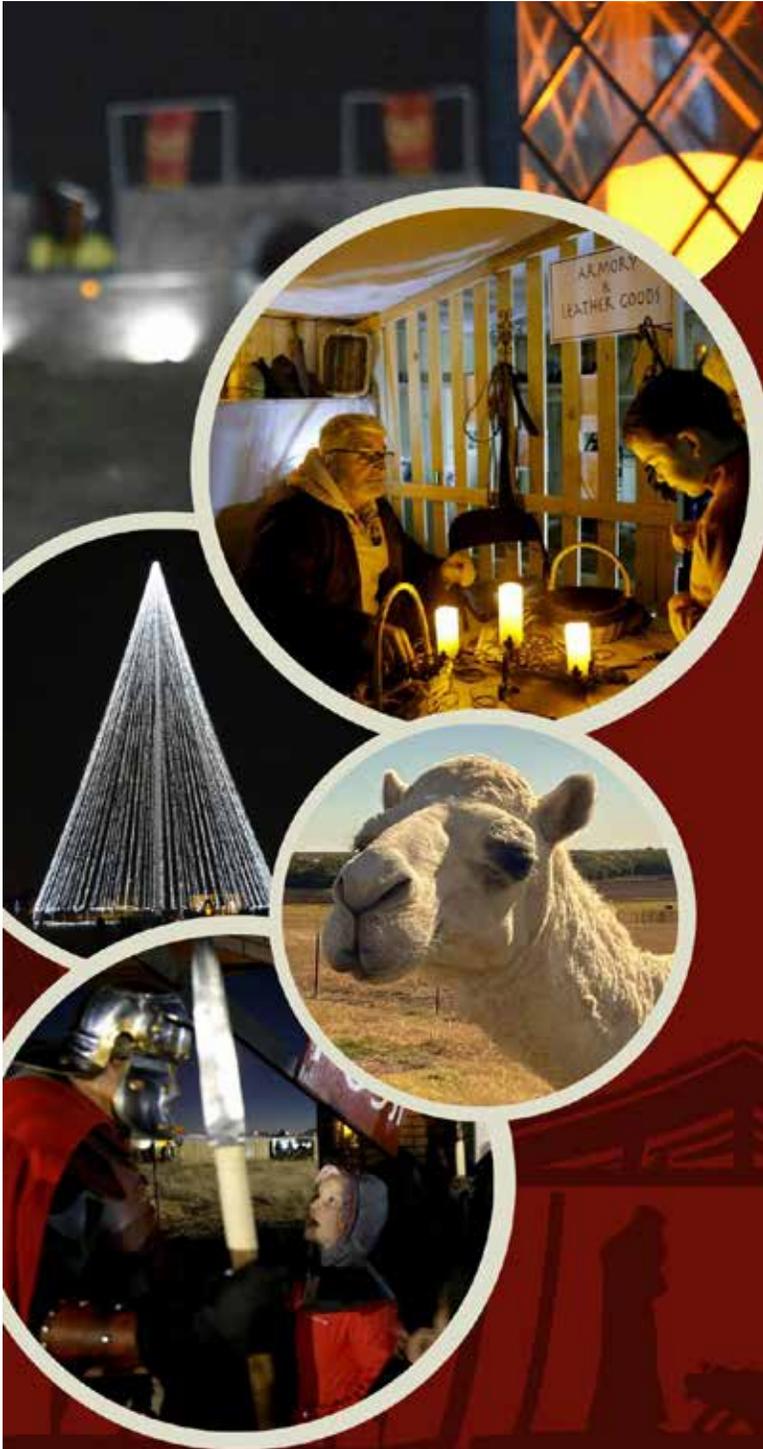




THE SERVANT

CONNECT

EDITION NO. 21.12 | DECEMBER 2021 | MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Walk Through Bethlehem

Come experience the real reason for the season as you walk the streets of Bethlehem and experience a village bazaar, petting zoo, nativity, roman soldiers, a storyteller, and more!

