



# The Tahlequah Testament

The June 2022 Newsletter for Tahlequah United Methodist Church

Connect with us online at [www.tahlequahumc.org](http://www.tahlequahumc.org)

## Passing the Baton

As most of you know Pastor Matt Franks will be moving to Colorado to serve in the Mountain Sky Annual Conference. Matt's last Sunday to deliver a sermon to us will be on June 5th. We will have a reception for him and his family in the atrium after church. The cost of moving is always expensive and the conference will only cover part of the cost. If you would like to help Matt and his family with the cost you may make a donation by placing something on a card or you may give it directly to the church; earmarking it for Pastor Franks moving fund. There will be a basket for cards/donations at the reception.

On June 26th Reverend Shana Dry will deliver her first sermon as our Lead Pastor. We are very excited and blessed that the Bishop and Cabinet selected Shana for Tahlequah First United Methodist Church as her first full-time appointment.

There will be a reception for Shana and her family after service on that Sunday. I know that she will need some help with moving and also some meals prepared for the following weeks as she accepts the "baton" as our spiritual leader.

If you could bake/purchase cookies for either or both of these events; please contact Sueann Freeman. Her number is (918)931-2587 or you can let her know after any service on Sundays. She is asking for 3-4 dozen cookies from each volunteer. If we have any cookies leftover we will use them at Feed My Sheep.



## The Change Over Zone Preaching Schedule in June

5th: Rev. Matt Franks  
Last Sermon as Lead Pastor

12th: Rev. Carol Cook Moore  
District Superintendent at  
Northern Prairie District UMC

19th Deaconess Linda Tucker  
Methodist Deaconess

26th Rev. Shana Dry  
1st Sunday as Lead Pastor



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**Celebration of Life Service  
for Don E. Stucky, M.D.**  
Saturday, June 18 at  
2 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
Reception to follow in the  
Atrium hosted by the UMW  
Tahlequah United Methodist  
Church

# REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR MATT FRANKS

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One of my favorite things to watch at track meets is always the relay races. The finishing runner is entering the changeover zone and the next runner begins running when the time is right you sometimes hear the word; “stick” and the baton is passed. Then the finishing runner

normally always cheers the runner on. Just such a thing of beauty to watch those transitions happen.

June 5<sup>th</sup> will be my last Sunday preaching at Tahlequah United Methodist Church. I will be entering the changeover zone at this time. I will hand it off to our Lay Leader Sue Ann Freeman and she will run with it until it’s Shana’s time to take the baton to run with it on June 26th. Just know that when I say stick and pass off the baton, I will be cheering you all on from afar. Because my new race in Castle Rock will begin shortly after that.

Church our last five years of ministry we have had an exciting run. We have helped transform the world for Jesus. Remember Camp Wesley when we stepped up in town and provided a safe space for kids to be during the teacher lockout? Remember the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Celebration of Methodism in Tahlequah? Remember the Mission trips? Remember the amazing experiences in worship, bible studies, pick-up basketball, and Bar Church? Remember how we weathered the storm that has been COVID? Remember the feelings of finishing the debt? Remember those saints we have had to say goodbye to.

One of my favorite poems is written by Grantland Rice it is called *Game Called*.

Game Called. Across the field of play  
the dusk has come, the hour is late.

The fight is done and lost or won,  
the player files out through the gate.

The tumult dies, the cheer is hushed,  
the stands are bare, the park is still.

But through the night there shines the light,  
home beyond the silent hill.

Game Called. Where in the golden light  
the bugle rolled the reveille.

The shadows creep where night falls deep,  
and taps has called the end of play.

The game is done, the score is in,  
the final cheer and jeer have passed.  
But in the night, beyond the fight,  
the player finds his rest at last.

Game Called. Upon the field of life  
the darkness gathers far and wide,  
the dream is done, the score is spun  
that stands forever in the guide.

Nor victory, nor yet defeat  
is chalked against the players name.  
But down the roll, the final scroll,  
shows only how he played the game.

Good people of Tahlequah United Methodist Church we played the game well. Soon it will be a new scorecard, a new race may God be with you in every step and every breath of this new race, and may you run it so well that your scorecard is a great example of what Christ's love looks like. God loves you and there ain’t nothing you can do about that. And I love you too, run well Tahlequah UMC.

Peace be with you,  
Pastor Matt Franks

## PRAY TO PREPARE

Join us in praying for Tahlequah's important days ahead with our pastoral leadership transition and specifically the "Changeover Zone" work to be undertaken.

Prepare your hearts for our upcoming workshop by praying daily over these suggested Scripture passages. Perhaps you might set an alarm for 3:00 AM or PM to remind you to pray for Tahlequah so that, using our street number as a cue, our prayers will go up collectively to God.

