

the trumpet



CROWN HEIGHTS United Methodist Church

Lead Pastor: Rev. Trina Bose North

December 2019 – January 2020 Vol. 15 Issue 7

God Bless Us, Everyone

by Rev. Trina Bose North

Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year, and not for the reasons that may first come to mind! It's not because of the gifts or the lights or the beauty of all the decorations. It's because each year we celebrate the unexpected in the form of a baby king. As we read the biblical stories of Jesus' birth, we see Jesus was born to young working-class parents. Jesus and his family stand in contrast to the great King Herod. King Herod had all the power—and yet Jesus, even as a baby, scared him. God paid no mind to the old power structures. Instead, God chose a baby to bring in a new order of grace and justice. Jesus' presence makes all things possible. The baby king reminds us there is always hope. Isn't that wonderful?

*"God has pulled the powerful
down from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.
God has filled the
hungry with good things..."
Luke 1*

Throughout Advent and Christmas, our church will look at how to live into God's grace and justice and leave behind our culture's addiction to money, success, and looking out for ourselves. In Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol" Ebenezer Scrooge is transformed from his fear and isolation into a man of hope and joy. We want to see the rich and poor, old and young, and fortunate and unfortunate the way God sees them—filled with potential to live into God's joy.

Join us this Christmas Season as we wait for God to enter the world and turn everything upside down.

December Happenings

Throughout Advent, we will look at this season through Charles Dickens' play "A Christmas Carol."

December 1—On the first Sunday of Advent, we will read Luke 1:46-47 and 52-55, and hear from the Ghost of Christmas Past. At 6:30pm, our church will host a Christmas cantata for First Christian Church MWC and New Covenant Christian Church. Our congregation is welcome to join them to enjoy the music.

December 8—On the second Sunday of Advent, we will enjoy an a-cappella quartet. Under Mariann Searle's direction, they will take us back in time with old English carols. Throughout the hour, we will be visited by the Ghost of Christmas Present with a sermon called "Hope from Heartbreak."

December 15—As we gather for the third Sunday of Advent, our children will perform their version of Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" at the 11 am service. The play is adapted by Madison Rubino and Rev. Trina Bose North. There will be special music in both services. We will invite the Ghost of Christmas Future to join us this week in worship.

December 22—For our last Sunday in Advent, we will sing some of our favorite Christmas songs, and we will dare to ponder God's hope for us and our world. Christ came to change everything! Paul said in Romans 8:17, "You didn't receive a spirit of slavery to lead you back again into fear, but you received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as God's children."

Tuesday December 24—All are invited to our Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm. We will read the Christmas story, according to Matthew (2:1—14). We will sing Christmas carols and light candles. All are welcome to join us on this holy night! Nursery will be available.

December 25—Merry Christmas! We will not have worship on this day.

December 29—We will have ONE service at 10am as we celebrate Christ's coming into the world with John 1:1-14. The nursery will be open, but no children's programming.

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December and January Calendar

DECEMBER

December 1—Christmas Contata at 6:30pm at our church with First Christian Church MWC & New Covenant Christian Church

December 4—Wednesday, Ladies’ Day Out 11am

December 8—Quartet in worship

December 15—Kids’ Christmas Program, 11am service

December 19—Whiz Kids’ Dinner, 6pm

December 20—Fri/Sat- Youth Lock-In

December 24—Tuesday, Christmas Eve worship 7pm

December 29—One Service at 10am

JANUARY

January 5—Movies for children and youth (noon)

January 8—Wednesday, Ladies’ Day Out 11am

January 19—NSO Mission items due
Cultural Celebration at 11am service

January 22—Wednesday, Ministry Resource Team 6pm

January 29—Wednesday, bags to NSO with pizza 6pm

FEBRUARY

February 2—Souper Bowl Potluck at noon

Summer Mission Trip

July 26 to August 1, 2020 we will send a work group to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky. Leaving after church, we will drive Sunday & Monday. Tuesday-Friday morning, we will do a construction project or volunteer at the food pantry/ thrift store. We will arrive back in OKC on Saturday evening.

