

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer

November 5, 2014



"Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us

our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one." (Matthew 6:9-13, NRSV)

This may be the most familiar prayer in all of Christianity. Most of us know it by heart and may be in the habit of reciting it frequently. I wonder sometimes if its familiarity has caused us to stop listening to the words we are saying in the prayer. Do we really understand for what we are praying?

After greeting God with respect we begin a short litany of things that we ask of God. May God's kingdom come; may God's will be done on earth just as it is in heaven; give us what we need each day; forgive us; and protect us. Sounds simple enough and just a little self-centered. But, since Jesus actually taught us this prayer, I am willing to bet that there is more to it than our simple reading.

"Your kingdom come" sounds a lot like something that is yet to be, something we are to wait for. Yet, we hear Jesus saying: *"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel"* (Mark 1:13-14). Which is it – is the kingdom of God "now" or "not yet"? The answer is yes, God's kingdom is both present **and** to come. When we ask for God's kingdom to come we need to understand our role in making this happen. We are asking God to enable us to live in that kingdom now and forever – this is a huge responsibility.

In her book, **The Misunderstood Jew**, Rabbi Amy Levine suggests: *"The kingdom is not, for the Jewish Jesus of Nazareth, a piece of real estate for the single saved soul; it is a communal vision of what could be and what should be. It is a vision of a time when all debts are forgiven, when we stop judging others, when we not only wear our traditions on our sleeve, but also hold them in our hearts*

and minds and enact them with all our strength."

God's kingdom is much more than the hoped-for end-times that seems to have taken over much of Christian thought and media coverage lately. It is about the way we behave right now, in this world.

God does not have a magic wand to wave that will suddenly change the way people think and the way we treat one another. That is up to us. If we want God's will to be done on earth just as it is done in heaven, then we need to spend more time trying to understand God's will and putting it into practice. God is not going to make us stop doing our will and start doing God's will like turning a faucet on or off. God expects us to choose to do that. If we really mean that we ask God to provide our *"daily bread,"* then we need to stop being so greedy and make sure that we are satisfied with what God gives us and that we are sure others have access to their *"daily bread"* as well. When we pray for forgiveness we add the qualifier – *"as we also have forgiven."* That sounds like a risky prayer unless you are certain that you have already forgiven everyone who has ever hurt you. The part about protecting us from evil should not be viewed as asking to be spared from all adversity. John Wesley taught that this was asking God to provide us a way to avoid the temptations of this world and live into God's kingdom. It carries with it the choice to accept God's way or another way.

It seems to me that this is a very complex prayer in which we are making some very challenging commitments to God. We need to be careful praying familiar prayers without much thought to what we are saying. My guess is that God will take us at our word and expect us to live up to the things for which we pray.

***Praying for God's kingdom,
Pastor Don***

Please Keep In Prayer

Ruth Weaver, Martha Scudder, Virginia Vice, Billie Schmidt, Destinee Tackett, Darryl Muse, Tristan Schwartz, Irene Stogsdill, Owen Johnston, SSUMC, Mrs. Frank Dudek, Bob McFall, Paul Waldschmidt, Barnard Family, Jim McCormick, Hal Cauthron, Tate Finley, Clare Caldwell, Shawn Cole, Nancy Grayson,

Sunday Lists

Sunday Volunteers—November 9

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery

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

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

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Debbie & Marty

Counters-Sondra Bogert & Dick Ford

Sunday Volunteers—November 16

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery

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

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

Child. Church-11:00 a.m.-Amy & Lauren Miller

Counters-Sheree Buttler & Jami Warkentin

Acknowledgements

Happy 90th Birthday Party for Irene Stogsdill!!

(Gerrie Holladay's mamma)

Sunday, November 16

2-4 p.m.

Lucille Page Manor Community Room

253 E. 41st St.

*Stop by and give her a hug and enjoy
some good company!*

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HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY? SOMEONE'S PRAYING, LORD.....

Have you prayed for our Pastor today? Don and his family need to be lifted up daily in intercessory prayer by all of us. Not only should we pray for their good physical health, but also their spiritual health. Pastors have a huge responsibility leading the church and they cannot do it without the wisdom, guidance and strength that only the Lord can provide through the Holy Spirit. Let us be faithful in praying daily for our pastoral family and staff, as well as our church as a whole. Let us, as God's people, be faithful in living up to the vows of the United Methodist Church. If we are all faithful in our prayers, attendance, service, gifts and witness, I think we should be amazed at what God will do through his people at SSUMC.

Our Intercessory prayer group meets each Tuesday at 10:00, in the Church Parlor. Please come and join us when you can. We would love to have you. Virginia

Sand Springs Community Services Thanksgiving Basket Needs

Here is a list of needs the SSCS needs to complete their Thanksgiving Baskets which go to families in our community who are in need. Bring your donations on Sunday, November 9th and/or 16th.

- Instant Mashed Potatoes (regular size box)
- Dressing/Stuffing Mix (regular size box)
- Canned Green Beans
- Canned Sweet Potatoes
- Canned Fruit
- Gravy-can, jar, or packet
- Cake Mix and Frosting or Brownie Mix
- Brown & Serve Rolls.

(You can also donate aluminum turkey roasting pans and 8-10 lb. frozen turkeys-which you will need to deliver to SSCS-918-245-5183.)

Also, remember that our own Thanksgiving Dinner Delivery Event is this month and we will need Time, Money, Pies and Volunteers! Contact Charlene Reeves for more information.

