#### WHITE'S CHAPEL

# HERALD



Join us online or in person as we continue the series "Wonder." We hope to see you soon.

**VOLUME 14, NUMBER 21** 

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023

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# Advent, Faith and Traditions

By Rev. Lori Cotton

dvent is my favorite time in the Church year. I love the decorations, special worship events, holiday traditions, and the food. As a Christian, this time of the year is especially full of the richness of faith, the stories, songs, ancient prophecies, and promises of God pointing to the coming of a Savior named Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, a light shining on those living in a land of deep darkness, Immanuel, God with us, a baby born in a lowly manger.

During this time of year, as in Lent, spiritual practices also are emphasized. Repentance is a message of

ADVENT cont'd on page 2



#### MOANA JR

The Theater 2 production of Moana made way for some fun evenings in mid-November (more pictures on p. 3).

**Nepal Leprosy Hospital Receives** 

## December Communion Offering

an you possibly imagine how you would cope with having no hands... or no fingers?

How would you feed yourself, clothe yourself, wash yourself, pick things up, write, type, scratch an itchy spot, tie shoe-laces, pick up anything .... do anything...?

For many, many people in Janakpur, Nepal—a very poor part of the world--- one or both hands are mutilated

**COMMUNION** cont'd on page 3



The Angel Tree Forest will come to a close on Sunday, Dec. 3 as people bring the last of their donated gifts to the church. This will allow

volunteers to distribute gifts to the correct locations and organizations just in time for Christmas.

"So many of the recipients tell us how grateful they are to receive the gifts and you can see the revival of hope and joy on their face and in their step," said Martha Reukema, longtime leader and volunteer. "Yes, I see God in each gift – both in the recipients and the givers at WC."

Reukema shared one family's written reaction to receiving

gifts provided through the Angel Tree Forest.

"Thank you for blessing my family this Christmas. My family has seen our share of hardship, but God is good. We truly appreciate that you were concerned with making every child smile on Christmas morning.

Thank you for your generosity. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The XXXX Family."

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered time and donated gifts to this year's Angel Tree Forest!



# The White's Chapel Trains ... All aboard!

The trains have been a part of White's Chapel since 2017 and have become a community tradition. Each year, the magnitude and popularity continue to grow. Children and adults alike are drawn to the fascination and movement of trains, and our WC Trains do not disappoint. How many trains are there? Featuring our own Walton

Chapel, the Southlake Town Square, various nativity scenes, old-fashioned carolers, kids, animals, choirs, Snoopy, Charlie Brown and lots of other friends. Shoppers, skiers --and more-- move to and fro, and of course, as always, our elusive Wesley hides amongst all the displays! There's so very much to see including the light in the eyes of all the children who experience it. You'll want to bring the entire family!

The regular schedule for the miniature train display is available on the White's Chapel website, or at wctrains.com. Trains will also be running during all special events: Christmas services, concerts, etc. The hot cocoa (or specialty coffee) at Wesley's Cafe is a great addition. Don't forget to tour the Angel Tree Forest throughout the concourse, too!

Daily through Jan. 8 | wctrains.com



# Someonés in the Kitchen

Pastors John and Todd are cooking again with their annual 'Bake It or Buy It' series! If a mess can be made they are up to the task with holiday cookies, candies, appetizers, and cake. Join the fun as 'objective' judges decide if it is easier to Bake or to Buy.

Tune in to the website each Friday in December for the release of a new episode. And don't forget to watch the Herald each week as we will publish all the bake-it recipes.

whiteschapel.org https://bit.ly/WCBakeit23





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# Service of Remembrance

Wednesday, Dec. 13 | 6 p.m. | Sanctuary

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

The holidays can be a challenging time for those who have recently lost family members and friends. Family gatherings and social events on and around Christmas often remind us of the absence of those who are no longer with us. Through the Service of Remembrance, White's Chapel offers a beacon of light and hope into the lives of all who seek comfort.

