



Join us [online](#) or in person as we conclude our sermon series, "Lessons from the Kids' Table." We hope you will join us.

Christmas Festival Kicks Off WC Celebrations of the Season

The White's Chapel annual Christmas Festival—a treasured gift to the community—will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 30, kicking off the season that celebrates the greatest birthday of all. The event will feature rides, food, and activities specifically for children.

"We have done this version of the festival for the past 14 years," said Denise Bennett, Co-Director of WC Kids, the ministry that sponsors the community event. "It had a slightly different look before our department took over. Even though we have added activities that we hope will appeal to the entire family, we will still have all our children's activities."

Classic bounce houses and obstacle courses, a snow hill, and a new inflatable corn maze will be featured, along with the return



of a Ferris wheel, pirate ship, swing rides, and a new mini carousel. Additionally, activities such as tossing games where children throw small objects through cut outs, or hoops on bottles will be available. Small prizes are awarded to participants.

Popcorn, cotton candy and hot chocolate will be available, as well as food trucks featuring corn dogs, pizza, cupcakes, biscuits and gravy, and more. Everything is free except for food items from featured vendors. Cotton candy, hot chocolate, popcorn, and all games and rides are free.

"My favorite memory every year is watching the final live nativity, followed by hearing pastor John (McKellar) read the Christmas story and the firework

FESTIVAL cont'd on page 2



CONFIRMATION

It was a day of celebration last Sunday as 115 students were confirmed into the church. Several of the confirmands also received holy Baptism after the service.

WC Women Sponsor

Social and Shop Event

Is there a better way to kick off the month of December than a Social and Shop event?

Join WC Women in supporting local businesses by shopping and socializing on Thursday, Dec. 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. Evans Hall

Shopping and Socializing on Thursday, Dec. 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Evans Hall.

will be lined up with pop-up shops, providing opportunities for shopping and learning about small businesses, especially those owned by women.

Items available for sale in this first-time holiday

SOCIAL cont'd on page 3



Sunday, Nov. 27: Advent Season Welcomed with Hanging of the Greens

Long before the birth of Christ, evergreens were used as an emblem of eternal life.

Greens such as cedar were used to represent royalty; fir and pine boughs represented everlasting life; holly symbolized Jesus' death and ivy represented the resurrection. The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for Christians. Although we are accustomed to celebrating Christmas on a single day, in both Christian tradition and on the Church calendar, the Christmas season lasts from sundown on Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) through The Epiphany of the Lord on Jan. 6. This is sometimes referred to as "the twelve days of Christmas."

GREENS cont'd on page 3

Angel Tree Forest: More Than Gifts

By Cassidy Williams

The church is sponsoring multiple different families and individuals during the Angel Tree Forest event. Until Dec. 4, participants and volunteers are able to donate items to help community members.

"The Angel Tree Forest helps White's Chapel reach out to those in need," one of the lead volunteers, Martha Reukema, shared. "Not only do we provide seriously-needed items to the recipients, we also want to share our love, hope and joy with them. They may not receive

Christmas gifts, joy and love from anyone else."

To share that love and joy, the church is representing many groups in need including: families/individuals in crisis, babies and new parents, seniors, military families and veterans, foster children in need of bicycles, residents at local shelters, and families experiencing childhood cancer.

Each ornament/tag, seen on the trees, represents someone in need. It is our hope that church and community members participate by taking an ornament (either in person or online) and

bringing it back with the requested items. Represented groups and organizations include:

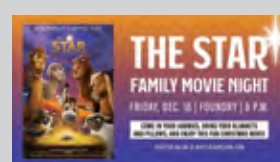
Families in Crisis

This group has more than one tree to accommodate all the families in need of support this season. Families are provided by Presbyterian Night Shelter (HOSO), ACH Families Together, local schools (including O.H. Stowe, Van Zandt-Guinn, and Bellaire Elementary), and WC's own ELL Program (part of the Refugee Initiative).

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The Star
Friday, Dec. 16 | See Page 4



Season of Thanksgiving

November is the month where our hearts turn to Thanksgiving. By this time, the school year is progressing, the football season has delivered its trends, cooler weather has arrived, and Christmas is on the horizon. Before we move on, we need to pause and give thanks to God for life. In the toughest times, we have much for which to be thankful. In fact, that is one of the keys to Jesus' ministry. He had a spirit of gratitude in the small things in life. Lilies in the field, birds in the air, and little children at play all spoke to him of the goodness of God. He could look beyond the problems of life and see the good. A spirit of thanksgiving enables us to develop that habit as well.

