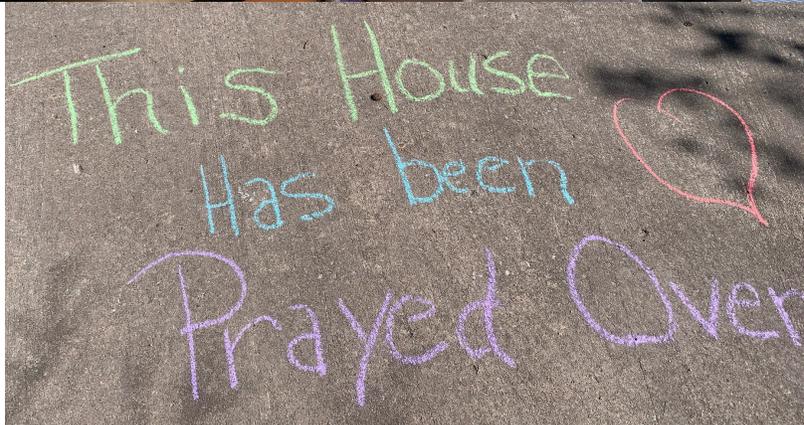




WE ARE THE CHURCH!

As we practice safe physical distancing we are trying new ways to be the Church. In this newsletter we have asked a few people to share devotionals or other info that the ministry wants you to know.

To stay connected to the Church check out our website at www.tahlequahumc.org Also check out our You Tube Channel at www.bit.ly/tumcytc



If you need help with getting supplies please call the Church office at 918-456-6141 or email the Pastors at matt.franks@tahlequahumc.org or shana.dry@tahlequahumc.org



Children's Ministry at Tahlequah UMC

Director: Ashley Franks
email:
kidsfirst@tahlequahumc.org

Gratitude: A Family Devotion

Imagine a balloon, or even better use a real balloon. The balloon is going to represent the joy in our life. The air you use to blow up the balloon is going to represent gratitude. The more gratitude (air) you put into the balloon the more joy we create in our lives.

**try blowing up a real balloon to see the full picture or youtube it if you don't have one at home.*

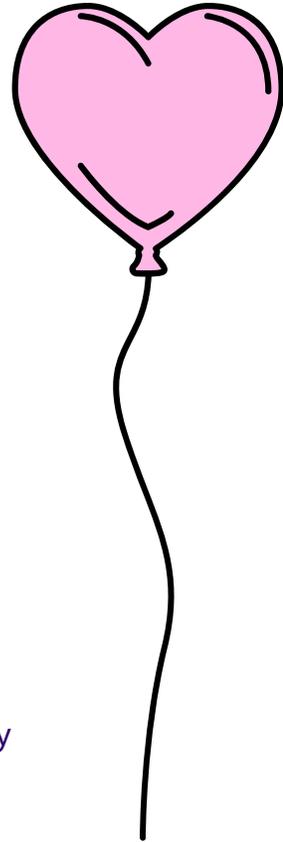
Gratitude is simply the feeling of being thankful, and more importantly thankful to God. The more we are thankful to God the more joy we create in our lives just like the balloon showed us. Giving thanks can be hard at times. It's easy to be thankful when everything is going great but when things are hard or when problems come it can be harder to have a thankful heart. This is when we more than ever need to look for God's blessings in our lives. The more we practice this, the easier it gets.

Read the following scriptures. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 & Philippians 4: 4-7

If you have children who can read, let them look up and read the scriptures to you and ask "What are these scriptures telling us?"

Family activity ideas:

- Create a gratitude paper or poster. Write: "Thank you God for..." at the top and every day this week have each person in the family add a word, phrase, or picture of what they are thankful for that day.
- Pick a letter of the alphabet and have each person in the family come up with things they are thankful for that start with the chosen letter.
- Write "thank you" notes or "I'm thankful for you" notes and then mail them out.
- Take a gratitude walk or hike as a family. Search out things that you can see that you are thankful for and share them with the rest of the family.
- For added fun you can look up on youtube "I've got the Joy Down in my Heart" and sing it together as a family