December 10th & 11th

6-9PM

December 12th

6-8PM

▶ A NOTE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

CHRISTMAS & COMMUNITY



▶ **Dr. Matthew Mitchell**
Senior Minister



December is finally here, and this means Christmas is quickly approaching! Holy Communion Christmas Eve Services will be at 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. in the Celebration Center. Plan to invite your friends and family for the most memorable night of the entire Christmas year. I cannot wait to light a candle and sing Silent Night with each of you this year at Church of the Servant! To help each of us prepare for Christmas this year, I am working on a worship series titled: ***Christmas & Community***.

Throughout two decades of ministry, countless people have explained to me how they attempt to make it through the holiday season. So often, people tell me the holidays are tough because of their relationships with co-workers, friends, and family. December can be challenging for all of us. With this said, I will be looking at the Christmas story a little differently this year. I ask the question, "What can we learn from those who were part of the first Christmas community?" Here is a quick look at each Sunday in December. Read ahead, and let's talk about how Christmas can be a beautiful season of community because of the gift of Jesus. After all, Jesus brought an entirely new community together long ago in the little town of Bethlehem.

December 5 – Community with Co-Workers | The Magi

December 12 – Community with Friends | The Shepherds

December 19 – Community with Family | Mary & Joseph

December 24 – Community with God | Jesus & Us

Looking forward to being with you in a life of community this Christmas at Church of the Servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew".





WALK THROUGH BETHLEHEM
DECEMBER 10 & 11 – 6 to 9PM
DECEMBER 12 – 6 to 8PM

Come experience the real reason for the season as you walk the streets of Bethlehem and experience a village bazaar, petting zoo, nativity, roman soldiers, a storyteller, and more!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT & HOLY COMMUNION
DECEMBER 24 – 6 & 8PM

Two outstanding Christmas Eve services will take place at 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. Both services will be similar, and Holy Communion will be available at each service. Arrive early and invite your friends and family to join you for this beautiful and holy night. Childcare at 6:00 for ages 3 & under.

ONE SERVICE SUNDAYS – DECEMBER 26 & JANUARY 2

This year, Church of the Servant will hold one worship service at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays, December 26 and January 2. With so many people traveling and spending time with family, our staff wanted to celebrate together as a church family. Each of these Sundays will be an opportunity to celebrate the gift of Christ and the family we share at Church of the Servant.

