



# THE TAHLEQUAH TESTAMENT

*March 2022 Newsletter for  
Tahlequah United Methodist Church*

## **WE DID IT!!!**

### **WE PAID OFF OUR BUILDING MORTGAGE**



**THANK YOU TO ALL  
WHO HELPED  
CONTRIBUTE TO  
HELPING THE CHURCH  
BECOME DEBT-FREE  
ON APRIL 24TH WE  
WILL HAVE A DEBIT  
RETIREMENT  
CELEBRATION**



# Family Ministry News

Hi, church!

Lent is here- what does that mean for Family Ministries?

Our Youth group and children's classes will be going over Psalms during this season. Our devotional guide aims to help young people realize that the authors of the book of Psalms worked through big emotions with God and that they can, too. We will also get to hear these poems performed in a video each week, because the Psalms were intended to be sung (not just read)! I've rounded up percussion instruments so the younger kiddos can take part in the music and express their creative energy.

This year, Youth Camp at Egan is combining junior and senior high students into one week from June 13th to June 17th. Same great activities, same great spiritual experiences, just a wider age group of campers! **Register by April 15th for the early bird price of \$315, regular pricing is \$335** (adult price: \$145). Get in touch with me for the registration guide if you need help!

We're looking to continue Wednesday night activities after finishing up the parenting book study- so stay tuned for adult small groups being announced for Wednesdays! Get ahold of me if you'd like to lead a group or volunteer with the younger kids' activities.

To circle back to our musical Lent study of Psalms, remember the quote from St. Augustine: "Those who sing pray twice"!

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Abigail Shaw-Bolen  
Family Ministries Director  
Tahlequah United Methodist Church  
918.456.6141 | 300 W. Delaware; Tahlequah, OK 74464

## BABY SHOWER FOR KELSEY CHEATHAM

Tuesday, March 8th at 7 p.m. in the atrium  
Hosted by UMW

### Connect with Tahlequah UMC

<https://linktr.ee/tahlequahumc>

Use the Link or  
Scan the QR code



@tahlequahumc  
TUMC invite's you to connect,  
serve, and grow with us.

Worship Info

Prayer Request

Give to Tahlequah UMC

## New Grief Group Meeting: Beyond The Broken Heart

Grief is not a crisis of faith; it is a crisis of the heart.

This class is good for anyone who has experienced loss or is grieving. Pastor Shana will be leading an eight-week support and grief ministry program, readers will find comfort and both spiritual and practical guidance during their grief journey.

The Grief class will begin on March 8th. We will offer 2 classes every Tuesday.

One at 10am and one at 6pm. This class will go for 6 weeks.

For more questions please email: Pastor Shana at [shana.dry@tahlequahumc.org](mailto:shana.dry@tahlequahumc.org)



# 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

## Join Chancel Choir Wednesday's 7 p.m.



## Join Bell Choir Wednesday's 4:30 p.m.



### Online Ministry Groups

When the pandemic hit, we shifted and created some ministries to happen via zoom and other platforms as we begin to return, we will shift to more of a hybrid approach for ministry.

To register for the zoom study by going to <https://www.tahlequahumc.org/onlinegroups>

### New Photo Directory

Starting March 20<sup>th</sup> -April 3<sup>rd</sup> we will have pictures taken in the Atrium for a New Photo Directory. This will be an in-house project. The Cost will be \$10.00 to help cover cost of printing of directory and other cost.

You will be emailed a digital copy of your family picture for you to print at Walgreens or anywhere else you can print photos.

If you are interested in helping with this, please let Pastor Matt know.

Email:

[matt.franks@tahlequahumc.org](mailto:matt.franks@tahlequahumc.org)

*If you're interested  
in volunteering in  
the office, please  
contact Sara.*



## PARDON OUR MESS!

Undoubtedly, those of you who have been into the Narthex (foyer) of the Sanctuary have seen the black duct tape on the tiles and the dirty appearance of the tile floor. Well, here's what has happened. Our Tuesday Morning team was asked to strip and wax the Narthex tile floor a while ago but deferred it until recently. We thought it would be fairly simple. After all, we've stripped and waxed the gym floor a few times.

Well, it wasn't. "Simple," that is. The wax-stripping solution got between the gaps between the tiles and weakened the glue. Then the tiles started curling up a bit, separating from the floor and creating a trip hazard. Some of the tiles in the hallway by the parlor actually came up entirely; and some broke. And now we can't mop the floor because that will weaken the glue even more. We've used the duct tape to protect the trip hazard for now.

