

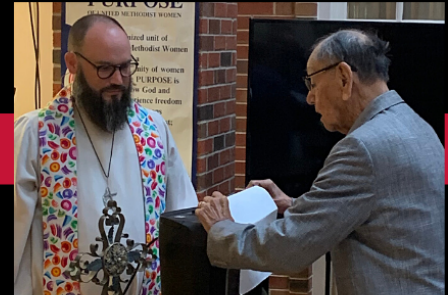


TAHLEQUAH TESTAMENT NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TAHLEQUAH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Pictured Above our 2022 Confirmation Class from Left to Right: Nick Shaw-Bolen, Emily Franks, Laura Franks, John Ryan, Abigail Shaw-Bolen
Pictured Below some pictures from our Debt Shredding Service on April 24th



April 24th was a special day at Tahlequah United Methodist Church.

We celebrated our 2022 Confirmation class that was mixed with youth and adults.

We heard from Janet Stucky about how much of an impact that our Walk A Mile in Her Shoes was by having the Largest Adult group and Most Funds raised by an Adult Group.

We also celebrated the shredding of our Building Mortgage. The future is bright for the people called Methodists in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.



scan to connect with Tahlequah UMC
or go to <https://linktr.ee/tahlequahumc>



April Egan Workday

Seventeen of us were able to work at Camp Egan. (Three more had to cancel due to change of plans.) We painted walls and A/C Ducts, planted flower beds, cleaned gutters and landscape for the Director's home, cleaned out leaves from the swimming pool (and relocated 6 frogs to the river), spray washed the Founder's Cabin and thoroughly enjoyed each other's company. Those lucky workers were Keith Barrick, James Bond, Will Freeman, Lloyd and Melanie Moden, Stacy Moffitt, Bob and Cheryl Parrish, Richard Ryan and Marcus and Marissa, Rodney and Connie Taylor, Bob Scarsdale, Tate Schneider, George and Rosilyn Warren. We didn't get too many pictures (too busy doing) until we stopped for lunch. In addition to making a great difference for our camp, we had a wonderful time!

Missions Coordinator
George Warren,

Tahlequah Area Habitat for Humanity

Tahlequah Area Habitat for Humanity is currently building Habitat House #31 on Keetoowah between Choctaw and the 51 Bypass. Both skilled and unskilled volunteers are needed to help paint the exterior and do finish work inside. Interested people can go to the website www.tahlequahhabitat.org and sign up to volunteer or call Linda Cheatham, Director at 918-931-7828.

Celebrating 30 years of House Building!
Linda Cheatham, Director
director@tahlequahhabitat.org

Office: 918-453-1332
ReStore: 918-453-2720
Rack: 918-453-0466

A big thank you from
Kelsey, Brandon, and
new baby Tobias for
showing support through
a baby shower and
prayer during Tobias'
recent hospitalization.

Family Ministries

"I am the vine; you are the branches." (John 15:5)

I know Easter Sunday has passed, but as District Superintendent Terry Koehn reminded us recently, Easter is more than one day, it's a season! When I reflect back on the busyness of the past few weeks, this is one of the scriptures that stands out to me. In the Gospel of John, after Jesus washes the disciples' feet (and maybe the donkey's too as was pointed out to us by Mary Alice at Little Chapel!) he begins to preach earnestly to his loved ones gathered around- we now call this the Farewell Discourse (John chapters 14-17). In this passage he calls God the Father a gardener, references himself as a vine, and tells the disciples they are the branches. Jesus uses this image to urge them to remain in him, in his teachings, and warns that disconnection will cause them to wither. Reading this scripture lately has made me so grateful for the other branches this life-giving vine has connected me to (you all, of course!). I love this metaphor because it cues us to turn to Jesus and to one another when we feel withered, wilted, and weary in this life. When we remember our connection to Christ, his commands, and to one another in this beloved community, our "joy may be complete" (John 15:11).

Peace and joy!
Abigail Shaw-Bolen
Family Ministries Director

Some announcements!

Please contact me if you'd like to help with any of the events listed below!

We especially need help setting up for the Senior Sunday luncheon in the gym on the day before (Saturday 5/14).

- 5/08 9am-10am Join us in the atrium for a light family breakfast! Coffee, tea, juice, pastries, and baked goods provided!
- 5/15 Senior Sunday - We will be celebrating our graduates in the worship service and at a potluck luncheon afterward in the gym!
- Help Needed: the Youth would like to meet on Wednesday nights this summer! Contact me if you'd like to provide a meal on Wed evenings around 6:00 or volunteer with Youth activities in any way!



REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR SHANA DRY

EMAIL PASTOR SHANA AT
SHANA.DRY@TAHLEQUAHUMC.ORG

Hope Is Better Than Anything Uncertainty Puts In Front Of Us

In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

1 Peter 1:3-4

I have been with several family members and friends when they have received a devastating diagnosis. I have learned there's nothing you can say to someone who just learned they have one year to live. There is no pep talk for someone who's just been told they will likely never get out of the wheelchair. Sometimes the only appropriate response is to grab a hand and cry.

