

February, 2016 Newsletter

BRIDGEVIEW UNITED METHODIST Church

NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

WE WALK WITH CHRIST, WORSHIP GOD IN ALL WE DO AND SAY, AND WELCOME OTHERS INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST, AS WE MAKE DISCIPLES FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD.

Ash Wednesday Pancake Meal and Worship Service

February 10, 2016

At Bridgeview

Eat at 5:30

Worship at 6:15

The Moore First UMC youth group will join us at Bridgeview for a pancake supper just before the Ash Wednesday worship service.

All members are encouraged to attend both meetings.

We will not be voting for a merger at either of these meetings. A merger will only happen if and when the merger is just and the time is right. Such a vote is a year or more down the road.

Come to these meetings and feel free to ask honest questions. We will do our best to answer them.

IMPORTANT MEETINGS FOR ALL THE BRIDGEVIEW UMC COMMUNITY:

Informational meeting

Thursday, February 11, 2016

6:30 PM

in the

Moore First UMC sanctuary

This will be a "Town Hall" style open discussion meeting for members of both Bridgeview and Moore First to ask questions about the possibility of a merger and to learn the hopes and concerns from the other campus.

We will NOT know by this meeting if the Conference financing is secure.

Bridgeview Charge Conference

Wednesday, February 24th

6:00 PM

in the

Bridgeview sanctuary

We WILL know by this meeting if the Conference financing is secure.

From Pastor Rob Harris:

Loving Beyond Our Ability

Perhaps the hardest thing that Jesus ever asked us to do is to love someone beyond our means to do so. In John 15:12, when Jesus commanded those of us who are his followers to "Love each other as I have loved you." he was asking us to move way beyond our own level of compassion. Jesus was asking us to move from the realm of our own humanity and into the realm of God's agape.

I am not sure if that is even possible. And yet, this was not a suggestion from Jesus, it was a commandment. If Jesus commanded us to do so, then surely he gave us a way to find the ability to follow through with this mandate. So, how do we do what Jesus commands of us? How in all that is reasonable, are we supposed to love others as Christ loves us? Why, that would mean that we would have to love beyond all the thoughts and understandings that we have learned.

However, we do have such an ability beyond our own human means. It is a gift that we as Christ followers have that the rest of humanity does not have. Isaiah said, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are God's ways higher than our ways and God's thought higher than our thoughts.

Let's remember we are not in this alone. There are at least ten promises in scriptures that the presence of the Holy will always be with us. And in John 17, Jesus prays that as the Father sent him, he sends us and has given us the glory that the Father gave him. Jesus has given us this glory so the world will know that we are sent with the same love that the Father sent him. That is very powerful.

Most of us are God fearing decent people who have a close relationship with our friends and family and have even grown to tolerate a few of those people whom we don't agree with. But have we ever wondered why God would want us to love and accept others beyond those whom we already love? Perhaps it is because in the Kingdom of God, everyone is supposed to be loved and welcome.

Sometimes this is as hard for us to hear as it was for the first century church to hear. The Holy Spirit expanded the early church's understanding of the inclusiveness of the Kingdom story by story, as if a bulldozer were knocking down every cultural barrier that kept people apart. Could sinners be welcome? Could tax collectors and prostitutes? Could Greek-speaking Jews? Could Gentile God-fearers? Could Roman soldiers? Could godless Gentiles? Could those who worshiped foreign gods? The answer repeatedly was, "yes!" God's welcomes includes even them. We who follow Christ 2000 years later often have the same struggles. And yet Jesus' command to love them all still stands strong as an

open invitation to go to the streets and bring everyone to God's table.

Our community has grown rapidly over the past 20 years and yet the percentage of those who feel connected to the Kingdom of God has continually shrunk. This is not unique to our community, for there has been a slow steady disconnect between the church and the people in America for 50 years now. We can debate for the next 50 years why this is happening or we can be active about loving everyone into the kingdom - just like we were loved into the Kingdom.

