



THE SPIRIT



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

St. Paul UMC

2130 W. Okmulgee
Muskogee, OK 74401

918-687-7571

church@stpaulmuskogee.com

Pastor, Rev. Dylan Ward

918-537-1605

Rev.DylanWard

@stpaulmuskogee.com

Music Ministries, Ineta Bebb

918-869-7201

ibebb@stpaulmuskogee.com

Director of Children & Youth

Barbara Kent

918-687-7571

bkent@stpaulmuskogee.com

Nursery & Pre-School

Beth Dunn

918-577-0938

bethtucker61@yahoo.com

Business Administrator

Lynnette Lewis

918-687-7571

llewis@stpaulmuskogee.com

Administrative Assistant

Joanne Nilsson

918-687-7571

adminassistant@stpaulmuskogee.com

Learning Tree Preschool Director

Margaret Wagner

918-869-6501

margaretrwagner@hotmail.com

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR . . .

Easter Sunday was a beautiful celebration of resurrection, new life, and the unshakable hope we have in Christ. The sanctuary was filled with joyful music, vibrant flowers, and—most importantly—the gathered people of God. But Easter is not just a day; it's a season. The risen Christ continues to meet us, not just in moments of triumph, but also in the quiet, the uncertain, and the wilderness.

That's why I'm especially excited to invite you into our upcoming sermon series beginning May 5, titled *Still Here*. Each week, we'll explore the life of a different biblical figure—people like Hagar, Elijah, and Jesus himself—who encountered God in seasons of wilderness. These aren't just stories of survival; they're testimonies of grace, transformation, and divine presence when life feels uncertain or barren. The truth is, many of us know what it feels like to be in the wilderness. But through Scripture, we're reminded: even in the wild, God is *still here*.

Let's keep the Easter spirit alive by continuing to worship together with expectation and joy. The resurrection reminds us that no place—no situation—is beyond God's reach. I encourage you to be present for this series and to bring someone with you who may be wandering, questioning, or simply longing for connection.

God is moving at St. Paul. Let's continue to grow, reach out, and invite others to experience that movement for themselves.

Whether it's someone returning to church or walking through the doors for the very first time, your invitation could be the start of their own story of transformation.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Dylan Ward

Potluck Lunch



Sun., May 4

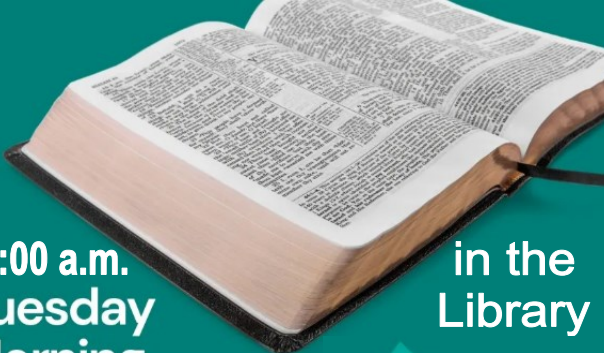
Pot luck Lunch

Sunday, May 4

Bring your favorite lunch dish and join friends and family for our monthly pot luck lunch after the 11:00 a.m. worship service in the Activity Center.

★ Gold Star Club!

Quarterly GOLD STAR Award!
Receive a gold star on your name badge by attending 90% of Sundays by June 29, 2025.



11:00 a.m.
Tuesday
Morning
Bible Study

in the
Library

with Rev. Dylan Ward

ST. PAUL
United Methodist Church
MUSKOGEE

BACKPACK MINISTRY

End hunger, one child at a time!

JOIN
IN THE
FUN!

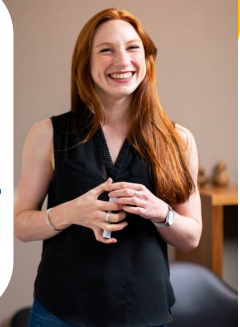
Packing
Food Bags
Assembly
Line Style

10:00 a.m. Wednesdays
May 7 & 21, in the weight room



Serving Jesus, one step at a time. . .

Finance
Committee
Meeting
Tues., May 27
5:30 p.m.