I have also lived long enough to watch these family and friends stare into the face of uncertainty and choose hope. They have chosen to say, "Sure, the odds are against me, but God is not." They have chosen to hope for an extra decade with their families or to imagine one more walk in the park. Why? Because choosing the way of hope is far better than anything uncertainty puts in front of us.

We might not have faced anything as devastating as these things, but we have all faced the choice between hope and fear. Whether it is questions about what exactly will happen when we pass away or uncertainty about whether we will find love in our lives down the road, we have had to face the unknown. But when we stand at this intersection, fear tries to shrivel our hearts and shrink us down. Hope is the opposite, though it swells our hearts and makes us expand. Hope restores the life fear tries to steal. Yesterday already happened and tomorrow isn't here yet. We only have today. We've got people to encourage and another huge invitation to a life of love. We can either wring our hands about what we do not know, allowing fear to take over the moment, or we can choose hope and let love reign. The path is yours and mine to choose every day. What will it be for you today? I know I will choose HOPE.

God Loves You and So Do I!

Peace & Love Always,

Pastor Shana



REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR MATT FRANKS

EMAIL PASTOR MATT AT
MATT.FRANKS@TAHLEQUAHUMC.ORG



"But me? I will hope. Always." ~ Psalm 71:14 CEB

In the Middle Ages the sea route to India seemed an impossibility. It was often discussed in the great economic and political centers of Europe. They used to wonder whether there would be a route around the bottom tip of Africa to that rich land of the spices. Many had tried and all had failed. The tip of Africa had become known as the Cape of Storms.

Then an explorer called Vasco da Gama decided he was going to try again. He succeeded. Ever since he returned to Lisbon it could never be doubted again that it could be done. He proved that to use that treacherous way wasn't inevitably disastrous. The Cape of Storms eventually became known as the Cape of Good Hope. (1)

Here are some questions to wrestle with: What paths are you carving because of the hope in Jesus Christ? How are you sowing seeds of Christ's love and grace? How are you being beacons of Christ in this world?

I strive to live in hope that if we allow ourselves to receive God's grace and love we ourselves become beacons of hope for those that need to see God's grace and love. So, live in hope, when times are hard if we press on and press forward to help be kingdom builders then we will do amazing things for the kingdom of God.

And now for something completely different.

My last preaching Sunday will be June 5th. We will have two-week transition time we are going to have two amazing preachers come and share the word with us. Rev. Carol Cook-Moore who is the District Superintendent of the Northern Prairie District in the OKUMC.

Then on the 19th, we will have Linda Tucker who is a Home Missioner. Home Missioners are laywomen and laymen who are called by God to be in a lifetime relationship in The United Methodist Church for engagement with a full-time vocation in ministries of love, justice, and service. Together we form a covenant community that is rooted in Scripture, informed by history, driven by mission, ecumenical in scope, and global in outreach.

Shana and I are working on making our handoff as smooth as possible. We do not want to drop the baton. Please be patient with us we make this transition. Shana's will be preaching on the June 26th and will take over officially as your Lead Pastor starting July 1. For these next few weeks let's have some fun and run this portion of the race well.

Hope you join us in worship in person or online.
Peace be with you,
Pastor Matt Franks

Source: 1: Editors, "Cape of Good Hope," Britannica (Accessed 1/28/21); Shane Winner, "Vasco de Gamma," BBC (2-17-11)



Thank you for giving to the Building Fund

To all who have helped with the Narthex project and tile project we have been able to transform the Narthex into a more welcoming space for those who enter our Church Building.

We were able to do this because of your giving since we have not had to make debt payments this has been able to free up some funds for some much-needed TLC in our building.

We have some work at the Parsonage that needs to be completed during the pastoral transition along with other work around the building.

If you want to give to these projects contact the Church office so we can let you know what future projects are needing funds.

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.

2022 APPORTIONMENTS

Green Country District

\$2,989/\$2,989

Oklahoma Conference

\$1451/\$29,487

Mission and Ministries

\$1,426/\$6,594

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAY'S
6:30 A.M.



At McDonald's in
Tahlequah



Surprised By Hope

May sermon series on Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection
and the Mission of the Church



Connect with TUMC here: <https://linktr.ee/tahlequahumc>

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<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

VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad
& Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool
that allows you 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.



MATT FRANKS IS GRADUATING WITH HIS MBA FROM DAKOTA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT WITH
ACADEMIC HOODING
CEREMONY -
SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2022
AT 1:30 P.M.

IT WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AT
[HTTP://WWW.DWU.EDU/LIVE](http://www.dwu.edu/live)






You're Invited!

Please join us for a light
breakfast celebrating all
families & the love they share!

Sunday May 8th 9am-10 am
300 W Delaware St. | In the atrium
Tahlequah United Methodist Church



 Tahlequah First United Methodist Church
300 W. Delaware
Tahlequah, Ok 74464
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
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