



Southern Hills Christian Church (DOC)

The Sharing Tree

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December 11, 2018



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



There will be one Christmas eve service this year. All are welcome to start gathering with friends and family in the Gathering Area at 5:30 pm on December 24th. We will have hot cocoa and simple snacks as we begin to gather to the sound of Christmas bells ringing as well as other music of the season. At 6:00 pm we will begin to worship in the sanctuary. The service will begin with a festive tone

as we move toward the lighting of the Christ candle at the center of our Advent wreath. Join us as we allow the power of Gospel story and the beauty of the Christmas music set the right tone in our lives for the arrival of the baby Jesus. The service will conclude prior to 7:00 pm with communion and the singing of Silent Night, Holy Night, as we lift our candles high.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Please give the Christmas Offering to support Oklahoma Regional Ministries in our work to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the church
- Empower new communities of faith
- Represent the church in ecumenical gatherings
- Respond to disasters in Oklahoma
- Walk with those in conflict

Your gifts to the Christmas offering, on December 16 and 23, support the work of the Disciples of



Christ churches in the Oklahoma Region, sustaining the life of the church by connecting, empowering and equipping Disciples of Christ to love and serve like Jesus.

Thank you for providing your finest gift. 100% of your gift supports Oklahoma Regional Ministries.

December 13th and 14th, Pastor Rob will be in Tulsa, Oklahoma serving the church as a member of the Phillips Theological Seminary Presidential Search and Transition Commission. He will be available by e-mail and phone. Please feel free to contact him if necessary.

WWW.SHCCEDMOND.ORG

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES

CHILDREN

Fun and Fellowship is on Winter Break! Thanks for a fun semester of crafts, games, cooking, service projects stories and more. In our ten weeks together, we explored themes of Family, Friends, Fall, Fellowship and Holidays. We learned about the Pilgrims and their 5 kernels of corn when we feasted together. (That was a great feast that we cooked ourselves!) We learned about the gifts of Advent - Hope, Peace, Joy and Love and made mangers to prepare for the Christ child. We ended the year with a Christmas party! There have been 8-10 children involved each week. We will resume next year, date to be determined. Thanks to everyone who helped "adult" the group, shopped, cooked or delivered.

Christmas Family Workshop on December 9, gave us an opportunity to be together as families, to hear the Christmas story and to remember that God Loves Us SNOW much. We made ornaments, treat bags to share with others and sang carols, complete with reindeer antlers and elf hats! The Christmas story is not the beginning of God's love for us, but it is a special point in time, when God helped us to understand – God is With Us! Emmanuel! "For God so loved the world, that he gave his Son..." As we learn the story of Jesus, and come to know God's love, we are ready to share it with others. Let your snow showers of love begin!

SNOWBALL SOCK MOUNTAIN

Now through Epiphany Sunday, January 6, we will be collecting NEW white socks of any size, to be shared with Refuge Fellowship. Socks are the most overlooked item of clothing when folks donate. And for those on the street, with little opportunity to wash clothes, wet and worn out socks become disposable. We can make a difference and help keep feet warm and dry. Bring your NEW white socks of any size to the Christian Education office on the South side, and help build a mountain of socks.

A Heart felt THANKS to Christian Ed. Volunteers

Many folks have assisted with children's and youth activities over this past year, youth leaders, Sunday school teachers, Worship and Wonder storytellers, helpers and greeters, food providers, supply gatherers, play directors and a one man orchestra. Overnight lock-in sponsors, pastor's class Friends in Faith, nursery subs, camp sponsors, Vacation Bible school leaders (including the youth) and so much more. It does take a church village to raise our children and youth in the family of faith. Because of you, our children and youth have learned the Bible stories, have experienced a deepening spiritual path, have found ways to be in service to others, and to know God's love, because you loved and cared enough to provide these opportunities for them. Job well done, people of God! Carry on!

Thank You also to our awesome Nursery caregivers!

All of them have been serving for several years now, and their relationships to the children shows it. After 6 years of caregiving for Maycee Fitch and 5 years for Grace Hellwege, both are moving on to new opportunities. So a special thank you to them for their dedication in shepherding our little lambs. But – don't leave us. Now you can come to worship instead!

YOUTH

Youth Christmas Play

A fun time was shared by all (even the Grinch) at the Youth Play Sunday evening. Such talent, and great singing! Thanks to the youth who performed and to the leaders who pulled it all together. Janna Carr, Director; Kara Gregory, Morgan Gregory, Asst Directors; Chuck Marshall, Tech; Roger Hellwege, music, and Janee Austin (keeping the plates spinning.) Let's not wait a whole year to hear from this crew! Look for more fun Youth activities to come!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

HOLIDAY ANXIETIES

This time of year do you feel as if you are carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders? Burdens come in all forms, but they have one thing in common they weigh us down and wear us out. Have you tried driving down Pennsylvania street? Wow. The longer we carry them, the heavier they seem. Unless we can deal with them properly they can cloud our thinking, interfere with our work, and affect our family life.

