

FBCOKC – A family of faith, growing in God’s love, striving to be faithful.



Church family, I loved worshipping with you on Sunday. No matter what I have been through during the week, I find comfort and encouragement on Sunday mornings. There is something important about gathering all together to sit before God. On Sunday we studied Jesus’s teachings on prayer in Matthew 6.

Part of what we talked about is the difference between knowing about God and actually knowing God. Last week I read an article written by a man I respect a lot, a former youth minister turned middle school principal, Jake Schulte. He put forward an example that resonated with me. Consider a student who is studying the ocean, he wrote. That student can learn all the facts, they can learn about currents and tides and fish and plankton. She can proudly stand before their classmates and recite all she knows. But take her to the ocean, let her feet sink into the sand and feel the warmth of the waves as they crash into her. Let her look out at the magnitude and majesty of the ocean. Let her feel for just a moment how awesome and powerful the ocean is and how very small she is, and she will come to realize how little she understood by only studying the facts.

You are invited by our Heavenly Father to know him personally. Prayer is an invitation into a deeper relationship with God. I want to encourage you to spend time praying the Lord’s Prayer this week. See if there are parts of it that you connect with more one day. I have a practice of praying “Give me today Lord what I need today” every day. It centers me on God, it pulls me back from fearing things that may happen in the future, and it reminds me that God is more than enough for me today. What part speaks to you? Find a way that works for you. Maybe you need to pray out loud. Maybe you will pray best writing in a journal or sitting in a quiet room. Find a way that you are best able to focus and turn your heart to God, even if just for a few minutes.

I can’t wait to gather this Sunday for worship as we look to Matthew 7. After worship we will gathering in our Dining Hall for our First Family Feast of the New Year! We are providing fried chicken. Please bring sides and desserts enough to share! Bring cards or dominos and enjoy spending time together. I am thankful for this season in our church where love and peace reign and God is moving. I pray God would continue to shape us into the people he’s calling us to be. **Blessings.** ~Sarah



FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY



Month of Prayer: Commit to praying for the church every day during the month of January. Choose a time each day you will stop and ask God to lead our church.

Lord we lift up FBCOKC to be a lighthouse in our city. Help us be generous and loving in our neighborhood. Let us love as we are learning to love ourselves. Continue to renew our hearts with your peace and prosperity in this place where you have planted us. Bless each individual home and family for your glory. AMEN.

Week One: Pray for ministers, deacons, worship leaders, teachers, facilitators, speakers, and staff.

Week Two: Pray for the adults at FBC from young to less young, senior, and homebound.

Week Three: Pray for the children and youth at FBC.

Week Four: Pray for the spiritual gifts that God is revealing to all the behind-the-scenes workers and

volunteers at FBC to include children and youth workers, committees, CareforOKC workers, mission project planners, event planners, those who fix meals, those that work with our finances, greeters, and those who visit the sick and homebound. Lord help us to exercise our gifts in love.



Join us this Sunday, February 5 after worship in the Fellowship Hall for our First Family Feast! The church will be providing delicious fried chicken and you are invited to bring sides or a dessert. All are welcome!



If you haven't taken your directory photo, this is the time! You have until the end of February to send in your photo or come take it on February 5th during the Feast!

FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY

Reading the Bible through 2023

Bible Reading: This past year we were all invited to read through the Bible together. Did you finish? Are you part of the way there? Maybe you weren't ready to meet the challenge last year. Here's our plan:

- If you finished, CONGRATULATIONS! Well done! I want to invite you to begin again today. The Bible Project is offering this year to provide weekly emails with your Bible reading plan. You may choose to do the same plan or start a different plan.
- If you are stuck in the middle, keep going! You are doing great! It is really challenging to get through the whole Bible, but there is so much value in reading it cover to cover. It is only in doing this that we can get a fuller and richer picture of our God. You can decide to start over at the beginning or to keep going until you finish it this year. The choice is yours!
- If you never got started, today is your day! Decide this day to spend time reading God's word this year. It only takes about 20 minutes a day to read through the Bible in a year! You can do it.