Well, we've ordered some new tile (which should be arriving soon) and hope to pull up some loose and broken tiles and replace them. We hope to glue down new tile and then wax the entire floor. We hope it will look really nice when it's done. But for now, please pardon our mess.



Blessings,  
George Warren, Building Superintendent

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## Wesley News

Love is alive and well at the NSU Wesley Foundation! Our mission is to provide a home away from home to the students of NSU and show God's love by serving others.

Our love is demonstrated in many different forms and to many different people! We work hard to reach out to all of God's kingdom, from those experiencing homelessness in the Tahlequah area to the athletic teams, fraternities, sororities, and all college students on our campus.

Our food pantry "Love Thy Neighbor" is doing very well. We are serving the campus community on a weekly basis and those that are in need of it are very grateful for this service. Many of you have donated and given your time to this mission and we are very grateful.

Our Wesley lunches are still our biggest weekly outreach. Thank you all so much for the countless hours you have given to this ministry.

NSU students worked on Valentine's Day Cards this month. They made over 250 cards that were distributed to Brookdale Assisted Living and Go Ye Village. This was a great service project that many students and student organizations got involved in. The outpouring of love demonstrated on the cards to people they did not know was truly an example of Jesus at work.

The leadership team will be traveling to Stillwater OSU Wesley on March 4<sup>th</sup> for an overnight retreat titled "Claimed by Name". We are looking forward to this spiritual journey. Please keep us in your prayers.

Thank you Tahlequah Methodist Church for being our parent church. We could not do the ministry that we are called to do if it wasn't for your help and support. We are very very grateful.

God Loves You and So do We.

Pastor Shana and The Leadership Team



# REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR SHANA DRY

EMAIL PASTOR SHANA AT  
[SHANA.DRY@TAHLEQUAHUMC.ORG](mailto:SHANA.DRY@TAHLEQUAHUMC.ORG)

*When the LORD changed Zion's circumstances for the better, it was like we had been dreaming. Our mouths were suddenly filled with laughter; our tongues were filled with joyful shouts. It was even said, at that time, among the nations, "The LORD has done great*

*things for them!" Yes, the LORD has done great things for us, and we are overjoyed. Lord, change our circumstances for the better, like dry streams in the desert waste! Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joyful shouts. Let those who go out, crying and carrying their seed, come home with joyful shouts, carrying bales of grain! .....Psalm 126:1-6*

There is a story about this Mountain Valley Cathedral in a remote Swiss village, it was one of the most beautiful churches in the region. One of the features that attracted so many people to the cathedral was its beautiful pipe organ. People would come from miles away to hear the lovely tones of this organ. But one day the organ fell silent. Musicians and experts from around the world tried to repair it. No one succeeded. Then one day an old man appeared and asked permission to try to fix the organ. After working on it for several days, the community once again was filled with glorious music. Farmers dropped their plows; merchants closed their stores – everyone stopped what they were doing and headed for the church. When the old man finished playing, someone asked him how he fixed the organ. He answered, "It was I who built this organ fifty years ago. I created it. Now I have restored it."

I love this story; I believe it relates to us and our church mortgage being paid off. The Holy Spirit moved through so many of you. Your dedication and your commitment have restored our church and once again we are debt-free. PRAISE GOD!

My question to you now is what is next? Where do we go from here? I think the sky is the limit. What is being laid on your heart that needs to take flight? I have been in many planning and goal-setting meetings and when asked the question, "What do you want for this church?" The answer has been so many times, "The debt paid off". NOW let's dream and discuss and plan and move forward and go out into the mission field and LOVE like Jesus. Paying the debt is not the answer that is done. God built the church, God has restored the church, let us go and do what we have been called to do.

Thank you all so much for allowing me to be a part of this long journey and thank you all so much for allowing me to be a part of the next one.

God Loves You and So Do I!

Peace & Love,

Pastor Shana

**2022 Church Camp Dates:** You can find the 2022 Camp Egan Summer Camp Dates here: <https://okcamps.org/2021-camp-dates/> if you are interested in helping or attending a camp please contact Abigail at [youth@tahlequahumc.org](mailto:youth@tahlequahumc.org)

1)He called his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to throw them out and to heal every disease and every sickness. 5)Jesus sent these twelve out and commanded them...  
Matthew 10:1& 5a  
(Common English Bible)

# REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR MATT FRANKS

EMAIL PASTOR MATT AT  
MATT.FRANKS@TAHLEQUAHUMC.ORG



I am finishing up a course in Project Management for a Master of Business Administration in Non-Profit Church Leadership from Dakota Wesleyan University this week and one of my biggest takes always from the class was what is known as the 6 P Rule.

