

THE SOUNDS OF SUNNY LANE



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A PATHWAY OF HOPE

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 5

May 1, 2022

SUNNY LANE GRADUATES HONORED ON MAY 15TH

This year Sunny Lane has five members graduating from an area high school. Our Seniors will be recognized in the late worship service on Sunday, May 15th, in the 10:50 a.m. worship service.



Our graduates are as follows:

Shirlene Cunanan

Parents – Philip Cunanan and Vanessa Gulley
Grandparents – Jose and Lina Cunanan
Mustang High School

Tanner Smith

Parent – Buffi Smith
Grandparents – Russell and Cathy Marooney
Del City High School

Matthew Wilcox

Parents – Jeff and Colleen Wilcox
Grandparents – Mary Wilcox
Russell and Cathy Marooney
Del City High School

Kolby Sweeney

Parents – Ed and Joy Sweeney
Midwest City High School

Thomas Hawley

Parent – Stephanie Hawley
Great Grandparent – Inez Wade
Del City High School



"BECKY GUNION SCHOLARSHIP" BREAKFAST, MAY 1ST

Join the Merry Weds, Etc. Sunday School class for breakfast on May 1st from 8:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. That means you will have a great hot breakfast and help support the education of our church's seniors and persons getting higher education degrees or certifications!

If you cannot come to the breakfast and want to contribute to the scholarships, please add your contribution in the offering plate designated to "Becky Gunion Scholarship." If you have any questions, please contact Tom Duhon, 405-532-3852.



SUNDAY, MAY 8TH

We welcome you on this day to honor not only God but our mothers and all the women who influenced our lives. God has blessed us in so many ways, and as we will worship together that day, let's give thanks and worship the God who has given us the gift of family.

LYNN'S LYNES "SAYING BYE IS NEVER EASY"



I would imagine that most of you know by now that I have made the decision to retire from the ministry effective August 1st. My final Sunday to preach at Sunny Lane will be June 19th. Your next pastor, the Reverend Adam Young from The Colony, TX, will begin preaching here on the following Sunday, June 26th.

We have purchased a new home in Amarillo, TX and will be moving there after our last Sunday here at Sunny Lane. In some aspects, we are returning to my roots; I was raised in the Texas panhandle at Spearman. Currently, my brother and sister (along with their spouses) both reside in Amarillo. So, in a sense, the Brack siblings are getting back together. Our new address will be: 7813 Pineridge Drive; Amarillo, TX 79119.

Kelly and I would want all of you to know how grateful we are to have had the privilege of serving as your pastoral family the past four years. You have treated us, and our children, with extravagant hospitality and graciousness. We could never have imagined being in a church setting with any more love, acceptance, and care than what you have shared with us. Your cards, calls, gifts, prayers, and outpouring of love during our time with you have simply been overwhelming. The words "THANK YOU" are entirely inadequate . . . but please know and receive our heartfelt appreciation for your tender mercies and blessings.

Some of you have asked me why I'm retiring now. That's a fair question. I turn 70 years old this year; that's one reason although I had hoped to remain as your pastor until age 72 (2024), which is the mandatory retirement age by the *Book of Discipline* in the UMC. But with the pending split coming to our beloved denomination, I simply felt I needed to exit before the unfortunate break-up of the Church takes place. Also, I am navigating through some health issues that have encouraged me to retire.

So . . . peace be with you all. Saying good-bye is never easy for most of us. I find it particularly challenging, especially as we take leave of you guys. But God is with us; we are not alone in these times. You will continue to serve our Lord in the wonderful ways for which Sunny Lane is famous! Thanks be to God!

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR NEXT PASTOR THE REVEREND ADAM YOUNG

(Info supplied by Adam from his resume sent to our SPPRC)

My Mission Statement: To work wholeheartedly for Jesus Christ by leading the Church to become more spiritually vital, inclusive, and just.

My Leadership Gifts: I am a relational leader with the ability to create vision, ideas, and strategy. I enjoy working collaboratively and have an entrepreneurial spirit. I thrive on creating a culture of positivity. I am an Enneagram 3, and a Meyers-Briggs ENFP.

