


# The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer

 *"LORD, how long will I call for help and you not listen? I cry out to you, 'Violence!' but you don't deliver us. Why do you show me injustice and look at anguish so that devastation and violence are before me? There is strife, and conflict abounds."* (Habakkuk 1:2-3, CEB)

The prophet speaks powerfully into times of conflict, injustice, and violence. He speaks to individuals and to communities, whether the conflict is real or metaphorical. The prophet speaks to each one of us at some time in our lives, when we feel assaulted or far from God or when we cry out for the world in which we live. *"How long, O Lord?"*

This is a bold lament where the prophet dares to challenge God and expect that God will respond. He says later in this passage that he will take up his place on a high watch post and wait for God to respond. He cries out and expects and waits for God. He believes that an answer will come, because he has had the experience before. Ignatius of Loyola wrote about the rhythm of "consolation" and "desolation" that characterizes the spiritual life. In consolation we are drawn closer to God, while in desolation we find it more difficult to feel God's presence. In times of desolation, however, we are sustained by those times when we felt the movement of the Spirit more clearly. It is balance we seek as we live in a broken world moving toward the perfection of God in eternity.

I recently had the chance to speak to a dear friend of mine who is a student of Ignatius and his spiritual disciplines. My friend outlined this spiritual balance for me and helped me to understand better how the things in our lives move us between these two extremes of consolation and desolation. We find ourselves at one with God and far from God, almost at the same time it seems. We live our lives as best we can and yet we face challenges, defeats, fears, and brokenness. What helps us to achieve the balance we need is what ultimately grows out of our desolation built on our memories of consolation.

For me, at this time in my life, the response I feel

is joy; that is why I preached on the topic of joy this past Sunday. Certainly, I have felt moments of closeness to God in my life; I have enjoyed wonderful days of consolation. Today, however, I find that desolation is a more apt description of how I feel. Overwhelmed, fearful, exhausted – all these are words I would use to describe my desolation. What saves me is the memory of consolation; that memory inspires great joy in my heart of hearts. I am joyful because I remember that God is here and will remain here through whatever lies ahead. My joy precedes my consolation simply because I know that I can trust God to hold me up, no matter what happens. I believe that is why the prophet can cry out with such confidence. He has been here before and he remembers how God responded in the past.

Whatever your desolation may be today, surely you have a memory of consolation that convinces you to seek God, to stand at the watch post and wait for God to respond. Because we have felt consolation, because we have felt the presence of God – at least once, even for a moment – we are drawn to continue to seek God forever. Perhaps what draws us is not something we can articulate clearly. It may be that the darkness overwhelms our vision or maybe the seeming silence from God is drowned out by the pursuing hounds of our busy-ness, the clanging noise of our conflict, or just the dull thud of our frustration. Habakkuk advises us to be patient. Even when we cannot see a clear path out of our current desolation there is consolation on the horizon, there is joy in the confident expectation. We will discover what God has in mind and what we are supposed to do next.

What if we would just place ourselves at a "watch post", a quiet room, a special oasis, a place of worship, or a quiet place inside ourselves – and demand that God make a clear way for us. *"Here I am, God! I will keep watch and see what you will say to me!"*

Seeking joy in the balance,  
**Pastor Don**

## Operation Christmas Child Drop Off Times

There will be sign up sheets in the Narthex next week

*Monday, November 14—5:30pm-7:30pm*

*Tuesday, November 15—5:30pm-7:30pm*

*Wednesday, November 16—5:30pm-8:00pm*

*Thursday, November 17—5:30pm-7:30pm*

*Friday, November 18—5:30pm-7:30pm*

*Saturday, November 19—10:00am-2:00pm*

*Sunday, November 20—12:00pm-5:00pm*

*Monday, November 21—9:00am-12:00pm*

Start buying fun little toys, socks, pencils, paper... A list will be provided soon.

## KidZONE

What an awesome job you all did getting things made for our



**Operation  
Christmas  
Child fund raiser to  
be held next Sun-**

**day, November 6th. We will be selling in the narthex before and after both ser-**

**vices.** We will pack our shoe boxes on Sunday, November 13th during Kidzone in the Caleb House. We will also help with "First Sunday Mission" on November 6th. We will help get items ready for Restore Hope. Have a safe Halloween! See you next Sunday.

Ms. Debbie and Ms. Marty



## Cathy's Notes

God has blessed our church with so much musical talent, from Gary Dobbs, the Nerren Family, Joyful

Noise and, of course, Judy and the Chancel Choir. What a blessing they have all been these last two months!

The choir has now begun work on the Advent and Christmas anthems. If you have interested in joining us on a short term basis, now would be the time. We have some lovely tunes and some lively tunes that you would enjoy. Please join us on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

The children are also beginning to practice for their musical, "Listen to the Angels." Practice is every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. and lasts until 9:45a.m. There are several speaking and non-speaking parts and some great songs.

The Christmas Program will be presented on December 18th at 6:00pm. The program will include the children's musical, the chancel choir and several solos/ensembles. As usual, refreshments will follow. I'm looking forward to a wonderful night of Christmas music!

