

THE TRUMPET

CROWN HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH — PASTOR: REV. TRINA BOSE-NORTH



THE GIFT OF BEING PRESENT

REV. TRINA BOSE NORTH
(PRONOUNS SHE/HER)

Advent can be filled with full calendars and worry about getting everything ready for the perfect Christmas. *A lovely tree, the Christmas cards mailed, the most thoughtful Christmas gifts.* There is so much to distract us from the real purpose of Advent: readying our hearts for Christ. We are supposed to be focused on being present. This is truly the hardest thing to give God and others, our presence.

In the Bible, we have many examples of people consumed with fear and worry. The response of the scriptures is “the Holy Living One is with you.” The incarnation of Christ is God coming in human form to live among us. This was God’s way of reaching out to us, calling us into relationship, asking us to direct our love and attention back to God.

Advent is an invitation to focus on being present with God.

We long for connection not just with God but with others, especially during the holidays. We want the people in our lives to know they are special and loved. But sometimes we overlook the greatest gift of all...

our very presence. Maybe this takes the form of a coffee date, a handwritten letter, the intentional extra question, or listening with our hearts engaged. This season, we are invited to be the gift of presence for our loved ones, for our communities, and for those who need it most.

*So take a deep breath, know God is with us,
and be intentionally present!*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 am-- Sanctuary Worship
with weekly communion

9:45- 10:45 am-- Sunday School

11 am-- Sanctuary Worship
with Children's Moment

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SCHEDULE

Nursery is available from
8:30 am- 12:15 pm.

Children and Youth Sunday
School is from 9:45-10:45 am.
Meet in the Fellowship Hall for
breakfast then a lesson.

Children and Youth attend the
11 am Service. In Worship, kids
are invited up for the Children's
Moment and Children's Church.

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE —

8:30AM AND 11AM—SANCTUARY WORSHIP

9:45-10:45AM—SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

DecemberDec 5, Tuesday— Charge Conference at 6:30pm, Torchy's
Tacos at Classen Curve

Dec 6, Wednesday— Youth, 5:30-7:30pm

Dec 10, Sunday— Christmas Concert at 6:30pmDec 14, Thursday— NSO Christmas lunch at 11:30am
and Whiz Kids' Christmas dinner at 5pm**Dec 17, Sunday— Children's Christmas Program, 11am**

Dec 22-23, Friday- Saturday— Youth Lock In, 7pm to 9am

**Dec 24, Sunday— Christmas Eve, choose between 11am
and 7pm for worship, no Sunday School**Dec 31, Sunday— New Year's Eve Worship 10am,
no Sunday School**January**

Jan 3, Wednesday— Youth, 5:30- 7:30pm

Jan 9, Tuesday— Young Adult Dinner, 5:30pm

Jan 10, Wednesday— Retiree Lunch, 11:30am

Jan 14, Sunday— Gen X Ladies Night, 5pm

Jan 17, Wednesday— Youth, 5:30- 7:30pm

Jan 24, Wednesday— Ministry Resource Team, 7pm Zoom

Coming up...Feb 4 & 11, Sundays in worship—Dr. Jacob Randolph,
OCU professor of Christian History,
Holland Lecture series***December Worship Schedule*****December 10, Sunday-**

Christmas Concert at 6:30pm

December 17, Sunday-

Children's Program during 11am worship

December 24, Sunday-**Christmas Eve**

Choose between:

11am worship- Christmas Eve with Children's Moment, carols and candle lighting (nursery available)

7pm worship- traditional Christmas Eve worship, carols and candle lighting (nursery available)