Join us on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m., in the sanctuary, to celebrate the light and hope of Christmas at the Service of Remembrance. This Service of Remembrance is organized in a partnership between the Care and Support and Stephen Ministry of White's Chapel. This service will also be streamed live on the church website (whiteschapel.org) for those unable to attend in person.

The Service of Remembrance seeks to memorialize loved ones who have died over the past year and celebrate the light of Christ that continually pierces any darkness we may experience this Christmas season. The light of the world,

SERVICE cont'd on page 3

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WC Kids Update

Event Pictures and Highlights



Christmas Worship Experience

Dec. 9 & 10 (Brunch on Sunday) | See Page 4



# **Holiday**Preparations and **Expectations**

By Dr. John McKellar

That a wonderful way to kick off the Christmas season we have had this week. Without the Christmas festival, our trains, magnificent decorations around every nook and cranny, and our new "Joy" sign on 1709... truly this is a place filled with excitement about the birth of Jesus! Already, we have had so many guests here and such warm hospitality extended, and so many people have worked hard to brighten lives. It is amazing how our ministry has grown and developed over the years. From humble beginnings. we have tried to celebrate Jesus Christ and I believe we have seen miracles take place.

What I have also learned through the years is that the best made plans for the holidays tend to go awry. Growing up, I always fantasized the idea of having a white Christmas. Living in Louisiana and later moving to Texas, I never really envisioned it actually happening. If you remember, in 2009 my dreams were answered... but not in the way I expected. We had a blizzard that ended up freezing our parking lots and the police advised us to cancel our later services for people's safety... it was so cold and so miserable. I had always imagined a white Christmas as a gentle snow... and I would ride to the church in a horse drawn carriage, and we would sing "Silent Night" and drink hot chocolate. The reality of my white Christmas was one of questions, and confusion, and issues of people's safety... and yet, in the midst of the challenges, my family would have what would end up being my brother's last Christmas on earth. And true to form, everything that could go wrong did. My mother's train was delayed by the snow, and we had a terrible time making transfers. My brother was late getting here and plans with friends fell through. In cooking our

**FINANCIALS** 

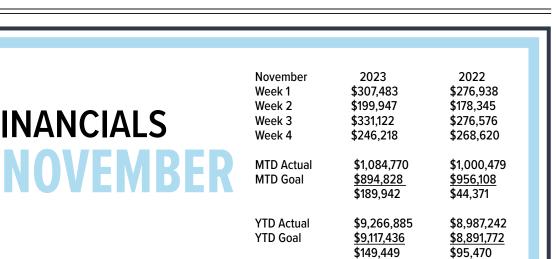
Christmas dinner, I burned the steaks... my brother's wheelchair got caught up in our kitchen counters and uprooted them... And generally, we missed the mark of the perfect occasion we were trying to have. But I don't really remember any of that. I just remember the laughter, and the moment of sitting by a fire in the fire pit, and the realization that real life is messy and untidy, and doesn't follow the scripts we write in our minds. But - when we get that - we savor the moments that we do have... we slow things down and we really tune in to each other.

That is the key to making Christmas keep its spiritual nature. There is an old maxim: "keep Christ in Christmas." The truth is: you can't keep Christ out of Christmas. It is His day and His birthday celebration. However, we can keep the spiritual component out of our celebration and experience of Christmas. It can become so secular, so busy that we miss the reason for why we do what we do. You and I need to spend time reflecting on our traditions and customs; we need to work at simplifying and lowering our expectations... and most of all, every day we need to work at spending some quiet time - being still, praying, and reflecting on what it means that Christ has been born into our lives.

So, as we prepare to celebrate in the days ahead, remember that the most important part of the holidays has never been - and never will be - the focus of what we are trying to make happen. The truth is, we don't long remember the perfect meals, and the perfect gifts, and the perfect experiences. It's the goof ups and the mistakes, the detours that we will look back at and remember and laugh at and cherish. Celebrate each moment with loved ones, even while they're making us crazy, and most of all - remember to laugh. It's easy to get caught up in catching or creating perfect moments, but generally the most perfect moments are the ones that happen completely by surprise. When we get that, we will be open to those God moments that will be so abundant in the coming days.

