



The Sharing Tree

Southern Hills Christian Church (DOC)

Vol: 30

Issue: 23

December 3, 2019

Blue Christmas Service

Monday, December 16th, 7:00 pm

This Advent season, SHCC will be offering a Blue Christmas service in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm on Monday, December 16. This service will recognize that the holidays are sometimes "blue" or stir-up feelings which can be painful, particularly in terms of loss grief. If you are struggling with the ongoing sting of death, if you are struggling with the darkness and grief surrounding the loss of a loved one, this service is for you. This worship service will provide space to acknowledge pain and express grief while also reflecting on the promise of hope. Join us for a quiet place to reflect, meditate and worship.

SHCC DRAMA TEAM PRESENTS: BACK TO THE MANGER

Sunday evening, **December 8th, at 6:00pm**, in the Sanctuary, the SHCC Youth and Children Drama Team will be performing this year's Christmas show: "Back to the Manger." Following the performance, there will be a snack reception in the gathering area. Our children and youth, led by Janna Carr and Morgan Gregory, have been working hard to learn their lines, songs, and choreography. Come and support them, and if you wish, **bring a snack to share!**



CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Be sure to mark your calendars for two special worship services on **Sunday, December 15th**. The joy and hope of Christmas are celebrated in ***Tapestry of Light***, a Celtic-styled cantata in Traditional Service. The celebration continues with special seasonal music in the Contemporary Service. We hope you will plan to come enjoy these musical gifts of the season! Services will follow the regular Sunday schedule of 9:00 am Traditional Service, 10:15 am Sunday School, and 11:15 am Contemporary Service.

ADVENT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Upcoming Events in the Season of Advent:

- 12/08: Christmas Family Workshop - 10:15 am
- 12/08: Youth Christmas Play & Reception - 6:00 pm
- 12/15: Christmas Cantata - 9:00 am
- 12/15: Special Music service - 11:15 am
- 12/16: Blue Christmas Service - 7:00 pm
- 12/24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 5:30 pm
- 12/29: Sweater Sunday Combined Worship - 10:45 am
- 1/05: Epiphany Party and Chili Cook-Off - 5:30 pm

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES

REV. SARAH COMBS
341-0766 (OFFICE)
513-1316 (CELL)
SARAH@SHCCEDMOND.ORG

Family Life Ministries during Advent

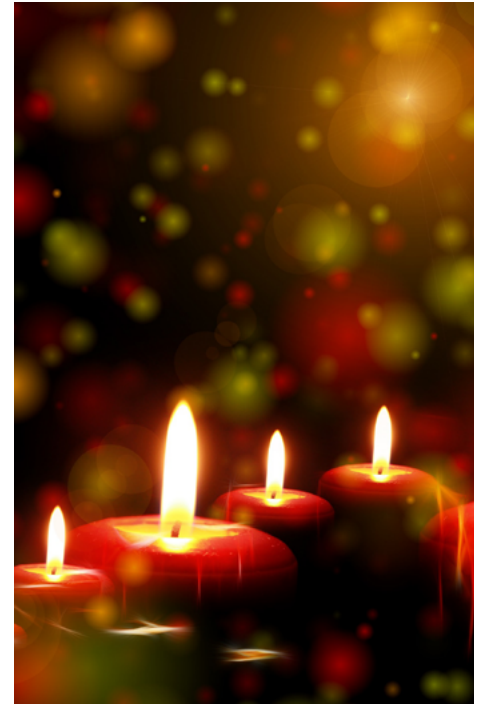
It's hard to believe Advent is here! Here's a list of the events happening this Christmas season for children, youth, and families.

The Christmas Play, Back to the Manger, is December 8 at 6:00 pm.