Below you will find the link to choose a Reading Plan and sign up for weekly emails. These emails come with short videos that help give an overview of each book as you are reading through your plan. If you click on the link, scroll down to where it says "Read the Bible in a Year" and enter your email. I would love for you to share with me what you've decided. I want to celebrate with you if you finished, encourage you if you are still going, and challenge you to begin. *Sarah*

<https://bibleproject.com/reading-plans>

World Mission Opportunities

Cleaning supplies needed for our Hope Is Alive (HIA) missions partner

During the Month of September, HIA is doing a supply drive! HIA provides help for recovering drug and alcohol addicts by offering a beautiful home and mentoring in a three-phase, eighteen-month program. Residents pay rent, are regularly drug tested, must be employed or attending school and attend worship services regularly.

Help us provide this needed support by helping with these cleaning supplies.



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- TOILET PAPER
- PAPER TOWELS
- KITCHEN TRASH BAGS
- GALLON TRASH BAGS
- PLEDGE
- WINDEX
- MAGIC ERASERS
- COMET
- ALL-PURPOSE CLEANER
- CLOROX WIPES
- HAND SOAP
- FABULOSO FLOOR CLEANER
- SWIFFER JET REFILLS
- SWIFFER JET PADS
- SCRUBBING BUBBLES
- GLASS CLEANER
- DAWN DISH SOAP
- LYSOL
- FEBREZE
- TOILET BOWL CLEANER
- MULTI-SURFACE CLEANER

FBCOKC—Come be *YOU* with *US*!

FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY

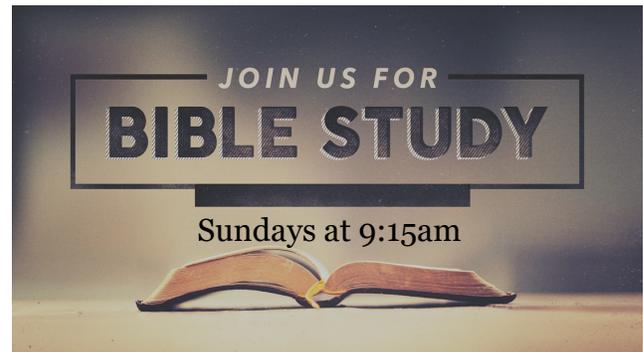
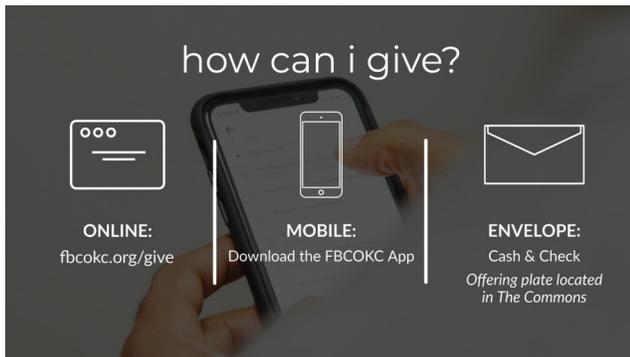


Spotlight

February 1-5

Since their inception in 1990, Africa Renewal has planted more than 700 churches, trained over 2,700 leaders, and sponsored 15,000-plus children through the combined efforts of their team and countless volunteers, donors, and sponsors. With our help, they can reach more people with the gospel, train up transformational Christian leaders, and build Communities of Hope throughout Uganda. Find out more about African Renewal Ministries at <https://africarenewal.org/>.

Prayer Request: As we learn more about Africa Renewal Ministries this month, pray that God will show us as a church how we can partner with them in sharing God’s love to the people of Uganda.



FBCOKC Ministers and Staff

- Sarah Stewart, Pastor.....232-4255 extension 121
- Brad Stewart, Minister for Discipleship232-4255 extension 123
- Ariel Koerner, Minister for Young Families.....232-4255 extension 122
- Steven McConnell, Minister of Music.....cell: 405-246-6687
- Don Clothier, Pianist.....cell: 405-408-2145
- Justin Keiser, Facilities Manager.....232-4255 extension 124, cell: 405-968-5962
- Toni Adams, Executive Ministry Associate..... 232-4255 extension 112