Ordination Info: Commissioned in 2015, and Ordained an Elder in 2018.

Ministry Experience:
Senior Pastor—Currently at First UMC, The Colony, TX | July 2019 to present

Associate Pastor, Youth, & Contemporary Worship—Spring Valley UMC, Richardson, TX | July 2015 to June 2019

Director of Youth and Young Adults—Preston Hollow UMC, Dallas, TX | May 2012 to June 2015

Assistant Youth Director—First UMC, Rockwall, TX | July 2010 to May 2012

Education Summary: Graduated from Southern Methodist University, Perkins School of Theology with a Master's in Divinity degree in May 2012. Graduated Cum Laude, with a GPA of 3.7. Graduated from Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, OK with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Marketing in May 2006.

CHURCH FINANCIALS AS OF MARCH 31, 2022

(Figures taken from our bank statements)

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance 3/1/22	\$ 49,586.76
Deposits	+ 39,134.95
Withdrawals	- 41,401.26
Ending Balance 3/31/22	\$ 47,320.45

NOW ACCOUNT (Savings)

Beginning Balance 3/1/22	\$ 53,190.49
Deposits	+ 241.22
Withdrawals	- 00.00
Ending Balance 3/31/22	\$ 53,431.71

SAMARITAN FUND

Beginning Balance 3/1/22	\$ 3,611.86
Deposits	+ 561.65
Withdrawals	- 460.00
Ending Balance 3/31/22	\$ 3,713.52



THANKS TO TOM HRUBIK, OUR LOCAL LAY SERVANT (LAY SPEAKER)

Our own TOM HRUBIK will be leading worship and preaching on two up-coming Sundays, May 1st and May 15th. Tom is a certified Lay Servant (Lay Speaker) and does a fantastic job for us.

Tom is covering for me on May 1st, which is the Sunday after our daughter's wedding on April 30th. And then Tom is preaching for me on May 15th as I recover from a medical procedure. A great big THANK YOU to Tom Hrubik!

OUR FUN LOVING GOD

Whence comes this idea that if what we are doing is fun, it can't be God's will? The God who made giraffes, a baby's fingernails, a puppy's tail, a crook necked squash, the bobwhite's call and a young girl's giggle has a sense of humor. Make no mistake about that.

—Catherine Marshall





Our purpose: *Helping men to grow in Christ, so others can know Christ.*

We held our April meeting on April 18th. Our dinner this meeting was prepared by David Freno and Jim Coonfield. Thank you guys.

This meeting was spent on the final details for grinding sausage on April 22nd. We had ordered 2,400 pounds of pork to grind. And what a grind it was.

I and all the United Methodist Men want to thank each and every one who came and helped cut, mix, grind, weigh and wrap the sausage. We had a super turnout. I wish I could thank everyone by name but that would take up the whole newsletter. We had folks who aren't members come and help, and went away with the willingness to return next time. Thank you again.

Not only did we grind sausage, we held the first Pancake and Sausage Breakfast since February 2019. We had a wonderful turnout for that. It was great to see members, non-members, families and friends gather not just for the breakfast, but also for the social interaction. This whole experience for those who helped was very tiring but was most enjoyable at the same time. Oh, and if you are wondering, we have no extra to sell. It is all gone. Our next grind will be in October.

I say again, thank you all who helped on Friday and Saturday, to each of you who ordered sausage, and everyone who came to breakfast. Everyone of you have contributed to helping support the United Methodist Men in achieving our mission.

Please remember our new ministry/service. If you or someone close to you has a need for a small handyman job around the house, give us a holler. Need some limbs trimmed, yard work,

light bulbs changed, furniture moved let us know. Depending on what it is and our available expertise, we may very well be able to help solve your problem. Don't worry, if its something we just can't do, we will let you know and point you in the right direction for another source of help.

Our next meeting will be on May 16th. I am still working on a program. All men of the church are invited and will be very much welcomed. Hope to see you there.

Until then:
Peace and Blessings
Dean Sparkman
President



United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

We are learning to use our new name, United Women in Faith, while carrying on with our usual projects and mission.