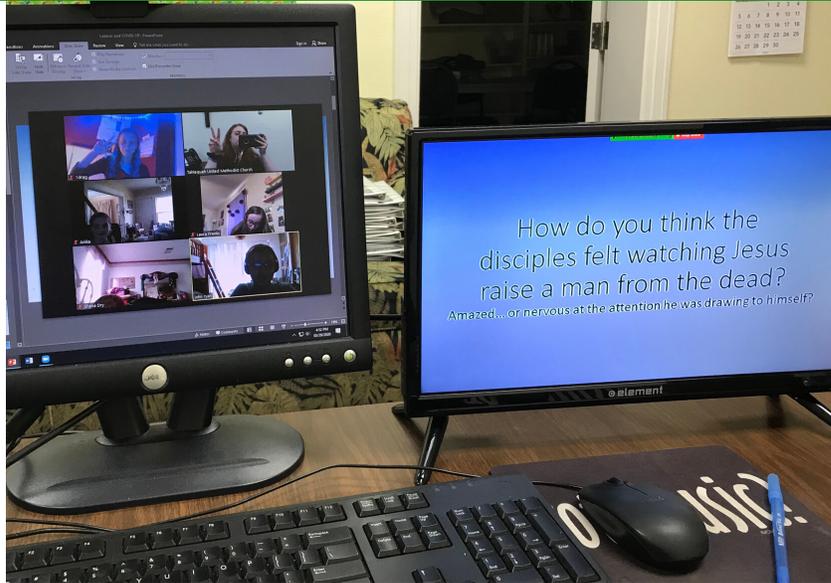


Check out a devotional video that Ashley put together at www.bit.ly/tumcdevo32420



Youth Ministry

Director: Abigail Shaw-Bolen
 email: youth@tahlequahumc.org



Our youth group is adjusting to our new normal as the pandemic requires us to get creative about what church means.

We are meeting remotely via Zoom each Wednesday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Please contact Abigail or a member of staff if your student would like to join our video chat!

When asked what the youth would like to share in this newsletter, they said they wanted the rest of the congregation to please stay safe and healthy at home and wash their hands often! They also wanted you all to know that they are spending their time doing online schoolwork, being creative, playing games with their families, and learning new skills around the house.

We are continuing the Sedan Floral fundraiser!

Please get ahold of Abigail or one of the youth over the phone to make a flower order before **April 8th!**

You can also message the Tahlequah First United Methodist Youth Facebook page to order.

This too shall pass! In the meantime, let's lean on God and (metaphorically) one another.



Section 1

Section 2

Section 3

Section 4

Sun / Part Shade Plants \$20.00/Flat

Shade Plants \$20.00/Flat

11" Hanging Baskets \$20.00/ea

4.5" Pots \$4.50/ea

Patio Pots \$26.00/ea

Veggie/Herb \$35.00/Flat

Begonia ~ Bronze Leaf Red

Begonia ~ Bronze Leaf Pink

Celosia ~ Mix

Marigold ~ Yellow

Marigold ~ Orange

Petunias ~ Blue

Petunias ~ Mix

Petunias ~ Red

Portulaca (Rose Moss) ~ Mix

Vinca (Periwinkle) ~ Mix

Vinca (Periwinkle) ~ White w/Eye

Coleus ~ Wizard Mix

Impatiens ~ Mix

Impatiens ~ Red

Impatiens ~ White

Zonal Geraniums ~ Red

Zonal Geraniums ~ Salmon

Zonal Geraniums ~ Pink

Sweet Potato Vine

Calibrachoa ~ Callie Mix

Purslane ~ Tequila Sunrise

Purslane ~ Lemon

Impatiens New Guinea ~ Electric Orange

Impatiens New Guinea ~ Paradise Fuchsia

Zonal Geraniums ~ Red

Zonal Geraniums ~ Salmon

Zonal Geraniums ~ Pink

Gerbera Daisy ~ Yellow

Gerbera Daisy ~ Red

Zonal Geraniums ~ Red

Zonal Geraniums ~ Pink

Sweet Potato Vine ~ Vining Me Crazy

Vegetable & Herb ~

2 each of 3 types of Tomatoes

2 each of 3 types of Peppers

2 each of 3 types of Herbs

Easter Living Everyday

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR SHANA DRY



After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. 2 Look, there was a great earthquake, for an angel from the Lord came down from heaven. Coming to the stone, he rolled it away and sat on it. 3 Now his face was like lightning and his clothes as white as snow. 4 The guards were so terrified of him that they shook with fear and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6 He isn’t here, because he’s been raised from the dead, just as he said. Come, see the place where they laid him. 7 Now hurry, go and tell his disciples, ‘He’s been raised from the dead. He’s going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.’ I’ve given the message to you. Matthew 28:1-7

