

# NOWATA METHODIST CHURCH

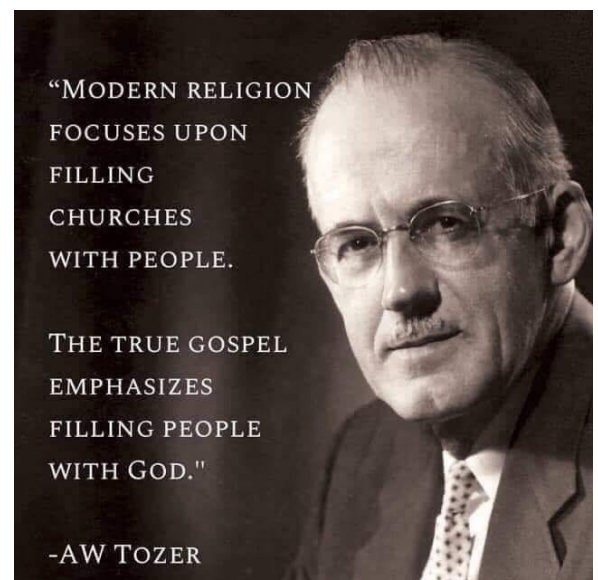
JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER



## Making a Difference in Methodism

*Written by Pastor Jeffrey Rickman*

Nowata Methodist Church is making a difference in Methodism around the globe. We are quite literally helping to build up a church building on the other side of the world, in Abuja, Nigeria. This last week, the church sent a gift of over \$500 for the construction of a new church building for a congregation whose building had been demolished by a hostile government. They have secured new land that will be better defended from persecution. We plan to send more money soon. If you would like to give towards this, you are hereby formally invited.



The church board has also given me their blessing to continue ministering to people abroad throughout the Methodist world. I started a podcast called PlainSpoken several months ago. It now has more than 1,500 subscribers on YouTube, and it is also aired on Facebook, Apple Podcasts, and Spotify. TJ Owens and I produce 2-4 pieces of content per week that are seen by thousands of people. I am receiving correspondences from around the country every day, thanking me for speaking plainly about complicated or tense subjects. It is clear that many people have been very touched by the ministry that you have graciously made possible. I have also started a Substack (blog) on which I publish a couple writings per week. I started it maybe a month ago with a couple subscribers. It is now up to 125 subscribers.

These are not vanity projects. I am intentionally speaking to the challenge of being disciples in our current moment. These continue alongside our church's podcast: 'Nowata Methodists.' The church is also present on Facebook and YouTube, where we engage our local context, regularly sharing information and recording segments for the edification of our local church body.

One might think that these engagements with the digital world are taking away from our interpersonal witness in the community. The opposite is the case. The children's ministry has restarted on Thursday evenings, where we have ten children being trained to worship alongside adults in the covenant community. A new women's discipleship group has been started on Thursday evenings. Another has started and is meeting on Monday mornings to cook meals in our kitchen for their families and others who purchase meals from them. That group is called 'Bountiful Tables.' All these things continue alongside the weekly prayer group that meets on Wednesday mornings and the men's and women's discipleship groups that meet on Wednesday evenings.

Of course, it is possible to create much activity without bringing anyone closer to Jesus or one another. I do not believe this is the case. There are daily affirmations of increased faithfulness among our members. Ours is a church that is increasingly focusing on the main thing. Though we do not do many of the things that other churches commonly do, my spirit is okay with this. I rejoice in what our meager little assembly is able to accomplish together. I look forward to seeing where the Lord leads and we continue to submit to him together. Please continue praying for your church, and make sure to join in her ministries as you are able.



Matthew was baptized along with his brother Zachary and sister Chloe in April.

## Corner of Appreciation

Gwen and Stefanie have dedicated time to weeding and planting in the church flower beds. Susanna has also put herself to work weeding.

The Wilsons and Mendells helped set up for Pentecost worship in the park. Jeff Holt cooked delicious burgers and hotdogs.

Mike Staehle has worked on clearing brush on the lot across the street from the church.

