

# The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



FROM  
THE  
PASTOR

*"Look, I am sending my messenger before you. He will prepare your way, a voice shouting in the wilderness: "Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight.""*

Mark 1:2-3 CEB

It's the first week of Advent. That means that Christmas is just four weeks away! This year seems to have gone by so quickly. But, before we say goodbye to this year, we have time to prepare ourselves to welcome the baby Jesus one more time. This momentous event that took place over two thousand years ago is still celebrated again, year after year. How do we keep the excitement of the season going? How can we continue to show awe and wonder about a story that happened so long ago? I fear that much of the excitement of the Christmas season has little to do with the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world. I fear that most of us are excited about the beautiful decorations, the parties with family and friends, and the good cheer that just seems to be part of all of it. The season of giving extends beyond the gifts we give each other to the extra giving that we make for the many worthy causes that seek our generosity every year. There is nothing wrong with any of this and we are right to enjoy the holidays and share the joy with everyone we meet. I'm all for a hearty "Merry Christmas" or even a "Happy holidays" for our non-Christian sisters and brothers.

It is important that we recognize the secular trappings of the Christmas season and relegate

them to their proper place. This means that we then must elevate the true story to its rightful place as the focus of this time of year. That is part of why we are doing our our worship series, "*Awaiting the Already*" this year. We want to take some time each Sunday to look at how each gospel writer brings us the story of Jesus' birth. There are four distinctly different ways of telling the story in the four gospels and we are going to look at each one. We started this week in the Gospel of Mark, noticing that he doesn't actually mention the birth of Jesus at all. Mark brings us into the story at the Baptism of Jesus and this the ground running as he tells the story with great urgency. It is a reminder that we also should have a sense of urgency about hearing and remembering the stories of Jesus. The urgency is the same today as it was two thousand years ago.

As we go through our Advent journey this year, I pray that you will take some time to really get involved with the various versions of this story and how we have taken all of what we read in the Bible and molded it into the Christmas narrative we are so familiar with. Think about how this narrative reflects the true story and where it may blur the story. Seek to understand the tension that surrounded this one man's birth story and his whole life. There is political intrigue; there is social and cultural upheaval; everything about this event is extraordinary. It is a fitting beginning to the most extraordinary life in history. Meet Jesus again this Christmas and prepare yourself to receive the already.

Waiting,  
Pastor Don

## End of Year Gifts & Tax Planning

With the end of the year approaching, a charitable gift can help you support your favorite United Methodist ministry and receive welcomed tax benefits. In 2016, Jim and Sharon sold a portion of the stock that Sharon had inherited from her grandmother years ago. The stock had increased in value, and their CPA informed them that they had a capital gain of nearly \$120,000. Their CPA reminded them that if they made a gift of this stock before the end of the calendar year, they would receive a charitable income tax deduction on the gifted shares. This deduction would help offset the capital gains tax on the stock they sold. They had always planned on making a gift to their church's endowment fund, and this seemed like a great time to make the gift.

### GIFTING VS. SELLING STOCK

Jim and Sharon were still holding \$80,000 in the same highly appreciated stock and did not intend to sell, primarily because of the substantial capital gains tax they already faced. A gift of the stock at year end would help lower their taxes this year. By giving the \$80,000 in stock, they received two benefits. First, they avoided a large capital gains tax on the stock. Second, they received a charitable income tax deduction. The deduction offset the capital gains from their prior stock sale of \$120,000. They are very pleased with the double benefits of their gift and are delighted that they have been able to make a nice charitable contribution to their church's endowment fund. If you would like to learn more about end of year charitable gift planning, please contact David Battles, CPA, at 800-259-6863 or [dbattles@okumf.org](mailto:dbattles@okumf.org).

The Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation, 4201 N CLASSEN BOULEVARD, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73118-2400, WWW.OKUMF.ORG • 800-259-6863

## KidZone

Hi kids  
Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and enjoyed your break from school. Come every Sunday during December as we celebrate the coming birth of Jesus. In Kingdom Kids, we are practicing for our Christmas program on December 18th. Miss Cathy needs everyone there each Sunday to practice. Have a great week and see you Sunday!  
Miss Debbie and Miss Marty



## UMW News

Christmas is coming and we are celebrating! All the Circles are meeting early this month to allow more time for family celebrations.

Faith is meeting

on Dec. 1, 6:30 pm at Janie Moore's. Food, fun, and fellowship.

Priscilla will be meeting on Dec. 6th, 6:30 at Marybeth Arnold's. Virginia Baldrige is co-host and Susan Edwards has the devotion.

Ruth Esther is meeting on Dec. 15th, noon at Miss Scarlet's Tea Room. If you want to carpool, meet at the church at 11:30. The address for Miss Scarlet's Tea Room in Sapulpa is 320 S. Main, (97 HYWY).