December 31, Sunday-

New Year's Eve, ONE SERVICE at 10am

Crown Heights United Methodist Church
presents

O Holy Night

An evening of holiday music

December 10th 6:30pm

Alex Bolerjack, Tenor

Mariann Searle, Piano

Alexandria Carmon, Soprano

Brett Payne, Tenor

Steven Stark, Cello

1021 NW 37th St,
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Reception to follow



FINANCE UPDATE**BY LEE ENDICOTT**

Thanks to everyone who has kept their pledges current as well as those making generous gifts to assist in the church's missions. This year, our members have done an amazing job keeping their pledges current. As of the end of October, 96.4% of our pledges are on schedule. (This may be a record!) With your help, we hope to complete Crown Heights' financial year on a positive note. As we enter the final month of 2023, we will continue to emphasize our missions and apportionments which are used to help those in need throughout the community, state, nation and world. This year's Christmas offering will be used for those purposes. Please keep up the good work!

We are in the final stages of this year's pledge drive. Your pledges are used by the Finance Committee to prepare Crown Heights UMC budget for 2024. Without information concerning the income the church is expected to receive, we have no way to make plans for the church's activities and missions in 2024. Although many 2024 pledge cards have been turned in, there are still several outstanding. If you haven't returned your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible or you can e-mail our Financial Secretary, Susan Ebert, at finance@crownheightsumc.org.

We have two downstairs offices available for rent in the administration building.

The rooms rent for \$300 monthly for the smaller office & \$350 for the larger room. Talk to Trina to discuss your needs.

The rooms have WiFi, light custodial, and are furnished.

Need office space?



If you prefer, we offer a convenient online option of giving. Through the webpage at crownheightsumc.org, (look for the donate link in the green box) OR this **QR code** takes you to our online giving form connected to our webpage. You will be able to make one-time donations or set up monthly giving. Once you enter your information, it is easy to make additional gifts.

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

Thank you.

FIND YOUR PEOPLE

Young Adults

20s- 30s+

Our next dinner is Tuesday January 9th at El Coyote, 925 W. Britton in the Britton District. Meet there at 5:30pm.

Gen Xers

basically 40-60+

On Sunday January 14 is our next gathering-- Gen X Ladies Night at Mexican Radio, 1734 NW 16th St. Meet at 5pm for Happy Hour!

Retirees

retired or soon-to-be retired

Join us Wednesday January 10 at New State Burger & Spirits, 1705 NW 16th St. in the Plaza District. Meet at the restaurant at 11:30am.



OUR CHURCH AND THE UNHOUSED**BY TRINA BOSE NORTH**

Answering the door to those in need is the job of every church. Our church keeps food on hand. Some people need snacks to carry with them and some need to stock up their cabinets in their homes. We have spent \$450 filling our pantry this year. We also hand out bus passes. We think it's very important for people to have a way to work or get resources. This year we purchased \$1,500 in bus passes (most were purchased at half price).

October was a month focused on the unhoused people who recently visit and stay on our porches. Typically people come and stay a few days, we try to talk with each of them and direct them to resources, and they move along after being asked. In October, we had a challenging situation with a woman who had a lot of belongings and no plan to vacate our church property.

I want to church to know my way of handling the unhoused population. I do my best to listen and provide city and church resources. If people are respectful of the building and operations of our church, I give a couple days for people to make their next plan. Most of time, people respect the timeline established. If the situation escalates, I have the phone number for OKCPD's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). They visit with the person and try to direct them to resources. They will not arrest unless a crime is being committed. This HOT team, along with Homeless Alliance, are available to help our church in these difficult relationships.

I want to end on a positive note. On November 1st, Councilman James Cooper hosted an in-depth conversation on homelessness. There is much our city and state is doing and can do to address this issue.

- *Prevention of homelessness is cheaper than re-housing people.*
- *We need more affordable housing, should be mandatory part of development plans.*
- *We need housing to be provided first- cut as many hoops as possible.*
- *Eviction is too easy in OK- \$45 and 5 days, that's all that's needed right now.*
- *But every speaker said, we can make a huge difference in OKC with incremental steps in every direction. And we need to fund all these actions.*

If you would like to watch James Cooper's program, here is the YouTube link. It is 2 hours long-- the speakers are all excellent and on topic.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMbSvXEOSjI>

As we ponder this issue, our church has two particular men to hold in our prayers.

