



# THE Calling

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV*

To say that I am proud of you, as a congregation, is an understatement. Many of us are doing things that we never imagined that we would be doing as followers of Jesus Christ, as we live out our faith through the ministries of the First United Methodist Church in Ardmore, Oklahoma. I have so many things I want to express to you in this short note today. Thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart. It is my prayer that as we move into the month of May, we will see and know the fruit of our prayers and diligence in continuing to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

I am grateful for text messages, emails, Instagram, and all the mediums that we have at our disposal today. Yet, the one medium that has been overwhelmingly used and appreciated is the phone calls from Sunday School teachers to their classes and from ministry leaders to those that serve within their own ministries. There will never be a substitute for hearing that voice on the other end of the line, checking in with a sister or brother in Christ. This is something that never needs to end as we begin to pray, prepare, and plan to gather for worship again in our Sanctuary.

On that note, Bishop Jimmy Nunn and the cabinet and various conference leaders are leaning towards May 31st or the first Sunday in June to be when all United Methodist Churches in the Oklahoma Annual Conference will open. Many churches will be opening throughout the various Sundays in May. We bless them and pray that they will know God's peace and order in their endeavors. I am under the authority, first and foremost, of the Triune God. Secondly, I said yes to serving the Lord within the United Methodist denomination, so I/we are under the authority of Bishop Nunn and District Superintendent Larry Bauman. We trust that they are looking out for the well-being of every United Methodist Church and ministry in our annual conference. Please keep them in your prayers.

Many of you have wondered about how we are doing financially. I want to you know that Renny Collins and myself will be sending a letter out next week sharing with you how we have done through the month of April. Our Administrative officers, along with Pastor John Hollon and myself, voted to apply for the Payroll Protection Plan in March. We were approved and have been blessed with this grant. We will share more about the Payroll Protection Plan in the finance letter next week. I can safely say that, through the first three months of the year, your giving was incredible. Thank you for your continued financial support for the ministries of our church.

Many of you may not know but we have been pre-recording our worship services on Thursday. We record the Traditional service around 2:30pm and then the EPIC service around 6:40pm. The reason we made this decision is due to our first livestream Sunday experience being hindered in countless ways. Since we made this decision, we have had greater success in sharing these recorded worship services. I am grateful for all the work that Mike Dees, Bob Pfau, and Chris Hopper have been doing to make these worship services the best that they can be during his time.

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**Continuation from Page 1**

My hope and my prayer are that we would celebrate our first Sunday back in our Sanctuary on May 31st. This is Pentecost Sunday. On this day, not only would we celebrate joining again as a congregation, but I pray that we would experience and realize a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our congregation. Please join me in praying for the Holy Spirit to bring physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual healing to our land. I believe that this recipe includes repentance of sin, fasting, and prayer, like we have never prayed before as a body of believers. Before every great victory, there are great battles. We know that the victory over sin, death, and disease has been accomplished through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. May His Name be forever blessed.

Jesus is Lord,

Pastor David L. Daniel

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS**

We are missing our families and your children very much. All nursery and elementary families please be looking for a detailed letter to be mailed to your house next week with important information on how we are responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Pastor David and Pastor John have encouraged the children's ministry department to poll our parents about our children summer events. We would appreciate your feedback and would ask that you complete the survey by Friday, May 8th. This survey is for parents who have children 4 years old by 9/1/20 through entering 5th grade. The survey can be filled out at: [www.fumcardmore.com/kids-summer-survey/](http://www.fumcardmore.com/kids-summer-survey/)

Please follow our Facebook pages at "FUMC Nursery" for children 6 weeks old through completed PreK and "FUMC Kids" for children completed kindergarten through completed 5th grade for our most up to date information. We are posting your child's Sunday morning lesson along with a family activity each Sunday morning on our Facebook pages.

