



The Norman Christian

First Christian Church 220 S. Webster, Norman, Oklahoma 73069 405/329-2192

www.fccnorman.org

March 24, 2026

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SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

8:40 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Church School

10:45 a.m. Worship

*Worship will also be livestreamed
at 10:45 a.m.*

Scripture: Matthew 21: 1-11

Sermon: *Palm Sunday Play*

Worship & Wonder: Family Sunday

Evensong

Monday, March 30th, at 5:15 p.m. – Chapel

CELEBRATING REV. SHANNON COOK

We will hold a fellowship luncheon on Sunday, March 29, following the 10:45 service to thank and honor Rev. Shannon Cook. A collection is being taken to present her with a monetary gift at the luncheon. If you would like to contribute, checks may be mailed to the church office with “Gift for Shannon” in the memo line. You may also donate online. Any amount is appreciated. Cards and personal notes of thanks are also deeply meaningful and welcomed.

Please join me in celebrating Shannon on March 29, and know that all will be well.

Faithfully,

Stephanie Clinton, Congregational President

CHILDREN’S PALM PROCESSIONAL

This Sunday, March 29th is *Palm Sunday* and all our children and youth are needed as we wave palms branches at the beginning of both worship services, commemorating Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the start of Holy Week. Please gather in the Narthex (just behind the sanctuary) five minutes before the start of either service so that we can receive our palms and be ready to begin worship with this festive remembrance. See you Sunday morning!

REV. COLTON LOTT OFFICE HOURS

To schedule Tuesday/Thursday appointment times please use this link: [Select a Date & Time - Calendly](#)

To schedule a Monday lunch please use this link: [Select a Date & Time - Calendly](#)

A TRIUMPHANT EXIT

Rev. Colton D. Lott, Senior Minister

This coming Sunday is a bittersweet day in the life of the church.

Annually, Christians recall the last week of Jesus’ life. This is called “Holy Week,” and our retelling of that fateful time begins this **Sunday, March 29, with our Palm Sunday Processional**. Reminding us of Jesus’ “triumphant entry” into Jerusalem, our children will re-enact those first marchers who shouted, “Save us!” or “Hosanna!” so long ago.

The triumphal entry turns to the triumph of **Easter Morning (April 5)** – but a lot happens in a week. To help us keep the rhythm and time of Holy Week, I hope you’ll consider attending **EvenSong on Monday, March 30, at 5:15 pm**, as we work through snippets of the texts that animate these days. We will have our **Maundy Thursday service on April 2 at 7:00 pm** and will experience again the power of the new covenant, made with love, sacrifice, and grace. There are still a few slots open for the **Prayer Vigil (Thursday-Friday)**, and I hope to see you and every child you know at the **Saturday Easter Carnival from 10:00 am - noon**. By the time we get back to Easter Morning, a reminder that the Chancel Choir will sing at both the 8:40 and 10:45 services and we will enjoy **Easter Brunch at 9:30 am** together in lieu of Sunday School.

But this coming Sunday is also bittersweet because we say “Farewell,” and “Godspeed” to our own Rev. Shannon Cook as she assumes a new role as our Associate Regional Minister for the Christian Church in Oklahoma. Strengthening our regional ministry for children, youth, and young adults, Pastor Shannon will also have significant responsibilities for laity education and will serve as a pastor-to-pastors. Hers is a vital role, and it is a deep privilege and point of pride for one of our own to be called to serve.

If you’re a youth or young adult (or a *former* youth or young adult!) or a youth sponsor who benefited from Pastor Shannon’s guidance, I hope you’ll be here to help give her a “triumphal exit.”

Finally, **if you’re a clergyperson (retired or active, Disciples or otherwise), please consider wearing red this Sunday, March 29**. Red is traditionally the color of Pentecost and the Spirit, used in ordinations, and particularly representative of ministry. As we bless Shannon, it might help her to see again just how many pastors she has already ministered to, and who wish her well as she takes these next steps in ministry.

Every good thing,

Pastor Colton

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER

We are delighted to welcome Charles Meloy as a new member of our community of faith!

Charles joins us with a spirit of warmth and enthusiasm, and we are grateful to have him become part of our community. We look forward to all the ways Charles will enrich the life of our church.



We invite you to take a moment in the coming weeks to introduce yourself, extend a warm greeting, and welcome Charles.

DISCUSSION GROUP 1

Discussion Group 1 will meet this Friday, March 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

Gebreg Ziebbe will be sharing some of his experiences as an immigrant from Ethiopia. He and his wife were sponsored and aided by our church years ago. They found employment, raised a family, and he has much to share about a very successful life here.