Both are working on a plan to get off the streets. Both have potential to find/ keep jobs and get back into stable housing. I have told them, when they figure out their next steps forward to let me know-- our church wants to help them keep their jobs or furnish their apartments. We pray for their next steps forward. Lord, hear our prayer.

HOW WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY**Look at what we did together in October and November...**

Our church paid two unhoused men to do extra yard work for us. Our members provided clothes for a couple who lost their belongings. Our church sent cards & coffee to seven churches remaining UMC but took a vote to disaffiliate.

We cooked lunch for the UCO Wesley on November 16th. Our members handmade 27 scarves for YWCA domestic abuse clients. We collected 90 Thanksgiving bags, distributing to our Whiz Kids, Skyline Urban Ministry, and our pantry—all valued over \$2000. Our church adopted two Christmas wish-lists for NSO Palo Duro residents.

ways to help:

- **would you prepare part of the meal for our 15 mobile meals clients for december 18th? casserole? dessert? the church will provide the fruits or veggies.**
- **gently used jeans or coats? it's a good time to pass them along those in need.**
- **bake cookies for our church to give out on sundays & mobile meals**



WHIZ KIDS READING PROGRAM**BY BRUCE PITTS**

What an exceptional fall we have had at Crown Heights Whiz Kids! After beginning the semester on September 7 with 13 kids from Wilson Elementary School, our count has risen to 20 kids with even more trained tutors!

Not only are we enjoying phenomenal growth, but in addition to our weekly tutoring we have been treated with two special events courtesy of long-time tutor Steve Matthews, who was the lead architect on the remodel of Belle Isle Library.

The week before we went to the library, Steve presented a slide show about the design and construction of the remodeled library and what his role as architect was. He not only made the show interesting for the kids and tutors, but really let his passion for architecture and his enjoyment of his calling really shine. The following week Steve arranged for all 20 kids and tutors to visit the library. The kids took a special tour of the library, were read to by one of the librarians, and got to check out a book with their own library card.

Trina is an integral part of the Whiz Kids team who energizes our kids during club time and does a brilliant job of letting the kids know that they are welcomed, loved, and valued while they are at CHUMC. On the Thursday before Halloween, she even led the kids through Haunted Crown Heights UMC!

Before this semester is over, we are going to visit Wilson to meet the teachers and let the kids show off their school. To end our semester, we have our annual Christmas banquet on Thursday, December 14. Brigitte Gean is in charge of the meal, and her team will be cooking a feast for about 100 kids, family members, tutors, teachers, and the Wilson principal. The evening will include Christmas music, fellowship, and capped with a visit by Santa.

While we have had a lot of fun this semester, our kids are progressing with their reading skills, and their confidence in themselves is growing. The Whiz Kids program at Crown Heights United Methodist Church is helping us fulfill our mission of making a positive difference in the life of our community.

**ARTS ACADEMY IS IN FULL SWING!****BY JAMIE GROSS**

We are back at it, with a whopping 28 students and 12 teachers. While we are thrilled to have so much interest, and we have an amazing crew of adults helping, we need more teachers! I would love to have YOU come in and, alongside our Classen SAS HS student teachers, share your God-given talents with these Wilson Elementary kiddos. We are desperate for artists and strings teachers but if your passion is in another instrument there is sure to be a kiddo who wants to learn it! Please consider if this commitment might be just what you need to plug in to our church home. We meet here every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 through April. Come join the fun!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Mia Waters



Originally from the Corpus Christi, Texas area, I moved to OKC in February 2021 with my now husband Barak, who is stationed at Tinker AFB. We came to attend Crown Heights UMC as we were shopping in the area and drove past the church seeing the “All Are Welcome” banner outside. For me, being a lifelong Methodist, seeing a banner like that outside of the church in a time of such division in the denomination was a clear sign that this is where we needed to make our church home. We attended the following Sunday and by the end of 2021, we became church members.

