



The Springs

November 21, 2022

How to Succeed in Christmas Without Really Trying

Happy Thanksgiving... er, wait? What holiday is it? I'm a little confused. As I pass by the stores and billboards on my commute one would think it is already December. While Turkey day is a big day in our church community, it seems like the larger culture has already moved on. And I mean *really* moved on. I went into a store on *Halloween night* to pick up some extra candy for our Trunk or Treat and all they had was Christmas candy!

It can all be a little much. Our culture has appropriated Christmas in ways that other Christian holidays like Easter and Pentecost have not. It can often be hard to sort through the noise to find the "true meaning of Christmas," a phrase which has itself been appropriated in countless Christmas movies and Hallmark specials. As singer/songwriter Sufjan Stevens said, "[Christmas] intersects a supernatural phenomenon (the incarnation of God) with the sentimental mush of our mortal lives (presents, toys, Christmas tree ornaments, snow globes, cranberry sauce), leaving in its pathological wake a particular state of mind one can only describe as 'that warm, fuzzy feeling.'"

There's nothing wrong with a warm, fuzzy feeling (something I, myself, am guilty of having from time to time), but it makes it all the more important to focus on the rhythm of our religious observance of the season. In Advent we anticipate, we wait, we expect. We remember that Christ will come again. On Christmas we celebrate that God became a person, that he "moved into the neighborhood" and experienced everything that human beings experience. We rejoice that God is with us, then and now. In Christmastide we wrestle with the implications of such an event. Who are we, now that Jesus is here?

So, how do you succeed in Christmas without really trying? By remembering that the Christmas that our culture is celebrating is distinct from the Advent and Christmastide that Christians celebrate. It isn't necessarily bad to engage in the "sentimental mush" (I *like* presents and snow globes and the rest!), but we should be aware of the difference. We need to take time observe the beautiful story of God becoming human; a story so important that we commemorate it every year!

*True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;
O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him
Christ, the Lord!*

Kidzone News



We have had a busy October and November in Kidzone. A big thanks to Batman (Hunter Ashton) for his visit on Sunday, October 23rd. We participated at “Boo at Case” on October 30th. Thanks to Madelyn Paschal and “Captain Hook” (Chuck Baldrige) who helped pass out candy. Another thanks to all who participated in “Trunk or Treat”. Yesterday we had a “crafting party” to finish up our projects for our Annual Kidzone Christmas Extravaganza Sale. We had pizza, snacks, drinks- a fun time!!

We are practicing each Sunday with Miss Cathy on our Christmas song which we will sing on Sunday, December 11th.

Remember to be kind and thankful to your family and friends! Happy Thanksgiving and see you on Friday at The Well.

Your Kidzone Leaders



Don't Forget...



The kids have been busy “crafting” for our **Kidzone Christmas Extravaganza Sale** at The Well on Friday, November 25th and Saturday, November 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Also, we will plan on having our craft items for sale in the narthex on Sunday, November 27th. This is our annual fundraiser for our Christmas stockings for Sand Springs Community Service.

UMW Circle Meetings for December
Faith Circle—December 1—11:30 a.m.—El Maguey
Priscilla Circle—December 12—6:30 p.m.—Narthex/Parlor
Ruth Esther Circle—December 15—11:30 a.m.—Cotton's Steakhouse

Fourth Monday

COMMUNITY MEAL

4th Monday of the Month
 Fellowship Hall • 5:30-7:00 p.m.

November 28
December 26
January 26, 2023

SUNDAY/WEDNESDAY VOLUNTEERS

Nursery/Children's Church

November 27

9 & 10 a.m.—Jami & Haylee

11 a.m.—Debbie & Marty

Children's Church-Jami & Amanda

December 4

9 a.m.—Amanda & Susie

10 a.m.—Sara & Lacey

11 a.m.—Amanda & Susie

Children's Church-Jami & Marty

December 11

9 & 10 a.m.—Hallye & Jami

11 a.m.—Katherine & Jami

Children's Church-Jami & Susie

December 18

9 a.m.—Gerri & Sophie

10 a.m.—Sara & Sophie

11 a.m.—Sara & Frankie

Children's Church—Jami & Debbie

December 25

9 & 10 a.m.—Jami & Hallye

11 a.m.—Debbie & Marty

Children's Church-Jami & Katherine

Youth Dinners

November 23—Helping with Thanksgiving

November 30—Faith Circle

December 7—Noah Class

December 21 & 28—Christmas Break

Counters

November 27—Jack & Kent

December 4—Janie & Jami

December 11—Betty & Karen

December 18—Sondra & Trena

December 25—Jack & Kent

Please arrange a replacement from the list if you are unable to attend.

Prayer Box

Betty & Howard Smith

Lex & Daphne Dinsmore

Elsie & Roger Jones

Pat & Allen Bordelon

Joe & Donna Woodruff

Betty & Linda Lund

Montie & Betty Box

Bruce Warren

Dick Ford

Faye Lee Posey

Leonard Brehm

Mary Lea Forsythe

Max Schuerrmann

Ralph Rand

Marsha Riffe

Dave Kvach

Ruth Weaver

Vi McAllister

Denise Luce

Sand Springs United Methodist Church Sunday Schedule
319 N. Main—918-245-5955—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