Henderson Settlement is a United Methodist mission center in the Appalachian Mountains. Their webpage is www.hendersonsettlement.com.

Cost is \$525. Scholarship money is available.



Poinsettias - 2019

We are now taking orders for the Christmas poinsettias that will beautify our sanctuary. Purchase one or more to honor or remember relatives and friends.

The plants this year are \$12.00 each. Please complete the form below. You may put your order form and check in the offering plate. (Please mark your check “poinsettias”)

The information below will be listed in the bulletin. We welcome you to take flowers home following the services on Christmas Eve. **Deadline for your order is December 8th.**

This is a fundraiser for our church. We will buy poinsettias for our sanctuary and decorate for Christmas with the extra money.

2019

Please print the information as you would like it to appear in the bulletin.

Yes, I would like to give _____ Poinsettias.

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Other: _____

Monthly Missions

Dec 20— Christmas Candy Bags

Our youth put together Christmas candy bags for each of the 200 students at Putnam Heights Academy to be distributed before the students head out for Winter Break.

Jan 19—NSO Care Bags

In January we will be collecting items for care bags for the 35 residents of NSO’s Palo Duro 1 and 2 apartments for adults living on disability. We will be needing these items by January 19:

Macaroni & cheese/instant mashed potatoes, Canned protein, Socks (men or women, size Large), Kitchen sized trash bags, Matching set of shampoo/ conditioners, Men’s deodorant, Pop Tarts (a favorite!), Clorox Wipes

Finance Committee Update

by Lee Endicott

By now, everyone should have received their letter regarding pledging to the church for 2020. Thanks to everyone who has returned their pledge cards. If you haven't had an opportunity to return your pledge card and would like to, please do so at your earliest convenience. This not only gives the Finance Committee an opportunity to plan for next year, but also gives us a yardstick to see how we are doing throughout the year. It helps us make decisions on emergency expenditures during the year when we are uncertain as to what to expect in terms of church receipts for the remaining portion of the year.

I also want to thank everyone for keeping their pledges current this year. Although we have had the usual unplanned church repair issues, the congregation's overall financial commitment to the church has allowed the church to continue to do God's work. Thankfully this year we have not had significant repairs on our building, but we did have notable on-going maintenance on our trees, computer system, and door magnet. Of course, the year is not over yet and we continue to face the challenges that go with owning an old building, especially a particular flat roof in the Youth Activity Building. With everyone's help, we hope to finish the year in the black. As a result, the Finance Committee would be very appreciative for everyone to attempt to keep their pledge current as we close out 2019. If you are uncertain of where you stand on your 2019 pledge, you can email our Financial Secretary, Libby Campbell, at Libby@crowheightsumc.org and she can provide you with your balance.

Thanks for your continuing dedication to Crown Heights United Methodist Church! We couldn't do all we do without you!

Kitchen Cleaning

The kitchen had many hands at work the last several weeks. First, we had a group of UCO students come to empty and clean everything. Then, we had the kitchen treated twice by an exterminator, then everything was cleaned and put back together by members. What a project! Thanks so much for everyone's very hard work.



Ministry Resource Team

Nominations 2020

Trustees

Lane Neal	2020
Jared Pickens	2021
Beverly Endicott	2022

Finance

Lee Endicott	2020
Sue Fellers	2021
Todd Coles	2022

SPRC

Jay Acquaviva	2020
Nancy Anthony	2021
Sue Brown	2022

Church

Julie Williams	2020
Greg Tate	2021
Sally Hayes	2022

E-Giving

Please remember to use our convenient online option of giving. Through the webpage, members will be able to make one time donations or set up monthly giving.

Just to let you all know how it works—

there is a 2.75% fee for all credit and debit card transactions, and there is a 1% fee for all transfers of money from personal banking accounts. (To transfer money from your account, we will ask you to fill out a form.)

We appreciate any gift, of course. But if it is possible for you to transfer funds, the church would benefit even more!

