



the trumpet



CROWN HEIGHTS United Methodist Church

Lead Pastor: Rev. Trina Bose North

April – May 2020

Vol. 16 Issue 2

On March 18th our church leadership met (via a conference call)--we discussed what closing down the church building and activities looks like for our congregation and staff. We are hopeful our members continue supporting our church, so we can maintain the building and keep our staff on the payrolls.

Here's our statement on the building— Church Response to Coronavirus- *Crown Heights UMC will follow the recommendations of the CDC and not have gatherings in our church. Effective immediately, there will be no church activities in our building, including worship. We want to be a part of the effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Also, the building will be closed. We ask for no one to enter so we can keep the space safe and available for the staff.*

If you need anything call the office at 524-8428. You are welcome to drop things off for the church Monday through Thursday mornings; just ring the doorbell and then leave your item by the door. We are all practicing social distancing. If you need something at the church, call Susan or Trina. We will help you get it.



The church is not the building

by Rev. Trina Bose North

I have heard it said, the church is not the building. It's such a nice statement about the body of Christ—we are more than the building; what's essential is the community that gathers in God's name.

Although I believed these words, I had never really thought them through. This week as we made arrangements to close our building, I am sad. This space has become sacred because of the love, laughter, and tears shared in it. This is where the community of Crown Heights UMC gathers. It's our space, our home.

Now we have to find our footing for the next couple months. If we really believe the church is not the building, we can find creative ways to love, laugh, and cry together. This challenge might just remind us that church is not just on Sunday morning or when we drive to 1021 NW 37th St. Maybe we will learn how to be the church with one another in more authentic, holistic ways for the future.

So if the church is really the people of God, doing the work of God. Then let us continue to worship together on-line and check in on one another. We have ways to stay connected and serve others while staying home.

May God strengthen the bond between us, even while we are apart. God, watch over us, protect us, and bring us back together soon. Amen.

April Calendar

Saturdays at 3pm— Facebook Livestream—Scripture, devotion, and music
 Stay centered with Trina and Mariann each week.
 Watch live or catch it later.

April 12— Easter 10am Facebook Livestream



Easter at Crown Heights UMC

*Sunday April 12- Online worship
 Facebook Livestream at 10am*

*Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection,
 not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.
 – Martin Luther*

flower pic by Kari McDaniels

Facebook

Without worship together, Trina will bring a word to us each Saturday at 3pm. It will not be a full service, maybe 20 minutes. You can find the video on Facebook on the Crown Heights United Methodist Church page. If you are interested, “like” our church on Facebook.

If you do not have a Facebook account, you can go to [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and find our public church page without signing in. Facebook is an easy way for to communicate with you all while we are not seeing each other face to face.

Mobile Meals Update

Our church has a 20+ year history of serving Mobile Meals to homebound members of our community, and they hardly missed a Monday delivery. But on March 15, Charlene and Mary cooked up one last hot meal before we canceled meals for a month. We feel cooking and delivering meals put too many people at risk—recipients and us. On March 23, we delivered four frozen meals to each client to get them through the month.

We are so grateful to the church for stepping in purchasing the 80 frozen meals (4 each for our 20 clients). Our excellent shoppers provided meals, plus fruit, cookies, and toilet paper. You guys to really wonderful! Thank you!

On April 20, we will deliver another month’s supply of meals. Your great shopping has supplied us the meals with need. We have people committed to baking cookies and shopping for frozen veggie bags.



Finance Update

by Lee Endicott

Two weeks ago, the biggest issue facing the Finance Committee was whether to replace or repair the church sign on the corner of NW 37th and Western. Since the arrival of COVID-19, our focus has shifted to a more important issue—how to keep our church operational until this crisis ends. Unfortunately, even though the church is no longer available for group worship, we are still obligated to pay the regular monthly bills that go along with running the church. Other than insurance, utilities, and other items that have to be paid, we also have payroll to consider. Crown Heights is extremely fortunate to have a wonderful minister and incredible staff. Most of the staff rely on these wages to support themselves and their families. The Finance Committee has pledged to do everything possible to continue paying them as usual until things get back to normal. However, if the money is not there, the church won't be in a position to pay those individuals.

In a typical month, Crown Heights receives around \$17,000 in pledged and non-pledged giving from church members and visitors. A significant portion of this money is collected on Sunday mornings when the plates are passed throughout the congregation during church service. Without any weekly church services in the foreseeable future, there is obvious concern that the church won't have this income available to pay bills and church payroll. The Ministry Resource Team and Finance Committee have taken steps to avoid or minimize the expenses and payments that are not absolutely necessary. However, we are still concerned that the income needed for necessary expenses will not be available. We realize and understand that many of us have been financially impacted by this crisis and can't give as much as we would like. However, for those of you who are able to give, please attempt to keep your pledges and giving current during this time. One way you can do this easily is to make an on-line donation through Crown Heights' website (<http://crownheightsumc.org/>). For those who are not technologically savvy, you are always welcome to send a check to the church in the mail. (Crown Heights UMC, 1021 NW 37th Street, OKC 73118)

We don't know how long this crisis will last, but with God's guidance and reassurance I am confident Crown Heights UMC will survive and be ready to once again focus on doing God's work when things return to normal. On behalf of the Finance Committee, I want to thank you for your loyalty and devotion to Crown Heights UMC. Please take care of yourself, follow the CDC's advice, and know we look forward to seeing you all soon.

