



# THE SPIRE

News of New Haven United Methodist Church

*"Making Disciples for Jesus Christ in the world,  
by being God's Love in Action"*

5603 S. New Haven Avenue, Tulsa, OK. 74135

Phone: 918-743-6491 ~ FAX: 918-743-9306

VOLUME MMXX Number 1

January 6, 2020



Rev. James Graham

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

2019 is in the books, and we turn our attention to yet another new year. It is an opportunity for a fresh start, and 365 days of blessings! This past year was filled with many joys. We had three new babies born! We celebrated our faithful saints with our Octogenarian Plus party, and spent more than 5600 hours in mission and ministry with our neighbors. We have fed the hungry, clothed the children, and offered compassion, hospitality, and Christ to others. 2020 is filled with opportunity, and I look forward to leading this church into the future with a vision of becoming a truly inclusive congregation, focused on building relationships in our neighborhood, and becoming a center for religious and educational inspiration to our community.

As a part of that vision, we as a church must re-imagine our ministries in ways that will be meaningful and relevant to our neighbors. We must not only balance our budget, but adapt our staff, volunteers, and programming to meet the changing needs of the people God has called us to be in ministry with.

As a first step in this process, we have reduced our budget for staffing this year by \$25,000. We believe this will relieve some pressure on our finances and help us focus more on service and ministry. Our receptionist position is being replaced by volunteers, and we will be examining our schedule to maximize their effectiveness. Our Children's Director position is also changing. With Marti's departure, we have decided to expand Britany Fox's position to encompass all of Children's Ministry and she will now hold the title of Director of Children's Ministries. She will be seeking additional help and volunteers to respond to the ever changing needs of our children. I hope you will give her your full support and encouragement!

Grace and peace,

Pastor James

**The Advent season was such a special time for our New Haven church family!**

The lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath, decorating the church, the Memorial tree and the Crismon tree, the Children's Pageant, the One Spirit Choir and Jubilation Ringers Bell Choir Cantata, the Christmas Eve service all eading up to the celebration of our savior's birth.



**New Haven Staff**

Cynthia Edelman	Business Manager	Cindy Taylor	Day School Director
Stephen Merrick	Music Director	Rev. Suzanne Davis	Retired Deacon
Teresa Roberts	Organist	Rev. Jeanette Boyd	Retired Deacon
Patrick Grafton	Youth Director	Rev. Robin Stevens	Retired Deacon
Brittany Fox	Nursery Director	Rev. David Rowley	Retired Elder
Oscar Sturgeon	Custodian		

To all our **WONDERFUL** Volunteers...



Thank  
You!

As the new year begins we want to give our amazing volunteers a heartfelt . . .

**“Thank You!”**

There are volunteers that you probably see every week: Ushers, greeters, liturgists, Praise Team, One Spirit Choir, Jubilation Ringers, Soloists, Sunday School teachers for children, youth and adults, drive the New Haven bus.

**BUT there are even more that you may never see helping around the church.** If we list names we will certainly miss some incredible volunteers that even we may never see, but want you to know that we are *so very THANKFUL for all you do.*

Volunteers who water our plants; order, purchase, pickup and deliver altar flowers to church; cut the grass; pull weeds; run the sound, media and livestream; prepare the Communion elements for every time we serve Communion; prepare Sunday coffee; touch-up paint, change light bulbs; refresh soap, tissues and seasonal decoration in the ladies room; cook & serve at the Day Center for the Homeless (and coordinate these dates;) plan, set-up and so much more our “In Service Sundays;” Restore Hope food drive; Angel Tree; Memorial Tree; Crosses of Love; “Undie Sunday;” organize and set-up our 5th Sunday Brunches; offering counters; and office helpers. (I hope I didn’t miss any!)

Everyone who volunteers to give their time by serving on one of our many committees.

If you would also like to help, just let Pastor James know and we will connect you where you will be most helpful and happy! **WE THANK YOU!**



*A Very Special*  
**“Thank You!”**

for all your cards, kind wishes, prayers and thoughts during my health challenge. It all worked and after some rehabilitation time, I hope to be A-OK.

Love, Lynn Roach



# KIDS

My name is Brittany Fox and I am thrilled to be your new Children's Ministries Director! A little bit about me...I grew up in the Methodist Church and I come from a long line of educators. I taught in our Day School here at New Haven for 7 years until transitioning to Nursery Director for the church and a full time Mom. My husband, Clint Fox, and I are members here at New Haven UMC. We recently bought our first home in Glenpool, Ok, where I was raised. We have a spunky 2 year old daughter, Annabelle, and a sweet old dog, Carlo. They keep us on our toes! I know that this next chapter will continue to bless us immensely and I hope to pass that on.



I hope you'll feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns at [brit8519@yahoo.com](mailto:brit8519@yahoo.com). Our very own **Kelly Sartain** will be taking over our multi-age Sunday School class. She does amazing work with our kids and we are so blessed to have her! If you feel called to help with any aspect of Children's Ministries, please contact me! **We need volunteers!** I feel that it's very important for our children to build trust and relationships with church members from all walks of life.

I look forward to building long lasting relationships with you and your kiddos as we all grow in faith together!

Blessings, Brittany Fox



We are so happy to welcome Oliver Nathaniel Bruce into our lives. Mom & Dad, Sami and Ethan Bruce gave birth to their son, Oliver on December 26. Oliver weighed a healthy 7 lbs. 15 oz. Sami (Samantha) Hardgraves-Bruce is the daughter of Donald Bell who is Danny Hall's oldest son, which makes Danny a **Great-Grandmother!!** We give praise to God for this blessing.

