



## Acts – This Is How We Church *A Minister's Message from*

Rev. Dr. Chris Shorow, Senior Minister  
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Our upcoming worship series for the month of May is on the book of Acts. Acts is one of my favorite books because it has many wonderful stories. The Acts of the Apostles is Luke's second chapter to his gospel and it essentially tells the story of the birth of the early church right after Jesus' resurrection. Luke's hero of the story is the Holy Spirit--with the power of the Holy Spirit, the church cannot fail.

But the reason I love Acts is because the stories are exciting. Stories like Pentecost--the miraculous event that brings many different people together show us the power of the Spirit to unite all of humanity. There is a story about a magician trying to buy the gifts of the Holy Spirit, about a couple lying about their gifts to the church and its fatal consequences. Tales of shipwrecks and miraculous escapes from prison make it an exciting read. Our most recent Unite class focused on the book of Acts, so I know many are familiar with the book, but I recommend reading Acts to get a feel for what Luke is telling us to be as church.

The basic story of Acts has Peter and then eventually Paul, leading the church into the Roman empire—and beyond. In it, Luke tells how the church should be the church. What are we supposed to do as Church? How do we act as Christ has taught us? Now don't get me wrong, there were plenty of conflicts in the early church—it was not a perfect place. But everything could be worked out with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts teaches us how to live our faith and how to teach it to others, the importance of cultivating meaningful relationships, inviting and including everyone and becoming a center for healing. As we at First Christian Church listen for our calling from God, we can look to the book of Acts as a guide. See you in May as we hear God calling us to love in action for all people.

## Stop the Summer Slide *Support Reading for Students*

CONTACT: Shelley Regan, Director of Community Engagement [sregan@fccedmond.org](mailto:sregan@fccedmond.org) 405.341.3544

Providing Ida Freeman Elementary students with increased access to books over the summer is vital to prevent the loss of learning known as "the summer slide." We want to encourage a love for reading and helping a child build their own library is a great way to inspire young readers. You can donate to the Ida Freeman special offering: visit [fccedmond.org/give](http://fccedmond.org/give), use a GIVE envelope in the pew and drop in the offering plate or in a donation box in the sanctuary hall, or mail your check to First Christian Church, PO Box 3548, Edmond, OK 73083. Your donation will help ensure each student at Ida Freeman receives a book for their home library that has been selected by Ida Freeman teachers.

## Principal Palooza! *Sunday, May 19*

### *A Farewell Fiesta to Celebrate Principal Nicole Marler*

CONTACT: Shelley Regan, Director of Community Engagement [sregan@fccedmond.org](mailto:sregan@fccedmond.org) 405.341.3544

After more than 10 years of service at Ida Freeman Elementary, Principal Nicole Marler is leaving to take a position with the EPS District Offices. While we are very sad to see her go, we want to send her off with lots of love and well wishes! We are incredibly thankful for her leadership and all the ways she has welcomed our support and partnership.

Our Outreach Ministry has invited Principal Marler to join us for breakfast tacos, and other tasty treats on Sunday, May 19. Drop in and help us send her off in style!

**Volunteers are needed to help set-up, serve, and clean-up.** Sign up now at [fccedmond.org/nextsteps](http://fccedmond.org/nextsteps) or email Shelley Regan, Director of Community Engagement at [sregan@fccedmond.org](mailto:sregan@fccedmond.org) or 405.341.3544.

## Lunch & Learn

**Sunday, May 5**

**CONTACT: Shelley Regan, Director of Community Engagement [sregan@fccedmond.org](mailto:sregan@fccedmond.org) 405.341.3544**

Fiber—you know it's good for you. But if you're like many Americans, you don't get enough. In fact, most of us get about half the recommended amount of fiber each day. Join Olivia Trout, MS, RD/LD for "Improve Your Health By Increasing Your Fiber Intake" a Lunch & Learn session on Sunday May 5 at Noon in Fellowship Hall.

Lunch provided with pre-registration. Visit [fccedmond.org/nextsteps](http://fccedmond.org/nextsteps) and select Lunch & Learn or call Iris at 405.341.3544 by Thursday, May 2.

(Feel free to attend for learning only, lunch is only provided with pre-registration.)

## Hello Summer Fun-Fest

**Thursday, May 23**

**CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey, Director of Children's Ministry [jhumphrey@fccedmond.org](mailto:jhumphrey@fccedmond.org) 405.341.3544**

**Start your summer in style!** Don't miss the epic fun at our "hello SUMMER Fun-Fest!"

FOAM PARTY + FACEPAINTING + FRIENDS + FOOD!  
It's going to be THE place to be on the first night of summer/last day of school. This free event is for ALL ages, and is the perfect time to bring your friends and neighbors to discover the fun we share as a community!

**Volunteers are needed** to set up, serve food, greet, and more! Sign up at [fccedmond.org/nextsteps](http://fccedmond.org/nextsteps) or contact Jennifer Humphrey at [jhumphrey@fccedmond.org](mailto:jhumphrey@fccedmond.org) to get details.

This community facing event is a shared project of First Christian Church and our Child Care Center.

