

Ponca City Christian

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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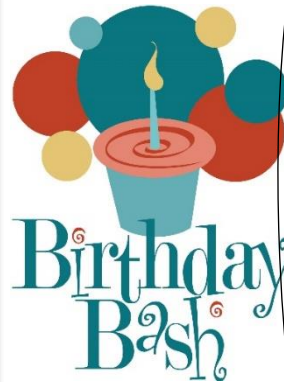
Seeking, Serving, Sharing
January 22, 2023



Devotional Christian

Matthew 4:12-23 ~Follow Me~

It can be difficult to hear God's call. There are so many other places in our lives and world that make a lot of noise, too, in hopes that we will follow. Our work, it seems, is to discern which of these follow me's are from God, and which might be from places that don't quite lead us down the same path of discipleship. To do this, we have to be open to hearing God's call in the first place, making space in our lives, minds, and hearts to be open to the kind of change God's call might bring to us. This is the process of discernment, and it helps us discover our purpose, the call that God issues to each of us as disciples. It is a unique call, based on the skills and gifts and passions we have, and balanced with the needs of the world it is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep needs meet, how do we recognize the kind of work God calls you to do. Believe it is the kind of work that you need most to do and that the world most needs to have done. The disciples were working as fisherman, but when they received the call, they enthusiastically followed. And Jesus gave them a new purpose: to fish for people. He took the skills they presumably already had – fishing – and used their abilities and skills to help them learn how to be disciples. I believe God's call works in many of the same ways today. God nurtures in us the talents, gifts, and interests that we have, and helps us find ways to use them to be a part of what God is doing in the world. These often become identified as spiritual gifts and range from beautiful singing voices and compassionate hearts to the ability to organize and understand numbers. All of these are needed for the work of Christ's kingdom, so therefore, all of us are called. We just need to know how to discern what that means for us. We need to discern what God is doing in the world and become a part of it. How do we do this? We listen, observe, and understand the needs of the world around us. If we listen carefully above the noise in so many other places in our lives, we might hear God providing us the call. Jesus wants us to hear, He wants us to fish for people, too. That means that Jesus wants us to tell others about what He has done for us and what He wants to do for them. Fishing for people is a lot like fishing for fish. We need to be properly equipped. We need to know what the Bible teaches and learn how to share it with others. we need to go out where the people are and tell them about Jesus. And most of all we need to be patient with people. If we will do these things, we can really become fishers of people like Jesus wants us to be. If you think there is a great feeling of excitement in catching a fish, just imagine how exciting it must be to bring someone to Jesus! Are you ready to be a disciple and respond to "Follow me"?



It's been a long time coming, but it's finally here. Come help us celebrate everybody's Birthday in 2023. The Birthday Dinner will be held right after the 11:00 service this Sunday, January 22nd. Will there be cake you ask? Of course, there will be CAKE and MUCH MUCH MORE!



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.

Reminder...

Wednesday,
January 25
@ 4 PM



Giving in Review

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

Kay County, OK COVID Risk Level



Prayer

You speak to us in many ways, through rushing wind or still small voice, in Scripture's Word or through your Grace and we in turn find many ways, to hear the world's insistent voice break through the silence and take your place. Forgive our sin. Help us hear your voice above the clamor of this world, recognize the difference and follow only you.

Amen.