



# THE SPIRIT

Questions  
Jesus  
Asked

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | AUGUST 2025

## St. Paul UMC

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### Learning Tree Preschool Director

**Abigail Shaw**

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### Learning Tree Teacher

**Tiffany Kanny**

### Learning Tree Teacher Assistants

## August Sermon Series: Questions Jesus Asked

We often think of Jesus as having the answers for our lives, and typically he does. But we sometimes forget that Jesus also asked questions. In fact, he asked a lot of questions! Estimates of how many vary because of translations, duplicates in the Gospels, and the absence of punctuation in the original manuscripts, but it seems he asked around 150-300+ questions. The crazier thing? It appears he only answers three or four questions that he's asked.

I guess that this is because Jesus knew something that many of the great thinkers since him have realized also, that questioning is the greatest form of learning. Jesus used asking questions as a way to make people ponder, wrestle, and test their assumptions and beliefs. While he was asking questions, he was using them to teach.

And so, over the month of August we're going to look at five questions that Jesus asked in scripture:

**"Why are you so afraid?"**

**"What do you want me to do for you?"**

**"Do you want to be made well?"**

**"Who do you say that I am?"**

**"Do you love me?"**

What can we learn from these questions? What is Jesus asking of us? What is Jesus trying to teach us in asking these questions? How do these questions shape how we live as Christians today? I hope we're going to discover some of these answers together over the month of August. And I hope that in the process, we might learn to ask some questions as well.

I can't wait to worship with everyone on Sunday! I hope to see you there! And bring someone with you!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dylan



INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH



# THANK YOU!!



**Back to School - Special Prayer  
"Blessing of the Schoolbags"**  
11:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 10

**Bring your teacher's bag,  
sachel, or school pack for  
the blessing service.**

For teachers, administrators,  
students, and support staff.



**VBS Volunteers, Helpers, and all the "pray-ers!"**

***We are growing! And that means you are an important part of how things are accomplished at St. Paul. Consider volunteering in any of these areas that are open:***

### **Once a MONTH**

8:45 a.m. Greeter (1st, 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sundays)

11:00 a.m. Usher (5th Sunday)

10:00 a.m. Children's SS helpers

(1x a month rotation: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th Sundays)

### **One MONTH at a time (Oct., Nov., Dec.)**

10:00 a.m. Youth Sunday School (Starts September!)

**Volunteer**

**Volunteer!**

### **VOLUNTEER FOR THE CHILDREN**

Sign up for **one Sunday a month rotation** to be a helper for the children's 10:00 a.m. SS class with Kathy Eskridge. Text Barbara Kent 918-840-0104 and let her know which Sunday you can volunteer each month.

Thank you.



### **Youth Sunday School Teachers** (1 month at a time)

Our student's will rotate up in their Sunday School classes in September. We are so excited to announce that we currently have children that consistently attend each Sunday and they will rotate into the Youth SS Class.

**Consider teaching the SS Youth Class for a 1 month period.** Curriculum can be provided or you can choose your own. We have a volunteer for September already so, let's get **October, November, December covered!**

*Barbara Kent 918-840-0104 email: [bkent@stpaulmuskogee.com](mailto:bkent@stpaulmuskogee.com)*



# AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3 <b>COMMUNION SERVICE</b>  Worship Services 8:45 am - Rowsey Chapel 10:00 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Sanctuary	4	5	6	7	1	2
10 <b>Blessing of the School Bags</b> 11:00 a.m.  Worship Services 8:45 am - Rowsey Chapel 10:00 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Sanctuary	11	12 11:00 a.m. Bible Study  5:30 PM Bridges	13 <b>First Day Muskogee Schools</b>  6:00 p.m. Youth Group	14	8	9
17  Worship Services 8:45 am - Rowsey Chapel 10:00 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Sanctuary	18	19 11:00 a.m. Bible Study  5:30 PM Bridges	20  <b>CHANCEL CHOIR</b> 6:00 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	21	22	23
24  Worship Services 8:45 am - Rowsey Chapel 10:00 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Sanctuary	25  5:30 pm Finance 6:30 pm Trustees	26 11:00 a.m. Bible Study  5:30 PM Bridges	27  6:00 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	28	29	30
31  Worship Services 8:45 am - Rowsey Chapel 10:00 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Sanctuary	<b>1 September LABOR DAY</b>	2 11:00 a.m. Bible Study  Learning Tree Open House 5:30 PM Bridges	3 <b>First Day!</b> Learning Tree Preschool 9AM-2PM 6:00 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	4	5 Learning Tree Preschool 9AM-2PM	6