Jesus has commanded us to get out there and love everyone into the Kingdom and invite them into the church. The best way to invite someone to church is to first begin building a relationship with them, then buy them lunch and chat with them about your faith - and then invite them to church.

Know that you are loved.

Pastor Rob

Youth News

For the last month our youth have been joining Moore First UMC's youth group on both Sunday and Wednesday nights from 5:30-7:30 pm at Moore First. On Wednesdays you can come right after school to relax and do homework if you wish. Moore First's youth are very welcoming and accepting of us, and Aly [Aly Shahan, Youth Director] has been doing a good job at trying to combine the two youth groups. We very much enjoy having a youth group and youth director again even though we have to travel to a different church to do so. It definitely beats not having one at all, so in that aspect I am grateful! On January 15-18th four of our youth traveled with Moore First's youth to a Winter Retreat/Camp at

Canyon. That weekend we spent a lot of time getting to know the girls and the adult leaders from Moore First because we all shared the same cabin. We also froze that Sunday doing the mission work, but huddling together to get warm brought us closer together. **Our youth also got to see Austin there**, so it was a great reunion for us. Kayla and I surprised him when we basically ran him over when we jumped on him to give him a hug. That was the highlight of my weekend. By the way, Moore First has two vans AND a bus!! Aly wants to go back to Canyon Camp for 2-3 days during Spring Break to clean up the camp some more since they got hit hard by the ice storm back in December.

On January 27th, both youth groups got to vote for who they wanted on youth council, which consists of: co-presidents (one from Bridgeview and one from Moore First) (Megan Briscoe), co-vice-presidents (Makayla Ford), a secretary, assistant secretary (Jaylea Wilson), co-hospitality chairs (Kayla Portwood), missions chair, and two finance keepers.

Starting this month Aly is going to have youth at Bridgeview on the last Sunday of every month so that we can have the church to ourselves to use the sanctuary for worship and then break off into our homegroups for discussions. She also wants us to be able to have youth at our church sometimes. She does not want us to lose that, which is comforting. **On Ash Wednesday, the youth are all coming to Bridgeview for the Pancake Dinner and Service.**

February 12-13th we are attending a 30 hour Famine at Nichols Hills UMC. The 30 hour famine is to spark our awareness of what people in

poverty go through on a daily basis. On February 17th, Rev. Deborah Ingraham, director of Skyline Urban Ministries, will be joining us during youth to teach us about poverty and how we can help. All that said, our Wednesday Bible studies, currently, are a series about poverty.

Megan Briscoe

THE VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Lenten Sermon Series + Weekly
Small Group Study

The sermon series for the season of Lent will be *The View from the Bridge*. There will be a companion study group which meets at Bridgeview Sundays at 6:00 beginning Feb. 21. Pastor Rob Harris will lead the study, which he and Pastor Adam Shahan wrote. Print copies are available on the information table where we pick up name tags. The series includes:

- Jesus Sends out the 72
- The Good Samaritan
- The Lamp of the Body
- The Great Banquet
- The Lost and Found
- The Triumphant Entry
- The Resurrection

Where will you serve in 2016?

It is time to fill committee rosters for the year. There is a spot for each of us! A partial list of groups includes Children's Ministries, Church Fellowship, Sanctuary Guild (communion preparation and cleanup), Evangelism, or Missions. Please prayerfully consider where you can best serve, and contact Linda Cumpton Hirshman to volunteer.

Beth Moore Study: Daniel

The prophet Daniel faced unbelievable pressures to compromise his faith, to live in a hostile culture, and to confront temptations and threats. Join acclaimed author Beth Moore in a faith-building video study of prophecy and learn how to live with integrity in today's self-absorbed society.

It is not too late to join this 12-week study. Facilitated by Ann Meyers, it meets Fridays from 10-11 am in the fellowship hall at Moore 1st. There is a \$20 fee to cover materials. Contact Amy Graves to join.

amy.graves@moorechurch.com

United Methodist Women

Congratulations and thanks to Rhonda Smith, who will lead UMW for 2016. Also, a big bouquet of (virtual) roses to Teresa Thompson for her leadership in 2015. The next meeting of the Bridgeview United Methodist Women will be Tuesday, February 19, 6:30 P.M. at Bridgeview.

