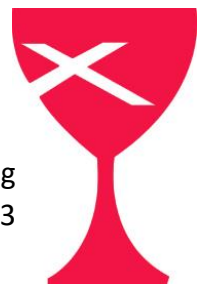


Ponca City Christian

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

Seeking, Serving, Sharing
September 3, 2023



Devotional Christian

Matthew 16:21-28

This is a reminder that we should stay focused on the important things in life. We can become so caught up in the hustle and bustle of our lives that we forget to take the time to reflect on the things that matter most. Jesus tells us that we should focus on our relationship with Him, and not worry about the things that we can't control.

Jesus reflects on his own death and resurrection and provides a devotional lesson for us. He teaches us that we must be prepared to face life. It is a certainty that we will experience happiness and sadness. Living and working as His faithful disciples and our daily struggle with sin is our way of taking up the cross. We can find comfort and strength in knowing that we are not alone in our journey. He also teaches us that we must be prepared to face death. Death and our final judgment day is also a certainty.

Prayer

Dear Lord, teach us to follow without fear, knowing that You are always with us, leading the way. Amen.

Giving in Review

As of July 31, 2023

Income Received YTD	\$177,117.49
Actual Expenses YTD	\$193,049.65
Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$191,625.00

Friendship Bikes

On Bike Cave Open Day Saturday, 10 more Neighbors now have bikes to upgrade their transportation needs, and another Neighbor received needed tire repairs to make his bike usable again. That makes our number of Neighbors helped at 269, with an expectation of reaching over 275 at our last Open Day, September 30! Please pray for our bike mechanic extraordinaire Earl Ball to have the stamina to repair the last batch of usable bikes. As usual, connections between Neighbors and Bike Team members were rewarding for both. Although our focus has always been adult bikes, Saturday a grandson got a balance bike (new, more effective way of learning to ride without training wheels) on his 3rd birthday – a joy for all. In addition to transforming the bike mechanically, Mike Morriss led the grandmother to embrace this new concept of beginning bike-riding through discussions and video clips this month.

In response to “How did you hear about us?”, word-of-mouth was the majority response; someone told and encouraged them. For 2 Neighbors, it was recent Bike Cave Open Day signs posted at FCC.

Richard Himbury was our Hottest Team Member! As the Outside Greeter/Organizer, he treated the Neighbors with cool kindness despite being out in the heat!! Both Robert Vaughn and Becky Helems also gave some attention to Neighbors outside. Charlies Smith missed out on the heat due to shepherding the Habitat House dedication.

Team members helping Neighbors with bike selection, locks, lights, and helmets were Jody & Earl Ball, Becky & Jerry Helems, Robert, Richard, Mike & Andrea Morriss. It is with hope, gratitude, and prayer that we begin the last phase of our mission.

Andrea Morriss, Co-Spokesperson, Friendship Bikes