I got started with running when I decided to sign up for the 2023 OKC Memorial Marathon. After spending over a decade weightlifting and playing different sports, I decided to try to do something that I knew would be incredibly challenging.

I could spend hours in a gym, but running? Absolutely not!

After training for and running OKC’s Memorial Marathon, I really wanted to throw in the towel. It was just so humbling how difficult 26.2 miles is, even after 16 weeks of training with OKC’s fantastic running community. My knees were obliterated and by mile 20, I just wanted to go home. When I got to that finish line, I vowed to never run again...

...Two days after finishing, I was invited to a 100K (62.1 mile) trail Ultramarathon on December 2nd... and I never back down from a challenge.

So here I am, only a few months later, preparing for a distance that is nearly 3x that of a marathon, and having an amazing time. I have done a few trail races in preparation (along with tons and tons of daily miles), and the furthest distance I have ran in one attempt so far has been 32.3 miles (~50 kilometers) at Pumpkin Holler Hunnerd in Tahlequah, OK. When I finished that 50K a few weeks ago, I crossed the finish knowing I had so much more to give. Now I just need to find out that limit. One bad marathon was not going to dictate that for me.

WAY TO GO, MIA! WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!



VOICE UPDATE

Our church is a new but proud member of VOICE.
We feel the work of VOICE aligns with our values.

We want our community to recognize Crown Heights UMC as a safe haven where all people are welcomed, affirmed, loved, and supported. We call our church members to be the extended hand of God.



CROWN HEIGHTS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

This year VOICE is committed to five areas:

**Affordable Housing,
Mental Health,
Criminal Justice Reform,
Education,
and Ending Predatory Lending.**

Tara and Trina serve on the Mental Health task force. We will keep the church posted on action items as they come up.



On October 27, our church filled a table at the VOICE Gala. Check out Maya and Daniel representing so well!

MEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Hannah Nguyen is graduating this semester with her Masters in Business Administration from UCO. She is a Systems Engineer at Boeing right now. **Congratulations!**



Welcome to the world, baby
Cecelia Noel - 11/13/23
Proud parents are Amber and
Parker Lotspeich, great-
grandmother Taffy Fellingham



YOUTH PROGRAMMING

YOUTH SCHEDULE

1st & 3rd Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30pm

December 6, Christmas Fun

December 22-23,

7pm to 9am— Sr High Christmas Lock In
7-11pm— Jr High join for Friday night fun

January 3, Lesson

January 17, Service Project

each sunday
join for sunday school at 10am—
breakfast class & 11am worship
atticus and andy will have a lesson
prepared each week

All over the church, we have posted the RULES for our youth group. We are working to create a community that is kind and respectful. To get us there, we are giving each youth 3 tickets as we begin an event. They lose a ticket when they don't follow a rule.

The rules are:

1. Don't lose your tickets.
2. Be in a room with an adult.
3. Respect adults, each other, & the building.
4. Get with the Program (the planned activity).

This system is already making a difference in their behavior. As we work with them, be sure to tell them when they are doing the right thing. And tell Atticus, Andy, or Trina if they are not!

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING

Trina leading the Children's Moment in worship on Oct 22.



Merry Christmas From CHUMC Children's Ministry

Children's Christmas Play and Children's Christmas Party
December 17th during 11am service
Party will follow the play in Fellowship Hall

Christmas Eve Services
December 24th
Childcare available for 11 am service and nursery available for 7 pm service

Crown Heights United Methodist Church
1021 NW 37th St.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118
405-524-8428

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30am-1:00 pm
Facebook: Crown Heights United Methodist Church



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AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS



October 27, we had PINK OUT in worship.
Both services dressed for the occasion!

On Thanksgiving Day, we opened up our
church for a community LGBTQ+ meal,
the first of its kind in OKC. Volunteers
cooked and our church cleaned.

