

## All Church News

### Minister's Message

**CONTACT: Rev. Dr. Chris Shorow [cshorow@fcedmond.org](mailto:cshorow@fcedmond.org) 405.341.3544**

Christmas time is a time of delight for our senses. We are literally overwhelmed with sights, sounds, smells, touches and tastes that help us to experience the joy of this season. These senses are the themes for our Advent worship experiences and we have already explored sights and tastes. This past Sunday these two senses came together with our Hanging of the Greens service. We decorated our sanctuary and made it a sight to behold, with garland and lights and a tree. We then had a reception in the Fellowship Hall where we tasted all of the wonderful Christmas goodies—ranging from sweet to sour to salty and “umami.” Umami is the term that John Regan reminded us of in his sermon on Sunday that describes savory flavors in our diets, although I am with him in doubting how legitimate this taste really is!

As we continue to explore our senses, I want you to experience Christmas through the senses of our Christian faith. Christ invites us to experience the world in a new way, seeing and tasting the possibilities of the kingdom, a world where we see the miracles that God has given us and visioning a world where all are fed and given hope. In the coming weeks, we will smell, hear and feel the world in a new way as well.

As I was growing up in Oregon, I remember how my family would go out and pick a beautiful Douglas Fir tree and cut it down and bring it back home for our Christmas celebration. The memories of the smell of that fresh cut tree, the feel of the sap on my hands and the sound of the saw as we cut the tree down bring me right back to my childhood. Our senses can literally take us back to a different world. Likewise, our senses can create a new world, a world where God's Kingdom is present. As we celebrate this Christmas, let us experience the love of Christ in new ways; ways that challenge us to live out our ministry in the kingdom.

### Celebrating the Season

**CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey [jhumphrey@fcedmond.org](mailto:jhumphrey@fcedmond.org) 405.341.3544**

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

Join us as the Children of First Christian present their musical, “The Noel Critter Motel” followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall! (*No childcare.*)

**Christmas Cantata** - Sunday, December 16, 6:30pm

“Jesus! The Advent of the Messiah” will be presented by the Chancel Choir of First Christian, accompanied by a 28-piece orchestra. Through powerful original songs, favored carols, and dramatic spirituals, the story of Jesus' birth is told. A reception will immediately follow the cantata in the Fellowship Hall. (*Childcare available.*)

See a full calendar of events at [www.fcedmond.org/advent](http://www.fcedmond.org/advent)

### Let's Finish 2019 Strong, Together!

**CONTACT: Rev. Dr. John Regan [jregan@fcedmond.org](mailto:jregan@fcedmond.org) 405.341.3544**

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

What an incredible year 2018 has been! We are a church that celebrates learning and growing together, and we respond generously where we see needs. This year we've sent students and adults to help restore communities ravaged by hurricanes in South Texas, our Sunday School classes and small groups have served meals and worshipped with people

who live without shelter through Church Under the Bridge, college students have gathered to support one another on their journey and created a Thanksgiving meal they shared with homeless people, and thousands of dollars have been given to respond to the immediate needs at Ida Freeman Elementary where we've launched a new partnership to transform the lives of students in need.

Even though we have accomplished much together this past year, there is still much to be done as we continue pressing on in our call to raise up the next generation of thoughtful and generous Christians who serve our community together.

To that end, I want to invite you to help us finish the year strong and prepare for an even better 2019. While I cannot say that I understand all the rules of the new tax laws, I do know that your church needs your help to finish the year in good fiscal shape. In September Brenda Peterson, our Board Moderator alerted the congregation that we were significantly behind. We are happy to report we have made up substantial ground! With a reduction in expenses and additional gifts received for our general operations, we are hopeful to end the year strong and receive commitments to begin the 2019 fiscal year in good shape.

### **Here's how you can help:**

- Catch up on your 2018 pledge if you are behind or will miss some worship services in December.
- Make a commitment to give for 2019 even if you have never tried it before in the past.
- Make an additional designated gift to a ministry that you are passionate about.
- Consult with your accountant or tax advisor to see if there are new ways to contribute from retirement accounts that are good for you and great for your church.
- Learn more about the First Christian Church Endowment and how easy it is to include the church in your estate planning.