# Coming Up in June

- June 3  
Delaware Methodist  
Breakfast, 7-10am
- June 12  
Jeff H.'s birthday
- June 13  
Administrative Board  
meeting at 6:30pm
- June 16  
Susanna R.'s birthday
- June 17  
Stefanie H.'s birthday
- June 25  
Potluck after worship  
JC C.'s birthday

# Happening Every Week

Worship: Sundays at 11am

Women's Prayer Group:  
Wednesdays at 10:30am


Office Hours: Monday-Friday  
from 9am-12:30pm

## Contact Us

PO Box 129  
109 West Shawnee Avenue  
Nowata OK 74048  
(918) 273-1562  
nowatamethodists@gmail.com  
nowatamethodists.org

The Summer 'Bible Reading Challenge' is here. Join us as we feast on God's word daily.

Join us in this essential spiritual discipline. Read what you can, and don't be discouraged if you get behind. There are "catch up days" built in to the plan. It is a blessing to feast on God's word each day!



DATE	DAILY READING
THU 1	<input type="checkbox"/> John 1-4
FRI 2	<input type="checkbox"/> John 5-8
SAT 3	<input type="checkbox"/> John 9-12
MON 5	<input type="checkbox"/> John 13-16
TUE 6	<input type="checkbox"/> John 17-21
WED 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catch-Up Day or Galatians 1-6
THU 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 1-5
FRI 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 John, 3 John
SAT 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 1-6
MON 12	<input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 1-4
TUE 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Colossians 1-4
WED 14	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catch-Up Day or Ephesians 1-6
THU 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 1-4
FRI 16	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 5-8
SAT 17	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 9-12
MON 19	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 13-16
TUE 20	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 17-20
WED 21	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 21-24
THU 22	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 25-28
FRI 23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catch-Up Day or Philippians 1-4
SAT 24	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus 1-3
MON 26	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Thessalonians 1-5
TUE 27	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Thessalonians 1-3
WED 28	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catch-Up Day or Colossians 1-4
THU 29	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 1-4
FRI 30	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 5-8

## JUST JUMP IN!

Whether you're joining us on the first day or somewhere in the middle, whether you're on schedule or have gotten behind, just find the date and read the day's assignment, and you'll be right on schedule.



# BOUNTIFUL TABLES

*"...as Jesus sat at the table with them, He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him..." Luke 24:30-31*

Bountiful Tables is a ministry of the Nowata Methodist Church. We meet weekly and cook meals for our families together. Each woman takes home 3 dinners for the upcoming week. These meals are made with nourishing, healthy ingredients.

Our Bountiful Tables team believes that God loves to show up at our tables. When our families gather for nourishing meals, our hearts are opened to each other and to our Heavenly Father. Sins are confessed, deep questions are voiced, and joy fills the family. The table is the place where the noise stops and we listen to each other, remembering the truth of God's Word. The table is the heart of the home. Sadly, this time of connection has been under attack in our culture. Bountiful Tables is intentionally countering that attack each week. We aim to create an environment that connects women in a Christ-centered atmosphere, all while preparing healthy and convenient meals for the week ahead. Each time that we gather we are essentially setting the table for our families.

We want to nourish women's hearts with God's Word and healthy community. We are intent on seeing families nourished with high quality nutrition that strengthens them. We also aim to share products that support and grow the ministry with our community. This includes offering meals for people to purchase, providing quality food for more families in our area.

Our first two weeks of cooking together brought a quick connection amongst the women in the kitchen. We begin each session around a table, and study a passage of the Bible. This is first and foremost, as we know that without the daily bread of the Word we cannot nourish our families. Then we move on to the kitchen, each woman taking a station for meal preparation. Godly, convicting and joyfully honest conversations are happening as we cook. After about 3.5 hours, we have been walking away with 3 prepared meals for the week ahead. It's been a joy to share this accomplishment with friends.

Each woman involved has noted the ease that this preparation has brought their families. Learning to cook from scratch, elevating nutrition and saving money have also been noted impacts. Some of women's hearts have felt rejected by their families refusing home cooked meals. This opportunity has given them new inspiration to feed their families the best nutrition they can, and to serve whole heartedly. After just two meetings, we can clearly see the potential impact of this community in the long-term. These Godly friendships and healthy meals can change the rhythm of our homes. We are making room for more of Jesus in our hearts and at our tables, we are feeding our families healthy meals that strengthen them. Good things are ahead. Thank you to all the supporters who have given finances to help make this ministry a reality. Thank you to each person who has given their time to pray for this ministry to be built just as the Lord would have it be established. We look forward to updating you with more beautiful evidence of God's work.

-Cori Davis, coordinator