

The Calling

Rev. Jessica Moffatt Seay, Senior Pastor

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First United Methodist Church 501 West Main, Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401 580-223-5390

We have some very devoted kids in our church. Here is what I noticed last weekend.

It started when Kelley Segler found out I was a theater buff. She immediately began to include me in her plans to attend the three summer productions at the Brass Ring, our local theater and young artist summer training program. Our church kids participated throughout each of the three productions, both in supporting and lead roles, as well as behind the scenes.

I was impressed by each of the productions. The first one focused on the creativity of the kids. They actually wrote a musical. The words, music, and dialogue were written by budding librettists, composers and authors. Special coaches had come in from New York to help train them. I expected a nice performance. What I got was an incredibly creative production. At the apex of one of the songs, there was a soloist, a quartet and the chorus all singing at the same time in a complex weaving of complimentary melodies. They wrote that.

There were kids from our church in each performance. I had been seeing faces and learning names and (with Kelley's help) was able to identify kids who were "ours". Here is what got my attention. After nightly performances and a Sunday matinee performance yet to do on Sunday afternoon, our church kids were in worship that Sunday morning. Between the performances.

I passed Austin Powell in the hall. He had carried the lead in the production the night before and had to be back in costume and ready to go in a few hours. He had to be tired. If ever a kid might miss church, you would think it might be between the last of nightly performances and the Sunday matinee. But he was at church, as he is every Sunday helping run media in the Epic service.

When I saw him, I said, "I can't believe you are here."

He looked at me like I was nuts. "Why wouldn't I be here?"

Of course, why wouldn't you be in church? Your church is a high priority for you. It is the place where you worship and experience the love of God. It is your place to serve. The people in Epic (including me) were counting on you to do your part. You didn't get a substitute. You faithfully did what you are called to do.

I just wanted our kids to know that I noticed. And my guess is that God noticed, too.

Jessica

Televised from the Sanctuary at
10:50am on Cable One, Channel 7

Broadcast from the Sanctuary at
11:00am on KVSQ AM 1240

8:30 AM
McClure Chapel

10:50 AM
Sanctuary

11:05 AM
Colvert Ministry Center

Does This Sound Like You?



Are you a person who enjoys chatting with folks on Sunday morning? Do you enjoy finding out about other people? Do you make friends easily? If so, you may wish to be a part of the visitor welcome ministry of our church. We are going to have a special meeting to launch a new part of our visitor welcome ministry. It is called First Friends and will be held on Monday night, August 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the CMC. If that sounds like you, join us!

Discovery Weekend 2009 "Celebrate Life" August 14th- 16th

It is that time of year again! It is time for one of the most exciting youth events at Ardmore FUMC. As many of you know the kids look forward to this event every year, especially getting to lead Sunday morning worship. The youth want to share their experience with the entire congregation on Sunday morning. This means that the EPIC and 10:50 traditional services will get to meet together! On August 16th at 11:00am everyone will worship together in the sanctuary of the main building. The music will be led by our youth and will be similar to the music from previous Discovery weekends. We hope you come and celebrate with us!

Discovery Weekend is a 42 hour spiritual formation retreat for 6th, 7th & 8th graders. We need to fill the following volunteer positions: Jr. High small group leaders, host homes for Sr. High helpers, meal preparation, prayer team, set-up and clean-up, volunteers to spend the night at the church with the Jr. High students, and just general help throughout the weekend. Please contact Laura (223-5390 X 315) or Adam (X 314) to volunteer. Let's make this year's weekend be a wonderful spiritual experience for the Jr. High students.

Sunday's Music

This Sunday is the **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**. As Rev. Dan Patman is away on vacation, Dr. Fred Gauthier will be the lay liturgist in both 8:30 and 10:50 traditional worship services.

In both 8:30 and 10:50 worship services John Emery, organist, will play "**All People That on Earth Do Dwell**" arr. by Robert J. Hughes. This hymntune arrangement is based on OLD HUNDREDTH, attributed to Louis Bourgeois, 1551.

In the 8:30 worship service I will sing "**I Walk a Stranger on this Land**" by Dale Wood. This solo version of an original choral work found in the collection *I Sing a Gentle Song: Six Sacred Reflections* and is copyright © 1970 by Art Masters Studios, Inc. (for the original choral arrangement) and copyright © 1980 by The Sacred Music Press (for this solo arrangement).

