

SOUTH ELKHORN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
4343 Harrodsburg Road
Lexington, KY 40513
southelkhorncc.org
859.223.1433

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Our Staff

Michael Swartzentruber
Senior Minister

Chris Weiss
Music Minister

Kim Skidmore
Little Elks Director

Holly Fugua
Associate Minister

Diana Vetter Moore
Music Associate

Kyla Burkhardt
Lead Children's Coordinator

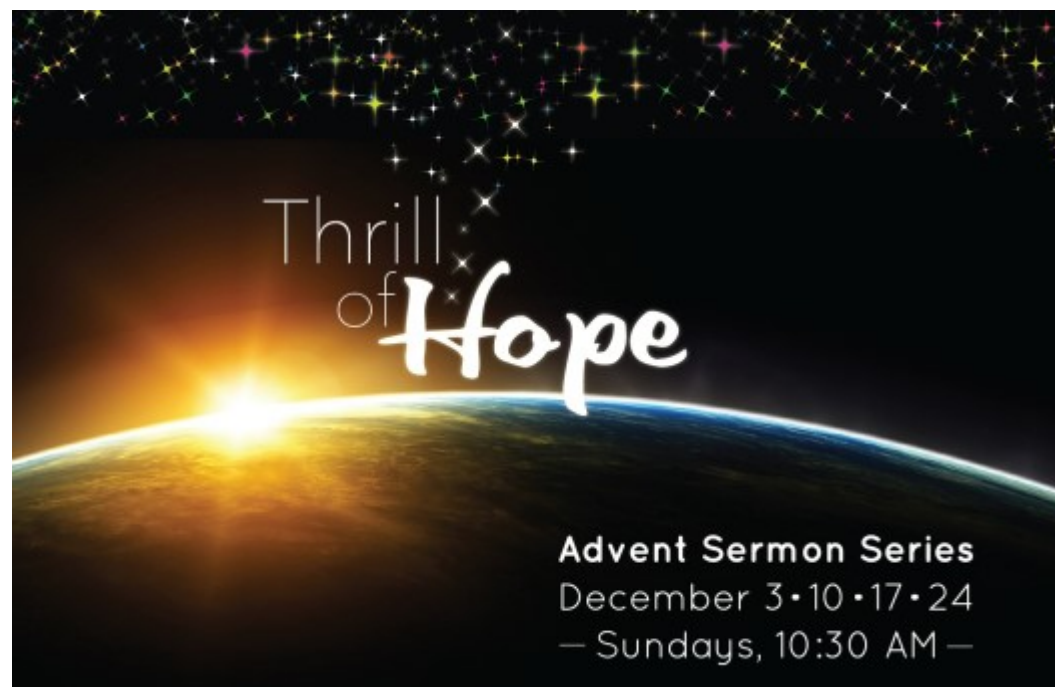
Sara Don Bailey
Ministry Intern

Stephen Daming
Pianist

Alyssa Parrett
Youth Ministry Intern

A family of faith united in service

Worship this Advent



"A thrill of hope; the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn." ~~ O Holy Night



SOUTH ELKHORN Quarterly Current

ADVENT 2017

Advent Light

Michael Swartzentruber, Senior Minister

"Moon! Moon!" He shouted from the backseat.

It's a bewildering and wondrous experience to see the moon suspended stubbornly in the dark morning sky as the sun crawls sleepily out from the horizon. In our three-year-old's mind, the moon doesn't belong to the morning. It is a symbol of night. And yet, in the late fall season that inches toward Advent, as the days grow shorter and the nights longer: there it is.

Each morning, he is so excited to look for and point out the mystical, wondrous absurdity: "Moon! Moon!"

As Advent draws toward us, I pray the same excitement and searching will permeate my soul.

Advent is about anticipating and noticing the mystical, wondrous absurdity of God's life stubbornly shining in the darkness, where it seems not to belong. Like a the cry of a baby piercing the silent night.

Even as we long for the dawning of God's fullness to permeate all the earth and our own soul--with its bright oranges and purples of justice, peace, and joy--even as faint flashes of light burst from the horizon; still the darkness of hate, prejudice, sorrow, cynicism, and bitterness persist... even within us.

