

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a church interior, featuring several tall, narrow stained glass windows with intricate designs in shades of yellow, orange, blue, and green. The windows are set in dark wooden frames. The lighting is warm, creating a serene atmosphere.

SEPTEMBER 2026

F B C  O K C
EST. 1889

FIRST CONNECT

This issue:

Letter from Sarah
PAGE 02

Upcoming Events
PAGE 03

Kids and Youth
PAGE 05

Missions
PAGE 06

Discipleship
PAGE 08

LETTER FROM SARAH



Dear Church Family,

As I sat down to pray this week, I marveled at how big and good God is. The same God who hears our prayers also hears the prayers of every human heart around the world. That is beyond what my mind can comprehend. I spent time in prayer asking God how He can bear the sorrow around the world: so many people washed away in a moment with the breaking of a glacier in Nepal, so many people still trapped praying for rescue, people living in war-torn countries, and people who are hungry all around us.

How does He tend to each of our hearts? Each person grieving, each person praying for help, each person praising, each person holding a newborn baby, and each person caring for the sick and dying. How does He hold all of us in his heart? It amazes me. It amazes me that He is so personal as to care for our small daily prayers and the really big mountain-moving prayers.

In Paul's letter to the Colossians, he wrestled with how to articulate just how good and awesome our God really is. Here's what he said about Jesus. "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." He holds us all together. He holds our church together and our families. He cares about our prayers for our children to make friends and our prayers for our soldiers to have His protection and grace as they serve our country. It is such a comfort to know that God is watching over the world each night when we sleep and each day when we rise. He is tending to the souls of the broken and the brave and the barely making it. He is drawing us all in closer to Him. He is inviting us to live according to His heart and His rule and reign.

God is in the middle of answering so many prayers in our lives right now. God is using His children to answer those prayers so often. The church has prayed for years for young families to come to our church and find community. The church prayed for our building to be used for kingdom-building purposes. The church prayed for spiritual growth for our people. The church prayed for our youth group to grow. The church prayed for our finances, especially this year. The church prayed for our family of faith to be a place where everyone would feel welcome and find a place to grow in their faith. God has answered and is answering all these prayers and more. After the first four Sundays of our catch-up campaign, we have raised roughly \$44,000 of the \$60,000 we set out to raise. What a miracle! God bless each of you who have given so sacrificially.

We are starting a new series at the church on Sunday, September 13, called The Good Life. We will spend time talking about the life God intended for us to live and invites us to live even now. We will talk about two paths in life: one that leads to joy, freedom, love, and redemption, and one that leads to resentment, envy, isolation, and folly. We will talk about what it looks like to reimagine the way we see our lives. I can't wait! I pray for you every day, church family. Blessings upon blessing to you and your families. May God be with each of you and hear all our prayers just as He hears the prayers from around the world. May He be with us all. ~***Much love, Sarah***

UPCOMING EVENTS

CareForOKC

Large deliveries scheduled for September 14th and 21st. Come at 9am if you are able to help unload. We can always use help stocking shelves, come on Mondays if you are able to help. Please join us for a Clothing Room workday on Saturday, September 26th, 10am-noon. CareForOKC will be closed on Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day.

Youth Hangout, September 4th

More info on page 5

RestoreOKC Workday

When: Saturday, Sept. 12 from 8:30am – Noon

Where: 2222 NE 27th Street, OKC 73111

Please email Bradstewart@fbcokc.org or call the church office if you have any questions or want more information. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, September 6.

Elementary Retreat, September 18-19

More info on page 5

Hymn Fest

Sunday, September 20th in the Sanctuary at 6:00pm.

First Family Feast

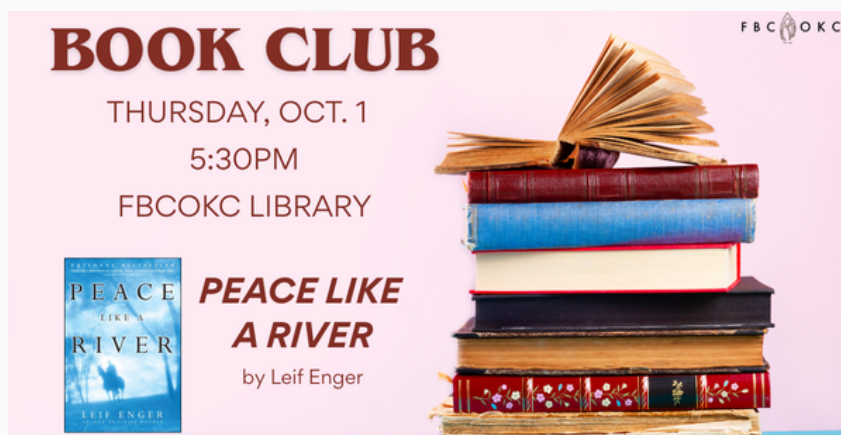
On September 27th, we will come together for a family feast in the dining hall immediately following the church service.

