

MAY 2026

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FIRST CONNECT

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LETTER FROM SARAH



I do not know what I thought raising three sons would be like, but it is better and wilder than I imagined. I find myself saying to each of them regularly, “You only get one_____.” As the oldest is snow skiing down the steepest face of the mountain, I remind him, “You only get one body, take care of it!” Or as they walk in the doors of their schools, hunched over by the 35 lb. backpack strapped to their backs like a snail carrying its shell, I’ll say, “You only get one back, take care of it.” As they dream about their futures and who God has created them to be, I find myself reminding them that they only get this one life, so make the most of it.

What I hope they learn to see is that some things in life are precious, and we don’t want to waste them. I don’t want them to waste time worrying about insignificant things when they could be dreaming and working toward things that have eternal value. We do not know how many days we will have to walk this earth before God calls us home, but I want to spend my days on what matters, the things of eternal significance. I want to be a part of God shaping the world for his glory and for our good. I want to contribute to the needs of others and help other people experience God’s love and goodness. I want to be a part of something bigger than myself.

I want to gaze into the heavens and marvel at God’s creation and his unfathomable brilliance, creativity, and goodness. I want to look into the eyes of my fellow man and see the person God sees when he looks at them. I want to build a church that will last for generations to come. A place where people come to find community. A place where people come to meet Jesus for the first time and fall in love with who he is. I want to spend my time teaching others how to chase after Jesus. I want to make each person feel so welcome and safe that they have the space to heal, grow, and serve.

Church family, we only get this one life to live. Let’s spend our time on eternal things. Let’s build a church where every believer is growing, thriving, and serving, where everyone feels the call of God on their lives, and everyone is ALL IN. Let’s build a church that stands as a little piece of heaven on earth, filled with God’s goodness and his love. Let’s lay the foundation for the next 50 years of ministry.

Will you join us in supporting the work that God is doing in this place and through your ministry? Will you say yes to serving in new ways and giving in new ways? There is this incredible passage in the Old Testament, in the book of Exodus. It comes right after Moses came down the mountain with the two stone tablets (for the second time). He was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. He had been so near to the Lord that his physical features were shining from God’s light and love. I want that. The Israelites feared that, but wanted to draw near to God in whatever way they could. So, Moses gave them instructions from the Lord on how to build the Tabernacle, which would be a place for them to draw near to the presence of God in a way that they could handle.



LETTER FROM SARAH

In Exodus 35, Moses said to the whole Israelite community: “This is what the Lord has commanded: From what you have, take an offering for the Lord. Everyone willing is to bring to the Lord an offering of gold, silver, and bronze.....” God was inviting them to be a part of building a place for him to dwell and for them to worship. He empowered some of them with gifts to use to do the work. By chapter 36, scripture tells us, “They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning.” They brought so much that Moses had to tell them to stop!

They gave sacrificially. For the rest of their lives, they always remembered that they were a part of building the holy place. They were a part of creating the place where God would dwell with his people, and they could draw near to worship. God has always worked through people. It is for our good that he invites us into his work. Brad and I give to the mission and ministry of First Baptist Church because we believe that God has asked us to give. We want to be a part of the work God is doing and will do in the years to come through this faithful community of believers. For those who already give, thank you. Thank you for the ways you sacrifice so that the church can serve our community and be a light for the nations. Thank you for the ways you are joining with us in creating a place for worship and for people to come to know Jesus for the very first time.

For those who have never made giving a part of their faith journey with Jesus, I want to invite you to lean in more. This is an important way for you to be faithful to following Jesus. We need everyone to give what they can so that we can continue to be the people God has called us to be. Would you consider partnering with us?

We believe in transparency and trust that when we ask God to provide, he will use what we give and make it more than enough. For the first quarter of the year, we are at 63% of the budget. We have no debt, and the church has worked hard to build up a reserve account. We know there are a host of reasons people cannot give at the same level they previously were. We also know that God is more than able to take what we have to offer and make it more than enough. Would you pray with us for God to continue to provide for our needs and pray about joining us in this work through your time and your financial giving?

We’ve only got this one life to live. Let’s make it count. Let’s turn our eyes fully to the Lord and the work set before us. Let’s serve the Lord with joy and pray with hopeful expectations that God is going to continue to provide just what we need at every step.

