



January 2026

From the Pastor:

Christ Was Love

"God is love." - 1 John 4:8b

Dennis Wheeler shares the following Christmas experience:

"My son, Nicholas, was in Kindergarten. It was an exciting season for a six-year old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant."

I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the performance. But, unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me that I could attend the dress rehearsal the morning of the performance. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas was happy with the compromise.

So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a seat in the school auditorium and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As we waited, the students were accompanied by their teachers and they sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to the platform to perform their song.

Because our public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as 'Christmas'...I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment - songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes, and good cheer. So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by its bold title.

Nicholas was aglow, as were all his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads. Those in the front row-center stage - -held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas", a child would hold up the letter 'C'. Then "H is for Happy", and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, Christmas Love."

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her...a small quiet girl in the front row holding the letter "M"...but it was upside-down. She seemed totally unaware that her letter "M" appeared as a "W".

The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W".

Although the teachers tried to shush the children, the giggling continued until the last letter was raised, and then...we all saw it together! A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood the reason why we celebrated the holiday in the first place. Why that, even in the chaos, there was indeed a purpose for all the festivities.

For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

C H R I S T W A S L O V E

January Scriptures and Sermon Titles

Jan 4 Epiphany	<i>Guided, Not Guaranteed</i>	Matthew 2: 1-12
Jan 11 Baptism of the Lord	<i>Laity Sunday</i>	Matthew 3: 13-17
Jan 18 2nd after Epiphany	<i>Anchored in Faith</i>	John 1: 29-42
Jan 25th 3rd after Epiphany	<i>Deeply Rooted</i>	Matthew 4: 12-23

And, HE STILL IS!!!"

I pray you had a blessed Christmas!
May you know the love God has for you and all! May Christ fill us with hope as we enter the New Year!

Blessings!

Pastor Allen



KID STUFF



Kids Khaos and Preteens return Jan 14th!

After a full and joyful December, we're excited to get back into our regular rhythm. Midweek Miracle and all our other Wednesday night activities will resume on January 14th! Join us for the meals each week from 5pm-6pm. Then we have various activities, games, lessons, and a choir program for Kids and Preteens until 7:30pm. To register your child, please use the QR code at the right so we have the correct contact information and other necessary details.



Teen Talk

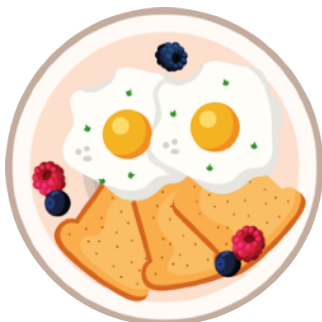


Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a great holiday and got to enjoy some family time. The youth's first activity in January is on Monday the 5th. We will be leaving the church at 10:30am to go ice skating in Edmond. We will skate for a few hours and then go eat before returning back to Weatherford. We will begin meeting regularly on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30pm on January 7. Midweek Miracle will not resume until the following Wednesday.



The CLUE at Canyon Camp Winter Retreat is on Friday, January 30 to Sunday, February 1. Youth that would like to go will need to register just like they do for summer camp. Here is the link for registration okcamps.org/registration. You will need to register by Friday, January 16. At the end of your registration, be sure to mark that your church will be paying your registration fee and enter the transfer code. If you need the code, contact Kelley Ramey. Youth funds will be paying the full registration fee for the retreat. The retreat is for youth in grades 6th through 12th.

FUN FOR ALL AGES!



Fellowship Breakfast, Sunday Jan 11, @ 9:30am

On the 2nd Sunday of each month, we meet for breakfast in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour. Each month the food is provided by a different Sunday School class or study group. Our January breakfast will be provided by **Inquiry Class**. Join us for some delicious food and hearty fellowship! Everyone is welcome!



Midweek Miracle returns Jan 14th!

We will resume our weekly Wednesday night meal on January 14th, serving from 5pm-6pm in our Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy the food, faith, and fellowship time together! At 6pm we have activities for folks of all ages - programs for kids, youth, a modern worship service at the Wesley Foundation across the street, and choir rehearsal. Pastor Allen's will be starting a new study "**God and the Machine: Navigating Faith in the Age of AI**".



