

All Church News

Minister's Message

CONTACT: Rev. Mark Taylor mtaylor@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

It's hard to believe the end of summer is here. We are entering a time of full calendars, competing priorities, and more demands on our time than can physically happen. How are we going to balance it all? Where is the balance of social life with work and community commitments, school obligations, extra-curricular activities, and what about church and our spiritual lives?

The truth for many of us is there is just too much. We have too many things competing for our attention and there isn't enough time in the day to do them all. So, what do we do? The only option is to prioritize, which things are optional and which things are not? Then, of the things that fall in the optional category, which ones would we rather spend our time doing, or which ones might provide us with the most benefit or enjoyment?

Unfortunately, what often gets cut in these types of decisions is the commitment to our spiritual life. No, we are not intentionally saying God is not important in our lives, rather it is often simply an issue of practicality. God is not going to cut us from the team if we don't show up to church for a month, whereas the same might not be true about our child's sports team.

These are difficult decisions to navigate. The fact that our spirituality and participation in the Body of Christ are among the first areas cut is regrettable. If, instead of abandoning these commitments first, we place them in the non-optional category and give them importance, we might be surprised at what we find. When we prioritize our time actively participating in the Kingdom of God with God's people, we are experiencing a new reality where we don't have to handle everything on our own. We are invited to take our burdens and our business to God and promise rest for our souls. That's the ultimate answer to the burnout of business: God's perfect rest.

This semester through our Unite curriculum, our youth will engage in some of the most formational stories of Scripture. In addition to the stories on Wednesday, they will be challenged to read, listen to, and talk about important stories in Scripture throughout the week.

Will you join us? Will you make a commitment to prioritize participating in this reality where we join together as the body of Christ? I hope so. And, I invite you to consider how you might prioritize your spirituality as we make the transition from summer into fall.

Faith and Film Series in August

CONTACT: Rev. Micah James mjames@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

The movies will be viewed **in the sanctuary from 7-9pm**. Popcorn will be served! Child care is available by contacting jhumphrey@fcedmond.org Then join us the following Sunday as Rev. Chris Shorow discusses the scriptural insights in the movie. Services are at 8:15, 9 & 11am.

Tuesday, August 15 - Movie Shown: "Oh, God!" (1977)

Sunday, Aug. 20 - Sermon Reflection - How We See God

Tuesday, August 22 - Movie Showing: "Tender Mercies" (1983)

Sunday, Aug. 27 - Sermon Reflection - Forgiveness

Summer Sunday School Series

CONTACT: Rev. Micah James mjames@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

We'll conclude our Summer Sunday School series on **August 27 with Commissioner Terri White, of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.**

Women's Connections Bible Study Begins in August

CONTACT: Monday Evening – Jenny Wiechmann unibrow1948@aol.com 405.340.3816; Thursday Morning – Tana Stufflebean mstufflebean@cox.net 405.341.4742; or Iris Muno Jordan ijordan@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

Beginning Monday, August 28 at 7pm; and Thursday, August 31 at 9:30am

Join us for a great opportunity to study God's word, grow spiritually, and fellowship with each other as we experience the greatness and power of God in the study of *The Gospel of Mark: The Jesus We're Aching For* by Lisa Harper. This 7-session study has you following Jesus through His days of early ministry all the way to the cross. It's there we discover what it means to be the recipients of His excessive compassion and the very reason for His all-consuming passion. Join us as we discover how Jesus' ministry on earth still impacts us today!

There are two sessions for this study: Monday nights at 7pm taught by Jenny Wiechmann and Thursday mornings at 9:30am taught by Tana Stufflebean. Books are \$16 (including DVD cost) and are available in the Pastoral Office. Please make checks payable to First Christian Church and note Connections Bible Study on the memo line.

Wednesday Night UNITE!

CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey jhumphrey@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

UNITE Leader Training – Wednesday, August 30 at 6pm in Fellowship Hall. This is a new leader/small group leader training and information session for all incoming Unite leaders.

UNITE – Starts September 6! Join us on Wednesday nights during the school year for food, fellowship, learning and fun! Adults, children and youth - can UNITE for a delicious, reasonably priced meal, share meaningful conversation and experience faith development in one of our classes or small groups. UNITE is a place to grow in your faith and form lasting relationships in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Everyone is invited!

Children's Schedule - 3 years old through 5th Grade (Nursery available, from 5pm until 8pm, for those under 3 - Room 114)

5:00 Music (K-5th) - Music Room
5:30 Cherub Choir (Prek: 3's, 4's & 5's) - Room 115
6:00 Check-in/Dinner - Fellowship Hall
6:30 Small Groups - Education Hall
7:15 Large Group Worship - Chapel
7:30 Check-out/Pick up - Chapel

Student's Schedule - Youth from 6th Grade through 12th Grade

5:15 Youth Ensemble
5:45 Dinner - Family Life Center
6:30 Chapel
7:10 Small Groups

Adult's Schedule:

5:00 Walking Closer to God - Led by Rev. Micah James & Bruce Jackson, Rm #116 Rev. Micah James and Bruce Jackson will co-teach a 12-week series on Spiritual Disciplines. We will explore the four inwards, four outwards, and four community spiritual exercises, that draw us closer to God.