At the January meeting, Belinda Rogers presented a devotional on love. Everyone got Valentine hearts! There was a discussion about what UMW could do for graduating seniors at Dimensions Academy. Possible fundraisers to support such a project are being considered. UMW will provide a floral arrangement to stand beside the pulpit—something appropriate from now until springtime. Belinda Rogers will select and arrange the materials.

Three ladies from Bridgeview (Rhonda Smith, Marilyn Daniel, and Cindy Carr) attended the February general meeting of Moore First's UMW. There was a lovely luncheon, followed by a talk by the Rev. Deborah Ingraham, director of Skyline Ministries in OKC. She talked about her

path to the ministry and to Skyline. It's amazing to see God's hand at work shaping a worker to his service! Rev. Ingraham also described Skyline's programs: Prime Timers (food, fellowship, and devotions for senior citizens), eye clinic, food resource center, clothing closet, plus seasonal programs such as Christmas Grace, Prom Dress Event, and Clothes 4 Kids. All ladies from Bridgeview are invited to Moore First UMW's March 2 general meeting.

Missions Report

Thanks to Jerry Martin for delivering the toilet paper Bridgeview collected for Skyline Ministries. He said that, when he made the delivery in late January, Skyline had been totally out for several days. This is a basic need not covered by food stamps, and hundreds of families (most of whom work one or more jobs) depend on Skyline for assistance. Like Bridgeview, Moore First collected toilet paper for Skyline. Theirs was presented on February 3rd, when Pastor Ingraham spoke to Moore First's UMW general meeting.



There is a lovely array of dishes in the church kitchen. Is one of them yours? Please take your dishes home.

Emilee Lynch is asking for volunteer help in the nursery. Please contact her if you'd be willing to help even occasionally.

New Book Club

- A shared program of Bridgeview and Moore 1st UMC
- Meets monthly beginning in March
- Planning session Tuesday, Feb. 9, 6:30, at Bridgeview

On the planning agenda: "...discussing genres & favorite authors, deciding meeting times & places, etc." For information, "visit either church website or Facebook page, and watch your Sunday bulletin. Questions? Address them to amy.graves@moorechurch.com or phone 794-6671." Info from *The Link*, Moore 1st's newsletter.

Chili Cook-off at Moore 1st Sunday, Feb. 21 11 am & 12 noon

If you wish to compete, enter your chili by 8:00 am. Otherwise, just come to the fellowship hall and feast on the chili. Proceeds support the mission trip to Rio Bravo. (Moore First will send a construction team and a medical team to Mexico April 21-24, 2016. Call Julie Jones for more information: 405-596-0096.)

TIME CHANGES

The temporary time changes for Sunday mornings continue through February:

Bridgeview choir practice 8:45 am
Bridgeview Sunday school 9:00 am
Bridgeview praise band 9:15 am
Bridgeview worship 10:00 am

We will return to our regular schedule when the equipment to provide for live streaming of services has been installed.

Read *The Link*

Moore 1st's newsletters are a goldmine of information. Check them out at www.moorechurch.com or contact the church office for information on a print subscription.

Moore 1st contact information:

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- If you know of information that needs to be included in the Bridgeview newsletter, please contact the church office as shown below or Cindy Carr (bandccarr@att.net or (405) 579-2506). Photos of church events will be most welcome.
- If you have announcements to be listed in the Sunday worship bulletin, send them to Jane Osborn at osbornjane@gmail.com
- If you know of anyone who needs to be added to the church's mailing lists, postal or email, please contact the church at the email address below.
- Need help signing in for the church's online directory? Contact Lay Leader Chuck Simonds.
- For more scheduled events at Bridgeview, check the "calendar" tab on the church website, www.bridgeviewumc.org
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Bridgeview contact information:

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