UPCOMING EVENTS

First Family Feast, May 3rd

Following the worship service, we will gather in the dining hall for our feast. Please mark your calendars! The menu will feature a taco bar and a variety of fixings. A donation for the meal is appreciated. The First Family Feast is an opportunity for fellowship and a great way to strengthen our community.

Dinner for Eight

Find details on page 9.

Mission Trip to Harlingen, TX – POSTPONED

Due to scheduling conflicts, we will be postponing the mission trip to Harlingen, TX. Stay tuned for news and updates on this trip and other ways you can serve here at FBCOKC!

Kid's Night Out, May 29th

Join us for an End of School Bash! We will start in the gym at 6pm and will finish in the Children's area at 9pm with a movie. The theme will be AMAZON RAINFOREST! Dinner will be provided. If you have any questions or if your kids want to come, please let Ariel know!

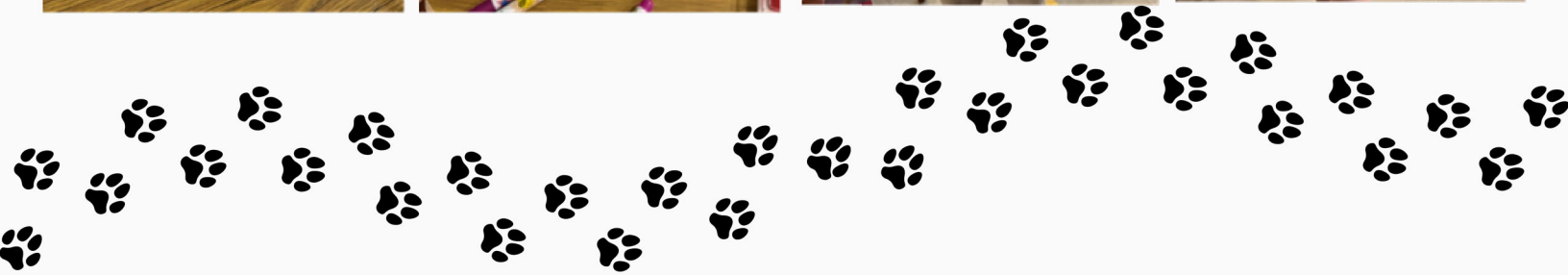
Youth End of School Party, May 31st

Join us for a celebration that school is over! It will be during the afternoon and evening. More details to come.

CareforOKC

- Regional Food Bank deliveries May 4th and May 18th. Any help at 9am is appreciated!
- Clothing room work day on May 30th from 10-1.

RECENT EVENTS



KID'S NIGHT OUT 4.24.2026

We had a blast at kid's night out! April 24th is National Help Animals Day. We decided we would decorate bandanas to take to a shelter to help some dogs and cats get adopted. We talked about favorite animals and how we all love dogs and cats. These kids love helping those in need.

KIDS AND YOUTH



April has been a very fun month! We had Easter and the kid's choir sang beautifully. I am always so proud of them for raising their voices in song to the Lord. On Wednesday nights, we have had craft and lesson time. We learned about following Jesus and about praising God through different types of worship. When we were discussing following Jesus, we talked about how sometimes God calls us to drop everything and follow Him. How might we feel in that moment? One of the Pre-Kindergarteners said, "JUST GO!" That's a great reminder for all of us. Jesus is calling us for a reason. We might think we aren't equipped enough, but Jesus knows we are. Just Go!

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KOB Volunteers

Are you interested in being a volunteer for Kids Off Broadway? It's June 8-12 and this is an all-hands-on-deck event!

If you don't know what KOB is, it is our version of VBS. We have a weeklong camp, and we have kids from 4 years old to 18 years old in our building. We learn songs, have Bible study, build relationships, and have loads of FUN!

I need volunteers for the week and there are so many places you could volunteer. If working with kids is not your strong suit, maybe you could help prep lunch or maybe you are better with younger kids, so you could help in KOB Jr. There are many areas you can serve.

My biggest area of need is in the mornings. From 9-12 each day the kids are doing rotations, and I need 8 adults to help facilitate those rotations (4 teaching and 4 as a group buddy). If you can spare 3 hours of your mornings to help, please let me know.

