

The en - Light - ner

Monthly Newsletter of
First United Methodist Church
Portales, New Mexico

October 2017

Mission Statement: To make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

October Sermon Series

Learning to Live in the Power of Christ

October 1: Luke 12:49-53
Following Jesus into the Fire

October 8: Luke 12:54-59
Understanding God in the Now

October 15: Luke 13:6-9
Evidence of Spiritual Growth

October 22: Luke 13: 10-21
Church is the Place for Deliverance

October 29: Luke 13: 22-30
The Door of Reformation is Still Open

Spiritual Growth Through Utilizing James Fowler's Stages of Faith

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." *Luke 17:5-6.*

James Fowler was a United Methodist minister. Also he was a Professor of Theology and Human Development at Emory University. Fowler identified stages of faith which can be found in his book, *Stages of Faith: The Psychology of Human Development and the Quest for Meaning*. Harper Collins Publisher, New York, NY, 1981.

I have found it very helpful in my spiritual growth to measure my level of faith and learn how to increase my faith through using these stages. Together let's utilize Fowler's Stages of Faith as a tool to identify the origins of our faith, recognize what stage of faith we are currently practicing and how we can grow to reach the next level of faith.

Let's start with becoming familiar with the stages and locating which stage most accurately reflects the level of faith we have reached at this point in our lives. It is important for us to take a step back from our faith and look at what we believe and how we have come to believe what we believe. This will mean asking ourselves questions such as: Is my faith based on scriptures that I have read or sermons that I have heard or both? Have I ever questioned my faith? Stepping back and asking questions may be difficult at first but we will get used to self-reflection. Below are the summations of the stages that I found online. However, buy the book if you can.



Pastor Keith Wilks

James Fowler's Stages of Faith

Pre-Stage: Undifferentiated Faith Generally children from birth through about 2 years of age have the potential for faith but lack the ability to act on that potential. Through loving care from parents and other adults in their lives, young children start to build a lived experience of trust, courage, and hope. At this stage, children experience faith as a connection between themselves and their caregiver.

(Continued on page 6)



The Worship Committee Calendar for November & December

November 2nd	Turkey Dinner
November 5th	All Saints Day (Members who have passed away during the year)
November 5th	TIME CHANGE - Fall back Communion
November 23rd	Thanksgiving
November 26th	Put up Christmas tree after Sunday Service - volunteers welcome to help
December 3rd	First Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Greens Communion
December 10th	Second Sunday of Advent
December 17th	Third Sunday of Advent
December 24th	Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday Service at regular time Christmas Eve service & communion at 6:00 pm

The next newsletter will feature the first three months of 2018!

October



1st	Kalan Mosier - B
1st	Tom Hebert - B
1st	James & Shelly Atwood - A
5th	Wade Martin - B
7th	Dayne Collins - B
8th	Karimah Hulett - B
11th	Beth Banda - B
12th	Fayrene Powers - B
12th	Tanner Faver
15th	Kale & Oma Jones - A
19th	Linda Chambers - B
19th	Jennifer Essary - B
20th	Raychel Randle - B
21st	Darci Collins - B
22nd	Milz & Betty Bickley - A
22nd	Scott & Dianne Parker - A
28th	Thurman Elder - B
28th	Albert & Jenifer Baca - A
28th	Denver & Darci Collins - A
29th	Brad Cissell - B
29th	Sophie Cissell - B
29th	Sarah Stanley - B
30th	Amelia Legler - B
30th	Dave Russell - B

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our Annual Charge Conference with District Superintendent, Rev. Jane Vaughan will be here at FUMC on October 8, 2017 at 6:00 pm.



