

# The Tahlequah Testament

## January 2022 Newsletter for Tahlequah UMC



**in 2022  
We hope  
to...**



**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.**

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



**"The light  
shines in the  
darkness,  
and the  
darkness  
doesn't  
extinguish  
the light."**

**John 1:5 CEB**





### **Confirmation for Youth and Adults**

We are going to offer an eight-week confirmation class for Youth in 6th grade to Adults. During the eight-week sessions, the group will learn about the Christian Faith and Methodism.

We have an opportunity for the Church to help with Confirmation. We will need people to help provide a meal for the group. We will need mentors that will be a support for the person during this journey and we will need a table host that will help lead the smaller group conversations.

Setup Introduction Meeting  
January 30th at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

First Class begins  
February 6th at 5:30 p.m. Room to be determined.

Confirmation Sunday will be on April 24th in Worship

If you are interested in helping or joining the class, please contact me at [matt.franks@tahlequahumc.org](mailto:matt.franks@tahlequahumc.org) or call the office.

Hello, Church!

I pray that 2022 is off to a good start for you and your loved ones. We are beginning this year with a churchwide study called Soul Reset. The Youth and kids will be following along with their own guides, which emphasize that the church is a place where we can feel safe sharing our thoughts and feelings.

When I first spoke to the Youth group about this, they expressed relief. "Sometimes it feels like there's always adults trying to tell us it's not a big deal whatever we're going through," one told me, saying they were glad to have adults they can rely on at our church. The author, Junius B. Dotson, hopes that the church can be a place where we find, "grace, encouragement, and authentic community" through the spiritual practices outlined in the text.

I'm proud that our young people have committed to covenant discipleship for the past two years. I've watched them grow in their ability to listen to and support one another.

We will be offering Wednesday night activities from 5:30-6:30 for parents, youth, and children soon (start date to be announced)! Parents are invited to pick up a copy of Love-Centered Parenting for \$15 in the office and take part in our book study while the Youth and kids enjoy games and snacks.

On January 16th, we will head to Tulsa to see an Oilers hockey game! Tickets are \$14 each. We will leave the church at 2:30 p.m. (let us know if you'd like to ride in the van) and the game time is 4:05 p.m. There will be ice skating and autographs with the players afterward. Get ahold of us for tickets!

Thank you for being such a resilient community of faith and happy new year!

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Abigail Shaw-Bolen  
Family Ministries Director  
918.456.6141  
[youth@tahlequahumc.org](mailto:youth@tahlequahumc.org)



Our next UMW General Meeting will be next Tuesday, January 11 in the Atrium at 10 a.m. Koinonia Circle, led by Sue Ann Freeman, will give the lesson with a book review of the book, "The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse" by Charlie Mackesy. This information from Amazon gives us an idea of the content of the book. I hope you will join us for fellowship, inspiration, and fun.

**#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER · WALL STREET JOURNAL BESTSELLER · USA TODAY BESTSELLER**

"The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse is not only a thought-provoking, discussion-worthy story, the book itself is an object of art." - Elizabeth Egan, The New York Times  
From British illustrator, artist, and author Charlie Mackesy comes a journey for all ages that explores life's universal lessons, featuring 100 color and black-and-white drawings.

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" asked the mole.

"Kind," said the boy.

Charlie Mackesy offers inspiration and hope in uncertain times in this beautiful book, following the tale of a curious boy, a greedy mole, a wary fox and a wise horse who find themselves together in sometimes difficult terrain, sharing their greatest fears and biggest discoveries about vulnerability, kindness, hope, friendship and love. The shared adventures and important conversations between the four friends are full of life lessons that have connected with readers of all ages.

I hope you can join us. Bring a friend, if you can!

Peace,  
Jane and Judy

## 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

## Soul Reset

Breakdown,  
Breakthrough,  
and the Journey  
to Wholeness

Starting Jan. 9th, 2022  
For more info go to: [www.tahlequahumc.org](http://www.tahlequahumc.org)

### Soul Reset Study Groups

Pastor Shana Sunday after worship and Ashley Franks on Monday Night Zoom will lead a book study over the sermon series book Soul Reset by Junis Dotson after worship books for \$11.00 will be available to purchase in the office starting Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>.

About the Book: Soul Reset calls the church and all of Jesus' disciples to reset and reorder their lives around spiritual practices, to learn to walk through difficult seasons with our souls connected to the source of Living Water so that we don't burn out or break down. And if we do burn out or break down, we learn to lift up and point one another back to Jesus.

