



# the trumpet

Lead Pastor: Rev. Trina Bose North



CROWN HEIGHTS United Methodist Church

December 2020- January 2021 Vol. 16 Issue



## Joy to the World

In 1719, 301 years ago, Isaac Watts wrote the hymn “Joy to the World,” based on Psalm 98:4, telling all the earth to shout for joy, He made it a Christmas song proclaiming Jesus’ coming is our source of joy.

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing*

This Advent, especially, we need to be reminded of this. Christ’s coming brings joy to each of us. That’s what we celebrate each Christmas.

In these next 4 weeks, we will do the work of readying our hearts to experience the joy of Christmas. Henri Nouwen said, “Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.” Throughout Advent, let’s keep our focus on the joy that is alive and available. And let’s choose it and grow it.

***May the joy of Christ come to us, and may we do our part to bring that joy into the world!***

## Christmas Eve Services

**Thursday evening, December 24, 2020**

**4pm Outdoor Worship** (Family Friendly)— bring lawn chairs & dress appropriately  
Join us for a dramatic presentation of the Christmas Story, preformed by our children—  
no rehearsal needed!  
We will sing carols, hear the Christmas story, and illumine light sticks.

**7pm Sanctuary Service** (Facebook Livestream)  
Join for our traditional worship service of music (solos), scripture, sermon, and candles.  
This is primarily a virtual service, but there is room for about 25 to attend in person.  
To attend, RSVP with Trina or the Church office.

## December & January Calendar

**Sunday Worship Schedule**— Sanctuary Worship at 9:30am and Outdoor Worship at 11am

### December

12/6 Sunday afternoon at 4pm— Book study on 7 Days of Christmas, frontyard of church or Zoom  
 12/13 Sunday afternoon at 4pm— Book study on 7 Days of Christmas, frontyard of church or Zoom  
 12/13 Sunday evening at 7pm— Virtual Christmas Concert in Sanctuary by Brett Payne  
 12/24 **Christmas Eve**, Thursday evening— Outdoor Worship (family friendly) at 4pm,  
 Livestream Worship (Traditional) at 7pm  
 12/27 Sunday Worship ONE SERVICE in the Sanctuary at 9:30am



### January

1/3 Sunday Worship ONE SERVICE in the Sanctuary at 9:30am  
 1/10, 17, 24, and 31 Sundays evenings at 7pm— Zoom Check in

## Christmas Music Night

### Sunday December 13 at 7pm *O Holy Night*

Brett Payne (our music leader) is putting together a Christmas live-streamed concert on Sunday December 13 at 7pm. He has recruited Alexandria Carmon to sing along with him. Together they will sing all our favorite Christmas songs, like *White Christmas*, *O Holy Night*, and *O Come All Ye Faithful*.

Our church is so blessed to have Brett Payne among us, leading our music each Sunday. He has trained in vocal music, specializing in opera. But he also grew up United Methodist, so he's familiar with hymns and church music.

The livestream concert begins at 7pm on the on the Church's Facebook page. Stay home, get the popcorn ready, and tune in on Sunday evening!



### Poinsettias

We are now taking orders for the Christmas poinsettias that will beautify our sanctuary. Purchase one or more to honor or remember loved-ones for \$12.50 each. Please let Susan in the Church Office (524-8248) know how many you would like to donate and for whom (in memory or honor of). Please mark your check "poinsettias."

The names will be listed in the bulletin. We welcome you to take flowers home following the services on December 20 or Christmas Eve. **Deadline for your order is December 13th.**

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

## COVID-19 Guidelines

As our state COVID numbers reach their highest levels, we are operating with more caution than even in the past few weeks.

For **worship** on Sunday, we will Facebook Livestream worship from the Sanctuary at 9:30am. Being inside has more risks than being outside, so Outdoor Worship service at 11am is recommended for those who would like to attend in person worship. If you would like to be in the Sanctuary at 9:30, we will spread out and be diligent with our precautions, keeping numbers under 15.