If you want to help putting Goody Bags together for TU, meet at the Church in the Parlor at 9:00 on Dec. 2nd. The bags must be to TU by 11:00. Items for the bags will be there. We just need your hands.

Mission Stitch will meet at 2:00 on Dec. 21st. Bring your hats. They are wanting red and white and green and white ones for Christmas. Remember to make them 6 inches by 6 inches.

Be sure to get your 2017 officer lists and program calendars to Carole Ashton this month.

Thank you to all the UMW ladies for all their time and gifts for missions this year. Those in need appreciate you!!



## Sunday Lists

### Sunday Volunteers—December 4

Visitors Center & Coffee-TNT  
Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David  
Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids  
Teaching: Jami Warkentin  
Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Marty David  
Counters-Diana Pond & Jack Vest

### Sunday Volunteers—December 11

Visitors Center & Coffee-TNT  
Head Usher-11:00 a.m.-Eddy David  
Child. Church-8:30 a.m.-Kingdom Kids  
Teaching: Jami Warkentin  
Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Katherine Reeves  
Counters-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

**January Coffee: CIA/Pathfinders**

**February Coffee: Harmony**

## Please Keep In Prayer



*Martha Scudder, Linda Tabberer, Charlene Reeves, Elsie Jones, Bill Gifford, Bob & Cathy Hula, BW Proft, Bill & Clare Caldwell, Jack & Jewell Brown, Owen Johnston, Tristan Schwartz, Delbert Sloan, Pauline Hanigar, Sylvia Johnson, Barbara McClintock, Angy Krebs, SSUMC & Unspoken Requests*

## Acknowledgements

### THANK YOU!!!

There is no THANK YOU big enough for us to express our appreciation to all who volunteered and helped during the 23rd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Delivery Mission.

It was another successful year thanks to all of you!!! A special thanks to Katherine for spear heading it and doing such a great job keeping it positive and on track!!!

**To keep the mission'ing going, be sure to pick up an ANGEL off the Angel tree this Sunday in the Narthex!**

Here are your 2016 Newsletter weeks. Please remember-articles are due by 11 a.m. on this date. Please, mark your calendars.

December 12
January 2, 2017
January 16, 2017
January 30, 2017
February 13, 2017
February 27, 2017

### Here is some of your 2016 Youth Dinner Schedule

11/30-Harmony  
12/7-CIA/Pathfinders  
12/14-Faith Circle  
12/21-TNT (Youth Christmas Party)  
12/28-No Youth  
1/4-Ruth Esther Circle  
1/11-Seniors In Action

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday  
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Closed 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. for Lunch

Closed Friday

Please remember, push the door bell button before using your key. The front door is unlocked with the key but magnet locked for us to buzz you in. If you use your key, you will not be able to get in as it will actually lock the door. If no one clicks you in, go ahead and use your key.

### Help Wanted

We are seeking a Nursery Coordinator to start immediately. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC

### Monday, November 28

5:30pm-Community Dinner-F. Hall  
7:00pm-Boy Scouts-FLC

### Tuesday, November 29

5:45pm-Annual charge Conference-FLC  
5:30pm-NO Cub Scouts-FLC  
5:45pm-Y4Y-Sanctuary  
6:30pm-Praise Team  
7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

### Wednesday, November 30

7:30am-Mens Breakfast-Crescent Café  
6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth  
7:00pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, December 1

6:30pm-Faith Christmas Party-Home of Janie M.  
\*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

### Friday, December 2

9:00am-UMW Filling Goody Bags-Parlor  
\*4:00pm-Adventures In Learning-F. Hall  
\*7:00pm-Sand Springs Festival of Lights Parade

### Saturday, December 3

No Activities

### Sunday, December 4

8:30am-Contemporary Worship  
10:00am-1st Sunday Missions  
10:00am-Sunday School  
11:00am-Traditional Worship  
2:00pm-Staff Parish Committee Meeting

### Monday, December 5

7:00pm-Boy Scouts-Family Life Center

### Tuesday, December 6

5:30pm-Cub Scouts-FLC  
5:45pm-Y4Y-Sanctuary  
6:30pm-Praise Team Rehearsal  
6:30pm-Priscilla Circle Christmas Party-Home of Marybeth A.  
7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

### Wednesday, December 7

7:30am-M/W Breakfast-Crescent Café  
\*4:00pm-Kappa Kappa Iota-F. Hall  
6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth  
7:00pm-Chancel Choir

### Thursday, December 8

\*1:00pm-FLC in use  
\*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

*FLC-Family Life Center  
\*-Not sponsored by  
SSUMC but welcome*

*For more calendar  
information, call the  
office at 918-245-5955.*

**Sand Springs UMC**  
319 N. Main Street/PO Box 336  
Sand Springs, OK 74063  
918-245-5955 Fax-918-245-2801  
Family Life Center: 918-245-3725  
[www.SandSpringsumc.org](http://www.SandSpringsumc.org)