## **Prior Planning Precludes Poor Project Performance<sup>1</sup>**

The whole chapter Jesus is helping the disciples prepare for being sent out to serve in Jesus' name. We do not know if the disciples were successful in their project. We do know that something good had come from it because it helped further the ministry of Jesus.

Church we are in a new chapter for the first time since 2006 we are debt free. We need to plan together what the next chapter of the People called Methodist in Tahlequah can look like. In this next chapter if we listen to the Holy Spirit and follow the teachings of Jesus of Loving God and Loving our Neighbor this chapter will be the best yet. At the end of this chapter in Matthew we find these words from Jesus' inspiring and exciting: **"I assure you that everybody who gives even a cup of cold water to these little ones because they are my disciples will certainly be rewarded."** Matthew 10:42 (CEB)

Are we ready for this amazing next chapter? Let's plan and dream like Jesus and write this chapter of the history of Tahlequah United Methodist as one people can point to as an example of what living like Jesus can look like.

### **A Few Notes**

#### **New Photo Directory**

Starting March 20<sup>th</sup> -April 3<sup>rd</sup> we will have pictures taken in the Atrium for a New Photo Directory. This will be an in-house project. The Cost will be \$10.00 to help cover cost of printing of directory and other cost. You will be emailed a digital copy of your family picture for you to print at Walgreens or anywhere else you can print photos. If you are interested in helping with this, please let Pastor Matt know. Email:matt.franks@tahlequahumc.org

### **Easter 2022 Sunday, April 17th, 2022**

We will offer an amazing Worship service at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary and then at 11 a.m. out at Camp Egan. These will be different styles of service and if the weather is bad, we will have just the one service. We will have an Easter Egg Hunt out at Egan following the 11 a.m. worship. We will need setup teams for Egan if you are interested in this please let me know. Both services will be great we hope to see you at one or both.

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<sup>1</sup> Klastorin, Ted; Mitchell, Gary. Project Management. SAGE Publications. Kindle Edition.





**The United Methodist Church  
Oklahoma Conference  
Bishop James G. Nunn**

**Bishop's Call to Prayer for United Methodists**

I urge United Methodists to observe March 2, Ash Wednesday, as a day of prayer and fasting for peace. We will join Christians around the world including the World Methodist Council, Pope Francis, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, and the Conference of European Churches in a day of prayer and fasting specifically for peace in the Ukraine, Russia, and surrounding countries.

I urge United Methodists to pray for the churches, leaders of the nations, and the people. Pray for the millions of refugees. Pray for the generation of children who at risk. Pray that God will work in all hearts to expose the warlike tendencies and replace those impulses with the love of Christ.

In addition to prayer and fasting, I invite you to give to alleviate human suffering through UMCOR or the Annual Conference.

In the past week, the world has been gripped by the news reports of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In previous weeks, news outlets reported the buildup of Russian troops on the border of the two countries. I have been in daily prayer for the situation.

However, the situation did not develop overnight. Early in 2014, armed conflict erupted as Russian troops entered Crimea and parts of eastern Ukraine. According to a 2017 report by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, almost 10,000 people had been killed and over 23,000 had been injured, and more than one million eastern Ukrainians sought safety in the western parts of the country or in the country of Russia.

In May 2017, Bishop Khegay hosted a Peace Dialogue for United Methodists in Ukraine and Russia. At that meeting, delegates accepted their call to serve as agents of peace and reconciliation, examine ways the church had historically contributed to the present conflict, and to combat misconceptions and misunderstandings that fueled the current conflict. The outcome of the meeting was an agreement to promote peace, reconciliation, and love.

The desired outcome of the Peace Dialogue apparently did not achieve its objectives when, in 2021, the European Central Conference received a request from the Moldova Provisional Annual Conference to withdraw from the Eurasian Episcopal Area due to the political situation between Ukraine and Russia. No action has been taken on the request, due to the pandemic.

Oklahoma United Methodists have been active in both countries. Likewise, the General Board of Global Ministries has been working closely with the European bishops and closely monitoring the situation. You may make contributions through the Conference Center or on the GBGM website to support humanitarian efforts to relieve suffering with the assurance that United Methodist leaders impacted by the crisis are collaborating on relief efforts.

United Methodists are not the only Christian denomination experiencing division in Ukraine. Thousands of Orthodox Christians left for other Orthodox or non-orthodox churches after the invasion of Crimea. Today there are three major strains of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine.

