



THE SPIRE

News of New Haven United Methodist Church
“Gracious Acceptance. . . . Grateful Service”

www.newhavenumc.org
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November 25, 2011



Cindy's Chalkboard

As we move into this week of Thanksgiving, we have been reminded in so many meaningful ways of all we are grateful for. On Sunday morning we walked into a Sanctuary filled with stacks of food, piled HIGH and WIDE for our brothers and sisters who are hungry. Thank you Dick Garwood for heading up this effort once again, and thank you church, for making a *tremendous* difference in other lives this Thanksgiving season.

We've filled Christmas shoe boxes for children who otherwise may not have any gifts this Christmas season. Did you hear the children's moment this Sunday? Our children helped fill the boxes, and not only did they know what was in the boxes, but they knew those boxes would bring great joy to another child who opened them. We are grateful to Stacey Schifferdecker for leading and providing this meaningful ministry opportunity every year.

We've heard stories of our mission team to Joplin and the hard work done to clear debris and fallen trees from the devastation caused by the tornado that passed through this town in May of this year. The people we went to serve were gracious and so very thankful for our help – and we give thanks for the opportunity to be a part of the effort to rebuild lives. Thank you, BJ Danner, our awesome Youth Director, for your tireless effort to make this happen.

The church office gives thanks for the numerous people who are helping out while our wonderful secretary, Pat Bates, is recovering from surgery. We are indeed thankful for the time and efforts of Ovella Followell, Laurel Duncan, Pat Thomas, and all of the staff for going above and beyond to keep up with the daily work of the church. We are so very grateful!

And our annual evening Lay Thanksgiving Service? There aren't enough words to say thank you to everyone who shared their stories last evening. They were genuine and heartfelt, giving thanks to their families, loved ones, and this church for walking them through some difficult times in their lives and for sharing in their joys. Thank you Danny Hall, for always making this a priority in the life of New Haven Church. We are blessed.

Let us take time to give thanks for one another and for the season that has brought us together. Through our stories, there is no doubt that God is at work. May we be open to serving one another as we gather at the table this week, and when we do, let us give thanks for the bountiful blessings in our lives.

Giving thanks for the blessing *you* are in my life,

Pastor Cindy



Annual Christmas Dinner and Talent Show

Sunday, December 11
6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall
Catered dinner is \$8 per person

Sign ups for the dinner and the talent show
will be available
beginning November 27.

Suzanne Sez. . .

The holidays are arriving quickly it seems, not that they don't every year, with Advent starting the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Advent is a time of preparation: the Latin word adventus means "coming." We are preparing for the coming of Jesus the Christ. As we look at the church calendar, we are aware that we already have many wonderful opportunities ahead. Our Church Life committee met recently to begin to look ahead for the coming year. New Haven has a full calendar with many opportunities for worship, sharing our faith, reaching out to the community and nurturing our own church family.

There are many ways to be involved. As you schedule your days, take time to make decisions about where you can help and how you want to be involved. We can get so caught up in the activities that we take our focus off of what this season is all about. Our worship and the Advent Bible study will focus on "The Christmas Story." As Adam Hamilton says, "that we may see this familiar story with fresh eyes and that its message might change your life as it has changed countless others in the years since that holy night so long ago."

Bible Study

The Advent study begins Thursday, December 1 at 10 am. We will be using Adam Hamilton's "The Journey" as he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Come and join us. Suzanne Davis has books, which are very helpful but not necessary. Cost is \$12

THANKSGIVING LAITY SERVICE

Thank you God,
For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.

Oh what a service! Indeed, what an outstanding service! Thank you to the speakers for sharing the message of their grateful hearts: Sarah Duiveman, Mark Williams, Rafael Rivera Baez, Stacey Schifferdecker, Paula Manuel and Paul Mabrey.

Also thank you to John and Paula Manuel, Sam Puryear and Kaelen Terry for their gift of music.

We appreciate Paul Mabrey, Teresa Roberts and Greg Pape for making the service come together.

In this uncertain world there are some things that never change and that is the perfect love our Heavenly Father has for each one of us and that God is still in command. Praise God! We all give thanks with grateful hearts. Happy Thanksgiving.

