

# BLANCHARD BEACON

February-March 2018



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## THIS MONTH

### MEETINGS

**WORSHIP - WED 2/7 & 3/7 8PM**

**SPRC - MON 2/12 6:30 PM**

**TRUSTEES - TUES 2/13 & 3/13 7 PM**

**FINANCE - MON 2/19 & 3/19 7 PM**

**ADMIN COUNCIL- MON 2/28 & 3/28**

**LADIES PRAYER TEAM - TUE 9:30 AM**

**TRUSTEES ON CALL FOR FEB/MAR**

**MAIN: GABE GREEN/LAURA MADDEN**

**SECONDARY - TBD/TBD**

**FEB/MAR BREAKFAST PROVIDED BY  
BELIEVERS/PRAISE SMALL GROUP**

## PREACHING SCHEDULE

2/4 - Jesus in Prayer

2/11 - Jesus on Mission

2/14 - Finding Your Way: Listening Deeply

2/18 - Finding Your Cave

2/25 - Finding Your Breath



## Pastors Note

Senior Pastor

Rev. David B. Johnson

[david@blanchardfumc.org](mailto:david@blanchardfumc.org)

# Priorities And Listening

The New Year is always a great time to reassess our priorities. It is so easy to get off track and distracted by the multitude of activities, obligations and self-imposed restrictions. So, we have to take those times to stop and RESET. That has been the discussion in the latest sermon series. For us as Christians our RESET has to begin with Jesus. I sometimes think we fool ourselves that Jesus is a priority. If asked, we would all agree that we believe in Jesus and that He is Lord and Savior. Yet when we assess where our time and our resources are spent I think we will recognize that Jesus is not our first priority.

That not only goes for our own lives and our families lives but also it is a time for us as a church to reassess our priorities as well for ministry. I would encourage us to think about Ministry and Mission. What are we doing through the church? It isn't an easy question I know. But we have to ask in order to go forward with a new RESET.

I believe our most important ministries include focus on Children, Youth and Missions. Missions include our Ministry Area, Blanchard. There is a story, as an example, attributed to Bill Parcells, the famous NFL football coach. He seems to have told a story about two salesmen who were sent to Australia to sell shoes to the Aborigines. After arriving, one called back to his boss and said, "There are no opportunities here; the natives don't wear shoes." But the other called back and said to his boss, "There are a lot of opportunities here. These people don't have any shoes!"

We can read the alarming statistics as a sign that North Americans "don't wear shoes" or that North Americans "don't have shoes." Leonard Sweet declared, "Christianity is now such a nonfactor in the wider culture that people are becoming open to it as if for the first time .

I believe that for Blanchard First United Methodist to remain vital and an influence in the community we just need to find the needs and meet those needs. Just like supplying shoes to those who don't have shoes.

For Lent we are beginning a Lenten Sermon Series titled "LISTEN". Let us take a great opportunity for prayer and listening to the Holy Spirit lead us toward the needs of our community.

*David*



# ASSISTANT PASTORS NOTE

ASSISTANT PASTOR GREG RAY  
GREG@BLANCHARDFUMC.ORG

Balancing Truth and Grace  
"For the Law was given through  
Moses; grace and truth were  
realized through Jesus Christ."  
(John 1:17, NASB)

One of our adult small groups is doing the study *The Trouble with the Truth: Balancing Truth & Grace*. In it, we are coming to grips with the fact that keeping truth and grace in the perfect balance is tough. In fact, only ONE did it perfectly, Jesus Christ. But that is not an out for us; we are each called to struggle with this tension as we grow in the faith.

How does one go about this? We live in a church culture today that tends, for the most part, to do a pretty good job of focusing on Grace (love, mercy, etc.). And that is a good thing. But we probably don't focus on the truth of Scripture with the same energy. Many reasons...we don't want to offend others, the culture has overtaken us, the post-modern world screams that every "truth" is valid. It can be confusing.