You can make a donation by giving in our Sunday offerings, mailing a check to the church office, or following the Givelify link (G) found in the top right corner of our website. *(Please note: in order for these gifts to be tax deductible they must be postmarked and/or given before **December 31, 2018**.)*

I want you to remember that your gifts to First Christian fund ministries that change lives. Thank you for being a part of the First Christian family and helping us accomplish the vision God has given us. Our gifts, combined together, will allow us to continue this important work in 2019!

## **Congregational Meeting, Sunday, December 16**

**CONTACT: Rev. Dr. John Regan [jregan@fcedmond.org](mailto:jregan@fcedmond.org) 405.341.3544**

All members are encouraged to attend our Congregational meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2018, in the Sanctuary immediately following the 11 am service. The Church Board recently ratified proposed changes to the First Christian Church By-Laws and the First Christian Church Constitution. At the congregational meeting members will have the opportunity to vote on three items: 1) Revised Constitution; 2) Revised By-Laws, and; 3) 2019 Church Board and Leadership Slate. Copies of the proposed changes are available at the welcome desk, in the pastoral offices or go to [www.fcedmond.org/forms-policies](http://www.fcedmond.org/forms-policies)

## **Grow in Your Faith at UNITE!**

**CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey [jhumphrey@fcedmond.org](mailto:jhumphrey@fcedmond.org) 405.341.3544**

Join us Wednesday, January 16, 2019, as we kick off our Spring Semester of UNITE with food, fellowship, learning and fun! Adults, children, and students can UNITE for a delicious meal, share meaningful conversation, and experience faith development in one of our classes or small groups. To find a full list of adult, children, and student activities, check out [www.fcedmond.org/unite](http://www.fcedmond.org/unite)

## **Financial Peace University**

**CONTACT: Cameron Woods [Cameron\\_d\\_woods@yahoo.com](mailto:Cameron_d_woods@yahoo.com) 405.590.5830**

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University will be held Wednesday nights during UNITE starting January 16, 2019. Class begins at 5:30pm in room 117. This class runs for nine weeks and a limited number of kits are available for \$50. Sign up at [www.fpu.com/1079385](http://www.fpu.com/1079385)

## **Year End Contributions**

**CONTACT: Karla Mahan [kmahan@fcedmond.org](mailto:kmahan@fcedmond.org) 405.341.3544**

The church offices will be open Monday, December 31, from 9am to 4pm. This is the last day we will be able to accept contributions for 2018. Thank you for your continued generosity!

## Shop with Amazon Smile and Give to First Christian Church

**CONTACT: Karla Mahan [kmahan@fcedmond.org](mailto:kmahan@fcedmond.org) 405.341.3544**

Do you shop online for your holiday purchases? Shop from home and give to First Christian Church through Amazon Smile! All eligible purchases made at Smile.Amazon.com will contribute one half of one percent back to First Christian Church. Follow the link at the top of our website at [www.fcedmond.org](http://www.fcedmond.org) to sign up to make First Christian Church your "charity of choice" for all of your purchases made through Smile.Amazon.com. What an easy way to shop and give!

## Dates to Remember

**December 9 – Children’s Christmas Musical & Cookie Reception**, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

**December 16 – Congregational Meeting**, 12:15pm, Sanctuary

**Life After Loss**, 4:30pm, Room 130

**Christmas Cantata & Reception**, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

**December 24 – Child Care Center Closed – All Day**

**Children’s Christmas Eve Service**, 5:30pm, Sanctuary

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**, 7 & 11pm, Sanctuary

**December 25 – Church Offices and Child Care Center Closed – All Day**

**December 26 – Church Offices Closed – All Day**

**December 30 – Unified Worship**, 10:45am, Sanctuary; No Children or Youth events this day

## Worship News

### On the Worship Schedule

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

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

**December 16, 2018** – 3rd Sunday of Advent - Minister: Rev. Dr. Chris Shorow; Scripture: Luke 2:8-14; *Children Worship & Wonder: Advent IV*

**December 23, 2018** – 4th Sunday of Advent - Minister: Rev. Dr. Chris Shorow; Scripture: Luke 2:1-7; *Children Worship & Wonder: Christmas (Meeting the Christ Child)*

**December 24, 2018** - Christmas Eve - 5:30pm Children’s Christmas Eve Service; 7pm & 11pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

**December 30, 2018** - Unified Service @ 10:45am - Minister: Rev. Dr. John Regan; *There is no Children Worship & Wonder this day.*

**January 6, 2019** - Minister: Rev. Mark Taylor; Scripture: I Timothy 1:1-7; *Children Worship & Wonder: The Boy Jesus in the Temple*

### 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.fcedmond.org/live](http://www.fcedmond.org/live) To listen, visit our Sermons page at [www.fcedmond.org](http://www.fcedmond.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 "fcedmond".