Church Council Meeting



6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 27
in the Large Conference Room



**Project
Transformation®**

Transforming Communities
Through Relationships

St. Paul UMC

2130 W. Okmulgee
Muskogee, OK 74401
918-687-7571

2025 Summer Reading Camp
9am - 3pm June 2 to July 24
Mondays - Thursdays
Grades 1-5 Camper Fee: \$10

<https://ptnational.my.site.com/allRegistration/s/>
For more info email: pt@stpaulmuskogee.com

Can you believe that **Project Transformation** is just around the corner! We are welcoming 7 interns this year. The sign up list will be in the Atrium to host or provide a meal.

What ways are there for me to be involved?

- Read with the children any day Mon.-Thur. from 10:00 a.m. to Noon
- Sponsor or host a meal for the Interns
- Share a talent or hobby with the kids in the afternoon, like music, cooking, balloon animals, magic tricks, or storytelling



REACH PEOPLE FOR CHRIST, DEVELOP DEEPLY COMMITTED CHRISTIANS



All women give so much of their time, talent, and hearts to the “raising-up” the next generation that we would like to take the opportunity while observing “Mother’s Day” to show honor to our community of women on Sunday, May 11, to receive a special gift from St. Paul. Also, take advantage of our photo booth that will be set up in the Atrium!

Congratulations 2025 Graduates!

Sunday, May 18
at the 11:00 a.m. Service

Graduation recognition will be on Sunday, May 18, during the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. We will have a card box in the Atrium for cards of encouragement.

If you have a graduate in your family, please let the church office know asap. We want to celebrate together with you!



Dinner Church

5:30 p.m. on May 14 & 28

Dinner Church is dinner open to all our friends and family. Come and enjoy a delicious meal together.

Come dine with us!

Menu

May 14: To be announced . . .

May 28: Tacos & taco salad

Always with a delicious dessert!



**Thank you for donations of desserts for Dinner Church.
Items can be dropped off by 4:30 p.m. that same day.**



MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 "Getting Ahead" GRADUATION 6:30 p.m. Tues., May 13 You are invited to St. Paul UMC to show community support as the graduates of Bridges out of Poverty celebrate their graduation.				1 10:00 a.m. Ladies Handbell Choir Reh.	2 9am-2pm Learning Tree Preschool	3
4 COMMUNION SERVICE Monthly Potluck Worship Services 8:45 am - Rowsey Chapel 10:00 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Sanctuary	5 9am-2pm Learning Tree Preschool	6 11:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Bridges Out of Poverty	7 9am-2pm Learning Tree Preschool 10:00 a.m. Backpack 6:00 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	8 10:00 a.m. Ladies Handbell Choir Reh.	9 9am-2pm Learning Tree Preschool	10
11 Photo Booth Happy Mother's Day Worship Services 8:45 am - Rowsey Chapel 10:00 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Sanctuary	12 9am-2pm Learning Tree Preschool	13 11:00 a.m. Bible Study  6:30 p.m. Bridges Graduation!	14 9am-2pm Learning Tree Preschool 5:30 pm DINNER CHURCH 6:00 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	15 10:00 a.m. Ladies Handbell Choir Reh.	16 9am-2pm Learning Tree Preschool 	17
18  Senior Sunday Worship Services 8:45 am - Rowsey Chapel 10:00 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Sanctuary	19	20 11:00 a.m. Bible Study	21 10:00 a.m. Backpack 6:00 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	22	23	24
25 Worship Services 8:45 am - Rowsey Chapel 10:00 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Sanctuary	26 CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED  MEMORIAL DAY	27 11:00 a.m. Bible Study <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;"> 5:30 pm Finance Committee 6:30 pm Church Council </div>	28 5:30 pm DINNER CHURCH 6:00 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	29	30 UMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE OKC May 28-31 Boston Ave. Tulsa	31

Weekly at St. Paul:

Monday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)
 9:00 Learning Tree Preschool
 CARD Senior Nutrition Program
 10:15 Staff Meeting

Tuesday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)
 9:00 CARD Senior Nutrition Program
 11:00 Open Bible Study
 PM 12:00 Al-Anon
 5:30 Bridges Out of Poverty
 6:00 Emotions Anonymous (2nd & 3rd)

