

NEWS+EVENTS

December 26, 2021

For more details and registration go
to heritageokc.org/news+events

Bible Reading for the New Year – We will start a 2-year reading plan in January which can be accessed on our website. Go to heritageokc.org/bible-reading to find daily readings and audio recordings. For those who wish to stick with the 1-year reading plan, you can find it there as well.

Important Notice: In order to claim a charitable contribution for 2021, donations must be made online or postmarked by Friday, Dec. 31. Checks may also be delivered to Heritage on or before Wednesday, Dec. 29 (the church office will be closed Dec. 30-31). Checks received after Dec. 31 will not qualify for a charitable contribution, even if the check is predated or was actually written in 2021. A record of your contributions to Heritage will be mailed to you in January.

For Upcoming Seasonal Schedule Changes see our website. On Wednesday, Dec. 29 there are no activities (church office is opened); on Thursday, Dec. 30 the church office is closed and all activities are cancelled. Sunday, January 2, 2022, 9:00am, ABF, Children, & Youth classes resume.

Interested in getting established in the basics? Please consider the **Colossians 2:7 Study beginning Wednesday, January 5, 6:30pm** led by Chip & Cindy McWilliams. The goal of the 11-week Study is to help you get "rooted and built up in your faith in Him." Child care available. Call or text Chip at 405-823-8239.

Women's Bible Study, "Better" begins Thursday, Jan. 6, 9:30-11:30am This is a verse-by-verse study in *Hebrews* by Jen Wilkin, led by Cindy McWilliams & Lynn Skeen. Please sign up online.

Membership Matters Class, Sunday, January 30, 9:00-11:45am in the House Room 202. This Membership Matters class is an opportunity for us to further explain some of our distinctives and how we aim to help you grow in godliness as you seek to make disciples. If you have an interest in joining our local church body or have questions about our church, please [register online by Wednesday, Jan 26](#); lunch will follow in the Café. Contact ron@heritageokc.org with questions.

ESTHER

No Reserves, No Retreats, No Regrets

As a family of forgiven people we are honored that you have joined with us today as we seek to develop people who delight in God and declare His glory—from our neighborhoods to the nations. Our prayer is that you will connect with God through Christ this morning and that this would be the beginning of a deep connection with other believers as well. Please take a moment to fill out the Communication Card located under the pew in front of you and place it in an offering pedestal in the back of the Worship Center.

Develop Delight Declare



December 26, 2021

**Call To Worship/
Pastoral Prayer**

Baptism

Songs of Worship

Joy to the World

O Come All Ye Faithful

Scripture Reading

John 17:1-5

Song of Worship

What Child is This?

Hallelujah What a Savior

Message

Song of Response

Joy to the World

“Never fear dying, beloved. Dying is the last, but the least matter that a Christian has to be anxious about. Fear living—that is a hard battle to fight, a stern discipline to endure, a rough voyage to undergo.” *C. H. Spurgeon*

“What is the worst the opposition can do? Kill you—though doubtless that will occur, at least for now, in this country. But even if that were the case, the Scripture strips away that excuse citing death for the Christian is the greatest even possible because only death has the ability to break the seal and usher you into inexpressible glory. Therefore, death from that perspective doesn’t sound so bad. Only death can release me from ‘absent from the Lord’ to be ‘home with the Lord.’ So, the worst the enemy can do is send me to paradise!”

Randy Smith

“The spirit of Christmas needs to be superseded by the Spirit of Christ. The spirit of Christmas is annual; the Spirit of Christ is eternal. The spirit of Christmas is sentimental; the Spirit of Christ is supernatural. The spirit of Christmas is a human product; the Spirit of Christ is a divine person. That makes all the difference in the world.” *Stuart Briscoe*

“In chapter three we see complete confusion, despair, mourning, sackcloth, weeping, and fasting. In chapter eight we see joy, light, gladness, and honor. Who brings about changes like this—in a city, in a life, in a home, in a heart? Only God. Only the unseen God who is at work in these great absences. That’s what makes it pulsate. That’s what makes the joy. That’s what makes it all that it is.” *Alistair Begg*

When Our Tears are Turned to Joy

Esther 8:1-17

Big Truth of this Series: God is always working behind the scenes in every detail of life to accomplish His redemptive purposes.

Big Truth of Today’s Message: In the darkness of the irrevocable decree of death for all Jews, Mordecai and Esther create a counter-decree that brings great joy to the people.

– The king gives Esther a gift and Mordecai a promotion (8:1-2).

– No way out! Evil Haman’s decree of death is irrevocable (8:3-8).

– Deliverance through Mordecai’s new decree of life instead of death (8:9-14).

– Great fear and sadness is turned into great joy and celebration (8:15-17).