## Weekly at St. Paul:

### Monday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)  
9:00 CARD Senior Nutrition Program

### Tuesday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)  
9:00 CARD Senior Nutrition Program  
9:30 Staff Meeting  
11:00 Open Bible Study  
PM 12:00 Al-Anon  
5:30 Bridges Out of Poverty  
6:00 Emotions Anonymous (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>)

### Wednesday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)  
9:00 CARD Senior Nutrition Program  
PM 6:00 Youth Group (6-12 Grade)  
7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)  
9:00 CARD Senior Nutrition Program  
PM 6:30 It's in the Book (AA) Women only  
6:30 Good Shepherd Clinic (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>)

### Friday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)  
9:00 CARD Senior Nutrition Program

### Saturday:

AM 9:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)

### Sunday:

AM 8:45 Worship—Rowsey Chapel  
10:00 Sunday School  
11:00 Worship—Sanctuary

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
**Mon.—Thurs. 8AM-4PM & Fri. 8AM-3PM**



# Birthdays

3 Rhonda Beard	21 Raymond Griffin
4 Natalie Foster	22 Roberta Hamilton
5 Carol Cooper	24 Nicole Houser
5 Kem Hearon	24 Warren Wagner
11 Charles Weeks	24 Jennifer Neely
12 Charlene Pruden	25 Eldon Stone
15 Brinton Foster	26 Sam Cox
18 Steve Odell	30 Terry Gregg
18 Lynette Lambert	30 Carole Elliott
18 Sally Hilfiger	30 Sherry Hotchkiss
18 Jim Fuller	31 Beth Dunn
19 Erin Goss	

# Altar Flowers

to the glory of God

- Aug. 3** Karren Rogers, in loving memory of Jimmy Rogers from his family.
- Aug. 10** Joanne Nilsson, in loving memory of Julianne Nilsson.
- Aug. 17** Rob Sandlin, in memory of his father, Forney Sandlin. May his memory be eternal. Also in honor of Dorothy Sandlin on her birthday, may God grant her many years.
- Aug. 24** Doug Hendricks, dedicated to and in appreciation of our Audio/Video team, Don, Dennis, Faye, and Jeanne, who make it possible for the homebound, those in nursing homes or in the hospital to be a part of our Sunday worship service every week.
- Aug. 31** Dennis Smith, in honor of Donnie Smith on his 91st Birthday, September 6, 2025.

## USHER MINISTRY

### 8:45 a.m. Ushers

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sun.:** Jim Davis, Mark Unger
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun.:** Marilyn Gilder, Jo Gibbs
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun.:** Omar Reed, Virgil Rose
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sun.:** Don Elgin, Omar Reed
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sun.:** Bob & Bonnie Belle Dunkelberger



### 11:00 a.m. Ushers

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sun.:** Mike Pierceall, Michael Blakeslee, Ted Hine, Ed Johnson, Weldon Key
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun.:** Ron Wright, Don Elgin, Todd Graybill, John Griffin, Scott Kanny, Manny Ramirez
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun.:** Johnny Broome, Scott & Sam Hensley, Jim Neely, Bob Woods
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sun.:** Erin Goss, Diane Beach, Jenee' Hensley, Amber Hilfiger, Patty Ramirez, Margaret Thacker
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sun.:** Roy Flinn, Taylor Foster, this could be you

# Anniversaries

2 Fred & Linda Ruefer
8 Weldon & Connie Stout
12 Robert & Angela Hall
18 Jim & Darlene Davis
23 Calvin & Judy Moore
25 Robert & Geneva Galegar
29 Preston & Kay Rogers

## ★ Gold Star Club!

Quarterly GOLD STAR Award!  
Receive a gold star on your name badge by attending 90% of Sundays by Sept. 28, 2025.

## GREETER MINISTRY

### 8:45 a.m.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sun.:** this could be you
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun.:** this could be you
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun.:** Christina Booher
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sun.:** this could be you
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sun.:** this could be you

### 11:00 a.m.

- Ed & Pam Johnson
- J. Boydston, Ted Hine
- B. Flinn / B. Hearon
- Sidney Daniels
- J. Boydston/B. Hearon

## VAN MINISTRY

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sun.:** Drivers: Kelly & Diane Beach  
Caller: Linda Foster
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun.:** Drivers: Scott & Sam Hensley  
Caller: Joan Odell
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun.:** Driver: Robbie Evans, Tamra Scherer  
Caller: Renee McMillin
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sun.:** Driver: Roy & Billie Flinn  
Caller: Margaret Thacker
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sun.:** Driver: Andrew Heymans  
Caller: Sidney Daniels



# LEARNING TREE

*"Just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, & let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, & you will overflow with thankfulness."*  
Colossians 2:6-7

