



F B C  O K C  
EST. 1889

# First Connect

August 2025



# Letter from Sarah



Dear Church Family,

I hope you are doing well. I pray for you all the time. I am thankful to be a part of this church family. This summer we began our study in the book of Acts, and I have already learned so much. I hope you have too. Here are some of my reflections on the study so far.

God is working all the time, even in the difficult moments, he is always active and alive. When I consider the small group of men and women who were entrusted to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth, I am stunned at what a risk that seemed to be. These were not perfect people. They were not heroes. They were not immune to stress, self-promoting, self-doubt, fighting, or pride. They were not immune to misunderstanding Jesus. Despite all the things, what really mattered was that they loved Jesus. They gave their lives to following him and nothing was going to stop them, not even their own sin or failure or insecurities. God was (and is) bigger than all our problems or shortcomings or setbacks. He's God, after all!

I think we forget that sometimes. We forget that God is BIG. We forget that God is actively working in our lives, our church, and in our world. We are not independent agents trying to bring about change through our own meager means. We are children of the living God and we're not in it alone. God asks us to be faithful to him and trust him. He asks us to join him, not as children on our own, but as children of God who have his holy presence dwelling within us. Jesus said, "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." He is with us!

Rather than hearing Jesus's command as "Go, *you* better get to work." Maybe we should hear his commission as something like this, "Let's go. We've got work to do, you and me. Let's make disciples of all nations. Let's teach them how to live according to my heart and my will. Let's baptize new believers in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Let's do this most holy work together of reconciling the world back to God. Let's heal what sin has broken. Let's help people find freedom from sin and experience true and total forgiveness. Let's be agents of grace together. I am with you always, no exceptions. We're in this together."

Church family, we have been invited by God to partner with him in bringing hope and healing to a world fractured and in pain. We have been healed so that we can now become wounded healers ourselves and help others find healing in Christ. We have holy work to do. We get to meet people right where they are in life and help them find their way to Christ. We have new people coming to our church every single week who are seekers. They are hungry to know and understand the things of God. Many of them long to know Jesus and they need friends to help them on their journey of faith.

We've got work to do, church family. Just like the early church, we will be our best when we are caring for each other, encouraging each other, working through tough moments as family, and listening to the leading of the Spirit. God is doing something among us. Let's be brave enough to jump in with both feet and say to Jesus, "Let's do this together. I'm all in." Blessings upon blessings dear friends. May God meet you each day and draw you closer to his heart. Much love, Sarah.

# Upcoming Events

**GET EXCITED  
GET INVOLVED  
GET COMMITTED!**

MONTH  
**08**

DAY  
**13**

YEAR  
**25**

Small Group Kickoff  
Choir Rehearsals Resume  
Kid's Choir Begins  
Youth Activities Kickoff

August 21 Snack & Game Day, Senior Adults

August 22 Kids Night Out

August 24 Back to School Youth Hangout at the Malony's

September 14 OKC Comets Baseball Game at 2:05

September 19—20 Elementary Kids Retreat

September 21 Evensong Service

September 28 First Family Feast

September 30 Deacons Meeting

October 1 Quarterly Business Meeting

October 25 Trunk or Treat from 3-5pm



# Kids and Youth



## Kid's Night Out, August 22, 2025

We would love for your kids to join us at Kids' Night Out from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on August 22. It will be a night of food, fun, and fellowship! This event is for infants to 5<sup>th</sup> graders. If your kid or kids plan on attending, please let Ariel Koerner know.

## Back to School Youth Hang Out, August 24 at Malony House

We can't wait for our next youth hangout! We would love for your youth to join us for a fun night of swimming at Matt and Victoria Malony's house. Let Ariel know if you plan to join! We love our youth and pray God will work through them powerfully this coming year. May God be glorified through each student as they step back into their classrooms carrying the light of Christ with them wherever they go.

## OKC Comets Baseball Game, September 14

Join us for a fun afternoon at the OKC Comet's last game of the season! Let Ariel know if you want to join in this fun family event. Tickets are \$20 each. Invite your friends and family to join us.

## Elementary Kids Retreat, September 19 - 20

Parents! Save the date for our third annual Elementary Kids Retreat! The retreat begins Friday night at 6 pm in the Youth Center and ends Saturday morning at 9 am. We will laugh, play games, eat delicious food, grow in God's grace, watch movies, and sleep (hopefully!). We can't wait to help these incredible children grow in their faith and in their love for one another. Pray for our youngest mountain movers as they jump back into school as little lights for Christ.