We are following recommendations by the CDC and the OK United Methodist Conference. The main guidelines we are to follow are:

- Masks are required.
- Stay distanced. Family units will be seated at least six feet apart. In the Sanctuary, if you would like a safer place to sit, the 3 balconies are available (seating clearly marked).
- Our church will continue to offer options to gather outside and virtually.
- **If you develop COVID-19 symptoms or test positive in the days after attending worship, please let Trina or the church office know.**

Thanks for being safe in this unprecedented time.

## Thanksgiving Bags

Thank you so much for contributing Thanksgiving Bags. We donated about 70 bags to Skyline Urban Ministry, early Thanksgiving week. All our bags were given out within 2 hours. Bryan from Skyline said, "Please let your congregation know and give them credit, no other church does what you do, especially in this pandemic. Thank you so much!"



Also know we have been handing out bags from our church as well. Susan in our office has given out 15 bags this past week, with 15 more available. What a gift to our community during this difficult year.

## On-Line Ministries

Serving our community online is a priority for us. We want to give our congregation options to stay home and still worship and connect to one another. You are invited to plug in to these opportunities:

Facebook (Crown Heights United Methodist Church) for info and worship videos.

Webpage ([crownheightsumc.org](http://crownheightsumc.org)) for on-line giving and sermon videos.

Zoom for small group gatherings—conversation on directed topics.

If you are having a hard time viewing worship, please let Trina know. We can work with your system and help you connect to the webpage or create a Facebook account for you. We can provide the worship videos on USB drives and help you watch them on your computer or a portable player. Just let us know what you need.

## Need Office Space?

If you are looking for office space, talk to Trina. We are renting out rooms upstairs in the Youth Activity Building. \$350 monthly.

*Wifi, utilities, desk, light custodial*

## Crown Heights UMC Blankets



The church is selling fleece blankets with our logo embroidered on them. Blanket size is 50x60 inches. Cost is \$12 per blanket. We have about 10 blankets left. Get yours for outdoor worship/ gatherings or for Christmas gifts.



## Monthly Mission- December



The OKC Community Foundation gave out 65,000 flowers bulbs to parks, schools, and churches in an effort to beautify our city come Spring. Our church received 200 FREE bulbs to plant in our yard. Would you like to help us plant these bulbs at the church? Talk to Trina to schedule a time that works for you.

AND

**Neighborhood Service Organization** has Christmas Wish Lists for their clients. We have asked for a Christmas list from Palo Duro, housing for individuals with disabilities (see below). We published the lists and are so appreciative of our church folk for committing to shop for the items. Be sure to have your shopping done by **Sunday December 5th.**

## Finance Update

The Finance Committee is in the final stage of collecting 2021 pledge cards from our members. Thanks to all those who have returned their cards. The pledge campaign results allow the Finance Committee to forecast next year's budget. With it, we have are better able to anticipate what programs and expenses we will be able to afford in the coming year. If you haven't returned your pledge card, please send it to the Church as soon as possible. You can also call or email Susan at Church and confirm your 2021 pledge.



As we move to the last few months of 2020, I am happy to report that it appears we have been financially able to overcome multiple crises this year including a pandemic, a \$35,000 air conditioning expense, a bee invasion, and extensive damage from an ice storm. In spite of these catastrophes, pledged income is at 93.8% of the budgeted amount and our overall income is actually at 106.5% of the budget. We have already been able to pay more of our Conference Apportionments than we paid in all of 2019. We are operating at an \$11,972.51 profit, when last year at this time we had a \$4700 loss.

The Church could not have made it through 2020 without the dedication and support of its members. The Finance Committee would like to thank everyone for all they have done to support the Church through this last year.

## Monthly Mission- January

Night Shelter is a new program through City Care, Oklahoma City's only low-barrier night shelter. The Night Shelter is an opportunity to connect with our city's most vulnerable and get them into permanent housing solutions as quickly as possible. Their goal is to provide a warm bed and safety from the elements for those experiencing homelessness for the night. And they know there will be people and families who come to hungry.

