



The Norman Christian

First Christian Church 220 S. Webster, Norman, Oklahoma 73069

405/329-2192

www.fccnorman.org

November 25, 2025

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

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: Isaiah 2: 1-5 & Matthew 24: 36-44

Sermon: *Hope Came Down: That We
Might Unlearn War!*

Worship & Wonder: Mary and Joseph Show the
Way to Bethlehem

Advent Evensong

Monday, December 1st, at 5:15 p.m.— Chapel

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday, November 30, we will hold a congregational meeting immediately following both the 8:40 am and 10:45 am services. The purpose of this meeting is to seek congregational approval on funding for building security updates and IT (Information Technology) specialist support. Funding is to come from a budget surplus of the 2022-2025 capital campaign. All of the capital campaign items have been completed and invoices paid. Because of your generous giving and careful stewardship of projects and funds on the part of the Property Committee, there is enough money to fund both the security upgrades and hire IT support. A breakdown of the security upgrade budget was printed in *The Norman Christian* on November 18.

This recommendation comes from the Financial Oversight Committee and was approved by the board on November 11. I ask that our church membership prayerfully consider this request.

With Joy,
Stephanie Clinton
Congregation President

SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee for the Senior Minister has had a productive and busy fall interviewing candidates. We are very encouraged and excited with the prospects we have encountered. Please note that Advent is a busy time of year for everyone, especially ministers. We have every reason to believe we will have good news in the new year and look forward to celebrating new beginnings after the first of the year! We appreciate your continued encouragement. We are carrying great momentum into the season.

Your continued prayers for the committee and the process are greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Helen Green



ADVENT EVENSONG

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

5:15 P.M. - 5:45 P.M.

**A VESPERS WITH TAIZE SONGS,
SCRIPTURE, PRAYERFUL SILENCE,
AND COMMUNION.**

Sanctify the day. prepare for the next



JOYFUL GIVING: A FAITHFUL FUTURE AS GOD'S PEOPLE

We continue receiving our pledges as we plan for the mission and ministry of the church for 2026. Thank you to all those who responded with presenting your pledge cards so far, with 143 pledges received totaling \$682,395.76 which includes 20 new pledges and 44 who are increasing their pledge. Thank you for your faithful and dedicated responses!

We will continue to receive pledges in the upcoming weeks in anticipation of presenting a balanced budget for congregational vote on December 21. If you have not made your pledge, please complete your card and return it to the Church, or visit <https://fcc.link/2026PledgeCard> to conveniently submit electronically, or call the church office to report your pledge to Stephanie Gasaway, or email your pledge to stephanie@fccnorman.org - so many ways to commit our support for the wonderful work of First Christian Church! Thank you for your generosity as we share in the work of the church.

DECK THE HALLS, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Due to the home OU vs. LSU game on Saturday, November 29, we will be decorating the church for the Advent season on **Friday morning, November 28 (the day after Thanksgiving)**. The Worship Department invites anyone who would like to participate in the holiday festivities to join us at around 8:30AM or 9:00AM this Friday. We will provide coffee and some goodies. We usually finish in a couple of hours, and it can also be a fun family activity. If you have joined us in the past, you know how enjoyable this time together is. Bring yourself and maybe a friend or family member.

DISCIPLE MEN GATHERING

You are invited to join the Disciple Men for a monthly Monday morning "Coffee Chat." Our next Coffee Chat will happen Monday, December 1st, from 7:00 am to 8:30am.

It is a men's get together to meet and get to know one another. The concept is to drop by whenever it is convenient and depart when it is convenient for you.

The location is the **Yellow Dog (222 South Porter Avenue) at Porter and Eufaula**, just down from the church and across the street from Hiland Dairy. Parking is on the street and behind their shop.

Please come and join us!

CHRISTMAS STORE

If you are interested in helping out the Christmas Store teen department during shopping times please call Ginger Martin at 405-326-2543 to volunteer. The dates are Dec. 8-11 at the new address of 1030 N Flood. .