The world's answer to anxiety is short lived, but Jesus Christ offers the best permanent fix. He invites us to cast our worries on Him because he cares for us and loves us. He is our ultimate Savior who sympathizes with our weaknesses and intercedes for us with His Father. (Heb. 4:15.)

As the Son of Man, Jesus experienced firsthand all of the burdens and difficulties of this earthly life. He didn't have riches and knew how to trust the Father under great emotional stress. He was betrayed by



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Judas and was rejected by His own people. And while He never sinned, He faced temptations just as we do.

If you are in such a situation, what is keeping you from giving your burden to Christ? It takes a lot of humility to admit we can't handle it ourselves, and a lot of trust to allow God to work the situation out according to His will. But if we'll surrender the burden to Him, the only thing we have to lose is our anxiety.

Have a blessed Holiday, and share the Love,
Sandy Jehle
Stephen Leader

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

We invite you to be a part of our Caregiver's Support Group at Southern Hills Christian Church. We meet every third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm in the Parlor/Conference room. The group includes Stephen Ministers and

Leaders in a "Care and Share" experience, emphasizing a listening ear to provide whatever support you need.

Our next gathering will be at 7 pm, December 18. We hope you will

join us. There are no requirements for attendance. Come by and check out the group.

Blessings,
Your Stephen Ministry team

BLUE CHRISTMAS GATHERING



Blue Christmas Gathering - Thursday, December 13, 7:00 pm in the Chapel.

Not feeling the jollity of the holidays? Come find comfort, peace and warmth in a quiet gathering, as we reflect and share together. Come spend the evening with us at Southern Hills. It is our prayer that we will see you there.



COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH

SHCC DOES IT AGAIN!



The 28th Edmond CROP Walk is on track to raise more than \$10,000 to help people in need far and near. Team SHCC included 31 walkers and countless donors responsible for \$3,153.52! Church World Service receives 75% of walk donations and 25% is distributed to five local agencies: Breakfast on

Boulevard, Edmond Mobile Meals, HOPE Center, Project 66 Food Pantry and Samaritan House. Ongoing participation in the CROP Walk is just one way SHCC is making a positive difference in our world. Thanks to all who made this year's event such a success.

REFUGE FELLOWSHIP TOY DRIVE

Outreach is sponsoring a toy drive to provide gifts for several little girls ages 2 and 3 this year who attend Refuge Fellowship Church. If you would like to give, please bring unwrapped gifts to the Gathering Area by Sunday, December 16.



LCDA TOY DRIVE



Southern Hills will once again participate in the Christmas Toy Drive for the Latino Community Development Agency, where Dr. Reniery Espana is employed. The agency is planning a Christmas party

for 300 children from infancy to 12 years of age. Unwrapped toys should be placed in the box in the Gathering Area. The deadline for donations is December 16.

A WORD FROM OUR INTERIM MINISTER

Good morning Southern Hills. What a blessing it is to serve with you as your Interim Minister. We have great days ahead!

The past 10 days or so have been a whirlwind! Getting settled in the office and learning new names has been the kind of challenge that brings great joy! Thank you for your patience. No doubt I will need help learning more names.

This past weekend was a blessing beyond measure. The feeling in both worship services was joyous. The musical leadership in this church is phenomenal! The evening children's presentations were out standing! This church has so many talented and loving people! Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ should be a pure delight! I am very optimistic about our future; we just may need to work a little bit on remembering who we are.

Church growth guru Mark Tidsworth writes, "The more congregations give into their anxiety about budget and buildings and membership, the less vitalized they become. The more congregations are caught up in the beautiful Way of Jesus, living into their identity, finding their groove... the greater their participation with God in transforming their community toward

the kingdom. And that attracts the spiritual longing in we humans like honey to the bee. It's when we forget ourselves and join God's world makeover that we come alive."

