

First Connect

January 24, 2024

At the very end of Jesus's time on earth, after his death and resurrection, just before his ascension, he gathered his disciples around him and gave them their marching order. They had been with him for several years. Each one having their own journey to know and follow Jesus. Each one struggling with their own doubts or their own idea of who Jesus should be and what he was there to do. All of their own desires slowly gave way to the life Christ had for them.

I have wondered at times what it must have felt like to be one of his disciples there up on that mountain. Were they excited and afraid all at the same time that the mission to further the kingdom of God was now on their shoulders. Jesus looked at them and after everything he had been through. His life, his death, and resurrection, he looked at them and set their feet in the way in which they should walk. He told them before he died, "As the Father sends me, so send I you."

There at the end of Matthew's Gospel Jesus commanded them and by extension all of us.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Each one of those disciples would carry the message of the gospel of Christ everywhere they went for the rest of their lives. They had to figure out how to live out this great commission in their culture and time. They learned as they went.

We have received the same commission from Jesus, and it is ours to figure out how to be faithful to this calling in our time and our culture. God has been teaching me a lot in the past year or two about what this looks like in my life. We are not all preachers and teachers. But we are all called. We have been given different gifts and I believe part of what that means is that we have different expressions for how we live out the calling to make disciples. Very likely this means connecting with one person or one family and helping them know that they are loved by God. Often for me it means meeting someone where they are, listening to their story and their questions and doubts, then committing to walking with them as they move closer to Christ. It is not scary or overwhelming, it is relational. If this is our calling, and I believe that it is, then I would ask you to pray for God to open doors for you to step into this calling. Ask God to shape your understanding of how he created you and designed you to help others on their journey to follow Christ.

This is my prayer for our church. That we may grow in our conviction to point others to Jesus. That God might use us to help others come to the decision to give their lives fully to knowing Christ and making him known. Pray big prayers, church family. Expect big things. Walk in faith. Lead with love.



~Sarah

FIRST FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us this Sunday,
January 28th for Communion



Men's Retreat

POSTPONED

POSTPONED

November 1-2, 2024
St. Crispin's Retreat Center

Contact Brad at
bradstewart@fbcokc.org

Men's Retreat Update:

Postponed to November 1-2, 2024

Greetings gentlemen!

We're postponing the men's retreat to November 1-2 to enable more guys to be able to attend. The retreat will still take place at St. Crispins.

Thank you to those who had already committed to going. Please go ahead and mark this new date in your calendars. Look for more details as we get closer!

Variety SHOW & SOUPER BOWL



Sunday, Feb. 11
After Worship



Variety Show & "Souper" Bowl Cook-Off

Ladies and Gentlemen, it's the thing you've always wanted but never knew until now!! A variety show full of talents, jokes, songs, acts, and other quirky things PLUS a soup cook-off at the same time!!! Can you believe it?! Join us Sunday, Feb. 11 in the Fellowship Hall after worship for this incredibly fun event. Start preparing your acts and looking over your soup recipes. Sign-up will be in the Commons!!!

Email bradstewart@fbcokc.org for more information.



Small Groups Have Resumed!

We're so excited to resume our small group gatherings! If you would like to join a group or have questions, we'd love to connect with you.

Email bradstewart@fbcokc.org

or call the church office!

Adams Group – Women's Group

Age: All ages (*women only*)

Location: Library of FBCOKC

Time: Wednesdays at 10:00am
(*bi-weekly*)

Contact: Toni Adams

Higher Ground

Age: 40's – 50's

Location: Home of Randy Hill

Time: Sundays at 6:00pm

Contact: Scot Sigler

Middle Ground

Age: 30's – 40's

Location: Pastor's Office
of FBCOKC

Time: Wednesdays at
5:30pm

Contact: Sarah Stewart

Young Adults

Age: 20's – Mid 30's

Location: Conference Room of
FBCOKC

Time: Wednesdays at 5:30pm

Contact: Christi McConnell

Adams Group

Age: All ages

Location: Parlor of FBCOKC

Time: Wednesdays at 5:30pm

Contact: Toni Adams

Pennington Group

Age: All ages

Location: Conference Room
across from FBCOKC office

Time: Wednesdays at 5:30pm
(*bi-weekly*)

Contact: David Pennington

Stewart Group

Age: All ages

Location: Coffee Shop of
FBCOKC

Time: Wednesdays at 5:30pm

Contact: Brad Stewart

FIRST FAMILY MISSION & MINISTRY

FINDING HOPE

A HOPE IS ALIVE MINISTRY

Finding Hope Support Group

Finding Hope is a support group for loved ones of addicts and alcoholics. When you start listening to people's stories, you discover that addiction is not an isolated issue with just a handful of families. Addiction affects us all in some form or fashion. We are so excited to share that FBCOKC has started a "Finding Hope" group hosted in our church. Meetings take place every 2nd and 4th Thursday every month at 6:00pm in the Coffee Shop of FBCOKC.

Please use the SOUTH entrance under the blue canopy and follow the signs to the Coffee Shop.

This ministry will serve not only our church family, but it will also be serving our community.

Email bradstewart@fbcokc.org if you'd like to connect with our group or have questions. Click the link below to learn more about Finding Hope support groups!

Also, check out the 2024 gathering dates!

<https://hopeisalive.net/what-we-do/finding-hope/>

~2024 Meeting Dates~

January 11 & 25
February 8 & 22
March 14 & 28
April 11 & 25

May 9 & 23
June 13 & 27
July 11 & 25
August 8 & 22

September 12 & 26
October 10 & 24
November 14
December 12

2023 Contribution Statements

Contribution statements will be emailed out this week. You should receive a statement from FBCOKC/comms@aplos.org in your email. If there is not an email on file, your statement will be sent to your physical address. If you do not receive your statement or if you have any concerns, please contact Toni Adams at the church office (405)232-4255 or by email tadams@fbcokc.org.

how can i give?



ONLINE:
fbcokc.org/give



MOBILE:
Download the FBCOKC App



ENVELOPE:
Cash & Check
Offering plate located
in The Commons

Love God
Love Others
Make Disciples