Thank you.

Crown Heights United Methodist Church is on Amazon Smile. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

Go to smile.amazon.com for your next purchase from Amazon. And select Crown Heights UMC as your choice.

Whiz Kids See God at Work

by Janet Basler

This Whiz Kids year has been one of all new experiences. Our tutors go with the flow each week even while Halloween falls on a Thursday, bug spraying in the church kitchen means room changes, new kids coming weekly means room changes again, and since we can't know beforehand of kids who might be sick it means tutors faithfully show up weekly not knowing if they have anyone to tutor. Tutors come with smiles to spend quality time with their Whiz Kids when- and wherever it might be. We see that God is with us through whatever the world gives us each day.

We see God in the small things that are really very big things. One tutor couldn't wait to tell fellow tutors about her Whiz Kid who is a non-reader. Two weeks earlier they read a book together that had only 10 different words in it. The Whiz Kid didn't know any of the words. They came back the next week and before their time together was over that week, she read the entire book BY HERSELF! The tutor's face lit up telling this story, and a tear could be seen in several eyes of other tutors.

Another tutor after two sessions together was sure his Whiz Kid didn't like him and would never agree to read anything. Then he found one of our reading games to play. They had a great time reading, laughing, and enjoying their game and time together. The tutor sported a big smile and gave a 'thumbs up' after their third afternoon together as they raced each other to the car to leave that day. We see God sticks with us, and puts the resources we need in front of us.

While visiting with the parents of one of our Whiz Kids at our Pizza Party, we asked if the two little boys with them would be interested in being Whiz Kids. (We were speaking thru the third grade Whiz Kid in the family, as the parents didn't speak English.) They told us one of the boys did not speak English, and were excited they might get tutors. It only took one call to a recently trained tutor to get the response, "I'm very interested, but speak NO Spanish." She had participated in a training last year where she learned it was preferable for the tutor/teacher to not speak the language when teaching English. After talking with three different school personnel in two different schools to get the paperwork completed the boys became Whiz Kids. Linda Newhouse, our new tutor, is doing a wonderful job with the non-English speaking boy, by the way. We see God sometimes prepares the way even before we know we are being prepared.

We are continually amazed at how people can be flexible, caring, hard-working, and committed when things are difficult and messy. Our Whiz Kids tutors this year are truly the best people around to model to our Whiz Kids how to be the very best human beings. We see God has been with us every step of the way.

Whiz Kids Christmas Dinner

by Brigitte Gean

December 19th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall is set for one of the best ways to celebrate Christmas at Crown Heights. We will serve about 120 meals that evening. It takes an army to pull it off! That's why we need everyone to come help. We need people to Set Up, Prepare, Serve and Clean Up—even if it is only for an hour or two—**WE NEED YOU!!!** Please come volunteer to help make these children and their families feel special.

Schedule for helping:

Decorate Fellowship Hall

Wednesday (12/11) 10am – Noon

Set Up and Decorate Tables

Wednesday (12/18) time TBA – (probably 4-6 pm)

Meal Preparation

Wednesday (12/18) 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Thursday (12/19) 11:00 am – 6:00 pm

Serve Families

Thursday (12/19) 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Clean Up

Thursday (12/19) 7:00 -8:00 pm (or until finished)



Call me if you have questions or would like to volunteer. Brigitte Gean 286-1396 home or 550-1768 cell.

Arts Academy Thank You's

by Janet Basler

Usually it is the parents who say, 'Thank you so much for having these lessons.' We've heard that from every parent this year.

Usually it is the kids who say thank you for the snacks at the Arts Academy, and for the keyboards we send home to practice, and for letting them take lessons—and we've heard that from many of the students this year.

But this is the first year we've heard so many teachers say, 'Thank you so much for letting me do this!' We hear it from several teachers almost every week. The teachers, who are students from area high schools, are not only incredibly talented musicians and artists, they are also so grateful they can share their talents with enthusiastic young people.