Youth Hangout, September 27th

More info on page 5

Book Club Invite

Join us Thursday, Oct. 1 at 5:30pm in the FBCOKC Library as we discuss the novel “Peace Like a River” by Leif Enger. Peace Like a River is Leif Enger’s extraordinary debut novel—a heroic quest, a tragedy, a love story, and a haunting meditation on the possibility of magic in the everyday world. Pizza and drinks will be provided! Sign up in The Commons or email bradstewart@fbcokc.org if you plan on coming! Visit this link to check out this amazing book. <https://a.co/d/oe7gMQuM>

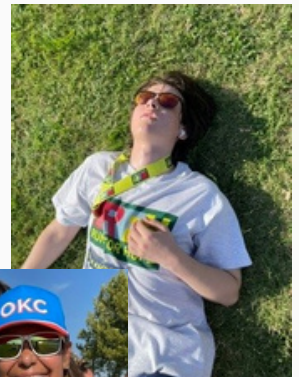
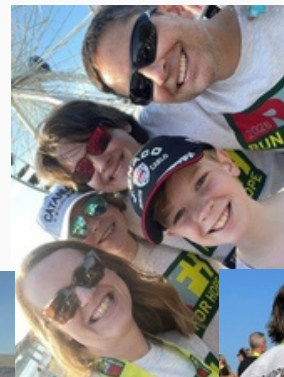


RECENT EVENTS

WEDNESDAY Night



HOPE IS ALIVE RUN FOR HOPE 2026



KIDS AND YOUTH



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.

Parents, Pastries, & Pinecones, October 3rd

If you have an infant-Kindergartener, come join us in the dining hall on Saturday, October 3rd from 9-12 for a fun morning of crafts and fellowship!

Youth Hangout, October 4th *Note Date Change*

Join us after church on Sunday for the Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers watch party! We will have 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, infants to 5th grade. Let me know if your kid(s) plan to be there!

Trunk-or-Treat, October 24th

Let's Go Ghouls! It's getting close to spooky time! Trunk-or-Treat is Saturday, October 24th from 2-4pm in the North Parking Lot! We will have signup for trunks soon and have a station in the commons for candy/prize donations!

Youth Retreat, November 20-22

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. If your youth is interested, please let me know.

MISSIONS



FBCOKC is so honored to have Hope Is Alive (HIA) as one of our community mission partners! HIA is dedicated to transforming lives impacted by addiction through a holistic approach that includes recovery homes in six states, an innovative Healing Center for personalized recovery support, and compassionate support groups for families and loved ones through Finding Hope.

A few years ago, our church began a Finding Hope support group for loved ones of addicts and alcoholics that meets twice a month (2nd and 4th Thursdays at 6:00pm) in the FBCOKC Coffee Shop. This group has been a source of hope and strength for those within our church family and our community. While the core of our Finding Hope group are folks from our church, we regularly have visitors show up. A few months ago, we had a couple show up in desperate need of love and encouragement. Jeff and Marcy (names have been changed for privacy) came to our group and shared their story. Jeff and Marcy had been sober for three years, but Marcy had recently relapsed and was back in recovery. They were trying their best to put their lives back together, find jobs, and restore broken relationships.

As they shared their story, I watched our group minister to this young couple in powerful ways. They listened to Jeff and Marcy's story and created a safe space for them to be honest about who they are and who they want to become. After Jeff and Marcy shared, our group had the privilege of spending some time praying for them and encouraging them to not give up. I was reminded that night of the whole reason we have a Finding Hope support group at FBCOKC: to be the presence of Jesus to our community by creating a space for loved ones of addicts and alcoholics to find hope, healing, support, and strength. You never know who is going to show up needing to be reminded that God loves them, this is not the end of their story, and there is always hope.

When you give to the World Missions Offering at FBCOKC, you support the incredible work being done through HIA and Finding Hope! If you're struggling with addiction or you have a loved one who is walking through that battle, please don't try to do it alone. Reach out and find a group of people to help. You're not alone, it's not your fault, and there is always hope!

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



“Golf is the closest game to the game we call life. You get bad breaks from good shots; you get good breaks from bad shots – but you have to play the ball where it lies.” – Bobby Jones (Masters Tournament co-founder)

I have been playing golf for three years now, and I must say it has challenged me in ways I did not expect. It can be frustrating, humbling, and difficult to understand, yet when everything comes together, it feels almost magical. More than a game, golf has become a quiet classroom for my faith. It teaches patience when progress is slow, focus when distractions are near, and perseverance when recovery is needed. In many ways, it mirrors our daily spiritual journey with the Lord. I have taken lessons and listened to many people trying to help me improve my game, and the same is often true in my walk with Christ. Each correction, each missed shot, and each small victory invite me to grow, surrender, and trust God more fully in every moment.

