

this week

**Sunday, November 23**  
8:30 a.m. Worship  
9:40 a.m. Sunday Bible Study - All Ages  
10:50 a.m. Worship  
12:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Mission Lunch  
4:00 p.m. Student Handbells, Ladies Ensemble  
5:00 p.m. Evening Worship, Kids Sunday Nights,  
Student Discipleship

**Monday, November 24**  
10:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels  
6:30 p.m. GriefShare, Adult Handbells, Men's  
Ministry Game Night  
7:00 p.m. Conversation Cafe

**Tuesday, November 25**  
5:30 p.m. Momentum ABKA Karate  
6:30 p.m. Bible Study Fellowship

**Wednesday, November 26**  
*Thanksgiving Holiday - Church Offices Closed*  
**Thursday, November 27**  
*Thanksgiving Day - Church Offices Closed*

**Friday, November 28**  
*Thanksgiving Holiday - Church Offices Closed*

**Saturday, November 29**  
8:00 a.m. Gideon's Meeting

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**NO WEDNESDAY  
FELLOWSHIP DINNER**  
November 26, 2025



Sharing the Good News about Jesus  
in our community and around the world

10310 S Sheridan Rd | Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133  
918.299.0904 | [southtulsa.org](http://southtulsa.org)

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**WELCOME GUESTS** - We're glad you joined us! We would love to get to know you and/or pray for you. Fill out the form and submit prayer needs at [southtulsa.info](http://southtulsa.info). If you're worshipping with us today, we invite you to stop by our Welcome Area for Guests, adjacent to the Welcome Center, after the service to meet a member of our team and receive a welcome gift.



**THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE FOR THE MINISTRY CENTER** - Today is the last day to drop off food donations under the Thankful Tree in the Jesus hallway. A \$40 donation provides a complete Thanksgiving meal for a family. Give by scanning the QR.

**COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS PARTY** - Join us for a progressive dinner and gift exchange on Saturday, December 13, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. We will travel to three houses (appetizers, dinner, dessert), ending at Pastor Eric's house for our dessert and gift exchange. Bring a \$10-15 wrapped gift to participate in the game. Meet at the church at 4:45 p.m. to ride the church van. Please RSVP on GroupME by 12/10.

**MEN'S MORNING PRAYER AND DEVOTION** - Men of all ages, please join us Thursday, December 11, 6:00-7:00 a.m. in the Chapel. We meet on the second Thursday to pray together and a small devotional is also shared with the group. Coffee and donuts provided!

**PRESCHOOL & KIDS CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** - Everyone is invited to our children's choir Christmas musical, "More Than a Baby" on Sunday, December 7 at 5:00 p.m. in the Worship Center.

**LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING** - Together, we find the lost, give help to the hurting, share the hope of Christ, and witness God grow His Church around the world. Our church's goal: \$220,000.

*(For more information about upcoming events, please go to [southtulsa.org](http://southtulsa.org).)*



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volume XXXV, no. 47  
[southtulsa.org](http://southtulsa.org)



8:30AM Worship

**Call to Worship** Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26  
Sean McKinney  
*Forever | What He's Done*  
**Welcome and Old Testament Reading**  
Psalm 19:1-4a Laura McFarlin  
**Licensing/Commissioning** Adin Costanzo  
**Worship in Giving and Children's Offering**  
*My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness*  
Abigail Costanzo  
**Announcements and Greeting Time** Eric Costanzo  
**Scripture Reading** Philippians 2:12-18  
Emily Forney  
**Message** Eric Costanzo  
"A Light Shining in Dark Times"  
**My Response** *My Tribute*  
**New Commitments - New Members**  
**Blessing**

10:50AM Worship

**Call to Worship** Philippians 2:6-11 Sean McKinney  
**Musical Praise** *At the Name of Jesus*  
*To God Be the Glory | My Tribute*  
**Prayer and Welcome** Laura McFarlin  
**Old Testament Reading** Psalm 19:1-4a  
**Family Dedication** Benjamin Fu  
*What Grace Is Mine*  
**Worship in Giving and Children's Offering**  
*By Faith* Men's Ensemble  
**Announcements and Greeting Time** Eric Costanzo  
**Scripture Reading** Philippians 2:12-18  
Emily Forney  
**Message** Eric Costanzo  
"A Light Shining in Dark Times"  
**My Response** *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*  
**New Commitments - New Members**  
**Blessing** - *My Tribute*





# Thanks Be to Our God

Sean McKinney

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks and bless His name” (Psalm 100:4).

