



The Springs

December 19, 2022

Their Business is Outrage

For as long as I can remember, I have always been interested in computers. A side effect of being the child of a high school technology teacher, I suppose. In the early 90s I remember my dad telling me about this really cool and interesting thing that people were doing with computers called “the internet.” It was a network of computers that existed not just in one room, but across the entire world. A person in America could talk to a person in England, or Japan, or Australia. You could send letters to people using something called “electronic mail.” You could even play games with people!

It wasn’t much later that this mystical “internet” became a reality. When the very first internet service provider opened in McAlester, my dad made special arrangements so that the school in Haileyville could dial in. I still remember the screeching noise of the modem opening the phone line and connecting to our “dial-up” internet. I remember the world of possibilities that opened. You could chat with people, play card games, look up news on your favorite topics, connect with your favorite sports teams, or discover something entirely new! For a kid living in the woods of southeast Oklahoma, it felt like the world was at my fingertips for the first time.

We have come a long way since those early days. The internet is faster and easier to access than ever before. It is no longer a novelty, but in many ways a necessity. It is now difficult to go to school or get a job without the internet. Many of you are reading this very article because you received it in your email.

The internet is, like so many other things, a tool that can be used for many different purposes. Some of those purposes are good (like, say, streaming a worship service!). However, we are quickly discovering that in many ways the internet can be used for things that are not so good. We have the world’s information at our fingertips, but it can be difficult to discern in the deluge what information is good and useful and what information is inaccurate or harmful.

Many people are now reconsidering the usefulness of social media. Social media, like the internet itself, was originally intended to bring people together. In many ways it does! (Did I mention you can find our services on Facebook and YouTube?) However, sociologists are beginning to see the ways in which social media is now trending towards being harmful to people.

Social media thrives on something called “engagement,” that is, people interacting with the site and each other. The companies that own these platforms (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) have discovered that controversy, conflicts, and outrage are the things that drive engagement the most. Because they have learned this, they have now designed these platforms to focus on these things. They want you to see things that make you upset, because then you are more likely to engage. Their business is outrage.

While this is very good for driving engagement on these platforms and, as a result, increasing the profits of these companies, it is quite bad for normal people like you and me. God didn’t create us to be angry all the time. God doesn’t want us to be angry all the time. Our God is a God of peace.

Cont’d



Kidzone News

We want to thank everyone who supported our annual fundraiser to provide Christmas stockings for kids at Sand Springs Community Services. On December 4th, we prepared and delivered 72 Christmas stockings to Sand Springs Community Services.

Many thanks to Grady Baker, Jennifer Paschal, Jami and Hallye Warkentin for their help with the stockings. Also to Lisa Massey who met us so we could deliver the stockings.

On December 11th, the kids sang "Happy Birthday Jesus" in both services. They were awesome!!! During Advent, we lit a candle each week on our Advent wreath. We learned about the meaning of each candle-Hope, Love, Joy and Peace.

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and blessings in the New Year of 2023!!

From your Kidzone kids and their leaders



Cont'd, "Their Business is Outrage"

Social media is not, in and of itself, bad. However, we must be very careful how we engage with it. We must be aware that there are people behind the curtain who are intentionally trying to manipulate us into being angry. We must rise above and remember that we serve the Prince of Peace.

The message of Christmas is that GOD IS WITH US. He came down in the midst of our chaos, "moved into the neighborhood," and showed us the Jesus Way of living. We, too, can embody the spirit of Christ when it comes to our world. We can, like Jesus, rise above the noise. In our world of chaos, we can point to our Lord Jesus as the Prince of Peace. In a world that thrives on conflict, controversy, and outrage, we can choose to follow Jesus instead. We can choose hope, love, joy, and peace.

SUNDAY/WEDNESDAY VOLUNTEERS

Nursery/Children's Church

You will be contacted for January

Youth Dinners

January 4-CIA/Pathfinders

January 11-Priscilla Circle

January 18-TNT

Counters

January 1-Janie Moore & Jami Warkentin

January 8-Trish House & Karen Wilder

January 15-Sondra Allen & Trena Biggs

January 22-Jack Vest & Kent Warkentin

Please arrange a replacement from the list if you are unable to attend.

*Merry Christmas
From the
SSUMC Staff to you and
your Families...*




...and a Happy New Year!

Prayer Box	Bruce Warren	Dave Kvach
	Dick Ford	Ruth Weaver
Howard Smith	Faye Lee Posey	Those who are suffering from
Elsie & Roger Jones	Leonard Brehm	illness due to flu, strep throat,
Pat & Allen Bordelon	Mary Lea Forsythe	colds, Covid and other viruses
Joe & Donna Woodruff	Max Schuerrmann	going around.
Betty & Linda Lund	Ralph Rand	
Montie & Betty Box	Marsha Riffe	

***We offer our
Prayers & Sympathy
to the family and friends of Betty
Smith who passed away at the
end of November.***

Sand Springs United Methodist Church Sunday Schedule
319 N. Main—918-245-5955—www.sandspringsumc.org
The Well—Family Life Center
101 W. 38th Street, Prattville

Sand Springs United Methodist Church Sunday Schedule
9:00 a.m.—Contemporary Worship
(Also streamed live online and uploaded to YouTube)
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m.—Traditional Worship

 *Sand Springs United Methodist Church*
319 No. Main St.
Sand Springs, OK 74063

Fourth Monday COMMUNITY MEAL <small>4th Monday of the Month Fellowship Hall • 5:30-7:00 p.m.</small>	January 23 February 27
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