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

## Serve News

### Outreach Ministry Spotlight – Faith Community Nurse

**CONTACT: Geri Moffatt [gerimoffatt@cox.net](mailto: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 the **Faith Community Nurse**. This ministry is focused on the physical and mental well-being of the members of our congregation by offering programs and educational tools for a healthier lifestyle. This semester they have offered both Tai Chi and Yoga. Do you have an interest in health issues? Join the Faith Community Nurse team. They meet 4-5 times per year and focus on the health needs of our congregation. For more information, contact Donna Clark at [tdscl5@gmail.com](mailto:tdscl5@gmail.com) or 405.413.1954.

## Children's News

### 5th Graders - Interested in Pastors' Class?

**CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey [jhumphrey@fcedmond.org](mailto:jhumphrey@fcedmond.org) 405.341.3544**

If your 5th Grader is interested in being involved in the 2018 Pastors' Class, please let Jennifer Humphrey know as soon as possible. There will be a Parent Information Meeting set for late January/early February. Pastors' Class begins with an overnight retreat the end of February, and is 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.

### Our Angel Tree

**CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey [jhumphrey@fcedmond.org](mailto:jhumphrey@fcedmond.org) 405.341.3544**

Every year, First Christian Church and the Child Care Center join together to bless families in need by setting up the Angel Tree to collect gifts for children from our Church and Center who may not otherwise receive them. This year we have 19 families who need help with gifts for their children. Can you bring Christmas to one of these families? Helping is easy! Take an angel (or two) from the Angel Tree located in the Child Care Center Hallway. Purchase the item listed on the angel and return the gift (wrapped or unwrapped) *with the Angel attached* to the Child Care Center by December 10. If you aren't able to wrap the gift, that's ok! We have a team of volunteers who will get the job done. Monetary donations are also accepted and will help offset the cost of angels that were left on the tree. Make checks payable to FCC and put "angel tree" on the memo line. You may turn in the check with your worship offering or bring it to the church office before December 10. Thank you for blessing the children of First Christian Church and Child Care Center!

### Children's Ministries Upcoming Events

**CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey [jhumphrey@fcedmond.org](mailto: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)

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

**Children's Christmas Eve Service** - Monday, December 24, 5:30pm

## Student Ministries News

## Student's Snowball Party Moved to January 12

**CONTACT: Rev. Mark Taylor [mtaylor@fcedmond.org](mailto:mtaylor@fcedmond.org) 405.341.3544**

Due to the likelihood of inclement weather this weekend, we have decided in an abundance of caution to postpone our annual student ministry Christmas party to January! SnowBall "The Greatest Show on Earth" will now be Saturday, January 12 from 6-9pm. Because of the later date, we also believe this should alleviate some of the scheduling conflicts with school events. We are re-opening the registration, so if you have not signed up for SnowBall, go to [www.fcedmond.org/register](http://www.fcedmond.org/register) so you don't miss this fun night! If you are already signed up, you will remain signed up unless you contact Rev. Mark and let him know you can't make it.

## Poinsettias for the Holidays

**CONTACT: Rev. Mark Taylor [mtaylor@fcedmond.org](mailto: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](http://www.fcedmond.org/register) or complete 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!

## Student Ministries Calendar of Events

**CONTACT: Rev. Mark Taylor [mtaylor@fcedmond.org](mailto: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](http://www.fcedmond.org/studentprograms) for all Youth event details.

# Care News

## A Farewell from our Praise Band Leader, Glenn Sulley

*Dear Church Family,*

After much prayer and discussion with my wife, Jillian, and sons Colton and Cooper, I have decided to resign from my position as the Praise and Worship Team Leader, effective March 2019. I fully trust God with this decision and firmly believe he is guiding and directing me through this act of faith.

Over the last 20 years, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in music ministry and have been honored every Sunday to praise and worship with such amazing singers, musicians and sound crew. I recall being welcomed with open arms the very first day I entered this church and the comfort and love that my family and I have received from that moment has been truly wonderful!

