

All Church News

Minister's Message

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

Last week, 8 members of our church and childcare staff traveled to Dallas for a one-day conference called the Orange Tour 2018. The Orange organization is dedicated to finding new ways to equip congregations, parents, and church leaders to guide this generation of children and youth into a deep and abiding Christian faith. I think the thing that Orange does the best is bring brutal clarity through data and questions about what you are doing with your time at church, at home, and in the community. They are not trying to get you to do more with your time. They are simply trying to inspire you to do better things with the time you have. They know that two forces working together will have exponentially more influence than either entity alone. That means parents and church leaders working together can do more. And best of all, they give you better options to choose from than you can think of yourself!

To the untrained eye the Orange Group can look like nothing more than merchants of religious paraphernalia, but in fact, they are merchants of urgency. Urgency is often the quickest gateway to what is most vital in life. Just before the conference started, I was wandering through the Orange "bookstore" in the lobby of the church where the event was hosted. I found a series of chronological books they call Phase Guides. This 18-part series of books simplify what parents need to know about each phase of a child's life and gives them ways to discover more about their children, so they can make the most of every phase.

At the front of each book, these words appear: "When you see how much time you have left you tend to do more with your time." Then they really grab your attention by point out how much time a parent has with their child by saying "there are approximately 936 weeks from the time a baby is born until they grow up and move to the whatever is next." I was reading in the Phase Guide "Parenting Your Fifth Grader." They went on to say, "On the day your child starts fifth grade, you only have 416 weeks remaining, and in 156 weeks your child will be finished with middle school heading into high school." Wow! As the parent of two twenty-somethings, looking back at that era, I can confirm that is how fast your children grow. What I would have given to have a spiritual resource like this when I was parenting young children.

What your church staff believes is that we're all in this together. We know the most important thing parents and the church can pass along to a child is the knowledge they are made in the image of God, so they will come to love God with all their heart, soul, and mind. We're committed to investing in those who are raising children. In 2019, we will create better maps, provide better resources, and come alongside parents, surrogate parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents committed to raising this generation of children to know and accept the life-affirming faith of Jesus Christ. And at the appropriate developmental age, we will incite wonder, provoke discovery, and fuel their passion so the children who are part of our family of faith will have a better future. We believe that in doing so, the community that they will one day inhabit will have a tremendous resource—a person grounded in a rich faith who can solve real problems that face any community. What a gift it is to be part of a church that knows we are indeed better when we do life together.

Better Together – An Update on our 2018 Annual Campaign

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"Together two can accomplish more than twice as much as one, for the results can be much better..." - Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.

Together, the First Christian Church community of faith is doing remarkable ministry in our community and beyond.

The response to serve and give through our Better Together Annual Campaign has been wonderful so far, but we still need your help! To date, we have received 127 commitments to support our 2019 budget totaling \$517,620. Our goal this year is to receive commitments totaling \$850,000 to help fund a budget of \$1,100,000. If you haven't done so yet, you can pick up a commitment card from the church or use this **online commitment form** to let us know what you intend to give to support the work of the church in 2019.

We believe we are called to help nurture this generation of children so that they can show up at school hungry to learn in the morning and that they can go home on the weekend and holidays and not worry about their next meal. We believe we are called to nurture this generation of children by offering them the stories of Jesus, the ethical standards of Christ's love, and the surprising truth that we are all created in the image of God—and therefore we are all God's children.

We have also received 82 commitments to participate in our new partnership with Ida Freeman Elementary. First Christian volunteers are filling 57 backpacks each Friday; we have received a flood of non-perishable food items to stock the food pantry; and we have received a generous response to purchase books for each of their 490 students for Christmas. Thank you! We are still in the initial stages of connecting additional volunteers to a range of opportunities—a custom school scouting program, supporting teachers with classroom projects, hosting a meal for staff, and others we are still imagining. Please continue to pray and share encouraging words about Ida Freeman students and their wonderful teachers, staff, and administrators.