IN THE CHURCH FAMILY...

Steve Nelson has been released from Norman Regional Hospital.

Mason Marriott has been released from OU Children's Hospital.

Sympathy is extended to John, Pam, Brandon and Morgan Bell and their families following the death of John's mother, Stephanie Bell who died November 8, 2025.

IN MEMORIAM

Stephanie Ann Bell

February 26, 1941 - November 8, 2025

ADVENT BOOK AVAILABLE

Again this year, members of the church have provided writings for a book of daily reflections during the season of Advent. Along with the writings which include scripture and prayer, the book entitled *Christ Came Down* also has pictures to enhance our preparations for the birth of Christ. Our thanks to all the contributors to this year's excellent Advent book, and to editor Catherine Bennett and producer Ashley Atherton. The Advent books will be available for you this Sunday, November 30th!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT COMING

The annual Christmas Festival, including the Pageant led by the Logos Children's Choir, is scheduled for Sunday evening, December 7th at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We look forward to this annual event, which in addition to the Pageant includes the Tasting Party in the Fellowship Hall after the Pageant and the presentation of gifts to the Cleveland County Christmas Store, as we bring our gifts forward to the steps of the Chancel after the Pageant and before the Tasting Party.

We ask you, as you are out shopping, to please pick up a gift for the Teen Department of the Christmas Store, which is sponsored by First Christian Church. You are encouraged to purchase *gifts for the teens including basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, make-up kits, art kits, hoodies and sweat-shirts, cologne or perfume sets, or if you prefer, a check made out to First Christian Church and designated for the Christmas Store*. Your gifts are to be brought—unwrapped—on the night of the Pageant.

We look forward to this annual, joyful Christmas tradition!

B.I.B.L.E. CLASS

B.I.B.L.E. Class will be showing a Thanksgiving film on Sunday after Thanksgiving (Nov. 30th) after church services, roughly noon. All are welcome. Parents of young children --use your discretion.

POINSETTIAS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

As in past years, the sanctuary and church will be decorated with beautiful red poinsettias. The poinsettias have been ordered, and all you need do is contact the church office by phoning (405-329-2192) or emailing stephanie@fccnorman.org to indicate to whom the poinsettia is given (in memory or appreciation) as well as who is the giver. The cost of the poinsettia is \$14 and you may pay by cash, check, or card. Thank you for beautifying the church during this wonderful season of the year!

ChARM DECEMBER EVENTS:

Saturday, December 6 – Noon in the Church Fellowship Hall we will have our annual ChARM Christmas Party Extravaganza! The entrée will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please let Stephanie know that you plan to attend just in case there might be a surprise coming your way... Thank you to Kaye Shields who is providing our Christmas entertainment called *Love Songs and Fun Songs of the 50's and 60's* plus a special Kaye Shields' Surprise!

Tuesday, December 16 - We will meet at Church at 4:30pm and enjoy dinner at La Herencia Mexican Restaurant. Please wear your ChARM shirt or sweatshirt if possible. Following dinner, we will take the buses to tour the Midwest City Holiday Lights Spectacular at Joe B. Barnes Regional Park. We will drive thru Automobile Alley as well as look at the fabulous lights in The National, Autograph Collection in what was previously the First National Bank Building. Please RSVP to Stephanie as we have 3 seats remaining.

UPCOMING INFANT AND FAMILY DEDICATION

The dedication of families and infants to Christian family life is scheduled for **Sunday, December 14th at both the 8:40 and 10:45 services**. If you would like to participate in this service, please contact the church office by calling 405-329-2192 or emailing ashley@fccnorman.org, and be sure to include the name of the child to be dedicated, the date of birth of the child, and the parents' names. We look forward to this delightful time of dedication!

THE YOUTH WANT YOUR SODA CAN TABS!

We continue to collect soda can tabs that will go to Ronald McDonald House Charities in Oklahoma City. Please drop off your tabs in the church office or to Rev. Shannon Cook. (Please bring just the tabs, not the entire can or lid! At this time, we cannot take pet food or canned food lids with the tabs—please remove the tabs!)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Two of our CYF youth organized a food drive at their school and distributed food to those in the community on Sunday afternoon. Thank you for living your faith out loud with compassion and kindness!