It is obvious that as we read this scripture from the gospel of Matthew – it was death not the resurrection that filled the hearts and minds of the disciples, the women and the Roman guards. After the day of the Sabbath – they were going to prepare the body for burial – not looking for a risen Lord.

Yes, there had been a hasty burial on Friday in order to conform to Sabbath customs – followed by a long Sabbath wait. We know from hearing the story over many years and reading in all 4 of the gospels – fear-grief- broken hearts – and shattered dreams consumed them all.

If the sun was shining and a new day was dawning – it was not apparent in their souls and spirits. They did not yet know that day known as Black Friday would eventually be known as Good Friday.

It is safe to say these faithful women were not singing “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” – or “He lives – He Lives” was not upon their lips or resounding from their hearts. For me personally this is why I know the Easter story is real and believable.

It says to me that the faith of those early believers did not come easily or without pain – but it did come.

The resurrection is as challenging a message there is to human existence. It is a whole lot easier to live life as a victim – than it is to claim the victory that God wants to make available to humanity.

I find it very cool in verse 2 where it shares the “Angel sat down” – or “sat on it” – the stone. Angels don’t sit down much. As messengers of God – they are always active in their work for God. The Angel sat down to show that the struggle with sin and death is over. Hate- Violence – and crucifixion had their day - but now God opened a whole age for us in which to live his glory and honor.

The Angel sat on the stone – not to let Jesus out – but to let the women and others in to see that death had been defeated. The Angel sat down to confirm Jesus’ last words “It is finished”. However, our response to the resurrection is “It is just beginning”.

Gratefully, two women experience the empty tomb and are led to become witnesses of the resurrection. They respond to the angel's voice and fall down at the pierced feet of Jesus and worship him. They knew there was a greater stone – a solid rock to stand on.

United Methodist Bishop, Ken Goodson, tells the story of a famous painting of the crucifixion which was on display in a downtown store window in Winston-Salem North Carolina, during Holy Week. He said the blood dripping from the crown of thorns was so real you wanted to reach out and wipe it away.

One day a businessman stopped to look at it on his way to the office. A newspaper boy, selling his morning papers, joined him at the store window. After a while the man turned to walk away, shaking his head and muttering to himself. "What a pity." What a shame." The newspaper boy shouted after him. Hey Mister! Don't you know? Haven't you heard" He ain't dead anymore? He's alive! He's alive!

I want you to know in my life I have to hold on to this thought! And as we are living in these new times of quarantine and social distancing, If I can leave you with one belief. It is this. Because Jesus came back from the grave – we can make a comeback as well, God will ultimately right the wrong.

The Risen Christ calls us to live this side of Easter. Easter living through the power of the Holy Spirit, we find that life is a feast to be celebrated and shared. You see living this side of Easter we find that we always live in hope because God has the last move and the last word.

St. Augustine was right when he wrote, "Every Christian's life should be a resounding message of Easter – a Hallelujah from head to toe.

Why don't you sit with the Angel for a moment – at the rolled away stone – and realize what can be rolled away in your life and live the Easter life you are called to live.

God Loves You and So Do I!
Peace & Love Always,
Pastor Shana Dry



THIS
IS
NOT
THE
END!

BY
PASTOR
MATT
FRANKS



Revelation 21:1-6 reads: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "Look! God's dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." 5 Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look! I'm making all things new." He also said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 Then he said to me, "All is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty, I will freely give water from the life-giving spring.

Things are changing in this world because of the pandemic. We must name that, claim it, and look to how God can use us in this unique time in history. I find these words from John's Revelation comforting for 3 reasons. 1st, God is dwelling here. 2nd, God will make all things new. And 3rd, God is our beginning and end. But 1st breathe in with me: love and breathe out with me: Christ. Here are some things to know about Tahlequah UMC in our current state of the Church.

