



AUGUST 2026

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FIRST CONNECT

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LETTER FROM SARAH



Dear Wonderful Church Family,

You are so good. You are full of love and such deep wisdom. In our congregation, we have an incredible wealth of Biblical knowledge across all ages. We have deep roots in our city and our world. We believe in Jesus and everything he taught us. We are striving to put into practice his teachings (imperfectly but sincerely). You know how to care for each other well and welcome new friends to the fold.

You know how to serve and show grace when serving is tough. You are an encouraging church family. What a joy it is to be a part of this extraordinary community of humble, grace-filled saints. Our church has a rich history, and God is writing our story right now for who we will be in the future.

On Sunday, we shared that we are starting a Catch-up Campaign. The goal of this campaign is to help us with the deficit that we have incurred this year. To be clear, we are not in debt. We have roughly 4 months of operating budget in our reserve account. Our expenses simply exceed our tithes and offerings. The deacons and finance committee have spent the past several months praying over our giving and God's provision. We have watched as the monthly giving has increased and is getting closer to the monthly need. God is so good to allow us to be a part of his kingdom work!

Here's what I see:

- Our church is growing younger. It's wonderful. The largest growing group in our church now is the 20 to 35 age group. This is an incredible gift from God. The young adults God has brought our way are so gifted and passionate for the Lord. They love this church. We have a growing children's ministry and youth ministry.
- Our church puts the first things first. We care deeply about our mission, not our method. You are open to trying new things and growing. You know what matters and what doesn't. This is not a small thing!
- Our church is outward-focused. We love our community, and you do such a beautiful job serving our neighbors through our missions partners.
- Our church has a vibrant small group ministry that is growing each year. This is one of the best ways to grow in your faith and in connection with other believers. This is the easiest access point for visitors and new members to find meaningful relationships.
- We have an incredible church building that is constantly being revitalized and utilized. You would be blown away if you only knew how many different groups, churches, non-profits, schools, preachers, and organizations use the building all the time. It is a kingdom-building community church.

LETTER FROM SARAH

· We have healthy relationships and honor one another. We aren't perfect, but we work really hard to lead with love and grace. We talk to each other and not about each other. That is so rare! We are real with each other. No one has to put on a metaphorical mask to find a home with us. We are all just doing our best to move in closer to Jesus and help others do the same.

I just listed all the signs of a healthy, vibrant church experiencing a revival. It's just scary when a church grows younger because it hits the budget. But God is good, and he will use us to provide all we need to continue following his lead. So, will you join us in laying down the foundation for the next generation? And the generation after that? I can't wait to see what God will do when we step out in faithful obedience. Love you all. ~**Sarah**

UPCOMING EVENTS

CareForOKC

Large deliveries scheduled for August 3rd and 17th. Come at 9am if you are able help unload. We can always use help stocking shelves, come on Mondays if you are able to help. Come join us on August 22nd from 10am-1pm for a workday in our clothing closet. CareForOKC will be closed on Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day.

Kid's Night Out, August 14th

More info on page 5

Youth Hangout, August 16th

More info on page 5

Book Club Invite

Join us on Sunday, August 30th after worship in the library for book club. This month we are reading *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. This book is an exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope, tracing a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus.

Youth Hangout, September 4th

More info on page 5

Elementary Retreat, September 18-19

More info on page 5

First Family Feast

On September 27th, we will come together for a family feast in the dining hall immediately following the church service.

Youth Hangout, September 27th

More info on page 5

RECENT EVENTS

KID'S CAMP 2026



SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON



KIDS AND YOUTH



July has been a busy month! If you didn't know, I have been moving. David and I moved back into my parent's house so we can help take care of my father. He isn't home yet and we are still getting settled, but we hope he is able to come home soon. Pray that our house, once on the market, sells fast and for my family as we start this new journey in our lives.

July also brought kid's camp! It was such a fun time. The theme was Vamos! Let's Go! The kids learned about EduK in Tepepilli, Mexico and the work they are doing for the children there. They also learned about Esther and other stories that show people doing God's will, even when it is hard.

"So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us."

-Hebrews 12: 1a

Kid's Night Out, August 14th

Join us for a night of SUPERHEROS! Come dressed in your favorite Superhero costume/clothes. We will start in the gym at 6pm with dinner and end at 9pm in the Kid's area with a movie. All kids are welcome, infant to 5th grade. Let me know if your kid(s) plan to be there!

Youth Hangout, August 16th

We are FINALLY going to watch the Hobbit (1977 Animated version). Join us in the youth center after church for lunch and a movie. Parents of youth, if you want to join, you are more than welcome. Let me know if your youth will be there.