June 5: 2 Chronicles 7:14-16  
June 6: Philemon 1:4-7  
June 7: Ephesians 1:16-17; 3:14-16  
June 8: Psalms 86:6-7  
June 9: Colossians 1:9-10  
June 10: 2 Thessalonians 1:2,11  
June 11: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2  
June 12: Jeremiah 29: 11-13  
June 13: Matthew 24:14  
June 14: Daniel 9:4-17  
June 15: Ezekiel 37:1-4  
June 16: Matthew 8:5-13  
June 17: Jeremiah 17: 7-8  
June 18: Isaiah 63:7-19  
June 19: Deuteronomy 3:6-8  
June 20: Luke 18:1-8  
June 21: 2 Chronicles 15:7  
June 22: 2 Samuel 7:18-27  
June 23: 1 Kings 8: 54-61  
June 24: Nehemiah 1:3-11  
June 25: 2 Chronicles 6:12-21  
June 26: Psalm 4

We trust that our individual prayers will shake heaven as we privately pray. Seeking wisdom, renewal, commitment, guidance, and discernment for Tahlequah. God's word says that if He is building His church and it cannot be defeated. We get to be part of God's great plan through Tahlequah!

## VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone,  
iPad & Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for **Instant Church Directory**  and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

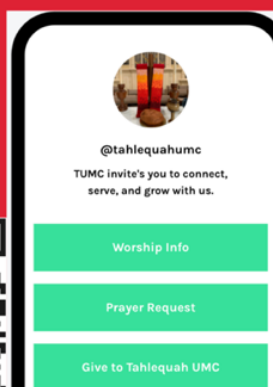
If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.



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## 2022 APPORTIONMENTS

### Green Country District

\$2,989/\$2,989

### Oklahoma Conference

\$1451/\$29,487

### Mission and Ministries

\$1,426/\$6,594







**May Camp Egan Flood Work  
from TUMC People**



### Family Ministry Update

Hi, Church! Happy Summer!

A quote from Oklahoma Annual Conference:  
"Young people, youth, and children are not the future of the Church- they are the Right Now of the Church!"

I know how much it meant to our kiddos to show you all how much they learned about being an acolyte during Sunday morning worship! Thank you for being there to cheer them on and please continue to pray for and guide the little ones in our congregation.

Toward the end of the summer, we will be hosting VBS (July 25-29 9am-12pm). The theme is Food Truck Party! Please let me know if you have any questions, big ideas, or would like to volunteer your time!

Thank you and remember to dream big and love bigger!

Abigail Shaw-Bolen  
Family Ministries Director  
Tahlequah United Methodist Church  
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# REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR SHANA DRY

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## Accepting the Baton

*So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, <sup>2</sup> and fix our eyes on Jesus,*

*faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne. Hebrews 12:1-2*

Some of you may remember a young man that Duffy and I opened our home to in 2011 and 2012. His name is Reno Blum. Reno was a high school senior when he came to live with us and my family opened our home and hearts to him. Reno loved to run. He was very good at it. He even received a scholarship to Oklahoma City University for track (He was that good). Hebrews 12:1-2 is Reno's favorite verse. I asked him one day why he liked it so much. He said, "Because I think running is a lot like life. You may stumble, or fall, the wind may be in your face, or the sun beating down on you. But if you keep running the race of life, you will finally end up at the finish line and catch your breath and sometimes even receive an award." He went on to explain to me that he thought life was more about a marathon than a race and that we just have to have the endurance to keep running and moving forward.

These past few weeks, I have thought a lot about accepting the baton, running the race, and loving the church. I am extremely excited for us and the future of the church. I want to make sure you all understand that it is a race that we are all a part of, not just me. Pastor Matt will be transferring the baton to me and, my dear beloved church, I will accept that baton with you not in front of me or behind me but beside me. Church, let's accept the baton together. Let's run this race together. Let's transform lives together.

In the next few weeks, you will see some sign-up sheets in the Narthex. There will be five or six different sign-up sheets for scheduled cottage meetings. I would love to have four in different people's homes and two at the church. The meetings will be at different times and will only be an hour to ninety-minute meetings. These meetings will be open discussions about you and your wants, desires, and dreams for the church.

I look forward to the race ahead with you and accepting the baton with you. My dear church family, I look forward to the future and what God has planned for us at the First United Methodist Church of Tahlequah.

God Loves You and So Do I!  
Peace and Love Always,  
Pastor Shana Dry  
Your Future Senior Pastor



## Wesley Newsletter June

We first want to thank each and every person who supported us throughout finals week! **We served over 1,000 meals!** We absolutely could not have accomplished this without your prayers, volunteer hours, baked goods, snacks, trips to the store, and donations- so thank you thank you thank you!

The biggest part of our summer plans for the Wesley is to continue our commitment to and collaboration with the Tahlequah Day Center! We have been so blessed by our involvement with this wonderful non-profit which provides food and necessities to the members of our community experiencing homelessness. Each Thursday

morning, we prepare, package, and deliver 140 sandwiches to their site on Muskogee Ave. If you would like to donate for supplies or donate your time to help us prepare, please contact Shana or Abigail!

As always we thank you so much for being our parent church and loving us as you do.

God Loves You and So Do We!

Peace & Love,

Pastor Shana



## In 2022 Tahlequah UMC will

Discover  
Christ in our lives.

Connect  
with Christ and  
Community

Grow  
In love and  
Understanding of  
the faith

Serve  
with the attitude of  
Christ in  
everything we do.






## Pictures from Senior Sunday Congratulations class of 2022!







**HAPPY**  
**Father's**  
**DAY**  
**June 19th**

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Tahlequah, Ok 74464  
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