I love the services we will share together this weekend. They take me back to days in the early 1980s when I would go with my grandparents to the community Thanksgiving service held at the Presbyterian church in Belcher, Louisiana. Everyone would be dressed up, we would sing the great thanksgiving hymns, and it was a time of spiritual reflection before the feast to come and an afternoon of Dallas Cowboys football.

I hope you will make a special effort to be present at one of our weekend services, with your children, as we formally celebrate Thanksgiving together. These services capture what the holiday is all about, and they enable us to focus on this attitude of gratitude that brings us closer to God. I want us to remember that, so often, we get Thanksgiving wrong. We think it is dependent on circumstances. We think if we could change this or

that, or improve that problem, or add additional health or wealth, then we would be thankful. The truth is thanksgiving should come even in the times of trouble... If we could learn to find God everywhere, it is amazing the peace that will come into our lives. I love the way Reinhold Niebuhr put it in the powerful "Serenity Prayer" that he wrote almost 80 years ago:

God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, Courage to change the things which should be changed, and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other. Living one day at a time, Enjoying one moment at a time, Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, Taking, as Jesus did, This sinful world as it is, Not as I would have it, Trusting that You will make all things right, If I surrender to Your will, So that I may be reasonably happy in this life, And supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.

That is the key to thanksgiving... and that is the prayer I urge us all to pray during the coming week. If we do, then we will find thanksgiving everywhere, and live with a heightened sense of awareness of the miracles of God's world. Please know how much Pastor Todd and I value you, and how blessed we are to be a part of White's Chapel. We echo the sentiments of the Apostle Paul when he wrote in 2 Timothy 1:3 "I am grateful to God... when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day."



Festival

Cont'd from page 1

finale," said Hannah Robbins, also Co-Director of WC Kids. "There is something about that moment that truly feels like the Christmas season is finally here—taking time to acknowledge the true meaning of Christmas, then seeing so much excitement as the fireworks light up the kids' smiling faces!"

The first live nativity, at 3 p.m., is geared toward preschoolers. The drama will have Mary, Joseph and a donkey with a baby doll Jesus. The other nativity dramas will all also have live angels, shepherds and kings, along with a host of animals. Additional live performances of the Nativity story are scheduled for 5:30, 6, 6:30, and 7 p.m. at the outdoor amphitheater. The age-old characters will be performed by White's Chapel youth. Fireworks will follow the last performance.

"The best thing about the festival is the church and community members coming together to have a night of fun and fellowship," said Bennett. "I love that we offer five different times to see the live

nativity. I know I have friends that don't have kids, and they come just to see the live nativity."

The festival will begin at 2 p.m. Rides, games, pony rides, and the petting zoo will be available for small kids. At 4 p.m., food trucks and bigger rides open for older kids and their families. The 7:25 p.m. fireworks will end the festival.

Bennett made sure to point out "the earlier [people] arrive, the less crowded it will be. The best parking is probably the lot across from the church."

Youth and adult volunteers are still needed and welcome to participate in the live nativities, run the games, make cotton candy and popcorn, and man the inflatables.

For additional information, or if you wish to volunteer, please contact Bennett or Robbins.



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Hannah Robbins
hrobbins@whiteschapelumc.com



FINANCIALS NOV.			
	2022	2021	
November			
Week 1	\$276,938	\$283,085	
Week 2	\$178,345	\$205,336	
MTD Actual	\$455,282	\$488,421	
MTD Goal	\$478,054	\$362,603	
MTD Variance	\$ (22,771)	\$125,818	
YTD Actual	\$8,442,045	\$7,889,542	
YTD Goal	\$8,413,718	\$7,545,791	
YTD Variance	\$ 28,328	\$ 343,751	

WEEKEND PREACHING SCHEDULE

SANCTUARY

SUN. 8:20 a.m. | Traditional w/ Drs. John McKellar & Todd Renner

SUN. 9:30 a.m. | Contemporary w/ Drs. John McKellar & Todd Renner

SUN. 11 a.m. | Traditional w/ Drs. John McKellar & Todd Renner

THE FOUNDRY

SAT. 5:30 p.m. | Contemporary w/ Rev. Sam Robbins

SUN. 11 a.m. | Rebroadcasted 9:30 a.m. Sermon

WALTON CHAPEL

SUN. 9:30 a.m. | Traditional w/ Rev. Sterling Smith



APEX Arts League and White's Chapel Church are pleased to welcome the "Cliburn in the Community"

Sunday, Dec. 18 5 p.m. | Grace Chapel

All aboard the Polar Express! Piano duo Sara Doan and Mikhail Berestnev take you on a magical musical journey to the North Pole to visit Santa's home, where you can re-discover the wonder and spirit of the holidays. This is their take on Chris Van Allsburg's beloved holiday classic, "The Polar Express."