What a joy God has given us in our Arts' kids, their parents, and in the wonderful role models our teachers are for their students. This is looking like it could be one of our most productive and fun years ever in the Arts Academy.

Bibles for our Children and Youth

This is what was printed on each bookmark:

“This church wants nothing more than for you to grow your faith and learn more about God through the stories in the Bible. We want you to enjoy reading about Moses and those complaining Israelites, David the flawed king, and the prophets who relentlessly cried out for justice. We want you to experience Christ by reading about Jesus in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). In this book, you will meet God’s people trying their best to live out their faith, and we hope they inspire you to do the same.”

Rev. Trina Bose North

Old Testament

Genesis 1 “The Creation Story”

Read this chapter out loud. You will hear the poetry and beauty of this story. That’s how it was told long ago. Lee Endicott says, “I feel God’s presence in nature more than anywhere else (except possibly church). Whenever I see a beautiful sunset, a still lake, or a wild animal in the woods, I think of the Creation Story and thank God for what God has provided for us.”

Psalms 23 “The Lord is my Shepherd”

Our God takes care of us and provides for us, just as a shepherd cares for their sheep.

Micah 6:8

This verse is Rev. Trina Bose North’s favorite verse. It tells us exactly how to live out our faith—seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.



The children and youth were presented Bibles and bookmarks at the 11am service on Sunday, November 17, 2019.

New Testament

Luke 2:1-20 “The Birth Story of Jesus”

This is such a joyful story. Read it every Christmas, and sing “Joy to the World!”

Matthew 5-6

“Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount”

This is a teaching discourse of Jesus. It includes so many familiar passages, like the Beatitudes, turn the other cheek, and the Lord’s Prayer.

Luke 15 “The Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, and Lost Son”

These parables tell us God loves us and will never stop reaching out to us. Sometimes the Parable of the Lost Son is called The Prodigal Son, and Madison Rubino really likes this story.

Matthew 25:36-40

Jesus says, “Whenever you did this to the least among us, you did this for me.” Janet Basler says, “This story reminds me to look for ways to help others.”

Luke 23:39-43 “Jesus on the Cross”

Jamie Gross loves the story of the thieves on the cross. She says, “I know one thing for sure, the man on the cross next to Jesus is in heaven. He was not a ‘good’ person, rich or notable, but he asked for forgiveness and he believed Jesus could give it to him.”

John 20:1-18 “Easter Story”

Mary Magdalene goes to the garden and finds the empty tomb. Her sadness turns to joy as she recognizes the Risen Christ. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Revelation 21:1-8

“A New Heaven and a New Earth”

The Bible ends the way it begins with God bringing about something new. God is always creating and making things new.

Youth and Children Update

Youth— November 1— Thank you for your help stuffing Christmas Candy Bags for all the students of Putnam Heights Academy. You guys are the best!

Next Youth Activity is **Dec 20-21**, a Lock-In at the church. We will have dinner here, play Christmas games, enjoy some Insomnia Cookies, and play Sardines. Join us for all the fun!

January 19—The youth will share their culture in worship. The church is looking forward to hearing your stories and tasting some different foods.

Children and Youth—After church on **January 5**, we are going to the movies. We will be looking for a fun kids’ movie to all see together.



11/17/19- Our youth with the candy bags for Putnam Heights Academy.

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November Highlights

Thanksgiving Bags — Throughout the month of November, our church collected Thanksgiving bags, each containing a meal (minus the meat) for a family of six. Our Girl Scout troop and church staff shopped on behalf of people who donated money.

On November 25, 2019, Skyline Urban Ministries picked up 85 Thanksgiving bags that our church collected. Our church kept fifteen bags to hand out as well. That is thirteen more than last year!

A big **Thank You** to everyone that contributed to this worthy cause!

On November 10, the Girl Scout troop shopped for Thanksgiving bags. They purchased 35 bags—that's 70 cans of corn, 70 boxes of stuffing, and 35 containers of frosting. Thank you, girls! We appreciate it.