## A New Season

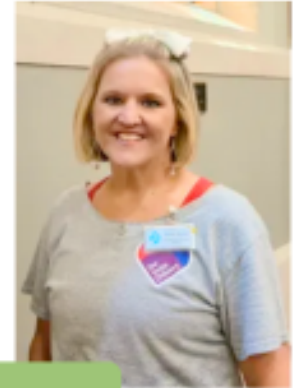
We're so excited to kick off a new school year at Learning Tree Preschool! As a ministry of St. Paul UMC, we see each and every day in the classroom as a chance to share God's love, spark curiosity, and help little ones grow in faith. This year, we aim to nurture children into lifelong disciples of Jesus through discovery, play, and purposeful growth. We're leaning deeply into spiritual formation to help children hear God's Word, see God's creation with wonder, and practice rhythms of worship, prayer, and kindness.

We're also passionate about reaching entire families. Some of our preschoolers come from homes without a church connection, and we see Learning Tree as an open door into life at St. Paul and the love of Christ.

Please pray with us as we begin this new season of planting seeds of faith, belonging, and joy. We are so thankful to be part of this church family and can't wait to see how God will shine through this ministry!

## School Starts

9/3



## Mrs. Kanny

Tiffany Kanny is coming to us after working in Muskogee Public Schools for the last five years. Tiffany received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Oklahoma City University in Political Science/Pre-Law with a minor in Psychology in 2011 and is currently in the process of completing her Master of Arts degree in Teaching (MAT). She cannot wait to share her deep love of children and God's incredible love with the 2025-2026 class at The Learning Tree!

## Join Our Team!



Do you want to make a lasting impact for God's kingdom? Learning Tree is looking for caring teacher's aides to help support joyful learning three days each week. No teaching experience required—just a heart for children and a willingness to serve.

***Paid positions available!***

## Miss Abigail



Hi, I'm Abigail Shaw! I'm the director and a teacher at the Learning Tree preschool. I love to read and be outside, but nurturing the faith of little ones is my passion! Let's spark some imagination this school year through play and discovery!

Email: [learningtree@stpaulmuskogee.com](mailto:learningtree@stpaulmuskogee.com)

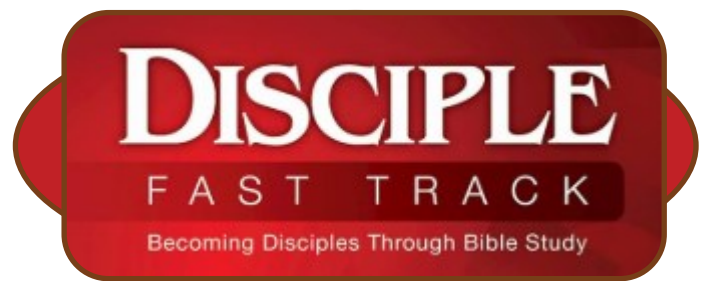


Scan for More Info!

Thank you for ALL the support!

MEALS SPONSORS

VOLUNTEERS READING BUDDIES



### Registration

Disciple Bible Study (Fast Track) is a 24 week study divided into 2, 12-week sessions. Only those who can commit to doing the daily readings, attend all (not missing more than 1 or 2) of the class gatherings, and come to the gatherings prepared should register. The fall semester will be **Sept. 22-Dec. 15**, and the spring will be Feb. 2-April 27. Cost is about \$28 for the workbook, and \$32 for the Bible if you need a NRSV study Bible. Follow the registration link above to sign up.

Classes start Monday, September 22  
at 1PM or \*6:15 PM

*\*Childcare provided*

*Muskogee Bridges Out of Poverty*

Welcome  
Back!



*Fall Classes begin  
5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 5  
at St. Paul UMC*

[www.muskogeebridgesoutofpoverty.org](http://www.muskogeebridgesoutofpoverty.org)

PROJECT TRANSFORMATION 2025

St. Paul  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
MUSKOGEE

44 KIDS IMPROVED BY AT LEAST 1 READING LEVEL!

47 CHILDREN. 8 WEEKS. LIVES CHANGED.

22 KIDS IMPROVED READING BY AN ENTIRE GRADE LEVEL!

- 1,704 BOOKS WERE READ BY THE KIDS THIS SUMMER
- 1,400 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER TIME WAS GIVEN
- 478 NEW BOOKS WENT HOME WITH KIDS AND FAMILIES
- 161 MEALS PROVIDED TO OUR INTERNS AND THE KIDS

Starting 7PM on Wed., Sept. 20



Finance  
Committee  
Meeting  
Mon., Aug. 25  
5:30 p.m.



Trustees  
Meeting  
Mon., Aug. 25  
6:30 p.m.