There is a Meal Train that Brittany Fox created for her, if you would like to help them with meals, Sami would appreciate anything. Sign up on <https://mealtrain.com/0y5074>



**Footprints Liturgical Dance** group is open to anyone who is interested in helping to lead worship through dance! **Third Graders through Adults are welcome. Do you love to dance? Join us on Sundays at 4:15 pm in the Sanctuary.** Please contact Deena Smith at 918.693.4828 if you are interested or have any questions.


  
**Join our Music Ministry!**  
**8:45 am Praise Team**  
**11:00 am One Spirit Choir**  
**Hand Bell Choir**  
**or play a musical instrument for special services. Contact Stephen Merrick.**

# UMPTENAGERS



Join us on Tuesday, January 21 for our visit to the Sherwin Miller (Zarrow) Museum of Jewish Art located at 2021 E. 71st Street, Tulsa. We plan to eat at First Watch before we go to our one o'clock tour. Don't forget to bring money for lunch! There is a charge at the museum of \$3 per person and it would help if we have correct change. **We will board the bus at 11:15 am and return between 3:00 and 3:30 pm**, David Toalson will be our driver.

The entryway is eye catching with its tall stained-glass windows depicting biblical scenes. The lower level has a permanent Holocaust exhibit with hundreds of documents and photos of this ghastly time in history. **Sign-up sheet is on the hallway table.**

Unable to join  
us at church?

## Live Stream New Haven Services!

Are there some Sundays you unable to come to church? Maybe you're not feeling well, your child or children are sick, or perhaps the weather is too bad to drive, you might be out of town, or there might be a sermon you would like to hear again . . . If you have a computer or a smart phone you can watch the services on livestream, go to: **[www.livestream.com/newhaventulsa](http://www.livestream.com/newhaventulsa)**.

That's all there is to it!

## NEW Dates!

### Fit Families 2020

**Fit Families has rescheduled their program.**

The Food Thinkery presents: Fit Families 2020, a **free program** starting **Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**. Space is limited to 30.

Bring your family (age 6 and up), or just you and your spouse, and join us for **4 weeks in February on Wednesday nights from 7-8:15** to learn how to produce healthier people physically and spiritually in 2020.

Food demonstrations, activities and free of charge!



Classes start **February 19<sup>th</sup>** and are taught by a registered dietitian/certified diabetes educator, Suzanne Forsberg and a food service specialist Rebecca. Registration required and space is limited. **Sign up on is on the hall table or call the church office at 918-743-6491.**

## Opportunities of the Week

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020**

7:00 pm Boy Scouts  
7:30 pm AA

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8**

6:00 pm Youth Group  
6:00 pm One Spirit Choir  
7:00 pm Hand Bell Rehearsal  
7:00 pm ACOA (210)

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 9**

1:00 pm Women's Grief Group - Parlor  
6:00 pm Praise Team  
7:15 pm Yoga - Parlor

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 10**

7:30 pm AA (Gym)

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 11**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 12**

8:45 am Contemporary Worship  
9:45 am Connection Groups  
11:00 am Traditional Worship  
4:15 pm Footprints Dance Rehearsal  
4:30 pm Disciple 3  
5:00 pm Jr./Sr. High Youth Group

**MONDAY, JANUARY 13**

6:00 pm Writers' Group

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 14**

7:00 pm Boy Scouts  
7:30 pm AA

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15**

6:00 pm Youth Group  
6:00 pm One Spirit Choir  
7:00 pm Hand Bell Rehearsal  
7:00 pm ACOA (210)

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 16**

6:00 pm Praise Team  
7:15 pm Yoga - Parlor

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 17**

7:30 pm AA (Gym)

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 18**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19**

8:45 am Contemporary Worship  
9:45 am Connection Groups  
11:00 am Traditional Worship  
4:15 pm Footprints Dance Rehearsal  
4:30 pm Disciple 3  
5:00 pm Jr./Sr. High Youth Group

**MONDAY, JANUARY 20**

6:00 pm Writers' Group

## January Birthdays

- 4 Bob Walker  
7 Sami Hardgraves-Bruce  
8 Megan Hackleman  
10 Kay Garwood  
11 Ron Unterschuetz  
12 Helen Russell  
Rose Unterschuetz  
13 Rachel Pape  
David Toalson  
14 Sallyanne Wallace  
16 Joan Beebe  
19 Stephen Merrick  
20 Derek Lamkin  
21 Dwayne Boyd  
23 Pastor James Graham  
28 Bryce Percival  
Julian Smith  
29 Mike Riffin



## SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

**December 15, 2019**

### Worship Attendance

8:45 am ~ 68  
11:00 am ~ 111  
Total ~ 179  
Livestream ~ 18

### Sunday School

Adults ~ 63  
Children ~ 12  
Youth ~ 16

**December 22, 2019**

### Worship Attendance

8:45 am ~  
11:00 am ~  
Total ~  
Livestream ~ 23

### Sunday School

Adults ~ 28  
Children ~ 16  
Youth ~ 17

**December 24, 2019**

Christmas Eve  
5:00 pm

**December 29, 2019**

11:00 am ~ 91  
Livestream ~ 13

**January 5, 2020**

8:45 am ~ 54  
11:00 am ~ 88  
Total ~ 142  
Livestream ~ 19

### Sunday School

Adults ~ 43  
Children ~ 11  
Youth ~ 16

### PLEASE PRAY FOR. . .

Jack Giffin  
Betty Fine  
Lynn Roach  
Joe Sanders  
Jessica Nicholson-Kaufman  
Don Gregory  
Dodie Wood  
Quitman McCrory  
Our Military & First Responders



Have a  
Blessed  
New  
Year

Visit our website at [www.newhavenumc.org](http://www.newhavenumc.org) or  
New Haven United Methodist Church on Facebook  
Worship with us at: [www.livestream.com/](http://www.livestream.com/)