# Recent Events





# Senior Adults



We had a great time at the “Rooted” Luncheon on July 10. Delicious food was prepared by wonderful people and was enjoyed by all. The “Friends” band under the direction of Susan Clothier played a variety of music for our entertainment.

Our next senior adult event will be August 21 with a snack/gameday at noon in the dining hall. We will meet for fun, food, and fellowship. Please bring your favorite game to share!

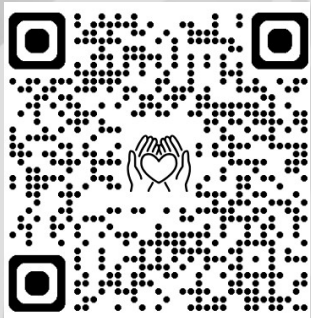




# Serving Opportunities

## **CareForOKC Clothing Room Work Day, August 23 from 10am—1pm**

Please join us to unpack and hang donated items!



### **Care For OKC Community Ministry**

CareForOKC is a community ministry of FBCOKC providing food and clothes to the homeless, working poor, disabled, refugees, those in life transitions, and more. Our food pantry and clothes closet serves clients every Monday from 4:00-6:00pm. We also need help restocking our shelves on Mondays from 9:00 - 10:00am. We would be honored to have you come serve with us! Scan the QR code to sign up as a volunteer and learn more information about CareForOKC. Email [bradstewart@fbcokc.org](mailto:bradstewart@fbcokc.org) for more information!

### **Greeting Team Ministry**

Help us greet visitors, special guests, and our church family at FBCOKC! We have a small, growing, amazing congregation with a gigantic building so we need your help! Scan the QR code to sign up as a Sunday morning greeter. Please note: you will see sign-up options for two time slots. (9:00am - 10:00am and 10:00am - 10:45am) Please make sure you are signing up for your preferred time slot. If you are willing to greet for multiple time slots, that's wonderful! Just be sure to sign up for each time slot.

Email [bradstewart@fbcokc.org](mailto:bradstewart@fbcokc.org) for more information!



### **Children's Ministry Volunteers**

Our children's ministry is BOOMING! Did you know we have 10 in the nursery and in the toddler room? We have even more in the upper grades! I am beyond excited to see the way our children's ministry is growing, but with growth comes the need for volunteers. Maybe working with infants frightens you...guess what? We have elementary aged kids who would love to have you hang out with them! We have many opportunities to help in the children's ministry. On Sundays we have Bible Studies and GIGGLES (During worship). We also meet on Wednesday nights and have several events during the year. Right now we are searching for Bible Study teachers and substitute teachers. Sometimes life happens and we need to call in a sub, we want to make sure that person is up to date on background checks and is ready to fill in when needed. Our children's and youth ministries are the heart of our church. Let's help these kids grow in their love for God together. If you are interested, please contact Ariel at [akoerner@fbcokc.org](mailto:akoerner@fbcokc.org)

### **Missions Opportunity**

It's time to start getting excited about Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes! More info coming soon.

# Connect



FBCOKC offers bible study groups AND small groups as part of our discipleship ministry. We believe BOTH are vital for our spiritual lives. Below is a brief description of each and our intended goals.

## **Bible Study Groups**

Our Bible Study Groups meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15am in various locations around the church. The goal of these groups is inherent in the name. We study Scripture in depth, led by the guidance of the Holy Spirit and gifted teachers, so that we can be transformed fully into Christlikeness. While building community and nurturing friendships are a part of our bible study groups, the heart of our bible study groups is about growing in our knowledge and understanding of God's word. Our Bible study groups are not limited by size.

## **Small Groups**

Our small groups meet primarily on Wednesday and Sunday evenings in various locations both in homes and at the church. The main goal of small groups at FBCOKC is to grow in our relationships with one another as we grow together in faith. While we use Scripture as the foundation for our gatherings, small groups are focused on building community, cultivating friendships, and mutual encouragement. Unlike bible study groups, small groups are limited to 8-12 people per group. This smaller environment allows for more space to develop friendships, get to know new people, and share life together.

