AHCC’s and Connecticut’s Special Connection to Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during a visit to Hartford in 1959 to give a speech at The Bushnell, visited AHCC to speak at an interdenominational lunch. This photo was taken in Drew Hall. Photo credit: George Conklin

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., whose legacy will be celebrated around the country on January 14, brought his struggle for civil rights to Hartford in 1959. King delivered a speech on “The Future of Integration” on May 7, 1959, at The Bushnell. In addition to his speech there, King spoke at the Thursday interdenominational brown bag lunch at AHCC.

King began his lecture at The Bushnell by noting his fondness for the Hartford area, having worked at a tobacco farm in Simsbury helping to fill jobs left by those who were serving in World War II. “On our way here we saw some things I had never anticipated to see,” he wrote his father in June 1944. “After we passed Washington there was no discrimination at all. The white people here are very nice. We go to any place we want to and sit any where we want to.”

King’s experience in Simsbury would influence his decision to become a minister and heighten his resentment of segregation. After his fellow Morehouse College students at the tobacco farm elected him their religious leader, he decided

See “King,” pg 3

January Café Conversations

Wed, Jan. 17, 6:00pm
Sun, Jan. 21, 11:45am
Thur, Jan. 25, 6:00pm

All are welcome to a conversation about creating a church culture of respect and gratitude for all God’s people, church governance, our church’s relationship with the UCC, racism and its effects, the mandate to “do justice” and what that looks like for AHCC. Register online, at the table in Drew Hall on Sundays following worship, or by calling the church office at 860.525.5696. The most up-to-date information on the transition process and progress can be found on our website at ahcc.org/about-ahcc/transition-news.
In General

Questions? Concerns? Comments? Loss of Connection?

Do you have any of these? During this time of transition, many of us do! Through Sacred Circles and Café Conversations, the clergy and deacons are working hard to create better connections between leaders and members.

Responding to the concerns made known in the wake of Rev. Laney’s departure about a lack of information and transparency, the clergy and lay leaders are looking for ways for members to become more familiar with church leaders. Through research into how other churches have handled similar situations, we will be launching a Healthy Communications initiative beginning in January. Consisting of two parts – a designated deacon, available several Sundays each month during coffee hour, and a dedicated email address – the initiative is aimed at connecting members to information on topics ranging from church governance to how to reserve a room at AHCC for a meeting.

Did you hear a rumor about something at AHCC? Do you want to know why a certain decision was made or action taken? Do you need to correct a mistake in your giving record? Following worship on Sundays in January, a deacon will be in Drew Hall to help you with these types of questions – just look for the table with the balloons and sign, and introduce yourself! During your conversation, the deacon may have an answer for you, may direct you to someone with the answer, or may take your question/concern to someone and get back to you with the reply.

Perhaps you are not able to spend time discussing your concern, or you want more privacy than Drew Hall provides. There will be a second option for you, a dedicated email address monitored by an appointed deacon. Each week, the assigned deacon will review the emails and provide answers in the same way as the deacons in Drew Hall. For both the coffee hour inquiry and the email inquiry, an appointed deacon will be responsible for conveying the nature of inquiries and responses to the Diaconate to ensure leaders’ awareness of issues to be addressed.

The Healthy Communications table will be set up for several Sundays each month, excluding Communion Sundays and holiday weekends. The email option is available 24/7 - watch the Sunday bulletin for the email address.
“King,” cont. from pg 1
to become a minister. In his application to Crozer Theological Seminary, King wrote that he made the decision that summer “when I felt an inescapable urge to serve society. In short, I felt a sense of responsibility which I could not escape.”

“After that summer in Connecticut, it was a bitter feeling going back to segregation,” King wrote in his autobiography. “I could never adjust to the separate waiting rooms, separate eating places, separate rest rooms, partly because the separate was always unequal, and partly because the very idea of separation did something to my sense of dignity and self-respect.”

On Sunday, January 14, we will honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., and commemorate his visit to Hartford and AHCC with a framed photo of him speaking in Drew Hall. We welcome all to join in this joyful celebration.

Time to Bake the Cookies for Boar’s Head
The Boar’s Head Reception Committee needs homemade cookies, both regular and gluten free, to be delivered to the church kitchen anytime up to and including the weekend of the Boar’s Head performances. Please package the cookies in airtight plastic bags or containers so they don’t get freezer burn or get dried out. If you would like your container returned after the performance, put your name on the cover and the container. Every year we receive some store bought cookies, but they are not served at the receptions unless we are desperate ... we have a reputation to uphold for delicious homemade goodies! The bought cookies are donated.