We may ask that age-old question asked of Jesus by Pilate, "What is Truth?" (John 18: 38) How do we find the truth? We find God's truth by studying His word; both individually and corporately. God wants us to learn together in community. Community keeps one from straying individually from the intent of God's Word. Through small groups and corporate worship we help each other find the truth by studying the life of the ONE who embodied grace & truth perfectly.

Something to reflect on this Lenten Season...

Humbly in His and your service,

Greg

Information about other  
Adult Small Groups available  
on the website  
[www.blanchardfumc.org](http://www.blanchardfumc.org)

*Ash Wednesday is Feb 14. We will have the Midweek Meal 5:30-6:30 pm, Ash Wed Service 6:30-7:00 pm, and classes 7-8 pm.*



## **What is Lent?**



### **He Chose the Nails 5-Week Group Study**



Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Learn more at: <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/what-is-lent-and-why-does-it-last-forty-days>

## **Lenten Studies**

Monday at 1 pm  
Main Building  
Starts Feb 19

Sunday at 9:45 am  
Christian Life Center (Breakfast before study)  
Starts Mar 4





Wednesday's  
Meal is 5:30-6:30 pm  
Connect Points for Adults, Youth  
& Children 6:30-7:30 pm  
(Nursery Available)

## MENU

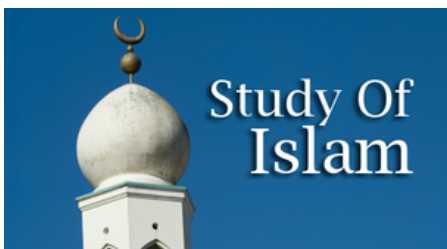
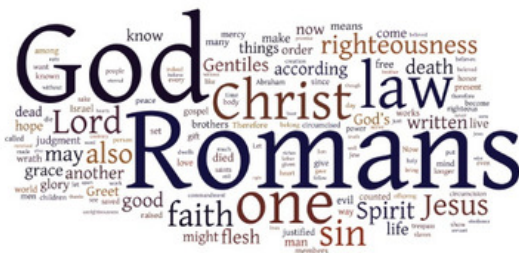
Feb 7	Hoagie Night	Feb 28	Chili Night
Feb 14	Fish & Chips	Mar 7	Breakfast Night
Feb 21	BBQ Night	Mar 14	Salad Night

## Semester 1 Adult Opportunities (Jan 24–Feb 28)

Understanding Addiction & How  
People Recover From It (Steve Byrd -  
M.DIV, LADC) – 6 weeks

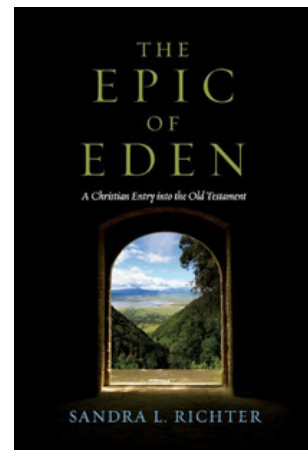


Romans “Do You Not Know?”  
(Ron Rogers) – 6 weeks



A Study of Islam (Bill Lester) – 6 weeks

The Epic of Eden: Understanding the  
Old Testament (Rev. David Johnson)  
– 12 weeks



## Semester 2 Adult Opportunities (Mar 7–Apr 25)

- The Epic of Eden: Understanding the Old Testament
- Studies on Prayer, the Holy Spirit and Marriage