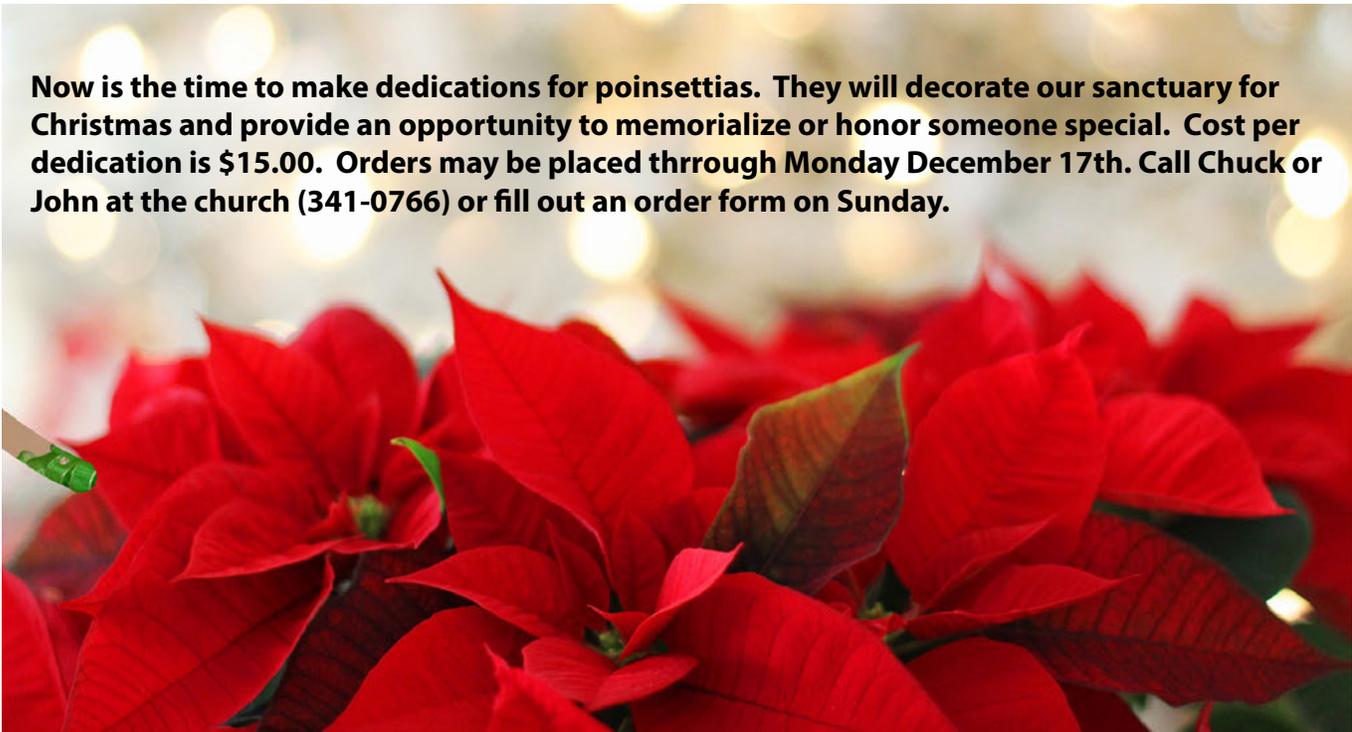
This quote is true of all churches and especially our beloved SHCC! We have so many great people here and such great talent! In the days in the days ahead we will be working on sharing our story and doing so in a way that says we are proud to be here! SHCC is still at one of Edmond's best kept secrets and we're going to have to change that! There are so many reasons to be proud of serving this church. Your name is at the top that list!

As your Pastor I will be available for you should any pastoral need arise, just let me know. I'll be in the office during office hours most days unless I'm representing your church as a part of the larger church. If I'm not at the office, John will be able to let you know where I am. Feel free to email or text or call or just drop in. I'm proud and humbled to serve as your pastor.

God loves you and so do I.

Pastor Rob

Now is the time to make dedications for poinsettias. They will decorate our sanctuary for Christmas and provide an opportunity to memorialize or honor someone special. Cost per dedication is \$15.00. Orders may be placed through Monday December 17th. Call Chuck or John at the church (341-0766) or fill out an order form on Sunday.



Southern Hills Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



*Spirituality
Koinonia
Serving Others
Worship*

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Email: frontoffice@shccedmond.org
Website: www.shccedmond.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Service Times

Sunday 9:00 am - Traditional Service
Sunday 10:15 am - Sunday School
Sunday 11:15 am - Contemporary Service
Sunday 3:30 pm - Communion at Bradford Village

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm



IMPORTANT DATES

- 12/13 - Blue Christmas Gathering - 7:00 pm in the Chapel
- 12/16 - Christmas Cantata at 9:00 am
- 12/16 - Special Contemporary Music Service at 11:15 am
- 12/18 - DW Fidelity/Charity Lunch
- 12/18 - Caregiver's Support - 7:00 pm in the Parlor
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 5:30 pm
- 12/30 - Sweater Sunday service - **10:45**, No Sunday School.
- 1/06 - Epiphany Party and Chili Cook-off

ATTENDANCE

Sunday School 12/02	60
10:45 Combined Svc. 12/02	122
3:30 PM Bradford 912/02	13
Total Worship 12/02	135

Sunday School 12/09	87
9:00 AM Traditional 12/09	121
11:15 AM Contemp. 12/09	60
3:30 PM Bradford 12/09	14
Total Worship 12/09	195

SHCC STAFF

Interim Minister:	Rev. Dr. Rob Crawford
Interim Minister of Family Life:	Rev. Allison Longman
Family Life Intern:	Morgan Gregory
Director of Traditional Music:	Bryant Rains
Interim Director of Choir and Bells:	Lacie Bowlware
Director of Contemporary Music:	Ben Bowlware
Director of Communications & Technology:	Chuck Marshall
Church Office Coordinator:	John Greer
Child Development Center Director:	Suzanne Ray

PRAYERS

Marie Byrkit; Susie Park; Elsie Knight;
Alice Smith; Joe Jones; Verna Manning;
Paul Murray and family; Bob Hoemann;
Michael Bohn, Darlene Browsers; Evelyn
Elliot