



*Ladie's Night Out*  
*Tuesday, 9/12/23*  
*6:00 pm*  
*Brookhaven Village*  
*Sign up at church or on Facebook!*

**Office Hours:**  
 Monday - Thursday  
 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Contact Information:**  
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Return Service Requested

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### Letters to My Church



Jakob Topper  
Senior Pastor

Some of the things Jesus says are troubling because the meaning isn't obvious to all. For example, Jesus tells a story about a rich man building barns large enough to store his abundance of grain, but right before the building projects are finished, God shows up in the story and claims the man's life... Excuse me? That one's a thinker.

Other things Jesus says are troubling, not because their meaning isn't obvious, but because it is. "It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble." (Luke 17:2) There's no question about what Jesus means. Protecting children is near and dear to Jesus' heart.

That's one of the reasons we're in the middle of reexamining our child protection policies and practices. It's a process we look at every few years to make sure our kids are able to learn about the love of God in a safe and comfortable environment.

One thing we've discovered is that it's time for a lot of us who have been volunteering for years to redo our background checks so that we're all up to date. Moving forward, all volunteers

are going to have to get new background checks done every two years.

We're also adding a video training element to our process. Not only will the video remind each of us about the etiquette for serving with children, but it will also train us to be aware of early warning signs so that we're better equipped to be advocates.

As a reminder, by policy and practice, volunteers and ministers are never to be one-on-one with children. There's always another adult in the room, and when a child needs to use the restroom, we ask parents to take them and to change dirty diapers themselves. I



understand the challenge that puts on parents better than most, but I'm proud that we're prioritizing the safety and wellbeing of our children.

If you're a volunteer with the youth or children's ministries, then you'll hear more about the training and background check updates soon. If you're not yet a volunteer, then

maybe now is the time to pray and ask God if there's somewhere at NorthHaven that God is leading you to serve? Do you love your Sunday School class but still wish you could support the children's ministry? You can. Extended Session takes place during the worship hour with children ages pre-K and under. They remain in the children's area with supervised godly play, and we desperately need a larger pool of volunteers to help during that time so that the same people aren't missing worship week-after-week. Consider reaching out to Kaitlyn and offering to serve in Extended Session once every quarter or more! If God is leading you that direction.



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





DEACON HIGHLIGHT

# Maria Gray

I was born in upstate NY and grew up with 5 sisters and 5 brothers. I never knew I was a darn yankee until I came to Oklahoma. I love Oklahoma and the Sooners. I have been married to Richard for 48 years. We have 4 children and 7 grandchildren. I am happiest when I'm dancing or singing. I became a Christian at age 16 and my love for Jesus just keeps growing. Every trial He is there, every sorrow

and every joy. The most meaningful thing in my Christian walk today was to be asked by the church to serve as a deacon. I am honored and look forward to serving God in this role.

**Consider joining the NHC team!**

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

*Cleveland County/Norman*  
**CROP HUNGER WALK**

OCTOBER 15, 2023

NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

**Support Food & Shelter for Friends!**

Watch for more details!

Save the date!

**THEOLOGY**  
• ON TAP •

Meeting sometime in October ~ discussion will be over...  
*Revelation for the Rest of Us...A Prophet Call to Follow Jesus as a Dissident Disciple by Scot McKnight*

- Sept 2: Sheila Crabb
- Sept 5: Katherine Brooks
- Sept 5: Susan Miller
- Sept 9: Ginger Elliott-Teague
- Sept 9: Kerri Williams

- Sept 19: Stephen Teague
- Sept 23: Rosie Hollingsworth
- Sept 23: Tamara Lookabaugh
- Sept 25: Pamela Duncan
- Sept 29: Josh Lester



# NorthHaven Family Ministry

September 2023      Monthly Newsletter of NorthHaven Family Ministry

## NHSM Interfaith Youth Tour

**SEPTEMBER 10TH**

OUR YOUTH GROUP WILL JOIN OTHER YOUTH GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE STATE AS WE VISIT DIVERSE HOUSES OF WORSHIP TO GAIN UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION FOR OTHER FAITH COMMUNITIES. COST IS \$15 AND PARTICIPANTS WILL NEED TO RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 3RD



## Intergenerational Night!

**SEPTEMBER 27TH**

COME ONE, COME ALL TO OUR FIRST EVER INTERGENERATIONAL BINGO NIGHT! THERE WILL BE FUN, FELLOWSHIP, AND PRIZES!

## NHSM Regional Food Pantry

**SEPTEMBER 30TH @ 1:00-7:00**

THE YOUTH GROUP WILL BE VOLUNTEERING AT THE REGIONAL FOOD BANK WITH SPRING CREEK BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP AND THEN HAVING FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING AT PAMELA'S HOUSE.



IF THERE IS ANYTHING YOU NEED, PLEASE CALL/TEXT/EMAIL/ US NO MATTER THE TIME!  
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