Our church's mission for this month is to help stock their freezer. Please **bring frozen meals** (store bought or homemade) to the church throughout the month. Meals can be for one person or for a family, anything is appreciated!



NIGHT SHELTER  
CITY CARE

by Lee Endicott

Please remember to use our convenient **online option of giving**. Through our webpage ([crownheightsumc.org](https://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!



## Whiz Kids Update

by Janet Basler

Whiz Kids tutors have special vision. They see their students through the eyes of God and their love.

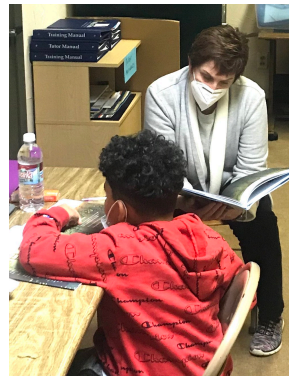
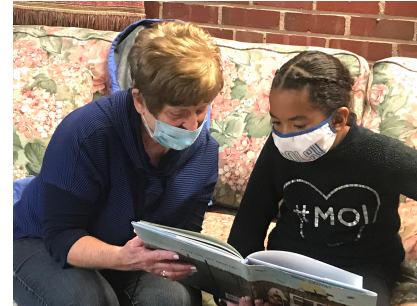
**Donna** - I sit across the table from my Whiz Kid as he squirms around and reads his book to me in every position possible. He's just so enthusiastic!

**Linda** - He struggles to read, so we read Dr. Seuss, and figure out words, and discuss words, and we laugh a lot. And when I take cookies for the family the kids call out my name and tell me what they've been doing.

**Sue** - My Whiz Kid's brother, for over a year, never talked to me when I drive them home, until now. He asked me to help him make a paper airplane and smiled at me. My heart was happy.

**Kurt** - My Whiz Kid is so smart. He struggles when he reads, but he continues to work hard, and it's fun to hear him talk about the stories.

**Janet** - This spring and summer I received heart-warming letters from our kids, telling me about new puppies, playing inside a lot, and thanking me for my letters and activities to do at home. These kids are so precious.



## Children Update



Because of COVID, the Fellowship Hall has been set-up for our kids to run and move around— race track, soccer goals, and a coloring area.

Our first COVID Christmas is coming up soon! We are making plans to show God's love to our kids this season.

**Sunday School On the Go**— Each week of Advent, our kids will be mailed a Christmas Lesson. We hope they enjoy a biblical story and fun activities. They don't have to mail them back in.

**Christmas Gift Bags**— During the second week of December, we will be delivering 66 goodies bag to the children and youth of our church. The bags include crafts, candy, and snacks.

**Worship**— As we worship in the Sanctuary and outside, we will continue to provide a child care person to provide activities and watch children. They are available to take kids to the back playground or to the Fellowship Hall, whatever parents are comfortable with.

## Youth Update

On Friday November 13, the youth gathered for a pizza night. We spent some time catching up, prepping for Christmas crafts (pictured), and playing Sardines. Such a fun night together. With the weather getting colder, we are going to take the next 2 months off.



Many of these youth are back to virtual learning after 2 days of in-person school. It is a difficult time. Lift up extra prayers for them and all students.





## Crown Heights United Methodist Church

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405-524-8428

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

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID



### Address Service Requested

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

## October and November Highlights



On October 27th, our state was hit with a **massive ice storm**, and our church was hit especially hard. We had many downed branches and had some damage to our buildings. On November 1, we had a workday and 30 church members came with gloves, rakes, and chainsaws. We made a huge difference in a short amount of time. Thank you, church, for showing up and helping. Construction on the Youth Activity Building roof and garage will begin soon.



Throughout the Fall, we have planned **2 Backyard Concerts**. In October, we enjoyed Broadway music by UCO singers. In November, we were entertained by Edgar Cruz. These nights have been a safer way to gather during COVID and have been so much fun. Everyone has loved being in our beautiful backyard. We are looking into continuing the series in the Spring.

