

January 14, 2015

The

Springs



SAND
SPRINGS
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Rev. Don Tabberer



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)

I think I have mentioned before that this passage from Jeremiah is one of my very favorites; it is my "go-to" text anytime I am wondering what's going on in my life. I know there are many people who recall this scripture frequently and find comfort in its words. It is, however, necessary for us to recognize that this comforting use of the text does not fit with the original context of its writing.

Jeremiah 29:4 says: *"This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon..."* The writer is not speaking to an individual in this passage; he is speaking to a large group of people – an entire nation. The "you" is plural, not singular. You may be thinking, "So what; the message is the same whether it is meant for one person or a group of people." In a sense, that is correct. However, it is important that we allow Scripture to speak to us and not allow our personal views to speak into the Scriptures what we want to hear.

What we notice in this context is that God has plans for the whole nation of Israel. After their exile God plans to restore the nation and put them on a path to redemption. Reading this verse in its context tells us that we are all in this thing **together, as a group** – the Body of Christ. There is a plan for us as individuals, but we exist as individuals who are also members of a larger group. Reading this beloved verse as if it were written only to me as an individual robs it of its deeper meaning for me as a member of Christ's body. The plan and the promise then are bigger than any single one of us; it is for and about **all** of us.

Here we are in January 2015; it is the beginning of another year. We have spent time looking back on the good and the bad of 2014; we have celebrated Christmas with family and friends. It is time now to begin to move forward into what will be for us in 2015. I believe that God has a pretty good idea of who we will be this year and what we will do. God has a plan for us and it is a good plan, I have no doubt. The question seems to be: *"Will we allow God's plan to speak to us and will we have the courage to do what God asks of us?"* Already the leaders of your church have been working to

discern God's plan and to be ready to implement it. In 2015 we will spend a lot of time teaching and learning more about what it means to be a member of the church. You will see sermon series, study groups, and activities built around the five ways we all promised to support our church: **prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness**. Your Church Council will be aggressively seeking ways to move forward from the foundations we learned during the ARISE process last Fall. Your leaders will be looking for ways to involve more people in the mission and ministry of the church at every level. We will be providing many resources for training and enrichment for leaders and team members in a variety of ministry areas. We will begin to discover how our local church will participate as a ministry partner in the re-defined District structure of the UMC and the missional area that we will be joining.

As you know, our Staff Parish Relations Committee continues to face challenges as they seek to recruit a Youth Director to lead our young people. In the interim, Kent Warkentin and a group of dedicated volunteers are running our youth program. I am extremely grateful to this team for their dedication and I ask for your prayers as they manage their jobs and families while setting aside time to plan for and work with our youth.

I continue to reflect on Jeremiah 29:11 and how it has spoken to me personally through the years; I can still hear its message for me as an individual. I also hear its message as a clear promise to all of us as the Body of Christ to recognize God's plans and promises. Jeremiah was talking to the nation of Israel and we – the church today – can also hear his words for us. We are all in this together and God makes his promises to us as a group. God has a plan to set us on the path that leads us to redemption; God has a plan to guide us as we do the kingdom work needed in our community today. God also makes a promise that the result of this plan will be more than we ever dreamed possible. We only need to pay attention and follow the leader – Jesus Christ.

*Counting on you,
Pastor Don*

CLASSES OFFER LEADER TRAINING FOR LAITY

The Re-Ignite Workshops (local church leader training) have been replaced this year by a central training event in Oklahoma City. Below is the information about this event. Anyone interested in attending this may register online as indicated in the email. The classes being offered appear to be basic and informative about specific offices in the church, as well as information on connecting in the "missional areas" that will become part of our conference/district map in June. There is also a workshop for anyone interested in exploring a call to ministry.

[On Feb. 7, the Conference Board of Laity will sponsor a leadership training day for church members from across the state. "I AM LAITY" Summit '15 starts at 9:30 a.m. that Saturday at OKC-St. Luke's Church.](#)

[Advance registration is necessary. Sign up at: https://okumc-reg.brtaapp.com/IAMLAITYSUMMIT2015](https://okumc-reg.brtaapp.com/IAMLAITYSUMMIT2015)

Each participant may choose two classes to attend, and Bishop Hayes will preach. Fee, \$15, includes lunch and class handouts. Child care is free. Conference Lay Leader Chuck Stewart said the Board plans this day of training in place of the Re-Ignite Workshops, not scheduled this winter.

Class choices:

1. Lay Leader: Uncovering the leader in you;
2. Being a Lay Delegate to Annual Conference: How to navigate the system;
3. Church Council/Chairperson: ministry and administration;
4. Trustees: "It's not just mowing the lawn";
5. Finance;
6. Show Me the Money: Where to find grants and additional resources for your church;
7. Missional Area 1: How to relate in your district;
8. An Exploration Into God's Calling.



Praying at Noon for Daily Bread

Noontime doesn't need to mean only taking time for a quick sandwich. You are invited to participate in a daily prayer initiative. Originally founded as "Pray

Down at Noon" by a Houston, Texas pastor, this initiative is spreading throughout the country as a way to remind all of us of the need to pray regularly. The idea is to set the alarm on your cellphone to go off at 12:00 Noon each day as a reminder to pray The Lord's Prayer. Imagine the sound of all those alarms going off at the same time every day and the thrill of knowing that people all over our community are praying at the same time.

