

Skiatook First United Methodist Church



Methodist Messenger

*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the
transformation of the world!*

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December 2020

Pastoral Letter

Advent, the season leading up to Christmas, is my favorite liturgical season. It seems this time every year I find myself in a place of muttering to God, "Well God, have you seen all this? The world's a total mess. It's so dark and painful."

And 2020 blows the pants off of all previous years.

I saw an ornament that had "2020" on a literal dumpster fire, and it seems to encapsulate our collective experience perfectly.

It's to these moments that Advent speaks so well. Because it's in this season that we express our hurts at the state of our world, as well as our longing for Jesus, and prepare for Jesus while we wait. We await the birth of the Christ child, we welcome Christ into our hearts in the here and now, and we await when Christ comes again in final victory. Advent resonates because we can express how hopeless the world feels.

And scripture reminds us that we do have hope. The hope of the world is Christ.

Now I love the other markers of the usual Christmas season too: trees, decorations, lights, movies, and gifts. But this year I just don't seem to have the same cheer. Or it rings just a little hollow for me. Then I read Scott Erickson's *Honest Advent*, and it hit the nail on the head. It wasn't all lights and cocoa on the first Christmas with Jesus' birth. It was a little messier. A little simpler. And maybe our hearts want to experience that.

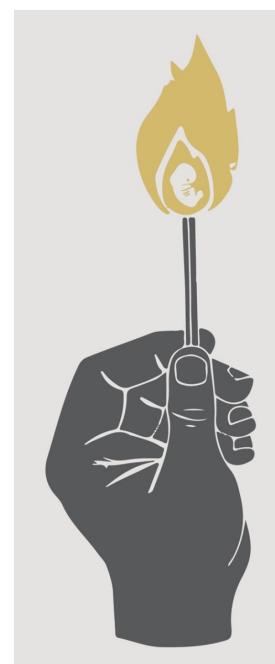
My Advent sermon series will build off of Erickson's book and beautiful artwork, like this piece, "Light." What an incredible interpretation of how Christ, the Light of the World, came to earth as a vulnerable baby, a fetus that grew in Mary, just as each of us developed. The Light came to dwell with us, to show us love, and to remind us we are beloved.

The world feels very dark now, but we have hope because the Light is coming, and we are called to share that with others. I pray we experience renewed hope this Advent and Christmas.

"May you rest in the peace that the darkness can never extinguish the light that has been given you." - Scott Erickson

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Sarah



DECEMBER 2020

Lessons and Carols



December 19 (Saturday), Rehearsal, 10:00 to 12:00

We will assign parts, rehearse, fit costumes, and have a snack lunch.

If your child is unable to be at rehearsal but is willing to make a commitment to the program, contact Ms. Miria to reserve his or her part. 405-850-2253

December 20, Lessons and Carols service with Children's Program, 10:30

We will gather in the LAF at 9:30 to get dressed and be ready for the program.

Advent Calendar



Please see the advent calendar included in this newsletter.

Advent readings will also be posted on the FB page daily in the month of December.

ASAC



The After School Adventure Camp will be open all day during Christmas break, providing we are not closed for quarantine purposes. Drop in spots are available. Reservations must be made and paid in full by 12/16. Refunds will be given in the event ASAC is closed for quarantine or we don't reach a minimum of 10 reservations.

Open 6:00am to 6:00pm

Closed for Christmas

12/21 12/29

12/24

12/22 12/30

12/25

12/23 12/31

12/28





Advent: A season of preparation

And just like that the 2020 fall semester comes to a close. Things have been touch and go at times and everyone at Skiatook FUMC is grateful for your patience. Right now, we want to encourage all of you to take every measure possible to keep you and your family safe during the holidays. Our hospitals are full and cases continue to pile up. For this reason, I think we all need Advent in our lives right now. We need a reminder of the hope, love, joy and peace we have because of Jesus Christ.

But even with the blessings of a life in Christ, quarantining and social distancing can be very taxing on our kids. Please encourage them to talk to you—or me! That is what I'm here for. Also, have a conversation with your kids about their friends. Being home more is not always safe or healthy for everyone. If they have a friend in need of an adult to talk to or if they are worried for their friends' mental, physical or emotional well-being, encourage them to reach out to me or a teacher with their concerns.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Talent Show.....	2
Hymns in the Park.....	22
Christmas Eve.....	24

STUFF TO KNOW

- Youth connection via WhatsApp!
- FIX on Wednesdays from 3:00-4:30
- If school is not in session or if classes are moved to distance learning, all in-person youth and Fix activities will be cancelled.
- Questions? Call Meg at (918) 906-0414. Texting is even better!