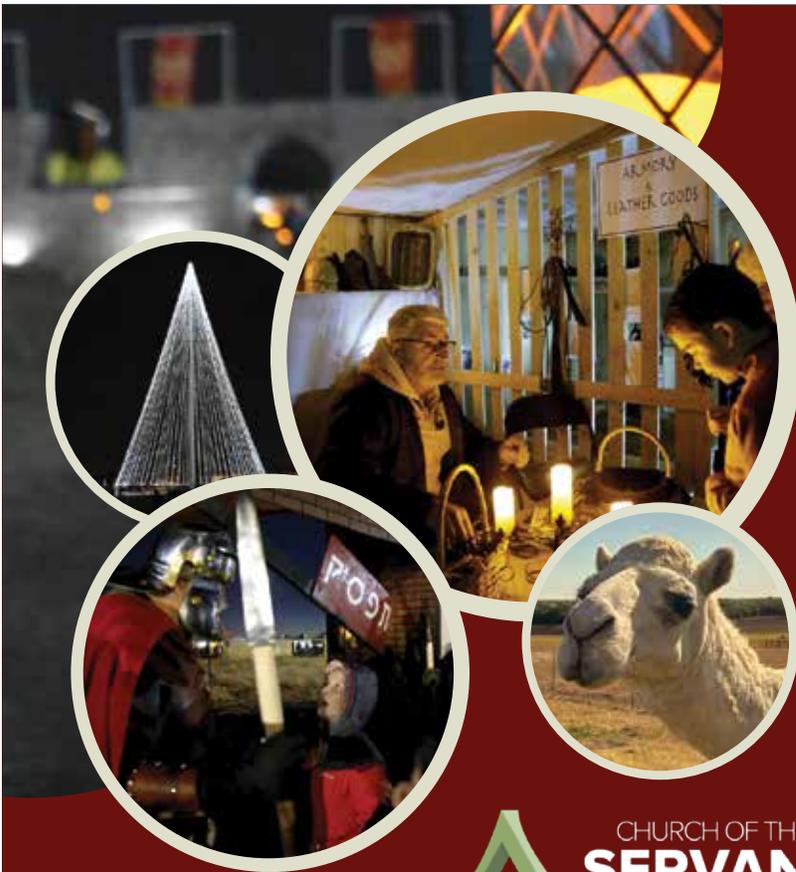


Walk Through Bethlehem

Come experience the real reason for the season as you walk the streets of Bethlehem and experience a village bazaar, petting zoo, nativity, roman soldiers, a storyteller, and more!

December 10th & 11th | 6 to 9pm

December 12th | 6 to 8pm



Afghan

NEIGHBOR OUTREACH

AFGHAN UPDATE & CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

M I S S I O N S

Mission Council has been overwhelmed with the response to our request for sponsorship of Afghani refugee families coming to OKC! Pastor Mitchell said it perfectly when he mentioned the Oklahoma Standard – Oklahomans step up when there is an emergency of any kind. This one happens to be a humanitarian crisis. We have agreed to sponsor a family of 11 and another one of 5. They are both here in OKC, but housing has not yet been found. Through our database of household goods, we will be ready when housing is found. Afghan refugees pay for their own housing, there are no government subsidies. Each man, woman and child is given \$1,225 and that must pay rental & utility deposits, rent, food, etc. until they receive a paycheck. Infant Crisis Services has offered their services for children who have not yet reached the age of 4. They are not able to obtain Snap (food stamps). There is also a great deal of trauma that the Afghans have endured and indeed many of them have family and close friends who are still trying to get out. While Afghans love to talk about their country, as volunteers we were asked not to ask about the current situation in their country. While all of this sounds depressing, there is such hope and positive outcomes as was shown in a recent Zoom call.

Several people who have expressed an interest in helping transport people to doctor's appointments, get driver's licenses, etc have attended two Zoom conversations with and about refugees. Each year, around 275 refugees come to OKC to start a new life. In a panel discussion, three refugees (non-Afghan) talked about their first days in OKC. One Burmese young woman came with her family when she was 14 in



<https://servantokc.org/afghan>

SPECIAL FISH APPEAL

'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING

ALL FISH FUNDS FROM
DECEMBER 19-31 WILL GO TO
INFANT CRISIS SERVICES

SERVANTOKC.ORG/FISHFUND



2008. She has since earned a bachelor's degree and is working on a master's degree. Her parents got jobs quickly and are still employed at the same company. They own their own home. As an example of the huge culture differences, she talked about mail. In Burma, mail was a rarity, and they did not understand what they were receiving. They did not know what was junk mail and what were documents from the government that needed attention. They were told what 911 meant but they didn't know how to use a phone other than that. They weren't sure how to turn on the oven.

A young American man spoke who trained with Afghani soldiers for two years and has since gone to work for Spero Project. He and his wife each speak an Afghan language – Pashtun or Dari. He gave us some interesting cultural differences: Afghans do not have dogs as pets (so don't bring a dog to their home). Cats are OK. If they ask you to stay for tea, do your best to accept. In Afghanistan, one would not decline an offer of tea. Our thumbs up sign is not ok – to them it is very rude. If a woman comes to the house, the men of the family may retire to another room. These are generalities, of course, but worth noting.

This is such a great opportunity to learn about a culture and country which most of us only know through the news. We will be happy to share all the steps in this journey.

Mission Council



CHRISTMAS FISH APPEAL FOR INFANT CRISIS SERVICES

Once again, the babies of ICS will be the recipients of a special Fish collection. All offering proceeds from Sunday, December 19 through the end of 2021 will be given to continue the important work of nurturing our Oklahoma babies. Did you know that in 2020 ICS donated formula to over 8,500 babies? Nearly 1,000 of those babies needed a special formula such as given to premies. Premature baby formula costs \$75 per week and hypoallergenic formula costs \$150 a week.