Christians have prayed this simple, yet profound prayer for centuries. This powerful initiative can be a point of unity for all of us across denominations to bridge the divides of doctrine and polity that seem so evident in Christ's Body. As this initiative spreads, more and more people of every denomination are participating and creating an enormous chain of prayers that begins at noon each day, regardless of time zone. There is a Facebook page to help promote this idea globally: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Lords-Prayer-at-Noon/962036040489931>

We are asking you to begin this initiative on **Sunday, January 25, 2015**, as part of our worship series on prayer. We are also inviting all other Sand Springs churches to participate. Once this habit is formed, it is an easy practice to maintain for a lifetime.

DOOR BUZZER- During weekly office hours, the front door will now be controlled by remote access. Please be patient during this transition. Someone will "click" you in. When you hear the "click", open the door. Please do not use your key unless you are not buzzed in. Office hours are:

MON-THURS-8-4:30 p.m.

FRI-SAT-Closed

SUNDAY-Church Schedule

UMW

Have you turned in all your yearbook stuff?



Kidzone

We trust everyone has gotten in the swing of things for 21015. Christmas break went by way too fast!

The children have started a series learning the stories of Jesus' life. They will be making a scrapbook to help them learn the stories. It's fun to see the children's creativity as they work on their books.

We've made a change to children's church during the 11am service. Jami Warkentin is leading it each Sunday with a group of volunteers who rotate as her helpers. They will meet in Caleb House. Children's Church is for ages Pre K-4th grade. See you Sunday!

The Awakening

Upcoming Events

February 1 – Super Sub Sunday fundraiser

February 11 – Youth at Green Tree (meet at FLC @5:30pm)

Ready...Set...Go

It's a new year and we are off and running already. First, the youth really wanted to do an out-of-state mission trip this summer so we are working out the details on that, now. In order to have the funds for this trip, we are starting fundraisers now and we need the support of the entire church.

On February 1, we are resurrecting the Super Sub Sunday fundraiser where you can order a sub sandwich, chips and a drink on the day of the big game and not have to worry about your lunch plans. Order forms and more details will be available soon, but please put this on your calendar.

The youth also wanted to start going back to Green Tree as they enjoy spending time with the residents there. We will be planning a Valentine-themed return to Green Tree on February 11 and I know everyone will be looking forward to that event.

Please continue to keep the youth and our volunteer leaders in your prayers. We are trying to not just do what is necessary to sustain the youth group, but to continue to help our youth grow in their relationships with Christ and to continue to find ways to be His hands and feet.

Thanks for your support,
Kent

Please Keep In Prayer

Ruth Weaver, Martha Scudder, Billie Schmidt, Destinee Tackett, Darryl Muse, Tristan Schwartz, Irene Stogsdill, Owen Johnston, SSUMC, Mrs. Frank Dudek, Paul Waldschmidt, Clare Caldwell, Bob Hula, Unspoken Requests

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—January 18

Visitors Center & Coffee-CIA/Pathfinders

Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David

Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Jami & Marty David

Counters-Sondra Bogert & Dick Ford

Sunday Volunteers—January 25

Visitors Center & Coffee-CIA/Pathfinders

Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David

Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Jami & Katherine R.

Counters-Sheree Buttler & Jami Warkentin

Acknowledgements

Thank you church for the wonderful Thanksgiving dinner. Our precious friend, Barbara Fisher gave our name, knowing we are elderly and have not been well. With Love, appreciation and thanksgiving...

Merle & Winona Eichenfeld



The whole church watched with nervous anticipation as the visitors sat where the Martins have sat for 42 years.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FLC-Family Life Center * Un-sponsored Event

Wednesday, January 14

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast—Crescent Café *
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
6:30 p.m.-The Awakening Youth-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 15

7:00 p.m.-Karate at FLC *

Friday, January 16

5:00 p.m.-FLC in use

Saturday, January 17

No Activities

Sunday, January 18

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
9:45 a.m.-Communion Service
10:00 a.m.-Small Groups
Installation of UMC Officers-2nd Service
1:30 p.m.-Trustee Meeting-Parlor
2:30 p.m.-Church Council Meeting-Parlor

Monday, January 19-Offices Closed

No Activities

Tuesday, January 20

10:00 a.m.-Intercessory Prayer Group
1:00 p.m.-Staff Meeting
5:30 p.m.-FLC yard in use*

6:30 p.m.-Cub Scouts-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Praise Team
7:00 p.m.-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, January 21

7:30 a.m.-Men's Breakfast-Crescent Café *
11:30 a.m.-Seniors In Action-F. Hall
6:00 p.m.-Chancel Ringers
6:30 p.m.-The Awakening Youth-FLC
7:00 p.m.-Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 22

7:00 p.m.-Karate-FLC

Friday, January 23

FLC in use

Saturday, January 24

FLC in use

Sunday, January 25

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
9:45 a.m.-Communion Service
10:00 a.m.-Small Groups
1:00 p.m.-Finance Meeting

Sand Springs UMC

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Sand Springs, OK 74063

918-245-5955 Fax-918-245-2801

Family Life Center: 918-245-3725

www.SandSpringsumc.org

SENIORS IN ACTION! It's already the middle of January 2015 so... Happy New Year! We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall, Wednesday, January 21 at 11:30 for a potluck lunch of soups, sandwiches, salads, and desserts. Our program will be FUN - the Tulsa Zoo will present a "What's New at the Zoo" video, AND bring 2 or 3 animals for us to see (and maybe pet and hold?). SO - put on your parka, mukluks & fake fur-lined mittens, warm up the car, and join us for food, fun, and fellowship! Questions? Call Max or Sharon Schuermann 918-246-9159.



Youth Fundraiser—Everybody Wins on Super Bowl Sunday!!!

On February 1, we are resurrecting the Super Sub Sunday fundraiser where you can order a sub sandwich, chips and a drink on the day of the big game and not have to worry about your lunch plans. Order forms and more details will be available soon, but please put this on your calendar.