This remarkable church family has encouraged and guided me through many chapters in my life. An especially memorable one was back in 2004, when the entire church united in prayer with me, as I suffered and eventually recovered from an acute inflammatory condition, Guillain Barre syndrome. This serious medical condition resulted in me being paralyzed for almost 2 months. Prayer healed me quicker than anyone my doctors had ever seen! Answers to our prayers enabled me to be restored to complete health, with no residual symptoms up to this day!

I am forever grateful to this church for all you have done! Jillian, the boys and I, want to thank all of you for the love, support, grace, and understanding that we have received throughout the years and during this transition.

*Love and Peace, Glenn Sulley*

## Thank You First Christian Church Family!

**Thank you - Grady Daniel** would like to thank his Sunday School Class (Compadres) and the church congregation for all of the prayers and well wishes for him during his recent health issues. All is going well with recovery, and he is very appreciative to all.

## In Our Prayers This Week

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

**OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS TO** Shirley Brown in the passing of her sister, Sharron Caruso, on November 7. Services held November 11 in Manchester, CT AND TO The Family of Leo Webster in his passing on November 14 in Booneville, AR. Private services will be held at a later date AND TO The Family of Genny Adamson in her passing on November 13. Services held November 18 AND TO Linda Speegle in the passing of her husband, Max Speegle, on November 20. Services held November 27 at FCC-Edmond AND TO Glen Smith in the passing of his mother, Dorothy Smith of Seminole, on November 20. Services held November 24 in Seminole, OK.

**WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS** Dennis & Tami Hines joined on November 25.

**CELEBRATING A BABY DEDICATION** Luke Henry Gossen, son of Adam & Alee Gossen, was dedicated on December 2. Grandparents are Mack & Sandy Mitchell.

**CELEBRATING A NEW BABY** Reed Alan Scott Peters, born November 29, to Jeremy Peters and Riley Stephens. Grandparents are Scott & Amy Peters, Aunt is Alex Peters.

*Please share your prayer requests with us so we can pray for you. Contact Pastoral Assistant, Iris Muno Jordan at [ijordan@fccedmond.org](mailto:ijordan@fccedmond.org) or 341-3544, ext. 110.*

## **Happy Birthday FCC Friends!**

**12/10** Ashton Havenar, Kimberly Kerr

**12/11** Olivia Hendricks, Robbie Shaw

**12/12** Gaylon Bright, Sue Fraim, Max Vazquez

**12/13** Terry Bernard, Brenda Dunn, Clarity Farrah, Scout Killackey

**12/14** Martina Dowell, Abby Kerr, Lucy Mecoy, Madison Murphy

**12/15** Mandy Burnett, Scott Peters, Benjamin Prejean

**12/16** Bryan Becker, Jim Burke, Calvin Koopman, Cody Ward

**12/17** Craig Adkins, Carlita Walters

**12/18** Zach Benear, Tyler Burleson, Jerri Dillon, Neal Hunt, Ted Perrin, Gwen Shaw

**12/19** Linda Burke, Marynm Martin, Ellie Young

**12/20** Sandra Brinkmeyer, Allison Ernst, Corvin Harlin, Jeremy Peters, Riley Robertson, Pat Warner

**12/21** Tyler Black, Robert Carroll, Emily Luschen, Callie Nester, Melissa Windsor

**12/22** Brock Becker, Cathy Justice, Bob McKibbin, James Wynn

**12/23** Jennifer Cain, Sarah Cain, Andrea Deal, Cora Deal

**12/24** Adam Bowen, Wendy Fine-Thomas, Martha Roach

**12/25** Anthony Campbell, Sarah Lindley

**12/26** Diana Lee, Jim Ware

**12/27** Lawton Berberet, Sally Leonard

**12/28** Clint Stone, Nancy Zuckerman

**12/29** Melva Davis

**12/30** Kody VanOsdol

**12/31** Wayne Coats, Velia Deal, Roger Quinn

**1/1** Tatum Fondren, Misty Mihelich, Michele Schlough, Sharron Suarez

**1/2** Charmei Coleman, Madi Huffer

**1/3** Gary Bartley, Ty Burnett, Kathi DeSpain

**1/4** Alex Kelley, Emri Lindley, Alexis Walters

**1/5** Judy Joy, Shirley Michael, Ashley Sutch

**1/6** Keven Cody, Jimmy King