With your gifts we will continue to raise up the next generation – to lead the church and to lead society – by nurturing the gifts of students through intentional faith development. We'll continue to reach out to the world to bring healing in broken places. And we'll be able to offer a welcoming place to share life, support one another, and worship together.

First Christian, we need YOUR participation and commitment, because well, you are First Christian. Together we can do more.

Preparing for the Season of Advent

CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey jhumphrey@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

It may only be the first of November, but many members and staff are already preparing for the season of the church year that leads to Christmas; Advent. This year during Advent we will spend time looking at how God meets us, speaks to us, and encounters us through all our human senses. Together, we will encounter the smells, tastes, sights, sounds, and touch of Advent. First Christian has wonderful events planned throughout Advent, starting with the annual tradition of the Hanging of the Greens on the first Sunday of Advent, and running through Christmas Eve. Our calendar of Advent events is ready for you to share with your family, friends, and neighbors. So, explore our advent page online www.fcedmond.org/advent - mark your calendars, invite your friends, and join us to experience the Senses of Christmas.

Shop with Amazon Smile and Give to First Christian Church

CONTACT: Karla Mahan kmahan@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

Do you shop on-line for your holiday and other purchases? Shop from home and give to First Christian Church through Amazon Smile! All eligible purchases made at Amazon.com will contribute one half of one percent back to First Christian Church. For 2018, almost \$200 has been received via the Amazon Smile program and over \$980 since we first signed up. Just imagine how that might grow if everyone signed up and used smile.amazon.com each time they shop on Amazon!

To ensure your purchases support the ministries of First Christian, follow the link at the top of our website (the "a" with an arrow underneath it) at www.fcedmond.org, then sign up to make First Christian Church your "charity of choice" for ALL of your purchases made through Amazon. Then just make sure you navigate to **smile.amazon.com** for all future purchases at Amazon, and First Christian will continue to receive donations. What an easy way to shop and give!

Successful Golf Tournament Despite the Rains

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

Even after a weather postponement, and weather that was less than delightful on the day of play, our golf tournament forged on. Thank you to Scott Peters and Randle Lee for coordinating the event, and to all who generously donated prizes. The tournament raised \$1,900 for our church ministries and gave our community of faith a fun afternoon outing on the course!

Veteran's Video Before/After Service

CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey jhumphrey@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

On Sunday, November 11, we will honor all veterans in our morning worship services. We will show a video of our veterans before and after each worship service. Please plan on arriving early or staying after your service of choice to view this wonderful video! If you would like to submit a veteran's photo to be shown in the video please be sure to submit it to news@fcedmond.org no later than Monday, November 5.

ECC's Holiday Concert December 4 at FCC

CONTACT: Mark Parkhurst mkparkhurst@gmail.com 405.990.3655

Edmond Community Chorale invites you to attend their Holiday Concert on Tuesday, December 4, at 7pm at First Christian Church. Under the direction of Rondal J. Wallace and featuring FCC's own, Mark Parkhurst and Terry Earnheart, the concert will feature *Gloria* by John Rutter, along with two suites from *The Many Moods of Christmas* by Robert Shaw. Admission is free; guests are asked to bring an unwrapped toy (or donation) to benefit the Red Andrews Christmas Dinner. An Oklahoma tradition since 1947, the Red Andrews Christmas Dinner provides warm meals and toys to thousands of people annually. Mark your calendars to join ECC to celebrate the season and support a worthy cause!

Dates to Remember

November 1, 15 & December 6 – Lunch Bunch, 10am games, lunch served at 11:30am

November 1 – Advanced Tai Chi, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

November 1, 6, 8, & 13 – Beginner Tai Chi starts, 11:15am, Room 201

November 4 – Daylight Saving Time Ends – Fall Back!