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Servant Spotlight

Thanks to:

- ♥ Our Sunday greeters
- ♥ Jon & Ka'Lu Underwood for changing the church sign during November
- ♥ Sandy Kimbrough for shopping for our Around the Table events
- ♥ Sandy & Jake Kimbrough for packaging snack boxes for Marrs employees
- ♥ Pastor Sarah, Sandy Kimbrough, & Meg Burris for greeting the Marrs Crew and our Young Adults and passing out snack boxes
- ♥ Jackie Hull, Cathy Allred, and Beverly Dollar for decorating the sanctuary for Advent
- ♥ Keifer Jones for painting the "new" Craft Room



Congratulations!



Joel & Charlene Blankenship welcomed their newest grandson on October 11th. Carter Craig Martin, born weighing 7 pounds and 4 ounces, is the newest addition to the family, born to their daughter, Michelle and son-in-law, Micah. He was also welcomed by big brother Blaine. The family is doing well.

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

Our Condolences

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Barbara "Cookie" Woods. Cookie passed away following an auto accident. She was kind, fun-loving, and a wonderful part of our C.H.U.M.S. She will be greatly missed. Please contact the office if you would like to send a card of condolence to her family.

December Activities

We hope you will join us for some, if not all, of the following December activities.

- 1st: Finance Mtg.
- 2nd: Hanging of the Greens and Talent Show—Videos can be sent to the church office for those who do not wish to perform in person.
- 14th-19th: Angel Tree gift Pick-up, Sorting, Shopping, & Distribution
- 19th: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- 20th: Service of Lessons & Carols and Children's Program, 10:30 a.m.
- 24th: Christmas Eve Worship at 5p.m. and 7 p.m.

Gifts were Given...



- ♥ To the LAF Building Debt Relief by Glenn & Mary Nelson
- ♥ To the LAF Building Debt Relief by Glendell Brown

Opportunities to Serve

If you have been wondering how you can be of service, but you don't have a ton of time to spare. Please consider one of the following ways in 2021. We need greeters for Sunday mornings on a monthly rotating basis. We also could use some folks willing to change the church sign. This would also be done a month at a time on a rotation basis.

Meg could use some assistance with FIX on Wednesday afternoons. You would help setting up the area with snacks and drinks before the kids arrive, be another adult presence for Safe Sanctuary purposes, and help clean up the area afterwards. Francine Hayes has been a gem by doing this almost every week for the past two years. Adjustments need to be made due to her changing work schedule. Many thanks to Francine for her dedication to Meg and the FIX program!

If you have questions before you commit, please call Ka'Lu in the office or speak with Debbie Bennett about changing the sign or being a greeter. Speak to Meg if you might be able to assist with FIX.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thank you for your support of the community blood program will go towards replenishing blood supplies and ultimately saving lives. You may be interested to know that 10 donors were registered, 0 donors were deferred, and 9 units of blood were collected! They also registered one first time donor!

Get scheduled for the next drive:

January 5th: 1:00 pm—6:00

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit Red-CrossBlood.org and enter: *SkiatookUMC*


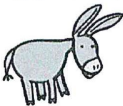




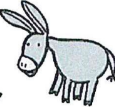









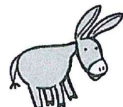

Help save a life!



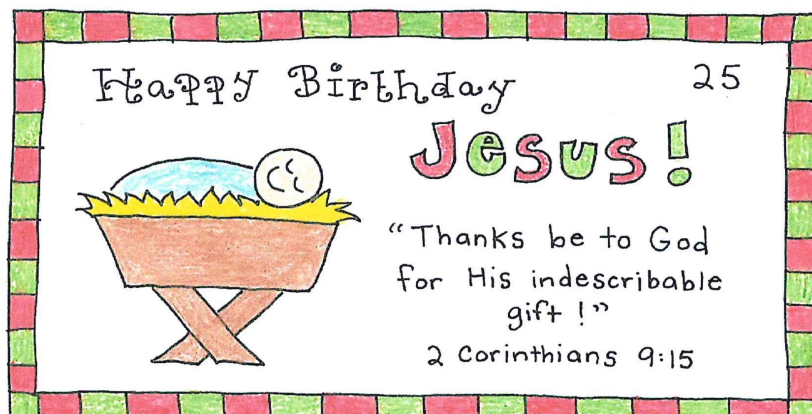
YOGA

The weekly Chair Yoga session, previously held at 4:30 p.m. on Thursdays, will no longer be held without advance notice. If you are interested, please call Ms. Beverly at (918) 813-5730. You are also welcome to attend one of the other sessions. Beginner or Level 1 sessions are held on Monday and Wednesday at 11 a.m., and Friday at 10 a.m. An intermediate or Level 2 session is held on Thursday at 6p.m. Sessions are \$5 each. Please bring a mat and a drink of water for your comfort. Namaste.