### New Sunday School Class Starting Jan. 9th

What if God meant for us to go fishing with our family, in the fourth commandment? Suppose honor father and mother means to honor all fathers and mothers, and their families, all over the world. Imagine do not kill means do not kill.

Join us as we study Losing Moses on the Freeway: The 10 Commandments in America by noted journalist Chris Hedges. We will start at 9 a.m. in room 301 each Sunday morning beginning January 9, and plan to finish by March 13.

Books are available from Amazon for \$11.29. Contact Richard Ryan at 580-305-5844 if you are interested.



# Reflections from our Pastors

Rev. Matt Franks Lead Pastor  
Rev. Shana Dry Pastoral Care Pastor

## Be a Beacon

By Pastor Matt Franks email: [matt.franks@tahlequahumc.org](mailto:matt.franks@tahlequahumc.org)

In doing some prep work for the upcoming sermon series Soul Reset I came across this story and video.

Rabbi David Wolpe of Los Angeles' Sinai Temple, in a Moments of Connection video posted on April 9, 2021(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHQHTYfvbbg>), points out that the Hebrew expression for synagogue, *beit kneset*, means "house of gathering," not "house of prayer."

He goes on to tell an old joke, about Schwartz and Goldberg, who walk into the synagogue one day.

"What are you doing here, Goldberg?" someone asks. "I understand why Schwartz is here. He's religious. But Goldberg, you're not!"

Schwartz speaks up on behalf of his friend. "Let me explain. I come here to talk to God. But Goldberg comes to talk with me."

How can you be a beacon for God for someone in 2022?

If anything the last year has taught me is that no matter what, God is with us! As we enter 2022 we really don't know what is going to happen. Nevertheless, God is with us and we can be a beacon for God no matter where we are in life's journey.

The words from Isaiah 43:2 CEB "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when through the rivers, they won't sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched and flame won't burn you."

We are not alone God is with us, **working on us and through us**. Let us embrace being a beacon for God this year. We can do this by: **Discover:** The light of Christ in our lives **Connect:** With Christ and Community **Grow:** in Love and understanding of the faith and **Serve:** with the attitude of Christ in everything we do.

## Some TUMC Updates

**COVID update:** We are keeping an eye on the recent COVID surge and our ministry leaders are doing what is best for their ministries to keep people safe. Please continue safe precautions as advised by the CDC.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/about-covid-19/caring-for-children/families.html>

**Our Building Debt as of 1.5.2022:** \$118,536.12

**2021 Apportionments Update:** We were able to pay 100% of our Green Country District Apportionments. We paid \$15,073 out of the \$31,685 of the Conference's Apportionments. We were able to fulfill our Stated Apportionments which are required by the Current 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline. We were able to 100% of the Mission and Ministry Apportionments. We made a great push at the end of the year but the large Utility bill we were hit with along with our Roof Repairs hampered our ability to pay out completely in full. We will have a full list of 2022 Apportionments on the Website starting Jan. 15th you can find it at [www.tahlequahumc.org/give](http://www.tahlequahumc.org/give) if you want to adopt a ministry let the office know.



**Tuesday's Morning Men's Study** Hopes to Return Feb. 1st if COVID cases are at a safe level that we can gather at McDonald's at 6:30 a.m. and not risk getting staff or another sick.

**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. You can find out what groups are meeting like this on our website: <https://www.tahlequahumc.org/onlinegroups>

**2022 Church Board Info:** You can find our 2022 Church Board info on the last of this newsletter. If you have questions about the Church Board please reach out to the office. Our First Board meeting will be Feb. 6th at 11:30 p.m. and Lunch will be provided.

**Senior Adult Ministry Gathering:** We will restart our Senior Adult Ministry by having a Dreaming, Planning, and Establishing Meeting on Feb. 13th at 1 p.m. in Room 301

**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.

**Easter 2022 Sunday, April 17th, 2022** We had such a good response for our Worship Experience at Egan we want to offer that again. So we will have worship at TUMC at 9:30 a.m. and we will have worship at Egan 11 a.m. We will have an Easter Egg Hunt and we will offer a Catered Lunch at Egan following worship more information will be shared later but we wanted to get this on people's calendars now.

**Want to learn more about how to use technology?** I would love to offer my limited knowledge on helping you navigate new technologies you may have been given over Christmas. Or if you want to learn how to zoom, get emails on your phone or navigate social media. I would love to help. I would prefer a 1 on 1 approach to this because it is easier to help you better understand. Just let me know if this is something you would be interested in.