5:00 Financial Peace University - Led by Cameron Woods, Rm #117 *Starts September 13! This life-changing class is taught by Dave Ramsey and coordinated by [Cameron Woods](#). Class will meet from 5-7:30pm with dinner from 6-6:30pm. Click [here](#) to register!

6:00 All Church Dinner - Fellowship Hall

6:30 Freedom in Scripture - Led by Rev. Chris Shorow, Rm #116 This semester we will be exploring freedom in scripture and freedom in Christ. With a detailed study of the book of Galatians, Paul's discussion of freedom, we will see what true freedom looks like. Starting with the Hebrew Bible, we will see how it contrasts with the freedom of the Greeks. Then we will look at Jesus and Paul versus the Roman concept of freedom. And finally, we will see how the modern church views freedom as opposed to our legal freedoms in the United States. How can we truly be free in Jesus Christ?

6:45 Chancel Choir - Led by Diane Ball, Sanctuary Choir meets Wednesday nights to practice for services and special events. Through the Choir, you can offer your musical gifts through the year in the 11am worship service and on special occasions. Come share your gift of song!

Fall 2017 Dates: September 6, 13, 20, 27; October 4, 11, 25 ; November 1, 8, 15, 29; December 6 (Kid and Youth Party Night)

Meal Options: \$3.00 per person per week; \$35.00 per person per semester; \$12.00 per family of 4+ per week; \$140 per family of 4+ per semester (*You may pay by cash or check, payable to First Christian Church of Edmond, or pay online via our Unite Payment Form.*)

Pension Fund – Excellence in Ministry

CONTACT: Rev. Micah James mjames@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

On August 3-5, Mark and Kaci Taylor, participated in the Excellence in Ministry (www.pensionfund.org/eim) program offered by the Pension Fund. Mark is a grant recipient this year and part of the requirements is to attend three retreats.

The Excellence in Ministry program seeks to reduce or alleviate some of the key financial pressures that inhibit effective pastoral leadership, and improve the financial literacy and management skills of pastoral leaders through education, increasing their ability to provide capable leadership for congregations and ministries under their care. During the retreat, the participants joined in learning modules around personal finance as well as shared in small groups to connect around the issue of the stress and anxiety of their personal financial struggles.

A recent article in *The Atlantic* said this about the financial future of ministerial leaders, "Of the seminary students who graduated in 2011 with a Master of Divinity degree (the typical degree for a full-time pastor), more than 25 percent accrued more than \$40,000 in educational debt, and five percent accumulated more than \$80,000 in debt. Those lucky enough to get a full-time job as a pastor will join a profession whose median wage is \$43,800, according to the U.S. Department of Labor."

I found this to be true for the group of 20 grant recipients and their spouses gathered this past week, as the average debt of the households was about \$100,000.

This program, underwritten by a grant by The Lilly Endowment, is seeking to find a way to support clergy in that gap between debt and income. Participants who complete all the requirements for this program will receive a monetary gift of \$10,000 (in two payments) to use to pay down debt, start an emergency fund or put in a retirement fund.

The Pension Fund is seeking donors to help make this program sustainable after the Lilly funds run out. If you are interested in supporting this program, please contact Rev. Micah James for more information. Rev. James served as a Peer Group host for this event and was a grant recipient last year.

Leadership Development Workshops

CONTACT: Rev. Micah James mjames@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

This summer, in addition to our Summer Sunday School Series, the Adult Education team is offering Leadership Development Workshops. Each workshop will include instruction, discussion, and a light dinner for \$5. Please RSVP to Rev. Micah James, mjames@fcedmond.org. Workshops are on Wednesday evenings and will begin at 5:30 pm and conclude by 7:30 pm. Childcare available by request. We hope you will join us for these leadership development opportunities:

8/23/2017 Considering Leading a Small Group/Class?

8/30/2017 Considering Leading a Small Group/Class?

Dates to Remember

August 20 – Promotion Sunday, 9 & 11am Services

August 20 – Student Ministries Fall Kickoff, 6-9pm 2608 Still Meadow Road

August 21 & 23 - Tai Chi Class, Advanced 10am – Beginner 11am, Fellowship Hall NE

August 27 - Life After Loss, 4:30pm, Room 130

August 30 - Unite Leader Training, 6pm, Fellowship Hall

September 4 - Labor Day, Church Offices and Child Care Center Closed

September 6 - Unite Begins!