I have a volunteer table set up in the Commons and I will be there after church each week if you have any questions about volunteering or about KOB in general.

Areas you could serve:

Check In/Out: *Help us check kids in and out for the day*

Group Buddy : *Walk with kids to stations*

Bible Study: *Teach a class*

Wild Games: *Teaching kids games, play games*

Imagination Station: *Do crafts and fun experiments*

Rehearsal: *Learn songs with kids*

Art/Rec: *Help with Art class or Recreation*

Afternoon Activity: *Oversee the fun activity*

KOB Jr: *Work with our Pre-K/Kinder Kids*

MISSIONS



Missionary Focus for May 2026 – CSO Ministries in Southeast Asia

For the remainder of 2026, we will be highlighting one or two of our mission partners each month! This will give our congregation the ability to focus our prayers, learn about what God is doing through our partners, and discover how we can invest in the Kingdom work already taking place. God is moving and we want you to hear these stories. For the month of May, we are focusing on CSO Ministries in Southeast Asia!

CSO serves in a country that is 99.9% Muslim which means they must be intentional about how they share the gospel of Jesus. One of the ways they are currently being the presence of Christ is through their disaster relief work. This region experienced major devastation from a cyclone in late November of 2025 with flash flooding, landslides, high winds, and torrential rains. Countless houses and other structures were destroyed and over 1,100 people lost their lives. Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced. CSO is working with local believers from five local organizations to serve the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those impacted (food packets, village-sized clean water filtration units, hygiene and medicine kits, rebuilding assistance.)

In addition to disaster relief work, CSO is also focusing their efforts on providing people access to Scripture in a variety of ways. They are using Bible apps, TV, websites, movies, and more to communicate the word of God to those who have never heard the name of Jesus! They, along with other partner organizations, have added more than 255 Scripture apps in the local, ethnic, heart languages of the people they serve.

As I read the stories of all God is doing in and through CSO Ministries, I can't help but be filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for their mission and ministry. It's also humbling to remember that God's vision and movement in this world is so much more expansive than I could dream of understanding. When we hear and experience what God is doing through other believers across the world, it gives us a fuller picture of the gospel.

Ways to Pray for CSO:

- Pray for CSO to experience God's mercy and protection as they minister and serve in difficult circumstances. Pray for God to protect them as they follow His voice.
- Pray for God to continue to open up new avenues of ministry where the gospel message can be communicated in creative and unexpected ways.



COMING SOON: In the coming weeks, you will see a Missions Board in the The Commons that displays where our FBCOKC mission partners are in the world, a brief bio and summary of their mission, their prayer needs, and other ways you can support them.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

ONE GIFT. MANY MISSIONS.

A simple way to impact our city, our nation, and our world.

Many people in our church want to give generously but feel overwhelmed, unsure which ministries to trust, how to properly vet them, or how much of their gifts actually reaches the mission field. FBCOKC's Missions Account removes that burden by providing trusted, known partners and ensuring that 100% of designated funds go directly to supporting our ministry partners.

When you give to our church's Mission Account, you help us reach:

Jerusalem - Right here in OKC

- 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

- Church planters, refugee support, Muslim ministry

Why Give Through the FBCOKC Mission Account?

- One-stop-shop giving - one gift, local and global impact
- Strategic partnerships FBCOKC knows personally and prays for regularly
- No administrative overhead - 100% goes to mission partners
- Consistent, long-term partnership beyond one-time projects

Ways to Give

• Give Online

Click on the link below to give to the World Missions Offering! On the drop-down menu labeled "Purpose", be sure to choose "World Missions Offering".

<https://app.aplos.com/aws/give/FirstBaptistChurchOklahomaCity/GiveNow>

You can do one-time gifts or set up an account for recurring payments. If you have questions about online giving, please email tadams@fbcokc.org or call the church office at 405-232-4255.

• Give During Worship

We offer the chance for you to give by placing your offering in the plate that is passed at the end of worship. Envelopes are available in the pew rack.