April has been a wonderful month for us! On April 2nd, eight of our members were able to travel to Lindsey for our Heartland District Day Apart led by Rev. Nancy McCullough. After missing this gathering due to the pandemic, we enjoyed fellowship with UWIF sisters and receiving an awesome message from Rev. McCullough.

Hats off to everyone who was able to help the men with sausage grind. They could not do it without you. Our Alice Hutchison stepped out to lead our silent auction and bake sale. Her leadership made those projects successful raising funds for our missions. Thanks Alice!

Grace and peace to all!

Skyline Update

Here is a **Skyline** update (no longer referred to as Skyline Urban Ministries):

We dropped some donations at Skyline and had some medical supplies like diabetes medical strips and pins, and we asked if they could be of use. They are getting their **Wellness Program** going and said that they could certainly use the medical supplies. Here is some information on their **Wellness Program**:

Skyline, in partnership with the **Lynn Institute**, is offering a **FREE** 12-week wellness course. Participants must have diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease or be pre-diabetic or overweight.

BENEFITS:

- Reduce risk of diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and heart attack
- Lose weight and keep it off
- Learn to plan and cook delicious, healthy recipes that are quick and easy
- Manage stress reduction
- Discover healthy, hopeful ways to navigate challenges
- Feel good again

INCENTIVES:

- 1-on-1 meetings every quarter with Dietitian, Resource Worker, Healthcare Provider and Hope Navigator
- 12 weekly nutrition, cooking and fitness classes
- 12 weekly meal kits
- 1 year of supplemental healthy food boxes with Skyline store monthly shopping
- Minimum of 3 Skyline store shopping days will coincide with classes
- Health screenings for blood glucose, cholesterol, blood pressure, and BMI values to assist in tracking progress

If you have medical supplies that are not expired, please bring them to the church and we can get them to Skyline.

Thank you for helping this vital program in our community! Tom and Donna Duhon 405-532-3852

Bunny Hop Success

When they say "it takes a village", I say "it takes a church family"! You came through as SLUMC always does. We asked for volunteers to park in the east lot, pop the trunk, decorate and pass out candy filled eggs or whatever for our 1st Easter Bunny Car Hop, we were hoping for maybe 20...We got 23 cars and lots of volunteers to pass out lots and lots of candy filled eggs and other treats! We even had the Easter Bunny herself (no, not my Kim) make an appearance with her apprentice. There were lots of photo ops with all the kiddos.

Let me set the scene...Saturday morning...I had been praying and praying for rain to hold off until afternoon. It never rained Saturday but I learned an interesting lesson. "One must be specific with prayer, I forgot to include no wind and warmer temps! So...we had volunteers in coats, stocking caps, gloves and blankets. Several of us voted to build a bonfire in the parking lot but you were all troopers and put up with the strong winds and cold temps until 12:30.

Now, the clicker counter read 72 hoppers, but I say always round up so I'm reporting nearly 80! Some dressed for the weather while others dressed for a sunny and warm Earth Day. Everyone had a smile and thanks to our church family for doing all we do for their kids. We got a lot of positive feedback.

Did I report we were prepared for 300 hoppers? You out did yourselves with our plea for candy and eggs! Everyone had a full basket when they left and a smile in their heart! So please pat each other on the back! Thank you egg and candy donators, thank you egg stuffers, thank you Jo Ellen for decorating the flyer and signup sheet. A big thanks to all who came out in gale force winds and faithfully passed out goodies for 1 1/2 hours and still left laughing and smiling. Thanks to EB (Easter Bunny) and apprentice (Maddie). We couldn't have done it without ALL of you! I am so very blessed to be a small part of this church, but together we can move mountains! Thanks also to Pastor for letting us run with this idea.

Love you all-
Darlene



RETURNS TO SUNNY LANE WEDNESDAY, MAY 11TH

Life Line Screening can provide meaningful benefits for your body and mind. That's why we're committed to delivering accurate results and recommendations that could give a healthier advantage in your everyday life.