In the 10:50 worship service the Sanctuary Choir will sing "**Agnus Dei**" words and music by Michael W. Smith with the choral arrangement by Benjamin Harlan. Kelley Segler will accompany at the piano. This favorite anthem is copyright © 1990 by Sony/ATV Tunes LLC as a Michael W. Smith song and copyright © 2003 as the choral arrangement, also by Sony/ATV Tunes LLC. Also in this worship service, John Emery will play an organ offertory "**Prelude from Partita 1**" by Johann S. Bach.

Please read these texts from Sunday's music.

I Walk a Stranger on this Land

I walk a stranger on this land and weary have I grown,
but with the setting sun there comes a peace that I have known;
for though I walk a narrow road, I do not walk alone.

So many strangers pass my way; some speak, then disappear.
They walk in shadow toward the night in loneliness and fear.
The words of hope I longed to share
were words they would not hear.

Regret and sorrow know this road. At times they walk along
to bring a tear into my eyes and sadness to my song.
They say that what should be is not and that which is is wrong.

I do not walk a lonely road or take a lonely stand.
The steps I follow do not make impressions in the sand.
Yet in God's word I hear His voice, and know His guiding hand.

Agnus Dei

Alleluia, for our Lord God Almighty reigns.
Alleluia, Holy are You, Lord God Almighty.
Worthy is the Lamb. Amen.

Shalom, *Bob*

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, July 26

- 8:30 am Worship / McClure Chapel
- 9:30 am Sunday Morning Live
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:50 am Worship / Sanctuary
- 11:05 am EPIC Worship / CMC
- 6:00 pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth
- 7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery

Monday, July 27 Dayspring Camp Begins

- 1:00 pm Clothes Closet Opens
- 5:30 pm SPR

Tuesday, July 28

- 10:00 am Faith Circle at Elmbrook Suites
- 12:00 pm Noon Prayer
- 6:00 pm Evangelism Ministry
- 6:00 pm Finance Ministry
- 7:05 pm Church Council

Wednesday, July 29

- 9:00 am Clothes Closet Opens
- 5:30 pm Prayer Ambassadors
- 6:00 pm Surviving Middle School
- 6:15 pm Worship / CMC
- 7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery
- 7:00 pm Mid-Week Youth

Thursday, July 30

- 9:00 am Precept Bible Study
- 9:00 am Children's Day Out

Friday, July 31 Dayspring Camp Ends

Dates to Remember:

- August 3-6 Growin' in Grace Camp
- August 3-6 Tweens Camp
- August 14-16 Discovery
- Sept 7 Labor Day / Church Closed
- Sept 13 Round-Up Rally
- Sept 24-27 Men's Emmaus Walk
- Oct 1-4 Women's Emmaus Walk
- Oct 30 Fall Fest
- Nov 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends

Missionary News



We want to relate a story from the May newsletter from Bill & Jerri Savuto, missionaries in Maua, Kenya—

“Over 3 months ago a 7-month-old boy, Kevin, was admitted to the hospital with measles and TB. He was brought by his grandmother. His father had died & his mother had abandoned

him at her mother's tiny home. The grandmother had so little food for herself & was unable to breastfeed so Kevin became very malnourished. During Kevin's stay in the hospital, his grandmother became very ill & was admitted to our Medical Ward. She died there several days later. Since her death the hospital has been trying to locate family and arrange for them to take Kevin. We found a family but it has been a long struggle.

Kevin was not kept in the Pediatric Ward as he was so malnourished and thus had much less immunity to other diseases and problems. Kevin was kept in the Goede Wing. The nurses and occasionally a woman who had been discharged cared for all his needs. He was so precious and we all loved Kevin but were very concerned that his long stay in the hospital would be a problem.

On April 9th Kevin went to his new home. The hospital provided clothing, blankets and a few toys he had played with in his crib. We miss seeing Kevin but everyone is so thankful he is with family and will grow & develop as he should. God is good! We could keep Kevin for two months because YOU give money to the Service Fund which pays for those patients that have no money.”

We have been supporting the Maua Methodist Hospital Fund through Faith Promise for the last 3 or 4 years.

Young Adult Ministry

Come hang out and study the bible with other young adults (18-30 years old) in the Ardmore area. We will meet on Tuesdays at Craig and Mika Gerken's house starting at 7pm. The Gerken's address is 3920 Hess Road. If you have any questions please contact Adam Ricks at 223-5390 ext 314.

FOCUS ON FOLKS

In the Hospital, or recently dismissed: *If you, or someone you know, is in the hospital please contact the church office.*

Sunday School Greeters for July:

Main Building - LOVE

Colvert Ministry Center - HOPE

Congratulations to Kyle Cloppon and Nikki Lodes who were married Saturday, July 18th in Ardmore. Nikki is the daughter of Clayton and Bebe Lodes.