“What are you thankful for?” You’re going to hear that question a lot this week. God has blessed us all, and it’s always right to give thanks to the Lord for family, health, homes, and so many other things. But lately I’ve been struck by the hope we have as followers of the Lord Jesus and how thankful I am for that anchor in my life.

Last Sunday, we heard Lara sing an offertory called “Thanks Be to Our God,” which expresses some beautiful truths about God and the response of a saved soul. The last verse says:

“For the mysteries beyond the veil of death,  
for the peace that opens with our closing breath,  
when our struggles pass away and we finally see Your face,  
and a greater glory rises into view, thanks be to our God!”

What an amazing thought! We live in tension between the presence of God in us now and our future eternity with Him, the “already” and the “not yet.” The Lord is near, His Spirit is in us when we are saved through Jesus, and we can have joy right now because of who He is and what He has done – but it doesn’t end there. One day, our lives will end or Christ will return. When that happens, we’ll be present with the Lord forever, where all things will be made new. This Thanksgiving, I’m thankful for all the people and things God has blessed me with in this life, but right now I’m even more grateful for the hope of eternity with the Lord, and whether it’s for the “already” things or the “not yet” things, I hope you can join me and sing, “Thanks be to our God!”

# Bridge Builders Luncheon

Let’s have a Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 2, at 11:15 a.m. in the Chapel! We are blessed to welcome Sarah Coburn-Rothermel in concert. Sarah is an independent performing arts professional and the daughter of members Tom and Carolyn Coburn. Enjoy a wonderful lunch, Christmas carols, and a special concert. Sign up at [southtulsa.org/events](http://southtulsa.org/events).

# Awaiting Advent

The Promises before the Manger Begins Sunday, November 30

Long before that silent night in Bethlehem, the Lord was already writing the story of our Savior’s birth. God had promised the Advent, or “arrival,” of a just and righteous King who would reign forever. Generation after generation waited and watched. They looked for this Messiah King who would bring light into their darkness, peace into their turmoil, and hope into their hearts.

This Advent, we’ll follow that story—from the ancient promises of the Old Testament to their beautiful fulfillment in Jesus. We’ll see Him as the true Light shining in the darkness, the Shepherd who leads us with love, and the King whose glory reaches to the ends of the earth.

Jesus is our Immanuel—“God with us.”

An advent reading plan is available at the Welcome Center or to download [HERE](http://southtulsa.org/events).

# Stephen Ministers Care

When was the last time someone really listened to you? We’re talking about that undistracted, full attention kind of listening. That’s one of the ways Stephen Ministers care for others. We need more Stephen Ministers to care for those who are making that long journey through the valley of a life crisis. Training begins in January! An informational meeting to answer your questions and pick up an application will be in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 7, at 2:00 p.m., or you may contact the church office at (918) 299-0904.

# Minister of Music

Our Personnel Committee, along with the Advisory Council, is pleased to announce Michael Ware, our Music Ministry Associate, to be presented as our next Minister of Music. Make plans to get better acquainted with Michael on Thursday, December 4 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Commons. The church will vote on Michael during a Special Called Business Meeting just after both morning worship services on Sunday, December 7.

Michael Ware, a native of Oklahoma City, came to South Tulsa as Music Ministry Associate in January 2025. He holds a B.M. in Music Theory and Composition from Oklahoma Baptist University, as well as an M.M. in Church Music from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served churches in Oklahoma and Texas. Michael is a composer and arranger and enjoys writing music for choir, orchestra, piano, and more. He has other interests in technology and photography. Michael’s website: [michaelwaremusic.com](http://michaelwaremusic.com).

Christmas at South Tulsa – Gloria

# Community Night

We are delighted to once again host our **Community Night Dinner** on Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m. in the Gym as a gift to our under-resourced and marginalized community and their local support. After the dinner, everyone will gather for Christmas at South Tulsa – Gloria. We will not be able to provide this outreach ministry without great volunteers! Sign-up sheets are available in Sunday Bible Study classes and online [HERE](http://southtulsa.org/events), [southtulsa.org/events](http://southtulsa.org/events).