PRIME TIMERS on Jan 10th and 26th @ 10am

The 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month is when the Prime Timers meet to play Mexican Train dominoes in the Fellowship Hall at 10am. Anyone is welcome to join—the regulars are always happy to teach you how to play! Come have some fun with some folks in their PRIME!



**United
Women
in Faith**

January Circle Meeting January 13, 2026 at a NEW LOCATION (Church Parlor)

The Daytime UWF Circle will meet from 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m. in the FUMC Church Parlor. Bring a brown bag lunch. We are starting a New Year with a New Location. The church parlor will give us access to the kitchen for support for any food you are bringing. The new program book focuses on "Mapping Our Way Forward." The January lesson will let us find "Light for Our Path." This lesson will be shared with our electronically connected members after the daytime meeting so it can include current information from the meeting. The major point of business will be to get the year end report for 2025 and approve the 2026 budget. Paige Craighead will be stepping down from the treasurer position she has held for several years after this meeting. The incoming treasurer, Kendall Humphreys, will assume her duties starting with the transfer of treasurer records when they are available. We will finalize plans for the Wesley Foundation lunch on 1/22/26.

Welcome 2026 Officers!

President – Faye Henson

Secretary – Cheryl Vogt

Treasurer – Kendall Humphreys

Assistance with Prayer Calendar Moments, Meeting devotion, & Missions – Madella Shelton

UWF 2026 Yearbook

The 2026 United Women in Faith (UWF) – Weatherford Unit Yearbook has a bright yellow cover. You can pick your copy up at the UWF table in the east hall outside the sanctuary. You can contact Faye by phone (580-330-2015) or email to epita@cebridge.net if you find updates that need to be made. If you would like to be added as a member of UWF for 2026, please fill out one of the information forms on the table and take it to the church office. Christopher Curtis will place it in our UWF mailbox.

UWF serves Wesley Lunch - Jan 22, 2026

Work has begun on the food for the lunch meal that Weatherford UWF will serve The Wesley Foundation students on 1/22/26. Your help will still be needed to come visit and help serve if you have time. UWF members are also welcome to eat lunch at this gathering when you help.

Local UWF Unit Leaders Training - West District UWF 1/17 or 1/31

Officers and leaders from local UWF units will receive training during the afternoon workshop time at two sites this January – Jan. 17, 2026 in Duncan, OK at St. Paul's UMC or Jan. 31, 2026 at Mooreland UMC. This will happen during the West District UWF Gathering that is happening those same days from 10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.. As an OK-UWF Conference officer and out-going West District Communications Volunteer, Faye Henson will be attending both meetings to provide support from training the unit leaders. If local UWF officers would like to travel with Faye to one of the meetings, they are welcome to ride. The Weatherford FUMC church may be taking their local church leaders to one of these meetings so they can also attend workshops on their assigned office. Look for announcements regarding travel plans and departure times. If UWF local officers cannot attend, there will be a packet available after the meeting.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

817 N 7th St
PO Box 350
Weatherford, OK 73096

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

January 2026



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Thu Jan 1 OFFICE CLOSED
- Mon Jan 5 Youth Go Ice Skating - leave at 10:30am
Care Team at 4:30pm
Trustees at 5:30pm
- Wed Jan 7 Youth meet at 6pm
- Sun Jan 11 Fellowship Breakfast at 9:30am provided by Inquiry class
Worship at Homestead at 2:30pm
- Mon Jan 12 Prime Timers at 10am
- Tue Jan 13 **UWF** meet in the Parlor at 12noon

- Wed Jan 14 **MIDWEEK MIRACLE RETURNS**
4:15pm Bell Choir rehearsal
5pm - 6pm Mealtime in the Fellowship Hall
6pm Kids Khaos, Preteens, & Youth; College Worship at Wesley;
Pastor's Study – *Faith in the Age of A.I.*
7pm Chancel Choir rehearsal
- Sun Jan 18 **Mission Team** at 4pm
- Mon Jan 19 February Newsletter articles due
Finance meets at 5:30pm
- Mon Jan 26 Prime Timers at 10am
- Jan 30-Feb 1 CLUE Winter Retreat at Canyon Camp
- Sun Feb 1 **Church Council** at 6pm