

Ponca City Christian

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
210 North Fifth Street
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Seeking, Serving, Sharing
July 23, 2023



Devotional Christian

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

We often live with the assumption that if we do good and work hard everything will work out in our favor. That's the illusion with which the slaves in today's parable live. That's why they are so surprised when they discover the weeds. The weeds have shattered their illusion. This isn't supposed to happen. They want to know what happened and who is responsible. So do we.

The reality, according to Jesus, is that our lives and our world are a field in which good and evil, life and death, joys and sorrows, that which we want and that which we don't want, grow and live side by side. That's good news for us. It means that despite the weeds in and around us the kingdom is still here.

So, do we do nothing? Just sit and wait? No, that's not what Jesus is saying. There is plenty to do and it will be a challenge. The words that are translated as "let them" in Jesus' statement, "Let them grow..." can also mean forgive them.

Jesus commands love. Love your enemy. Love your neighbor. Love yourself. Love God. Forgive the weeds? Love the weeds? Yes, forgive them. Love them. Maybe that's how the wheat begins to disentangle its roots from the weeds and show itself to be wheat and not weeds. Maybe love and forgiveness are what life in the mixed field of God's kingdom and this world is like.

Prayer

*Dear Lord, we pray that you will help us reach out to the uprooted and rejected and develop and grow the good in ourselves.
Amen.*



Marland's Place invites you to attend a welcome reception to celebrate new CEO, Ginarie Harrington.

July 25th • 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Ponca City Country Club
Light Hors D'oeuvres Provided
Cash Bar

Family Fun Day is August 5th at Marland's Place. They give every child that attends a free backpack. We're collecting them through Sunday, July 23. Look for the Marland's Place tub outside the Church Office to leave your donation.



Call Becky Davis, 580.716.1632, for questions.

Giving in Review

As of June 30, 2023

Income Received YTD	\$150,832.96
Actual Expenses YTD	\$161,973.16
Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$164,250.00

We are still waiting for the replacement fan but will resume **worship in the sanctuary on July 23rd**. Our elevator will be illuminated by the soft glow of an elegant battery powered Dewalt Work Light. Thank you for your continued patience. -Pastor Stephen