Youth Hangout, September 4th

Join us on Friday night at 6pm for a Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring movie night! We will have a light dinner and enjoy the movie.

Elementary Retreat, September 18-19

Elementary Retreat is for anyone in 1st grade through 5th grade. THIS IS AN OVERNIGHT EVENT. We will start at 6pm and end at noon the next day. We will have dinner, bible study, play games, and have an overall wonderful time. This is a time to grow closer together and closer to God. The theme for Elementary Retreat is Missions, in our community and in the world. This event is \$25/kid. If your kid is interested in coming, please let me know.

Youth Hangout, September 27th

Join us on after church on Sunday for the Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers watch party! We will have a lunch and enjoy the movie.

Kid's Night Out, October 9th

Join us for a Neon-Glow Kid's Night Out! Come in your best neon and we will have a party! We will start in the gym at 6pm with dinner and end at 9pm in the Kid's area with a movie. All kids are welcome, infant to 5th grade. Let me know if your kid(s) plan to be there!

Youth Retreat, November 6-8

Join us for the annual Youth Fall Retreat. This year we are going to Oakridge Christian Camp in Anadarko, OK. We will build relationships, have bible study and worship, and have fun activities like archery and ax throwing. This even is \$40/youth. If your youth is interested, please let me know.

MISSIONS



Last month (June of 2026), I had the privilege of going to northern Italy and seeing Aaron and Grace Ogburn! We are privileged to support the Ogburns as one of FBCOKC's global mission partners as they serve in Milan and across Italy with Pioneer Bible Translators.

Aaron's role at Pioneer is working with immigrant, refugee, and asylum seeking communities that have come to Europe. Most of these immigrants are coming from north Africa and the Middle East and are desperate for human connection, friendship, and compassion. Building relationships with these communities is one of Aaron's main tasks and he gets to work with Christians across Italy to develop networks of support, care, and hospitality for these refugee communities. They come to Italy representing a wide variety of cultures and languages, and Aaron

seeks to connect them with Scripture in their languages. Scripture for a particular language may have already been developed or it may be a current project that Pioneer is working on.

Grace has the privilege of working on translation projects! While based in Italy, Grace has the opportunity to work on a wide array of projects happening around the world. Right now, she's working primarily with projects in Africa coming alongside translation teams to help them translate God's Word into languages that have never heard the gospel story in their native tongue. The end goal is to make sure the Scriptures are translated faithfully and communicate clearly the story of God and our story as God's people.

I look forward to sharing more about my time with the Ogburns and their ministry in Italy in the coming months! Please continue to pray for God's provision as they seek to be faithful to the work for which they have been called!

Use the QR Code or link below to learn more and subscribe to the Ogburn's newsletter!



<https://pioneerbible.us14.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=ode1568971a3fc8b0aaea4e1b&id=c2c6909c90>



SERVING OPPORTUNITIES



But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- Acts 1:8

Jerusalem - Right here in Oklahoma City

Food and clothing ministry, addiction recovery and support, inner-city school ministry

Judea & Samaria - Across Oklahoma & the U.S.

Native American translation work, border/migrant ministry

The Ends of the Earth - Italy, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa

Church planters, refugee support, Muslim ministry, medical missions

Scan the QR code below to give online! On the drop-down menu labeled “Purpose”, choose “World Missions Offering”.



DISCIPLESHIP



Small Group Start-Up at FBCOKC

What are Small Groups?

Small groups are intimate gatherings of 8 to 10 people designed to foster community, spiritual growth, and authentic connections outside of large worship services. They typically meet in homes or church spaces to share meals, discuss faith, and pray together. The early church is described in Acts 2:42: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." This highlights the biblical principle that we are not meant to journey through life alone. Therefore, consider praying

about joining a group that can help you grow in your faith and walk faithfully towards Jesus.

When do Small Groups Meet and for How Long?

Groups typically meet weekly or biweekly for 1.5 hours each session. Some groups will meet on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 PM, Sunday evenings at 6:00 PM, and Wednesday mornings at 10:30 AM. Your small group will begin meeting the week of August 12th and will continue until November 18th. Small groups will be open to newcomers throughout the duration of the group.

Where do Small Groups Meet?

Small groups can meet wherever is comfortable and convenient: your home, the church, a café, a library, etc. The environment should foster community, confidentiality, conversation, and connection.

Who are Small Groups For?

Anyone!

Who Can Lead a Small Group?

Anyone committed to growing as a disciple can lead a small group. If you are considering leading a small group, please talk with Sarah or Toni to discuss the opportunity. You may start by co-leading with an experienced leader.

Sign-ups for groups will begin now! Will you challenge yourself to step out of your comfort zone and meet new people? You may find yourself changed, grow spiritually, make new friendships, and experience the unleashing of hope. Join a small group to position yourself to receive God's amazing gift of grace.