# A Season of Joy

**CEO - Caring for Each Other Widows Ministry** Widows of South Tulsa, please join us on Saturday, December 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel for fun, food, fellowship, and a special guest! Wear your Christmas bling and bring an ornament or other Christmas decor for a gift exchange (\$10 or under). Please RSVP online at [southtulsa.org/events](http://southtulsa.org/events) by Monday, December 1.

# Jesus Christmas Rooms



Each year, Jenks CarePoint and The Ministry Center provide our client families the opportunity to shop free of charge for Christmas gifts for their children. Help us by donating new, unwrapped toys, books, or other age-appropriate gift items. Our Jesus Christmas Rooms are open through December 19. Donations can be dropped off in the marked bins in the Atrium or at Jenks CarePoint Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (closed Thanksgiving week). Scan the QR for gift ideas or view the list [HERE](http://southtulsa.org/events). Thank you for helping to make Christmas a little merrier for so many in need.

Women’s Ministry Presents

# Prepare Him Room

Ladies, join us for a Christmas dinner and virtual event on Friday, December 5, 6:00-9:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Learn alongside Kelly Minter (on the big screens) and worship with Marnie Copeland as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, embrace the true meaning of Christmas, and prepare Him room. The cost is \$20. Preschool childcare is available by reservation. If you can, please bring an unwrapped toy for our Jesus Christmas Rooms at Jenks CarePoint and the Ministry Center. Please register by 11/30 at [southtulsa.org/events](http://southtulsa.org/events).

# Benevolence Fund

Our Benevolence Fund is running low and in need of donations so we can continue to meet the needs of our community. Our church helps with critical bills such as rent, utilities, and other important payments in a world of increasing costs of living. We have a wonderful ministry in place where we can talk with, pray for, and meet tangible needs of those that reach out for help. Please prayerfully consider donating to our Benevolence Fund online or by designating “Benevolence” on a check or cash donation.

# last week

## GIVING

MFP Actual Receipts . . . . . \$1,560,374  
Ministry Financial Plan . . . . . 1,746,587  
General Fund . . . . . 64,221

## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Adults . . . . . 484  
Students . . . . . 54  
Children . . . . . 92  
Preschool . . . . . 79  
Unclassified . . . . . 10  
Total . . . . . 719

## THE MINISTRY CENTER

Volunteers . . . . . 41  
People Helped . . . . . 227  
Showers . . . . . 53  
Hot Meals . . . . . 175  
Church Service . . . . . 27  
Prayed to Receive Christ . . . . . 1  
Needs: warm gloves and coats (new or used).

## JENKS CAREPOINT

Volunteers . . . . . 47  
People Helped . . . . . 371  
Children received Christmas Gifts . . . . 209  
Needs: Christmas gifts for birth-18 years, all sizes coats, blankets.

## MINISTRY STAFF

Dr. Eric Costanzo, <i>Pastor</i> eric@southtulsa.org	Kara Lee, <i>Director of Jenks CarePoint</i> kara@jenksarepoint.org
Phil Dark, <i>Minister to Senior Adults &amp; Pastoral Care</i> phil@southtulsa.org	Laura McFarlin, <i>Associate Minister to College Students &amp; Young Adults</i> lauram@southtulsa.org
Julie DeYoung, <i>Minister to Families with Preschoolers</i> julie@southtulsa.org	Sean McKinney, <i>Music Ministry Associate</i> sean@southtulsa.org
Lisa Fuller, <i>Director of The Ministry Center</i> lisa@ministry-center.org	Karen Pirtle, <i>Minister of Missions and Mobilization</i> karen@southtulsa.org
Kimberly Hayes, <i>Director of Creative Ministries</i> kim@southtulsa.org	Seth Spoo, <i>Pastoral &amp; Student Associate</i> seth@southtulsa.org
Dr. Zack Hudson, <i>Associate Pastor &amp; Minister to Families</i> zack@southtulsa.org	Michael Ware, <i>Music Ministry Associate</i> mware@southtulsa.org
Jesse Johnston, <i>Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy</i> jesse@southtulsa.org	Phillip White, <i>Minister of Administration</i> pwhite@southtulsa.org
Rebecca Johnston, <i>Minister to Families with Children</i> rebecca@southtulsa.org	

## ON THE COVER

Worship Choir