And that's just a small part of what ICS does. For 37 years, ICS has provided formula, food and diapers to every baby up to the age of 4 who has come through their door. Every baby's needs are different, and every baby deserves a chance to be set up for success from the very beginning. Help Servant help the babies through a donation to Infant Crisis Services. For more information, go to infantcrisis.org.



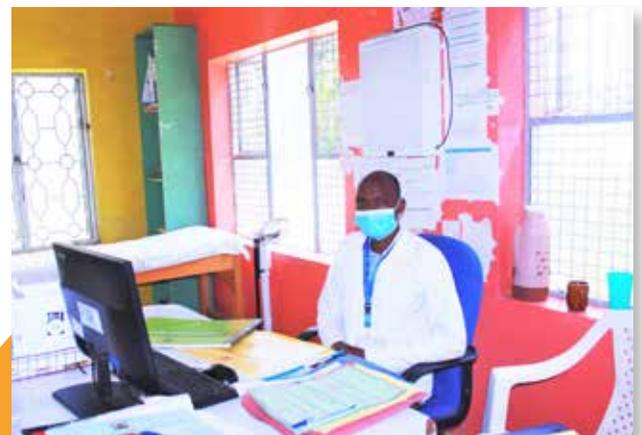
M I S S I O N S

MAUS METHODIST HOSPITAL: CLEAN WATER PROJECT

In 2013 on our first trip to Kenya with Robert and Prudy Gorrell, the team noticed that while there were sinks in each ward of the hospital, none of the personnel washed their hands. It was puzzling but we were first-timers and didn't want to ask tough questions. Over the years we've found out that most of the water the hospital uses come straight from the river and is untreated!! No wonder no one bothered to wash their hands!

There is some clean water on the property, which is a 19-acre compound on which doctors, nurses and other medical personnel live full time, but not enough to fulfill all their needs. Even back in 2013, we heard about a team of engineers, hydrologists, and project managers who were working on a plan to obtain clean water for the entire property. It's been a very slow, time consuming, and frustrating endeavor. Two steps forward and one step back seemed the norm. About 5 years ago, Friends of Maua Hospital (FOMH, a group of 35 churches who support, fundraise and travel to Kenya) began a relationship with an organization called African Mission Healthcare (AMH). It was founded by a

physician from Houston who worked in several African countries before settling in Kenya with his wife and children. He has been instrumental in upgrading facilities in mission hospitals throughout Kenya, South Sudan, Malawi and Uganda. Mission hospitals are the backbone of medical care in Africa. There are private hospitals for the wealthy and government hospitals which do a fair job, but their staff are frequently on strike (for example, because the government didn't pay them for several months). For the past 100 years mission hospital have been there for the people no matter what.



In conjunction with the resources of AMH, the water team has been able to obtain authentic bids for the work, has been able to test the water in the current bore hole and ascertain that there is enough available water for the whole property. Through the power of Zoom during the pandemic, the team has also been in close contact with the people at the hospital with whom they will work. Zoom has made communication much easier, and a deeper sense of trust has been created. As always, the management team of the hospital sets the priorities and Friends of Maua Hospital finds ways to make them happen.

At the last Gathering of FOMH on Nov. 5, which was held virtually, the fundraising for the water project was formally launched. \$150,000 is the goal and which will make every faucet on the property flow with good clean water! At a recent Mission Council

meeting at Servant, it was voted to donate \$5,000 from Kenya designated funds and \$5,000 from general Fish Funds to this project. In addition to the \$10,000, it must be noted that all funds donated by the end of 2021, will be matched in full! So Servants donation just became \$20,000!! The matching funds come from a donation to AMH.

Below is a link to an article that is more in depth and shows a diagram of the five stages of the project. Please note that no additional funds are being requested; Church of the Servant has been remarkably generous over the years which has resulted in the ability to donate funds now.

<https://friendsofmaua.org/current-fundraiser>

PS A limited river water system, physically isolated from the clean water storage and piping network, will be maintained for irrigation, fire protection, and other appropriate incidental uses.



