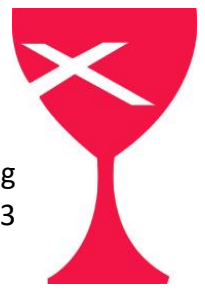


# Ponca City Christian

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

Seeking, Serving, Sharing  
June 11, 2023



## Devotional Christian

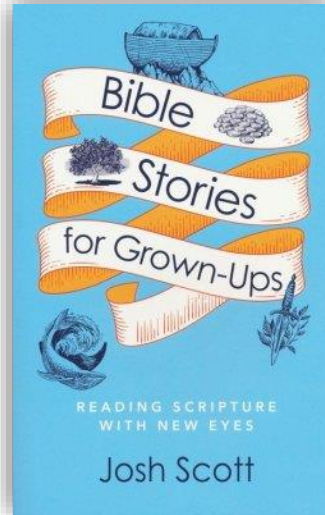
### Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

In the ancient Roman world, tax collectors weren't government officials. They were members of syndicates that financially devoured ordinary citizens. After they had prepaid taxes to Rome, the tax collectors were free to gouge their own people. So, we can assume that Matthew was reaping a vast fortune as a tax collector. Only when we understand this can we imagine the cost of Jesus' invitation to follow him. People CAN change and God grants those changes abundantly. He acts with mercy and calls us to show the same mercy to our fellow man. And while Jesus calls us to make some sacrifices, He also offers an amazing investment policy.

The woman in Matthew 9:21 wanted to be touched by God. She believed He could heal her, and He did. When we are desperate, we seek ways to get closer to God. His touch can be felt through the prayers of saints near and far. His healing can be found in friends who are only a phone call away.

### Prayer

*Dear Lord, thank you for your grace in turning our lives around. Help us to never withhold the mercy you have shown to us. Show me servants of Jesus when I'm in need of guidance and help me to share your love with others. Amen.*



All are welcome to join in the ZOOM only study of Bible Stories for Grown-Ups: Reading Scripture with New Eyes beginning Tuesday June 13 at 4 p.m. with the Sojourners Adult Sunday School Class. This 2023 study by pastor Josh

Scott takes 6 familiar stories many of us learned as children and interprets them for an adult audience. From Noah and The Flood to the Parable of the Talents, Scott opens new ways to reimagine these stories to deepen our understanding, appreciation, and love of the Bible. Email or call lesson leader Andrea Morriss at [andrea@morriss.us](mailto:andrea@morriss.us) or 765-6260 for more information.

#### **Giving in Review**

As of April 30, 2023

Income Received YTD	\$111,198.76
Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$109,500.00
Actual Expenses YTD	\$106,542.74

Copies of the May Council Minutes are available in the wooden literature rack in the east lobby.



## Benevolence Ministry FAQs

- Q. What types of benevolence assistance does FCC provide?**
- A. Primarily utilities and rent; occasionally rooms and gasoline.
- Q. How much has FCC provided in benevolence assistance this year?**
- A. From January 1 – April 30, 2023, FCC gave out \$5,240 in benevolence assistance in support of 83 individuals/families. The assistance is paid directly to the provider (PCUA, ONG, landlord, etc.) and is generally \$65 per individual one (1) time per year.
- Q. How much of the benevolence funding comes from the FCC Operating Budget?**
- A. \$200 per month.
- Q. Where does the remainder of the funding come from?**
- A. Additional funding to keep the benevolence ministry functioning comes from individual gifts, Sunday school classes, missions funding from our permanent endowment (\$1,200 in 2022), and Trustee approved monies from the Stickle Trust (\$1,950 in 2022).
- Q. What is the current balance of the benevolence account?**
- A. The balance of this account as of May 31, 2023, was \$73.28.
- Q. How can I donate to the benevolence fund?**
- A. Donations to the benevolence fund can be made by check or through Givelify; please make sure you notate that the gift is for the benevolence fund. Cash works, too. Again, just make sure we know it is for benevolence assistance.

## Intersections of Faith and Immigration

Aug 31-Sept 5

The Intersections trip returns this year visiting New York City. This trip is designed for adults 21 and older. The trip will focus on immigration, nations, and internationalism.

The Itinerary Includes:

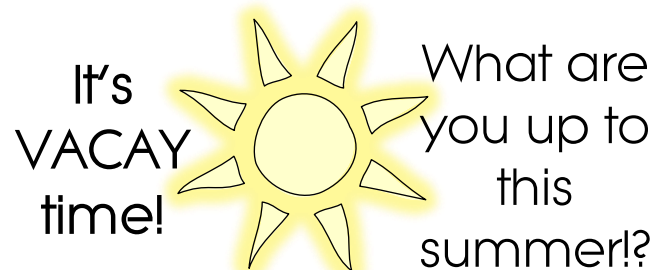
- Ellis Island
- Tennament Museum
- 9/11 Museum
- United Nations

Fee Includes: Housing (shared room or single), Breakfast daily, Itinerary Entrance Fees, some ground transportation, and a Broadway show.

Participants cover travel costs to and from New York City as well as their meals.

\*Registration Is Open\*

Questions? Ask Stephen for Rev. Michael Davison's contact information.



We would like you to share “Virtual Vacations” with our church family. Send your vacation pics to [Karen@fccponcacity.com](mailto:Karen@fccponcacity.com). She will create a montage of fun in the sun to share in worship! This oughta be good!