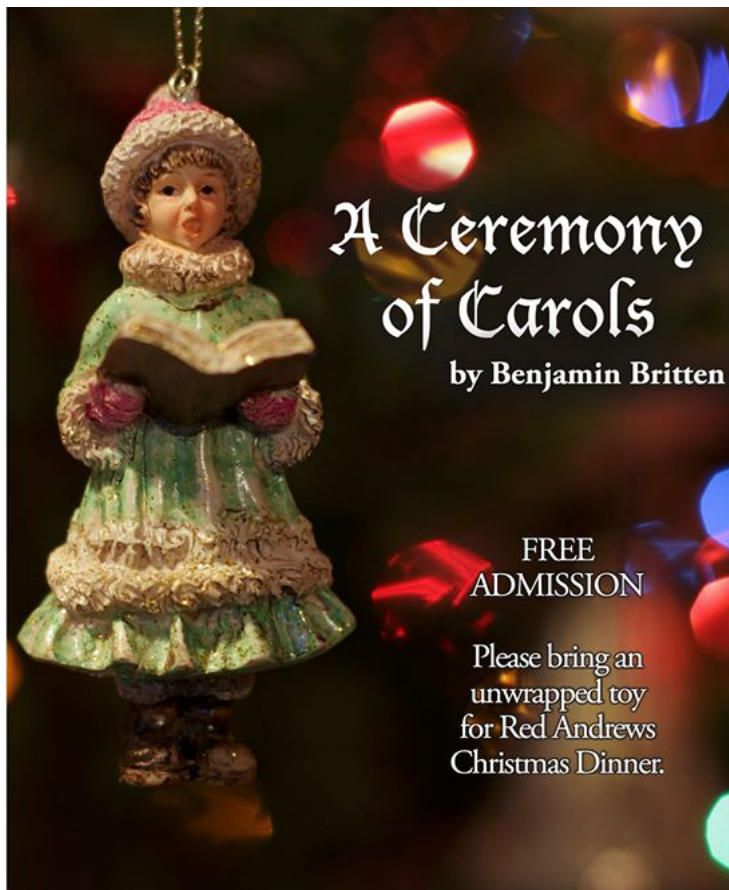
Youth Ice Skating is at Mitch Park, December 15 after the 11:15 service.

Ginger Bread decorating and Christmas Eve Service is December 24 at 5:30 pm.

Sweater Sunday is December 29 at 10:45am. There is no Sunday School.



EDMOND COMMUNITY CHORALE



Edmond Community Chorale, of which Ted Drab is a member, cordially invites you to attend their Holiday Concert on **Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at First Christian Church, Edmond (201 E 2nd St), 7pm.** Under the direction of Rondal J. Wallace, the concert will feature "A Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten, along with other holiday favorites. One of Britten's best-known and most-performed work, "A Ceremony of Carols" is a collection of ten carols framed by the chant "Hodie Christus Natus Est" ("Today, Christ is born") at both the beginning and the end. This innovative, exciting, and stunningly beautiful piece is a true holiday treasure. Admission to the concert is free; guests are asked to bring an unwrapped toy (or monetary donation) to benefit the Red Andrews Christmas Dinner. An Oklahoma City Christmas Day tradition since 1947, the Red Andrews Christmas Dinner provides warm meals and toys to thousands of people each year. Mark your calendars to join ECC for their Holiday Concert, as they celebrate the season and support a worthy cause.

NEED BETTER PRAYER TIME?

Prayer is a marvelous and amazing privilege. The reason being, is it involves conversations with our heavenly Father. But, if we are honest with ourselves, there are times when it seems like more of a chore than a joy. This is especially true if we reduce our prayers to a routine which can deaden our desire to talk to God.

Since it is beyond our comprehension to completely grasp the vastness of our Savior's love, the apostle Paul prays that we will be firmly rooted and grounded in this truth that we will become controlled by it and "filled up to all the fullness of God." Experiencing Jesus' love motivates us to live for Christ and enable each one of us to care deeply for others.

Paul both praises God's matchless power and invites it into our heart. The most important battles take place inside of us---- in our minds, wills, and emotions---- and Paul wants to ensure that the power



Christ caring for people through people

STEPHEN MINISTRY

of the Holy Spirit will be at work in our lives. When we welcome His authority, God can use us in meaningful ways, and what's more, we will exhibit the life of Jesus in a fuller measure.