- Early detection of serious conditions
- Prevention of disease progression
- Peace of mind so you can enjoy life
- Savings with more affordable screenings
- Control, no insurance required

To schedule a screening call (800) 718-0961.

Things Moms Would Never Say

"How on earth can you see the TV sitting so far back?"

"Yeah, I used to skip school a lot, too"

"Just leave all the lights on...it makes the house look more cheery"

"Let me smell that shirt -- Yeah, it's good for another week"

"Go ahead and keep that stray dog, honey. I'll be glad to feed and walk him every day"

"Well, if Timmy's mom says it's OK, that's good enough for me."

"The curfew is just a general time to shoot for. It's not like I'm running a prison around here."

"I don't have a tissue with me... just use your sleeve"

"Don't bother wearing a jacket - the wind-chill is bound to improve"

MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 30TH



More than 150 years ago, Memorial Day took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike.

By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.



Bunny Hop volunteers distributed eggs and candy from the Hop to Autumn House, Sienna, Homestead Asst. Living, and some other locations.

Homestead Asst. Living (Timberwood) was overwhelmed with the donation of candy filled eggs from SLUMC.

Autumn House sent a card reading as follows:

"Thank you for the 'egging'! We hope you guys had a wonderful Easter? Our residents will enjoy this gift—this year the candy and next year we will reuse the eggs!"

Sunny Lane thanks the volunteers who made the deliveries. Indeed it was a great 1st Bunny Hop!!

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM OUR
BISHOP, JAMES G. NUNN

April 7, 2022

(the following is an excerpt taken from a larger message sent to all Oklahoma clergypersons)

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

Several rumors and some misinformation have been circulating within both the conference and general church. I wish to address a few of them.

The Oklahoma Conference of the UMC will continue to exist after the next General Conference. While the composition of Annual Conferences across the country will likely change in the coming months and years, there will continue to be a UMC and an Oklahoma Annual Conference. I invite and encourage every church and pastor to continue to be a part of the conference.

If a local church votes to recommend that they disaffiliate from the UMC, the Annual Conference will assist the church in completion of all requirements for disaffiliation. The details of the process are on the Conference website. The Oklahoma Conference Leadership and Board of Trustees manages the disaffiliation process through the Office of Transitional Ministries. Following a vote of a local church to recommend that they leave the UMC, a vote of the Oklahoma Annual Conference to approve their disaffiliation is required. No process to leave the UMC is complete without a majority vote of the Annual Conference.

It has come to my attention that some UM clergy and laity are calling meetings to encourage churches and pastors to leave the UMC. None of these meetings are official. Sadly, I have received numerous reports that some of these meetings are creating anxiety and conflict centered around departing the UMC to become part of the Global Methodist Church (GMC), which has announced a launch date of May 1, 2022.

All official meetings endorsed by the Oklahoma Conference will be called through the Ministry Center, Office of Transitional Ministries, or the district office. No pastor or church has the authority to conduct a meeting that promotes leaving the UMC.

Pastors should not place undue pressure on a local church to disaffiliate. The rights to voice and vote at a Church Conference shall be preserved. Disaffiliation votes require a majority of 2/3 of the professing members of the local church present and voting. Abstentions are counted in the total vote, so 2/3 of the total votes must be in favor of disaffiliation. There is no process that I will recognize that circumvents the right of a local church to its voice and vote. In other words, a small group in a local church or the conference will not "vote itself out of the denomination and everyone must follow" without due process. Those rights are protected at a properly called Church Conference, called by the District Superintendent.

One may wonder why I share any information about the GMC and other options for local churches deciding to disaffiliate. I am sharing the information because it has been the consistent policy of the Oklahoma Conference Leadership and Board of Trustees to treat one another with respect, love, and to be clear about policies and processes. I have received reports that it is being stated that Oklahoma Conference personnel and even that I have been acting with hidden agendas. This accusation is not true.

The Oklahoma Annual Conference will be held May 22-26. A special-called session of the Annual Conference will be called for October 21-22, 2022. The Standing Rules of the Conference may not be changed to address issues at any called special session. The specifics of the called conference, to be announced after Easter, will guide the process.

