



## 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 feature 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, YaYa, 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.



<b>Prayer Box Includes our Sick &amp; Homebound</b>	June Wilborn
Harry Alford	Leonard Brehm
Betty & Howard Smith	Louise Read
Bill Schwartz	Mary Lea Forsythe
Bruce Warren	Max Schuermann
David Allen	Montie Box
Dick Ford	Ralph Rand
Donna McLain-Hope	Ruth Weaver
Elsie & Roger Jones	Suzanne & Valerie Jones
Faye Lee Posey	Vi McAllister
Gordonna Fisher	<i>And Prayer Chains</i>
Joe & Donna Woodruff	<i>And Unspoken Requests</i>

**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.




**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**  
319 N. Main—918-245-5955—[www.sandspringsumc.org](http://www.sandspringsumc.org)

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

**Sand Springs United Methodist Church Sunday Schedule**  
9:00 a.m.—Contemporary Worship  
(Also streamed live online and uploaded to YouTube)  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Traditional Worship

 *Sand Springs United Methodist Church*  
319 No. Main St.  
Sand Springs, OK 74063