Wednesday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)
 9:00 Learning Tree Preschool
 CARD Senior Nutrition Program
 PM 12:15 Prayer Gathering
 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
 10:00 Ladies Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 PM 6:30 It's in the Book (AA) Women only
 6:30 Good Shepherd Clinic (1st & 3rd)

Friday:

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

Saturday:

AM 9:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)
 PM 6:30 It's in the Book (AA) Women only

Sunday:

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

REACH PEOPLE FOR CHRIST, DEVELOP DEEPLY COMMITTED CHRISTIANS

Birthdays

1	David Jones	14	Christi Hix
2	Charlotte Crank	14	Janey Boydston
3	Art Hinshaw	15	James Morris
3	Connor Howerton	17	Robbie Evans
4	Autumn Moore	18	Abby Admire
4	Maggie Heymans	18	Alex Hurst-Fore
4	Hewitt Hilfiger	18	Athlyn Pool
6	Margaret Wagner	19	Keith Bishop
6	Stephen Felts	19	Catherine Wagner
7	Laura Cobb	22	Karren Rogers
7	Diane Reynolds	26	Chrissie Wagner
9	John Griffin	27	Sheila Dause
9	Linzy Gaston	28	Barbara Wright
9	Parker Wilkerson	28	Jack Hodge
10	Kendley Noahr	29	Jack Pool
10	Gloria Nicholson	29	David Vanderford
11	Martin Bebb	29	Karren Rogers
12	Ron Wright	30	James Kolb
13	Matthew Lewis	31	Eric Hall

Ministries & Meetings

10:00 a.m. Sun., May 4	Monthly Potluck
10:00 a.m. Wed., May 7	Backpack Food Ministry
5:30 p.m. Wed., May 14	Dinner Church Hamburgers, Fries, and desserts
5:30 p.m. Mon., May 27	Finance Meeting
6:30 p.m. Mon., May 27	Church Council Meeting
5:30 p.m. Wed., May 28	Dinner Church Tacos/Taco Salad with dessert
May 28-30	Annual Conference @ Boston Ave. Tulsa

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. M-F	CARD Senior Nutrition Meals
11:00 a.m. Tuesdays	Bible Study w/Pastor Dylan
5:30 p.m. Tuesdays	Bridges Out of Poverty
6:00 p.m. Wednesdays	Youth Group (6-12 grade)
7:00 p.m. Wednesdays	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Thursdays	Ladies Handbell Choir

Anniversaries

1	Eldon & Polly Stone
10	Sam & Ann Cox
24	Todd & Terral Graybill
24	Matthew & Jeanne Lewis

USHER MINISTRY

8:45 a.m. Ushers

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



11:00 a.m. Ushers

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

GREETER MINISTRY

8:45 a.m.

1 st Sun.:	L. & P. Christensen	Ed & Pam Johnson
2 nd Sun.:	this could be you	J. Boydston, Ted Hine
3 rd Sun.:	Christina Booher	B. Flinn / B. Hearon
4 th Sun.:	L. & P. Christensen	Sidney Daniels
5 th Sun.:	this could be you	J. Boydston/B. Hearon

11:00 a.m.

VAN MINISTRY

1 st Sun.:	Drivers: Kelly & Diane Beach (May 4) Caller: Linda Foster
2 nd Sun.:	Drivers: Scott & Sam Hensley (May 11) Caller: Joan Odell
3 rd Sun.:	Driver: Robbie Evans, Tamra Scherer (May 18) Caller: Renee McMillin
4 th Sun.:	Driver: this could be you, Manny Ramirez (May 25) Caller: Margaret Thacker
5 th Sun.:	Driver: this could be you (not in May) Caller: Joan Odell

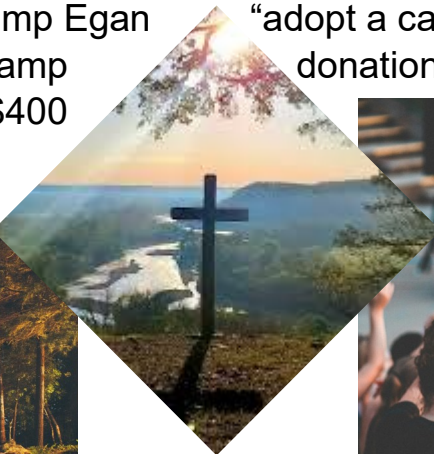
EGAN Summer Camp

camp & retreat center



When we talk about church summer camp it brings back such great memories and we want our kids to have the same opportunity. We praise the Lord that our church has grown and this summer we have 13 students attending Camp Egan during various camp weeks. Camp Egan fees are between \$375-\$400 per camper and many families struggle to pay the entire cost.