• Mail A Check

Feel free to mail a check or drop it by the church office during business hours. Our address is:

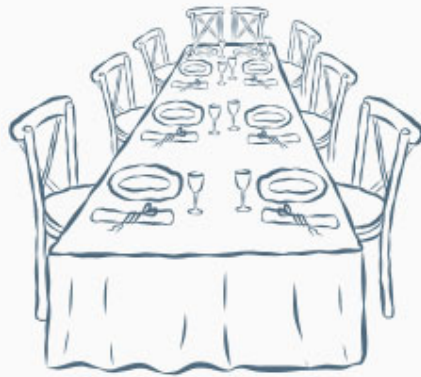
First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City

1201 N Robinson

Oklahoma City, OK 73103

*A huge THANK YOU to Ryan Bowen (Chair of Missions Committee) for crafting this article to encourage us to invest in the WMO!

DISCIPLESHIP



FBC OKC

Dinner for Eight

Summer 2026

Dinner for Eight: Summer 2026

What is DF8?

Dinner for Eight (DF8) is a simple initiative where eight adults share a meal once a month for three months (June, July, and August). This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends, share stories, and have fun together. While we encourage you to aim for three meals, you are welcome to gather more often if you wish. Sign-ups begin on April 27th. You can find sign-up sheets in the Commons, or you can email Toni at tadams@fbcokc.org.

How will the groups be formed?

The purpose of DF8 is to connect our church family more intentionally across different generations, socio-economic backgrounds, races, and marital statuses. The DF8 team will thoughtfully create diverse groups while ensuring that at least one person or couple you already know is included.

Should we eat out at a restaurant or at someone's house?

The choice of location is entirely up to your group once the groups are formed. One member of your group will act as the group leader, responsible for coordinating communication as you decide on the time and place to meet.

There are both advantages and disadvantages to each option. Eating at someone's home is great if someone is willing to host; it typically offers a quieter environment, which can help those who have difficulty hearing, and encourages more meaningful conversations. If no one is able to host, don't worry—just select a fun restaurant to enjoy instead! Dining out can be very enjoyable and also alleviates the responsibility of hosting from any one individual. Be sure to discuss your preferences as a group. And don't forget to capture memories by taking pictures during your meals! If you choose to eat at someone's house, consider playing a simple game afterward that doesn't take much time.

DISCIPLESHIP

Our small groups are coming to an end for the summer. We have had a wonderful year meeting on Sundays and Wednesdays to discuss Sarah's message from Sunday. I have included some pictures of the different groups, as well as a few candid moments during our fellowship together.

I would also like to give special recognition to Judith Hicks for receiving her perfect attendance pin. Judith has maintained perfect attendance in our small groups for three years. Way to go, Judith!

As we wrap up for the summer, please start thinking about joining a small group in September. It's a great way to build community and accountability, all while sharing love for one another.



BUILDING UPDATES

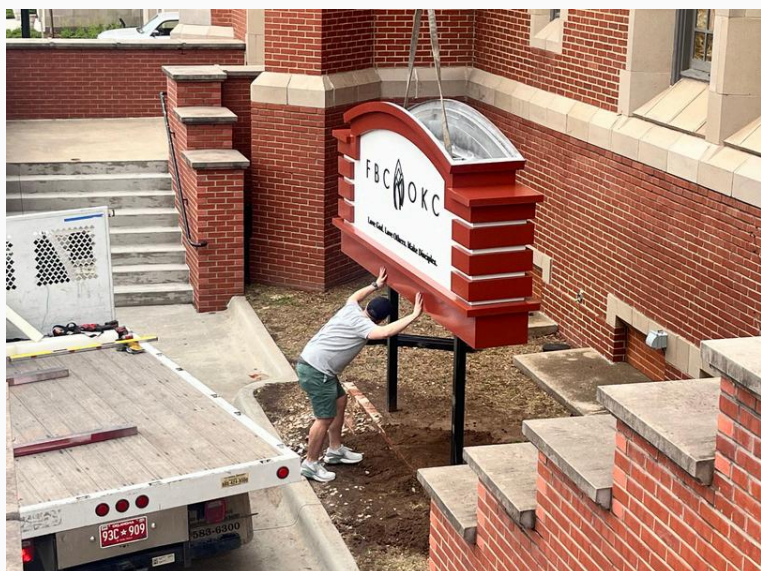
As the Facilities Manager, I have the privilege of stewarding our church building and grounds, ensuring that each repair and improvement reflects our congregation's commitment to our Mission - *Loving God, Loving Others, and Making Disciples*. Over the past four years, we've seen remarkable progress that speaks to this shared dedication.