Music & Arts

Tickets to Evening Performances are Still Available!

Fri, Jan. 5, 7:30pm
Sat, Jan. 6, 6:30pm
Sun, Jan. 7, 5:00pm

Tickets: 860.278.0785
www.ahcc.org
(all reserved seating)
$25, $22, $18

Not quite ready for Christmas to be over? Come see the Boar’s Head Festival! The evening performances offer a special magical ambiance, as the glow of the festival lights permeate the sanctuary.

If you already have your Boar’s Head Festival tickets, here are a few tips to make your experience even more enjoyable:

1. Come early! The doors open 40 minutes before the time on your ticket for the Lord Mayor’s show returns, featuring jugglers, a magician, a stilt-walker and a talking camel (puppet). And yes, the jesters will once again walk the pew rails. It is especially important for anyone who needs a little extra time or help being seated to come early before the ushers get too busy.

2. Don’t be late. The performance will begin promptly at the time stated on your ticket, and due to performers in the aisles, late-comers are likely to be seated in the rear rather than in the location printed on their tickets.

3. Everyone attending must have their own ticket, and children under age 4 are not admitted. There can be no exceptions to this policy for reasons of safety and the enjoyment of the show.

4. In the case of bad winter weather, watch your email. If we need to cancel a show due to travel conditions, the only notification will be by email to the person who bought the ticket. If we do cancel, you will receive a substantial refund. If the show goes on and you choose not to attend, no refunds will be issued.

5. Sorry, we do not allow any food or drink to be brought in to the sanctuary, and there can be no use of cameras or any form of recording device ... no matter how cute your kids or grandkids are who are! Please help us honor the terms of our legal and union contractual agreements.

6. Most importantly, bring your heart, your voice and your Christmas spirit, and be ready to join in this grand celebration of the birth of Christ and the Epiphany.
**Arts and Spirituality Retreat**

**Fri, Feb. 9, 6:00 - 9:00pm**
**Sat, Feb. 10, 8:00am - 4:00 pm**

Local artists and talented church members lead group activities to help you explore your artistic side as it relates to your spiritual journey. You’ll get a chance to enjoy live performances of music and dance. Explore visual art installations, eat, drink, paint, cut, arrange, cook, sing, pray, refresh and renew!

Registration fee: $70, includes dinner Friday evening and lunch Saturday. Contact Dan Hansen, at DHansen1@comcast.net for more details.

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**Caring Ministries**

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Do you know someone who would appreciate the gift of a prayer shawl? Recipients are generally people undergoing chemotherapy, suffering from illness, mourning the loss of a family member, friend or even a pet. These handmade shawls and lap blankets are created with love and prayer, and can bring solace to those suffering emotionally or physically.

The co-chairs of this ministry, Karen Denowitz (413.569.5152) and Diane Nattrass (860.231.9794), will be happy to meet you before or after Sunday services to select a shawl.

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**Women’s Spirituality & Fellowship**

**Connecticut Women of the UCC: “Celebration X”**

**April 6-8, Portland, ME**

Every four years, CT laity, clergy-women, post-confirmation teen girls and college students gather with women of the five other New England states for a New England Women’s Celebration.

The event is a not-to-be-missed occasion for inspirational speakers and worship, educational and fun workshops, and the fellowship of faith-filled people listening to our still-speaking God. Mark your calendars now! The CTWUCC will provide registration and transportation details as plans are finalized.

~Jeanne Grandy, CTWUCC Board VP

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**Art in Motion goes to Jamestown and Newport**

**Fri, Apr. 27**

$98 per person

Hosted by John and Lynn Wadhams and sponsored by the Worship and Arts Committee, itinerary includes time for (BYO) lunch in the Jamestown Arts Center Gallery, a visit to historic Touro Synagogue (the oldest synagogue in North America), and a tour of the International Yacht Restoration School, where the 132-foot schooner Coronet, built in 1885, is being restored, round-trip motor coach transportation and dinner harbor side at the Lobster Bar.

To make a reservation and dinner selection, please complete the form on the Member Engagement table and send with a check for your deposit for $50 per participant, made out to AHCC. Be sure and note “Art in Motion/Newport” in the memo section. Deposits will be held until February 15 at which time the balance of $48 per participant is due.

Any questions? Please contact John Wadhams at 860.707.0487 or jdwad-hams@att.net. Reserve early to secure your spot!