Danny Hall



Welcome to Alex and Katie Jech, who joined our church family during the 8:45 service on November 20, transferring from another Christian tradition.

From the Outreach Committee...

Angel Tree gifts due

Praise God from whom all blessings flow — all Angels on the Angel tree were taken! Angel tree gifts need to be delivered to the church by Sunday, Nov. 27. You may place your gifts in the Bride's room. The gifts need to be wrapped with the Angel tag on top in plain view. Please remember to purchase only one or two gifts per child and to spend no more than \$40. If you buy two gifts, please tie them together. Thanks for your faithful response in celebrating our Savior's birth with all God's children!

Christmas stocking tree

If you weren't able to participate in the Angel Tree, you still have an opportunity to share Christmas joy! Next Sunday, November 27, we will have the Stocking tree set up with 22 stockings ready to be filled with goodies for very special sisters and brothers in our own church family who are ill or are no longer able to attend church. Please stop by the Outreach Table and committee members will help you as you select your stocking. We will also have suggestions of things you might want to buy for the stockings. You will need to return the filled stockings to the church by December 11. You may leave your filled stockings in the office work room. We are so grateful to the Covenant Care committee members for delivering these stockings.



PAUL'S MUSIC MUSINGS



There is a minor controversy among church musicians about singing Christmas carols during Advent. Some say it reflects society's commercialized view of the Christmas season. Despite what Macy's and Wal-Mart say, Christmas doesn't start until December 25 and may last through epiphany or the Feast of the Baptism. But the anticipation of favorite carols may be like a child waiting for Santa on Christmas Eve.

Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation, a "kinder and gentler" Lent, with its 40 days of prayer and penance leading to Easter. Advent has its own songs and traditions — including the Advent wreath — and some say it is premature to sing Christmas songs about the birth of Christ before he's actually born.

One hymn writer says "It would be like sneaking a peek at presents in the closet and ruining the surprise." Another music director adds "Would you sing 'Happy Birthday' before someone's birthday?" There isn't much Advent music that is as familiar as Christmas carols. There is "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" and "Hail to the Lord's Anointed." Advent hymns should have a sense of longing, expectation, waiting --- and should look with hope to the end of time.

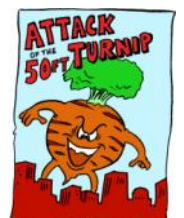
Next Sunday is the 1st Sunday of Advent and the Hanging of the Greens. We will be singing some advent songs with which you may not be familiar. If you're not, listen and read the words and let them speak to you of the coming of Christ. We will ring in Jesus' birth with familiar carols later in the season.

BJ's BANTER

With mountains of food, van loads of shoe boxes, and love abounding it was easy to see the fingerprints of God this week, but the one that impacted me the most was on the Joplin trip. We were tasked with clearing as much debris and trees from 8 acres as possible. Every one of the 24 missionaries gave their 100%, and for me that meant cutting and clearing, hauling and lifting, hefting and hoisting. But for one little girl, who weighs 70 pounds dripping wet, who just had her appendix removed, who wasn't medically allowed to pick up more than 20 pounds, she spent most of the day searching through the wreckage and carnage looking for family pictures, keep sakes, and memories. I know I worked "harder" than she did and made a bigger impact in all the work that had to be done, but eventually the work will get done. She gave them something so much better than "getting back to normal" faster. To get a few of my pictures or my journal from before the tornado hit would mean the world to me. I truly believe that Bailey made a bigger impact in the lives of the survivors than if I worked nonstop for a week! It makes me stop and wonder about what other areas in my life I am working hard, but not making as big of an impact for the kingdom of Heaven as I could be.



YOUTH — Come and meet on Wednesday from noon-6pm. We are going to help bring down the greenery for the church, and then hang out for a classic movie double feature. Bring your favorite DVD and a snack to share. We will vote on which two movies to watch that afternoon, so who knows which two it will be!





