



faithnews

DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024

GOOD NIGHT SLEEP TIGHT PASSES 600 BEDS!

Our beds ministry program reached another milestone, recently passing 600 beds given away over the lifetime of the ministry! We're up to 610 beds overall given to deserving children, with 52 beds given out in 2023.

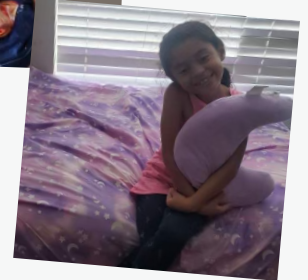
This ministry is about much more than numbers. Take for example the family which received beds number 598, 599, and 600. These beds went to 4, 5, and 6 year old children. They even received a bunk bed set built by our Faith Youth! We received thanks and feedback from the family about how these beds gave the children comfort and joy. They each have their own bed now!

Like the famous Christmas song, "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," our beds ministry brings tidings of comfort and joy to those who need it most.

How can you continue to help? All bed sets are purchased through donations directly from members of Faith. You can also donate twin size bed kits for about \$30 per set. Each contains a sheet set and comforter.

Thank you Faith for your help in giving beds to children who don't have a bed of their own!

- **Todd and Jalyynn Osborne**



CHURCH CALENDAR:

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS:

Sundays:

9am - Traditional Worship
10am - Sunday School (Adults, Youth & Kids)
11am - Contemporary Worship / Kid's Connection (K-5th)

Mondays:

1pm - Prayer Shawl Knitting / Room 503
2:30pm - Stretch & Tone / Room 505
4:00pm - Bible Discussion Group / Room 503

Tuesdays:

10am - Tuesday Morning Bible Study / Remote

Wednesdays:

7:30am - Men's Fellowship / Einstein Bagels (101 & Mem)

Thursdays:

9:15am - Game Day (1st & 3rd Thursday) / Room 500 or 503
10am - Meditative Movement / Chapel

Fridays:

10am - Coffee & Conversations / Room 503

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Christmas Music Experience: December 17 / 10am / Sanctuary

Acceptional Parenting: December 17 / 4pm / Room 503

Blue Christmas Service: December 21 / 5pm / Chapel

Christmas Eve Family Service: December 24 / 10am / Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Dec. 24 / 6pm / Sanctuary

Last Day of 2023 Giving: December 28

All Church Breakfast: December 31 / 10am / Great Hall

Church Office Closed: December 25 & 26, January 1 & 2

Support for the Caregiver Group: January 2 / 6pm / Zoom

Wednesday Night Activities Resume: January 3

Putting Away Christmas: January 7 / 12pm

Men's Breakfast: January 13 / 8am / Great Hall

Faith Welcome: January 14 / 12pm / Youth Room

Letter from the Pastor



Merry Christmas Faith!

This mid month newsletter has all the information about the special services that we offer during the Advent/Christmas season and a sneak peak at what is coming in January. Make sure you read all the details! There will not be another newsletter until the February issue comes out.

We have been working very hard to bring you a completely new Blue Christmas/Longest Night service. This service is designed for those who are struggling to find joy. Often it is attended by those who have had a death in the family and they are facing the holidays without their loved one for the first time. It recognizes that not everyone is looking forward with hope and longing. But it is

also a powerful service for those who simply struggle during the holidays. Friends are always welcome. It will be live streamed from the Chapel.

Our special Christmas worship on December 17 is going to be a wonderful blend of talent from every age in the congregation. Our children, youth and adult choirs will be sharing their gifts with us all. EJ and Patty have a special musical piece that I don't want to give away. This will be the only service at 10am.

Christmas Eve is a Sunday this year and we will be offering a contemporary service at 10am with a special Children's sermon. The traditional candlelight service will be that evening at 6pm. We will be receiving Communion during the evening service and singing by candlelight. We WILL have nursery care for both of these Christmas services.

New Year's Eve will have us back in our regular schedule with both services BUT we will not have any Sunday school because it is the 5th Sunday and we will have pancakes! Join us for a wonderful breakfast and fellowship.

In January, we have a new adult Sunday school class that is beginning in Room 505. We have a teacher for the class so you can come without worrying that you will be recruited to lead. This need for another class is a sign of a healthy congregation. It is important that we are always willing to start new groups for new members and those who haven't found a place to plug in yet. Also, I am inviting all the new members to my home for a welcome dinner. It will have to be for multiple nights since there are so many of you! Watch for a link to sign-up on the Connect page.