Christmas Eve - Sun, Dec 24  
Candlelight Services at 7 and 11 pm

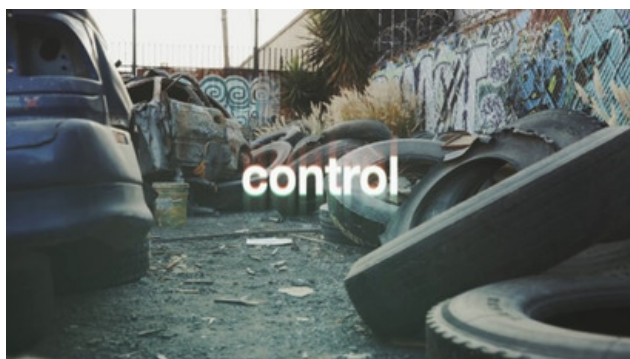


**SARAH SPRINGS**  
**STUDENT MINISTRIES DIRECTOR**  
**YOUTH@BLANCHARDFUMC.ORG**

**BIBLE STUDY    SUN NIGHTS**  
**WED NIGHTS    5-7 PM**  
**6:30-7:30 PM**

## EVENTS

No Youth on 2/11/18 due to Winter Retreat. We will leave on Fri, Feb 9 at 3:30 pm for Winter Retreat. Bring money for dinner. We plan to return by 5 pm on Sun, Feb 11.



**Youth Study during Midweek**  
**Connect Jan 24 - Apr 25**

### Upcoming Events

**Spring Break Mar 18-24** - Enjoy a week with friends at Beavers Bend State Park. Learn about how God has called you to lead. Register online at [www.refugeyouth.org](http://www.refugeyouth.org). Deadline is Mar 5.

**Home Groups** - look at [refugeyouth.org](http://refugeyouth.org) for more information.

**Indian Taco Fundraiser - Apr 29** - each student that works earns money off of their camp total.

Here is our list of Seniors graduating this year. If we missed someone, please let us know!

Carson Craig  
Pearce Hopper  
Mattie Green

Tyler McKenna  
Camden Cooper  
Tryston Ingram

Kash Kirchner  
Zack Williams  
Jaxson Stratton

Haley Pierson  
Jacob Rossow

More information available online at [www.refugeyouth.org](http://www.refugeyouth.org)

# KidMin

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**VOYAGERS -  
18 MO - PRE-K**

**EXPLORERS  
K-2ND GRADE**

**TRANSFORMERS  
3RD - 5TH GRADE**



**AMY BRICE**

CHILDRENS MINISTRY DIRECTOR  
CHILDREN@BLANCHARDFUMC.ORG

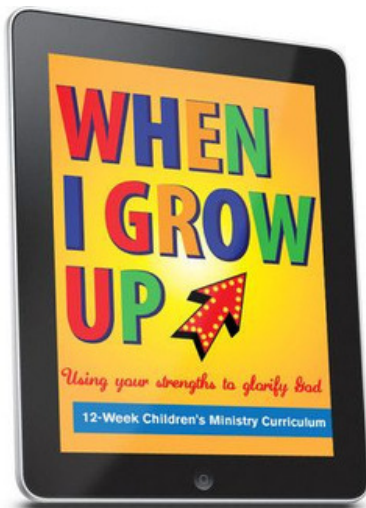
## CHILDRENS CHURCH

**2/4 - TARA STARKS**

**2/11 - AMY BRICE**

**2/18 - DONNA BROWN**

**2/25 - TBD**



Children's Study during  
Midweek Connect  
Jan 24 - Apr 25

## FAMILY DAY OUT

Join us on Sunday, February 18th at  
Skate Fever in Tuttle from 2pm-4pm for  
another fun Family Day Out!

Cost: \$10 per family includes skate  
rental and a small drink for those  
under 18.

Please register at  
[www.blanchardfumc.org/  
familydayout](http://www.blanchardfumc.org/familydayout) no later  
than February 15th.







# MUSIC NEWS

## CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

Our vocal choir as well as our bell choir rehearse every week. Please join us on Wednesdays from 6-7pm for bell choir and 7-8pm for vocal choir.



**James Harper**  
Music Director  
[James@blanchardfumc.org](mailto:James@blanchardfumc.org)

**WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BLESS US WITH THEIR TALENTS THROUGH SPECIAL MUSIC. PLEASE CONTACT JAMES FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

## The Joyful Noise Choir

Thursdays 6:00 -6:45 p.m.

Pre-k - 8th grade

Tone Chimes, Percussion, and  
Singing!