Your donations can help a family send their child to camp to hear the gospel message, meet new friends, and develop a love for the Lord. Write "camp" on your donation to "adopt a camper" this summer. Every donation makes a big difference.



Adopt-A-Camper Camper fees are between \$375-\$400 each

\$300
\$50 **\$250**
\$150 **\$75** **\$275**
\$400



Conference Camps

Grade	Camp	Code	Dates
1st-2nd	Sonshine 1 @ Egan	EGNS1	6/21/25-6/22/25
3rd-5th	Growin' in Grace 1 @ Egan	EGNG1	6/16/25-6/18/25
3rd-5th	Growin' in Grace 2 @ Egan	EGNG2	7/14/25-7/16/25
5th-6th	5th and 6th Grade 1 @ Egan	EGNX1	6/16/25-6/20/25
6th-Grad	Egan Youth Camp	EGNR1	6/9/25-6/13/25

All donations appreciated!

Camp registration:

<https://cwnqui.campwise.com/Apps/OnlineReg/Pages/Login.html>

REACH PEOPLE FOR CHRIST, DEVELOP DEEPLY COMMITTED CHRISTIANS

PHOTO BOOTH BACKDROPS

Due to the overwhelming response of the photo booths we are seeking sponsors that will help to purchase additional backdrops for various events and seasons. To sponsor a backdrop just mark your check/envelope "backdrop" and place it in the offering by May 31. The cost averages about \$60 each, but all amounts are appreciated.



Altar Flowers

to the glory of God

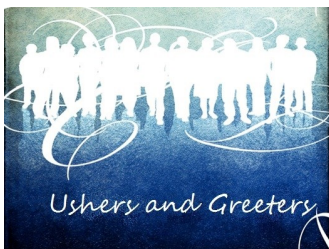
- May 4** Charlene Pruden (Schoeppel), in loving memory of her husband, Roger Schoeppel.
- May 11** Steve & Joan Odell in loving memory of our mothers and in honor of all Mothers.
- May 18** Margaret Wagner, Laura, & Lynne, in loving memory Steve, Werner, Beulah, and Flo.
- May 25** Don & Lana Reed, in in loving memory of our son, Todd Redd, Lana's brother, Frank Sewell and mother June Sewell.

10:00 a.m. Sunday School Classes



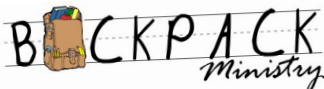
Have you ever felt like you needed to be more "connected" to your church body? Well, the best way to accomplish that is to pray and ask God where to be active and volunteer to serve.

We have areas of service in the church that currently have openings and it's a great time to get involved! **Van drivers** pick up riders once a month for Sunday services. They leave the church at 9:10 a.m., and return at 9:45 a.m. then following the 11:00 a.m. service drive them home. Become a driver for the 4th or 5th Sunday of the month, or consider becoming an Usher or Greeter. *All volunteers complete a background check and are trained for their area of service.*



- **Van Ministry—drivers for the 4th & 5th Sundays of each month.**
- **Children's Moment** 5-minute lesson at 11AM service.
- **Usher or Greeter** at 8:45 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. Services
- **Backpack Ministry—until May 21**
- **Project Transformation Readers** (June/July)

Contact the church office to volunteer 918-687-7571



**Children's
Moment
11:00 AM**



The **COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY** is in need of volunteers to help package groceries. The hours are Monday through Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 pm. If you are interested in volunteering once a month for two hours please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Eileen Van Kirk at 918-686-3739. She will find a time that works with your schedule!



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