Advent and Christmas Events

November 27—1st Sunday of Advent

Lighting of the Advent Candles
Hanging of the Greens
Decorating the reception area tree
Stocking tree sign-ups begin
Advent devotional booklets available

December 1

Advent Bible Study begins

December 4—2nd Sunday of Advent

Lighting of the Advent Candles
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Decorating the outdoor Memorial Tree

December 11—3rd Sunday of Advent

Lighting of the Advent Candles
Christmas Dinner and Talent Show (6:00 pm)

December 18—4th Sunday of Advent

Lighting of the Advent Candles
“A Ceremony of Lessons and Carols”

presented by the New Haven children, youth, Praise Band, and Chancel Choir at both services
Children’s Birthday Party for Jesus in Sunday School

December 24

All Candlelight Communion Services
Lighting of the Christ Candle

3:00 pm—Family Christmas Eve Service

Children’s Felt Story Board
Flute/Violin Duet
Handbells
Children’s Living Nativity

5:00 pm—Praise and Worship Christmas Eve service

Children’s Felt Story Board

11:00 pm—Traditional Christmas Eve service

Flute/Violin Duet

December 25

Celebrate our Savior’s birth at one service at 11:00 am

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Umpteenagers trip to see Muskogee's
"Garden of Lights and Christmas Kingdom at Dusk"

Tuesday, December 13th

Trip will include dinner beforehand.

More details to come! Stay tuned to your
Spire newsletter.

PLEASE PRAY FOR . . .

Members:

Doris Fox

Ron Hay

Tim & Vicky Hensley

Mary Ileen Hicks

Dorothy Koons

Elizabeth Lindsey

Polly Miller

Bob Schwartz

Shirley Stillwell

Laurie VanDyke

Mahcoe VanDyke

Ralen White

Ann Wilkerson

Friends & Family of New Haven UMC

Scott Nicholson, son of Nick and Sandy Nicholson; Rev. J.C. Morgan, father of Mark Morgan; Wendy Reeder; parents of Becky and Barry Puryear; Pat Bates; Judy Bradford's granddaughter and son-in-law; Mark Baggetto; Duane McKellips; BJ Danner's uncle, George Oberle; Kyle Sago, Christopher Smith's brother; Meridee Lindsey; Scooter Lassiter; Jesus Salcido; Traci Johnson

Our country, city, & leaders.

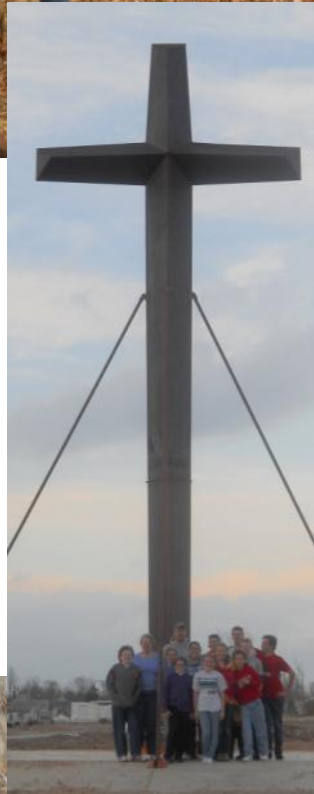
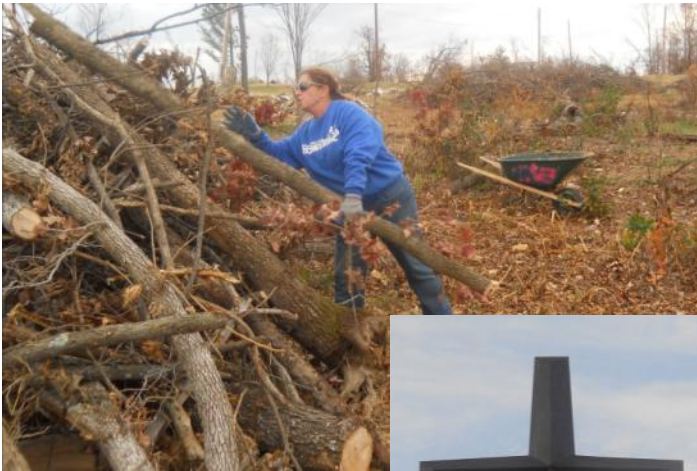
Covenant Care (prayers & visits appreciated)

Fran Andrew, Lois Bailey; Maxine Loyd, Duane Lunger, Polly Miller, Fran Palm, Marjorie Stewart, Rosemary Tarr, Vetus Vanderwiele.