**Tammy Harper**  
Children's Choir Director  
[HarperTam6@gmail.com](mailto:HarperTam6@gmail.com)





## 2018 SEASON INFO

**Games Every Saturday**  
**UPWARD Celebration: Mar 3rd**  
**Game Makeup Day : Mar 3rd**  
**(Before Celebration If Needed)**



## Stephen Ministers Are There to Care

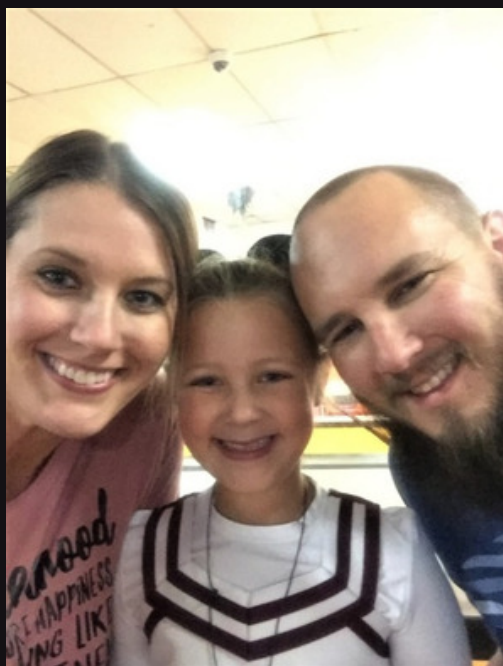
**Are you going through a difficult time - emotionally, spiritually, or relationally? Are you lonely, experiencing a crisis, or simply stressed by everyday life? You don't have to suffer alone. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you and provide confidential one on one Christian care to help you through whatever it is you may be facing. To find out more, talk with Pastor David or Stephen Ministries Leader Susan Roberts (214-418-8367)**



## THE HILLTOPPERS TRIPS AND OUTINGS

- Feb 10 - Take Valentines & Flowers to Nursing Home and eat at KT's - meet at FUMC at 5:30 pm.
- Mar 16 - Tour OKC Memorial Museum and have lunch at Earl's Rib Place in Bricktown - leave FUMC at 11 am.
- Apr 25-27 - See Samson at Sight & Sound Theater in Branson, MO - leave FUMC at 7 am.
- May 18 - See Express Clydesdales and have lunch at Lokal in Yukon - leave FUMC at 9 am.

Questions, please contact Tresa at 255-2309 or Beth at 918-230-7491



# FAMILY OF THE MONTH

## Derek, Bailey and Rylee Black

### **Tell us a little bit about yourself or family:**

We are originally from Ardmore, OK and both attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, OK. We have one daughter, Rylee, who is 7 years old and attends Blanchard Elementary. We enjoy doing things together such as going to the movies, playing sports and helping Rylee in her many activities.

### **How long have you lived in Blanchard?**

We have lived in Blanchard for 7+ years.

### **How long have you been attending 1st UMC? What brought you here? What do you like about 1st United Methodist Church - Blanchard? Are you involved in any ministries?**

We began attending Blanchard FUMC in 2016. We were searching for a home church, primarily for Rylee to be able to attend with her classmates. We attended a couple of other churches in the area, but felt more welcomed at BFUMC! The one thing that brought us back, and is still something we appreciate the most, is it is a judgement free atmosphere. Everyone makes you feel welcomed to be there! We are active in our small group 'Serendipity', helping with Parent's Night Out and making delicious breakfasts with our group! We are also active in Upward basketball, where Derek has coached for the last 3 years.

### **What is your favorite scripture(s)?**

Philippians 4:13 – I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Colossians 3:23 – Whatever you do, do it with your whole heart as if working for the lord and not for man.



# FINANCES

**Sheila Koons**

**Administrative Assistant**

**sheila@blanchardfumc.org**

The following shows where we are on the financial Operations & Maintenance costs of the church through Dec 2017:

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Tithes	353,933.80	Programming	27,440.61
Loose Plate	6,181.02	Missions (i.e. apportionments)	38,514.54
Building Use	1,830.00	Ministerial Comp.	74,756.67
Interest (Checking/MM)	1,576.81	Compensations	127,344.79
Midweek Connect	839.01	Operating Exp	10,107.44
Sm Grp/Christian Edu Reimb	1,587.93	Property Exp	163,335.87
Other	<u>12,319.20</u>	Outside Budget Exp	<u>2,231.60</u>
Total Income	376,067.77	Total Expenses	443,731.52

This leaves a balance of \$95,366.13 in the available account. Please note that building principal, interest, and fees are included in Property Expense line.

