



CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2024 YOU MADE IT!

On Sunday, April 28, we welcomed in the Confirmation Class of 2024. These students spent a semester learning about their faith and what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

They shared their gifts with the congregation by leading the worship services that day, culminating in the Confirmation service during the 11am service. Eight students took their membership vows, and two students were also baptized.

We are very proud of this group of students for their hard work and dedication to learning throughout this past year. We also lift up a special thanks to the Confirmation teachers and mentors who chose to invest in the lives of these students!



Class of 2024: Ady McNamar, Ashley Trinidad, Carter Storts, Lexi Goldman, Lizzy Weeks, Ryan Stevenson, Shaun Ayers, Aerick Beck

Confirmation Teachers: Dave Lucie, Amanda Ayers

Confirmation Mentors: Tiffany Crone, Megan Baggett, Michelle Baker, Amanda Ayers, Kate Hendrix, Jerrod Baker, Robert Boyd, Dave Blakley



SPECIAL ANGELS NEEDED

EMAIL LSAVIERS@FAITHTULSA.ORG TO SIGN UP

Faith creates a safe, enriching space for neurodiverse students and provides an adult partner (Special Angel) to accompany them when needed during Sunday School and worship. If you feel called to be a part of this ministry, please contact Linda Saviers. Background check and training will be provided.

Letter from the Pastor



Dear Faith,

The month of May is bursting with special events that will take place during worship on Sundays. We will begin with our first Sunday as Senior Sunday on May 5. Our oldest youth will be leading worship and serving us as we celebrate this significant transition in their lives. It is also the first Sunday of the month and we will be offering Communion in both services.

On May 12 we will be celebrating Mother's Day by recognizing the characteristics of God that are maternal. I will be using feminine pronouns for the Holy One and we will be unpacking scripture that describes God in traditionally feminine ways.

Then, on May 19, we will celebrate the birth of the church on Pentecost Sunday. I understand that Tricia and Patty have planned something musically special for that day.

As you probably already know, the last Sunday of May is Memorial Sunday. This federal holiday recognizes and honors those who have served and lost their lives in military service. It has transitioned into remembering all those who have died by decorating their graves. This will be the first year that I will go to the cemetery in Okmulgee without my mom at my side as we remember and decorate the graves of our family members. Hopefully, my daughter will go with me and I will teach her where all of our people are buried. It is a humbling experience but it is also a remarkably happy time running into people that I haven't seen in a very long time at the cemetery.

On May 9, our worship and music team will be long-range planning for the rest of the year. If you have an idea that you would like us to consider for a sermon series or special worship service, please email me the details and we will add it to our brainstorm pile of things to consider. We often begin with questions about what is happening in the world and what things are on our people's minds.

We have noticed that July 4 is on a Thursday this year which means that most employers will be giving folks Friday off for a long weekend. We have decided to only offer one worship service on July 7. I am looking for four people to coordinate a pot luck luncheon for that day. If you can lead or help with that, please email me and I will get you started.

Thank you to everyone for all the prayers for my mother after her accident. She has moved to rehab now and we were told that it would be six months before she will feel normal. Right now, our prayer is that the arm heals naturally and that she won't need surgery. We also have many faithful members of our congregation recovering from falls, accidents and surgeries. Keep praying for each of these situations that they may be resolved and healing will be complete.

Love you,

Pastor Heather



We are excited to recognize Judy Hammond as our Christ-Centered Servant of the Month for May! Judy serves all over our church and has had a major impact on many people.

We recently spoke to Judy and asked her to share a little bit about where, how and why she serves:

When I retired 21 years ago, I knew that I needed something to do. June Bottger, a charter member at Faith and Charles Neff, our Associate Pastor at the time, helped direct me toward serving.

During my time at Faith I've been an usher, a greeter, member of the prayer shawl ministry, VBS volunteer, member of the Faith Welcome lunch team, and Lunch Bunch and Field Trip (formerly Primetimers) coordinator. I also served on several committees.

