

All Church News

Minister's Message

CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey jhumphrey@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

It's that time again – school has started, kids are promoted and everything is “kicking off!” This means there is a level of excitement in the air. Kids are excited to get all their new clothes, backpack and supplies. Students are excited to see their friends at school, on their sports teams and at church. Parents are excited to get our households back into a routine, right?

At First Christian Church, we are also diligently working to get our ministry areas “back into a routine.” We are actively seeking leaders for our incoming groups and looking for a few good men and women to help in Children and Student Ministries. Our amazing children and students need advisors, mentors, leaders and helpers because Mark and I can't do it by ourselves. As we work to get our programs planned, calendared, events submitted and requests for help sent out to all able-bodied individuals, we ask for your prayers for guidance, discernment and positive attitudes!

With busy active lives, why should you spend your time serving others? Why should you give up precious personal, family or “alone” time serving the children and students of our church family? Why should you say “yes”?

- **Saying “Yes!” keeps you engaged with those you serve!** For the most part, people like to keep to themselves or keep within their circle of comfort (keep with those they are comfortable with). This doesn't really allow you to meet and engage with others. Serving allows you to step outside your comfort zone and build new avenues of friendships. Your circle of comfort grows wider and deeper in a wonderfully, fulfilling way!
- **Saying “Yes!” provides you with perspective!** Ever heard of getting a new perspective? Sometimes that idea is presented in a negative way. However, serving others provides you with a way to see “the other side.” You can gain a new view of the world around you. Open your eyes to people, places and things you don't normally get to see. It's amazingly eye-opening!
- **Saying “Yes!” gives you purpose!** Sometimes your own thoughts, issues or troubles get in the way of you traveling the path God laid out for you. With all the craziness in our world, you can easily lose sight of your purpose. Well, let me tell you – serving others can help motivate and inspire you like nothing else can! You can be filled with a sense of awe and realize that “there IS a point to all that I am doing!” You will be serving those around you and you will be filled with motivation and dedication. It's so rewarding!
- **Saying “Yes!” is the hard part.** Deciding to serve is actually harder than actually serving. Once you make the move to serve others, you are on a path to a new awareness. You will be surprised at how easy it will become to lead. You see, God has your back. Just when you think you don't know what you will do or say...the right words come out and the right things happen...just as God had planned. You just have to trust Him.
- **Saying “Yes!” just feels good!** This single best decision I have ever made, in the area of serving others, was my decision to say yes to leading the Class of 2017 Girls for the Youth Ministry. This “boy mom” was rewarded with the unmistakable feeling of bonding with a group of girls - from their silly, confused years, through their toughest years, through their high school graduation and, actually, beyond...they STILL hear from me via a small card or text. It's an amazing, thoroughly-rewarding, mentoring experience. I still get teary-eyed every time I try to explain how much it impacts you as a person. I can't really verbalize it. It just CHANGES you.

So, should you get a request to serve – take a moment and listen to the request, ask questions about it, think about it and pray about it. If you are called to serve, you will feel a little pull in that direction. And, trust me, it could be the best “Yes” you have ever answered.

Hurricane Relief

CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey jhumphrey@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

Want to help those in need? Week of Compassion (WOC) is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada. WOC helps others through disaster response and is continuing to monitor Hurricane Harvey. WOC will stay in contact with and reach out to Disciples communities and their partners. If you are interested in helping, the best immediate response is two-fold: pray and send donations. You can donate at <http://www.weekofcompassion.org> and designate Hurricane Harvey (100% of your gifts will go to help communities rebuild after storms such as Hurricane Harvey). Thank you!

UNITE Begins September 6!

CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey jhumphrey@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

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. Join us for dinner at 6pm - everyone is invited!

Children's Schedule: Children - 3 years old through 5th Grade (Nursery available, from 5pm until 8pm, for those under 3 - Room E11)

5:00 Music (K-Fifth Grade) - 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 - 6th Grade through 12th Grade

5:15 Youth Ensemble

5:45 Dinner

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 inward, four outward, 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; \$140.00 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.