Memorials:

In memory of **Jaylee Garland** a contribution to the Children's Library has been received from:

Ron & Joy Farve

In memory of **Ora Rist** contributions to the Memorial Fund have been received from:

William & Patsy Hargis

Helen Thompson

In memory of **Mary Lu Shirey** contributions to the Ministry Center Trust Fund, the Bereavement Fund and the Memorial Fund have been received from:

Pat Cude (Bereavement)

Jerry & Susan Henderson (Memorial)

Judy Kenaga (Memorial)

Maytha Mead (CMC)

Harry Spring (CMC)

In memory of **Judy Venters** a contribution to the Memorial Fund has been received from:

Judy Kenaga

Stephen Ministry

STEPHEN MINISTRY IS YOUR MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is YOUR ministry. It belongs to all of us at First United Methodist Church, not just to the pastors, Stephen Leaders, or Stephen Ministers. Your support is important in a number of ways:

>We need your prayers.

>We need your help in fostering a more caring environment at church.

>We need your eyes and ears. When you see someone going through a difficult time, tell them about Stephen Ministry and connect them with a Stephen Leader.

>We need your receptivity. When you are hurting, let us be there for you.



Contact Louise Daniels 226-5524 or
Rev. Dan Patman 223-5390 x308.

July 29, 2009 Prayer Ambassadors

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

1. Our Jerusalem—Ardmore

- **All Worship services**—Pray we focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world
- **Habitat for Humanity**—they help people get into homes that they own.
- **Good Shepherd Medical Clinic**—The Doctors there help people who have no health insurance and also help with medicines they need.
- **Monday Morning Maintenance Ministry**—Volunteers needed to help with maintenance around our church

2. Our Judea—Oklahoma

- **Dayspring Camp continues**—pray this camp has been a growing experience for the youth involved in it
- **Pray for continuing support of the Ecumenical Ministries and Chemical Dependency Ministries**

3. Our Samaria—North America

- **Our country**, our President, leaders and that we will humble ourselves before God and learn and practice righteousness in all our ways.
- **Mini Medical Missions to Rio Bravo, Mexico**—set for October 8 – 11 – pray that many people will benefit

4. To the Ends of the Earth

- **Clark and Jana Teders in Papua, New Guinea**
- **Alex and Brenda Awad in Palestine**

5. Persecuted Church

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." Eph. 6:18

- **Pray for the isolated churches in the rural areas of Laos.**
Pray for the Word of the Lord to be provided in this country. They await the delivery of the Khmu Bibles which are needed so they can learn more about Christianity.

First UMC 2009 Men's Softball Schedule

June 1st	9:30p field 1 vs. Lone Grove Assembly of God	Ⓜ
June 8th	6:30p field 2 vs. Emmanuel Baptist	Ⓛ
June 15th	9:30p field 3 vs. Milo Baptist	Ⓜ
June 29th	9:30p field 2 vs. Maranatha	Ⓛ
July 6th	6:30p field 3 vs. Lone Grove Assembly of God 8:30p field 2 vs. Faith Center	Ⓛ Ⓜ
July 13th	7:30p field 2 vs. Emmanuel Baptist	Ⓛ
July 20th	6:30p field 4 vs. Milo Baptist	
July 27th	9:30p field 3 vs. Faith Center	
Aug 3rd	6:30p field 2 vs. Maranatha	

It Just Happens When You Play Softball!

We're all familiar with the phrase *It Just Happens!* Well on Monday night, July 13th, it just happened. 7:30 pm on field 2 (as Larry likes to remind us) is a hazard just waiting to happen. The sun is at just the right angle to interfere with play in the infield (if you happen to be the first baseman). As luck would have it, we lost the toss (this seems to be happening a lot lately) and took the field against the Emmanuel Baptist team, which just happens to be in first place in our league. Considering all the possibilities: time of game, heat of the day, height of the sun, playing the first-place team, we were doing quite well fielding and hitting and responding to the ever-faithful fans cheering loudly (we even had at least one brand new, significant fan), and then it just happened. What had been brilliant and heads-up fielding and acute decibel-level batting in the first inning, turned to the type of play when, no matter what you do, nothing seems to go exactly as planned. We were thoroughly beaten as a ball team, but our spirits remain high. Next week will happen and we will again soar onto the field to meet the next opponent. The weeks are coming one right after the other and there are only three games left in the regular season. You should really find a good reason to get to Regional Park and see this team in action. Maybe with YOU there it won't *just happen* again!

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Ardmore, Oklahoma
Permit No. 183



Loaves &
Fishes

July

Rice

1-lb bag

Or you may donate money
to the emergency fund