***Have you placed
your poinsettia
order?***

Poinsettia orders for decorating the church Sanctuary are due by November 27. Poinsettias are \$10 each and may be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one. The poinsettias will be in the sanctuary by the second week of Advent, December 4. You may take your poinsettia home after worship on December 24.



Opportunities of the Week November 27~ December 4

SUNDAY, November 27

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT—
HANGING OF THE GREENS
8:45 am Contemporary Worship
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Traditional Worship
4:00 pm Youth band
5:00 pm Disciple II /Parlor
5:00 pm Children's Choir
5:00 pm Middle School UMY
6:00 pm High School UMY

MONDAY, November 28

6:00 pm Writer's Group/185

TUESDAY, November 29

6:30 pm Financial Peace University/
Parlor
7:00 pm Boy Scouts/Gym
7:30 pm AA/ Rooms 185, 209, 210
Alanon/ Room 205, 206

WEDNESDAY, November 30

6:00 pm Chancel Bells
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
7:00 pm A.C.O.A./206

THURSDAY, December 1

10:00 am Advent Bible Study
6:00 pm Covenant Care meeting/Chapel
6:00 pm Praise Band
6:30 pm Disciple III Bible Study
7:30 pm Yoga

FRIDAY, December 2

7:30 pm AA Gym

SATURDAY, December 3

10:00 am Men's Brunch Bunch
3:00 pm AA Christmas dinner
4:00 pm Family Angel Tree pick-up

SUNDAY, December 4

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:45 am Contemporary Worship
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Traditional Worship
4:00 pm Youth band
5:00 pm Disciple II /Parlor
5:00 pm Children's Choir
5:00 pm Middle School UMY
6:00 pm High School UMY

New Haven Staff Members

Rev. Cindy Havlik	Senior Pastor
Rev. Suzanne Davis	Associate Pastor
Paul Mabrey	Minister of Music
Rev. Jeanette Boyd	Deacon
BJ Danner	Youth Director
Stacey Schifferdecker	Children's Director
Tonya Ford	Day School Dir.
Colleen Walling	Nursery Dir.
Kaelen Terry	After School Care
Pat Bates	Church Secretary
Teresa Roberts	Organist
Marcia Ferguson	Treasurer
Kate Scruggs	Financial Secretary
Jane Johnson	Weddings
Oscar Sturgeon	Custodian



November Birthdays

3. Carol Berry
4. Carolyn Welch
5. Linda Gregory
10. Mary Lou Black
13. Roger Jaeger
14. Phil Roberts
15. Pat Graf
16. Doris Brown
17. Elizabeth Amos
Kerry Beebe
Pat Bates
19. Hunter Standlee
Susan Thomas
20. Jude Blanchard
Cynthia Mabrey
21. Dennis Jaeger
22. Rachel Gotcher
23. Shirley Stillwell
Jim Myers
24. Curtis Johnson
25. Mary Allen
Christine Riggan
27. Mitzi
Blanchard
28. Dorothy
Koons



November 13

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

8:45 am – 81
11:00 am – 129
Total– 210

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Christian Living Class–6
Discovery Class —9
Interlude Class— 13
Fellowship Class—14
New Friendship Class—12
Journey Class—10
Youth—14
Children-9

Adult Sunday School Come join us at 9:45 am!

Room 185: Discovery Class
“The Will of God”

Room 209: Fellowship Class
Jesus Teaches Wisdom: Living as
God's People

Room 210: New Friendship Class
“The Screw Tape Letters and The
Bible”

Parlor: Christian Living Class
“Matthew” Adult Bible Study
Curriculum

Room 161 Interlude Class
9/11: What a Difference a Day
Makes” by James Moore

Room 205: Journeys Class
The Book of Job

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