This event is FREE and especially suitable for young ears. APEX brings excellence in the arts to Northeast Tarrant County. Music, dance, theater, art, film. Close to home. Something for everyone.

WHITE'S CHAPEL
HERALD
Church office—(817) 481-4147

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WCS Students

The holiday season is an amazing time of year to look beyond ourselves and look to those in our community. Whether looking to meet a physical need or just spending time with others, our students have taken time this last month to serve others.

This past semester, we have provided our students with two opportunities to participate in a Serve Night during our regularly-scheduled Wednesday night programming. Students who attended both Crave and Intersection took the time to help meet the physical needs of our surrounding community.

The first night, students came together to help organize and pack over 175 hygiene bags



for the Agape Meal at Broadway Baptist Church. A few weeks ago, students met again to pack over 200 Christmas gift bags to be given out this Christmas season at the Presbyterian Night Shelter. Seeing our students come together and give their time to work hard to put together these bags for those in need has been incredible. The bags included basic hygiene materials such as deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, protein bars, snacks, and clothes such as hats, socks, and sweatshirts. Not only does the holiday season bring cold weather, making it harder to find warmth and comfort for those without homes or living in shelters, but it can also serve as a reminder of the things they do not have or the things they may not be able to provide for their families. This makes the bags that these students put together even more special as it will be an opportunity for the organizations that we worked with to give some basic necessities to those in need at a time when the spirit of giving is even more meaningful. While we do not have any



more Serve Nights planned for the semester, we look forward to providing our students with future opportunities to serve those in need.

Last month, one of our 12th-grade Cell Groups decided to get together on Halloween to give out candy to kids in their neighborhood. On a night teenagers often reserve for themselves to dress up and spend time with their friends, these 12th-grade boys decided to do something different. They gathered together, dressed up in costumes, ate dinner together, and then gave out candy to any families who were trick-or-treating at the house they were gathered at. And it was an idea that they came up with all on their own! The purpose behind cell groups is to help students find community and walk out their faith with their peers, which is exactly what this group of boys did. They gave up other potential plans to spend time together and then served families in their neighborhood, interacting with kids and parents and talking to people who live around them. And as a staff, we at WC Students are so proud of this group of boys. For their initiative, for their willingness to give up their night to put a smile on the faces of others, and for their desire to do it all together as a Cell Group. Instances like this are why we do what we do, and why we are so excited to watch not just this group but all of our students and Cell Groups seek God, grow together, and then take what they learn to serve those around them.

church setting, it readies the sanctuary as well as church members for this blessed season. This service is typically a Protestant service, having its roots in the Western culture.

This year, the Hanging of the Greens service will take place in Walton Chapel on Sunday, Nov. 27, officially welcoming the Advent season. The 9:30 a.m. service, led by Rev. Sterling Smith, will involve members of the congregation in the renewal and teaching of the symbols and customs of this sacred season.

Families and individuals are encouraged to participate in this special service. Please contact the church office for additional information.

Kim Stinson
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Greens

Cont'd from page 1

These seasons and their customs have developed through many centuries and many countries. Old customs and observances are refined, renewed and replaced; new ones are added. Some of our customs have pagan origins but have been "converted" by redefining their meanings. What is significant for us is not what they may have once meant but rather what they mean for us today. The Hanging of the Greens is a special service for the first Sunday in Advent. It is based on the English tradition of decorating the home with wreaths, evergreens, garlands, and a Christmas tree for Advent and Christmas. In a

social & Shop
 DEC. 1 6-8 P.M. EVANS HALL
 COME & GO EVENT
 SUPPORTING LOCAL & SMALL BUSINESSES
 CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

Social

Cont'd from page 1

event include jewelry, children's books, custom cookies, cakes, home decor, custom embroidery, custom pet art, and permanent bracelets.