SKYLINE VOLUNTEER DAY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 9AM - NOON

If you're finished with your shopping and holiday preparations or just want a break from it all, come join us at Skyline for a morning of service! We haven't been assigned a task yet, but we know our time will be put to good use. The pictures show last year's volunteer day: we stocked food shelves, packaged food for pickup, and straightened up the work area. It's a great opportunity for students that are home from college or out of school to witness the work of feeding God's children through Skyline. If you would like to participate, email us at missions@servantokc.org. Skyline Urban Ministries is located at 500 SE 15th Street. All are welcome.





SERVANT STUDENTS

6TH - 12TH GRADE



Heather Winner
Director of Servant Students

GOLFING THROUGH THE GALAXY?

What do Marvel Movies and mini golf have to do with one another? Absolutely nothing at all. But for Servant Student's Halloween Party, we made them collide in a way you've never seen before.

Students competed in the annual Servant Games for the entire month of October. As small groups, students played games themed this year superhero style. Working together as a team, this friendly competition was made to bond Wednesday Night small groups, not only in discussion, but also in laughter and encouragement.

And man, was it a good time! All of the games throughout the month led up to this year's Halloween Party: *The Endgame*.

At *The Endgame*, students got the chance to dress up, play games with their favorite super, and finish out Servant Games with mini-golf. Yes, we turned the point into a golf course with each room inspired by the Marvel movie Avengers: Endgame. Each room represented

a different color stone that students were working to collect by putting the lowest score. In the end, all teams came back together for one last relay race. Competing to the very end, our 10th and 11th-grade girls won the overall competition with all the other teams giving them a run for their money.

In all good fun, it was a night to be remembered as we all grow closer as a ministry for even better memories to come.

Heather Winner



Skyler Rodriguez
Assistant Director of Servant Students



Would you like more information about Servant Student Ministries? Contact Heather at hwinner@ServantOKC.org or Skyler at srodriguez@ServantOKC.org.

WHAT'S AHEAD?



The first semester of the “new” school year has absolutely flown by us. It doesn’t seem like too long ago we were setting up inflatables and ordering pizza for our Back to School Bash. This semester has been full of joy, growth, and fun, but it is not over yet. We still have a few more student gatherings before we take off for Christmas break. One thing we will be doing is finishing up our Christmas sermon series called “Mary’s Christmas.” This series aims to tell the Christmas story from Mary’s perspective and to shed light on the courage, boldness, and faithfulness that Mary stepped into as she was called to give birth to Jesus Christ. We will be wrapping up our semester with our *Jolly Jamboree* on December 8, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. here at Church of the Servant. This will be a potluck dinner; all 14 small groups will participate. We will follow this with a massive game of White Elephant, and finish the night with a message from Heather.

Our Christmas break will be December 19 – January 9.

Be sure to follow us on Instagram (@servanthighschool and @servantmiddleschool) for any updates and announcements.

Skyler Rodriguez





JOHN 15:1-17

CONFIRMATION **2021**

Seek. Find. Abide.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Confirmation Sunday is quickly approaching as we are only a few short weeks away from finishing up our class with these students. This service is for those going through Confirmation class to confirm their faith in front of the church congregation by agreeing to membership vows. These vows say that they will uphold the values of the church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. This is such an important day for the students as they say “Yes” to God’s story and mission for their life. Confirmation Sunday will be Sunday, December 12.

Each student will give preference to which service they would like to be confirmed in (8:15 - Chapel, 9:30 - Traditional, or 11:00 - Modern). Friends, family, and all of the church body are invited and welcome to celebrate alongside these new confirmands.

Skyler Rodriguez

2021 CONFIRMANDS

Joshua Bird	Caleb Weber
Kathryn Decker	Max Greene
Luke Mosley	Will Brinkman
Tyler Afonien	Kade Wienstroer
Georgia Byers	Wade Tully
Katherine Russ	Garrett Tully
Macey McFarlane	Kendal Behring
Will McFarlane	Drew Lykes

JOIN US FOR...

PRIME TIME

▶▶▶▶▶ Special Guests: Sisters,
Danielle Webb & Alyssa Flesher
Accompanied by Matt Schinske

Thursday, December 9

10:30AM | Community Hall

SERVANTOKC.ORG/PRIME-TIME

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Prime Time's December event will feature Christmas music for all ages! Sisters Danielle Webb and Alyssa Flesher will perform solos and duets every heart will recognize. Matt Schinske will also perform familiar tunes to fill you with the Christmas spirit. Come ready to join right in, as the duo has prepared several singalongs throughout the program! This Prime Time is sure to make your spirits bright!