God is dwelling everywhere.

We have had to adjust how to do church right now. There will become a time where we all be able to gather again in person and I long for that time. But until then all in-person gatherings Church activities are suspended indefinitely. We need to do all that we can to keep people safe. Even when we offer online meetings and worship we do our best to practice safe social distancing and making sure that spaces are disinfected after use. My top priority is to do all that I can to keep our congregation safe.

What I have found in this short time that we have had to shut things down and go to an online-only option, is that people are living out their faith in renewed ways. I have asked you every time we have some kind of video, email or text to try to remember your 5, and connect every day to 5 people via, phone call, text, email, snail mail or any other way we can practice safe social distancing. The care team is doing amazing work to still care for our congregation.

In worship, we have felt the spirit as we lead worship. If you have not watched us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/tahlequahumc) you can check out all of our past services on our website at www.tahlequahumc.org on the website you can also send us a prayer request that goes straight to the pastors.

Shana and I are working to provide a bible study and prayer time online on Wednesday and Thursday at noon. You can find the Wednesday study on our Facebook and our Zoom prayer gatherings you need to be invited with a password to join us. This keeps people who have been jumping on zoom meetings and doing inappropriate things out of our gatherings. Send me an email (matt.franks@tahlequahumc.org) and can send you an invitation and password.

God is with us at this time and all the time God is with us. It is rough, things are different and difficult but if we lean into God even more and trust that promise that God made to us that God will never abandon us. We are being called to share God's love at a safe distance please do all that you can to show the world that you believe that God is with us.



Worship Adjustments to Palm Sunday Holy Week, Easter, and things in the future.

We are having to adjust how we do Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter this year. Here is my plan for this new opportunity. We will offer Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter online like have been doing these last few weeks. It will look a little different but it will still be a great experience. When we are allowed to gather again my plan is to first Sunday back have what I am calling it Grace Sunday: that will be a day we will get back into our rhythm of worship in person. The 2nd Sunday back we will celebrate Palm Sunday and have our Good Friday Tenebrae Service that Friday. The 3rd Sunday Back we will have our Traditional Easter Sunday full of all the great worship that we offer. I have no clue when this will happen but this is my plan when we are allowed to gather again.

Serving The Other Is Still Happening

One of the things I love about our congregation is its willingness to serve in missions. We have people sewing mask. We have had people go and put tarps on a home that need tarping, we have had some help step up and shop and pick up groceries and meds for those in need. We have had people help build a ramp for a Church member that was in need of a ramp. Cards and Phone calls that are sent out. To all who have helped Thank you!

Giving to the Church During the Pandemic.

As Tahlequah United Methodist Church continues to seek to grow our faith through generosity in 2020 we want you to know that your faithful giving is more important than ever in the midst of this crisis. Along with all these new opportunities of doing ministry we continue to employ our staff, pay utilities, insurance, and other ongoing expenses.

It's a whole new world and we are doing many things differently, and yet still the same. Therefore, we encourage you to continue to support your church with your generous giving in this season. We have three ways to give at Tahlequah UMC (see graphic on the back of this page.) and we encourage you to be faithful and use the way that is most comfortable for you in this time which has raised many new complexities to everything we do and have done. Thank you for willingness to take on unfamiliar technologies and new ways of being the Church. Our Church's mission is to be the Church that has Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of ourselves and of the world. The world needs Christ's church now more than ever. With your help, we will be open in new and exciting ways. Please pray for our church as we embark on this spiritual adventure together.

Thank you for keeping your membership vows by supporting Christ's church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Our faithful generosity in giving is one way we will shine brighter in this present darkness as children of Christ's church for the broken world. So remember that God loves you and is with you in every step that you take.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Matt Franks



Ways to give during the COVID-19 Pandemic



You can drop your offering
Check in the mail slot in the
office door. While you are
out running errands.



You can send us checks, or work out
arrangements with your Bank or
Financial Institution to mail it to
300 W. Delaware Tahlequah, Ok 74464

 Tahlequah United Methodist Church
300 W. Delaware
Tahlequah, Ok 74464

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
Paid
Tahlequah, Ok
Permit No. 281

Check us out on Social Media



@tahlequahumc