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For a complete list of events, programs, and volunteer opportunities, please visit ahcc.org.
Music Notes ...

For over half a century, our church has been blessed with the presence of vocal section leaders. These professional singers have allowed our music program to maintain an enviable level of performance excellence in the region. They also provide essential vocal leadership and support for our amazing choir, and throughout the year you get to hear them sing as soloists in worship as well as in concerts. This month is our second installment highlighting the section leaders each of the four voice parts (soprano, alto, tenor, bass), so that you can get to know them better.

Meet your Sanctuary Choir Alto Section Leaders

Cynthia Wolcott, now in her third year as a section leader at AHCC, has been singing publicly since Cherub Choir days at the Free Methodist Church of Peoria, IL where her father was pastor. Having studied Music History at the University of Illinois, where she also received her Master of Library Science degree, she sang in Concert Choir, Madrigals and Graduate Chorale under the direction of Harold Decker. Shortly after moving east, she discovered the professional choir CONCORA where she sang for over 20 years. She also had the distinct joy of singing with CONCORA-To-Go, an outreach quartet, with none other than Jack Pott on tenor (of course!). And later, she was delighted to join Larry Allen’s Woodland Scholars, one of the musical highlights of her life. She has had the pleasure of singing under the direction of Robert Shaw, Dale Warland, Rene Clausen, Joe Jennings, Gregg Smith, and John Rutter, whom she also transported to the airport! After a diagnosis of kidney cancer in 2005, Cynthia changed her life: she became a certified yoga teacher and a certified life coach. Currently, she teaches 7 yoga classes a week, offers private yoga sessions and life coaching sessions, as well as working as a part-time reference librarian and professional singer. She takes great joy in the fine young men her 4 twenty-something sons have become, and is deeply fulfilled at being part of such a vibrant music program and church community at AHCC.

Favorite Time of Year: The first crisp autumn day when the sky is preternaturally blue, bluer than ever.
Favorite Composer: Johann Sebastian Bach
Favorite Author: George Eliot
Favorite Dessert: Pecan Pie Bars from Happy Belly Hudson
Desert Island CD: Bach Solo Cello Suites played by Dutch cellist Pieter Wispelwey

Traci Christiansen Keen has sung in the AHCC sanctuary choir since 2004 and has been an alto section leader since 2006. She considers her years with our choir to be tremendous blessings – full of musical growth, friendships, and the opportunity to praise God in song! Her love of choral music began as a kindergartener in the West Hartford public schools and was fostered throughout her schooling. Also an experienced musical theater performer, Traci enjoys producing and performing in an annual fundraising musical revue in Manchester and has raised thousands of dollars to support the Mothers of Preschoolers program which was so instrumental while raising her daughters, Caroline and Harper. Traci and her husband Jonathan live in Glastonbury with their girls.

Favorite time of year? Summer (if I can be constantly in and around water)
Autumn (because I love sweater weather)
Favorite composer? Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim
Favorite author? Richard Russo
Favorite dessert? Chocolate anything
Desert Island CD? Dave Brubeck - Take Five
Nominating
“Here I Am ... Send Me!”

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here I am! Send me!’” Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

Let’s all keep the words of Isaiah in mind as we begin the 2018 nominating process. Serving on boards and committees is an important and fulfilling way for church members to be engaged in the life and direction of AHCC. And now more than ever, it is important for the church to hear your voice. AHCC has gone through some challenging days, and we are seeking members who are willing to provide input, diversity of opinion, to take an active role in guiding the church into the future.

Some have inquired about the nominating process, so what follows is a brief overview which, hopefully, will prove helpful. AHCC is governed by lay leaders, who are elected by the congregation. Under our by-laws, the Nominating and Governance Committee, comprised of the moderator, immediate past moderator, vice moderator, and chairpersons of our 10 committees, is charged with proposing candidates to fill the leadership roles in the church. The Nominating Committee invites nominations and presents to the Diaconate a slate of proposed chairpersons and members for all standing committees and the Diaconate. Upon approval by the Diaconate, the slate is then presented to the congregation at the annual meeting, which will take on place Sunday, June 3, 2018.

To learn more about the responsibilities of being a member of the Diaconate or serve on one of committees, please refer to our by-laws at ahcc.org/about-ahcc/governance-and-leadership or call Rev. Mia Douglas at 860.216.9834. And please note: even though this process is referred to as “nominating,” like Isaiah, you are welcome to say, “Here I am! Send me!” and nominate yourself.