DECEMBER MEAL: Honey Glazed Ham, Sweet Potatoes, Pea Salad, Cranberry Sauce, Rolls, and Dessert. The cost for the program and meal is \$10.00 (\$2.00 for program only).

There's no membership fee, just a warm invitation to anyone who would like to have a great morning of fun, food and fellowship! You can sign up anytime at Guest Central in the concourse, or online at ServantOKC.org/prime-time. Join us Thursday, December 9 at 10:30 a.m. in Community Hall. Hope to see everyone there!

Read more about Danielle, Alyssa, and Matt at ServantOKC.org/prime-time.





STEWARDSHIP

Commitment Card

Our annual Stewardship Commitment Sunday was November 21. This is always a great celebration of the continued faithfulness of our church family! We ask our members to turn in an estimate of giving card each year so that our Finance Office is able to set an accurate ministry budget for the coming year. This allows us to make the most of every dollar given to the church. The Commitment Card is also an opportunity for you to spend time in prayer and reflection, considering what offering you would make to God through our church in the coming year.

If you have not yet turned in your Commitment Card, please fill out your card and bring it with you to church this Sunday, mail it into the church office, or fill out the online commitment card at the link below.

ServantOKC.org/GIVE-NOW

Name(s) _____ Env # _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

I will support the church with my prayers, my presence, my service, my witness, and the following financial gift...

2021
Commitment

\$ _____
Annual

2022
Commitment

\$ _____
Annual

Choose One:

\$ _____ weekly for 52 weeks

\$ _____ monthly for 12 months

\$ _____ as follows _____

2 Cor 9:11

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." (NIV)

If you choose, your pledge could be automatically drafted from your bank account or charged on your card.

Monthly Bank Draft Authorization

I authorize United Methodist Church of the Servant to draft my account during 2022 on the 3rd or 20th of each month in the amount of \$_____. I have enclosed a voided check which will be used to set up the draft with my bank.

Signature for Bank Draft Authorization

Credit/Debit Card Authorization for 2022

VISA MasterCard Discover

Card Number _____

VIN# _____ Exp. Date _____

Please charge \$ _____

on the 15th of each month, each quarter, or

one time on _____
Month/Year

Signature for Credit/Debit Card Author



EARTHGLow GIFT SHOP

IT'S CHRISTMAS AT EARTHGLow!

Have you been into Earthglow Gift Shop lately? It is decked for Christmas! We've sold out of some of our items and reordered. We have great food items to share for the holiday season. A great selection of gifts are available, as well. Parking is easy and we are open on Sunday, as well as Monday through Thursday (9am - 3pm) and Fridays (9am - Noon). Remember, every item you purchase "gifts" others in our very own community.



EARTHGLow MARKET

Thank you to all who donated, baked, volunteered, and shopped at Earthglow Market on November 13. We are so grateful. Your love, efforts and support will increase our donations to the last, the lost and least in our own hometown! Mark your calendars for our next Earthglow Market on November 12, 2022. We already have reservations for 32 booths!



PUT A HAT ON THE TREE!

Put a hat on the tree which will cover a head in January! Outside of Earthglow will be a special tree to cover in hats of all shapes and sizes by the end of the year!

The hats you donate to the tree will be distributed to various organizations throughout OKC, like Exodus House, Homeless Alliance, and Penn Ave Redemption Church.



SERVANT KIDS *Report*



Kourtney Aller
Director of Servant Kids

LOOK WHAT WE DID...

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Servant Kids hosted their second movie night of the school year on November 19th with a fun Christmas-themed movie. The concession stand was open to serve hot dogs and popcorn, and everyone had a blast! Be on the lookout for more movie night events after the new year!