What a wonderful opportunity we have to bless others by inviting them to church in the coming weeks. We have a whole host of activities that you will find in this paper. But sometimes, the reason people will come is because a friend or neighbor invited them.

There is so much beauty around us. "Joy" is in the air! Let's share it and bless others with the good news of Jesus Christ. Please know that Pastor Todd and I are honored to be your pastors!



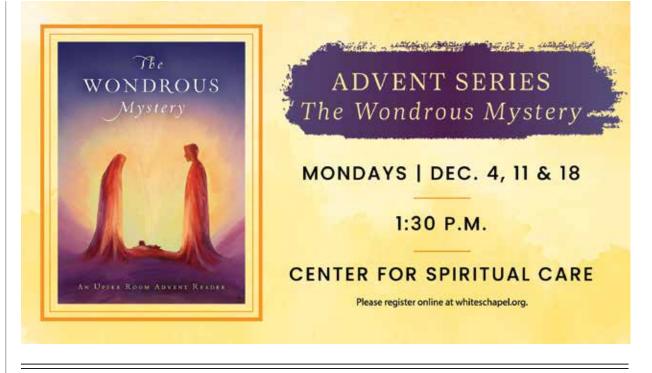




**Editor** Debbie McKellar Managing Editor Cassidy Johnson Graphics and Design Susanna Cunningham **Graphics Consultants** Alec Hanson & Sarah Hamilton

White's Chapel Herald USPS 25541 is published weekly except for the second week of March and the week of Thanksgiving, and then changes to alternate weeks beginning the Friday after Memorial Day, changing back to weekly in mid-August, and skips the week between Christmas and New Year, by White's Chapel Methodist Church, 185 S. White Chapel Blvd, Southlake TX 76092-7308. Periodicals Postage is paid at Grapevine, TX and additional mailing offices. Subscription rate: \$10 for one year.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to White's Chapel, 185 S. White Chapel Blvd, Southlake, TX 76092-7308





### Advent

Cont'd from page 1

Advent and is certainly an effective way to sweep the home of your heart in preparation for the coming of Jesus. Faith in the promises of God is demonstrated by the Biblical characters of Advent, especially Mary, who challenges us with her faith and her song, known as "The Magnificant." Advent is, indeed, a time to examine our faith and its practice and legacy in our families because Jesus is coming. And Advent is a time of year for families, for healing, for grieving, for forgiving, for loving. Advent is a time for meeting the family of God and realizing it's our own family and friends.

I have special traditions: every year I watch "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." For some reason this year, I've been thinking about the children's Christmas stories that I read to my son, like "The Tailor of Gloucester" (Beatrix Potter), and Richard Scarry's "Best Christmas Book Ever." If you know Richard Scarry's work, then, you know Lowly Worm, who is a worm wearing a hat, a smile, some clothes, and a sneaker. No matter the story, Lowly does the driving in vehicles made of an apple. In other words, Lowly is responsible, trustworthy, reliable, and a good friend to Huckle and Hilda. And he's a worm! Named Lowly! Lowly is reported to have been Richard Scarry's favorite of his characters. Honestly, I thought he could have named him something other than Lowly. Worms, I guess, are rather lowly inhabiting the soil, the humus. In fact, the word humus is related to the word humility. Lowliness is humbleness.

Mary sings of the wonders of God in Luke 1:46-55 and acknowledges for each of us that God has looked upon the lowliness and humiliation of his

servants. Through the saving work of Jesus Christ, Mary prophesies the Mighty One has done, is doing, and will do great things for us. God has lifted the lowly and scattered those caught up in themselves. God has given us the gift of grace through our faith in his (and Mary's) son, Jesus. The Greek word in Luke 1:48 which is translated lowliness or humbleness, is related to a word translated as humility in Philippians 2:3: "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves."