Your lay leaders wholeheartedly encourage anyone who is interested, both members that have served in the past and new members, to embrace this opportunity to be part of AHCC’s lay leadership. We need your voice, so please take a moment to fill out the Nominating Form below.

Nominating Form
Please complete this card for yourself and/ or a friend and place it in the offering plate, the Nominating ballot box, or give to Deb Holden.

Name_________________________ Tel # _______________Email ________________________

Friend who might also be interested

Name_________________________ Tel # _______________Email ________________________

☐ Deacon-at-large ☐ House ☐ Stewardship ☐ Communications
☐ Admin & Finance ☐ Membership ☐ Planned Giving ☐ Worship & Arts
☐ Building & Grounds ☐ Women’s Spirituality & Fellowship ☐ Outreach ☐ Youth
☐ Investment ☐ Adult Christian Education ☐ Outreach ☐ Children & Family
SUSO Co-Sponsors Third Annual Youth Essay Writing Contest

AHCC’s Step Up, Step Out (SUSO), Mothers United Against Violence, and The Mark Twain House & Museum are co-sponsoring the third annual Youth Essay Writing Contest. This year, the contest is accepting poetry and visual art submissions.

Participants can choose one of two topics: “Hartford through MY eyes” or “What makes Hartford special to ME.” Work will be evaluated based on content, creativity, and originality. The deadline for submissions is February 15.

The contest is open to all students in grades 4-12 who are Hartford residents, as well as students in Hartford schools who live outside the city. Entrants in three age categories — grades 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12 — are eligible to win 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards in their category. In addition, one outstanding entrant will win the grand prize of $500.

On April 21, contest participants, family members, teachers, friends, donors, and co-sponsors will celebrate students’ achievements at a dinner and awards ceremony at AHCC.

For more information, please visit www.HartfordContest2017.com, or contact AHCC and SUSO member Patti Beckett at 860.633.6147 or nanabeckett11@gmail.com. If you are able to help with fundraising or publicity, Patti would be delighted to hear from you.

Book Discussion on “Tears We Cannot Stop” Continues

On the evening of November 29, nearly 50 people filled the Twichell Room for a supper and the in-depth book discussion led by Courtney Bourns.

Some reactions to that gathering were: “We had a rich discussion of Dyson’s book and its implications for our daily lives as we interact with people of different racial backgrounds,” and “Certainly racism and what we can do about it in our own small way and maybe later in a bigger way is of interest to many of our church family,” and, finally, “A wonderful, enlightening evening to discuss a subject that is so necessary in our current times.”

Because of the extremely favorable response to the recent book discussion, a follow-up session with an emphasis on steps for action has been scheduled. The continuing discussion, to which all are welcome, will concentrate on the Benediction portion of Dyson’s sermon entitled “R.E.S.P.O.N.S.I.V.E.” which outlines practical suggestions on what we can do to bridge the continuing racial divide in our country.

Vigil in Washington, DC for Victims of Gun Violence

Several SUSO members, along with many others from Hartford and Newtown, participated in the National Vigil in Washington, D.C. to remember the Sandy Hook Elementary victims and families, and to all those affected by gun violence in our nation.

We attended press conferences where Connecticut’s profound and eloquent leaders spoke about the dire need to protect all people from more violence. We delivered packets of letters to representatives from Congress, shared meals with victims of violence, and spoke with families from all over the country.

The incredible dedication and work of so many people is a testament to those who turn their sorrow into action and empower the rest of us to “keep on going.”

Vigil in Elizabeth Park for Victims of Gun Violence

On a chilly evening in Elizabeth Park, SUSO members participated with eight other Connecticut organizations at one of the state’s vigils commemorating not only Newtown victims on the 5th anniversary of that tragedy, but all those affected by gun violence.

The candlelight vigil, held at the Sunrise Overlook, included several speakers from around the state calling for action in addition to remembrance, instrumental and vocal music, ringing of a bell for all victims of gun violence, and sharing of heart-shaped confetti seeds of hope.

Seventeen dedicated souls from AHCC braved the cold as they were once again reminded that none of us is immune from violence.

Thanks to all those who truly stepped up and stepped out.
Member Engagement & Community Outreach

Dine Around Group Goes to La Casona Restaurant

Thur, Jan. 18, 5:30pm gather; 6:00pm dinner
681 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford

The format for the group is to have separate checks so you can order as little or as much as you want right off the menu. This four-star restaurant has been described as having “authentic Latin American food that will remind you of Peru, Colombia, Argentina and Puerto Rico!” Get adventurous in your dining. Come join us and enjoy good food and good conversation, and engage with other members and friends on a deeper level. Sign up at the Member Engagement table in Drew Hall.