E-Giving

Please remember to use our convenient online option of giving. Through the webpage (crownheightsumc.org, look for the donate link in the green box) you 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 UMC T-shirts

If we have enough interest, we can place an order for more t-shirts. Let Susan know your size. We need 25 to place an order. Cost is \$12.



Whiz Kids and Arts Academy Update

by Janet Basler

While we are all practicing social distancing, our Whiz Kids, Arts kids and their tutors and teachers are finding ways of keeping their relationship with each other strong. Some tutors are calling to talk with their Whiz Kid, while others are mailing letters and fun activities to their Whiz Kid. Some are challenging their Whiz Kid to read and create plays or drawings based on what they read. The coordinators are packaging up books deliver to each Whiz Kid also. The Arts teachers are also calling their students to see how their practicing during their time at home is coming along and maybe even adding a few tips on how to take their practices a little further. The Arts recital and showcase has been postponed until we can see what the future brings for getting back together for lessons.

A big thank you goes out to members of the church who are sending notes of encouragement to each Whiz Kid, their Tutors and the Arts Academy teachers and students. These ministries are very special to those involved and to the mission of the church. Please keep all the kids and adults in the Whiz Kids and Arts Academy in your prayers.



Thanks from the Hicks and Smiths

Thank you Church Family for showering us with love and diapers. We feel so blessed to be a part of such an amazing community. We would like to share a special thank you to Leo Villaseca-Cruz for an amazing piggy bank and Sue Feller for our beautiful baby hat! Handmade gifts are incredible!

We have 3 more weeks to go until we meet Baby Brother and as is everyone, we are quarantined here at the Hicks's Home. Miriam, our two year old is helping us make the best of it by reminding us of our special time together, to make everything fun and that nothing can bring us down if we stick together. We try and focus on what we can control and the excitement of our upcoming family addition!

Again, thank you all for your love, stay healthy and remember...

Prayer for Serenity

"God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;
taking, as Jesus did,

this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it;
trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender
to Your will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with You forever in the next.

Amen." Reinhold Niebuhr

Love, Robert, Kyle & Miriam Hicks



Diaper Shower, 2/16/20

Dear Crown Heights UMC,
Thank you so much for the generosity you have shown us. The huge amount of diapers has and will continue to keep us from having to go out and buy more, risking exposure to illness. Sue and Leo, your talents are much appreciated! You are such a giving and loving church family.

I feel honestly fortunate with the covid timing. If I was working I would be risking exposure to myself and my family. Michael is also able to work from home. I'm hoping that by the time I have to return to work the risks will be decreased. Thanks to you, church, we have been able to stay home and safe. We hope that you all have and will continue to be safe and healthy.

Sincerely,
Michael, Melanie, and Quincy Smith

Youth Update



The youth recently renovated the youth room by recovering the furniture, adding fresh pillows, and also a foosball game that had been hiding in the closet. Fresh billiards balls and some decorations on the walls makes the room a more welcoming place.

Thanks to our youth leader Jake Harrell for leading the charge in this effort.

We can't wait until the youth can get back in the building to enjoy this space again.

Community Needs

We are looking for creative ways of being the church without our building or in person gatherings.

We care deeply about our community and are looking to meet the needs of those inside and outside of our church.

If you know of a need, please let Trina or Susan (524-8428) know about it.

Our church is sharing the love of God to our neighbors with messages on our chalkboard. Look for it facing Western.



Are you looking for ways to help and serve your community in this time of crisis?

Here are some ideas:

- ☐ Are you able to get food/ medications or run an errand for someone not able to leave their house?
- ☐ Are you willing to send notes in the mail or call church members to check in with them?
- ☐ Do you have any second-hand jeans (any size, any condition) to donate?
- ☐ Do you have any hotel shampoos and conditioners to donate?
- ☐ Can you bake bread for our visitors (mini-loaves) and freeze them until the proper time?
- ☐ Can you bake cookies for Mobile Meals and freeze them until the proper time?
- ☐ By April 20, Mobile Meals will need 80 frozen meals to last our clients through another month. Can you make/purchase meals?

Pray for those in our community who are sick, hungry, and lonely.

Call or email Trina (trina.bose@gmail.com) to help.
Thanks for every caring act done right now.
They are like lights in the darkness!

Crown Heights United Methodist Church

1021 NW 37th St. ▪ Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118
405-524-8428

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30am-1pm



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POSTAGE
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Address Service Requested

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Trumpet at 1021 NW 37th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73118

February and March Highlights



February 22-24— Girl Scout “Glamping” Weekend- Cassie had all 15 girls at her house for a night, then Trina hosted them for a February pool party, and for the second night, they slept at the church. We love these girls and their fabulous leaders!

On March 14, the young adult group gathered for brunch. Just what we all needed before social distancing took over!



On March 8, 2020 Mary and Kurt McDaniel joined our church. Kurt is a photographer, and we are using his columbine picture as our Easter image.

This happy moment was just before covid hit our community. Just look at us gathered together in worship, standing so close together!