Josh Snodgrass
Assistant Director of Servant Kids



● ●
UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AND OTHER INFORMATION, SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT ON COMMUNICATION ABOUT EVENTS! CONTACT KOURTNEY TO CHECK OR UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION AT KALLER@SERVANTOKC.ORG OR 405-728-4715.

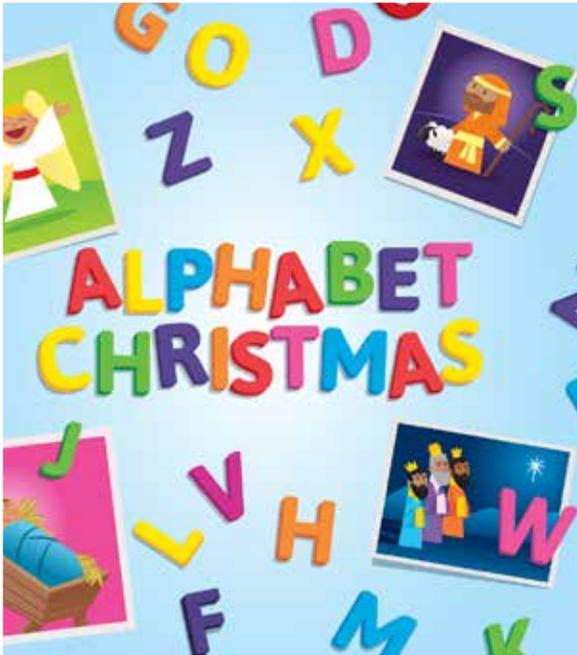
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS! We will celebrate the most important birthday of the year, Jesus' birthday, on Sunday morning, December 19, at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Wear your Christmas pj's and come eat some pancakes with us as we learn about and celebrate Jesus!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Mark your calendars now for the return of Kanakuk Kampout! next summer! We will host for two weeks again. The dates are May 30-June 3 and August 1-5. Registration won't be open until early next year, but we will let you know when it's time to register!

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS...



ALPHABET CHRISTMAS

*SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER
AGES 3 YEARS THROUGH
KINDERGARTEN*

Merry Christmas! It's time to celebrate the birth of our Savior! We are using the alphabet this month as a fun way to introduce the true story of how God gave us Jesus. One day—sooner than we think—our now preschoolers are going to grow up and start asking some hard questions. How do I know God really loves me? Does God still love me?

We want the answer to be right there and ready for them—I know God loves me because God gave us Jesus. Whenever doubt comes into our heart, whenever our mind begins to ask questions and seek proof, we need only remember back to that first Christmas when God sent His Son to us.

Our memory verse this month comes from Isaiah 9:6 and says, "God has given a son to us." This month, we will learn that we can God told us He would give us Jesus, then Jesus is born. The angels tell us about Jesus, and the wise men come to see God's Son.

Merry Christmas! May you be filled with joy this Christmas season as you remember that God loves the world so much, He gave us His Son, Jesus.

LIGHT SHOW: LET THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION BEGIN

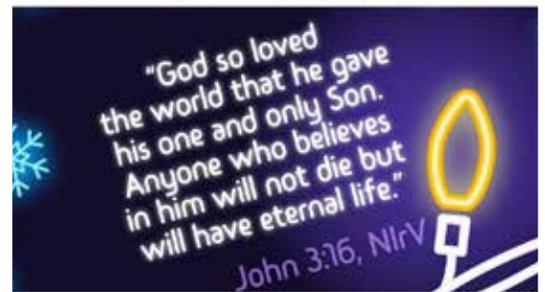
*SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER
GRADES 1-5*

This month, we will learn about the connection between CHRISTMAS and God's character, as shown through God's big story.

For many of us, Christmas lights are the best and brightest part of Christmas celebrations. It doesn't matter if it's the high-rises in the big city or houses lining Main Street; when the lights come out, it's a wonderland! People celebrate big at Christmas because there's Someone big to celebrate: Jesus!

The best gift God ever gave was Jesus. Because of Jesus, it's possible for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever. As we remember the Christmas story, we take time to celebrate the greatest gift the world has ever known.

Our memory verse comes from John 3:16 and says, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." We will learn to celebrate because God can do anything, and He has a plan. We celebrate because God sent a Savior. We will never stop celebrating Jesus!