Our sermon series for January is "Wrestling with Doubt: Finding Faith" and covers a topic that every person has struggled with at some time. Each week we will tackle difficult conversations like "Is there a God?", "Is Heaven Real?", and "Are all non-Christians going to hell?" This series launches off of a new book by Adam Hamilton by the same name. I encourage you to join a group or purchase the book to study along with us.

Lastly, if you haven't returned your pledge card or emailed Glen your financial commitment for next year, I ask you to do it as soon as possible. We use these numbers to help us plan for the next year and we would like to approve the new budget before January. Jon and I have prayed over our commitment and have raised our giving for next year to help offset the cost of inflation. We know that you are also praying over your commitment for next year and give thanks that you give with joy and thanksgiving. It is a wonderful thing as we await the ultimate gift to be thankful for this church and this community that we serve.

Love,

Pastor Heather



CHRIST-CENTERED SERVANT
★ OF THE MONTH ★

We are excited to honor Kate Hendrix as our Christ-Centered Servant of the Month, in recognition of the incredible work she has done with many of the gardens at the church.

Several months ago, our Business Administrator Glen Moore approached the Trustees and put out an ask for volunteers to help maintain several of the gardens on our property. Glen was looking for someone with a knowledge of gardening and a plan for how to best approach this project.

Kate Hendrix, who was serving on the Trustees team, agreed to take on the task. She first reached out to several local companies in an attempt to get bids. After not receiving any returned calls, Kate decided she would do the work herself!

Kate spent MANY days and hours out in the gardens over the course of several weeks pulling weeds, cutting back

overgrown bushes, and planting beautiful new plants. She put an emphasis on planting things that are native to Oklahoma and will be able to sustain the various weather conditions that come with our climate.

We are incredibly thankful to Kate for the countless hours of hard work and dedication she poured into this project. We hope that as things begin to bloom next spring, you'll get to enjoy the beauty of her efforts.



Let Heaven & Nature Sing

ADVENT 2023



Let Heaven & Nature Sing - A Christmas Music Experience: Sun, Dec. 17 | 10am

Celebrate this holy season with Christmas music from the Chancel Choir, Echoes of Faith Handbells, Contemporary Praise Team, Youth Praise Team, Faith Kids, and more! We'll gather for a special Christmas music experience on Sunday morning at 10am in the Sanctuary.



Blue Christmas Service: Thu, Dec. 21 | 5pm in the Chapel

Brittney Blakley will lead a special service of worship to recognize the long nights of this season. Typically called a "Blue Christmas Service," this time of worship honors experiences of loss that often make Christmas lonely for many.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES SCHEDULE:

- **Christmas Eve Family Service:** Sun, Dec. 24 | 10am
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service:** Sun, Dec. 24 | 6pm

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING:

Faith has a tradition of collecting a special offering each year during our Christmas Eve services to go toward local ministries and organizations. This year's offering will go to Egan Camp & Retreat Center and to Circle of Care. Camp Egan has been the location for many of our kids and youth camps, as well as retreats, and it holds a special place in the hearts of many in our congregation. Circle of Care focuses on keeping children and families together by providing programs and ministries to help with many needs.

If you would like to give to this special offering, please put "Christmas Eve" in the memo line of a check or a PushPay donation to a designated fund with the note "Christmas Eve".



FAITH YOUTH SPRING BREAK MISSIONS



FAITH YOUTH SERVING OTHERS.

Faith will be sending a team of 25 youth and 12 adults to Delta Grace in Sunflower, Mississippi for their Spring Break Mission Trip. This team will spend March 17-23 doing construction work like building wheelchair ramps, decks, and more!

The students and leaders that attend these trips give up their Spring Break to go serve others, and to top it off, they have to pay for this trip! The actual cost for the trip is over \$700 per person. That's where you come in!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

It is our goal to raise \$8,700 to help offset the trip cost for our participants and make it a more manageable amount. Starting in January we will be collecting donations in the form of a "stock." Each donor will receive:

1. *Personalized postcard from a trip participant.*
2. *Invitation to the Spring Break Missions Celebration on Sunday, April 7, where participants will share stories and testimonies from the trip.*

HOW TO GIVE:

There are several ways you can give to help support this trip. Donations can be made through the PushPay app, by check or cash with the memo "Spring Break Missions."

By giving to this ministry, know that you are helping these students and leaders experience what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ, and helping to make homes warmer, dryer, and safer for those receiving the work.



**tulsa day
center**

Help provide a meal on the second Monday every other month as a class or group.

