



CALENDAR | November 2018



CHOCTAW
united methodist church
KNOW. LOVE. LIVE.

The Invitation
November 2018

November 2 | 9:30 a.m.
LLL Group

November 11
Veterans Day

November 20
Newsletter Deadline

November 3 | 9:30 a.m.
Charge Conference

November 11 | 2:00 p.m.
Girl Scout Troop 354 Meeting

November 22
Thanksgiving

November 4 | 2:00 a.m.
Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 11 | 4:30 p.m.
Seniors 55+ Honoring Veterans Potluck

November 25 | 2:00 p.m.
Girl Scout Troop 354 Meeting

November 4 | 5:30 p.m.
Youth Dinner

November 11 | 6:00 p.m.
Youth Metro Worship

November 25 | 4:00 p.m.
Deck the Halls

November 7 | 1:00 p.m.
Staff Meeting

November 13 | 10:00 a.m.
UMW Meeting

November 26 | 7:00 p.m.
Church Conference

November 9 | 9:00 a.m.
Piece Makers

November 13 | 6:30 p.m.
Cub Scout Leader Meeting

November 28 | 9:30 a.m.
Newsletter Folding

November 9 | 6:00 p.m.
Kids Night Out
Parents @ the Parsonage

November 18 | 2:00 p.m.
Management Council Meeting

December 2 | 2:00 p.m.
Green & Reece Wedding Shower

November 18 | 4:00 p.m.
Youth District Game Night

 **CHOCTAW**
united methodist church
1200 N Choctaw Rd | Choctaw OK 73020

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 3
CHOCTAW, OK

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WORSHIP TIMES
Traditional: 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Modern: 10:45 a.m.

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Nursery Supervisors

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Choir Director

Galia Tennison
Accompanist

Kim McNew
Custodian

Have You Met Your Neighbors?

by Pastor Barry

At the Leadership Institute this year a big emphasis was placed on encouraging church leaders to get out into the community and meet people where they live and hang out. We are in a post-Christian world. Meaning, we can't sit back and expect new people to walk through our church doors on Sunday morning. We have to go into our community and build relationships with the unchurched.

One of the exercises we did at the Leadership Institute was to study a graph that had our church in the middle of a design similar to a tic-tac-toe board. It had arrows pointing in each direction from our church. They asked the questions, "Do you know the name of your neighbor in each direction? If so, can you tell me one thing about them that you can only learn from talking with them?" Many of us failed the experiment.

For some reason, God has put the trailer park to the northwest of our church on my radar since arriving here last year. We made up Easter flyers earlier this year, and a few of us made a point to go to every trailer door and give flyer inviting them to our Easter services. We were barked at by several aggressive dogs, yelled out by a lady to get off her property, and ignored by others. Still we felt good about attempting to reach people where they were.

The God moment for me in this is as we were hearing this lesson at Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City, a young woman from the trailer park was simultaneously at Choctaw UMC asking for prayer after a difficult personal

situation. Thankfully some church members were present that evening and able to pray with her. I received a phone call about the young woman's situation later that same night after getting out of the teaching about reaching out to people in our community.

This young lady came to our church the following Sunday. She approached me after the service with tears flowing from her eyes, and she told me her story. She mentioned living at the trailer park and feeling drawn spiritually to our church. She even said that she has spent a couple nights sleeping by the cross behind our church. I prayed with her and vowed to do all we could as a church family to help her in the journey ahead.

As I reflect on this moment: the teaching at Leadership Institute about reaching our neighbors, the Spirit working on me over the past year about doing ministry in the trailer park, and the conversation with the woman from the trailer park who felt spiritually drawn to our church in a way that she would sleep by the cross, I couldn't help but be moved by God's Spirit.

It reminds me and encourages me. We have work to do, church family. We have a community around us that needs to hear the good news of Jesus Christ! We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ! Join me in living with eyes wide open, hands and feet ready to serve, and let's look for opportunities to reach our neighbors in every direction!

inviting you to know, love, and live a life in Christ

Christmas Giving Opportunities

There will again be three Christmas giving opportunities this year sponsored by Choctaw UMC – the Angel Tree, Giving Tree and the KIHU Grocery Giveaway.

The Angel Tree, organized by the choir, will be set-up by November 18, with the names and ages of children along with their requested gift items. These children have incarcerated parents and this is their parent’s opportunity to send their child a gift for Christmas. Participation is simple: select an angel from the tree, shop for the requested items and return them, wrapped and with the angel attached, to the church by December 9.

The United Methodist Women will begin collecting funds on November 18, for the Giving Tree which supports students from Choctaw-Nicoma Park schools whose parents cannot afford Christmas gifts. Sharon Brown will be collecting contributions for this worthy mission.