Attention AHCC Men

Women’s Prayer Groups

Winter Retreat Fri, Feb 4, 6:00pm – Sun, Feb 6, 11:30am
Silver lake Conference Center, Sharon CT

Our theme, Refreshing Mind, Body and Spirit, reflects our desire to give the men of our church the chance to relax and unhook from stress and obligation. It’s an opportunity to spend some time caring for themselves. There will be opportunities for spiritual growth, fun and entertainment, hiking, fellowship and conversation with a great group of men. In keeping with our theme, all activities are optional, giving everyone flexibility to make this a truly refreshing experience.

We have booked the newly renovated (and warm and cozy) Retreat Center. The cost per person is $140 which includes lodging for Friday and Saturday nights and four meals.

More details will be forthcoming, but book now by emailing Rev. John Collins at jcollins@ahcc.org. The retreat is limited to 25 participants so don’t wait!

Angel Tree Team: Rev. Mia Douglas, Alesia Wellington, Jane Cramphin, Gertrude Desmangles, Alison Petrie (not pictured)

Thanks to all the “angels” who purchased and wrapped the 200 gifts for our Angel Tree. You helped brighten the holiday for so many!

For a complete list of events, programs, and volunteer opportunities, please visit ahcc.org.
Volunteering with AHCC’s Crisis Food Support Ministry
by Terry Kelliher

I have been volunteering with AHCC’s Crisis Food Support Ministry since joining the church in 1996. At that time, new members were asked to support the church’s mission “to work for the increase in the love of God and neighbor in Jesus Christ through sharing, caring, outreach and worship.” I chose this ministry, as I had flexible hours and a van that could carry groceries. Of course, I didn’t know then that I would still find fulfillment in this ministry so many years and grocery trips later! I’ve always felt that giving money to help others is only one way to support AHCC’s ministries, giving your time is another, and is rewarding to both the giver and receiver.

Every time I make a food delivery, I am reminded about how my contribution impacts the lives of a family in my community. I feel God’s grace for the gifts I have been given and my ability to share those gifts. It’s a reminder that no matter what my troubles may be, I can help others. I’ll be honest, sometimes it’s not pretty or comfortable to go to someone’s home, but it’s always appreciated and rewarding for both giver and recipient. We all need a purpose to feel fulfilled, I found one in our Crisis Food Support Program. If you feel this ministry is somewhere that you can grow in faith and love as a disciple of Jesus, I invite you to give your time to others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crisis Food Support Volunteers</th>
<th>Help Serve a Community Meal</th>
<th>Flower Arrangers and Deliverers Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>On call two weekdays per month</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sundays, Jan. 28 &amp; Mar. 25, 3:00pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sundays following second service</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The AHCC Crisis Food Support Program is in need of volunteers to deliver emergency food supplies weekdays to needy Hartford families. Volunteers are on call 2 days each month and deliver food if they receive a call, not all volunteers will receive a call each month. For more information, contact Wayne or Sandi Lobdell at 860.255.7290 or <a href="mailto:sglobber@yahoo.com">sglobber@yahoo.com</a>.</td>
<td>Members of AHCC will prepare a meal for community neighbors that will include food preparation, cooking, dining room set up, serving, and clean up. Volunteers are invited to select the dinner menu and donate items for the community meal. Teams of 8 to 10 are needed for each date and may sign up at the Faith in Action table in Drew Hall.</td>
<td>One of the most valued ministries at AHCC is the arranging of flowers into small bouquets from the altar flowers and delivering them to ill and shut-in members. If you would be willing to spend a small amount of time on a Sunday after 10:15am worship, please call Betty Joan LaChapelle at 860.649.9697 to be part of this important and rewarding ministry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading Volunteers Needed</strong></td>
<td><strong>Refill the Pew Pads</strong></td>
<td><strong>Table to table Collection</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>One hour per week</strong></td>
<td><strong>One hour every six weeks</strong></td>
<td><strong>Communion Sundays</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Middle Community School, Asylum Hill Boys and Girls Club, and the United Way have partnered together to improve grade level reading, and are looking for volunteers to spend an hour one day per week reading with a student at West Middle School. To find out more, contact Patrick Doyle at <a href="mailto:readers@unitedwayinc.org">readers@unitedwayinc.org</a> or 860.493.6832.</td>
<td>Have you ever wondered how the Connection Cards and other supplies get into the pew pads? Volunteers! Unfortunately, our dedicated and devoted “pew pad volunteers” have decided to retire from their duties. We are looking for 2 or 3 volunteers to refill the pew pads with supplies every 6 weeks. Our “retirees” are willing to train! Anyone interested may contact Mary Way at 860.216.9819 or <a href="mailto:mway@ahcc.org">mway@ahcc.org</a>.</td>
<td>Thank you for your continued support of AHCC’s Table to table collection. Please place your donations in the labeled bins at the front entrance to the sanctuary or in the hallway leading to Drew Hall on Communion Sunday. Donated items benefit the patrons of Loaves and Fishes Ministry.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