STILL TO COME...

SAVE THE DATE FOR SOME FUN EVENTS HAPPENING SOON!

Servant Kids
December Events

10-12: Walk through Bethlehem

19: Happy Birthday, Jesus! Party
(PJ's and Pancakes at 9:30 & 11:00)

24: Christmas Eve Services at
6:00 & 8:00pm
(childcare available at 6:00pm
for kids 3 and under)

26: one worship service at 10:30
(no kids' programming but
childcare will be available
for kids 3 and under)

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS WITH SERVANT KIDS

We will take a break from meeting on Wednesday nights during the Christmas season and will resume on January 12, 2022!

SUNDAY MORNINGS WITH SERVANT KIDS

Servant Kids meets in person each Sunday morning at 9:30 and/or 11:00 a.m. Two-hour programming is available once again. The same topic will be covered all morning long, but each hour will have different activities and videos to reinforce the lesson. This is a great option for parents who want to attend both a class and worship service on Sunday mornings. Drop your kids off between 9:15-9:30 a.m. and pick them up again at noon!

Elementary kids in grades first through fifth meet in The Point Student Center (south side of church), and kids in kindergarten, preschool, or who are nursery-aged (2 and under) meet downstairs. Virtual options are available on our website each week. If you can't make it in person on a Sunday morning, check out the lessons and videos online!



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA! WE POST UPDATES, INFORMATION, PICTURES, AND MORE, SO DON'T MISS OUT! GO TO @SERVANTKIDS ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM!

SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS BY TEXTING @SERVANTKI TO 81010.

A LOOK BACK

- ● *Over the past year, I have watched this church transform and grow into a thriving community...*

For those of you who haven't met me yet, my name is Josh Snodgrass. A little over a year ago, I decided to leave my job in the field of sports, and I joined the staff of Church of the Servant as the Assistant Director of Servant Kids. This was, by far, one of the best decisions I have ever made. God called me to full-time ministry, and I am blessed to be serving Him in this capacity at such an incredible place. Today, I want to take a look back at some of the things God has done since I have arrived.

My passion for kids' (and students') ministry came from the time I spent as a counselor at Kanakuk Kamps. I was a kamper (no that's not a typo, it's just how you spell it at Kanakuk) for over 6 years, then I worked at the kamp for over 4 years. I loved every second I spent as a counselor talking about Jesus to the younger kamperers. So, you can imagine how thrilled I was when I got the opportunity to join the staff at Church of The Servant.

Over the past year, I have watched this church transform and grow into a thriving community even when many of us didn't know what would happen after a hard-hitting pandemic. Since Servant Kids opened back up in August of 2020, I've seen this ministry go from having just a few kids on Sundays to now consistently having 15-25 kids every Sunday. From connecting with our Warm World families during Family Movie Night to the hundreds of people reached during Trunk-or-Treat; I truly believe the Lord is MOVING at this Church. Looking back at all the things the Lord has done over the past 18 months since I arrived, I know this is exactly where He wants me to be. With exciting upcoming events such as Walk through Bethlehem, Happy Birthday Jesus Party, and more happening soon, I can't wait to see how the Lord will continue to work through this ministry and in the lives of the kids and their families.



Josh Snodgrass
Assistant Director of Servant Kids



Josh as a counselor at Kanakuk Kamp



Josh prepping for programming with Servant Staff



VETERANS SUNDAY

We had a great Veterans celebration on Sunday, November 14th! Special “thank you” to Dave Myers for planning the parade and scheduling the bagpipers. And “thank you” to Carl Shortt for these great photo memories!



Church of the Servant
14343 North MacArthur Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73142-9725

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 99
OKLAHOMA CITY 73125



CHURCH OF THE
SERVANT
A United Methodist Congregation

FOLLOW US!



@ServantOKC

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE TIMES

9:30 • 11:00

CONTACT US:

14343 N MacArthur Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73142
ServantOKC.org
405.721.4141

LIVE STREAM

Sunday Mornings @ 9:30 & 11:00
servantokc.online.church
Also on Facebook @ServantOKC