

# FUMC Weekly Recap

*Sunday June 11th, 2023*

**MESSAGE: SEEING CLEARLY**

**SCRIPTURE: 1 CORINTHIANS 13:8-13**

**SPEAKER: KYLE ANDERSON**

**WORSHIP TIMES: 8:30AM TRADITIONAL  
10:00AM MODERN, 11:10AM BLENDED**



Our traditional service will be streamed on YouTube at 8:30am each Sunday  
<http://bit.ly/fumcstwchannel>



Our modern service will be streamed on Facebook Live at 10:00am each Sunday  
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/FUMCSTW/>



Our traditional service will be available on the radio at 8:30am each Sunday

KSPI 780 AM



## *Meet our New Director of Branding and Communications!*

Stillwater First UMC is excited to announce the hiring of Garrett Reding as our new Coordinator of Branding, Marketing, and Technology! Garrett is a long-term Stillwater resident, having graduated from both Stillwater High School and Oklahoma State University. He considers himself equal parts technology geek and Bible nerd with a passion to teach others and is blessed to serve the Lord alongside his wonderful wife, Anais, and daughter, Amelia. For the past eleven years, Garrett has served as both a Tech Theater Instructor and the Performing Arts Center Director at Stillwater High School. He has also worked in the live and studio music industries, both on and off stage, at various music venues, studios, and churches. Garrett has a deep love for God, mentoring students, and music writing. He is excited to bring his skills and experience to First UMC. Garrett will begin his role on June 5th, and you will see him on Sunday mornings in our tech booths, aiding our sound, lights, and video technologies during the services. As you see Garrett around First UMC, be sure to give him a warm welcome!

## *Retirement Party for Ed Davis*

You are invited to a come-and-go reception in honor of Ed Davis, Director of Worship and Music, for his twenty one years of service to Stillwater First UMC! The reception will be held from 3-5 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Family Life Center. If you are unable to attend but would like to share your appreciation with Ed, notes and cards can be dropped off at the church office or mailed to:

Ed Davis c/o  
First UMC  
400 West 7th Ave  
Stillwater, OK 74074

Also, note that Sunday, June 25th will be Ed's final Sunday of leading worship. We hope that you will make every effort to join us for one of our three morning worship services. Additionally, if you have sung in the choir before and would like to be part of singing for Ed's final weeks, you are welcome to join the choir on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Music Suite located on the first floor of the Sanctuary Building.

## *Special Thanks*

We offer our thanks to Heather Anderson, who has served as our Coordinator of Branding, Marketing, and Technology since August 2019. During that time, Heather has increased our social media presence, modified our website and weekly e-newsletter to be far more accessible, taken countless photos, written hundreds of articles, aided dozens of members with their technological needs, joined with other staff in moving our worship services online during a time when our members needed connection more than ever, and so much more. While you will still see Heather around, volunteering in many areas of the church, she will conclude her time as a member of the First UMC staff in mid-June. Be sure to share your appreciation with Heather when you see her!

## *Reflections from Annual Conference*

From May 22nd to May 24th, pastors and lay delegates from Stillwater First UMC attended the Oklahoma Annual Conference, which took place at Boston Avenue UMC in Tulsa. Below, you will find reflections from some of our attendees.

### **Kathy Heil, Lay Delegate**

**Connection:** a relationship in which a person, thing, or idea is linked or associated with something else.

"Connection" was the theme of this year's Oklahoma Annual Conference. What a difference there was compared to the special called conference in April of this year! This conference was filled with prayer, songs, laughter, and fellowship. We successfully elected delegates from the Oklahoma conference to attend the General Conference in April 2024.

Of special note was a report from missionary Willie Berman, who shared about a project in Rio Bravo, Mexico, called "Manos Juntas," meaning "Hands Together." Our conference is partnering with Mexican Methodist Churches to build houses, a community center, two medical centers, a 100-person children's daycare center, and a 300-person auditorium. Talk about connection! Additionally, we had a report from James Hunt, Campus Ministry Director at the Wesley Center on the OSU campus, which was of particular interest to our OSU community. This connection with young people allows them to find their people, their purpose, and Jesus. One of our OSU graduates has even been accepted into seminary.

Campus ministries across the state served 847 students, providing them with 22,158 meals this past year! The conference also presented a report on our Camp & Retreat ministries, which offer safe spaces for kids to learn and grow in service. Our camps in Oklahoma include Egan, Canyon, and Crosspoint.

God can and does change lives at camps!

We have so many wonderful and successful connectional ministries within the United Methodist Church. Stillwater First Church, let's give ourselves a hand. We ARE connected. Let's stay connected...

God bless you all.

### **Monty Karns, Lay Delegate**

The last few annual conferences have been very businesslike as the AC considered issues of disaffiliation. Those were a bit stressful. With his opening address, Bishop Nunn set a positive tone. He reminded the AC of the many divisions of Methodism over our 250-year history. He reminded us of the work we do, as a connectional system, in caring for a hurting world by being the hands and feet of Jesus. Tuesday afternoon was the election of General Conference delegates. During a pause in the process, a group of delegates began singing "Spirit of the Living God". Soon, all were singing, and then people were shouting out hymns to sing. After a bit, the Bishop remarked he had lost control, but it was in a good way as the sanctuary was filled with the Spirit. A longtime friend who has been to many

ACs commented it had been years since there had been that kind of Spirit at AC.

Yes, we are in a new phase of our denomination, but those congregations leaving will always be a part of UMC's history and will have many opportunities to share the gospel.

Christ once admonished his disciples by saying, "Those who are not against us are for us." May we remember that truth as well.

### **Martha McMillian, Northern Prairie District Lay Leader**

I must admit, I was a little anxious about this year's annual conference - anxious because of our Methodist church tensions and disaffiliations and anxious because I was scheduled to give a short, five-minute talk at the laity luncheon. My tension relaxed quickly after hearing the bishop's opening address on the importance of "connectedness" in our church and similar messages by other leaders throughout the conference. My message was about the importance of "inclusion" in our churches, sharing that as a youth in my small rural church in Yale, I loved being involved so much that I grew up thinking that I wanted to be a preacher, only to be told, "Little girls can't be preachers." That was my first exclusion, but I went on to love and be involved in the Methodist church. In the end, however, I feel it is important to include everyone in the church and in its leadership.

The highlight of the conference for me was our Stillwater FUMC Choir in Monday night's worship service. I have never been so proud. Everywhere I went during the next two days, people would stop me to say how much they enjoyed our singing. Thank you, Ed, for being our great director. I came away from the conference feeling proud to be a United Methodist - proud of our missions and messages, and equally proud of my local church for continuing to desire to remain connected.

We will feature Pastor Cindy's reflection in our next Weekly Recap!