Amy Hopper  
Children's Ministry Director  
[children@fumcardmore.com](mailto:children@fumcardmore.com)

Katie Woerz  
Nursery Ministry Director  
[katie@fumcardmore.com](mailto:katie@fumcardmore.com)

**YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**

Hello church! First off, THANK YOU for your continued support and patience with us during these uncertain times. We are praying for and trusting God to give us wisdom on how to navigate ministry from quarantine. During quarantine, our youth ministry will continue to hold Sunday School at 10am via Zoom. Details for senior high girls and middle school girls Bible Studies, on Zoom, will be posted to our Instagram "@sixeightministries". As well as info about junior high and senior high boys Bible Studies on our Facebook page and "One Call" notices. We are working on developing policies to follow pertaining to the Covid-19 outbreak, once we are back together. We miss you guys so much and can't wait to be back. If you have any concerns or questions about feel free to reach out to us!

Issac Barnes  
Director of Student Ministries

Schuyler Henderson  
Assistant Director of Student Ministries

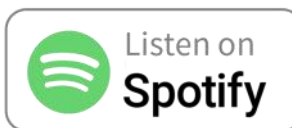


**Christian Joy** - Air Force (Deployed)  
**Jerry Bright** - Navy (Little Creek, VA)  
**Seth Haynes** - Air Force (Deployed)  
**Paxton Killblane** - Army (Fort Bragg, NC)  
**Wesley Patzkowsky** - Army (Deployed)  
**Tyler Black** - Army (Iraq)  
**Julie Miller** - Air Force (Little Rock AFB)  
**Silas Howell** - Army (Fort Carson, CO)  
**Daylon Tilghman** - National Guard (Mexico Border)  
**Jonathon (JD) Frank** - Army (Africa)  
**Major Ben Winston** - Air Force (Ramstein AFB, German Platinate)  
**Lt. Col. Thomas Hutton** - Air Force  
**Erik Marshburn** - Navy  
**Todd Marshburn** - Army  
**Michael Marshburn** - Air Force

LISTEN TO ALL OF  
YOUR FAVORITE  
WORSHIP SONGS  
FROM OUR EPIC  
SERVICE.

PLAYLIST  
FUMC Ardmore EPIC

Chris Hopper, [chris@fumcardmore.com](mailto:chris@fumcardmore.com)



## ***FACILITIES & TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY***

Hi Guys,

Thank you all for all the positive comments relating to our streamed services and bible studies. I trust each of you are finding a convenient way to view our services. Please let me know if we can do anything to make your viewing experience better. Also, drop us a note if you watch by Sparklight Cable or listen by radio. We have hundreds of views over the internet, but have no way of knowing how many use cable or radio.

During the past few weeks while our campus has been closed, I have been modifying some of our a/v equipment and software to make it possible for one or two people to stream a service. Setting up lighting, operating cameras and sound by yourself can be a bit taxing at times. I miss my tech team and look forward to when they can return.

Thanks again for all of you who watch our services and bible studies on-line and through cable. You have given our pastors and worship teams, as well as myself, hope and purpose during these times. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you back in the pews.

If any of you have an interest in joining our tech team, whether male or female, experienced or not, regardless of age, please give me a call at 580-504-6457. I will find a place you can serve.

Blessings,

Mike Dees, Director of Facilities & Technology  
mdees@fumcardmore.com

## ***STEPHEN MINISTRY***

During the COVID-19 outbreak, Stephen Ministers are still available to provide care via the telephone, rather than in person. Please call the church office or Louise Daniels (580-465-5958) for information.



## ***PASTORAL MINISTRY NEWS***

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

I find it appropriate at this time to give an update on General, Annual, and Jurisdictional Conferences. As Methodists these are important gatherings that happen on a regular basis and the upcoming sessions will be the most important, potentially, in the history of American Methodism. First let me start with Annual Conference, which is our yearly gathering of the Oklahoma area UM churches. This has been moved to on Saturday, June 20, at Church of the Servant in OKC. Then, November 20-21, we will meet again in OKC, at Church of the Servant, to finish business for the Annual Conference.