The Grocery Giveaway, sponsored by the KIHU Sunday school classroom, provides sacks of food to families in need as identified by Choctaw-Nicoma Park school counselors, and to residents of Bent Oaks. Grocery sacks with a list of needed items will be available for pick-up at the church starting on November 18. Congregants are asked to fill the sacks with the needed items and return them to the church by December 9.

Petree Grant Awards

Choctaw United Methodist Church, along with the Margaret E. Petree Memorial Foundation, awarded two grants, totaling \$800, to local schools.

The Special Education teacher at Choctaw Middle School requested funds to register her students for the Special Olympics. In addition to the \$150 grant award, congregants gave \$990 to assist those students in their Olympics participation – event t-shirts, food for the day and travel expenses.

The counselor at Nicoma Park Elementary received a grant for \$650 to purchase new anti-bullying curriculum for her students. She reaches over 450 children each week.

What a blessing it was to deliver these resources to our local schools!

A wedding shower honoring Emily Green & Logan Reece will be at the church on Sunday, December 2, from 2 to 4 p.m.
Emily & Logan are registered at Amazon and Target.

Bazaar & Bake Sale Success

The United Methodist Women would like to thank everyone who supported the Annual Bazaar and Bake Sale. With your help, the UMW raised \$1,780, which will be used to support our local church projects and community missions.

Ladies Fall Luncheon

The United Methodist Women hosted their Fall Festival Luncheon on October 23, with 36 UMW members attending from Harrah, Nicoma Park, Jones, McLoud and Choctaw UMC.

The program was "Women of the Bible." The Piecemakers made twelve blocks to represent twelve extraordinary women of the Bible which was sewn into a quilt. The event was enjoyed by all.



Pumpkin Fest - We Did it!

Many thanks to all those that made this year’s Pumpkin Fest a success! There were more volunteers than ever before, and we successfully held the event indoors for the first time.

Thank you all for the time you put in to welcoming the community to our great event.

Kids’ Night Out & Parents at the Parsonage, Nov. 9

November’s Kids’ Night Out is scheduled for Friday, November 9, from 6-9 p.m. If your child would like to join the fun, please fill out the registration form at choctawumc.com/kidsnightout by Monday, November 5. Registration is limited. A pizza meal is provided.

Parents of school-aged children and younger are invited to enjoy a meal together at the parsonage while the children are at the church. Sign up for that can be done on the Kids Night Out registration form or with Pastor Barry.

Youth Events in November

On November 4, the youth will meet for fellowship starting at 5:30 p.m. They’ll share a meal and devotional and then play games.

The youth will head to St. Andrews UMC on November 11, for Metro Worship. They’ll meet at the church at 5:15 p.m. to carpool. Josh Coats from the

University of Oklahoma Wesley will be the guest speaker.

There will be a district game night on November 18, at New Hope United Methodist from 4 to 7 p.m. There will be dinner, nine-square, dodgeball, board games and more. It costs \$5 for dinner.

For more information on these event, please contact Colin at youth@choctawumc.com.

Deck the Halls, Nov. 25

The Gather Committee will be hosting a fun family event on Sunday, November 25, at 4 p.m.

There will be Christmas music, holiday decorating of the church, a hot chocolate bar with cookies, and the kiddos will make a Christmas craft.

If you’ll be attending the event, or can provide cookies for the evening, please mark your connection card in November. If you have questions, please contact Rachel at mdo@choctawumc.com.

UMM Christmas Dinner

The United Methodist Men will be hosting their annual Christmas dinner on Monday, December 17, at 6 p.m. at the Santa Fe Steak House. All are invited for this evening of festive fellowship.

Go to Them!

by Pastor Barry Collins

At the Leadership Institute, I sat in on a class taught by Bishop Schnase. He told a story that stayed with me, because it reminded me of our Choctaw UMC neighborhood. He said that a question often-repeated in many churches is “Why don’t those people come to our church?” This expressed the frustration of church members in regards to the trailer park close to their church. Church members made several efforts to invite these neighbors to their church, but they would never come.

One day a few members decided to take crock-pots of food to the trailer park to share with residents. They set up a table, and a few residents ventured out to eat, which led to deeper conversation. The folks from the church listened and came to know the people. As time went on, the church brought more food and added prayer and singing. The church eventually built a small amphitheater and offered worship in the trailer park. More than seventy people regularly attended.

Reaching the people in the trailer park required the church to rethink their mission. Was their primary goal to get people to come to their sanctuary and join them in church? Or was it to form relationships with people for the love of Christ wherever that might take place?

We have opportunities to do the same in our community of Choctaw. When we allow the Holy Spirit to push us beyond a “come to us” mentality, we begin to imagine “go to them” possibilities for all the places we can carry the grace of God.

What do you think “going to them” looks like for Choctaw UMC?

