

faithnews

APRIL 2024

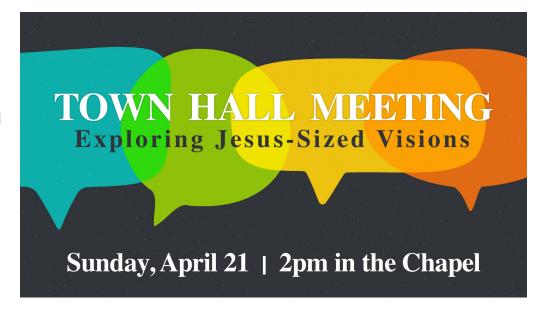
TOWN HALL MEETING

EXPLORING JESUS-SIZED VISIONS

You may be reading this article with a question mark hanging over your head because you thought that we wouldn't need any more Town Hall meetings. In order to get feedback from the congregation and present new Jesus-sized visions, we need to call them on occasion.

Our new Leadership Team will sometimes have choices to make on behalf of the church that require the Holy Spirit to move through the entire congregation. In that spirit, we will be having a Town Hall on April 21 at 2pm in the Chapel.

The agenda to consider for this Town Hall meeting is possible new ministries that involve expanding the footprint of Faith United Methodist Church. We have been asked to consider planting new



churches or ministries in the area. Our church has a healthy DNA and stable infrastructure. In addition, Pastor Heather has been trained as a new church planter and has experience in this area. God is

knocking on the door of Faith and we would like to dream together about the possibilities. Please be in prayer for the next few weeks and join us in considering what God is calling us to next.



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING HIGHLIGHTSNOTES FROM MARCH 10 MEETING

- A New Guiding Principle will be drafted regarding who can drive the church vans.
- A New Guiding Principle will be drafted regarding distribution of Memorial funds.
- Oklahoma Conference will be moving from 8 to 5 districts.
- The Mission Team will be sponsoring a child at the Happy Children's Home for \$1600.
- Faith needs a coordinator of the Osage County gifts for 2024.

- Faith is considering sponsoring Patti Cogles as a candidate for ministry.
- Pastor Heather is recruiting for new work teams: Worship Design Team and Funeral Support Team.
- James Redden presented demographic data regarding growth in the south Tulsa area.
- A Town Hall has been scheduled to explore possible new campuses of Faith UMC.

Letter from the Pastor



Hello Friends,

We have just had a wonderful Holy Week with incredible ministry and worship. I fed the staff Hideaway Pizza today as a "Thank You" for all their hard work. I definitely have a tiredness of body and mind coming off of seven worship experiences in one week. Pastor Seungrok and I enjoyed the one-on-one time with those who came for the Prayer Stations on Monday or Tuesday. It is so rare that I get the opportunity to sit and share with people individually. It was a blessing to wash your feet or hands and share your hearts.

I want to take a moment and share with you our new worship series, "Initiating Grace." I was inspired by my Disciple Bible Study class and our discussion of the gospels to create this particular series. We will be

considering different appearances of Jesus - which is pretty normal for an Easter series. What is different about this series is that we will be choosing appearances where the people are broken in relationship with Jesus. Jesus doesn't wait on them to repent, but shows up for them by initiating grace.

We start off the first Sunday with a focus on the walk to Emmaus and the couple who are clearly disappointed in Jesus because they had hoped that he was the Messiah. They are discussing his death and their shattered hopes when he appears to them. Then, we will explore the brokenness of Peter's relationship with Jesus after his continual denial of their relationship. Yet again, Jesus shows up for Peter. The third week we will be considering Paul and the way Jesus intrudes on his life as he hunts Christians. And on Confirmation Sunday, April 28, we will explore Jesus' brother James and their relationship. I am really looking forward to considering these stories through the lens that Jesus often initiates relationship and doesn't wait on us to figure it out.