First United Methodist Church Member Update

July 2014 thru Sept. 24, 2017

Profession of Faith

2014

Aug. 8, 2014	Robert Turnbough
Aug. 24, 2014	Meno Banda
Aug. 31, 2014	Tammy LeeAnn Johnson
Sept. 7, 2014	Debora Burrow
Sept. 21, 2014	Marilyn Seddon
Nov. 2, 2014	Elizabeth Davis Banda
Nov. 16, 2014	Charli Dillon
Nov. 16, 2014	Dedrick Robinson (8)

2015

Jan. 11, 2015	Jason Cekander
Jan. 11, 2015	Christina Wallace
Mar. 1, 2015	Michael Woolley
Mar. 1, 2015	Theressa Bradley
Mar. 15, 2015	Barbara Harper
Mar. 22, 2015	Kateah Hulett
Apr. 12, 2015	James Golden
Apr. 12, 2015	Kenneth Herbert
Apr. 12, 2015	Janet Herbert
May 17, 2015	James Lee
May 17, 2015	Rica Lee
Sept. 9, 2015	Jessica Trujillo
Sept. 9, 2015	Yvonne Trujillo (13)

2016

Feb. 2, 2016	Jacque Cole
Feb. 2, 2016	Raul Rosa
Mar. 27, 2016	Jo Winchester
Mar. 27, 2016	Travis Cochlin
June 12, 2016	Robbie McClenton
July 3, 2016	Gerald Waltz

July 10, 2016	Emiy Ruiz
July 10, 2016	Martine Bartz
July 10, 2016	Rochelle McClenton
Aug. 21, 2016	Bess Hunton
Aug. 21, 2016	Wayne Hunton
Aug. 21, 2016	Joy Gilpin
Oct. 30, 2016	Peter Dittmer
Nov. 6, 2016	Mary Motherman
Dec. 18, 2016	Denise Windsor
Dec. 25, 2016	Sandy Lind (16)

2017

Jan. 22, 2017	Jacque Quesenberry
Jan. 22, 2017	Elijah Saina
Jan. 29, 2017	Joe Parie
Feb. 12, 2017	Pam Shearer
Feb. 12, 2017	Sue Dever
Apr. 2, 2017	Ryan Belcher
Apr. 2, 2017	Misty DeLos Santos
Jun. 18, 2017	Bob Sikes
June 18, 2017	Lou Sikes
July 9, 2017	Anna George
July 16, 2017	Jennifer Watkins
July 30, 2017	Travis Erwin
July 30, 2017	Carol Erwin
July 30, 2017	Joseph Erwin
July 30, 2017	Emma Erwin
Aug. 20, 2017	Micah Donaghue
Aug. 20, 2017	Melissa Donaghue
Sept. 10, 2017	Jesse Filbrun
Sept. 10, 2017	Hilary Filbrun
Sept. 17, 2017	Kylie Codvil

Continued on next page

First United Methodist Church Staff

Pastor - Dr. Keith Wilks
Office Manager - Gerri Bradsher
Nursery - Melissa Borden
Lay Leader - Linda Weems
Choir Director - Jan Smartnick
Accompanist - James Golden
Youth Director - Amberlyn Mauldin
enLightner Editor - Sheryl Borden
Bishop - W. Earl Bledsoe
District Superintendent - Jane Vaughan

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(You can click on any of the blue links in this newsletter, and they should open the link or website. If they do not open, you can cut and paste the URL into your browser.) The same is true with an email.

First United Methodist Church Member Update (Continued)

Sept. 17, 2017	Roger Kemp	
Sept. 17, 2017	Levi Bayley	
Sept. 17, 2017	Janie Kiser	
Sept. 24, 2017	Johnathan Sills	
Sept. 24, 2017	Natalie Sills	
Sept. 24, 2017	Tom Durrett	(26)

Moved

Jacque Cole
Meno Banda
Beth Banda
Jason Cekander
Jo Winchester
Travis Cochlin
Robbie McClenton
Peter Dittmer
Gerald Waltz
Joy Gilpin

Withdrew

Emily Ruiz
Tammy LeeAnn Johnson
Charlie Dillon
Dedrick Robinson
Rochelle McClenton
Larry Clark
Debbi Clark
Gary Lowman
Geneta Lowman
Kelsey Prince
Kenny Prince
Katrina Prince

