

# Ponca City Christian

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
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Seeking, Serving, Sharing  
January 29, 2023



## Devotional Christian

### Matthew 5:1-12 ~The Beatitudes~

These are eight character traits that identify true servanthood. When all eight are mixed together in a life, balance emerges. It is helpful to realize this is not a "multiple choice" list where we are free to pick and choose our favorites. Our Savior has stated very clearly those qualities that lead to a different lifestyle that pleases Him.

What are we to make of these upside-down teachings? In the real world, the "blessed" are those who are happy, who have it all together. The "blessed" are those who make lots of money, live in nice houses, and live easy lives. We could say a lot about people who are persecuted or reviled – but we would not likely say they are "blessed."

These traits open the door to inner happiness. Here are the fundamental attitudes which, when pursued and experienced, bring great satisfaction. Jesus offers fulfillment here like nothing else on earth. Study how each begins: "Blessed are . . . ." This is the only time our Lord repeats the same term eight times consecutively. Those who enter into these attitudes find lasting happiness.

Attached to each character trait is a corresponding promise. Did you notice this? "Blessed are . . . (the trait) for . . . (the promise)." Christ holds out a particular benefit for each particular quality. And what great promises they are!

Never before had His audience heard such marvelous truths presented in such an interesting and meaningful manner. They longed to have those promises incarnate in their lives.

So do we.

### Prayer

Creator God, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: We pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**A Big Thank You to the Challenger's class for organizing our Fellowship Dinner last Sunday! There were so many hands that helped before and after the dinner to begin naming them all. What a blessing it was to have this time together to celebrate everyone's birthday in 2023. Thanks to Stephen for agreeing to this event. And for the congregation for attending! You All are the Best!**

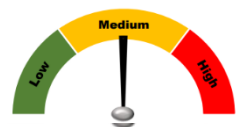
**Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another. Hebrews 10: 24-25**

*Sandy Pendergraft*

#### **Giving in Review**

As of December 31, 2022  
Budgeted \$327,120  
Received \$290,744

#### **Kay County, OK COVID Risk Level**



The 2023 flower board is up at FCC and there are still plenty of spots available! If you'd like to remember and/or celebrate a loved one, reserve a Sunday in their name. Stop by or call the office for more information.