September 10 - AMP Event, 12:15pm - Watch for more details!

Worship News

On the Worship Schedule

Worship at First Christian - Sundays at 8:15, 9 & 11am

August 20, 2017 - Minister: Rev. Chris Shorow; Scripture: Genesis 3:8-13; *Children Worship & Wonder Story: Talking/Listening to God*

August 27, 2017 - Minister: Rev. Chris Shorow; Scripture: I John 1:5-10; *Children Worship & Wonder Story: The Light*

September 3, 2017 - Labor Sunday - Minister: Rev. Chris Shorow; Scripture: Matthew 13:1-9; *Children Worship & Wonder Story: The Good Shepherd*

Watch and Listen to Sermons Online

Watch and listen to sermons from our worship services anytime! To watch live streaming of our services, follow the link at www.fccedmond.org/live. To listen, visit our [Sermons](#) page at www.fccedmond.org. Tell your friends, neighbors, family, and co-workers about First Christian Church, point them to our website, and encourage them to watch and listen online!

Need Wifi? Be our guest! Public wifi access is available at First Christian Church. Use password "fccedmond".

"Like" our Facebook page - First Christian Church of Edmond - and stay up-to-date on all the latest events!

Serve News

Refuge Ministry Thank You!

CONTACT: Robbi Kinnaird robbi@kinnaird.com 405.340.2427

Thank you to those providing items for the Refuge Fellowship dinner last Monday night. We had approximately 60 in attendance, heard a wonderful message by Pastor Noel, handed out lots of t-shirts, toiletries, and bottles of water, plus offered a friendly hug, handshake and listening ear. It was an amazing night!

Thank you to Chris and Connie Westhof, Dennis, Alicia and Heather Galyon, Dave Larrison, Sharon Mugg, Bev Schmoyer, Kim, Jake, Abby, and Kate Kerr, and Scott Kinnaird for cooking, loading, serving, cleaning, smiling and showing abundant compassion and kindness during the evening. Couldn't have done it without this great group!

We Need YOU at Breakfast on Boulevard!

CONTACT: Judy Griffis 405.348.1443

Breakfast on Boulevard (BOB), a ministry of First Christian Church, serves breakfast and offers a sack lunch each weekday morning to those in our community in need. This ministry is possible only through the generous support and time given by its volunteers. Currently, BOB is experiencing record numbers and is in need of additional volunteers! The hours are early, but the reward is great. Please contact Judy Griffis today and answer this call to serve. ...*He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep." John 21:17*

Children's News

Children's Sunday School

CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey jhumphrey@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

Children ages 3 years - 5 grade, join us each Sunday morning at 10am in the Children's Education Building for Sunday school.

Promotion and Bible Distribution Sunday

CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey jhumphrey@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

This Sunday, August 20, is busy for Children's Ministries! Here are the events happening this Sunday:

Children Worship & Wonder starts back at the **9 & 11am services**

Service of Welcome - 9 & 11am Services - Graduation for all incoming 2nd Graders to be oriented to Sanctuary worship from Children Worship & Wonder.

Promotion Sunday & Bible Presentation - 10am in the Chapel - For all Children's Sunday school participants and their families. Bibles will be given to all 3 year olds and 1st Graders.

Ways to Serve our Children and Families

CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey jhumphrey@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

Love God and love kids? Be a **Children's Sunday School Leader**! One of the most rewarding opportunities in Children's Ministry is to teach or lead. As a Sunday school leader, you have the ability to open the door for a child to encounter or re-encounter God. By being a consistent leader, a child will find another adult with whom he/she can connect and trust within our church family. All curriculum is provided and no previous experience is required. What IS required - commitment, patience, and a love for children! Join in the fun of working together with other families as we serve the littlest among us. *Commitment: Sunday mornings, every other Sunday during Unite - 1 year commitment*

Student Ministries News

Sunday School for Students

CONTACT: Rev. Mark Taylor mtaylor@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

Join us each Sunday morning at 10am in the Family Life Center for breakfast and Bible study!

Student Ministries Fall Kickoff Celebration!

CONTACT: Rev. Mark Taylor mtaylor@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

On Sunday, August 20, from 6-9pm, join us for the Student Ministries Fall Kickoff Celebration at the home of James & Kim Kerr, 2608 Still Meadow Road, in Edmond. All Student Ministries families are invited! We'll have family friendly games, swimming, basketball, prize drawings, and fun for the entire family! Pork sandwiches provided – bring a side/dessert to share. Parents: We need you! This is your opportunity to sign-up and get involved. See you there!