General Conference, which will take up separation and the future of the Methodist Church as a whole, has been rescheduled. It was supposed to take place May 5-15, but was canceled due to the virus. We just learned it has been tentatively rescheduled for August of 2021. Jurisdictional Conference will happen after General Conference. We will continue to update as information becomes available. I would like to as a few things of our church during this time. First, pray for our church and the Methodist Church as whole. Second, pray for our conference delegates, including our very own Holly Joy, and pray for all the delegates. Third, pray for God's will do be done and for His people to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. I pray this gives you an update and if you have any questions or comments please reach out to me. Thank you and may God bless you!

In His Grip,  
Rev. John Hollon

## ***HOSPITALITY MINISTRY***

Thank you to all of our church family who are contacting each other during this season of "waiting". I have been very encouraged by the Philippians Bible Study on Wednesday night. We will have one more next Wednesday and David will be the speaker. There are so many verses in the book of Philippians that are encouraging! We know that Paul was writing as he was "sheltering in place" and chained to a prison guard and yet he wrote that he is able to be content, no matter what the circumstances are. Paul said that he "can do all things through Christ who gives him strength". If you are needing a pep talk, I hope you will turn to Philippians and be inspired to not be anxious and know that God will provide the peace that we are seeking.

Sherry Healey  
Hospitality Director

# 10 WAYS TO “JUMP START” YOUR PERSONAL EVANGELISM

By Chuck Lawless

Even as a professor of evangelism, I have to continually push myself to do evangelism. For what it's worth (and frankly, as a matter of accountability), here are some steps I'm taking to move in the right direction:

1. **Ask God daily to let me see people as He sees them.** I tend to see people as the driver in the car who cut me off, the cashier at the gas station, and the neighbor whose name I don't know. God sees them as sheep without a shepherd and souls for whom Jesus died.
2. **Ask other believers to pray at least once a week that I will speak the gospel boldly and clearly.** This approach is nothing more than what Paul asked the Ephesians and the Colossians to do for him (Eph. 6:18-20; Col. 4:2-4). If Paul needed that kind of prayer support, I surely do.
3. **Ask God to renew my fire for Him.** The bottom line for me is this: I do evangelism when I'm most amazed by Jesus. That's why I wrote Nobodies for Jesus, and now I'm being challenged like never before to apply personally my own teachings.
4. **Pray by name for non-believers at least once a week.** I often pray every day for some non-believer, but I have also set up one weekly focused time for praying that God would open the blinded minds of non-believers (2 Cor. 4:3-4).
5. **Strive to speak a good word about God to somebody each day.** God is so majestic and His blessings are so numerous that I have no reason not to speak of His goodness. Even if I daily speak those words to only a believer, I develop the practice of moving conversations toward God.
6. **Force myself to get to know people I don't know.** I'm an introvert who would prefer to read a book, but that tendency obviously hinders evangelism. With God's grace and in His power, I'm learning to push myself out of my shell.
7. **Offer to pray for others.** Simply letting people know I'm committed to praying for them can open doors for deeper conversations. Life hurts sometimes, and folks who bear burdens alone are often both surprised by and appreciative of the offer of prayer.
8. **Commit to telling a non-believer what Jesus means to me at least once a week.** If one of the above strategies doesn't open this door, here's the approach I take: "I'm a follower of Jesus, and I've made a personal commitment to tell others what He means to me each week. May I have five minutes to tell you my story, and you help me to know if anything is unclear?" I've been surprised by how many people are open to listen.
9. **Use social media to tell the gospel.** I need to do evangelism face-to-face, but the Internet also provides multiple avenues for telling others about Jesus. I do not want to miss any opportunities.
10. **Just be obedient because I want to please God.** Anything less than a lifestyle of telling others about Jesus – and initiating those conversations because it models our God who came to us while we were yet sinners – would be disobedience.