Most recently, the installation of our new sign on Robinson Street a few weeks ago has enhanced our church's visibility and stands as a symbol of our ongoing care for a welcoming and inspiring environment. This project also includes several next phases of enhancements, including lighting and landscaping to further beautify the space & highlight our mission as inscribed on that sign.

The collaboration, attention to detail, and care we collectively invest in these projects demonstrates the spirit that defines our ministry. From design and preparation to executing installation, every step reflects intentional stewardship, ensuring our facilities support spiritual growth and community engagement.

Looking back, I am deeply grateful for the congregation's trust, which allows us to pursue meaningful improvements—from infrastructure upgrades to landscaping updates and now to projects like the new sign. Each enhancement helps create a more inviting and functional space for worship, fellowship, and outreach.

As we move forward, we remain committed to maintaining and improving our church facilities with purpose and care. Every project, large or small, embodies stewardship, vision, and community dedication, showing that thoughtful planning and teamwork can achieve impactful results. Thank you for your continued support and faithfulness to God through the work of caring for this beautiful place. **-Justin, Minister of Maintenance**



OFFICE UPDATES

WELCOME, ERIKA!

MEET OUR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



I was born and raised in OKC and have made this great state my lifelong home. I met my amazing husband, Craig, at the Baptist church I grew up in and where we both served on staff. We have been married 21 years and have 7 children and 2 dogs. Our three oldest children, Alexandra (Alex), John (Beau), and Lillian (Lily) are all adults and have been our bedrock through foster care and adoption of our four youngest special needs children, Kylie (10), Ruby (10), Abbi (8), and Dakota (2). There is always a birthday to celebrate so we have a lot of family get togethers. We are active in our church and enjoy road-trip vacations. My favorite activities are Bible studies, reading non-fiction, and walking outdoors. One of the ways I give back for all that the Lord has done in my life, I serve on a board of directors for a local ministry that provides transitional housing to homeless single women and their children.

- What is your favorite bible verse?

“A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation.” -Psalm 68:5

- What book are you reading right now?

Theo of Golden by Allen Levi and *Becoming Whole: Why the Opposite of Poverty Isn't the American Dream* by Brian Fikkert and Kelly Kapic

- Favorite snack/drink?

Sweet - frosted brownies; salty - buttered popcorn, and frozen strawberry lemonade

- What are your hobbies?

Reading and whatever my kiddos are in to

- Do you have a favorite worship song/hymn?

Favorite worship song is “Symphony” by Switch or anything by MercyMe

Favorite hymn is “How Firm a Foundation”

MEMBERS



Mick McCarthy – 5/2

Dylan Saucedo – 5/16

Gene Haney – 5/4

Randa Smith – 5/19

James Hennesey – 5/4

Ardyce Dodson – 5/21

Liam Millar – 5/4

Hattie Wagenseller – 5/21

Daphne Kinser – 5/5

Ben Burchfiel – 5/23

Blanca Hernandez – 5/8

Gary Stephenson – 5/23

Rilda Smith – 5/9

Mollie Unruh – 5/28

Tonya Wallace – 5/12

David Yback – 5/28

Makenna Bray – 5/15

YEAR AT A GLANCE

MAY

May 3 First Family Feast
May 24 Pentecost Sunday
May 29 Kid's Night Out
May 31 Youth End of School Bash

JUNE

June 8-12 Kids Off Broadway
June 14 Deacon Nomination Begins
June 14-20 Youth Camp in Orange Beach
June 24 Quarterly Business Meeting
June 28 Summer Feast

JULY

July 4 Independence Day - Office Closed
July 19-22 Passport Kids Camp

AUGUST

August 2 Promotion Sunday/Blessing of Backpacks
August 9 Start of Term Feast
August 21 Kid's Night Out
August 23 Youth Hangout

SEPTEMBER

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*

YEAR IN REVIEW



JANUARY



APRIL



FEBRUARY



MARCH

Love God | Love Other | 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

(405) 232-4255

info@fbcokc.org

1201 N Robinson Ave.

Oklahoma City, OK 73103