My favorite theologian is Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was executed by the Nazis for his political opposition to Hitler and his regime. Please take time not only to reflect on Mary's song in Luke 1, the Magnificat, but also on these words from Bonhoeffer's book, "God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas":

"God travels wonderful ways with human beings, but he does not comply with the views and opinions of people. God does not go the way that people want to prescribe for him; rather, his way is beyond all comprehension, free and self-determined beyond all proof. Where reason is indignant, where our nature rebels, where our piety anxiously keeps us away: that is precisely where God loves to be. There he confounds the reason of the reasonable; there he aggravates our nature, our piety—that is where he wants to be, and no one can keep him from it. Only the humble believe him and rejoice that God is so free and so marvelous that he does wonders where people despair, that he takes what is little and lowly and makes it marvelous. And that is the wonder of all wonders, that God loves the lowly.... God is not ashamed of the lowliness of human beings. God marches right in. He chooses people as his instruments and performs his wonders where one would least expect them. God is near to lowliness; he loves the lost, the neglected, the unseemly, the excluded, the weak and broken."

God is not ashamed of the lowliness of humans. God became one so we might be saved. That's Good News!



**Rev. Lori Cotton** lcotton@whiteschapel.org

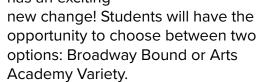




WC KIDS

#### Arts Academy Registration Opens Dec. 1

The spring semester of the Arts Academy has an exciting



Broadway Bound – students in firstthird grade can join this class which will incorporate music, dance and singing. This class is geared to prepare students who have an interest in choir or theater classes.

Arts Academy Variety – students in kinder-fourth grade will experience all aspects of Arts Academy. They will rotate through all the classes we offer- art, cooking, LEGO, science, and games/ music.

We are excited for the new changes and look forward to all the creative opportunities this semester. Class times will still be 4:30 to 6 p.m. For more info, follow the registration link on wckids.org. Erin Schechter | eschechter@whiteschapel.org

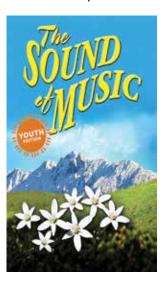
### WC Theater Spring Classes – Registration Opens Dec. 1

Student will have an opportunity to learn singing, acting and dancing skills in a fun and safe environment. All the skills, hard work and fun will culminate in performances in the spring.



WC Theater 1 is for students in fourth-sixth grade. Theater 1 students will be performing "Annie KIDS."

Auditions will be on Saturday, Jan. 6. Rehearsals are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 6 p.m.



WC Theater 2 is for students in the seventh-ninth grade. Theater 2 students will be performing "The Sound of Music: Youth Edition." Auditions for the show will be held on Sunday, Jan. 7. Rehearsals will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m.

Rehearsal times, performance dates and more info are available on the registration links on wckids.org.

Julie Blalock | jblalock@whiteschapel.org





#### **Spring Confirmation Classes - Registration Opens Dec. 1**

Confirmation is an intentional spiritual formation program that takes students through the history, practices, and beliefs of the Christian faith. Classes will guide each student in professing their belief in Jesus Christ and helping them understand what it means to be a member of White's Chapel. Students in sixth – 12th grade have several options for taking classes. More information and class schedules are available on the registration page at wckids.org.

Parent orientation will be on Sunday, Jan. 7, immediately after church in the Rock. Classes will begin Sunday, Jan. 21. Denise Bennett | dbennett@whiteschapel.org

#### Children needed for "There Is A King"

Children 5 years old and up are needed to participate as angels or shepherds in our Christmas Worship



Experience, "There Is A King." Children may choose to participate in one or more of the three services: Saturday, Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 10 at 9 a.m. and/ or 11 a.m. A mandatory dress rehearsal for all participants will take place at 9:45 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9. Register at wckids.org.