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Orthodox Church of Ukraine established ties to Constantinople. This

significant division marked the first time since the year 1686 that the Ukrainian Orthodox Church has not been under the jurisdiction of Moscow. The New York Times characterized the division in these words in a December 31, 2018 article: "Ukraine is on the verge of opening the biggest schism in Christianity in centuries, as it breaks from the authority of a Moscow based patriarch."

Russia refused to accept the church and broke off relations with Constantinople. The Economist reported in July 2021 that Vladimir Putin "claimed that the countries' 'spiritual unity' was under attack." Putin has promoted himself as a defender of Russia's Orthodox Church, resisted any split in the Church, and asserted in a news conference that any redistribution of church property as part of the fissure "could turn into a heavy dispute, if not bloodshed." Thousands of Ukrainians marched in Kiev that month in protest against Russian influence. (The Economist "Why did the Russian and Ukrainian Orthodox churches split?").

While affiliation with the Orthodox Church is important in both Russian and Ukraine, church attendance is not a high priority. According to the Pew Research Center, 78% of Ukrainians and 71% of Russians identify as Orthodox Christians. Over 50% of both populations believe it is important for people from their country to be Orthodox. Likewise, around 12% of the population in Ukraine and 6% in Russia attend worship regularly (cited in The Economist).

Andrew Higgins, in a 2018 article for the New York Times concluded, "Behind a flurry of archaic fire-and-brimstone insults and arcane quarrels over canonical law lies a thoroughly modern fight over money, property, political power and identity, both Russian and Ukrainian. ("As Ukraine and Russia Battle Over Orthodoxy, Schism Looms" The New York Times, December 31, 2018). Sadly, it seems that schism in the church has contributed to war.

Tragically, war has broken out in yet another part of the world. How should United Methodists respond? The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church say: "We deplore war and urge the peaceful settlement of all disputes among nations. From the beginning, the Christian conscience has struggled with the harsh realities of violence and war, for these evils clearly frustrate God's loving purposes for humankind. We yearn for the day when there will be no more war and people will live together in peace and justice."

Please join me in prayer and fasting for peace. May God have mercy upon the nations. May God have mercy on the church. May God have mercy on us.

Bishop James Nunn



### **Senior Adult Ministries Team Survey**

The Senior Adult Ministries team would love to hear from you as we begin to plan this ministry. If you are 55 and older and are looking for a place to connect into the life of TUMC help us plan events. If you would like to help with this team or have questions, please contact

Monica Van Donkelaar our Senior Adult Ministries Coordinator at 918-718-9191 or email at  
monicavandonkelaar17@gmail.com

#### **Circle any events you might be Interested in**

- ☐ Conversation Circles- a leader prepares questions for discussion- a talking stick passes around the circle and people talk without interruption.
- ☐ Exercise Classes via YouTube- such as Tai Chi, Qigong, Dance, etc. in the Atrium
- ☐ Listening to Podcasts together with discussion afterwards
- ☐ Walking in our church gym
- ☐ Meals out together during the week
- ☐ Going to local plays- Tahlequah and Muskogee- NSU and Tahlequah Community Playhouse
- ☐ Overnight trips to OKC for museums. Perhaps a hotel stay arranged
- ☐ Getting together for table games
- ☐ Trips to Tulsa for movies or the new museum in Greenwood District

List any events you would like to see planned.

If you would like to be a part of the planning team or interested being a part of this ministry, please leave your contact info here:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Return to Church Office when completed**

# RETHINKCHURCH<sup>®</sup>

## photo-a-day

### March

2 - FULL

3 - TEMPTED

4 - ALONE

5 - PROTECT

6 - CELEBRATE

7 - PRAY

8 - DAZZLING

9 - GLORY

10 - AWAKE

11 - GOOD

12 - CHOSEN

13 - CELEBRATE

14 - PRESENT

15 - SACRIFICE

16 - REPENT

17 - LIVING

18 - PLANTED

19 - LOOKING

20 - CELEBRATE

21 - WITH

22 - SHARE

23 - NEED

24 - FILLED

25 - ENOUGH

26 - COMPASSION

27 - CELEBRATE

28 - RAISED

29 - SERVED

30 - ANOINTED

31 - CARED

## LENT 2022

MAR 2- APR 17

### April

1 - KEEP

2 - ALWAYS

3 - CELEBRATE

4 - SENT

5 - BRING

6 - NEEDS

7 - BLESSED

8 - PEACE

9 - SILENT

10 - CELEBRATE

11 - PREPARED

12 - FOUND

13 - HERE

14 - AMONG

15 - REMEMBER

16 - BELIEVE

Easter AMAZED

SHARE YOUR PHOTO EACH DAY AND  
TAG WITH #RETHINKCHURCH

## Lent Photo-A-Day Challenge

From: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/lent-photo-a-day-2022>

Do you generally give something up during Lent? Would you consider adding in a practice? Lent, the season of the Christian Year that is typically observed as a time of simple living, prayer and fasting leading up to Easter, begins on Ash Wednesday [March 2, 2022]. But what is Lent REALLY about?

