



# *The Norman Christian*

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

*405/329-2192*

[www.fccnorman.org](http://www.fccnorman.org)

September 16, 2025

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## **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025**

*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

8:40 a.m. Worship

9:00/9:30 a.m. Church School

10:45 a.m. Worship

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

Scripture: I John 5: 1-5 & Acts 5: 17-20

Sermon: *Able to Commit*

Worship & Wonder: Noah

***Evensong Worship***

***Monday, October 6th, at 5:15 p.m.— Chapel***

## **LOGOS NEED**

Our talented Logos cooks are in search of a blender for the kitchen; if you would like to donate a gently used blender, please let me know:) - eula@fccnorman.org

## **RECONCILIATION OFFERING**

***September 21st and 28th***

The vision of Reconciliation Ministry is to build a new reality in which we live into God's realm by celebrating our unity, affirming the cultural traditions of each member of the body of Christ and working together for justice to ensure radical welcome and access to God's abundant resources. We envision a church in which all communities are accountable to one another and God.

Reconciliation Ministry advances the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)'s journey toward wholeness by empowering each expression of the Church to implement structural change to address historic fractures caused by racism and the systems that perpetuate it. It is the goal of our shared work to foster life-giving community within our church and in relationship with the whole family of God. We accomplish this mission through intentional dialogue, inclusive worship and experiential education.

## **SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH UPDATE**

The Senior Minister search committee had a productive summer. Below is a brief update of our work as well as some background information.

Before concluding his term as Interim Regional Minister, Rev. Randy Kuss worked with our committee and on our behalf to seek out potential candidates. This included persons actively searching for a new ministry position and some not actively searching that we asked him to contact on our behalf. Rev. Michael Davison, our new Regional Minister, has picked up this work and continues to work on our behalf within the boundaries of the search and call process.

This summer, we have received and reviewed ministerial profiles of candidates and so far have held a first round of interviews with three candidates. As interviews began in August, Rev. Davison reminded the committee about confidentiality. "The process, how we are serving the congregation, is open, but the candidates and conversations with candidates are confidential." He has also reminded us that our denomination is a small family. Our confidentiality protects potential candidates, their congregations, and our own here at First Christian Church.

We are encouraged and appreciate your patience and prayers to sustain us as we continue on this journey on behalf of the congregation. If you have questions, please contact me and I will share what I can within the boundaries of our covenant of confidentiality.

Thank you for your prayers for the committee's work.

*Helen Green*

## **DISCUSSION I**

***Reflections on the mission trip***

The Discussion Group I will have a program Friday, September 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parlor. It will be reflections on the Mission Trip with Shannon Cook and Bart Hanna sharing what the youth and adults did and learned on the mission trip to New Mexico this summer.

The group has a covered-dish supper before the program and welcomes others to come and share this evening.

## **PATHFINDERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

The Pathfinders Class has relocated to the Conference Room. We meet every Sunday morning from 9:30 am to 10:30 am

Right now, we are on a journey through a five-film series. In this series, Miguel De La Torre exposes illusions of salvation separated from justice and reveals how Christianity is complicit in oppressive systems.

Through raw and prophetic truth-telling, he calls us to a gospel of solidarity—one that does not find comfort in hope without cost but instead learns to sit in the agony of injustice.

This series challenges viewers to reflect on their faith, asking: What does salvation mean when it is disconnected from justice? Where is God among today's crucified? How do we practice a faith that supports the oppressed rather than benefiting from their suffering?

Please email Tom ([tom@fccnorman.org](mailto:tom@fccnorman.org)) for questions. Thank you!

## **NEWS FROM DISCIPLES OF CHRIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**

The DoCW Council met earlier this month and discussed the Central Area Disciples Women's meeting that we hosted in August. Attendance was light due to a rainy morning, but our church had twenty-four members representing us. We had lots of nice comments from those attending from other churches in the Central Area. Thank you to those of you who attended and to those who prepared, served, and cleaned up after the event.. It is always a wonderful opportunity to begin our new year. Please plan to attend the next Central Area Disciples Women's meeting on Tuesday, October 28.

Coming up on Saturday, November 8 we will have our bazaar. If you sew, knit, crochet, paint, quilt, make cards, or do any craft, now is the time to begin preparing for the bazaar. This year we have invited outside vendors. We will also have an area to donate unused craft items to sell. So if you have "stuff" leftover from a craft you no longer need, please think about donating those supplies. We'll have our usual bake sale and frozen food sale. All items can be brought to the church on Friday, November 7 after 9:00. The bazaar is scheduled from 9:00-3:00 on Saturday. We'll have two shifts for workers: 8:30-12:30 and 12:00-4:00. If you can't work a full shift, come to help whenever you can. All women of the church are invited to be part of this fundraiser.

## **IN THE CHURCH FAMILY...**

Stephanie Gasaway is in Mercy South Hospital.

Sympathy is extended to Emily and Anthony Stoops along with their children Henry and Sophie following the death of Emily's sister, Elizabeth Gosma, who died Thursday, August 28th.

## **ChARM UPCOMING FUN...**

Friday, September 26– 8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Sunny Side Up in Moore. Everyone will need to meet us there as we will not take the Church bus this time. Your host will be Jim Gasaway– you won't want to miss breakfast with him! Please RSVP so I may give the restaurant a number to expect as the date gets closer.

Monday, September 29– Noon 5th Monday Potluck in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share. Dutch Albert is our speaker!