AMP – Annual Ministry Planning

CONTACT: Rev. Dr. John Regan jregan@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

The First Christian Church Annual Ministry Planning or AMP is Sunday, September 10, from 12 to 1:30pm. This is a board sponsored event and is intended to keep leaders and the congregation of First Christian Church up-to-date with where we are in our 7-year Strategic Plan of 2013-2020. All are invited to attend.

Parent Support Group – Fall 2017

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

First Christian Church, through its ministries and programs, strives to support your family as you grow and flourish in faith. From our goal to providing inter-generational activities, to tailored study for each age group, to meaningful curriculum in our Child Care Center, we hope you feel enriched by the offerings at First Christian.

In the Spring of 2017, we launched a Parent Support initiative with five families. This Fall, we again extend an invitation to parents to have the opportunity to learn new parenting tools, connect with other parents, and have a space to share their parenting struggles and successes.

Participation in this group has two parts: **First** is the completion of the **Parenting Version of PREPARE/ENRICH and four one-on-one sessions with a pastor**. The Parenting Version of PREPARE/ENRICH is designed to guide the parent(s) through the emotions of parenting by empowering them with insight into their parenting style, family dynamics, and couple relationship. It will highlight parenting tools that will fit your family's unique needs and allow you to talk through your areas of growth in a constructive way. These sessions will be scheduled at your convenience. **Second** will be a **Fall Retreat**. All the parents who have completed the assessment and conversations will gather for a four-hour retreat to share and study together. Childcare will be provided upon request. This retreat will be local and scheduled at a time when the majority of the participants can attend. It will be a time to reflect and share strategies.

The Fall session of this group is limited to the parent(s) of 8-10 families. If you are interested in participating, contact Micah before **September 15** via email. If this time frame does not work for you, we will offer another opportunity in Spring, 2018. Your family is important to us. We hope to support you as you grow together in life and in faith.

Lunch Bunch Returns

CONTACT: Susan Huffer 405.623.2185

Joins us Thursday, September 7, for fellowship, lunch and games as we begin our third year of Lunch Bunch. We meet monthly on the first and third Thursday at 10am for games. If you just want to join us for lunch, it will be served around 11:30am. All are welcome to join us for a fun afternoon at the church.

Lunch Bunch Volunteers Needed! If you would like to help with Lunch Bunch, we are looking for help from 11am to 12:30pm, 1-2 times a month. Please contact Susan if you would like to help with this ministry.

Dates to Remember

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

September 6 – Unite Begins!

September 7 & 21 – Lunch Bunch, 10am games, lunch served at 11:30am

September 10 – AMP Event, 12:15pm Fellowship Hall

September 24 – Student Ministries Mission Update, 12pm Fellowship Hall

September 24 – Life After Loss, 4:30pm Room 130

Worship News

On the Worship Schedule

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

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

September 10, 2017 - Minister: Rev. Chris Shorow; Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33; *Children Worship & Wonder: The Good Shepherd & the Lost Sheep*

September 17, 2017 - Minister: Rev. Micah James; Scripture: Exodus 25:8-16; *Children Worship & Wonder: Creation*

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

Security Team Needs You!

CONTACT: Mike Ellis railroad32@att.net 580.747.4258

The Security Team is looking for a few good people! This team works on a rotational basis throughout the year and supports the church by being present during church activities. Responsibilities include unlocking and opening doors and classrooms, locking up at the conclusion of events, walking through the church in one of two different areas and even greeting and directing people as they come in! The rotation traditionally runs on Sunday mornings and on Monday and Wednesday evenings - with some special events on Saturdays. The commitment is usually 1-2 times per quarter.

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. ...*He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep."* John 21:17

Children's News

Save the Dates

CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey jhumphrey@fccedmond.org 405.341.3544

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

Wednesday, September 6 – UNITE Kickoff!