## focus on folks

### SYMPATHY

Our thoughts and prayers are with Louise Daniels with the passing of her grandson, David James Tolbert, on April 28.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jim and Cherri Bradley, with the passing of Jim's daughter, Jamie Lee Ann Paige, on April 26.

### MEMORIAL

In memory of Nancy Schmedt, contributions have been received from The McAskill Family, Jim & Linda Lasley, A.L. & Linda Hutson, and Dennis & Tracy Cumbie for the Clothes Closet; from Syble Roring, Mike Thompson, and Jerry & Susan Henderson for the Memorial Fund; and from Helen Thompson for the Building Fund.

In memory of Jim Wings, a contribution has been received from the Hope Class for the Bereavement Fund.

### MEMORIAL

In memory of Don Black, a contribution has been received from Carol Rose for the Emmaus Scholarship Fund; and from Mr. & Mrs. Laske for the Building Fund.

In memory of Tommye Sparks, a contribution has been received from Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Laske for the Memorial Fund.

In memory of Maxine Paschall, a contribution has been received from Mark & Kimber Richter for the Mission Faith Promise.

In memory of Lillian & Clayton Cude, a contribution has been received from Douglas McCude Family for the Bereavement Fund.

In memory of Eva C. Harris, a contribution has been received from Sam & Sharon Veazey for the Memorial Fund.

## GLOBAL OUTREACH TEAM NEWS

While Covid-19 has had significant effects here in Ardmore, it has profoundly changed the work of our mission partners here and around the world.

Mission Aviation Fellowship helps deliver medical supplies to Congo and nearby nations, but they are currently facing a \$2.5 million deficit and quarantine. So, our friends Mike and Sharol Shutts in Uganda are unable to do the work to which they are called. Please pray for them.

Rev. Fuxia Wang at OU Wesley has a number of international students, some with families, who are legally able to work only on campus...and the campus is closed! She has bought and delivered groceries to these stranded students, as well as providing online fellowship and support.

The Blakley family in South Korea was quarantined early, stayed healthy, and has now been able to reopen their new school, Kingdom Royal International School. Praise God!

Our friends at San Francisco City Impact have seen a huge increase in the need for their help, while they have lost the financial and hands-on support of mission teams for the foreseeable future! Because of your Faith Promise giving, we were able to send them an emergency gift of \$5000 to help meet the overwhelming need there.

Here at home, the work of Impact Ardmore has exploded. Among other things, they have helped move families into housing, obtained three tons(!) of food from DOT Foods to distribute to area organizations that feed the hungry, and provided 240 SORTS passes to allow those without transportation to get around to seek food, clothing, and medical care.

Thank you for your Faith Promises! Our Global Impact Celebration/Faith Promise Weekend was a great success, leading to deeper relationships with our mission partners and pledges of over \$80,000. With the world in a health crisis, our promises are more important than ever. We praise God for our church's faithfulness and for being able to say, "Yes, we can help!" in times of uncertainty.

We now have a FaceBook page dedicated to sharing up to date information about our missions and our missionaries. Currently, all short term missions are on hold until the crisis is more under control. To join this group, search "FUMC Ardmore Missions" or follow this link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FUMCArdmoreMissions/>.



*"You will be my witnesses...  
to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria  
and all the ends of the earth"  
Acts 1:8*

## ADMINISTRATION NEWS

The Business Office is one of the few areas that must continue some since of normalcy with our jobs during this new phase of life as we know it. We appreciate the staff and the congregation's patience with us as we try to find innovative ways to process payments for bills as well as process the donations the church receives all while maintaining the "safer at home" guidelines. We continue to stand in awe of the generosity and devotion our church members have to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the mission of FUMC Ardmore. We pray that the Lord is slowing our lives down so we can really see His wonderful goodness and mercy like never before.

