and Treasurer*  
*Sandra Parham Turner, Newsletter Editor*



## United Methodist Women

The UMW have been busy this month! We held our annual Salad Luncheon on October 16 and raised \$2,569 for missions! We could not have done it without church members providing salads and coming to eat, and we thank everyone for your continued support! While UMW President, Zoe Hines, was searching for a good salad recipe to use, she ran across a slip of paper that had "Tang Salad" in her mother's handwriting on it. In the margins were notations such as, "3 Up, \$40" "7 Down, \$70" Her mother had been watching none other than Dialing for Dollars. If you're curious about how to make a "Tang Salad," the recipe is at the bottom.

Linda Gatling, Von Williamson, Betty Robinette, Betty Cook, Zoe Hines, and I attended a Southeast District UMW meeting on September 28 at Grand Avenue UMC in Stuttgart, and Betty Cook and Sandra attended a District Officers meeting at FUMC Conway on October 26. We are looking forward to attending the UMW Annual Conference on Saturday, November 2, at Pulaski Heights UMC.

Last but not least, the UMW participated in a new event, the Grant County Fall Festival held on Halloween night at the courthouse. Thanks to Zoe, Gary, and Von, Zoe's car was decorated using this past summer's VBS supplies, and it was "Out of This World!" Zoe wore an astronaut costume, and I was something like an alien/Martian, and we handed out candy with Gary's help to hundreds of Grant County children. It was amazing, and we really enjoyed seeing all the costumes!

We want to remind every woman in the church that you are welcome to come to our meetings and see what it means to be a UMW woman. The Night Circle meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00, and the Day Circle meets the third Monday of the month at 2:00.

Our next general meeting will be Sunday, November 10, at 2:00. All members are encouraged to attend as we will elect officers and plan our upcoming events. *-Sandra Turner*

### TANG SALAD

1 can pineapple chunks, don't drain  
1 can mandarin oranges, drained  
1 sm. jar maraschino cherries, drained  
1 sm. box instant vanilla pudding  
1 c. sm. marshmallows  
3 tbsp. Tang  
1 sliced banana

Add pineapple chunks, liquid, mandarin oranges (drained) and maraschino cherries (drained) to dry vanilla pudding and Tang. Stir and place in refrigerator. After chilled, add marshmallows and banana before serving.

**United Methodist Men "Man Church"**  
**Monday, October 18, at 6:30**  
**Fellowship Hall**

## UMY November Schedule

### Sunday School

**3** Tamyra Cody  
**10** Sandra Turner  
**17** Alexis Tadlock  
**24** Tamyra Cody

### Snack Supper

Sandra Turner  
Heather Taylor  
Sit-down dinner with Betty Cook  
**NO UMY**

### Safe Sanctuary

Nicole Cacciatori  
Anne Wells

### Wednesday Safe Sanctuary

**6** Jeff Appleget  
**13** Jennifer Kelley  
**20** Tamyra Cody  
**27** Alexis Tadlock



*UMY Coat Give-Away*  
*FUMC Parking Lot*  
*Saturday, November 9*  
*10:00 until they're gone!*

Please remember to donate new or gently-used coats and/or warm clothing until that day! Give-aways will be first-come, first-served. One set per person and must be present to receive.

*You are invited to a bridal shower in honor of*

*Rachel Sanders*

*Bride-elect of Cobey Wingfield*

*Sunday, November 3, 2019*

*1:30-3:30 p.m.*

*Grand Hall*

*Registered at McCoy-Tygart*  
*and Bed, Bath, and Beyond*



John & Lezleigh Robinette  
& Boy Scout Troup 60  
cordially invite you to attend the  
Eagle Scout Court of Honor for

*Harrison Haze Robinette*

Sunday, November 17, 2019

1:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church  
Reception following ceremony