 <p>1 "God sent the angel Gabriel to a girl named Mary." Luke 1:26</p>	<p>2 "The angel said to her, 'Don't be afraid, because God is very pleased with you.'" Luke 1:30</p> 	<p>3 ★ "Listen! you will become pregnant and have a baby boy. You will name him Jesus." Luke 1:31 ★</p>	<p>4 "He will be great. People will call him the Son of the Most High God." Luke 1:32</p> 
<p>5 ★ "Mary said, 'I am the Lord's servant. Let this thing you have said happen to me!'" Luke 1:38 ★</p>	<p>6 "Caesar sent out an order... that everyone's name must be put on a list." Luke 2:1</p> 	<p>7 "Everyone traveled to their hometowns to have their name put on the list." Luke 2:3</p> 	<p>8 "So Joseph went to the town of David because he was from the family of David. Joseph registered with Mary." Luke 2:4-5</p> 
<p>9 "While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son." Luke 2:6-7</p> 	<p>10 ★ "There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed." Luke 2:7 ★</p>	<p>11 "That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep." Luke 2:8</p> 	<p>12 "An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them." Luke 2:9</p> 
<p>13 "The angel said to them, 'Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some GOOD News!'" Luke 2:10</p> 	<p>14 "Today your Savior was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord." Luke 2:11</p> 	<p>15 "This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box." Luke 2:12</p> 	<p>16 ★ "All the angels were praising God, saying, 'Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God.'" Luke 2:13-14 ★</p>
<p>17 "So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby." Luke 2:16-17</p> 	<p>18 "Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything that they had seen & heard." Luke 2:20</p> 	<p>19 ★ "After Jesus was born, some wise men came from the east." Matthew 2:1 ★</p>	<p>20 "When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy." Matthew 2:10</p> 
<p>21 "They went to the house... and they bowed down and worshiped the child." Matthew 2:11</p> 	<p>22 "They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:11</p> 	<p>23 ★ "A child will be born to us. God will give a son to us. His name will be... Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 ★</p>	<p>24 "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life." John 3:16</p> 

★ www.happyhomefairy.com ★



Please tear out and keep the Advent calendar on the reverse side.

December



Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	11:00: level 1 yoga	1 2:00: Finance Mtg by Zoom.	2 11:00: Yoga Level 1 3:00: <u>FIX</u> 6:30: Hanging of the Greens & Talent Show	3	4 10:00: Yoga	5 10:00-3:00: Hillside Vendor Fair
6 10:30: Worship 11:15: Leadership Team	7 11:00: Yoga	8	9 11:00: Yoga Level 1 3:00: <u>FIX</u> 6:00-8:00 Youth Video Chat	10 10:00: UMW Meeting 4:30 Chair Yoga 6:00: Level 2 Yoga	11 10:00: Yoga	12
13 10:30: Worship	14 11:00: level 1 yoga <div>Angel Tree Pick Up from Banks</div>	15	16 11:00: Yoga Level 1 3:00: <u>FIX</u> 6:00-8:00 Youth Video Chat	17 6:00: Level 2 Yoga	18 10:00: Yoga	19 10:00-12:00: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal <div>10:00-2:00: Angel Tree Gift Distribution</div>
20 10:30: Service of Lessons & Carols and Children's Program	21 11:00: level 1 yoga	22 Candlelight Evening Worship in Central Park (Tentative)	23 11:00: Yoga Level 1	24 5:00: Christmas Eve Worship 7:00: Christmas Eve Worship <div>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</div>	25 <div>Merry Christmas</div>	26
27 10:30: Worship	28 11:00: level 1 yoga <div>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</div>	29	30 11:00: Yoga Level 1 6:00-8:00 Youth Video Chat	31	Jan. 1 <div>Happy New Year</div> <div>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</div>	Jan. 2



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLEASE RECYCLE!

Wow! What a Year...



What a year we've had. 2020 looked bright and promising for most of us, and our church finance campaign even referenced "2020 Vision." No one knew the challenges we'd face this year, and yet, as a church you've remained faithful to ministry and vision by adapting to change. You have worshipped outdoors, online, and in person. You've embraced new ways of giving, including PayPal, and been faithful by continuing to send in tithes and offerings.

Our year end numbers will tell the whole story, but we are blessed by your generosity in times of such uncertainty. In fact, in late 2020 we started a new ministry initiative called "Around the Table," a listening and discussion outreach which takes our church out of our building and

into the community. Later this month we're tentatively planning our first community candlelight service in the city park for everyone in the community to experience the light and love of Jesus. We are optimistic about these new initiatives and eager to discover where God is leading us.

We are also giving thanks to Patti McKinney for her service as church treasurer for the last 11 years. She is stepping down on Dec 31st. Patti has been a vital behind the scenes volunteer, offering financial leadership and advice. If you see her, please thank her for her long commitment to the church, or feel free to mail her a short note. She has been an invaluable member of our team! (Her address is in the directory or you may contact the church office.)

As a reminder we need your financial gifts turned into the office or postmarked by Dec 31 to receive statement credit in 2020.