Holly L. Joy  
Business Administrator

I want to thank all of you that have been in constant prayer for the church and us staff. The doors may be closed at the church, but it is still alive and functioning. Staff are considering future events, preparing and updating policies for reopening, and trying to keep you all updated as decisions are made. Kinzie is still answering all phone calls from home, so if you have a need, do not hesitate to call the church or email any of the staff. We are still able and wiling to help in any way as possible. We look forward to when we can all be together inside the church building. Blessings!

Kenna Johnson  
Communications Director

## GOD IS ON THE MOVE

### HOW THE YOUTH SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP HAPPENED ANYWAY

*28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 New International Version (NIV)*

*It wasn't luck, it wasn't fate...it was FAITH.*

The congregation has now heard that the youth Spring Break mission trip to the Los Angeles Dream Center had to be cancelled because of concerns over Covid-19. The leadership of the church and the mission GO Team weighed the options and challenges and made the difficult decision to remain in Ardmore instead of traveling to California. Everyone involved was saddened by the news. After all, years ago Issac Barnes, our youth director had been lead to the LA Dream Center as a place where youth could learn to disciple and minister to those in need, and a successful trip had happened in 2019. Another group of FUMC youth had heard the call of the Spirit and agreed to give up their week of fun, relaxing, and play, in order to return in 2020. Now, due to an unforeseen circumstance, they wouldn't be able to go over spring break. Who would serve the people now?

In an after-action meeting with the sponsors (those volunteering to go with the youth), members of the youth advisory team, and our Pastor David, a group sat in the Youth Room to decide what to do next. There was an option to return but the date and potential to have all 25 people available to travel again seemed logistically impossible. There were questions about plane tickets, questions about expenses paid already, questions about donations from giving members, and questions about fee's paid by parents. God began to move. God had already been moving.

While we debated gently about what **we** were feeling and what **we** would do and how **we** would be able to honor all the work the parents, church, and youth had put into the trip, we began to hear a different Word. God began to reveal to us, that HE already had a plan. That it wasn't an accident that Issac had connected to the Dream Center, that it wasn't an accident that there had been a successful trip, it wasn't a lost cause that the youth had planned and worked and raised funds, and there it wasn't accidental that on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 a *purpose had been called*.

God already knew that **we** would not be going, BUT that **He** would. He would not be going alone because the works (the fundraising, the Faith Promise mission money, the individual donations) of love that the youth had accomplished would be going too. God led this team to the decision that what was needed wasn't our presence in person at this time, but it was our presence in a love donation that was needed. The team listened and it was decided that families would receive their money back, but that the wonderful donations from the Church would go forward to the Dream Center to help them in a most critical need, supplies and money. Such a peace descended on the group that we knew it was the right thing to do. A follow-up call to the Dream Center a few days later confirmed what faith had revealed. The Dream Center was so wonderfully blessed to hear that our offering of money to help - in this critical week - was a prayed for would be a huge blessing to them.

How great is our God? I will tell you, He is God who planted a seed years ago (well, actually thousands of years ago) that would bear fruit on **March 15, 2020!** He showed a team of youth and adults that mission isn't the trip, it's honoring the call of Faith. Young members of our church volunteered to go, worked for weeks to raise money, had parents who found money in their budgets to send their children, and inspired church members to donate to the trip. The 2020 LA Youth Mission Trip began in 2019, long before we even knew it! All of those called in one way or another to support the trip were called to do so for His purpose, and we know that purpose was **GOOD**.

Thank you to the youth who missioned without a trip. Thank you to the parents who shifted budgets, had fundraisers, and trusted in their Church to care for their children. Thank you to those who gave through Faith Promise so that YOUR faith was manifest in a love offering. Thank you to those who gave a private donation to go above and beyond your giving. Not a moment was wasted, not an offering given in vain.

