

Food Drive
for Native
American
Churches in
Canton and
Watonga

10/31/21
thru
11/14/21

A list of items is available in the atrium.



Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Contact Information:

Church Phone:
405.321.8170

Day School Phone:
405.919.3989

Emails:

- jakob@northhavenchurch.net
- sheri@northhavenchurch.net
- kaitlyn@northhavenchurch.net
- pamela@northhavenchurch.net
- pattidrennan@gmail.com
- kayleigh@northhavenchurch.net
- dayschool@northhavenchurch.net
- info@northhavenchurch.net

Website:

www.northhavenchurch.net

Return Service Requested

P.O. Box 722772
Norman, OK 73070



Letters to My Church



Jakob Topper
Senior Pastor

One question I started asking people when they come to NorthHaven for benevolence needs is where they go to church. For a long time I neglected to ask, because I didn't want to come across judgment. I changed my mind though.

I respect the reasons people do not go to church. I even admire some of them, but I still believe everyone's lives benefit from a loving, healthy spiritual community.

If a person tells me they do not go to church, I tell them the same thing I just wrote y'all. I try not to be preachy, but I do believe that in life's biggest challenges—the challenges that bring people to our door in need—a spiritual community can help us get through them. So I've started saying so.

If a person answers that they do go to church, then I ask if they approached their own church for help. Sometimes they say yes but their own church wouldn't help them. If the church who knows them the most said no, then that's a conversation I want to have before handing out money. It doesn't disqualify anyone, but it is cause to dig deeper.

A few weeks ago, a woman started crying when I asked her if she'd gone to her own church for help. She hadn't. Why not? I asked. She was too embarrassed, she said. She didn't want her church

to know that she was one of "those people."



The conversation was heartbreaking and made me question the way their church thought about poor people in general if this woman was so afraid to be identified as one. I grieved because she couldn't be honest with her own church family about one of her greatest struggles—one that was in no way her fault.

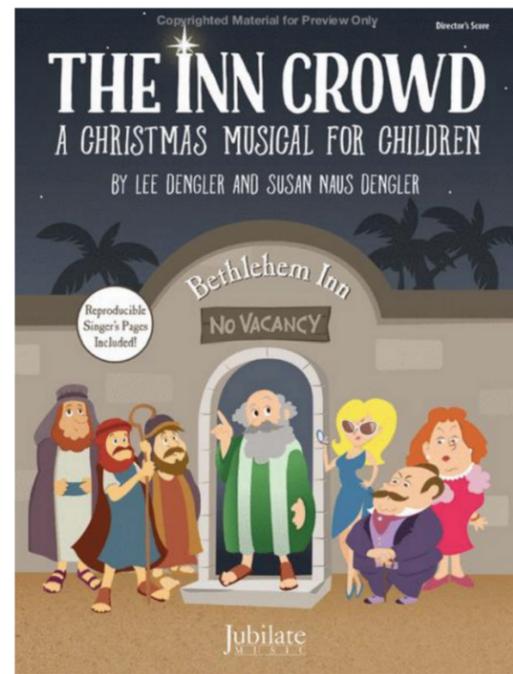


I hope that she is wrong about her church. I hope that if she trusts her church with her real self and her real struggles, then she will be surprised by their understanding and grace. Maybe even their generosity. But sadly, she was probably right. I believed her and did everything we could to help her.

For a lot of people church isn't the place to be vulnerable or poor in body or spirit. But if not here, then where? Where else can we find others committed to living an honest human experience with integrity? Where else can we find fellow travelers on this difficult road who believe, despite all evidence to the contrary, that God is the mystery and the beauty at the center of it all?

(continued on page 3)

NorthHaven: An inclusive family of Christ followers, inspiring, challenging and equipping each other to participate in God's great story.



christmas play practice dates

- Wednesday, November 3rd 5:30-6:30
- Wednesday, November 10th 5:30-6:30
- Wednesday, November 17th 5:30-6:30
- Sunday, November 21st (LUNCH TBD) 11:30-2:00
- Wednesday, December 1st 5:30-6:30
- Sunday December 5th (Pizza Provided) 11:30-2:00



**DECEMBER 10
6:30-7:00**

Cookie reception will follow afterwards.

We need you! Yes YOU to help us come up with new ways WE can serve YOU! Please, send us ideas for family outreaches that you would like to see in the coming months!

Kaitlyn and Pamela

Kaitlyn@northhavenchurch.net
Pamela@northhavenchurch.net



That's why I loved Lynndi Cox's prayer so much on a recent Sunday in worship. Worship is a place to sing to God with a joyful heart, of course, but lament and grief have just as much right to that space as anything else. It all belongs in the sanctuary of God and at the foot of the cross.

Honest church community is work. It requires a lot from us that only God can give us, but as Lynndi articulates so well, it's worth it to keep pressing on.

Here's her prayer:

"Lord, last time I was up here praying out loud in our church, sometime in late 2019 or early 2020, I asked you to help us to reflect on the ways in which we relied on and trusted in the broken systems, routines, and structures of this world and to help us to trust more in you. Whoops! So, here we are, still very much in the midst of a global pandemic, with the broken systems fully exposed. Our lives have been

dramatically adjusted. Many of us are sitting with a lot of anger, frustration, and anxiety. Our friendships, family relationships, and patience have been tested by the events of the last few years. I can't speak for everyone, but for some sitting here today (or at home), the experience has been isolating. It has been hard to cling to faith and hope. It has been hard to keep showing up, to keep reaching out to others and to you. So, today, I ask you to help us to find the strength to keep showing up. To keep trying. To keep connecting. To keep listening for your voice calling us in the night. Then, when we hear you, give us the courage to respond and act according to your will.

Thank you for the gift that is NorthHaven. May we continue to be a community that loves, encourages, and supports each other as we try to follow Christ's example."



- November 1: Ava Cox
- November 2: Josh Lockett
- November 8: Joyce Krause
- November 9: Mike Bumgarner

- November 10: Kate Moore
- November 15: Autumn Lockett
- November 15: Van Tran
- November 17: Novah Abbott
- November 17: Teri Jordan
- November 17: Carol Lockhart
- November 20: Don Schooler
- November 24: Tessa Teague
- November 30: Keri Fulbright