Email hscherer@faithtulsa.org to sign up



DAY CENTER MEALS 2024

Starting in 2024, our partnership with the Tulsa Day Center will look a little different! We have been asked to serve on the Second Monday of EVERY OTHER month, starting in January. We are looking for groups, individuals, classes or families who are willing to purchase, prepare and serve a meal for about 150 people currently experiencing homelessness. Email Pastor Heather to sign up.

DEADLINE FOR 2023 GIVING: December 28

Please submit all financial gifts by Dec. 28 OR postmark by Dec. 30 to go toward 2023 giving

UPCOMING EVENTS:



DINNER WITH THE PASTOR

TBD DATES IN JANUARY

Pastor Heather will be inviting all the new members at Faith to her home for a welcome dinner. There will be multiple dates to accommodate for everyone, so keep an eye out on our Connect page for a sign-up coming soon!

FAITH WELCOME

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 12PM | YOUTH ROOM

Are you a recent guest or someone who is looking to learn a little more about Faith and who we are? Join us for a lunch in the Youth Room at 12pm on Sunday, Jan. 14 for a chance to meet with the Pastors and staff at Faith. You can ask questions, meet new people, and learn all about life at Faith.



faithwelcome

Sunday, Jan 14 | 12pm | Youth Room

*Learn more about life at Faith and join us for lunch!
Email Pastor Heather at hscherer@faithtulsa.org*

LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE TO BELONG?

Join one our new Adult Sunday School class launching in January!



NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

SUNDAYS, 10AM | ROOM 505, STARTING JAN. 7

Are you looking for somewhere to belong? We are launching a new Adult Sunday School class on January 7. This class will meet at 10am in Room 505. We encourage those who call Faith home to attend worship, serve, and be active in one of our Faith Groups, so this is a great place to start!

PUTTING AWAY CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 12PM | LUNCH INCLUDED

Come help us put away the Christmas decorations and enjoy a free meal on us!



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:



APRIL SELLERS-WHITE

April Sellers-White joined Faith on November 1 by transfer from another denomination.



PEGGY THOMPSON

Peggy Thompson joined Faith on November 2 by transfer from another denomination.



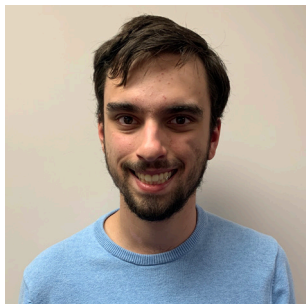
WILLIS & CINDY WEIGAND

Willis & Cindy Weigand joined Faith on December 3 by transfer of membership.



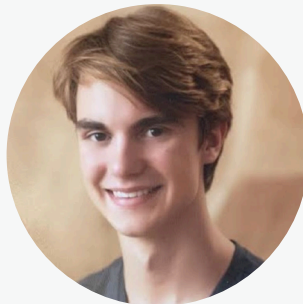
NANCY DROEMER

Nancy Droemer joined Faith on December 3 by transfer of membership.



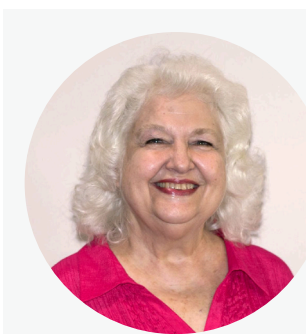
MIGUEL ORTEGA

Miguel Ortega joined Faith on December 10 by Profession of Faith.



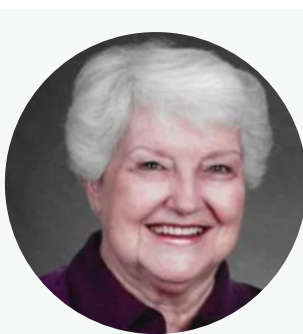
ZACHARY MARTIN

Zack Martin passed away on November 10, 2023. He joined Faith when he was Confirmed in 2015.



PAM POWELL

Pam Powell passed away on November 16, 2023. She joined Faith in 2011.



SUE SENSINTAFFAR

Sue Sensintaffar passed away on November 24, 2023. She and her husband Jerry joined Faith in 2005.

HOLIDAY HOURS

Building will be closed Dec. 25 & 26, Jan. 1 & 2



FAITH
united methodist church

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TULSA, OK
PERMIT NO. 835

*Faith United Methodist Church
7431 East 91st Street
Tulsa, OK 74133-6020*

Return Service Requested



faithnews



**Please,
Recycle
Me!**

▲ New member Bea Hidy helping clean the Kids Wing during our All Church Workday

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INSIDE?**



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