*28 And we know that in **all things** God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 (NIV)*



# DREAMCENTER

## STATE AND LOCAL UPDATES ON COVID-19



### OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH INFORMATION ON COVID-19 IN OKLAHOMA

*ATTENTION: All test results conducted through the OSDH public health laboratory are sent to the ordering physician or submitting clinical facility. Results will not be provided by phone, nor will the status of the pending test be advised by phone. If test results are positive, public health officials initiate an investigation, which results in notifying the patient and provider to conduct the case investigation and contact tracing.*

COVID-19 is a virus identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in 2019 and has since spread globally into a pandemic. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. While roughly 80% of cases report mild symptoms, some progress into severe pneumonia and multi-organ failure and can lead to death. Current data indicates the risk of death for those contracting COVID-19 notably increases for individuals above the age of 60 or for individuals with autoimmune conditions. On January 11, 2020, the first set of individuals in the United States tested positive for COVID-19. The virus has since spread across all 50 states and the number of individuals testing positive for COVID-19 continues to rapidly grow each day.

<https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/>

### CITY OF ARDMORE'S "OPEN UP AND RECOVER SAFELY PLAN" PHASE 1

Phase 1 of Open Up and Recover Safely Plan Guidelines:

- Elderly and vulnerable Ardmoreites should continue to follow the safer-at-home guidelines and their Ardmore family should assist them in any way they can.
- Grocery stores should continue to maintain special hours for vulnerable populations.
- Continue to minimize non-essential travel.
- Ardmoreites should continue to practice Social Distancing. Please avoid socializing with groups or in facilities that do not allow for appropriate physical distancing.
- Ardmore Employers should create plans to allow employees to return to work safely, close common areas and enforce social distancing protocols, minimize non-essential travel and honor requests of employees who are part of a vulnerable population for special accommodations.
- Starting on Friday, April 24th Medical Facilities will be able to resume many of the procedures that had to be put on hold. They will continue to follow the strict protocols that they have been practicing over the last month. A Medical Facility may choose to move their opening date later so they may have some flexibility to prioritize procedures and staffing availability.
- Starting on Friday, April 24th, Personal Care Businesses (hair salons, barber shops, spas, nail salons, and pet groomers, etc.) can reopen for appointments only if they adhere to strict sanitation protocols. These businesses must maintain distance between customers and encourage customers to wait in their car until it is time for their appointment to avoid congestion in the lobbies or entrances.
- Starting on Friday, April 24th, State parks and outdoor recreation areas can be reopened.
- Starting on Friday, May 1st, restaurant dining rooms, movie theaters, gyms, and sporting venues can re-open if they adhere to strict social distancing and sanitation protocols.
- Starting on Friday, May 1st, Places of worship can reopen for in-person meetings or worship, if they leave every other row or pew open and adhere to CDC-recommended social distancing and sanitation protocols, plus the recommended guidelines from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.
- Starting on Friday, May 1st, Tattoo Parlors can reopen for appointments only and must adhere to sanitation protocols and social distancing protocols for distancing between customers and visitors.
- Starting on Monday, May 4th, Ardmore City Hall will reopen to public foot traffic.
- During Phase 1, visits to senior living facilities and hospitals are prohibited.
- Schools, organized sporting events and camps should remain closed until further notice. If hospital and incident rates remain manageable for 14 days, and with approval from the Governor, the City along with the State, will move to Phase 2 (Goal of Friday, May 15th).