Snacks and drinks will be provided. Childcare is available with an email to Rev. Joy Roberson. This is a come-and-go event for the whole community! Admission is free.



Rev. Joy Roberson
jroberson@whiteschapelumc.com

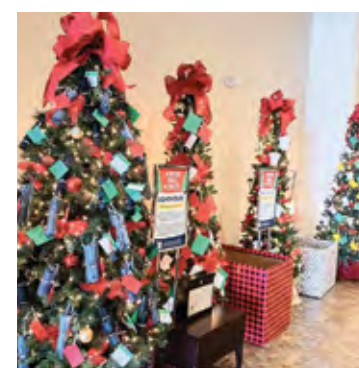
ANGEL TREE FOREST
 NOV. 1 - DEC. 4
 IN THE CONCOURSE
 Scan the QR code to view online or go to our website

Angel Tree

Cont'd from page 1

"ELL is our wonderful English Language Learning program, part of many different outreaches under our banner of volunteers," shared Refugee Initiative Director, Ann Davis. "Our prayer is that we'll be hearing again what our WC families have told us in the past: 'Our refugee angel tag led to such great dinner table conversations! Each one of us shared why reaching out globally—especially "to the least of these in our midst"—really matters. We've never felt better about giving!"

The WC Refugee Initiative/ELL Program and the church's three Adopt-A-Schools provide Angel Tree Forest leaders with information to help bring a little extra Christmas joy to families. Many of these people may not be able to afford gifts for their children or other necessities for their families.



While the church often works with the Presbyterian Night Shelter in Fort Worth throughout the year, the Angel Tree Forest provides additional support during a critical time.

Local Shelters

The Angel Tree Forest provides gifts to men and women in local shelters who often don't have other people to turn to. This includes individuals associated with Presbyterian Night Shelter, DRC Solutions (Quail Valley), and the ACH Child and Family Services Life Project.

According to the ACH website, "The LIFE (Learning Independence From Experience) Project promotes self-confidence and self-sufficiency for young adults aging out of the foster care system and homeless young adults by providing independent living housing options and skills development."

This year, the donation event will include specific items for the Emergency Center (focusing on those 10-17) the Family Life Program (which provides apartments

for moms and their children coming from abusive situations), the Residential Treatment Center (focusing on those 13-17), and the LIFE Project (focusing on those 18-21). The Angel Tree Forest will also provide move-out gifts for those 18-21 years old, who are leaving the LIFE Project and moving into their own apartment.

Spokes 4 Hope

Spokes 4 Hope, a police-sponsored organization that helps kids 'ride on to a better life,' collects bicycles for foster children represented by CASA

(Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Tarrant County. It is an organization of volunteer advocates who stand up on behalf of abused and neglected children. A bike helps with the development of a child by promoting self-esteem, exercise and joy—in addition to giving the child a sense

of responsibility. This year, participants will also purchase locks so recipients can keep their new bike safe.

Individuals can get involved by shopping for and donating items, volunteering to sort gifts, or delivering objects to recipients. In-person angel tags and digital tags are available for people to view. The link to the **Virtual Angel Tree Forest** is available below. Once items are bought, gifts may be dropped off in the boxes near the Angel Tree Forest (located in the commons) at any time. If someone wants to get involved but is unable to shop for gifts, gift cards are also accepted.

Since the first few years of this offering this Christmas donation event, the list of people affected by this outreach effort has grown exponentially.

"Along with the increase in volunteers, we have gone from gifts in the low hundreds to 4,000+ gifts," Reukema shared. "All the thanks goes to God and thankfully His work, through our congregation and their listening!"

Angel Tree Forest:
 Nov. 1-Dec. 4
Virtual Angel Tree Forest:
<https://sugeni.us/dMF9>

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Follow The Star: A Christmas Nativity Drive-Thru Experience Dec. 8 & 9 | 6 to 8 p.m.

Adults and kids of all ages will delight in the sights and sounds of the Christmas journey. Join White's Chapel for this drive-thru experience featuring live actors, animals and all the excitement of that special night in Bethlehem. Narrated by our very own Pastor John McKellar, this drive-thru is sure to evoke joy as participants focus on the true message of Christmas! Volunteers are still needed and welcome to participate. Contact Dana Netzer at dnetzer@whiteschapelumc.com for more information or to volunteer.

light of Christ pierces any darkness we may experience this Christmas season. Scripture, music, an uplifting and healing message, and rituals of remembrance are all part of this reflective and triumphant service. During the culminating movement of the service, candles arranged in a cross are lit one by one as the names of loved ones are read aloud to acknowledge and celebrate their life.

