



## Keep the First Thing First!

When I attended seminary in central Kentucky, I tried to experience as much of the culture there as I could. I knew I would only be living in Kentucky for a season of life, so I wanted to see and do all the things I could while I was there.

For an outsider looking in the first thing that comes to mind when one thinks of Kentucky is (of course!) fried chicken. Sure, horses and bourbon might be high on that list as well, but thanks to Colonel Harland Sanders it is fried chicken that is Kentucky's #1 cultural export. In my first year I went to a KFC in Kentucky and I found that... well... it's a lot like the KFC that we have in Oklahoma!

There is a reason for that, of course. Colonel Sanders sold his restaurant, Kentucky Fried Chicken, to a group of investors in the 1960s who made significant changes to the restaurant. Over the years the franchise changed a great deal of how it prepared and served its food: opting for speed and convenience over authenticity to the original concept. By some measure they were successful: KFC is today a globally recognized brand that generates billions of dollars in revenue every year. Part of that success comes from consistency: KFC is pretty much the same anywhere you go.

However, it is important to note that today's KFC has very little to do with the original restaurant that Colonel Sanders started in the 1930s. After Colonel Sanders sold his restaurant franchise, name, and likeness in the 60s, he started another restaurant named after his wife. To this day you can still go to the Claudia Sanders Dinner House in Shelbyville, KY. This restaurant, unlike the KFC fast-food chain, remains faithful to the original food items that Colonel Sanders served. The chicken is still pressure cooked instead of deep fried. The kitchen uses methods that are slower, but taste better.

It wasn't until Ashley and I visited this restaurant that I finally understood what all the fuss was about when it came to Kentucky Fried Chicken! The food there was a thousand times better than any I had ever had at a KFC. In fact, it was so different it was hard to imagine Claudia Sanders Dinner House having any relation at all to the modern day KFC!

Somewhere along the way for the KFC franchise of restaurants the priorities changed. It became less about making the highest quality fried chicken you can and more about the bottom line on the financial records. It is important as Christians that we do not fall into the same trap. It is easy to do! We get passionate about this or that issue, we get focused on this or that program of the church, and then we lose sight of what we are really supposed to be about.

Our highest law is to love God with all of our hearts, souls, and minds, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Our mission is to glorify God and make disciples of Jesus Christ. If we forget these things, we are no longer keeping the first thing first. If our priority is anything other than this, we need to take a step back and reorient ourselves around God. When we lose sight about what makes our faith so special, the love and reconciliation between God and people, we lose sight of who we are.

So, I encourage you to stick to our "original recipe." Let's not deviate from the command and mission that God has given us. Let's remember what makes us so special, and let's continue to love God and love others!



## KidZone News

We had a great time on Wednesday, March 17th in the Caleb house. There were 7 kids and 5 adults who helped put together

60 Easter baskets and deliver to Sand Springs Community Services. After we finished, we played Bingo and had pizza. It was fun to see everyone. We are glad to be back to in person worship and hope in the near future to be able to meet for KidZone Kids. We have put together a Grab n Go bag which has a Bible story and activity and items for your Family Prayer bag. When you see us at in person worship, we will give you your bag. Bring your Grab n Go bag back each Sunday and we will add another Bible story, activity and item for your Prayer bag. When we get back together, be ready to tell us about the Bible stories and the Prayer items.

Have an awesome week!!

Ms. Debbie and Ms. Marty

## Come and Go Wedding Shower

For  
Lauren Miller & Justin Giddens  
Saturday, April 24  
11am-1pm

*Lauren and Justin are registered at Target  
They also would welcome gift cards from  
Amazon, Target or Walmart*

**You're invited  
to the wedding of  
*Lauren Kelly Miller***

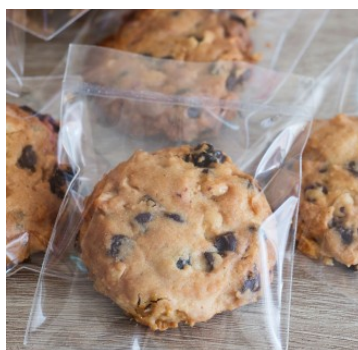
*and*

*Justin Dillon Giddens*

**May 22, 2021**

**One o'clock in the afternoon  
First United Methodist Church  
1115 South Boulder Avenue,  
Tulsa, OK 74119**

*Due to Covid-19 there will not be a reception  
to follow  
Masks will be required*



## Last Herbal Affair article for this year --

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the Herbal Affair this year -- baking, packaging, buying, selling, setting up and tearing down -- we couldn't have done it without you. The monies raised will be used by the UMW to continue to help fund Restore Hope, Sand Springs Community Services, our youth and children's programs, Circle of Care and several others. Thank you so much for your support. Karen

## KidZone made Easter Baskets for a worthy bunch of kids!



## Prayer Box

Dick Ford, Maureen Gibson, Sylvia Johnson, Wava Burt, Ralph Rand, Donna McLain-Hope, Betty & Linda Lund, Suzanne and Valerie Jones, Gordonna Fisher, Barbara McClintock, Montie & Betty Box, Bruce Warren  
Prayer Chains And Unspoken Requests