January – canned tuna
Happy New Year & Epiphany!

Dear AHCC families,
I would like to thank our Spirit Hill Music teacher, Kate Swanson, along with Susan Carroll, Jack and Amy Pott, Mike Comeau and all of the youth and adult volunteers who work with the children of Spirit Hill to put on such a spirit-filled Christmas Pageant. Also, a very special thank you to Kyle Cannon whose behind-the-scenes work makes everything look like it just falls into place. The children of our congregation are very lucky to have so many caring and dedicated volunteers in their church life.

We will start the new year off with the return of lessons for preschooler to fifth graders on January 14. Our first unit will look at Jesus’ baptism by his cousin, John. Looking toward February and March, lesson units include House on the Rock, Woman at the Well and Holy Week to Easter.

I leave you with a prayer you can read with your family to celebrate Epiphany and the arrival of the Magi at the manger where Jesus lay. The prayer is from Guide My Feet: Prayers and Meditations on Loving and Working for Children by Marian Wright Edelman.

Dear God, thank You for the gift of a new year to serve You
help me to talk right
help me to walk right
help me to see right
help me to feel right
help me to do right
in Your sight. Amen

New Year Blessings,
Marcie Jackson, Director of Children & Family Ministries

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**Annual Children's Musical for Grades 3-5**

*Esther – Ordinary Faith – A Kids’ Musical*

for “Such a Time as This”

*Save the Dates!*

Sun, Feb. 4, 1:30am - 1:00pm Kick-off Party

Come preview this year’s musical and learn about the different ways to be involved. Pizza and snacks provided.

Performance Date: Sunday, April 29

Dress Rehearsals: Saturday, April 21 and Saturday, April 28
Youth & Teens

Middle School: Sundays, 10:15 – 11:30am, Youth Classroom & Lounge, beginning January 14
Theme: Questions that should be asked, and thoughts that should be explained.

The thoughts and questions of Middle School students regarding God and life are important. We want our study time to include time to share, question, and understand. Our format for Middle School Youth Group in January will include:

- Questions about God important to our Middle School teens
- Images of God study (continued from pre-Christmas) on characteristics of God that connect with our lives.
- Fun, Fun, Fun in the Youth Lounge!

High School: Sundays, 7:00 – 8:30pm, Youth Lounge, beginning Jan. 14
Theme: Here for a Reason – Thoughts and Questions on Meaning and Purpose

Each young person is a part of Youth Group for a limited amount of time. As we start 2018, we want to make that time count. There will be both large and small moments that will create a lasting impact for who the youth become as they enter young adulthood.

In the new year, we want to grab a hold of life together as an adventure! Our youth group meetings will emphasize actions that create positive change. Sunday night youth group will have three parts:

- We will be preparing for activities like Youth Sunday, missions trips, and helping local non-profits. The adventures await!
- We will be purpose driven. Figuring out the “Why” is important. It is the “compass” for our adventures.
  1. Are we impacting lives in tangible ways?
  2. Are we creating genuine connection with each other?
  3. Are we developing practices that generate ongoing Spiritual formation?
- We will desperately need some relaxed downtime to have fun!

We will not meet for Youth Group at our usual times until Sunday, January 14. But, if you are participating in the Boar’s Head Festival, either on stage or behind-the-scenes, don’t forget to stop by the Youth Lounge Saturday and Sunday between performances for some pizza and fellowship (after you’ve changed out of your costume, of course!).

Youth & Teens

Youth Group and Boar’s Head Festival
Highlights

2017 Women’s Advent Retreat

Cherub choir sings on Children’s Sunday

Kings, shepherds and a “camel” gather in Drew Hall before the Children’s Christmas Pageant

Last-minute photo opp with Imani, Christmas Pageant narrator

For a complete list of events, programs, and volunteer opportunities, please visit ahcc.org.