THE CHANGEOVER ZONE: SUCCESSFUL PASTORAL TRANSITIONS

"Passing the Baton" during COVID & denominational uncertainty

A church enters "The Changeover Zone" when the decision is finalized that it will receive a new pastor. This experience of Passing the Baton to a new leader can be a time of anxiety and apprehension... but the good news is that, when it is done well, it brings excitement, enthusiasm, and purpose!

THE THREE BIG KEYS TO GREAT RESULTS IN PASTORAL CHANGES

- 1 INTENTIONALITY**
develop a clear plan and work the plan
- 2 CREATIVITY**
create "Wow!" moments while saying "goodbye" and "hello"
- 3 POSITIVITY**
Building momentum for a culture of trust and unity

PASSING THE BATON SEMINARS SPRING 2022 (ONLINE)

The three dates to select from are:

May 3 from 2:00 pm (Clergy Emphasis)

May 12 from 7:00 pm (Laity Emphasis)

May 19 from 7:00 pm (either Laity or Clergy)

Webinars are free, but please register at the link below

<https://okumc-reg.brtapp.com/PassingBatonWebinars2022>



"Thank you, Jim. I appreciate all of your help and feel we got this appointment right along with rebuilding trust with the leadership. We could not have done this without your help and expertise. I will be more than happy to share with my colleagues your help in this matter and the work that you bring to assist us in this kind of work."

Bishop David Graves, Alabama - West Florida Conference



"Thank you so much for this training! I was so nervous about the movebut everything you taught us has proven to be right on target! And it has been amazing to watch our church's excitement, energy, and growth during this time. Everyone loved the Listening Tour!"

Rev. Tim Jones- Sycamore Tree UMC, Tennessee



Thanks to Jim's impactful, cogent training the Crossroads leadership and community at large are energized and excited to proceed with purpose. Jim's training was clear and filled with rich examples for ALL members. I received multiple calls and texts asking to volunteer. I'm convinced that this was due to Jim's training."

Charlotte Farmer, SPR Chair, Crossroads UMC Virginia

MORE BENEFITS OF THE CHANGEOVER ZONE WORKSHOP



Flexible Format



1 Free Follow-up Consultation per Church



Comprehensive Workbook



15 Proven Takeaway Resources

Dr. Jim Ozier is the founder of the Difference Makers Group, and is a church coach, consultant, and workshop presenter who has trained more than 20,000 United Methodist pastors and church leaders in the areas of church culture, pastoral searches and transitions, hospitality, and accelerated growth. Jim is well known for his fast-paced, interactive, fun-filled workshops that inspire, energize, and motivate. Jim is the co-author of the book, "The Changeover Zone: Successful Pastoral Transitions"

JIM OZIER


M.214.693.0290

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<p>P.J.'s Flowers and Gifts (405) 672-1641</p> <p>Aromatique Plants Weddings Boyd's Bears Candles Fruit and Gift Baskets</p> <p>www.pjsflowersandgiftshop.com</p>	<p>THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE</p>
<p>United Methodist Women Jaci Freno – President Call 677-3347 for information All the women of the church are invited.</p>	<p>DJ Roofing & Construction, LLC Residential & Commercial Jim McFarland 405-219-5014 John McFarland 405-819-0231 Fax 405-259-9088 Email jmcfarland21@cox.net</p>
<p>Warfel Body Shop, Inc Gardit Spray-on Bedliners Paintless Dent Repairs Mike Warfel</p> <p>7000 S. Sooner Rd. Oklahoma City, OK (405) 737-7733 73135</p>	<p>SKYLINE URBAN MINISTRIES 500 SE 15th St Oklahoma City, OK 73129 405-632-2644 Providing a food pantry, eye clinic, and clothing resources</p>
<p>NIEGHBORHOOD SERVICES ORGANIZATION 431 SW 11th Oklahoma City, OK 73109 405-236-0452 Providing nutrition services, dental clinic,</p>	<p> Our Neighbor's Closet A repurpose shop for our neighborhood Hours Thursday, 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.</p>