

# Ponca City Christian

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
210 North Fifth Street  
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Seeking, Serving, Sharing  
March 26, 2023



## Devotional Christian

### John 11:1-16 ~ Lazarus ~

Scholars describe the raising of Lazarus as the seventh and final “sign” or miracle in the book of John, and—as we can see—Jesus has saved the best for last.

Even though Lazarus has been dead for several days, Jesus pulls him back from death’s grasp and restores him to life. All it takes is Jesus’ command. The voice that spoke creation into existence now calls him out of the darkness of death and into the light of life again.

In our skeptical, post-modern age, this may seem like a -story that’s been embellished by John to help “sell” people on the idea of following Jesus. But this miraculous story is real. Like the other signs in the book of John, it is meant to point to a deeper truth about Jesus and his ministry.

Lazarus’ resurrection points us to the hope of resurrection and new life that we have in Christ. What Jesus did for Lazarus is also a promise for all who believe: in Jesus there is no ene-my of God—not even death itself—that can defeat us. If we are in Christ, we will have eternal life and victory over death, no matter what we face today.



*“Through the years, the people of this church have shared my greatest joys and walked beside me through the darkest of times.”*

This is a quote from my “Why I Love This Church” statement which I wrote in November of last year. Little did we know what we would face in 2023. Yet again, our FCC family walked beside us as we faced the death of Kim’s sister, Donnette and a month later the death of my mom, Betty. We have been truly blessed by the love and support of our church family.

Thank you for the many expressions of caring: the cards, the words of encouragement, the food, and the donations in mom’s memory. We know you will be beside us as we face new challenges; we are hoping for more opportunities to share our joys in the coming months. We send these thanks in a spirit of love and with a desire for others to share in the healing power of friendship.

Kim & Arlene Stauffer

## **A Lenten Discussion Series** **Wednesdays at Noon**

(Bring Your Own Brown Bag Lunch)

March 29, 2023

*...An eye for an eye*

April 5, 2023

*...You shall love your neighbor*

### Prayer

*Father, when things are difficult and I feel discouraged, give me hope. Help me to trust in your power to bring me into life forever with you. Amen.*

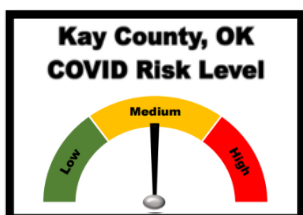
### **Giving in Review**

As of February 28, 2022

Budgeted Expenses  
\$54,750.00

Actual Expenses  
\$28,063.64

Income Received  
\$62,519.39



New Member:

Jan Rodd

We are excited to introduce you to new member Jan Rodd, who joined First Christian Church of Ponca City during the 8:30 AM worship on Sunday, March 19, 2023. Jan has been attending the early worship and the Inquirers Sunday School class for several weeks and feels very much at home here. Please extend a welcome to her when you get a chance. Pastor Stephen