Many will remember them and welcome him back.

Sharon and Bruce Heath will be hosting.

Plan to be there.

--Hugh

NEWS FROM DISCIPLES OF CHRIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

The Nancy Chess group is planning a day trip to Medicine Park on Saturday, April 11, (9:00-4:00ish). There is a \$10 fee for use of the church buses. If you are interested in joining them, contact the church office.

There will be a Basket Auction on Sunday, April 19, following the Fellowship Lunch. Plan to join us. Our groups are busy getting baskets ready.

The next Central Area Disciples Women Meeting will be held at First Christian Church, Moore on Tuesday, April 28, 2026. Halle Carr, Sex Trafficking Victim Outreach Coordinator, from The Dragonfly home, will be the speaker. They help victim survivors on their path to freedom and restoration.

EASTER LILIES

Again this year, the church will have Easter lilies to beautify the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. You may purchase one for \$15, given in remembrance, honor, or appreciation of a loved one or friend. All you need do is contact the church office with the information for the dedication, paying by either credit card or check (making sure to note that it is for an Easter Lily). Dedication forms are also available in the church office. The church newsletter will run a list of dedications the week following Easter. Thank you.

IN THE CHURCH FAMILY...

David Bradshaw has been released from Norman Regional Hospital.

Ryatt Clark has been released from OU Children's Hospital.

ChARM FUN~

Friday, March 27 – 8:00am – Please meet for breakfast at **Sunny Side Up** in Moore. Please let me know if you will meet us there so I can give the restaurant a setup number.

Thursday, April 9 – 10:30am – **Route 66 Day Trip.** We will make our way on Route 66 to see the following sites – Arcadia Round Barn, Arcadia General Store, Truck Museum, Threatt Filling Station in Luther, Pops and possibly other stops along the way. We plan to return to church by 4:00pm. Please wear your ChARM shirts if possible. Please RSVP for your seat on the bus.

Stephanie Gasaway

EVENSONG DATE CHANGE

Please note that the April 6th Evensong has been rescheduled to Monday, March 30th due to the church office being closed April 6th following Easter Sunday.

BOOK CLUB RESCHEDULED

The Sunday afternoon book club facilitated by Rev. Catherine Bennett will take place on **March 29th at 4:00 p.m.** meeting in the Study and Share Classroom! The book for March is entitled *Bug Hollow* by Michelle Huneven.

April's book club will take place April 26th at 4:00 p.m. The book for April will be *The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau* by Kristin Harmel. Books can be picked up in the Study and Share Classroom.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER ABOUT COMMUNICATION SAFETY

As we continue to stay connected as a church family, we want to offer an important reminder about communication and security. You have Rev. Colton Lott's real phone number and email address, and any official communication from him or the church will come through those known, trusted channels.

Please be aware that Rev. Lott—or any member of our church staff—will never reach out unexpectedly to ask for gift cards, electronic payments, or sensitive personal or financial information. Likewise, you will never be asked to send “urgent” assistance in the form of prepaid cards, wire transfers, or similar requests.

If you ever receive a message that seems unusual or raises concern, we encourage you to pause and verify it by contacting the church office directly. Staying vigilant helps protect not only you, but our entire church community.

Thank you for helping us keep our congregation safe and informed.

YOUTH GROUP

Check the youth list email, Facebook, GroupMe, and the iMessage group text for meeting information. Please contact Shannon if you have any questions!

Chi Rho is for youth in 6th-8th grades and CYF is for youth in 9th-12th grades.

All Chi Rho and CYF youth are welcome to join us for any and all events, and friends are always welcome!

School Year Schedule

Chi Rho Service Night—4:00 p.m.

Chi Rho Free Time—4:45-5:15 p.m.

Chi Rho Meeting—5:15-6:30 p.m.

Youth Meal (Chi Rho and CYF)—6:30-7:15 p.m.

CYF Meeting—7:15-8:30 p.m.

March 25—Service Project for Meals on Wheels

April 1—Chi Rho youth will help prepare for the Easter Carnival and CYF will have a game night.

April 8—Youth will explore the spiritual discipline of play.

April 15—Chi Rho will help Logos with their Stamp out Starvation service project, and CYF will have a stress discussion night. Dinner tonight is at CiCi's! Chi Rho youth can be picked up at 7:00 at CiCi's. CYF can meet at CiCi's at 6:30 p.m. and will return to church for their meeting.

April 22—Chi Rho will enjoy the block party with Logos, and CYF will watch a movie.

April 29—Chi Rho will attend the Logos banquet, welcoming the new incoming Chi Rho youth, and CYF will walk to Fuzzy's for dinner.