November 7, 14, 28 & December 5 – UNITE! (November 21 – No UNITE due to holiday)

November 8 – Chick-Fil-A Night Fundraiser for the Child Care Center, 5:30-7:30pm, 2nd & Bryant

November 10 – Operation Christmas Child Packing Party, 10am, Fellowship Hall

November 11 – Board Meeting & New Board Member Orientation, 12:15pm, Room 116

November 12-19 – Operation Christmas Child Collection Week

November 15 – Family Thanksgiving Dinner for the Child Care Center Families, 4:30pm, Fellowship Hall

November 19-23 – EPS Thanksgiving Break

November 22 & 23 – Thanksgiving! Church offices and Child Care Center closed

November 25 – Life After Loss, 4:30pm, Room 130

December 2 – FCC Board Meeting

December 2 - Hanging of the Greens and Tasting Party, 6:30pm, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

Worship News

On the Worship Schedule

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

November 4, 2018 - Minister: Rev. Dr. Chris Shorow; Scripture: Jeremiah 32:6-15; Children Worship & Wonder: The Temple, a House for God

November 11, 2018 - Minister: Rev. Dr. Chris Shorow; Scripture: 2 Samuel 21:18-22; Children Worship & Wonder: Exile & Return

November 18, 2018 - *Thanksgiving Sunday* - Minister: Rev. Dr. Chris Shorow; Scripture: Colossians 4:2-4; Children Worship & Wonder: How the Church Tells Time

November 25, 2018 - Minister: Rev. Dr. Chris Shorow; Scripture: Luke 1:76-80; Children Worship & Wonder: Advent I

December 2, 2018 - *1st Sunday of Advent* - Minister: Rev. Dr. John Regan; Scripture: Matthew 2:7-12; Children Worship & Wonder: Advent II

December 9, 2018 - *2nd Sunday of Advent* - Minister: Rev. Dr. Chris Shorow; Scripture: Luke 1:46-55; Children Worship & Wonder: Advent III

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

Outreach Ministry Spotlight – Edmond Mobile Meals

CONTACT: Geri Moffatt gerimoffatt@cox.net 405.650.4970

Through your generosity, First Christian Church gives to Outreach Partners throughout our community and beyond. A goal of this committee is to provide information about some of these ministries. This month, we would like to highlight **Edmond Mobile Meals**. For more than 40 years, Edmond Mobile Meals has been providing nourishing meals to elderly and disabled persons who are unable to prepare meals for themselves. This allows frail, homebound persons to remain independent and in their own homes. On average, EMM serves 190 meals per weekday and around 500,000 meals per year. Volunteers are needed to prepare and deliver meals as well as assist with kitchen and office duties. Learn more at edmondmobilemeals.org/volunteer

Operation Christmas Child Thank You & Collection Week

CONTACT: Dave Larrison wlarrison@cox.net 580.231.1409

On Tuesday, October 16, Operation Christmas Child held a very successful packing party! We had 30 packers and packed 123 boxes. Thank you to everyone that packed boxes or donated items. We have another packing party Saturday, November 10, starting at 10am in Fellowship Hall. The following week, November 12-19, is OCC's National Collection Week. Boxes will be collected each day from 9am to 2pm. Thank you!

Children's News

Exploring Faith Together – With 5th & 6th Graders

CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey jhumphrey@fccedmond.org 405.341.3544

One of the core distinctives of First Christian Church is the way we help young people navigate their faith journey. Our community of faith supports parents as their children make the developmental transition to adolescence by offering what we call the "Pastors' Class." It is an intentional faith development experience to help children, parents, and the church family to celebrate this momentous milestone. The class is designed to help students better understand what it means to choose to follow the ways of Jesus, and teaches them about baptism, the symbolism of communion, and what it means to be both a disciple and a Disciple of Christ.

We know that middle school youth face daunting challenges and ask new questions. Who am I? Who will be my friend? Where will I find my place? The Pastors' class is a safe and caring space to ask new questions about life and our faith that informs it. Through learning, sharing, and having some fun we hope to inspire our young people with very old and very contemporary ideas about God, Jesus, and the role that Scripture can play throughout their lives. We provide each member of the class with a youth mentor and an elder mentor who provide support and encouragement during their journey. Again, and again we affirm that faith is something we do together.

