



December 20, 2021



You Must Bow to Enter

A few years ago I had the privilege of visiting the Holy Land on a pilgrimage. One of my favorite places that we visited on that trip was the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. The church is built on top of the cave that tradition holds is the place where Mary gave birth to Jesus. Caves are common in the Judean hills, and were popular places to use as barns for animals.

The church is very old; it is, in fact, one of the oldest churches in the world. The cave was a place of Christian worship from the first century, even during the time of the Apostles. The Roman Emperor Hadrian attempted to quell Christian worship at the site by building a temple dedicated to Adonis, the Roman god of beauty, at the site. However, what Hadrian effectively did was mark the location of Jesus' birth for future Christians. When Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity, he tasked his mother, St. Helena, with the job of going to the Holy Land and finding important places from Jesus' life and building churches. While the Church of the Nativity that was built by Helena around 326 AD has since been destroyed, the original floor of that church remains in the current structure built around 556 AD.

Because the church is so very old, it has within it some very curious architectural features. One I have already mentioned: the 1700 year old mosaic floor. Visitors to the church walk on risers above the floor to preserve some of the oldest Christian art in the world. Another interesting features is the main door to the church. It is about four feet tall and two feet wide. Even for the 6th century when people were not as tall as they are today, this is a very small

door!

The original intention was to keep proud and important people from riding or bringing their horses into the church. That even kings and emperors must dismount before approaching the birthplace of the True King. While the need for keeping horses out of the church has diminished over the years, the monks who maintain the church have resisted enlarging the door for one very important reason: you must bow to enter the church. Today the entrance to the church is called "the Door of Humility." The original symbolism of the door, that the proud must humble themselves before Christ, is still present for every person who visits the place of Jesus' birth. Our Lord Jesus does not require gifts or homage. He does not require great deeds of heroism or fame. He does not require perfection in performance or knowledge. To approach King Jesus, you only need to humble yourself.





Kidzone News

We had a great time on Sunday during Kidzone. We talked about Advent and the meaning of each candle -Hope, Love, Joy

and Peace. We have all of these things because of the birth of Jesus. We had a birthday party for Jesus with cupcakes and ice cream. Next Sunday, we will celebrate the coming of the New Year and talk about how



we can continue to share the love of Jesus. A huge thank you for your support of our annual Christmas Kidzone fundraiser. We were able to put together Christmas stockings for 72 kids at Sand Springs Community Services. Many thanks to our Kidzone helpers-Amy, Sara, Katherine, Jennifer & Jared, Karen, Ya Ya, Amanda, Grady & Brianna, Sophie and Halley. A special thanks to Karen for delivering the stockings.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!! Ms. Debbie, Ms. Marty, Ms. Susie, Ms. Amanda

Free Poinsettias

Anyone who would like a poinsettia are welcome to take one home at the end of the Christmas Eve service or take one and pass it along to someone who will enjoy it.

Thank you Howard & Betty Smith for the beautiful poinsettias!!

ANGEL TREE THANKS!

Thank you to everyone who participated in fulfilling all our gifts for the Angel Tree. You relieved the stress of how these 2 single moms were going to provide Christmas for their kids and you also brightened their Christmas with gifts for them. You are always so generous in your giving when asked and this was no different! You truly are a blessing!



Nursery

December 26
9:00 a.m.—Katherine & Sophie
10:00 a.m.—Lacey & Haylee
11:00 a.m.—Katherine & Sara
January 2, 2022—TBD
January 9—TBD
January 16—TBD

Children's Church

December 26—Jami & Debbie January 2, 2022—TBD January 9—TBD January 16—TBD

Youth Dinners

December 22—No Youth December 28—No Youth January 5, 2022—TBD January 12—TBD January 19—TBD

Counters

December 26—Howard & Jami January 2, 2022—TBD January 9—TBD January 16—TBD

Please let us know of any changes as we are looping the 2021 volunteer list into 2022.



Thank you, Chancel Choir

for giving us that final push into the Christmas Spirit. As always, it was amazing! Thank you, Cathy and Judy for your dedication to bringing us such a wonderful performance. The rehearsals, practicing at home, showing up... It all came together so beautifully! It truly is a tradition here at SSUMC that we look forward to every year.



Merry Christmas

From The Staff

We hope and pray you are showered with blessings in 2022!

Prayer Box Includes our Sick & Homebound

Harry Alford

Betty & Howard Smith

Bill Schwartz

Bruce Warren

David Allen

Dick Ford

Donna McLain-Hope

Elsie & Roger Jones

Faye Lee Posey

Gordonna Fisher

Joe & Donna Woodruff

June Wilborn

Leonard Brehm

Louise Read

Mary Lea Forsythe

Max Schuermann

Montie Box

Ralph Rand

Ruth Weaver

Suzanne & Valerie Jones

Vi McAllister

And Prayer Chains

And Unspoken Requests

UMW YEARBOOK REMINDER

The sooner you get your new information to the office, the sooner the 2022 yearbooks will be complete. Please be sure to print clearly and if you are making changes in the 2021 yearbook, please use blue or red ink.

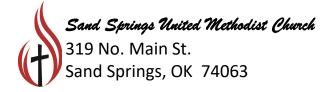
FOURTH MEAL Ath Monday of the Month Fellowship Hall • 5:30-7:00 p.m.

The next 4th Monday Community Meal at SSUMC is Monday, January 24, 2022

Community Meals

1st Monday—Lake UMC-7750 W. 14th St.
2nd Monday—Olivet Baptist Church—155 N. 65th W. Ave.
3rd Monday—Grace UMC—514 So. 49th W. Ave.
4th Monday—SSUMC—4th & Main Street





Sand Springs United Methodist Church Sunday Schedule

10:00 a.m.—Sunday School (Also streamed live online and uploaded to YouTube) 9:00 a.m.—Contemporary Worship

11:00 a.m.—Traditional Worship

319 M. Main—918-245-5955—www.sandspringsumc.org Sand Springs United Methodist Church Sunday Schedule

101 W. 38th Street, Prattville The Well—Family Life Center