LENTEN PRAYER VIGIL

I have been participating in the annual Lenten Prayer Vigil since I was in high school at First Christian in Norman many years ago. It became a very important time in my life, as I would drive to the church at 2:00AM to pray in the peaceful setting in the old chapel long ago. Being a part of this prayer chain always gives me a heightened sense of being in the presence of God, whether it is in the chapel or at my home. I appreciate feeling a part of the ongoing chain of prayer with my church community. It brings a special feeling of gratitude, of humility, of contemplation about my role in society and about how I can try to be a better friend, partner, and citizen. I find a higher level of comfort in praying for guidance and for a clearer vision. My God is truly walking by my side.

The Prayer Vigil will take place from 8:00PM on Maundy Thursday, April 2 (immediately following the Maundy Thursday service) through Good Friday, April 3 at 10:00PM. Overnight times after 10:00PM Thursday will be observed in your home, followed by times in the chapel on Friday from 8:00AM until 10:00PM. Security personnel will be present at the church on Thursday evening and after the offices close on Friday at 4:00PM until 10:00PM. Sign-up can be accessed online [Participants: Prayer Vigil 2026](#), by signing the schedule in the gallery on Sunday mornings, or by calling the church office.

Larry Reed

NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECEIVING NAMES

This year's Nominating Committee, as approved by the Board, is Rob Bradshaw, Martie Buzzard, Dick Gray, Summer Suffridge and Emily Trnka. This Committee will meet on April 14th to assemble a slate of members to recommend for officers, elders, and deacons. You are invited to submit names of people to serve in these ways by contacting one of the members of the Nominating Committee, or by contacting one of the ministers at the church office. Anyone nominated to serve must have been a church member for at least six months. Thank you for your participation in this important aspect of the leadership of the church!

CLEAR VASES NEEDED FOR THE LOGOS BANQUET

Do you have clear vases from the florists that you just do not know what to do with? Logos would like to use them for our end of the year banquet. Just drop off in the church office. Questions? Contact Eula (eula@fccnorman.org).

ChARM BRANSON TRIP

The Branson trip is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17 - Friday, November 20. The \$300 deposit is due on or before July 1. Branson will be decorated for Christmas which is always very special. We hope you will join us for a wonderful time full of fun and fellowship. For more information, please contact Stephanie in the church office at 405-329-2192.



APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

The church will display a sign recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month on the front lawn throughout the month of April; signs are available in the church office if you would like one for your yard.



Church Calendar

March 25, 2026– Wednesday

2:45 p.m. Logos
4:00 p.m. Chi Rho Service Night
(6th-8th Grade)
5:15 p.m. Chi Rho (6th-8th Grade)
6:30 p.m. Youth Meal
7:15 p.m. CYF (9th– 12th Grade)
7:30 p.m. Choir

March 27, 2026– Friday

8:00 a.m. ChARM Breakfast
– Sunny Side Up Moore
6:00 p.m. Discussion I

March 29, 2026– Sunday

Palm Sunday

8:40 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Shannon's Appreciation
Luncheon– F.H.
4:00 p.m. Catherine's Book Club

March 30, 2026– Monday

5:15 p.m. Evensong
6:30 p.m. Handbells

March 31, 2026– Tuesday

9:30 a.m. DoCWM Service Day– F.H.

INFANTS – PRE-K FROLIC WORSHIP

Each Sunday morning our attendants who care and teach the infant–Pre-K children continue to create a safe and nurturing environment. Through story, play and a craft the children explored God's love. Kandice, our Nursery Coordinator, and our dedicated nursery staff ensure the children are engaged every Sunday morning.

VOYAGE INTO DISCIPLESHIP

Children, kindergarten through 5th grade, gather every Sunday to set sail from the third floor in the children's education area at 9:30am. Palm Sunday brings our Logos Choir to Voyage for rehearsal and a lesson about a joyful entrance into Jerusalem.



We hope you all had an enjoyable Spring Break...this week we are back together for playground fun; rehearsing for the special music sing during the 10:45am worship on Palm Sunday, along with creativity, engaging study and a delicious meal.

HYMNS FOR SUNDAY

All Glory, Laud, and Honor (192)
Spirit (249)

In Remembrance of Me (403)

Sunday Worship will be both video and audio
livestreamed at 10:45 in the morning



Summer Ministry at FCC

July 13th - 16th

Vacation Bible School

July 27th - 29th

JYF Mission Day Camp
(3rd - 5th gr. completed)



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EASTER CARNIVAL

Saturday, April 4th from 10am-noon

**Games, Photo Opt, Gelato, Popcorn &
Easter Egg Hunt Begins at 11am**