One of the first things you learn when you take up golf is how to grip the club. Initially, I gripped it so tightly, as if someone were going to come along and take it away from me. I thought that if I held on tight enough, I would not lose the club when I swung with all my might. The deeper lesson was simple but powerful: I was trying to control everything. In our Christian walk, many of us do the same. We strain, push, and force outcomes through our own willpower instead of surrendering our grip to the Lord. Faith teaches us to hold life with a gentle, steady trust, allowing God to guide the swing and shape the outcome.

Secondly, golfers often look up too soon to see where the ball is going, especially when facing hazards such as water or sand. Trust me when I say I have a lot of experience with both. Does this not sound familiar in our walk with Jesus? We can become so focused on future troubles that we lose sight of the step God has placed before us today. Growth in Christ calls us to stay present, trust His timing, and keep our eyes on the One who leads us. When we stop panicking over what lies ahead, our joy is restored, our confidence is renewed, and we begin to walk in victory rather than defeat.

I have learned that every golfer hits bad shots or finds themselves in the rough—tall, thick grass that lies on the outskirts of the fairway. Interestingly, golf is often won or lost by how well you recover from a mistake. You cannot control every bounce, every gust of wind, or every unexpected lie. The game teaches you to accept what has happened, let go of the mistake, and take the next faithful shot. Our journey with the Lord is not about living a flawless life; it is about receiving His grace, rising again, forgiving ourselves and others, and continuing forward with courage. The rough is not the end of the story. Sometimes it is the very place where God teaches us resilience.

DISCIPLESHIP

Of all the lessons I have learned, golf has taught me humility most quickly. No matter how well you are playing, one difficult hole can remind you that you are not in total control. Yet humility is not meant to discourage us; it creates space for dependence on God. Letting go of control, expectations, and judgment is a spiritual discipline every believer can practice. When we release the need to have everything perfect, we become more open to God's grace, His correction, and His peace.

This is the kind of faithful focus Scripture calls us to carry—not only on the course, but in every season of life.

“Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” — Hebrews 12:1–2

Perhaps the spiritual secret of golf is that it disguises itself as a game, but it is a teacher. It reminds us that the journey is not measured only by perfect shots or easy fairways, but by the faith we carry through every challenge. So, when life feels uncertain, when the winds shift, or when we find ourselves in the rough, may we remember to loosen our grip, keep our eyes steady, receive God's grace, and take the next faithful step. With Christ as our guide, every round, every lesson, and every new day becomes an opportunity to grow stronger, walk humbly, and finish with hope. **Toni**

SMALL GROUP SIGN-UP

It is never too late to sign up for a small group if you are interested. Simply contact Toni Adams – tadams@fbcokc.org or call the church office, and we will direct you to a group. Groups currently meeting are discussing Sarah's sermon series on David, but on September 13th she will start a new series titled “The Good Life”. This series is based on the writings of our own Ryan Bowen. Groups are designed to foster community, spiritual growth, and authentic connections outside of large worship services. 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.



MEMBERS



Your paragraph text

Penn Cline - 9/1

Roxane Jensen - 9/15

Frances Murphy - 9/24

Brenda Cline - 9/2

LuDora Overmon - 9/16

Steve Nath - 9/24

Jon Tillinghast - 9/4

Diane Ligon - 9/16

Debbie Stearns - 9/25

Matthew Kinkade - 9/4

Martha Jonson 9/18

Kylee Gregston - 9/26

Tom Nash - 9/6

Bill Harrison - 9/21

Ashley Wallace - 9/26

Claudine Dickey - 9/11

Gene Stewart - 9/22

Torrance Bowen - 9/27

Ralph Beal - 9/14

Michael Chapman - 9/22

Gina Antipov - 9/28

Patrick Browne - 9/14

Mary Ray - 9/23

Maggie Wilson - 9/29

Matt Malony - 9/15

Armando Pena - 9/23

YEAR AT A GLANCE

SEPTEMBER

September 7 Labor Day - Office Closed
September 18-19 Elementary Retreat
September 20 Hymn Fest
September 23 Quarterly Business Meeting
September 27 Fall Feast
September 27 Youth Hangout

OCTOBER

October 1 Book Club
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

(405) 232-4255

info@fbcokc.org

1201 N Robinson Ave.

Oklahoma City, OK 73103