Although physical and material needs are important, the apostle's prayers were more often focused on the spiritual welfare of others. This is a wonderful example for us to follow as well.

Would you like to read an exciting and interesting story today? Pick up your bible, and read Philipians Chapter one.

Till next time, God's blessings upon you,
Sandy Jehle - Stephens Leader

SHALOM MEALS

This Advent, Pastor Rob and his family will be hosting Shalom meals in their home. A Shalom Meal is an Advent celebration that includes liturgy, singing, breaking of the bread and sharing of the cup. Towards the end of the meal, we toast God's new creation, giving thanks for God's blessing and expressing our hopes and commitments for the new year. Wine will be served, as well as non-alcoholic beverages. Guests are encouraged to bring their preferred 'toasting' beverage. The gathering times are listed below and the meals will last approximately 2 hours.

For each dinner, co-hosts are being sought to arrive early and stay late for helping with set up and clean up. Co-hosts are also being asked to provide an entrée that will feed 8 -10 people. All other

participants will be asked to bring a side dish or dessert. Children are more than welcome, but please make sure you sign them up too!

To follow are the primary entrée, dates and times for the Shalom Meals:

- December 8th – 1:00 (Ham)
- December 11th – 7:00 (Chuck roast)
- December 13th - 7:00 (Chicken Breasts)
- December 14th – 6:00 (Turkey)
- December 15th – 1:00 (Ham)
- December 18th at 7:00 (Chuck Roast)

Sign ups are in the Gathering area on the window ledge outside the front office.

REFUGE FELLOWSHIP KIDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

For the third year, SHCC is helping to sponsor Christmas for children related to Refuge Fellowship. The party is hosted by New Covenant Christian Church in OKC, and our part is to provide presents for three little ones. We have a 5 month old, a six month old, and a 2 year old----all little girls. Gifts suggested by their

mothers are listed on card ornaments under the TV in the Gathering Area. Some of the gifts are very simple, every day items. If you would like to help a child have a joyful Christmas, just pick up a card and return the suggested unwrapped gift to the church by Dec. 10. Please call Marilee Hattendorf for more information.



A 'SUGAR & SPICE' ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

I am continually amazed by the incredible amount of hard work, talent, support and creativity that goes into making our Alternative Christmas event such a success year after year! We are extremely grateful to all who devoted so much of their time and resources by making cards, cooking & baking, working the agency tables, cashiering, preparing & serving in the kitchen, working the Pambe Ghana tables, and setting-up and tearing-down the Fellowship Hall before and after the event.

We are overjoyed to report that through the generous support of our SHCC family, the following amounts will be distributed to the various charitable agencies represented at this year's event, providing encouragement and hope to our neighbors locally and around the world:

- Hand-made cards (16 agencies) - \$2,877 to date. (Still selling remaining cards)
- Pambe Ghana Fair Trade items - \$1,313
- Brunch to support Refugee Fellowship - \$450
- Bake Sale to support Saturday Breakfast - \$294

I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Outreach Committee for their continued support in planning and organizing this event each year...a truly amazing group of folks.

With a grateful heart,
Debbie Bohn

IN THE EVENT OF BAD WEATHER

If bad weather on a Sunday morning threatens cancellation of the worship services, a decision will be made by 7:30 am and the word will go out in several ways. Information on church closings will be reported on the local news stations. The information will be posted on the SHCC website, Facebook, and Twitter. We have also begun using an automated system to send out recorded phone messages.

If bad weather is in the forecast, look to one of these sources to see if we will have services as scheduled. If it is determined that worship will occur, please use your own good judgment about attending, taking into account the weather conditions and your own mobility.



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 15.

POINSETTIAS

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 or a loved one. Cost per dedication is \$15.00. Orders may be placed through Sunday December 22nd. Look for the Poinsettia insert in your Sunday bulletin. Don't forget to take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve Service.