Some great news! There have been more pledges to the organ fund. Perhaps now we can bring this instrument back to its former glory. Hope you will soon hear the "new and improved" organ. Thank you music lovers!

Singing His Praise,  
Cathy Gifford



## Thanksgiving Dinner Delivery Mission

Can you believe this is our 23rd year to offer this mission? Thank you Donna McLain for all you have done in helping this become such a success. Donna has stepped down this year so please keep Katherine Reeves and her gang in your prayers!!! So much

goes into pulling this off.

One thing we really need are grocery sacks with handles. You can drop these off upstairs and we will be sure Susie Honeycutt gets them. And don't forget—we are going to need lots and lots of pies so start digging through your recipes. It's almost time!!!



## UMW News

UMW Executive Meeting is Thursday, Nov. 3rd at 5:30 in the CIA/Pathfinders room.

Final 2017 Officer list to be confirmed.

C.O. District Officer Training is Nov. 6th at 2:00 at New Haven UMC in Tulsa. We'll meet at the FLC to carpool at 1:15.

Nov. 11-13 is Toole Tyme at Cookson. Get your reservations in by the 7th.

Mission Stitch will meet again on Nov. 16th at 2:00 in the Parlor. Olivia Tackett has been delighted with our hats but says some are too small or too big. Currently they need to be 6 inches in diameter and 6 inches long. If you need yarn check with Cynthia Alex. Some has been donated. You may want to use a smaller hook to get them 6 by 6.

### Circle Meetings:

Faith: Nov. 3, 7:00 pm in the Parlor. This will make up for the missed meeting in October. Leesa Hairgrove in charge.

Priscilla : Will not meet in November due to Thanksgiving.

Ruth Esther: Nov. 17th 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. They are meeting a week early.

Jo Ann Nelson is hostess, Wava Burt has the Devotional and Louise Read has the Program. Be sure to bring your World Thank Offering.

We will be putting together Goody Bags for our college students by Thanksgiving so they can take them on that Sunday. Get their names to Tracey ASAP. The bags for TU Wesley Foundation will be done on Dec. 2 at 9:00 am. in the Parlor.

Thank you for all you do.

**SENIORS IN ACTION!** This coming Saturday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, we will travel to Claremore to the J. M. Davis Arms & Historical Museum to watch a "High Noon Shoot-Out", a fun reenactment presentation. We will have time for a tour of the Museum, and then on to the Hammett House for a



late lunch! We will meet at the CHURCH at 10:15 for carpooling on Sat. morning. If you would like to join us, please call Max or Sharon Schuermann at [918-246-9159](tel:918-246-9159) to sign up.

Thanks to all of you who attended our October SIA Potluck! We had an great presentation by Gilcrease docent, Judy Baggett, entitled "A Gilcrease Sampler". We learned interesting information about many works of art and artists that you don't normally find out by just viewing these works in the museum. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all ! I'm in the process of planning our Christmas Potluck, so watch for flyers for that event, soon!

## Sunday Lists

### Sunday Volunteers—November 6

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery

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.-Kat Katzung

Counters-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder

### Sunday Volunteers—November 13

Visitors Center & Coffee-Discovery

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.-Jo Fritts

Counters-Sondra Allen & Dick Ford

### December Coffee: TNT

### January Coffee: CIA/Pathfinders

## Please Keep In Prayer



Martha Scudder, Linda Tabberer, Charlene Reeves, Elsie Jones, Bob & Cathy Hula, BW Proft, Bill & Clare Caldwell, Darryl Muse, Jack & Jewell Brown, Owen Johnston, Tristan Schwartz, Delbert Sloan, Mark Hill, Pauline Hanigar, Glenda Paul-Reyna, Barbara McClintock, Monti Box, SSUMC & Unspoken Requests

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC

Monday, October 31

5:30—6:00pm-Trunk or Treat-4th Street Parking Lot  
7:00pm-Boy Scouts-FLC

Tuesday, November 1

5:30pm-Cub Scouts-FLC  
5:45pm-Y4Y-Sanctuary  
7:00pm-Praise Team  
7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, November 2

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

Thursday, November 3

5:30pm-UMW Executive Meeting  
7:00pm-Faith Circle-Parlor  
\*7:00pm-Collins Karate-FLC

Friday, November 4

\*4:00pm-Adventures In Learning-F. Hall  
\*FLC in use Set Up-Band Booster Bingo

Saturday, November 5

10:15am-SIA to Claremore-Meet at the Church

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

FLC in use-Band Booster Bingo

Sunday, November 6-Daylight Savings Time

8:30am-Contemporary Worship  
10:00am-1st Sunday Mission  
10:00am-Sunday School  
11:00am-Traditional Worship  
2:00pm-Staff Parish  
KIDZONE FUNDRAISER-OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Monday, November 7

7:00pm-Boy Scouts-Family Life Center

Tuesday, November 8

5:30pm-Cub Scouts-FLC  
5:45pm-Y4Y-Sanctuary  
7:00pm-Praise Team Rehearsal  
7:00pm-Al-Anon-Upstairs

Wednesday, November 9

7:30am-Men’s Breakfast-Crescent Café  
6:30pm-The Awakening—Youth  
7:00pm-Chancel Choir

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

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

Help Wanted

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