FUNDRAISER

Sunday is the Kidzone annual fundraiser for Operation Christmas Child in the Narthex. Bring your wallets! They children always have cute items they've made that will help with the cost of shoe boxes and the packing party on November 15th.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



It's time for Operation Christmas Child! Shoe boxes to be filled will be available in the Narthex this week. Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse. The ministry involves packing a regular sized

shoe box with items a child from another country would enjoy. Items can be toys, clothing, school supplies, and personal hygiene items. Boxes are then shipped all over the world. These shoe boxes offer an opportunity for volunteers and local churches in these countries to share the love of Jesus Christ with the children and their families. Sand Springs United Methodist Church serves as a drop off location for the Sand Springs, Sapulpa and Mannford. If you'd like to volunteer during our drop off hours or want to know more about Operation Christmas Child we'll be in the narthex on Sunday.

Quarterly Giving Statements Available



Quarterly giving statements have been prepared and are currently available on the welcome desk. Any statements not picked up by November 9th will then be mailed. Please examine your giving statement closely to be sure that it matches your records.

If you find any errors or have any questions, please contact Alan Parker in the church office.



The Awakening

The Awakening exists to... "Teach students to genuinely honor Christ through service, reaching out to those around them, and building up a community based on love for one another."

Upcoming Events

November 19th-Talkback with Pastor Don
November 26th-No Wednesday Night

Update

I hope that you are doing well and enjoying the fall weather and having a great week! It is hard to believe that it is already November. This year has really flown by!

We have two main events coming up for the Awakening this month. The first is happening on November 19th. Pastor Don will be coming to the Awakening and will give students a chance to talk-back with him about our Sunday morning worship. Due to the Arise seminar and an attempt to make our worship more enjoyable for all ages, Pastor Don has agreed to listen to what the students enjoy about our worship and offer suggestions on what we can change to make it better for them. I hope that your students will make it a priority to attend this week. It will be hard to get a good representation if not many students are there. I will be handing out questionnaires at the Awakening the next couple weeks to give students the opportunity to write out ideas and then discuss them.

We will not be having formal Wednesday night activities on November 26th as it is the day before Thanksgiving. However, if your student would like to come to the FLC that night and help de-bone turkeys for the next day, they are free to do that.

Your Fellow Servant,
Mark



KidZone

Mark your calendars:

Saturday, Nov. 8th, 10am-12am:
Make items for OCC sale in
Caleb House

Sunday, Nov. 9th: OCC fundrais-
er sale in the Narthex all morning

Saturday, Nov. 15th, Shoe Box
Packing Party, all church is wel-
come. Pizza lunch is provided.

The children are working hard on their Kingdom Kids Christmas Program each Sunday from 9 until 9:45. If they come to Kingdom Kids they will get their name in a special drawing for a prize to be determined. The program is only 5 weeks away, so attendance is very important.
See you Sunday!

Ugandan Kids Choir Coming to SSUMC!

The Ugandan Kids Choir, a group of ten talented Ugandan children, will be performing at Sand Springs UMC on November 30th at 5:00 pm. All ten children have been given hope through Childcare Worldwide's Sponsorship Program and now they are here to spread that hope to audiences all across the United States. The choir has performed nationwide at churches, schools, at Disneyland, on King 5 Television's "New Day Northwest," at Qwest Field, home of the Seattle Seahawks, and on the steps of the White House.

These children delight audiences with traditional African songs and dances. Megan DiRienzo, Curator of Education at the San Angelo Museum of Fine arts says, "All of you have amazing talents, beautiful voices and some serious dance skills! A performance like yours was a once in a lifetime opportunity. We fully support you on your mission to end child poverty!"

The Ugandan Kids Choir is a ministry of Childcare Worldwide, which has been dedicated to empowering children in the developing world since 1981. Through child sponsorship, Childcare Worldwide brings hope to children in need by providing them with an education that will set them up for future employment and break the cycle of poverty in their lives.

By coming to this event, you will enjoy traditional African song and dance, as well as help children in need all around the world. So don't miss this unique and authentic performance by the children of the Ugandan Kids Choir. Please invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FLC-Family Life Center
*** Unsponsored Event**

Wednesday, November 5

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, November 6

6:00 p.m.-Staff Parish Meeting
6:30 p.m.-FLC yard in use*
7:00 p.m.-Karate at FLC *

Friday, November 7

5:30 p.m.-FLC in use*

Saturday, November 8

7:00 a.m.-Helping Hands
10:00 a.m.-Kids prep for fundraiser
2:00 p.m.-CPHS Band Boosters using FLC*

Sunday, November 9

8:30 a.m.-Modern Worship; 11:00 a.m.-Classic Worship
9:45 a.m.-Communion Service
10:00 a.m.-Small Groups
2:00 p.m.-Trustee Meeting
Kids Fundraiser for Operation Christmas Child!

Monday, November 10

6:15 p.m.-2nd Monday Book Club
7:00 p.m.-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, November 11

10:00 a.m.-Intercessory Prayer Group
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, November 12

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

Thursday, November 13

6:30 p.m.-FLC yard in use*
7:00 p.m.-Stewardship Meeting
7:00 p.m.-Karate at FLC *

Friday, November 14

6:00 p.m.-OPCC Setup Party-FLC

OPCC=OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Questions about SSUMC Women?
Priscilla: Trish House-918-245-5508
Ruth Esther: Barbara Fisher (Mrs. Connie)-918-241-9859
Faith: Rita Randall: 918-224-8482

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918-245-5955 Fax-918-245-2801
Family Life Center: 918-245-3725
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