



Ottawa FUMC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March, 2018

Dear Friends,

Several years ago I came into contact with a man who taught religious studies at one of our State Universities. While his area of expertise was Old Testament history, he loved entering into candid discussions on topics such as church doctrine and systematic theology. He even lead a research project that attempted to measure the influence faith had when people are faced with major, life-changing decisions.

I remember attending a meeting where several church leaders were discussing the positive influence his work had on the religious community. They even went so far as to marvel at the depths of his faith. Somehow they had missed the fact he was a professing atheist! So, why had he dedicated his life to becoming an expert on Biblical history? When I asked him that very question he replied: It's interesting. One doesn't have to believe it to teach it. Besides, I'm just more honest than many of the people who sit in the pews. They don't believe it all, either.

On the one hand, what he said was offensive. How could he imply that those who help support the work of the church are not faithful believers? On the other hand, maybe we do need to ask ourselves if what we profess to believe is being lived out in what we do and say. As Jesus' disciples are we following his commandments to feed the poor, welcome the alien, and spread the good news wherever we go? Do we honestly expect to see Jesus within the ordinary happenings of our day? If we are Easter people, how does his resurrection affect the way we live in this world?

According to The Rev. Dr. James C. Howell, Easter people are about showing God's love with other people, especially those who don't know or don't get it, or have been misled into thinking Christianity is a problem, or less than it could be . . . Easter people gladly embrace God's future. (They understand) 'He's got the whole world in his hands' – now! (www.meyersparkumc.org/pastoral-series/easter-people/)

So, do we believe it? Do we honestly believe "He's got the whole world in his hands"? If so, let's live it out in all that we do.

See You in Church,
Pastor Kathleen



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POWER of PRAYER

Prayer Friends will be meeting in the prayer room at 10:30 am, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The April meeting will be April 11th.

Several persons have shown interest in the agenda which includes, prayer shawls (knitted, crocheted, and quilted), praying together for the church and requests, card ministry, calling, and seeking persons to help with special needs.



Remember that we recycle printer ink cartridges. The collection boxes are by the door to the library.

I want to thank everyone who donated to the Jump for Heart event at my school – Trojan Elementary at Osawatomie. Thanks again, Kinleigh Johnson

Our Congratulations to Ryan Hanet for earning his Eagle Scout Badge.



Spring District Meeting will be April 21 at Iola Calvary. Deadline for registration is April 13.

Mission U in Topeka will be August 17-18.

Great Plains Conference will be at Church of Resurrection on Sept. 14-15.

Fall District Meeting at Paola Sept. 21.



Our 30th blood drive at Ottawa First United Methodist will be April 25th from 2-7pm. To make an appointment, please call Sue Petersen at 785-248-8702 or email ken.sue.petersen@gmail.com. Hope to see many of you there!

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CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF DOROTHY MATTHEWS

Dorothy Matthews began playing the organ at Ottawa First in 1964 after the tragic death of Dorothy Henning. After fifty-four years of faithful service, she has decided it is time to retire from her position. While she will continue to be an important part of our congregation, we want to thank her for her years of dedication and celebrate the many ways she has blessed our ministry. A worship service in Dorothy's honor will be held on Sunday, April 29th, at 10:30. An all church dinner will follow in the large dining room. The Staff Parish Relations Committee will provide the meat and drinks. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish to share. After we eat there will be a time to share stories and memories with Dorothy. Please plan on joining us for this special event as we say "thank you" to a very special woman!

WORDS OF THANKS

I would like to thank everyone who has helped provide music for our worship services during this time of transition. Darrel McCune did a fantastic job in scheduling the Sunday's that were left open after Dorothy's retirement. Paul and Donna Rayson did double, if not triple, duty as they introduced us to the music possibilities available through electronic media. Hands of Glory willingly assumed the musical responsibilities for one entire service. Cheryl Cross, our Administrative Assistant, did a fantastic job keeping us all organized and sort-of under control! And to everyone who worshiped and so graciously overlooked our mistakes and blunders – thank you. I am so blessed to be serving as your pastor!

Blessings,

Pastor Kathleen

FRETSA UPDATE

It's time for an update on FRETSA and it's happenings. With so many new families in church, I felt it might be good to give a little background first...

Several years ago First Methodist was "gifted" with a small portion of a large estate, designated not to STAY with the church, but to be passed on to the community in a mission based, social concerns area. After study, the Foundation (recipient of the annual gift) decided to use it in the area of homelessness, which had been the main area of concern in the benefactor's mind. Her wishes were that FUMC would also step up and add to the amount of her gift.

It was quickly apparent that this was way too much for one church to handle, so the Foundation turned to Franklin County Emergency Temporary Shelter Association, a 501c(3) entity already working in the area of homelessness. FRETSA had almost no funding but could offer case workers, access to the homeless of the area, and general expertise in working with the homeless, since its Board was made up of various churches, ECKAN, Willow Domestic Violence Center, Hope House, Communities in Schools, Layton Mental Health Center and United Way...all agencies already familiar with the homeless problem.

And so the ties between FUMC and FRETSA was born. Thanks to a church member, FRETSA was offered a home for a 5 year period...this became Roseberry House. This past year marked the end of that 5 year period, so Roseberry House moved to a different location...a mobile home which had been given to FRETSA when the owner passed, and the heirs gifted it to help the homeless.

After a successful fundraiser, a second unit was purchased by FRETSA. This one is called "Palmer House" after the family whose generosity put us over the top and made its purchase possible.

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Of course we are overjoyed to offer two units, but this means rent and utilities for both, as well as insurance and repairs. We learned quickly that both homes will always be in use, and that there will always be a waiting list of applicants. And expenses do always carry on, regardless of how carefully FRETSA budgets its money.

The original stipulation for this church to be involved is always on our mind as we think of the missions of this congregation. So, we will again be designating one Sunday of each quarter as "FRETSA SUNDAY", a time when you have the opportunity to share in giving to this work with the homeless. As Christ said, "The fields are white with harvest, but the workers are far too few."

Next month I will share with you the basic precepts of FRETSA, and how it differs from other groups helping with the homeless. Until then, don't forget that if you buy from Amazon, go to smile.amazon.com/ch/20-1983931 and Amazon donates a portion of your purchase to FRETSA.

Mabel Gilliland, Liason to FRETSA

Hope House

Hope House thanks you for your donations of food throughout the years. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

UMW CIRCLES

The UMW Circles have started a new year. Women of the church you can be a member of UMW and you don't have to be a member of Ottawa UMC. We have 3 circles that meet on a Monday night, Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. If you are interested in visiting one of these circles please contact Joyce Green (New Dimensions), Chris Johnson (Dorcas-Outreach) or Ruth Jansen (Friendship).

Our Reading Program has started. Blessing and Prayers go to DeeAnn Harnden who started this program. Ruth Chapman, co-chairman of Reading Program, has continued this program. The next book will be "You're Already Amazing", category is Spiritual Growth. It will be April 24. Ruth has ordered the books and you can get one from her after March 12. Her phone #242-5033.

May is coming and so is the "All-Daughter Tea", May 6. Friendship Circle is starting to work on this. More info will be coming.

A Special thank you for all that participated in the UMW Sunday. If you weren't there you missed a good talk from one of our former members, Deb Handy. You also missed in what all our UMW participates in.

Have a Blessed Month.

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