Remember God loves you and so do I,  
Pastor Matt Franks

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## **On Whom Will You Put Your Faith In This Coming Year?**

**Pastor Shana Dry email: [Shana.dry@tahlequahumc.org](mailto:Shana.dry@tahlequahumc.org)**

***"And Joshua said unto all the people [ of Israel],..... choose you this day whom you will serve;... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:2,15)***

I read this great story the other day about these Indians on a remote reservation in South Dakota. It was late fall and they had asked their new chief if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was a chief in a modern society, he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky, he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he told his tribe that winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect firewood to be prepared. But, being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He made a phone call to the National Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?" "It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold", the meteorologist at the weather service responded.

The chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared. A week later, he called the National Weather Service again, "Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?" "Yes," the man at the National Weather Service again replied, "It's going to be a very cold winter."

The chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find. Two weeks later, the chief called the National Weather Service again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?" "Absolutely," the man replied. "It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters we've ever seen." "How can you be so sure?" the chief asked. The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting a load of firewood."

Now, while that's a cute story and probably tells you more truth about the weather service than you want to know, there's a real lesson here to ask as you move into a new year.

In the coming year, just who or what are you going to put your faith in for leading and advice? Who will you serve? Where will you place your trust? What do you consider to be your sources of wisdom?

I challenge you to focus on the questions above and answer them with true sincerity. If you get advice from the right places, serve the right leading, place your trust in the right source and get your wisdom from the right places, the day to day decisions will take care of themselves.

Joshua challenged his people to choose who they would serve but said that for him and for his house, they would serve the Lord. So many people today place their trust in wisdom, but I believe Psalm 20:7 explains it best, **"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God."**

In this coming year, I pray that we all do nothing less.

God Loves you and so Do I. Peace and Love,  
Pastor Shana

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## From The NSU Wesley Thank you CHURCH Family!

We are so very blessed! Thank you so much for your support and love that you give to make our campus ministry a true success. So many students come in daily thanking us for the food, the fellowship, and the discipleship they receive. The support that you all give so freely makes all this possible.

God Loves You and So Do We.  
Shana and the NSU Wesley Leadership team





**Donate to receive your choice of t-shirt and one free adult admission to the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.\***

**One Lucky School will WIN \$500 courtesy of Celeste Looney Insurance Agency**

**3rd Annual Cherokee County  
School Challenge  
Blood Drive  
Saturday, February 5th  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

*Tahlequah First United Methodist Church  
Activities Center Gym*

**To schedule an appointment, contact Oklahoma Blood Institute at 877-340-8777 or visit [obi.org](http://obi.org).**



**877-340-8777  
[obi.org](http://obi.org) • [arkbi.org](http://arkbi.org) • [txbi.org](http://txbi.org)**

**Oklahoma Blood Institute  
Texas Blood Institute  
Arkansas Blood Institute**

\*While supplies last. Photo ID required.

## **2022 Church Board**

**Church Board Chair:** Tom Schneider

**Lay Leader:** Sue Ann Freeman

**Lay Member(s) To Annual Conference:** Abigail Shaw-Bolen Cheryl Nobles

**Alt. Lay Member(s) To Annual Conference:** Nick Shaw-Bolen Ashley Franks

**Church Administrator:** Sara Webb (Will be the Board Secretary / Voice No Vote)

**Finance Secretary:** Diann Barrick

**Treasure:** Jennifer Schnitzer from Williams and Williams CPA

**\*=Main Contact Person for the Interest**

### **Facilities Interest:**

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2022 Class: Bryce Felts

2023 Class: \*Prissy Been

2024 Class: Charles Swan

### **Finance Interest:**

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2022 Class: \*Sue Bingham

2023 Class: Stacy Moffitt

2024 Class: Bob Parish

### **Human Relations Interest:**

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2022 Class: Carla Livesay

2023 Class: Darren Toby

2024 Class: \*Stanley Young

**United Methodist Women Chairperson:** Jane Bond and Judy Young

**Young Adult Representative:** Lauren Teeter

**Mission and Service Team Leader:** George Warren

**Church Family Life Team Leader:** Angelea Dry

### **Appointed Clergy (Voice No Vote)**

Rev. Matt Franks (Lead Pastor) Rev. Shana Dry (Associate Pastor)

**Facilities Manager:** George Warren (ex officio)

**Youth Group Member:** TBA (ex officio)