## **Should I join a Bible study group or a small group? Or both?**

BOTH! Bible study groups give us space to open up our minds and hearts to the transforming power of Scripture. This is an invaluable experience for Christ followers to engage deeply with God's word. Small groups give us space to allow those biblical truths to find a home in our relationships with one another as we seek to walk together in faith.

## **Need help connecting to a bible study group or small group?**

Email [bradstewart@fbcokc.org](mailto:bradstewart@fbcokc.org) or call the church office! Brad would love the opportunity to hear your story and help you connect with a group.



# Community

## **FBCOKC Adult Small Groups**

The purpose of our small groups are to build friendships, grow in our faith, and open ourselves up to the power of God's word. We weren't meant to journey through this life alone, so come join a group who can help you walk faithfully towards Jesus. Whereas our bible study groups focus more on the study of Scripture, our small groups place a larger emphasis on connecting with others and building community.

Most of our groups meet weekly on Wednesdays from 5:30pm – 6:45pm at FBCOKC. We have children/youth activities available, and childcare is also provided! Our small groups have a Spring semester (January – May) and a Fall semester (August – November) and break for the Summer. Scan the QR code to check out the group options and more information!

Email [bradstewart@fbcokc.org](mailto:bradstewart@fbcokc.org) if you'd like help connecting to a group.



## **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. It affects us all in some form or fashion. 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 support group is open to ANYONE in our community, not just the FBCOKC church family. We'd be honored to have visitors or guests!

Email [bradstewart@fbcokc.org](mailto: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!

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



## **Run For Hope– OKC**

This year will mark our 2nd annual “Run For Hope” (formerly known as “Sobriety Sprint”), when we remember, honor, and celebrate those who lost their lives to addiction. This year's event is hosted by our Finding Hope and Hope After Loss Support Groups. We currently have over 800 members across the United States who attend these free support groups to seek hope and healing as they navigate loving someone with addiction, as well as find strength through their grief of losing a loved one. This year's run will be family focused with our first one-mile walk/run, inflatables, food trucks, and more. This will be an event you and your family will not want to miss! All proceeds from this year's “Run For Hope” will go to funding our growing Finding Hope and Hope After Loss Support Groups, allowing more families to find healing and hope.

[Run for Hope - OKC](#)

# Members



Ronald Hudson - 8/1

Asher Gates - 8/2

Vera Thomas - 8/3

Marti Hayes - 8/4

Will Millar - 8/4

Duncan Rankin - 8/5

Kevin Driskill - 8/6

Jim Hall - 8/9

Merlyn Sweet - 8/10

Jerry Reese - 8/11

Margaret Marks - 8/18

Doyleen Wester - 8/22

Randy Hill - 8/24

Jim Rosado - 8/25

Sherry Rice - 8/25

Lonnie Stearns 8/27

Jordan Browne - 8/30

With deepest sympathy as we remember:

Jeanan Maguire - July 7, 2025



# Year at a Glance

## August

August 21 Snack & Game Day, Senior Adults  
August 22 Kids Night Out  
August 24 Back to School Youth Hangout

## September

September 14 OKC Comets Baseball Game  
September 19-20 Elementary Kids Retreat  
September 21 Evensong Service  
September 28 First Family Feast  
September 30 Deacons Meeting

## October

October 1 Quarterly Business Meeting  
October 11 FBCOKC Follies  
October 25 Trunk or Treat  
October 30 Rooted Luncheon

## November

November 7-9 Youth Fall Retreat  
November 16 Building Wide Gratitude Feast  
November 23 Decoration for Christmas  
November 30 First Sunday of Advent

## December

December 3 Annual Business Meeting  
December 7 Youth Christmas Party  
December 12 Elementary Christmas Party  
December 13 Littles Christmas Party  
December 14 Sounds of the Season  
December 21 Christmas Feast  
December 24 Christmas Eve Service

**Please note:** Activities are subject to change



Love God | Love Other | Make Disciples

## Service Times

### Sunday Mornings

Bible Study at 9:15am

Worship at 10:30am

### Wednesday Evenings

Discipleship Groups and

Children's Activities at 5:30pm

Choir at 7:00pm

### FBCOKC Ministers and Staff

Sarah Stewart, Pastor

Brad Stewart, Minister for Discipleship

Toni Adams, Minister for Senior Adults

Ariel Koerner, Minister for Young Families

Steven McConnell, Minister of Music

Don Clothier, Pianist

Justin Keiser, Facilities Manager

Miranda Fryer, Administrative Assistant

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