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.

November 26—No youth meetings

December 3—Advent Study

Sunday, December 7—Logos Christmas Program and Tasting Party—Chi Rho and CYF will help with the tasting party and are invited to arrive at 5:15 p.m. All youth are also invited to help after the program with the donations made to the Christmas Store.

December 10—Christmas Party and Gift Exchange—The theme for gifts this year is “Country Christmas”—think cowboys, western and southwest themes! Chi Rho and CYF youth are invited to bring a gift for any gender that costs no more than \$15. (If you need help with providing a gift, please contact Rev. Shannon Cook. A gift can easily be provided for each youth. No one present will go home without a gift!)

****Please note that dinner on December 10th is at CiCi's pizza. Chi Rho youth can be picked up AT CiCi's at 7:00 p.m. and CYF youth can meet AT CiCi's at 6:30 p.m!**

December 17, 24, and 31—No Youth

January 7—No Youth

January 14—Return to school year schedule at Hey Day!

Church Calendar

November 27, 2025– Thursday

Happy Thanksgiving!

NPS/MDO Closed

Church Office Closed

November 28, 2025– Friday

NPS/MDO Closed

Church Office Closed

8:30 a.m. Advent Decorating

11:30 a.m. College Lunch– Gaberino's

November 29, 2025

9:00 a.m. Youth Game Day Car Parking

2:30 p.m. OU vs. LSU

November 30, 2025– Sunday

Advent Begins

Congregational vote following both services

8:40 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Church School

10:45 a.m. Worship

December 1, 2025– Monday

7:00 a.m. Disciple Men Coffee Chat

-Yellow Dog

5:15 p.m. Evensong– Chapel

6:30 p.m. Handbells

December 2, 2025– Tuesday

10:00 a.m. DoCWM Council– C.R.

INFANTS – PRE-K FROLIC WORSHIP

Our attendants who care and teach the infant–Pre-K children continue to create a safe and nurturing environment. Sunday, through story, play and craft the children explore a Bible story each week. Each Sunday the children experience a Bible story and craft. 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. Sunday we begin our journey to Bethlehem and Jesus' birth with themes from the book and movie, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*.

LOGOS

December schedule

3rd – Logos ends at 7:00pm (Pageant Rehearsal)

7th – 9:30am: meet in the children's Voyage area to rehearse

10:45am: sing during worship

5:30pm: Arrive at the church

6:00pm: Christmas Pageant, followed by the Tasting Party

13th – Service Night and CiCi's

HYMNS FOR SUNDAY

Come, O Long Expected Jesus (125)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (160)

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates (129)

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

WORSHIP PODCAST

The morning prayer, anthem, scripture, and sermon are now available each week in podcast form. Simply search Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or Spotify for "First Christian Church of Norman." You can also listen right in your browser at podcast.fccnorman.org.

ACCESSING LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

Sunday 10:45 worship will be livestreamed so you can watch or listen from your computer, tablet, or smartphone. Simply search Facebook for "First Christian Church of Norman" or, if you aren't on Facebook, point your browser to <http://live.fccnorman.org> for links to stream on YouTube and other social media platforms. If you are not able to watch live, the video will be available for later viewing. To access the church homepage please visit <http://fccnorman.org>.

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for your faithful stewardship that makes possible the excellent work of the church in its many ministries of outreach, education, worship, care, and fellowship. As a reminder, you may send your contributions to the church in one of several ways...

*Checks can be mailed to the church at 220 South Webster Avenue, Norman, OK 73069.

*Calling the church office (329-2192) and charging on a debit or credit card.

*Setting up a recurring weekly or monthly payment from a checking, savings, debit or credit card.

*Givelify—you can give from your computer or mobile device by visiting <http://give.fccnorman.org> to donate online or search your device's app store for the Givelify app.