Pastors' Class begins with an overnight retreat, followed by six Sunday morning sessions taught by our ordained staff. Students will have the opportunity to make a confession of faith, receive first communion, and be baptized at the end of the journey. It is fitting that this journey is taken during the season of Lent and Easter.

If your 5th grade student (*or 6th Grader who has not experienced this course*) is interested in being involved in the 2019 Pastors' Class, please let **Jennifer Humphrey** know as soon as possible. There will be a Parent Information Meeting set for late January/early February 2019.

Children's Trunk or Treat Thank You!

CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey jhumphrey@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

Thank you to everyone who hosted a trunk, played a ukulele, or handed out candy in costume at our Trunk or Treat event. What a fun-filled, magical event! Children from the church, the community and our child care center attended and left with a smile on their face and some candy in their treat bags. We had 24 trunks, about 75 volunteers, around 130 kids and over 100 cans of food collected for Ida Freeman Elementary's Food Pantry. Awesome! If you helped us out in any way, please know that your amazing efforts paid off and fun was had by all. Blessings!

Child Care Center Happenings

CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey jhumphrey@fcedmond.org 405.341.3544

Did you know? Children's Ministries works closely with the Child Care Center, partnering with volunteers on Thursdays, to bring the stories of Jesus to the child care center children through the Children Worship & Wonder program. This wonderful partnership creates an hour and a half of storytelling and faith-building for the kids.

The Child Care Center needs your help in ensuring that the children have all of the curriculum and materials they need for success this semester! To ensure success, the Child Care Center has put together a wish list of needed items. Can you help? If so, go to: https://fcedmond.ccbchurch.com/need_detail.php?need_id=361

Important CCC Dates:

11/8: Chik-fil-a Fundraiser, 5pm

11/15: Thanksgiving Family Dinner, 4:30pm

Children's Ministries Upcoming Events

CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey jhumphrey@fcedmond.org or 405.341.3544

Ages 3 years old through 5th grade - join us each Sunday morning at 10:00 am in the Children's Education Hallway for Sunday school.

- Preschool & PreK (3, 4 & 5-year-olds) - Room E12 (Children's Hallway)

- K & 1st Grade - Room E19 (Children's Hallway)

- 2nd & 3rd Grade - Room E17 (Children's Hallway)

- 4th & 5th Grade - Room A23 (Family Life Center)

Save the Dates:

Children's Christmas Musical - Sunday, December 9, 6:30pm

Student Ministries News

December 7 - Student's Snowball Christmas Party, "The Greatest Show on Earth"

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

Come One, Come All! All students grade 6-12 are invited to an evening of amazement and fun at "The Greatest Show on Earth." Don't miss the annual student ministry Christmas Party on Friday, December 7 from 6 - 9pm. Cost is \$25 per person, friends are welcome! Bring socks to support Church Under the Bridge in Oklahoma City. Register by November 26 at www.fcedmond.org/register

Poinsettias in Worship

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

Each year FCC Student Ministries offers poinsettias for purchase to help decorate the church worship spaces for Christmas. You may also purchase poinsettias for your home or office. Poinsettias are \$15 each and may be purchased in honor or memory of a loved one. Order online at www.fcedmond.org/register or pick up an order form at the Welcome Center. All proceeds benefit the Student Ministries Mission Fund. Orders are due by December 16, and take-home orders will be available the following Sunday, December 23, just in time for Christmas.

Butter Braids Delivery

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

All Butter Braid orders will be ready for pick up on Tuesday, November 6, from 2 - 7pm. Due to limited freezer space, please make arrangements to pick up your braids at this time. Thank you for your support of our Youth Ministries!