## **DISCIPLE STANCE CLASS**

The Disciple Stance class, a three week introduction to the beliefs and practices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) began September 14th and will continue the 21st and 28th at 9:30 a.m. in room 306 (formerly the Pathfinders Room). The class is for those who have been visiting or recently joined, or who would like a refresher course about the Disciples of Christ Church in general and the mission and ministries of First Christian Church in particular, along with its worship practices, its observance of baptism and communion, and its polity and organization. The class will be led by Rev. Dr. Steve Graham & Elder Bart Hanna.

You do not need to make a reservation for the class; simply come to room 306 on Sunday at 9:30, if you missed the first class feel free to come on the 21st or 28th. If you have any questions, please reach out to the church office.

## **BOOK CLUB**

The Sunday afternoon book club facilitated by Rev. Dr. Catherine Bennett takes place on September 28th **at 4:00 p.m.** meeting in the Study and Share Classroom! The book for September is entitled *Dust Bowl Girls* by Lydia Reeder and can be picked up in the Study and Share Classroom.

## **WOMEN'S FALL BIBLE STUDY**

Listening and Learning--a fall study for women beginning on September 11 through November 20. Thursday mornings, 9:30 to 11 in the Chapel. We will pay attention to scriptural phrases and the people around you, listening and learning as we step from information and reformation, seeking transformation. Questions? Gala Van Eaton 405-826-8518.

## 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 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades and CYF is for youth in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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.

September 17—Prayer Stations

September 24—Fellowship and Games

October 1—Study: Why does the Bible contradict itself at times?

October 8—No Youth—NPS Fall Break

October 15—Service Project: College Care Packages

October 22—Fellowship and Games

Sunday, October 26—Fall Carnival! Youth are welcome to stay after church (lunch will be provided) to help set up for the event. We will also need help with cleanup, which should take less than an hour. Youth should be done by 5 p.m. at the latest! Service hours can be earned at this event.

October 29—All Saint's Day

All Chi Rho and CYF youth must have a registration on file by the first meeting in August! Visit <https://fccnorman.shelbnextchms.com/external/form/13cde659-783d-4d92-9157-9bfd113a1d85> to fill out the registration form.

## SAFETY IN ACTION: TRAINING FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

As part of our Safe Children's Protection Policy, all volunteers who serve with children and youth are invited to a *Safety in Action* training on Sunday, September 28, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Ronni Roney, Education Director at the Abbott House, will be our presenter. A light lunch will be provided. We appreciate your commitment to keeping our children safe! Please RSVP to [eula@fccnorman.org](mailto:eula@fccnorman.org) by 9/21/2025.

## LOGOS CHILDCARE ATTENDANTS NEEDED:

Do you have a heart for caring for little ones?

Our Logos Children's Ministry is looking for two dedicated childcare attendants to help care for our youngest children (pre-K and under) during our Wednesday afternoon program.

Details:

Position: Childcare Attendant (2 positions available)

Paid position

When: Wednesdays, 2:15 PM – 6:30 PM

Who: Caring for children pre-K and under



Oklahoma Disciples Women's Fall Retreat 2025

## Finding God in the Midst

...of learning  
...of serving  
...of prayer and worship  
...of balancing life

*I love those who love me,  
and those who seek me find me.  
Proverbs 8:17 (NIV)*

### Camp Christian

Chouteau, OK 74337  
October 3-4, 2025

- Break-out sessions
- Great Fellowship
- Missionary Moments
- Praise and prayers
- Labyrinth
- Inspiring Presenters
- Worship
- Good food

Arrive 4pm to 6pm Friday, dinner served at 6pm  
Closing Communion at 2:30pm Saturday

**Register by September 22**  
Pay Online! \$75 for over night. \$45 Saturday only  
Scholarships available but must be in by September 12

[www.okdisciples.org](http://www.okdisciples.org)  
Contact Marilyn Bohlender, ODW President  
580-483-5110 for questions



## Church Calendar

### September 17, 2025– 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

### September 18, 2025– Thursday

9:30 a.m.	Women's Fall Bible Study
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### September 21, 2025– Sunday

#### *Reconciliation Offering*

8:40 a.m.	Worship
9:30 a.m.	Church School
9:30 a.m.	Disciples Stance Class
10:45 a.m.	Worship
5:00 p.m.	Nancy Chess– Rosa Mezcal

### September 22, 2025– Monday

6:00 p.m.	Membership Meeting
6:30 p.m.	Handbells

### September 23, 2025– Tuesday

6:00 p.m.	Cabinet Meeting– Parlor
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## INFANTS – PRE-K FROLIC WORSHIP

Our attendants who care and teach the infant–Pre-K children continue to create a safe and nurturing environment while introducing them to faith through story, play, games, and crafts, complementing the weekly Bible story. Last week the children's lesson focused on *Walking with Jesus*. Kandice ensures that the children stay engaged every Sunday morning.

## VOYAGE INTO DISCIPLESHIP

Children, kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, gather every Sunday to set sail from the third floor in the children's education area at 9:30am. Our Voyage currently takes us through the creation stories as children learn about the importance of caring for God's creation. This past Sunday, we continued our voyage through the second creation story in Genesis 2, *Creation the Sequel*. As we continue to explore Genesis 2's creation story, all the children enjoyed the movie, *The Lorax*, looking for connections to the second creation story. Next week we will make a creation snack and finish the movie.

## LOGOS

Our Agents in Action continue to experience the Bible stories that come alive in new ways; each week there is a code that the children must unlock to uncover our theme. We have extra handbooks if needed, and the magnets will be ready soon. The children continue their rehearsals to sing during the 10:45am worship service on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

## 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>.

## HYMNS FOR SUNDAY

*O God of Vision* (288)

*For the Healing of the Nations* (668)

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* (540)

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](http://podcast.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.