We have a lot of new things starting in the next few weeks. I will be hiking on Turkey Mountain for six Saturdays at 7:30am. I would love for you to join me! We also have significant special Sundays in the life of the church as we celebrate Confirmation Sunday, Senior Sunday, 3rd Grade Bible presentations, Disciple Bible Study Certificates of Completion and guest speakers coming from Restore Hope and the TU Wesley Foundation. Every Sunday will be a celebration of the life of this community and the Risen Christ!

God loves you and I love you,



INITIATING GRACE

New Sermon Series starting April 7





Written by Pastor Heather

e are excited to recognize Debbie & Blake Steudtner as our Christ-Centered Servants of the Month for April! I was surprised to discover that we had never lifted up Blake and Debbie Steudtner as inspiration for servant lifestyles.

Debbie serves with Family Promise ministry for Tulsa County that helps families secure housing. She is the volunteer accountant for this very important ministry.

For many years, her passion to serve at church was in the Kid's Ministry, teaching our children in Sunday school. She taught in both the K-1st and 2nd-3rd grade classes, and often recruited her daughter Lauren to assist. Linda Saviers shared, "Debbie was reliable, commited and very creative. She was sensitive to the needs of the kids and really cared about them and their education."

Recently, she has had to step away from that responsibility to care for both of her parents who moved to Tulsa. We are so thankful for her time serving our kids, but we recognze that she is now serving her parents in a new capacity.

When I was hiking with Blake on Saturday and I mentioned their nomination to him, he laughed and said, "but I am not doing anything." I know that is not true. He is praying about where to serve next as he rests from many years of service to the church.

Blake served as the church
Lay Leader during the pandemic.
Normally, Pastor Charla would
meet for breakfast once a week
with the lay leader to touch base
and talk about the church. The Lay
Leader's job is to represent a nonstaff voice in partnership with the
Pastor, which Blake did very well for
a couple of years until the pandemic
happened. Then he was stuck in
that position having to represent
the voice of the congregation when
the church wasn't even meeting.

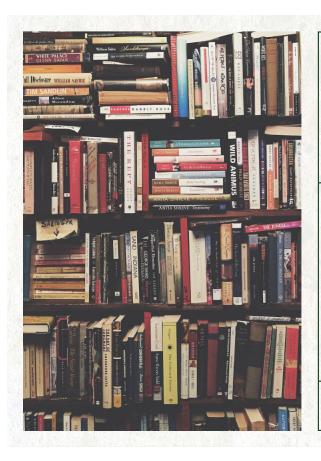
During his tenure, he met with our Crisis Management Team every week to help us make decisions regarding the pandemic and our church's response to the ever changing landscape. Blake helped us lead the church and was a valuable resource.

Once he finally rolled off of that position, I asked him to lead our Finance Committee! Blake is an accountant by trade and manages teams of people. He just completed his term as Finance Chair as we moved to the new Leadership Team model.

Last month, I asked Blake if he would consider serving at the Conference level representing Faith and helping on the Pension and Health Benefits Committee. He said "yes" to this new responsibility and will begin July 1. I know he will be excellent.

When I asked Blake why he serves, he responded with the beautiful metaphor about God's fingerprints on our lives.

We give thanks for this beautiful couple who are so kind and gracious in the many ways that they are a blessing to us all.





Monday, May 13 | 6pm @ BA Library

"Shelf Care" is a new book club designed to enhance your understanding of the world through reading marginalized voices and stories about those different from us. We will meet for the first time on Monday, May 13 at 6pm at the library near downtown Broken Arrow. Our first book discussion will be about *They Called Us Exceptional* by Prachi Gupta in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander month in May.

Visit faithtulsa.org/connect for more info



Calling all campers! Join us on daily adventures as we trek through creative crafts, fun recreation, exciting science, tasty snacks, engaging music and memorable Bible stories. Each day we'll meet at Camp Firelight to learn to face our fears while trusting in God. At Camp Firelight, everyone's gifts are valued and each camper has a role to play! There is no cost for VBS this year!

We also need lots of volunteers to make VBS a success. Adults and Youth (6th - 12th Grade) are invited to help in various areas (Station Leader, Camp Guides, Floaters, Clean Up). Volunteers must register and participate in a mandatory training on June 6.