And yet, there is a light already fully visible in the darkness. It doesn't seem to belong. Still somehow, it is there. And like a three year old shouting "Moon! Moon!" from the backseat we are invited into the disorienting delight of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Advent invites us into the "in-between" of the moon glow and the sunrise. There, even in the darkness, we are invited to anticipate and point out the mystical, wondrous absurdity of God's presence.



God's life shines stubbornly in the darkness, where it seems not to belong.



THE ANGEL TREE November 26 - December 10

Adopt either a young child or a veteran with the purchase of a gift.

Each **Angel** on the tree in the church foyer will have a name and number of a migrant worker's child. Each **Star** will have a name and number of a veteran.

There is also a unique opportunity to support a **Houston family** whose home was destroyed by the recent floods.

Return gifts by Sunday, December 10 to the church (and place under the tree).

For questions or more information contact:

Amber Greathouse: amber.greathouse@twc.com.

At A Glance

Drive Through Bethlehem
December 9

Advent

December 3
Bluegrass Christmas Sunday

December 10
Brass Advent and Christmas Carols Sunday

December 17
Choir and Cantata Sunday

Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 24
10:30 AM

Christmas Eve Worship
7:00 PM
Carols, Communion, and candle lighting

Chili Cook Off & Talent Show
Sunday, January 21
5:00 PM

This Advent

DRIVE THROUGH BETHLEHEM
Saturday, December 9

Help bring the mystery and magic of the Christmas Story to life!

Ways you can participate and serve:

9:00 AM—Set Up: move scene props from shed to front of church.

4:00 PM—Costuming for scenes

6:00 - 9:00 PM—Drive Through Bethlehem

9:00 PM—Clean up and Tear Down

You can drop off food for the actors and/or help with hospitality, too, during the evening.

To sign up for a scene, contact admin@southelkhorncc.org or write your name on the sign-up sheets in the church foyer. For questions or to learn more, contact Chad Conley at cconley@parismachining.com.



WORSHIP

December 3—Bluegrass Christmas Sunday
Worship will be lead by the Stoney Creek Bluegrass Band

December 10—Brass and Children’s Choir
A brass quartet under the direction of Jeff Barrington will lead worship. The Children’s Choir under the direction of Diana Vetter Moore will offer their voices.

December 17—Choir Cantata Sunday
The Choir will present a series of anthems and special music offerings in conjunction with Michael's reflections making a sermon in 3 parts. The Choir will also present it's Christmas Anthem. Be sure to join us for this celebration of the coming of God's peace.

December 24—10:30 AM
All the children are invited to wear their pajamas as we sit and open the presents on stage and discover the gifts of Advent.



Children & Youth

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Saturday, December 2, 9:00 AM
Christian Ministry Center, Cost: Free

Enjoy eating breakfast with Santa! The men’s breakfast group serves breakfast to children and their families on this wonderful morning. Everyone is invited to this all church event.

CHILDREN & YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTIES
Sunday, December 10, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Enjoy our last Sunday gathering until January 7. Come for Christmas luncheon, crafts, games and a few holiday surprises. Bring your friends!

ALL CHURCH CHILI COOK OFF & TALENT SHOW
Sunday, January 21, 5:00 PM

Families and people of all ages are invited to bring chili for a fun afternoon of feasting and fellowship. Sign up to bring hot dogs, buns, condiments, chili fixings and desserts. Sign up sheet will be on white board in foyer.

SUPER BOWL PARTY
Sunday, February 4, 6:00 PM

Youth (6th grade-12th grade) will meet at Holly’s house. Bring a potluck dish to share! Drinks and desserts provided. Parents will pick up at halftime. For directions, email Holly at holly@southelkhorncc.org.

DRIVE IN MOVIE THEATER
Sunday, February 25, 4:30 PM

Craft your own car from boxes or wood or whatever your imagination creates. Each child is encouraged to enjoy the movie in their car while snacking on treats. Parents and kids are encouraged to make this a fun family project.

