

Ponca City Christian

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
210 North Fifth Street
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Seeking, Serving, Sharing
April 10, 2022



Why I love this church...

"The People! And the feeling when I sit in church looking at the beautiful stained glass; I feel just a sense of peace when I'm there. And I love all the things the church does for the community."

-Linda Willison



FELLOWSHIP TIME BEGINS AGAIN ON EASTER SUNDAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME is more than just donuts and coffee before church. It gives us time to meet, greet and connect again by sharing our activities, joys, and concerns. In other words, it gives us time to VISIT with each other. It strengthens our bonds as a church family and readies us to go together into worship. Fellowship Time is not just for those who go to Sunday School, but for our whole congregation. We invite you to come and share with your church family Easter Sunday from 9:30-11:00 in Fellowship Hall and the following Sundays from 10:30-11:00. Hope to see you there.



Maundy Thursday April 14, 2022
6:00 PM Light Meal and Worship
Fellowship Hall

Easter Sunday April 17, 2022
8:30 AM Lakeside Worship
Lake Ponca Shelter House 5
(Near the walking path / docks)
9:30 - 11:00 AM Doughnuts / Coffee
Fellowship Hall
10:00 AM Flowering of the Cross
5th and Cleveland Outside Steps
10:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt
West Lawn
11:00 AM Worship
Sanctuary

Images of Lent

As we approach the celebration of Easter, we must first pass through the days of reflection during the season of Lent. This series of images bring the story of the final days of Jesus to the forefront of our meditations as we ponder the intersection of the ministry of Christ and our own experiences.



When traveling through an arid landscape, the sight of a grove of palm trees

assures us that despite the seemingly inhospitable environment, life has found a way to not only hold on, but thrive. Palm leaves look delicate and soft. The trunks of palm trees look like they are supple and squishy. But when you touch a palm tree, you find it to be robust, not soft at all. The leaves are not fun to handle. They are coarse, scratchy, heavier than you think they will be, and a little unwieldy if you try to wave one around.

The palm tree refuses to be what you expect it to be. It stubbornly remains a hard, unmoving, uncomfortable to touch survivor of the arid soil. Until the wind starts to blow. When animated by the wind, palm trees seem less like plants and more like creatures prone to sensual movements ranging from grace to fury. In a breeze they gently sway like sea grass reacting to the ebb and flow of waves approaching and receding to and from the shore. In a strong wind, they whip back and forth violently like fighting cats, leafy branches occasionally being shed like tufts of fur.

For whatever reason, in the time of Jesus the palm was a symbol of victory and thanksgiving. Perhaps because of its hardness. Its stubborn ability to grow strong and thrive under conditions that would prevent many trees from taking root may have earned the palm a degree of respect. John tells us that the people heard Jesus was approaching Jerusalem and they gathered palm branches and went out to meet him as he arrived. John claims it was the fact that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead that had inspired the people to come out. People who had been living in a harsh environment of poverty and political corruption. It took everything they had to hold on. But by following Jesus, the one who gave true life, they knew they could do more than hold on. They could thrive.

-Pastor Stephen