Baptisms

2014

Aug. 31, 2014	Tayley Anne Garcia
Sept. 20, 2014	Daniella Sueanne Short
Oct. 19, 2014	Gwenevere Randy Vander Dussen
Nov. 8, 2014	Rory Jacob Clark
Dec. 21, 2014	Kaileen Grace Craddock
Dec. 21, 2014	Kenleigh Susan Dean Craddock

2015

Mar. 29, 2015	Kateah Hulett
Apr. 5, 2015	Meno Banda
May 17, 2015	James Wade Lee
Dec. 2015	Sam Gore
Dec. 2015	Bryson Adkins
Dec. 2015	Karleah Hulett

2017

Apr. 16, 2017	Calleigh Mae Garcia (Judy Short's Great Grandchild)
Apr. 16, 2017	Lilliana Faith Alonso (Judy Short's Great Grandchild)
Jun. 25, 2017	Jayden Janet Roehl
Jun. 25, 2017	Jordan Jamison Roehl, II

Deaths

2014

May 14, 2014	John Atchley
July 24, 2014	Ken Dunaway
Oct. 2, 2014	Lois Cantrell
Dec. 25, 2014	Terry Davis

2015

Jan. 26, 2015	Gail Cissell
Apr. 22, 2015	Walter Cotton Clark
Aug. 3, 2015	Herman Wallace
Sept. 11, 2015	Sharon Cissell
Oct. 27, 2015	John Ramon Teel

2017

June 21, 2017	Mary Elizabeth Hopkins
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IMPORTANT NOTICES



Emergency Preparedness

The Emergency Preparedness Group has completed information and it is posted on the bulletin boards in the halls. Please familiarize yourself with the locations of these folders and be ready to follow the suggested procedures in the event of an emergency.

From the Finance Committee

We will begin work on the budget shortly. If you are in charge of a committee or group that will be funded through the budget please give information about your budgetary needs to either Wanda Pettus or Panzy Jordan as soon as possible.

Welcome to new members...



Johnathan and Natalie Sills, along with their children, **Faith and Gabrielle** and **Tom Durrett** (in blue shirt) were welcomed into membership of FUMC on September 24. Linda Weems, Lay Leader and Pastor Keith preside.

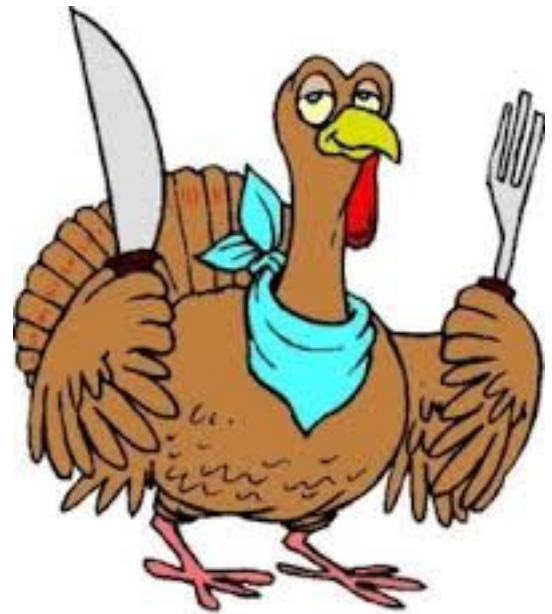
On September 17, FUMC welcomed three new members: **Roger Kemp, Levi Bayley and Janie Kiser**. (Picture not available.)

On August 20th we welcomed **Micah and Melissa Donohue** along with their son Elliot to the FUMC Faith Community. Micah comes to ENMU from Penn State where he received his doctorate in Language Arts and Literature. Melissa is coordinator for Distance Education and Dual Enrollment at ENMU. The Donohue's like to travel, visits state parks and read - as Micah said "the normal things families do." We were pleased to have Melissa's parents with us last Sunday. They are retired missionaries from China. They were missionaries for at least 20 years. Let's all make an effort to get to know Micah and Melissa and especially their son Elliot. (The Donohues were pictured in the September Newsletter.)