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE RESUMES
January 7, 2018

9:00 AM	Sunday School	Room
	Nursery ages 6 weeks-2 years	214
	Age 3 - Kindergarten	125
	Grades 1 & 2	123
	Grades 3 - 5	121
	Grades 6 - 8	208
	Grades 9 - 12	207
10:30 AM	Worship & Wonder (3 yrs-3rd grade)	203 & 209
	Kids begin with adults in worship service. After Children’s Moment dismissed to Worship & Wonder rooms.	
4:40 PM	Children’s Choir	204
	Ages 5 - 5th Grade	
5:00 PM	Open Gym & Snack	
5:30 PM	Activities	
	Tiny Tots, Ages 3 - Pre School	
	Children, Grades K - 5	
	Youth, Grades 6 - 12	

At A Glance

Children and Youth

Chili Cook Off
Sunday, January 21

Youth Super Bowl Party
Sunday, February 4

Drive In Movie Theater
Sunday, February 25

Making Disciples Orientation
Sunday, February 11

Program guides with detailed information are available online at:
southelkhorncc.org/children
southelkhorncc.org/youth

Save the Dates 2018

Easter Egg Hunt, March 25

Baptism Sunday, April 22

Graduation Sunday, May 6

Vacation Bible School,
May 29-June 1

Youth Mission Trip
June 17-21

2018 Summer Camp

June 1-3	Mini Camp
June 4-9	CYF 1
June 10-16	Eighter’s Camp
June 18-22	Junior 1
June 22-24	Camp 101A
June 25-30	CYF 2
July 2-7	Chi Rho 1
July 9-14	Chi Rho 2
July 16-20	Junior 2
July 20-22	Camp 101B

Children & Youth

Holly Fuqua, Associate Minister

My Frown Turned Upside Down

Do you remember the story of the ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19)? It is a story I had not thought about for a while, until one of our Children's Coordinators reminded me of that story as she was preparing the lesson for our 3rd-5th graders on a recent Sunday night.

"You know" she said, "when Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem he saw ten men with leprosy. Jesus healed them and out of all ten of them, only ONE came back to thank Jesus!" I thought about that for a moment - Jesus once healed ten lepers and only one came back to say thank you - to Jesus. That is incredible. Who doesn't say thank you to Jesus?

In her excitement of reciting that scripture, she joyfully expressed that she was going to teach the children the importance of saying thank you by teaching the practice of writing thank you notes. She talked about how sometimes we forget the impact of saying thank you and thought this was an important lesson for the children. After sharing all of this with me, she quickly went to prepare for the lesson with a skip to her step.

The next morning, I woke up grumpy. I was in a bad place. I had a long night and it was a cold, dreary, rainy day. "Just another manic Monday" was my morning song as I drove to church. When I arrived, I went into the main office and I noticed a little card in my mailbox. Curiosity got the best of me, and I opened it immediately. As I read the note, crocodile tears began to fall down my face, such big tears that my vision was blurred. I wiped the tears and continued to read a letter from one of our children from the church. She wrote me a long, affirming, thank you note. It touched me. It softened my heart. It changed my attitude. And all it took, was this thank you letter. The Children's Coordinator was correct. Sometimes we forget the importance of saying thank you.

As we approach the Thanksgiving Holiday, may we remember to be like the one leper or the child at our church and say THANK YOU. Let's make it a habit. Two simple words can have such a profound impact on others. So, share a little bit of your heart, make someone's soul smile, and always remember, God works in small ways, yes, even with thank you letters.

Thank you, South Elkhorn Christian Church! Thank you.



Children's Choir

The Children's Choir is excitingly preparing for our Advent performance on December 10. Here is our upcoming schedule:

Nov. 26 No Rehearsal (Thanksgiving)
Dec. 3 4:40 PM Rehearsal
Dec. 10 9:45 AM Rehearsal
10:30 AM Performance

Children's choir will resume evening rehearsals on January 7, 2018 at 4:40 PM in the Choir room. All children grades K-5 are welcome to join us.



Dr. Diana Vetter Moore
Music Associate



Many will resolve to get moving in the New Year. The gyms will fill up with eager people running, rowing, and yoga-posing toward a healthier life. But all these efforts will be incomplete and may never last without a deeper "movement of the soul." Start the year on a journey toward new life, moving from:

January 7 Loneliness to *Solitude*

January 14 Hostility to *Hospitality*

January 21 Illusion to *Prayer*

January 28 Competition to *Compassion*



An 8 week journey toward Baptism involving reading the Bible, exploring the basics of Christian faith, discovering the meaning of Baptism, a service project, and developing a mentor relationship with a caring Christian adult leader.

February - April, 2018, Contact Holly Fuqua to enroll at holly@southelkhorncc.org.

