

# 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  
December 11, 2022



Why I love this church...

I love the people! We've been here a long time, and I love the friends we've made and kept. I love to worship with other believers. I love all the extra things we do, like Friendship Feast and Friendship Bikes. We are a doing church.

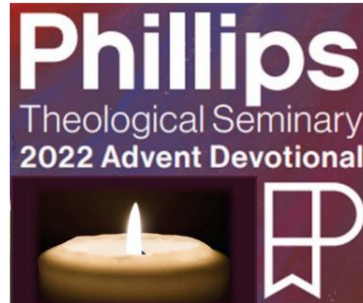
-Marilyn Leming



**Community Outreach**



**Friends**



Week Three  
December 11, 2022  
**Joy and Grief**  
*Matthew 11:2-11*

*When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"*  
*Matthew 11:2-3*

Imagine John in prison defeated, frustrated, angry, grief stricken. Then he hears rumors of a man—the man he baptized—teaching and healing. Then John receives confirmation that Jesus is the one that he was proclaiming.

The scripture does not mention how John reacted when the messengers came back to him verifying the rumors. We can only speculate how John felt. Joy. Gratitude. Elation. How would you feel seeing your life's work affirmed and fulfilled? Then add to that knowing the purpose of this man, the Messiah. Joy in overabundance coming forth in the knowledge of what the future holds.

My father died just a few months ago. I still feel as if I am in a bit of a prison of grief. So, this year during Advent, I may not experience joy in overabundance, and John may not have either, but I am determined to find joy and experience it in even the smallest, fleeting ways. Memories of my dad reading the Christmas story. The joy of watching my niblings' excitement while they open presents. The joy of lazy winter holiday naps—which my dad loved. Joy and grief can coexist.

Throughout the rest of the Advent season, as we wait, let's make a point to stop what we are doing, focus on our breath for 20 seconds and then focus on our surroundings. What joy can you find in the moment?

**Malisa Pierce**

Assistant Vice President of Advancement  
[ptstulsa.edu/devotionals](http://ptstulsa.edu/devotionals)



Your Christmas offering equips the Oklahoma Region to echo the joy heard in summer camp settings, congregational life, seminary classrooms, and

leadership gatherings. Your gift enables our Region to give support to church leaders, search committees, youth ministers and sponsors, vocational ministry students, congregational clergy, and chaplains, as we do this work together.

## Giving in Review

As of November 30, 2022

Budgeted	\$299,860
Received	\$269,337

## Kay County, OK COVID Risk Level





Our Christmas Eve offering supports our Koats for Kids ministry. This year, we encourage each family to bring a new coat for school age children 5-11 years old. We understand that this will not be possible for everyone, and we will be taking our traditional monetary offering as well. Either way, we will be offering warmth to the children of our community. This school year, we have already given out **145 coats** to children from Garfield, Liberty, Lincoln, Trout, and Union Elementary Schools.

If you have a used coat, it can be donated to Vintage Swag at 207 W Grand Ave. They have free coats for anyone who drops by.

### Omission to Nominating Committee Recommendations

The positions of Congregational Secretary, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Treasurer, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Treasurer were unintentionally omitted from the Nominating Committee recommendations set forth at the November 20 Congregational Meeting. The individuals who will fill these roles are continuing from previous years. Nancy Stevenson will continue as Congregational Secretary; Marvin Clark will serve as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Treasurer; and Karyn Sledge will carry on as 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Treasurer. We appreciate Nancy, Marvin, and Karyn's willingness to serve and apologize that they were not recognized at the Congregational Meeting.

Copies of the council meeting minutes are available in the wooden literature rack in the east lobby.



First Christian Church of Ponca City has a long relationship with Marland's Place Foster Family Services, previously Marland Children's Home and American Legion Children's Home. We are exploring some new ways in which our ministry can support the children, parents, and staff who are all working together to meet the needs of the foster community in Kay County. We have volunteered to offer some Christmas support for a new family that is living onsite at Marland's Place. They are in need of household items and Christmas gifts for five kids. One of our church families has already volunteered to purchase a turkey for their Christmas dinner! If you would like to know how you can help make this family's Christmas a little extra special, please reach out to Becky Davis for more information. We are looking forward to deepening our relationship with Marland's Place in the coming months.



- 5 new twin size comforter sets with sheets
- Clothes- 5T(girl), 2T(boy), 12(boy), 14(boy), 16-18(boy)
- Bikes and/or scooters
- Soccer ball
- Basketball
- Football
- Baseball, bat, and glove
- Coloring books and crayons
- Baby doll and doll clothes
- Board games