

MAY,  
2019

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

*(Disciples of Christ)*

301 North Third Avenue, Durant, Ok 74701

**A NOTE FROM PASTOR ANDY...**

Dear Friends,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

In church this week we heard the story of Doubting Thomas, and I took the opportunity to address the topic of doubt in my sermon. We often think that faith and doubt are mutually exclusive, but in fact they are symbiotic. We cannot have one without the other, even though there are many Christians who would claim otherwise, even to the point of condemning folks for asking questions, demonstrating too much curiosity, or rebuffing certain points of doctrine.

Anne Lamott has said that the opposite of faith is not doubt, but certainty. Much harm has been done through the centuries in defense of certainty— religious wars and persecution of minorities, for example— and much progress has been spurred by doubt— the discovery that lightning is not only not a divine weapon but that electricity can be harnessed for all sorts of uses, for example.

In my sermon I proposed that faith ought to prompt Christians to humility, not certainty, and that we are called to provide hospitality and safe spaces for folks who have questions and doubts— even about our own faith claims! The statistics show that church affiliation continues to decrease, with many feeling rejected by the actions of Christians and churches. Luckily, we're members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world which does not dictate the terms of faith but instead believes in the responsibility of each individual to work out their own faith in community. We are poised to be a place of welcome for folks who otherwise feel uncomfortable in church.

You may have questions you've never felt safe asking. Or perhaps you know someone who has questions they fear will lead to being judged. As I said in my sermon on Sunday, besides actually enjoying the opportunity to talk to people this sort of thing, I believe, as a tenant of my own faith, that I am called to engage with people about the things that they are curious about, the things they struggle with, and the experiences they have had that have shaped their beliefs. I would welcome the opportunity.

I believe that as Christians, our obligation to doubters and seekers is nothing less than to follow the example of Jesus' greeting when Thomas was in the upper room, himself still doubting. Jesus said, "Peace be with you."

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Andy

## MOMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP ...

**Welcome, Jim Bert..**we have been praying that you would make this decision to come join us and now it's happened. We are thrilled to have you be a part of our church family.

**Maudie Anderson...**remains in Calera Manor, #408. She is wanting to return to her apartment but son, Robert, doesn't want her alone. Please stop by for a short visit or send a short note or card so she'll know she is missed and not forgotten!

**Ann Flanagan...** We send our love and sympathy to Ann on the recent death of her brother, Jerry Horn. Ann is slowly regaining her strength from her many complications. She's had some falls and a few other problems, but she's still as upbeat as ever. Continue to keep her in your daily prayers. Notes, cards, and phone calls are very much appreciated. We do miss her smiling face in our congregation.

**Jack Skaggs...**knee replacement surgery Monday in McKinney. All went well--he's up walking and will probably be released tomorrow to go home or sent somewhere for some rehab.

### SUNSHINE SCHOOL

Summertime Fun Camp will begin on Monday, June 3rd and will end July 24th. This camp is open from ages 1 year through 8 years of age, depending on space availability. Packets may be picked up from the director. All continuing Sunshine School students will need an updated packet prior to beginning the summer session.

We will be celebrating our graduating students with our graduation ceremony on Wednesday, May 22nd at 2:00 pm. Families are encouraged to attend.



### WORDS WE LIVE BY....

**LEARN FROM OTHERS' MISTAKES**

**RATHER THAN MAKING THEM**

**ALL YOURSELF!**



### HANDBELL CHOIR....

**Every Monday @ 6:00 pm**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**FELLOWSHIP DINNER HONORING GRADUATES!**  
**Sunday, May 5th**

**BELL CHOIR, Monday, 6th**  
**6:00 pm**

**THUNDER ALLEY, Tuesday, 7th**  
Final meeting of semester  
**6:00-9:00**

*Snack supper provided by Dell & friends*

**BOARD MEETING, Wednesday, 8th**  
Elders, 6:00 pm; Board, 6:30 pm

**MOTHERS' DAY, Sunday, 12th**

**CFW MEETING, Monday, 13th, 7:00 pm.**  
Hostesses: Modra and Cindy  
Worship: Dessie; Study: Erica

**CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**Sunday, May 19th**

**MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY**  
**Sunday, May 26th**



**EASTER SUNDAY MORNING, April 21, 2019**



May, 2019

**ELDERS SERVING AT THE TABLE**

May 5th - Dell, Emily

May 12th - Cindy, Erica

May 19th- John, Cindy

May 26th - Dell

**COMMUNION PREPARATION**

Charlene and Leslie

Head Usher: Jack Skaggs

**PLEASE NOTE:** According to our Bylaws, the names of those who are serving on the Nominating Committee have to be announced at least two weeks before our Congregational Business meeting (May 19th). The following are serving in this capacity: Cindy Kirkpatrick, Joe Barker, Crystal Bully, David Buchanan, with Dell serving as Chair.

If you would like to nominate someone to serve on the church Board, please obtain permission from that individual, then submit their name to any member of this Nominating Comm.

**IN OUR SHARED PRAYERS**

Maudie Anderson

Calera Manor, #408, P. O. Box 367, Calera 74730

Joyce Bennett

Dr. Ken and Jane Elder

Ann Flanagan

Edith Peratta

Rosemary Riddle

Elmer Rogers

Jack Skaggs

Andy's mother and father, Ruth and Terry

Jean Sims

**DINNER HONORING OUR GRADUATES**

**POTLUCK DINNER**

**SUNDAY, MAY 5TH**

***(IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP)***

**Everyone invited - bring your family and friends!**



**NOTE FROM CHARLENE**

It was a great week to fellowship with friends and serve others. FCC delivered Meals on Wheels the week of April 22-26, and the weather cooperated! Thanks to all of the faithful who volunteered to serve: Cindy Kirkpatrick, Jane Hawthorne, Gisela Young, Modra Bockmann, Brandolyn Dunn, Ann Vickers and her friend, Kathy Ingram; Judy Williams, Mike Allen and Meczy and Joe Barker. It is such a rewarding ministry that takes very little time and effort. We are blessed when we serve others. Many, many thanks, Charlene

**A LIGHT OF HOPE SHELTER**

**SOUP KITCHEN**

**EVERY SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH**

**FROM 1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM**

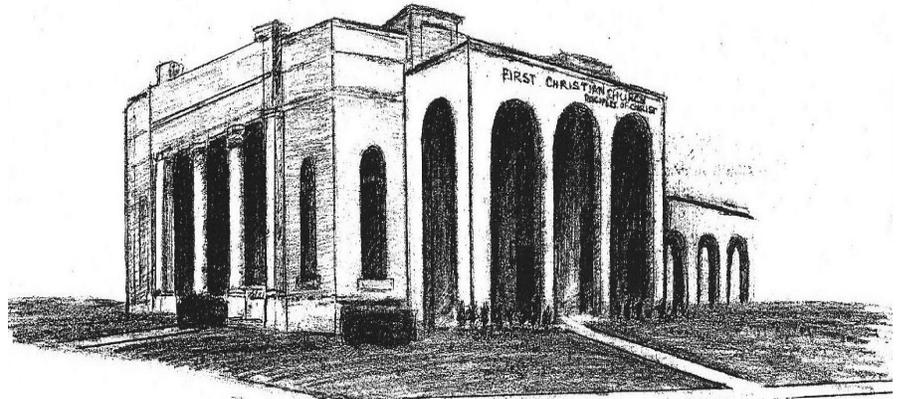
**OPEN TO ANYONE WHO WANTS A HOT MEAL**

**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**1524 WEST MAIN STREET, DURANT**



301 North Third Avenue  
Durant, OK 74701-4211



**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY,  
2019**