I can't wait to begin this fall semester of small groups and see what God has in store for us. Look for sign-up sheets in the commons or contact Toni Adams if you have any questions.

Toni

SENIOR ADULTS

Dear Church Family,

I thought it would be a great idea to start highlighting some of our senior adults. These remarkable individuals have played a significant role in the life of FBCOKC, both past and present. Although many of our senior adults may not be as active as they once were, they continually find ways to contribute to the ministry and activities of FBCOKC. Please enjoy the following article shared by Gene Stewart. **Toni**



I have been asked by Toni Adams, the teacher of my bible study class and Senior Adult minister, to write this article about my Christian experiences, especially at FBC, to introduce our class to the rest of the church.

I would like to tell you about some people of the past who have made great contributions to FBC. While I don't know how much they contributed financially, I want to share some of their impactful actions. I will start with George Miller, who was around 75. He taught the young married men's class

in which I was a member. Joy and I were 28 when we joined FBC in 1958. I had finished my five-year tour as a jet fighter pilot, and we had returned from Taiwan. Joy had been an active Christian most of her life, but even though I accepted Christ when I was fourteen, I only attended church occasionally, so I was not a bible scholar.

George taught me the Bible in depth. It impressed me that Christ had only trained 12 men, one of whom betrayed Him. Add Paul, who was untrained, and you have the primary group who are responsible for the worldwide Christians of today. Now, not everyone is called to be a preacher, but for a church to function in sharing the gospel, the rest of the members were told to share the church's burdens.

George went visiting every Wednesday night, those who had recently visited our church to encourage them to return to our welcoming church. I felt that I should encourage George by going with him. He didn't stop there. He went with other churches' members to different cities to assist churches that needed help. So, I went with him, and later I joined other groups to help with outreach efforts.



Bill Bardwell spent a whole year teaching a class on Bible details, which Joy and I attended; then we served as teachers and department heads for a young people's class. Jay Allen, and Professor and preacher Mack Roark, and later Kristin Rogers held the church together during rough times. Lee Sneed purchased the framing materials and created all the frames for the paintings in the children's area. He also utilized his carpentry skills to assist our church, other churches, and members with various needs. David Swenson and Mrs. Baye provided food for members and the needy for many years. For needs around the church, Ron Staples and Gene Haney have provided help when needed.

To those of whom I haven't mentioned, I also thank and admire, but I lack space to include. The different places Joy and I served in are not what's important. What I am trying to say is that when the Holy Spirit whispers in your ears, you need to listen carefully. If at first you do not understand, pray about it. If necessary, ask someone else to join you in prayer. Say yes; I have never regretted saying yes. **Gene Stewart**

MEMBERS



Ronald Hudson - 8/1

Asher Gates - 8/2

Vera Thomas - 8/3

Will Millar - 8/4

Marti Hayes - 8/4

Duncan Rankin - 8/5

Kevin Driskill - 8/6

Jim Hall - 8/9

Jerry Reese - 8/11

Margaret Marks - 8/18

Doyleen Wester - 8/22

Randy Hill - 8/24

Jim Rosado - 8/25

Sherry Rice - 8/25

Lonnie Stearns - 8/27

Jordan Browne - 8/30

YEAR AT A GLANCE

AUGUST

August 2 Promotion Sunday/Blessing of Backpacks
August 9 Start of Term Feast
August 14 Kid's Night Out

SEPTEMBER

September 7 Labor Day - Office Closed
September 18-19 Elementary Retreat
September 23 Quarterly Business Meeting
September 27 Fall Feast
September 27 Youth Hangout

OCTOBER

October 9 Kid's Night Out
October 24 Trunk or Treat
October 30 Youth Hangout

NOVEMBER

November 6-8 Youth Retreat Anadarko
November 15 Thanksgiving Feast
November 20 Kid's Night Out

DECEMBER

December 2 Annual Business Meeting
December 13 Sounds of the Season
December 20 Christmas Feast
December 24 Taste of Christmas



**Please note: Activities are subject to change*

Love God | Love Others | Make Disciples

Service Times

Sunday Mornings

Bible Study at 9:15am

Worship at 10:30am

Wednesday Evenings

Small Groups and

Children's Activities at 5:30pm

Choir at 7:00pm

FBCOKC Ministers and Staff

Sarah Stewart, Pastor

Brad Stewart, Missions Minister

Toni Adams, Minister for Senior Adults & Discipleship

Ariel Koerner, Minister for Young Families

Steven McConnell, Minister of Music

Don Clothier, Pianist

Justin Keiser, Facilities Manager

Erika Miller, Administrative Assistant

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