A WORD FROM PASTOR ROB

"The world waits for a miracle
The heart longs for a little bit of hope
Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel"

These words from Lauren Daigle's song, "Light of the World," are the inspiration to this year's Advent/Christmas theme: "Glory to the Light of the World." I'm sure it was the birth of Jesus that inspired her!

There was a time when the Church, at least the one many of us around here have experienced, was a bit more pure about the separation of Advent and Christmas. In many churches that is still the way. Theologically, it makes sense. Advent is about the anticipation of Jesus' coming into the world; into a world full of hurt. Often, as we try to discuss the context of Jesus' birth, especially during Advent, we get lost in the darkness or stuck in the mire. This season of Advent & Christmas at SHCC will be focusing on Jesus as the Light of the world, and how we are to bring God's glory to the world, as a part of the way we observe Advent and celebrate Christmas.

Daigle's song, for me, is a clever song, as it goes back and forth between the anticipating/waiting, to the celebrating and rejoicing. How can we do that?

God is Coming, and God is with Us. How do we recognize both? How do we live out these narratives of light piercing the darkness?

Daigle sings:

"The world waits for the miracle
The heart longs for a little bit of hope
Oh come, oh come Emmanuel"

Our hope is found in the coming of our Christ. Emmanuel is with us now & is seeking to be born again, and again. We are called to be the angels singing, "Glory to the Light of the World." How are we answering that call? Are we trumpeting the Good News of Jesus Christ; of how his arrival changed the world?

Yes, we are!

Join us for worship this Advent season and bring a friend or a loved one who longs to experience the Hope & Glory of the Light of the World.

~Pastor Rob



Southern Hills Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



*Spirituality
Koinonia
Serving Others
Worship*

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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

- 12/08 - Christmas Family Workshop 10:15 am
- 12/08 - Youth Christmas Play - 6:00 pm
- 12/15 - Christmas Cantata at 9:00 am
- 12/15 - Leadership Council Meeting
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve Celebration and Worship Service - 5:30 pm
- 12/24 - 12/27 Church offices closed
- 12/29 - Sweater Sunday - One service at **10:45**; No Sunday School
- 01/05 - Epiphany Party and Chili Cook-off

ATTENDANCE

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Sunday School 11/24 | 57 |
| 9:00 AM Traditional 11/24 | 89 |
| 11:15 AM Contemp. 11/24 | 43 |
| 3:30 PM Bradford 11/24 | 8 |
| Total Worship 11/24 | 140 |

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|---------------------------|-----|
| Sunday School 12/01 | |
| 9:00 AM Traditional 12/01 | 101 |
| 11:15 AM Contemp. 12/01 | 41 |
| 3:30 PM Bradford 12/01 | 8 |
| Total Worship 12/01 | 150 |

SHCC STAFF

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Interim Minister: | Rev. Dr. Rob Crawford | rob@shccedmond.org |
| Director of Family Life Ministries: | Rev. Sarah Combs | sarah@shccedmond.org |
| Family Life Intern: | Morgan Gregory | morgan@shccedmond.org |
| Director of Choir and Bells: | Lacie Bowlware | lacie@shccedmond.org |
| Director of Contemporary Music: | Ben Bowlware | ben@shccedmond.org |
| Director of Communications & Tech: | Chuck Marshall | chuck@shccedmond.org |
| Church Office Coordinator: | John Greer | john@shccedmond.org |
| Child Development Center Director: | Suzanne Ray | cdcoffice@shccedmond.org |

PRAYERS

Marie Byrkit; Elsie Knight; Alice Smith; Joe Jones; Ruth Harness; Bud Kahmar; Julie Kruse; Amber Marcha; Dennis Marcha; Valerie White; Shirley Bibb; Evelyn Elliott's Son; Mary Lou Pendleton; Dan Cheatham; Dianne Baker; Nanci Moll; Janet Moll; Keith Spaulding; Lynda Deibel