

Ponca City Christian

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
210 North Fifth Street
Ponca City, OK 74601
580.762.1667 www.fccponcacity.com

Seeking, Serving, Sharing
September 24, 2023



Devotional Christian

Matthew 20:1-16

This parable teaches us about God's grace and generosity. The landowner represents God, and the workers represent us. Just as the landowner is generous and fair, God is generous with His love and blessings. He doesn't measure our worth based on how much we do or how long we've been serving Him. Instead, He offers His grace freely to all who believe in Him.

This gospel reading also challenges our human tendency to compare ourselves to others. It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that we deserve more than others because we've worked harder or longer. But God's economy is different from ours. He doesn't operate on a merit-based system where we earn His love and favor. Instead, He offers His grace to everyone who comes to Him with a humble heart.

Prayer

*Dear Lord, help us to let go of envy and comparison, and instead focus on serving You with joy and gratitude.
Amen.*

Elder's Past and Present

Please consider contributing.

There is a resource in development for rural congregations in Oklahoma who are part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It is to assist the elders of those congregations in preparing for their role in worship. The resource is being developed by contributions from elders who are part of the Oklahoma Region. This project is being coordinated by Rev. Joshua Bell of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Perry, OK. You can learn more about the project at the website <https://www.chaliceresources.com/>.

There will be an informational meeting on Saturday, September 30th at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Pond Creek, OK from 5:00-6:30 PM. Please consider joining Joshua on that evening to discuss how your experience as an elder can contribute to the life of the church throughout Oklahoma.

Giving in Review

As of August 31, 2023

Income Received YTD	\$197,906.24
Actual Expenses YTD	\$217,726.89
Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$219,000.00

EMPOWER & Equip

New Empower & Equip Church Leadership Training Event Oct. 14th

Empower & Equip is a one-day leadership development conference for Oklahoma Disciples. This in-person event will be held Saturday, October 14th in Oklahoma City.

Guided by the theme, "How does Jesus equip his disciples?" it will offer...

- "Best Practices" workshops on vital ministry topics for elders, deacons, board members, youth and lay leaders
- Lunch to continue the conversation in community
- An uplifting worship experience with guest preacher Pastor Milton Bowens of Shepherd Street Christian Church, Chickasha.

Register today! \$35 per person, includes lunch. 9:30am-4pm.

New Covenant Christian Church, OKC. More info at <https://okdisciples.org>



2023 HOF Inductee

Col. Carol Stauffer

2023 Ponca City High School Hall of Fame inductee, Col. Carol M. Stauffer

The Po-Hi Hall of Fame banquet will be held Thursday, Sept. 28 in Po-Hi Commons. The event will begin at 7 p.m. The induction ceremony will follow in the Ponca City Schools Concert Hall. Tickets are now available and can be purchased at the Administration Building.

Colonel (COL) Carol Stauffer was born in Alva, Oklahoma on March 1, 1980, to Kim and Arlene Stauffer. She has one brother, Kevin (Po-Hi class of 2002). She and her family moved to Ponca City in 1992. Carol attended Ponca City West Junior High School and graduated from Ponca City High School in 1998. She attended Oklahoma State University from 1998-2002, graduating Magna Cum Laude as the University's Distinguished Military Graduate. COL Stauffer received her commission as a U.S. Army Military Intelligence (MI) officer in 2002.

Throughout her career, COL Stauffer has served as the senior intelligence officer for an Aviation Squadron, Airborne Infantry Battalion, and Stryker Brigade Combat Team. Her commands include a tactical MI company forward deployed to the Republic of Iraq, a strategic MI company forward positioned within the Republic of Korea, and an Expeditionary MI Battalion assigned to the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. COL Stauffer currently leads the 500th Military Intelligence Brigade-Theater, one of six strategic intelligence brigades executing U.S. Army intelligence operations around the world. COL Stauffer fights alongside the 1700 men and women of the Pacific Vanguard to see, sense, and understand the intentions and capabilities of America's adversaries in the Indo-Pacific.

COL Stauffer's other notable assignments include Brigade Executive Officer for the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division; executive officer to the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, G-2 within the Headquarters, Department of the Army; and military assistant to the Chief of Staff to the Secretary of Defense. Over the course of her career, she has also planned and led combined operations involving the militaries of Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, and the United Kingdom.

COL Stauffer is a graduate of the Military Intelligence Officer Basic and Captains Career courses, as well as the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Oklahoma State University and a Master of Military Arts and Science from the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies. Most recently, COL Stauffer served as the U.S. Army's War College Fellow at Stanford University. COL Stauffer is an active member of the Junior League of Honolulu, where she serves her community by promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and partnering with local agencies and nonprofits to combat homelessness in Hawaii. She is also an avid hiker and runner that survived the Great Wall of China Marathon and executed winter, overland crossings through Nepal, Argentina, and Chile. COL Stauffer is a lifelong learner striving to live up to and into her role as a citizen, teammate, and leader.

-Kristi Hayes, Ponca City Public Schools

Happy 98th Birthday
September 28th



DR. William Masters

Instead of celebrating one day we are celebrating all week. Please visit Bill during the week of September 24th through September 30th. Call Polly (580)-542-2195 to schedule day and time! Send cards to 325 Asbury Circle, Enid, OK 73703.

Need a bike for Transportation?

Friendship Bikes **Bicycle Giveaway**

Saturday Sept. 30

11 am

10 Bicycles

Come to the Gazebo

First Christian Church

[Home of Friendship Feast]

5th & Cleveland

FRIENDSHIP  BIKES

Sharing Hope with a Set of Wheels