



The Norman Christian

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

405/329-2192

www.fccnorman.org

September 9, 2025

Vol. 84, Number 36

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Fourteenth 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 4: 7-21, Acts 8: 26-40

Sermon: *Willing to Risk!*

Worship & Wonder: Creation

Evensong Worship

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

DISCIPLE STANCE CLASS COMING SOON

The Disciple Stance class, a three week introduction to the beliefs and practices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will take place September 14th, 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 Sunday the 14th at 9:30, or if you cannot make the first class, then feel free to come on the 21st or 28th. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the church office.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP

BEGINS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

The Spiritual Formation Group meets monthly on the second Saturday, from 9 am to 10:30 am, in the Conference Room and FCC Chapel, through May—making it a nine-month intentional spiritual formation journey.

The group will spend about 45 minutes in the Conference Room engaging in “Awakening the Divine.” This series invites participants to explore deep spiritual insights and rediscover the divine presence within and around us. Featuring the wisdom of renowned spiritual leaders James Alison, Jacqui Lewis, Alexander J. Shaia, Barbara A. Holmes, and John Phillip Newell, it encourages a deeper understanding of God, invites us to embrace our divine nature, recognize our interconnectedness, and work to transform our world through love and compassion.

After a short break, the second half will be held in the FCC Chapel. The group will explore various spiritual practices such as contemplative prayer, hospitality, simplicity, and creating a personal rule of life. It also highlights ways to incorporate these practices into daily living.

Thank you!

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?

2025-2026 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

New membership directories are available to pick up in the church gallery or by the church office.

ChARM UPCOMING FUN...

Thursday, September 11 – **POSTPONED**

Friday, September 26 – 8:00am – Take the Church bus to Sunny Side Up in Moore for breakfast or drive your own vehicle and meet us there. Please RSVP either way.

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

ChARM enjoyed an OU vs. Michigan watch party!



IN THE CHURCH FAMILY...

Cruiz Atherton has been released from La Bonheur Children's hospital in Memphis, TN.

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.

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

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.

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.

September 10—Service Project for Food and Shelter

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

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.



Our theme this year, Agents in Action, creates opportunities 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 look forward to a season of growth, discovery, and joy as the children and adults learn and share together. We have extra handbooks if needed, and the magnets will be ready soon. Mark your calendars as the Logos Choir will sing during the 10:45am worship service on September 28th.

8 MONTH GIVING STATEMENTS MAILED

The January – August 2025 giving statements were mailed last week to all who have a record of giving to the ministries of First Christian Church for the first 8 months of 2025. If you have any questions regarding your statement of giving, please contact the church office (405 -329-2192) and ask for Stephanie Gasaway, our Administrative Assistant. Thank you for your generous support of the mission and ministries of First Christian Church.

NEW ASSISTIVE LISTENING TECHNOLOGY IN SANCTUARY

Auracast is a new technology that allows for some hearing aids, earbuds, and headphones to receive a digital audio signal being broadcast by an Auracast transmitter. Auracast transmitters will become common in public spaces over time and can be used not just for hearing aids and assistive listening, but also in places like restaurants and workout facilities where there may be a variety of audio sources that guests or customers might want to listen to—for example, a gym with many TVs. In the last year, some hearing aid brands have introduced models that support Auracast: ReSound, Jabra, and Beltone all have capable models. Phonak, Philips, and Signia have indicated that some of their models will receive future firmware updates allowing them to receive the Auracast signal. The church has purchased and installed an Auracast transmitter for the sanctuary, and you may have seen Jeff Champeau and Stephanie Gasaway in worship testing it in recent weeks. We also purchased two standalone Auracast receivers that can be used with headphones, and they will be kept in the northwest corner of the Sanctuary. If you'd like to try one, pick it up before worship and return it to the charging base after. The existing telecoil/loop-based system has not been affected and will remain in place.

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
Contact Marilyn Bohlender, ODW President
580-483-5110 for questions



Church Calendar

September 10, 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 11, 2025

9:30 a.m. Women's Fall Bible Study

September 13, 2025– Saturday

9:00 a.m. Spiritual Formation Group

September 14, 2025– Sunday

8:40 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Church School
9:30 a.m. Disciples Stance Class
10:45 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Fellowship Luncheon

September 15, 2025– Monday

6:30 p.m. Handbells

September 16, 2025– Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Lucile Springer– 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 while introducing them to faith through story, play, games, and crafts, complementing the weekly Bible story. Last week the children heard the Bible story of Jonah and made a very fun craft to tell the Bible story themselves. Kandice ensures that the children stay 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. 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 began our voyage through the second creation story in Genesis 2, *Creation the Sequel*. The kindergarten – 2nd graders read, *We Were All Farmers Once*. A story based on Genesis 2 from the *Growing in God's Love*, story Bible. The 3rd – 5th grade students compared the order of creation in Genesis 2 with Genesis 1 finding similarities and differences. All the children worked together to "create" God's creation from Genesis 2, using modeling dough. We continue our Journey through creation this Sunday, September 14th on our Journey.

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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (2)

I Cannot Dance, O Love (290)

When in Awe of God's Creation (688)

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.

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.