<https://ardmorecity.org>

**First United Methodist Church**  
501 W Main  
Ardmore, OK 73401

David Daniel, *Senior Pastor*  
John Hollon, *Associate Pastor*

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Ardmore, OK  
Permit No. 183

**Sunday Services**  
9:00 am Traditional  
10:00 am Sunday School  
11:05 am EPIC

Call or email us: (580) 223-5390 | [info@fumcardmore.com](mailto:info@fumcardmore.com)  
*Televised at 11:00am on CableOne, Channel 56, Broadcast at 9:00am on KVSQ AM*

[www.fumcardmore.com](http://www.fumcardmore.com)

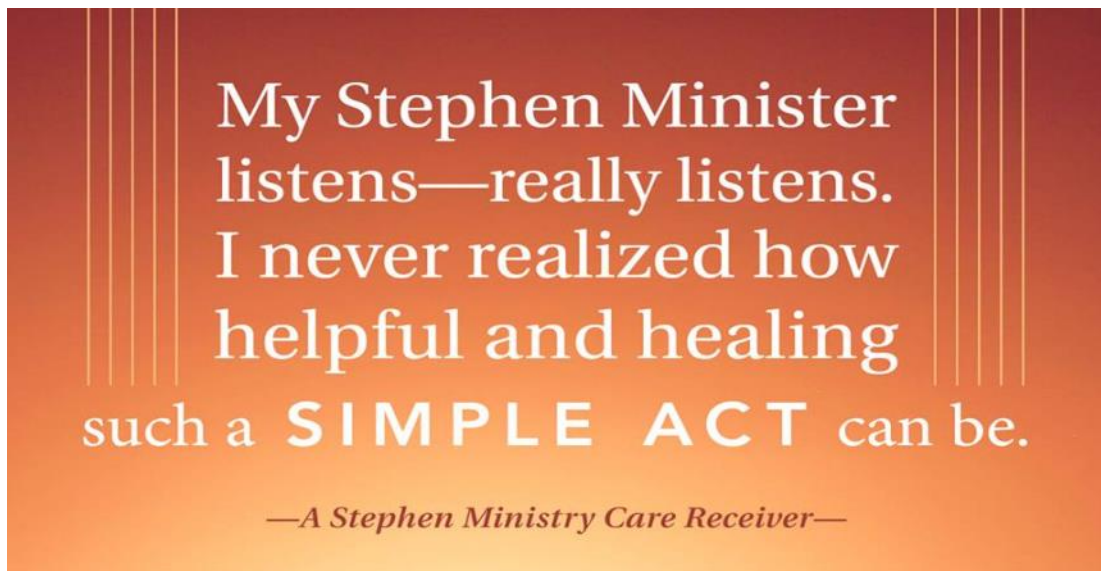
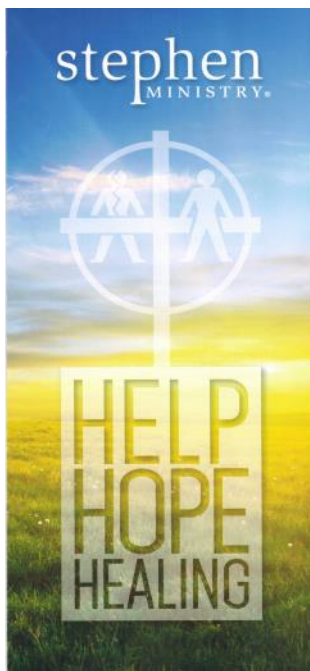
**Prayer Chain**

Lenny Frank 580-465-7515 [frank.lennylisa@yahoo.com](mailto:frank.lennylisa@yahoo.com)  
Wadell & Sheila Altom 580-223-7272

**Need help?**

We're here for you ...

Celebrate Recovery  
Stephen Ministry  
Surrendering the Secret  
Prayer Groups  
Small Groups  
Bible Studies



**Tell your story to a Stephen Minister.**  
Please call Louise Daniels at 580-465-5958 or the church office at 580-223-5390.

# *What Legacy will you leave?*

A bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make. With the help of your attorney or financial advisor, you can include language in your Will or Trust specifying a gift to be made to the First United Methodist Church Endowment Fund as part of your estate plan.

A bequest can be made in several ways: Gift of a percentage of your estate; Gift of a specific asset; Gift of the residue of your estate; Bequest of an IRA; Bequest of Insurance Policy. Please contact Renny Collins or Pastor David Daniel with any questions.