Denise Bennett | dbennett@whiteschapel.org

#### WC Kids Christmas Service Saturday, Dec. 23 | 11 a.m. Sanctuary

Four-year-olds - kindergartners will be part of the Christmas pageant and sing special songs from their Wednesday night class.

Practices are in Room 1:

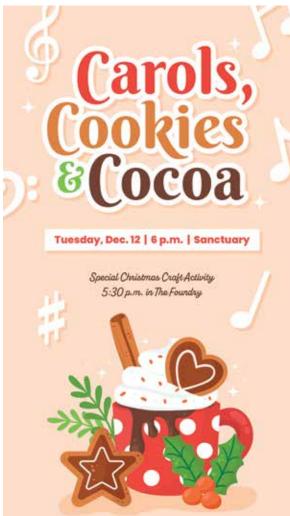
Wednesdays, Dec. 6, 13 & 20 from 6 to 6:30 p.m. (no Wed. night dinners) Sunday, Dec. 17 from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

First -sixth graders have the opportunity to be part of our WC Kids Christmas Choir. Kids will be learning the program music at the following practices and on their own with the cd:

Wednesdays, Dec. 6, 13 & 20 from 6 to 6:30 p.m. in the Rock (no Wed. night dinners)

Sunday, Dec. 17 from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. in the Rock

Mandatory rehearsal on Friday, Dec. 22 at 10 a.m. for all Children's Christmas Service participants. Students will meet in the choir room behind the sanctuary.











#### MOANA JR.

Moana JR. was a huge success!

Students in Theater classes learn many skills while preparing for a musical production. Registration opens Dec.1 for the spring productions, "Annie" and "The Sound of Music." Auditions will be Jan. 7.

### Communion

Cont'd from page 1

or deformed, often with limited or no function... due to the ravages of leprosy, burns, crush injuries, congenital malformations and several other causes.

White's Chapel has designated a communion offering annually for about eight years to the Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital and Service Center in the Dhanusha District of Nepal, and the communion offering for December has been set aside for this very important and heart-breaking cause.

LLHSC is one of the world's busiest leprosy hospitals – at times the busiest – vying for that "honour" with a leprosy hospital across the border in UP India. LLHSC has an annual patient-flow (in a non-COVID year) of over 1,100 new leprosy patients, over 12,000 total leprosy consultations (new and returning), and over 110,000 outpatient consultations of all types (skin diseases, tuberculosis, typhoid, cholera, malaria, elephantiasis, parasitic diseases etc.) including 20,000 children.

LLHSC has almost 100 inpatient beds... and an awesome community outreach program with 120 self-help Groups. LLHSC runs the leprosy program on behalf of the Nepal government with a catchment area across Province-2 – that includes eight Districts with a population of 6.01 million, adjacent to the border with India. It has 45 percent of all new cases of leprosy in Nepal. LLHSC also has a packed training program – training

government health workers, doctors and others, including International students.

The Nepal Leprosy Trust is a Christian organization that serves people affected by leprosy, as well as other ill, needy, marginalized, disabled and poor.

Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital and Service Center strives for the elimination of leprosy and its consequences, through serving people affected by leprosy, Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and other diseases of poverty, especially those who are disabled, needy, stigmatised and marginalised, by providing good quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care, training and capacity building, and a community outreach that promotes health, socio-economic development and human rights, especially through participative community development.

Children. teenagers, adults and elderly often come from many days travel away – from distant districts of Nepal, from high mountains and terrain, and some from across the border in India. Many come in hope as this is perhaps their one-chance in a lifetime to get their hands restored or reconstructed for improved shape and function.

Sometimes it is difficult to understand just how important those few dollars contributed to the communion basket are, and how far reaching they are. But the children helped understand that importance in a tremendous and grateful way.

One hundred percent of donations goes to this very worthy cause.

### Service

Cont'd from page 1

Jesus Christ, pierces the darkness of our world to offer each of us salvation and hope both now and for all eternity. This is what is commemorated and celebrated through the Service of Remembrance.