My joy is getting to interact with the people at Faith. I may not know everyone, but I'm working to change that.

I also enjoy being involved in the community. Since retiring, I've volunteered for kindergarten teachers at Jenks East Elementary. I am a member and serve as an officer of several service organizations. For many years, I was a precinct worker during elections. My husband affectionately called me, "Judy Joiner".

When I walk into Faith UMC, I feel as if I am home, and all of you are my family. Thank you for all that the "Faith Family" does for me. What a blessing to be a Christ-Centered Servant!

Thank you, Judy, for all the ways you are serving within our congregation, as well as our in our community!



Camp Firelight

VBS @ FAITH

June 17-20, 6-8:30pm | K-5th (Fall of 2024)

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!

DONATIONS NEEDED:

Each evening of VBS, a snack supper is being provided for the leaders. Donations are being accepted for:

- **16 ounce water bottles (we need approximately 320)**
- **Cookies for dessert each evening**

Donations can be placed in the large gray box inside the North Entrance.

TOWN HALL MEETING

Meeting Recap from April 21

Over 60 people gathered in the Chapel on Sunday, April 21, to talk about Jesus-sized dreams for Faith United Methodist. Chair of the Leadership Team, Nikki Frasier, opened us by reading a devotion for that very day in the Upper Room about praying with childlike faith to ask God for big, bold things. Jesus-sized dreams are often thrilling and terrifying at the same time.

Pastor Heather shared some of the history of Faith and church planting. The Administrative Council at Faith had set a goal to plant a new church within a 5 year window. In 2013, Heather was chosen to be a church planter. The Cabinet reached out to the pastor at Faith at the time to see if they would partner with Heather, but they declined.

In 2022 at the Leadership Retreat for goal setting, the idea to plant something new bubbled up again from the people in the congregation. Pastor Heather said she was surprised, but decided that it was because Faith is such a wonderful church that the people who attend here wish more people had a church like theirs. She explained that the District Superintendent had asked us to consider shepherding the new church in Owasso.

April Sellers-White was present at the town hall and is a member of Faith coming to us from the Sapulpa church after they disaffiliated. She and Pastor Heather have known each other for

many years. She is a certified Lay Speaker and was asked to serve as the Pastor of the new church start in Owasso.

Heather explained the demographic information about Owasso and how their new church had started. They currently have 50-60 people meeting in a Middle School gymnasium. They had 85 people at their Easter service. This church wants to be their own church and not a satellite congregation. They are financially stable and have not received funds from the conference yet. They currently have funds from the District. Heather asked how many people wanted to help this new church get started, and almost everyone raised their hands in the affirmative.

Pastor Heather also shared the vision responses from the staff for their Jesus-sized dreams for Faith. One of these dreams was to start a Korean ministry, because the Tulsa Korean church had disaffiliated. Pastor Seungrok presented statistics for the area and the Korean population. The viability of this is still uncertain. Pastor Seungrok is praying and discussing this possibility. We did not vote on this idea because we did not want to put any pressure on Pastor Seungrok from the congregation.

We next discussed the possibility of a new church plant in Bixby. Some of our youth were present and contributed to the conversation. Bixby does not

have any Lutheran, Disciples or Presbyterian churches and the Methodist church disaffiliated. The projected growth for this area over the next 10 years is significant.

Discussion centered on doing something in Bixby that would be a satellite campus of Faith. Steven Spradling suggested doing some splash events and circuit riding in Bixby. He knows a lot of people in the area. A positive suggestion was to do some intentional marketing in the Bixby area to make folks aware of Faith. People affirmed using a marketing professional to help with this. There is almost \$300,000 in funds for starting something new from the conference if we wanted to move forward.

When Pastor Heather asked how many people were excited about doing something new, 50% were affirmative. Since it was the first time to hear any of these details, it was surprisingly positive.