Visit faithtulsa.org/vbs to register a child or to volunteer!





Here are just a few of the highlights from our recent Spring Break Mission Trip to Sunflower, MS. Our team of 36 students and leaders had an incredible week of Christ-Centered Service.









UPCOMING EVENTS:



HIKING WITH HEATHER

SATURDAY MORNINGS, 7:30AM | STARTS APRIL 6

Pastor Heather will be resuming Hiking With Heather at Turkey Mountain. We'll meet in the south parking lot at 7:30am. Wear comfortable shoes and expect to hike 3-4 miles. If it is raining we will not hike

THE CHOSEN SEASON 4

MONDAYS, 6PM | STARTS APRIL 8

Faith will be premiering Season 4 of the popular show, The Chosen, before it becomes available on TV. We'll show two episodes each Monday at 6pm in the Chapel, starting on April 8. All are welcome to join!



April 13 & 15-20 Mission Project Painting Living Water UMC Visit faithtulsa.org/connect for more info

PAINTING LIVING WATER UMC

APRIL 13, 15-20 MISSION PROJECT

Bill Turner is leading a team that will be helping to paint our sister church, Living Water UMC. This project will take place April 13 & April 15-20. If you would like more information about this project or would like to help, contact Bill.

FAITH FIELD TRIP

APRIL 25, 9:30AM | GRAYSLLAND ACRES

Join us on a Faith Field Trip! We'll take a farm tour of GraysLland Acres, which is a 20 acre llama and goat farm. Lunch location is to be determined. Cost: \$5 plus food price. Please email Pastor Seungrok if you plan to attend.

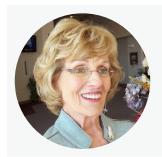


MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:



LENA HOPE TALIAFERRO

Lena Hope Taliaferro passed away on February 7, 2024. Hope and her husband Vernon were members of Faith since 2008.



MERIDITH YOUKUM

Meridith Youkum passed away on March 14, 2024. Meridith was a member of Faith since 2012.

THANK YOU, FAITH! MOVE TO ABUNDANT HAS BEEN SMOOTH



Thank you to those who have moved to one of our cost free giving options as we closed out our previous online giving platform at the end of March! For any gifts using a credit or debit card please use our new Abundant online giving platform using the link below:

https://abundant.co/faithtulsa/account/register

CHURCH CALENDAR:

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS:

Sundavs:

9am - Traditional Worship

10am - Sunday School (Adults, Youth & Kids)

11am - Contemporary Worship / Kid's Connection (K-5th)

Mondays:

1pm - Prayer Shawl Knitting / Room 503

2:30pm - Stretch & Tone / Room 505

4:00pm - Bible Discussion Group / Room 503

Tuesdays:

10am - Tuesday Morning Bible Study / Remote

Wednesdays

7:30am - Men's Fellowship / Einstein Bagels (101 & Mem)

Thursdays:

9:15am - Game Day (1st & 3rd Thursday) / Room 500 or 503 10am - Meditative Movement / Chapel

Fridays

10am - Coffee & Conversations / Room 503

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Hiking With Heather: Starts April 6 / 7:30am / Turkey Mountain

The Chosen Season 4: Starts April 8 / 6pm / Chapel Grief Support Group: April 8 / 6:30pm / Room 502

Men's Breakfast: April 13 / 8am / Great Hall

Painting Living Water UMC: April 13 & April 15-20

Faith Welcome: April 14 / 12pm / Youth Room

"Renewing Harmony" YA Event: April 20 / 1pm / University UMC

Bible Explorers Big Fun Thing: April 21 / 12pm

Town Hall Meeting: April 21 / 2pm / Chapel

Acceptional Parenting: April 21 / 4pm / Room 503
Faith Field Trip: April 25 / 9:30am / GraysLland Acres

Lunch Bunch: May 2 / 12pm / Youth Room

Shelf Care Book Club: Starts May 13 / 6pm / BA Library





Faith United Methodist Church 7431 East 91st Street Tulsa, OK 74133-6020

Return Service Requested