Student Ministries Calendar of Events

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

Join us each Sunday morning at 10 am in the Family Life Center for breakfast, announcements and Sunday School classes! Go to www.fcedmond.org/studentprograms for all Youth event details.

Wednesdays at 5:45pm - UNITE! Go to www.fcedmond.org/unite for more details. **Items Needed for UNITE -** We are in need of a few items for dinner & activities for the Fall UNITE session. If you can help, check out the Needs List here: https://fcedmond.ccbchurch.com/need_detail.php?need_id=353

Sunday, November 11 – Hanging of the Greens Rehearsal, 1-3pm, Sanctuary

Sunday, December 2 – Hanging of the Greens Service, 4:30pm Rehearsal, 6:30pm Service, Sanctuary

SAVE THE DATE – Friday, December 7 – Snowball Christmas Party!

For more dates and times of **all Student Events** – go to www.fcedmond.org/studentprograms

Care News

In Our Prayers This Week

THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER Bill & Connie LaRue, Ed & Mary Walker

OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS TO Tim Becker in the passing of his sister, Jeannie, on October 8 AND TO Danette Farrah in the passing of her mother, Denise Stallard, on October 23. Services held October 29 at First Baptist Church – Edmond AND TO Gary Bartley in the passing of his brother, Charles Bartley of Houston, on October 27. Services held November 2 in Houston.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS Karen Killackey and Elanna Killackey joined on September 23.

CELEBRATING A NEW BABY Felicity Cornelia Henthorn, born October 11 to Monica & Matt Henthorn. Grandparents are Rick & DeAnn Henthorn, Great Aunt is Susan Hurst and Great Grandmother is Barbara Henthorn AND Anderson Ford Deck, born October 21 to Delaney & Caleb Deck. Grandparents are Mark & Staci Nash.

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!

11/4 Mark Livingston **11/5** Margaret Hall, Haley Helms, Joyce Little **11/6** Connie Dixon, Cindy Hammett, Fay Parsley, Mickey Stufflebean **11/7** Annie Westhof **11/8** Monica Benear **11/9** Jan Anderson, Kelly VanOsdol **11/10** Lyndsey Luschen, Wayne Warner **11/11** Brian Carroll, Avery Miller, Chloe Stout **11/12** Janet Helms, Felicia Jones, Glo Rehrig, Barbara Shaw **11/13** Darby Killackey, Brian Kilpatrick, Lorelle Watts **11/14** Demaris Burleson, Sherilyn Clark, Winnie Hall, Landon Sutch, Todd Ward **11/15** Mark Taylor, Paul Walters, Jr. **11/17** Andrew Anderson **11/19** Aaron Loucks, Colin McGann, Carson Mullins, Lyndsey Todd **11/20** Ellen Chitwood, Reta Clopton, Earlee Daniel, Donald Denard, Dee Ann Wallar **11/21** Brian Haley, James King **11/22** Gary Briney, Marcella Halliday, Pete Simms **11/23** Simon Jennings, Terri Palm **11/24** Trevor Loucks, Molly VanOsdol **11/25** Ian Denard, Sue Dowler, Brent Hagy, Eric Jennings **11/26** Mitch Holliman, Charlanne Johnson, Alice Musser **11/27** Travis Christensen, Erma Costner, Sharon Cutter, Derek Price **11/28** Gerry Baker, Shirley Cox, Ibiera Tienabeso **11/29** Bill Cather **12/1** Louis Brigham, Robert Hall, Kyle Schwab, Tran Tran **12/2** Pat Coker, Sharon Mullins, Martha Puryear, Kaitlyn Wood **12/3** Allan Booher, Heather Fieth, Evan Foster, Jim Miller **12/4** Alba Duller, Russell Kious, Rachel Luschen **12/5** Hal Burns, Rodney Cave **12/6** Luci Perdue, Sandy Prewitt **12/7** Emily Bare, Julie Holliman, Foster Johnson, Bristol Mangum, Dana Theobald