Many spend the time in self-examination and reflection as modeled by Jesus in Matthew 4: 1-11 where he prayed and fasted for 40 days before beginning his ministry. What happened during those 40 days of fasting and praying in the wilderness? Our friends at the [Upper Room](#) say that maybe Jesus needed some time with God to sort through the major changes happening in his life. Maybe he needed a break from family, friends and his regular routine in order to see God [and himself] more clearly. Maybe he sought more time with God as he searched for direction and answers to the question that we, too have from time to time: "Who am I called to be?" We, too are invited into this time of introspection.

Will you join this photo-a-day challenge and share with the community how you perceive each word of the day? No explanation needed. After all, a picture is worth a thousand words. Tag us on your [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [TikTok](#) or on [Twitter](#) with #rethinkchurch.



## SUNDAY, MARCH 6TH AFTER WORSHIP ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE MISSIONS DINNER

- Free Homemade Lasagna
- Celebrate some of the great things we've done.
- Explore some of the new great things we can do.

FOR MORE INFO CONNECT WITH  
George Warren~Missions Coordinator





# 2022 TUMC Lenten Studies

## Pastor Shana's Lenten Study Info

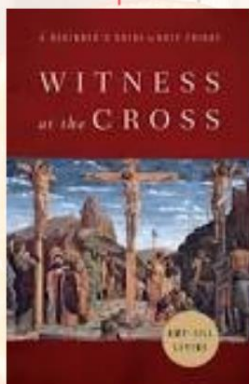
Sunday, March 6th at 11 a.m.

Join Pastor Shana for an enlightening, thought-provoking study, called Witness at the Cross, by Amy-Jill Levine.

**About the Study:** The story of Jesus's death is not something we just read: we think about it, and we experience it; we hear the taunts of the soldiers, the priests, and the passersby even as we hear the famous "seven last words" from the cross.

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

Zoom Option Sign-Ups at <https://www.tahlequahumc.org/onlinegroups>



## Monday Night Zoom Study Info

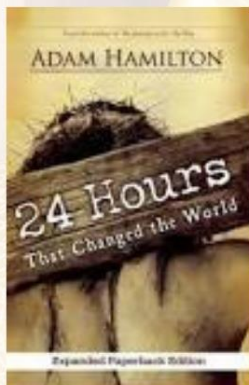
Starting 2/28/22 at 6:30 p.m.

Book Title: 24 Hours That Changed The World by Adam Hamilton.

**About the Book:** No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. In this book, Adam Hamilton guides us through the last twenty-four hours of Jesus' life. Each chapter is designed to help the reader experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death in a way you have never done before. Whether readers are long-time Christians or simply curious about the story of Christ's crucifixion, they are invited to join the author in retracing the last 24 hours of Jesus' life.

Zoom Bible Study Group Register here:

<https://www.tahlequahumc.org/onlinegroups>

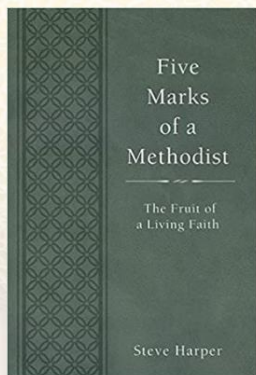


## Wednesday Night Pastor Table 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Matt will lead us through the Sermon Series book Five Marks of a Methodist: The Fruit of a Living Faith by Steve Harper

This brief book, suitable for sharing with others, provides a meditation on each of these characteristics. Prayerfully apply them to your journey with Jesus. If you are part of the worldwide Methodist or Wesleyan family, these five marks will grant a greater knowledge and appreciation for why and how you follow Jesus. If you are located in another part of the body of Christ, you can emerge with a solid foundation to keep your spiritual house standing strong. Christians marked by these five habits, when taken together have character.

Matt broadcast his video at 6:30 p.m. online through Facebook and Youtube.



# All Church Garage Sale


March 31st-April 2nd

Set up will be Wednesday March 30th starting at 8



In the Activity  
Building Gym



 Tahlequah First 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