Friday, October 27 – Costume Carnival @ 6pm

Items Needed for UNITE Kid's Activities

CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey jhumphrey@fccedmond.org 405.341.3544

We are in need of a few items for kid's activities for the Fall UNITE session – things like colored duct tape, gallon zip lock bags, battery-operated toothbrushes, colored jewelry wire, etc. If you think you can help, check out the List of Needs here: https://fccedmond.ccbchurch.com/need_detail.php?need_id=250

Student Ministries News

Fall 2017 Schedule of Events

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

Join us each Sunday morning at 10am in the Family Life Center for breakfast, announcements and Sunday School classes.

September 17 – Interfaith Tour 12:15-6pm. Join us as we travel to three different houses of worship to learn about and experience different faiths functioning together in an atmosphere of fellowship, peace, respect, and acceptance. Register at www.fcedmond.org/register by September 10.

September 24 – Lunch and Mission Discussion 12-1pm Join us in the Fellowship Hall to discuss how this mission experience changed or impacted your life. Want to share your experience? Contact Mark Taylor (above).

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 living 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.*

Care News

Healing Touch in October

CONTACT: Barbara Henthorn bhenthorn54@me.com

Healing Touch is a gift of touch used by Healing Touch Practitioners to aid in the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health of the body's human energy system. It is a non-invasive technique based on a heart-centered, caring relationship between the practitioner and the person receiving the healing touch to facilitate health and healing. The goal is to restore balance and harmonies in the energy system, placing the person in a position to self-heal.

There are no medications or equipment; just an open heart, a set of hands and a willing spirit. Research shows that relaxation and the healing process are enhanced by Healing Touch. It can facilitate a spiritual connection and help with emotional distress. Treatment is done while the person lies on a table, clothing on, and with permission, the practitioner uses the hands with either no touch or a gentle touch to assess the energy in various parts of the body. It often facilitates a calming and relaxation effect.

Watch for a date in October when Barbara Henthorn, a Healing Touch Practitioner, will be available for you to sign up to experience what Healing Touch can do for you.

Faith Community Nurse – Medicare Questions? Final Date!

CONTACT: Donna Clark tdscl5@gmail.com 405.413.1954

September 26 at 6pm is the final date to hear Mike Felice and Harley Ballew answer your questions about Medicare to help 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. The meeting is in room 117 and will start promptly at 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

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS Gerald & Erma Costner who joined on Sunday, August 20 AND Wayne & Carol Coats who joined on Sunday, August 27.

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!

9/3 Laura Bezdek, Jan Cowling, Violet Winston

9/4 Taylor Grant, John Guinn, Tara Lindley, Traci Sarani, Marlin Wilton, Rachel Wood

9/5 Jay Biby, Whitney Hammond, Heather Livingston, Peyton Mabry, Jeannie Reese, Jim Williams

9/6 Abbey Bright, Mike Ellis, John A. Hammond, Marissa Kosir, Matthew Mitchell, Aidan Polk, Christopher Smith, Kimberly Woods

9/7 Scott Anthony, Randy Clark, Dean McElvany, Sandra Moore

9/8 Brandon Bright, Bob Eaton, Jason Jones, Richard Randolph

9/9 J.W. Guinn, Nancy Hays, Kassi Johnson, Geri Moffatt, Steve Percival, William Shorow

9/10 Carla Felix, Sydney Hammond, Timothy Linville, Chance Meadows, Loretta Parks, Madelyn Ryland, Kylee Taylor

9/11 Neil Helms, Ally Schreck, Sherrye VanOsdol

9/12 Dana Anderson, Gladys Dronberger, Bob Gallop, Joy Hunt, Larry Mullins

9/13 William Larrison, Traci McGaha

9/14 Ted Garrett, James Kerr, Molly Mabry, Jacob Weaver

9/15 Jennifer Belardo, Pamela Fraim, Jan Harrison, Clark Jermain, J.W. Michael, Parker Mullins

9/16 Greg Dunn, Kathryn Storey

9/17 Tracy Nester