To submit up to five names to be read aloud at this year's Service of Remembrance, go to the church website. Names must be submitted no later than noon on Thursday, Dec. 8. Any names received after this date will be read aloud

but will not appear in print in the Order of Worship. To schedule childcare for children 3-years-old and under, contact dmartinez@whiteschapelumc.com.

Service of Remembrance Wednesday, Dec. 14 | 6 p.m.

The Service of Remembrance memorializes loved ones who have died and celebrates the fact the



SHARE YOUR CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

WE'RE COLLECTING WHITE'S CHAPEL CHRISTMAS STORIES TO FEATURE THIS SEASON!

Submit yours to whywc@whiteschapelumc.com

Stories including pictures are encouraged!

TURN IN ORDER FORMS FOR POINSETTIAS

BY DEC. 4

Forms go to the front desk in the admin building

THE STAR
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
FRIDAY, DEC. 16 | FOUNDRY | 6 P.M.

COME IN YOUR JAMMIES, BRING YOUR BLANKETS AND PILLOWS, AND ENJOY THIS FUN CHRISTMAS MOVIE

REGISTER ONLINE AT WHITESCHAPELUMC.COM

COME SHOP WITH US!

CIRCUIT WRITERS BOOKS & SUCH

BOOKS GIFTS SEASONALS & MORE

Have a great Thanksgiving!

No Wednesday Night Dinner this week due to Thanksgiving Break





Prayer List

Adriana Abbasi, Libby Assenheimer, Luke Baca, Jack Bair, Carol Barret, Walt Barret, Jerry Barron, Tena Bibb, Joyce Billingsley, Pam Brown, Gay Bryan, Brian Burhenn, Carol Burns, Joe Burns, Bobbie Cameron, Nikki Campbell, Dorothy Casetta, Otis Chaplin, Jesse Cobb, Lola Cobb, Mel Crosier, Andy Dillon, Jean Doricko, Stacey Dyer, Wilma Dykman, Trey Edwards, Rich Elkins, Ralph Evans, Maxine Fry, Sue Fuller, Marty Geer, Shelly Gillette, Jane Grazer, Tim Green, Heritage Grimplin, Judith Hallam, Nancy Hampton, Al Hansen, Marty Harris, Maxie Hays, Don Hellstern, Chris Hill, Lorrie Hill, Kay Hines, Jim Hosmer, Travis Hosmer, Pat Hukill, Russ Jones, Gary Keller, Audry Kovach, Connie Lamb, Serenity Lee, Sunhi Lee, Arden Mack, Betty Martin, Madison and Tim Mason, Ann Miller, Drake Miller, Mary Miller, Lisa Moore, Richard Moreau, Jeff Nadeau, Ferry Anne Neal, Emily Looft Nelson, Larry Nichols, Jim Niewald, Clark Norman, McCurtain County, OK, Ron Oliver, Jamie Ong, Paul Padilla, Kathy Pierce, Fadia Pyatt, Kim Rhodes, Mark Rogers, Elizabeth Rowland, Dan Russell, Kevin Schaffer, Beth Scoggins, Sherrie Stoecker, Tammy Studdard, Steve Swanston, Jeanie Swink, Deanna Talbott, Carolyn Thompson, Jenny Thornell, Gladys Vance, John Walling, Dianne Williams, Dick Williams, Ken Williams, Vicki Winn, Mary Grimplin Zoltek. Recent deaths: The Family of Luisa Pañgan Alcances, The Family of Terry Barker, The Family of John Bolton, The Family of Marcy Buckley, The Family of Sheila Hanson, The Family of H. Wayne Harris, The Family of Marge Hayashi, The Family of Dianne Hutchinson, The Family of Phil Larson, The Family of Bill Lee, The Family of Mitchell Morton, The Morton Family, The Family of Judy Powell, The Family of Mike Riley, The Family of Gary Simms, The Family of Diane Wright.

You may submit prayer requests at whiteschapelumc.com/prayer-request.html

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THURS. 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.
CLOSED FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

WAYS TO GIVE WHITE'S CHAPEL UMC

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