NOTE: Everyone is welcome to submit articles for the monthly enLightner. The 25th of each month is the deadline for submission. Please send your article and/or pictures to: sheryl.borden@enmu.edu



Dan Greathouse, Travis Erwin and Stan Livengood performed at FUMC on September 24th before the church service.



DON'T FORGET: This year's turkey dinner is coming up November 2nd! Everyone is needed to work to make this once-a-year event such a success. If you can help, please let Gerri know or any member of the United Methodist Women's group.

James Fowler's Stages of Faith (Continued from page 1)

Stage 1: Intuitive-Projective Faith Generally pre-school aged children. The cognitive development of children of this age is such that they are unable to think abstractly and are generally unable to see the world from anyone else's perspective. As Robert Keeley writes: "These children cannot think like a scientist, consider logical arguments, or think through complex ideas." Faith is not a thought-out set of ideas, but instead a set of impressions that are largely gained from their parents or other significant adults in their lives. In this way children become involved with the rituals of their religious community by experiencing them and learning from those around them.

Stage 2: Mythic-literal Faith Generally ages 6 to 12. Children at this age can start to work out the difference between verified facts and things that might be more fantasy or speculation. At this age children's source of religious authority starts to expand past parents and trusted adults to others in their community like teachers and friends. Like the previous stage, faith is something to be experienced. At this stage, children think in concrete and literal ways. Faith becomes the stories told and the rituals practiced. Later in this stage children begin to have the capacity to understand that others might have different beliefs than them.

Stage 3: Synthetic-conventional Faith Generally starts about the age of 13 and goes until around 18. However, some people stay at this stage for their entire life. Unlike previous stages, people at this stage can think abstractly. What were once simple unrelated stories and rituals can now be a more cohesive narrative about values and morals. With abstract thinking comes the ability to see layers of meaning in the stories, rituals and symbols of their faith. At this stage people start to have the ability to see things from someone else's perspective. This means that they can also imagine what others think about them and their faith. People at this stage claim their faith as their own instead of just being what their family does. However, the faith that is claimed is usually still the faith of their family. Issues of religious authority are important to people at this stage. For younger adolescents, that authority still resides mostly with their parents and important adults. For older adolescents and adults in this stage, authority resides with friends and religious community. For all people in this stage, religious authority resides mostly outside of them personally.

Stage 4: Individuate - Reflective Faith This stage usually starts in late adolescence (18 to 22 years old). However, Robert Keeley points out that "people of many generations experience the kind of dissonance that comes with the real questions of faith that one begins to address at

this stage of development." People in this stage start to question their own assumptions around the faith tradition. Along with questioning their own assumptions about their faith, people at this stage start to question the authority structures of their faith. This is often the time that someone will leave their religious community if the answers to the questions they are asking are not to their liking. Greater maturity is gained by rejecting some parts of their faith while affirming other parts. In the end, the person starts to take greater ownership of their own faith journey.

Stage 5: Conjunctive Faith People do not usually get to this stage until their early thirties. This stage is when the struggles and questioning of stage four give way to a more comfortable place. Some answers have been found and the person at this stage is comfortable knowing that all the answers might not be easily found. In this stage, the strong need for individual self-reflection gives way to a sense of the importance of community in faith development. People at this stage are also much more open to other people's faith perspectives. This is not because they are moving away from their faith but because they have a realization that other people's faiths might inform and deepen their own.

Stage 6: Universalizing Faith It is a rare person who reaches this stage of faith. James Fowler describes people at this stage as having "a special grace that makes them seem more lucid, simpler, and yet somehow more fully human than the rest of us." People at this stage can become important religious teachers because they can relate to anyone at any stage and from any faith. They can relate without condescension but at the same time are able to challenge the assumptions that those of other stages might have. People at this stage cherish life but also do not hold on to life too tightly. They put their faith in action, challenging the status quo and working to create justice in the world. Robert Keeley points to people like Gandhi and Mother Teresa as examples of people who have reached this stage.

<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/wholeness/workshop2/167602.shtml> Accessed 9/13/17