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 lives.

You can submit up to three names to be read aloud at this year's Service of Remembrance by going to the church website. Name submissions must be made no later than noon on Thursday, Dec. 7. Any names received after that date will be read aloud but will not appear in print on the Order of Worship.

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

#### Hanging of the Greens Service Sunday, Dec. 3 | 9:30 a.m. Walton Chapel

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, garlands, a Christmas tree, and evergreens for Advent and Christmas. In a church setting, it readies the sanctuary as well as church members for this blessed season. The service, led by Rev. Steve Lallier, will involve members of the congregation in the renewal and teaching of many of the symbols and customs of this blessed and sacred season. Families and individuals are encouraged to participate.

#### Classic Adult Fellowship Monthly Luncheon

Friday, Dec. 15 | 11 a.m. | Evans Hall

Rev. Steve Lallier | slallier@whiteschapel.org

CAF luncheons are a wonderful place to meet new people, catch up with friends, have a great meal, and enjoy great entertainment or special speakers. One thing is for sure, you won't leave hungry or bored! We love to visit with one another - sharing life's special moments, friendships, and God's love. Donations are accepted and appreciated for luncheons with check-in at 10:30 a.m. and starting at 11. Contact Laurie W. to register for a spot.

Laurie Williams | lwilliams@whiteschapel.org

## Cooking with Care (Ronald McDonald House) Monday, Dec. 18 | 9:20 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Each month, men and women join in planning, buying, preparing, and serving lunch to the parents, siblings, and family members staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Fort Worth. Ronald McDonald House provides housing for parents with critically-ill children at Cook Children's Medical Center. Meals are served twice a month on the second and third Monday, with the number of volunteers limited to ten on each serving date. Volunteers must bring a valid driver's license. Volunteers meet at 9:20 a.m. and carpool together, returning at 2 p.m. Contact Susan Gregg.

Susan Gregg | susancgregg@hotmail.com

## "The Sacred Enneagram" Thursdays, Jan. 11 - Feb. 15 | 10 - 11:30 a.m. | Adult Ed. Room 3203

Most of us spend a lifetime trying to figure out who we are and how we relate to others and God. The Enneagram is here to help. Far more than a personality test, author Chris Heuertz teaches us that the Enneagram is a sacred map to the soul. All are welcome to this six-week Spiritual Formation class facilitated by WC Stephen Minister Janice Smith. The book is available for purchase at WC's Circuit Writer's and Such Bookstore. Please register on the church website. Janice Smith I jps2000@mac.com





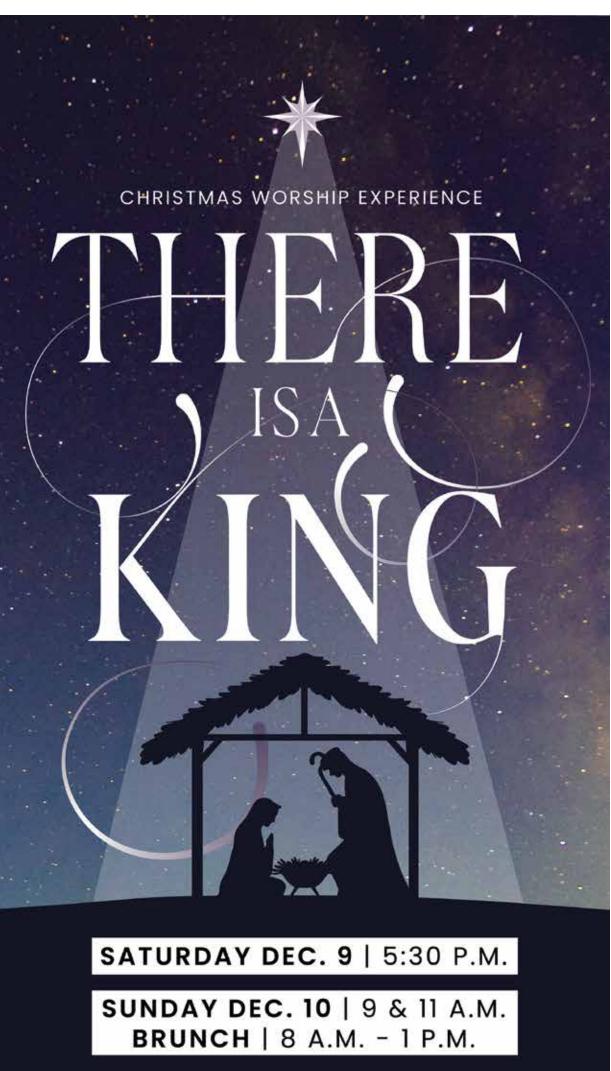
Zimmerman.