## Goodbye Bonnie

**Retirement Party for Bonnie Miller  
Child Care Center Director**

**CONTACT: Rev. Dr. Regan, Executive Minister [jregan@fccedmond.org](mailto:jregan@fccedmond.org) 405.341.3544**

We're having a party Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Come for cookies & hugs - 4 to 5pm in Fellowship Hall. Stay for the "hello summer fun-fest" - 5 to 7pm on the lawn.

When Bonnie Miller became the Director of First Christian Church's Childcare Center, she already had 29 years of service. She had done just about everything at the Center: lead teacher, assistant director, interim director, and financial director. Now, in just a few weeks, Bonnie will retire from that role on Thursday, May 23. Over the last five and half years as Director, she has provided extraordinary and faithful service to the Center, families, children, and her staff.

In the spring of 2020 as the COVID pandemic erupted Bonnie shifted into high gear to communicate with families, stay in touch with staff, and develop new procedures to provide high quality child care as safely as possible. We will always be grateful for how quickly she was able to calmly lead the center to reopen and provide childcare for families!

We invite the congregation, childcare families, patrons, and alumni of the center to express their thanks to Bonnie for not just these last 5.5 extraordinary ones as Director, but her thirty-four and a half total years of service to the First Christian Child Care Center, the Church, and our community. Bonnie, you have touched so many lives. We love you and will miss you!

## Vacation Bible School 2024

**Get the Party Started!**

**CONTACT: Jennifer Humphrey, Director of Children's Ministries [jhumphrey@fccedmond.org](mailto:jhumphrey@fccedmond.org) 405.341.3544**

START THE PARTY this summer at Vacation Bible School! We are going celebrate the Good News this June. Jesus gives us the most amazing reason to party. That's why we believe God's love and the Gospel of Jesus is the best news ever! VBS is set for June 17 - 20 from 6 to 8 PM. Everyone is welcome, but you must register!

- Monday, June 17: JESUS is a good reason to have a Party! Wanna join us?
- Tuesday, June 18: EVERYONE is invited to the party. Won't you come along?
- Wednesday, June 19: CELEBRATE the good news! Jesus loves everyone!
- Thursday, June 20: YOU can be a party starter!

If you'd like to help, sign up at [www.fccedmond.org/vbs](http://www.fccedmond.org/vbs) You can help with donations & make this VBS a huge success - check it out here!

# SUMMER Church Camp Registration Underway

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

Imagine a place where friendships are forged and where God's love unites us all! Summer Camp is a place of joy, laughter, and discovery. The Christian Church in Oklahoma offers multiple camp options for children and youth completing grades 2-12. Campers will be "Linked by Love" as they discover ways to live out God's love in the world. It's time to think about campfires, small groups, singing, silly games, and crafts! Register now for a spot and bring a friend. VISIT [fcedmond.org/camp](http://fcedmond.org/camp) to get First Christian pricing details and find out how to register online and pay. (Note: early registration discounts have expired, but there are still some spots open at regular rates.)

## Prayers of the People

**THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER** Fay Parsley, Loretta Parks, Gary Orendorff

**OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS TO** The family of David Hobza II who passed away on April 1. Services were held April 8 at Crawford Funeral Home-Edmond **AND TO** Mark Hammond, Becky Ferguson and family in the passing of their mother, Dot Hammond, on April 4. Services were held April 12 at FCC-Edmond **AND TO** the Friends of Pasty Corrigan who passed away on April 5. Services were held April 11 at FCC-Edmond **AND TO** Charles and Martha Roach on the passing of their daughter, Robyn Roach, on April 6. No services are scheduled for Robyn.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER** Eugene Mitchell who joined our community of faith on April 7.

**CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF NEW LIFE** Elaine Renee Lackey, born April 11 to Jake and Madison Lackey. Grandparents are Brian and Susan Huffer.

## Birthdays

5/1 Julie Baker, Susan Hurst

5/2 Dana Shadid

5/3 Tim McFall

5/4 Carin Hodson, Debbie Schmoyer

5/5 Brett Keel

5/6 Alan Schmoyer

5/7 Terry Earnheart

5/8 Caleb Stanley

5/10 Chad Miller, Cindy Radford

5/11 Jack Warner

5/13 Brian Huffer, Mark Vollertsen

5/16 Peter Duller

5/17 Linda McFall, Jeffrey Trout

5/18 Annlee DePlois, Chandler Farris, Molly Larrison, Shane McGrew

5/19 Marcia Tunison

5/20 John Privette, Sopukro Tienabeso

5/21 Bob Grant, Gary Orendorff

5/22 Joshua Anthony, Todd Anthony, Eli Channel, Greysen Ernst, Todd Lindley

5/23 Cheryl Gibson, Kylie Hunt, Michael McGrew

5/24 Shannon Medley, Kiefer Mullins, Bill Smith

5/25 Noah Griffith, Beth Shorow, Jackson Simms

5/26 Teagan George, Tekenari Tienabeso

5/27 Allie Hannah, David Roberts

5/28 Lee Christensen

5/29 Adelynn Hannah, Clark Shorow, Alice Woods

5/30 Myles Denard

5/31 Jennifer King