Mission Experience 2017

CONTACT: Rev. Mark Taylor mtaylor@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

This summer, our student ministry took two trips to downtown Oklahoma City for a different type of mission experience: serving people who are in poverty or without a home, who are right here, in our own backyard. Our high school and middle school students experienced the reality of those in need in our own community and how the difficulties of poverty affect the lives around us. In June, we took 26 high school students and 7 adults on this life-changing mission to serve and a few weeks later in July, took 26 middle school students and 8 adults for their own mission experience. Thank you for your prayers in preparation and during both trips. *We invite you to join us for **Lunch and a Mission Discussion, Sunday, September 24 at 12pm in the Fellowship Hall.** All are invited to hear our students and adult sponsors talk about how this mission experience changed or impacted their lives.*

Thank you to our adult sponsors who drove, cooked, encouraged, nursed, organized, and supported our students: Letitia Anthony, Hallie Ball, Shauna Becker, Brian Cain, Jaima Carder, Donna Clark, Steve Hanson, Charles Hoppe, Madi Huffer, Jennifer Humphrey, Desi Stout, and Mark Taylor.

Care News

Are You Prepared?

CONTACT: Donna Clark tdscl5@gmail.com 405.413.1954

Are you prepared for your health care decisions and distribution of your possessions at the end of your life? An **Advanced Health Care Directive** is an important document everyone should consider. It allows you to make medical decisions according to your wishes, such as life-sustaining treatments and artificially administered food and water, and to give additional medical directions that impact the end of life.

A **will** can document what you would like to have done with your possessions in the event of your death or a **trust** can provide for the management of your property and possessions in the event you become incapacitated while still living.

A copy of an Advance Directive for Health Care may be obtained from the Oklahoma Bar Association, or your attorney. The proper drafting of a will or a trust requires the professional knowledge, skill and experience of a practicing attorney. Join us Thursday, September 7, at 6pm in room 117 as *Bria Winston, Attorney* from Mugg, Scott & Winston discusses Advance Care Directive, Wills, Trusts and answer your questions.

Faith Community Nurse – Medicare Questions?

CONTACT: Donna Clark tdscl5@gmail.com 405.413.1954

Will you or a loved one soon be eligible for Medicare? Mike Felice and Harley Ballew will answer the many questions about Medicare to help you pick out a Plan to best fit your needs. They can help in determining the best Medicare Supplement to enroll in or to compare with, as well as help in enrolling in Medicare parts A, B and D. Meeting dates are: August 29 at 6pm & September 26 at 6pm. All meetings will be held in room 117. Please enter the church before 6pm as the doors to the entrance will lock after 6pm.

In Our Prayers This Week

THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER Roger Banks (Jennifer McGrew's father), Bill & Connie LaRue, Shala Kosir, John Hammond, Opal McGough, Charles Cone, Laura Harris, Sue Fraim

OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS TO Rob & Shelley Ryland in the passing of Shelley's father, Jay Warnock, on August 4. Services were held August 10 in Enid AND TO Gabe & Erin Robertson in the passing of Gabe's cousin, David Ross, on August 8. Services were held August 14 AND TO James & Becky Winn in the passing of James' brother, Gary Hines, on August 13. Services were held August 19 in Lawton AND TO The Family of Jane Nay who passed away on August 11. Memorial service will be held Saturday, August 26 at 10:30am in the FCC-Chapel.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS John & Nan Skidgel who joined on Sunday, July 30.

Please share your prayer requests with us so we can pray for you. Contact Pastoral Assistant, Iris Muno Jordan at ijordan@fcedmond.org or 341-3544, ext. 110.

Happy Birthday FCC Friends!

8/20 James Bare, Jackie Booher, Bob Griffis, Mike McKethan, Trevor Schmoyer, Russ Wood

8/21 Steve Hall, Amanda Jennings, Sandy Mitchell, Karla Rowley

8/22 Hunter Steuart, Chris Stone

8/23 Donna Clark, Sarah Combs, Michael Hast, Kay Madess, Bonnie Smith, Kimberli Smith

8/24 Sophia Endicott, Emma Hendershot, Debbie Howell, Randle Lee

8/25 Anne Holzberlein, Sophia Hunt, Bria Winston

8/26 Mady Cummins, Will Ethridge, Karsen Heron, Jill Keel, Robbi Kinnaird, Herb Martin, J.D. Metcalf

8/27 Leila Coco, Aubrynn Owen, Brianna Portillo

8/28 Emily, Atyia, Karen Moore

8/29 Alex Peters

8/30 Carol Coats, Leah Danley, Carol Hawkins, Kelly Phillips

8/31 Pat Garrett, Dot Hammond, Gayle Smith

9/1 Kathryn Cavanaugh, Jenna Garrett, Holly Helzer, Alex Kelley, Evelyn Kelley, Max Speegle

9/2 Gary Allison, Rodney Helms, Marc Pate, Logan Rust

9/3 Laura Bezdek, Jan Cowling, Violet Winston