## **Prayer List**

Subha Akula, Judy Allen, Sandi Attwood, Dudley Barnes, Carol Barret, Gail Beadles, Bethia Blomquist, Cara Bradshaw, Kay Brandt, Marlin Brandt, Cheryl Brashear, Debbie Brown, Ruby Buffalo, John Cairns, Bobbie Cameron, Connie Center, Jackie Black Chaffins, Daniel Vikash Chandra, Carey Cockerell, Carolyn Cockrell, John Colvin, John Corder, Jim Cox, Bonna Downum, Tommy Duer, Bobbi Dunbar, Nick Durbin, Wilma Dykman, Bobye Eagleston, Dennis Eaton, Courtney Echerd, Adam Evans, Ralph Evans, Larry Farrar, Mark Ferrell, Diane Franks, Maxine Fry, Earl Geddes, Gary Lou Geddes, Melissa and Olivia Gee, Larry Gessner, Carolyn Gillum, Barbara Goetz, Jane Grazer, John Guthrie, Amy Guzzy and Family, Judith Hallam, Maxie Hays, Ashley Ivester, Josie Jewart, Cooper Kohan, Alaina Kosinski, Connie Lamb, Ann Riley Lange, Amanda Lee, John Lind, Kayla Martinez and Family, Sheldon Metz, Ed Molberg, Thomas W. Morris, Linda Nadeau, Kate Oh, Jerry and Dorothy Owen, Don Pansegrau, Barbara Pico, Dana Pierce, Kathy Pierce, Rejâne Proença, Jim and Mary Renner, K Lee Riddle, Gale Rivers, Megan Robison and Brayden Steele, Johnnie Ruth Rogillio, Monica and Alex Romo, Elizabeth Rowland, Beatrice Scally, Gary Schneider, Bruce Schollmeyer, Paul Sikes, Steve Swanston, Carolyn Thompson, Bill Thornton, Emily Torres, Sharon Valentine, Charlene Wahrmund, Al Wells, Charlene Weseloh, Randy Whisenhunt, Blake Whitlye, Ida Wilson, Lisa Wilson, Leigh Winzeler, Jane Young. Recent deaths: The Family of Marshall Allen, The Family of Walt Barret, The Family of Michael Clark, The Family of Agnes Davidson, The Family of Carmel DiLauro, The Family of Nick Foust, The Family of Sue Kellen, The Family of Buddy Mincey, The Family of Alice Dianne Thomas, The Family of Jerry Webber, The Family of Ronald

You may submit prayer requests at whiteschapel.org/prayer-request.html or or use the QR code.







If you wish to place a poinsettia in our sanctuary during Advent this year, please complete the order form below. The poinsettias are \$10 each. You may pick up your poinsettias after the final service on Sunday, December 24.

Please make checks payable to "White's Chapel Methodist Church" and write "Poinsettia" in the memo portion of your check. Submit form and payment to the church office by Sunday, December 3.

Name:	
Phone Number:	
Quantity Ordered: x \$10 (each) = \$	enclosed
☐ In Honor ☐ In Memory of: ☐ Given by:	
☐ In Honor	
☐ In Honor ☐ In Memory of: ☐ Given by:	