For the next 90 days, we would like you to pray, discuss and let us know where you see God leading us. If you would like Pastor Heather to come talk to your group, please reach out to get on her schedule. We will schedule another Town Hall following the 90 days and the completion of General Conference to decide how to move forward.

UPCOMING EVENTS:



SHELF CARE BOOK CLUB

Monday, May 13 | 6pm @ BA Library

A new book club designed to enhance your understanding of the world through reading marginalized voices and stories about those different from us.

Visit faithtulsa.org/connect for more info

SHELF CARE BOOK CLUB

STARTS MAY 13, 6PM | BROKEN ARROW 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’ll 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. Contact Leah Boyd for questions.

FAITH FIELD TRIP

MON, MAY 20, 9:30AM | AMAZON FULFILLMENT CENTER

We’ll take a tour of the Amazon Fulfillment Center in Tulsa, a 2.6 million square foot facility! This field trip is on a MONDAY, not our usual Thursday. Lunch location is still TBD. Cost: Price of lunch. Contact Pastor Seungrok at skim@faithtulsa.org if you would like to attend.



LUNCH BUNCH

THU, JUN 6 | 12PM | YOUTH ROOM

Join us for Lunch Bunch on Thursday, June 6 at 12pm in the Youth Room. The main dish will be provided. Bring a side to share. Quick reminder to bring in recipes you would like to submit for the Lunch Bunch recipe booklet. Program will be announced at a later date. Contact Judy Hammond with any questions.



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

NOTES FROM APRIL 16 MEETING

- Team discussed agenda for upcoming Town Hall
- Guiding principle for staff evaluations to happen annually in the second quarter passed
- Decision to have a Faith Retreat for building community, will be scheduled for summer, new people can form connections
- Decision to move the Block Party to coincide with Trunk or Treat in the fall, Internal audience for Fall Kick Off
- Upgrades to hearing assistance and the lighting in the sanctuary discussed
- Pastor Heather given permission to create a Labyrinth Team and use June & July for fundraising for this project

DISCIPLE

JESUS IN THE GOSPELS



Congratulations to our recent graduates of Disciple: Jesus in the Gospels, who spent 30 weeks studying the stories of Jesus! We are proud of your dedication and commitment to your faith.

Front Row, Left to Right: Jim Hemphill, Janice Hemphill, Janie Lampi, Carolynne Cash

Middle Row, Left to Right: Mary Jane Landin, Joshua Oswald, Marcy Munkirs, Angela Cole

Back Row, Left to Right: Mark Landin, Kurt Lampi, Liz Hayes, Dee Kemp (not pictured)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

BAPTISMS



ADY MCNAMAR

Aby McNamar was baptized on Sunday, April 28, as part of her Confirmation Ceremony.

ELIZABETH WEEKS

Lizzy Weeks was baptized on Sunday, April 28, as part of her Confirmation Ceremony.



ELEANOR SCHMIDT

Eleanor Schmidt passed away on April 20, 2024. She joined Faith in 2008. Her service will be held on May 13 at Faith.

CHURCH CALENDAR:

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS:

Sundays:

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)
6:30pm - Meditative Movement / Chapel

Thursdays:

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

Fridays:

10am - Coffee & Conversations / Room 503

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Grief Support Group: May 6 / 6:30pm / Room 502

Support for the Caregiver: May 7 / 6pm / Zoom

LAST Hiking With Heather: May 11 / 7:30am / Turkey Mountain

Men's Breakfast: May 11 / 8am / Great Hall

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

Bible Explorers Big Fun Thing: May 19 / 12pm

Acceptational Parenting: May 19 / 4pm / Room 503

Faith Field Trip: May 20 / 9:30am / Amazon Fulfillment Center

Church Office CLOSED: May 27 - Memorial Day

Annual Conference: May 30 - June 1

Promotion Sunday: June 2

Lunch Bunch: June 6 / 12pm / Youth Room

Vacation Bible School: June 17-20



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faithnews



▲ Lunch Bunch at GraysLand Acres Llama & Goat Farm

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