2016 Balance—Building Fund	\$92,193.18
2016 Balance—2nd Floor Designated	43,528.50
2016 Balance—Debt Only Designated	2,550.00
CLC Income (excluding designated) Jan-Dec 2017	61,733.00
Designated Debt Only Jan-Dec 2017	6,957.00
CLC Interest / Other Income Jan-Dec 2017	603.63
Designated 2nd Floor Only Jan-Dec 2017	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL Building Income {including previous balance}	\$207,565.31
CLC Debt Service (payments made on CLC loan) 2017	<b>\$109,805.76</b>
Other CLC Payments—Debt Reduction (plus fees for early pmt)	<b>3,903.18</b>
Other CLC Payments—2nd Floor (not loan related)	<u><b>14,474.00</b></u>
TOTAL Building Expenses	<b>\$128,182.94</b>
CLC Building Fund Balance (92,193.18 + 61,733 + 603.63—109,805.76)	\$44,723.45
Designated 2nd Floor Balance (43,528.50—14,474)	29,054.50
Designated Debt Only Balance (2,550 + 6,957—3,903.18)	5,603.82

This leaves a balance of \$71,823.04 in the building fund account.





# **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

**1 Joan Turner  
4 Jonathan Brice  
4 Richard Starks  
6 Charla Solomon  
7 Roy Gonzales  
7 Shel Harrington  
10 Jill Stephens  
10 Sharron Skaggs  
10 Loxton Jirak  
13 Shanna Stallings  
13 Carmen Gunter  
13 Tammy Harper  
15 Randee Green  
16 Cindy Johnson  
17 Dan Lynch  
19 Dolly Kennedy  
22 Greg Wehrer  
26 Mary Nell Bowser**

## **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

**5 Don and Kay Wilcoxson  
21 Gabe and Randee Green  
26 Al and Cindy James  
29 David and Joy Swihart**

## **MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

**1 Jonathan and Amy Brice  
7 Ron and Beth Rogers  
8 Thorne and Shanna Stallings  
9 Don and Teresa Thomason  
11 George and Linda Lopez**

## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

**1 Patsy Wehrer  
2 Becky Wyman  
3 Steve Harrington  
4 Anna Biggers Vauklick  
6 Ron Rogers  
7 Vernon Mitchell  
9 Bradley Berry  
10 Derek Black  
11 Lynn Tentou  
13 Shannon Ellis  
14 Tyler Vakulick  
14 Carley Craig  
15 Blake Woods  
18 Alisha Mazur  
18 Abigail Alexander  
18 Gabe Green  
19 Thorne Stallings  
23 Hannah Biggers  
23 Jeff Craig  
24 Peggy Knippelmier  
25 Eileen Vaklulick  
26 Tim Nagode  
26 Bobby Skaggs  
30 Wayne Wehrer**

**If we have  
missed your  
birthday or  
anniversary,  
please contact  
Sheila in the  
church office to  
have your  
name added to  
the  
birthday/anni  
versary list.**

**12 Travis and Suzanne Williams  
15 David and Cindy Johnson  
18 Richard and Kimberly Schat  
18 Darrin and Alisa Ingram  
21 Gary and Sharon Hoffman**

# What's Happening at FUMC





# RESOURCES



Are you looking for a great resource for personal growth and positive children's programming?  
Sign up today for RightNow Media.  
See Greg for additional details.

Making  
generosity  
simple...



A new easy way to support the church either  
through online or mobile giving.  
Visit the website at [www.blanchardfumc.org](http://www.blanchardfumc.org) or  
text BFUMC to 77977 .

## CONNECT WITH THE CHURCH ONLINE



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website  
[www.blanchardfumc.org](http://www.blanchardfumc.org)

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