Mentor Selection - Children and youth can recommend and select their mentor. Parents, grandparents, ministers, church elders, or any trusted spiritual leader at South Elkhorn all make for great mentors. You can also arrange with Holly to find a mentor.

From the Cabinet

Cabinet Highlights

By John Johnson, Cabinet Moderator



It is hard to believe that the end of the year is already upon us. I have really enjoyed serving as Moderator this past year and I am appreciative of all the dedicated leaders we have here at South Elkhorn. At our retreat in January we had great discussions on what makes our church unique. What makes people come to our church and what makes people stay? What is our identity? And more importantly what, is our vision? In the coming months you will be hearing much more from our Visioning Team on how we plan to offer programming and caring that will continue to meet the needs of a growing and changing congregation. It is really an exciting time in the life of South Elkhorn.

I am also very excited about the leadership changes that will come with the new year. Peter Brackney will assume the duties of Moderator. He and the Nominating Committee have been very diligent and prayerful in engaging dedicated members to continue the work of the church.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as 2017 Moderator. I love my church.

Leadership Slate 2018

By Peter Brackney, Vice Moderator

Subject to Cabinet approval November 21:



Moderator: Peter Brackney

Vice Moderator: Susan Springer

Secretary: Beth Daugherty

Treasurer: Davis Marksburly

Worship: Phyllis Wigglesworth

Witness: David Dickey

Fellowship: Genia Isaacs

Discipleship: Ashleigh Freda

Ministry Support: Ron Wigglesworth

At Large: Scott Brown

At Large: Gary Murphy

Elder Chair: Jack McAllister

Deacon Chair: Tara Cox

Outreach: Timothea Branham is finishing term of Dale Warren through 2018

New Elders: Susan Springer, Jane Phillips, Lisa Dennison, Patsy Golden, Janet Connell

New Deacons (2018-2019): Mike Chestnut, Jess Chestnut, Chris Dent, Katie Dent, Ashleigh Freda, Tim Freda, Gary Murphy, Dean Phelps, Erin White, Tom Wigginton, Scott King, Kelly King, Amber Silberman

Deacons Returning (2017-2018): Jennifer Aldarondo, Steve Estepp, Sarah Goad, Angie Kerrick, Chuck Kilpatrick, Juliette Kilpatrick, Karen Kubale, Angie Morton, Lynn Purdom, Karen Randles

Youth Deacons (2018): Isabela Aldarondo, Caitlyn Butcher, Paley Conley, Ellie Dennison, Kennedy Fuqua, Gage Minke, Lily Springer, Olivia Zastro, Alexa Zeroogian

Financial Overview

By Aden Randles, Treasurer



Thank you for your generosity in 2017! As you can see from the chart, giving continues to exceed budgeted levels and expenses are lower than expectations. This is allowing us to run a smaller operating budget deficit than planned.

The Finance Team met earlier this month to review the results of the Stewardship Campaign and recommend a 2018 budget to Cabinet. The

success of the 2018 campaign has led the Finance Team to recommend a 3% increase in revenue -- which would allow us to increase Ministry Area budgets.

Both of South Elkhorn's major fundraising events in the fall were very successful. While numbers are still being finalized, the Fall Festival and Fall Consignment Sale will meet or exceed expectations, allowing us to use those funds to make up our budget deficit.

For more information or questions please feel free to contact me: arandles@commerceprop.com or call at 859-536-4241.

2017 Financial Snapshot

	Actual thru September	Expected thru September
Pledged Ministry	\$225,921	\$213,975
All Other Revenues	\$ 64,091	\$ 71,901
Total Revenues	\$290,012	\$285,876
Operating Expenses	\$306,463	\$315,774
Total Over/(Under)	(\$ 16,450)	(\$ 29,898)

Choir



Chris Weiss
Minister of Music

Adult Choir will take a few weeks off after Christmas. All adults who share a joy of music and singing are invited to join us as we start back Sunday evening January 28 at 5:00 PM.

Celebration Choir has taken a hiatus this fall in the light of busy schedules. Join us on the stage in the worship center at 10:00 AM on January 14 to prepare a familiar song and sing together in the service. All are invited regardless of age or ability level.

The Media Team is looking for a few new members to begin in 2018. Being particular is a super power when it comes to grammar, brain surgery, and running sound! Use your gift to help us enhance the worship experience. For more information contact Chris Weiss at Chris@southelkhorncc.org.

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.