



# Vision

A publication of **First Christian Church** (Disciples of Christ), **Tulsa** • **December 12, 2018**  
913 S. Boulder Ave., Tulsa, OK 918.582.8237 [fctulsa.org](http://fctulsa.org)

## December Sermons

Each month brings a fresh emphasis for our Sunday Worship Sermons. December's Advent sermons are built around the theme – ***The Questions of Christmas***. Join us for these messages:

- December 2 **What Do You Expect?** Isaiah 30:18; Colossians 1:13-14; Luke 2:25-32  
December 9 **What Do You Do When You Follow a Star and Find a Stable?** Matthew 2  
{Facing the Unexpected}  
December 16 **Was It Meant to Be Like This? Thoughts on Joseph** Matthew 1:18-25  
{Facing the Unwanted}  
December 23 **Why Did He Come?** {Hebrews 2; Philippians 2}  
December 30 **What Difference Has Looking Made?** Luke 2 – The Shepherds

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 5:00 p.m.

The one word that our culture uses to describe the Christmas season is *hectic*. We try to do so many things with some of our attempts lingering in the urgent category right to the end. The unfortunate result is mental and emotional tension.

Finally on Christmas Eve the sun sets, the stores are closed or closing and the people are slowly finding their way home. For better or worse, everyone's efforts are nearly done. The rush is over for another year. Our thoughts turn toward a family meal and a cozy evening at home with loved ones.

**Yet for those of us who follow Jesus, there is one last thing.** We don't want our secular age to completely set the agenda for our lives so we make our way to the church house where God's people gather to remind themselves of what this season is really all about. We gather to celebrate the birth of our sovereign Lord years ago in Bethlehem.

As we sing our Advent hymns and listen again to the Scriptures the tension departs. Tired muscles relax. Fears give way to faith. Getting becomes less important than giving. We sing, pray, light our candles and rejoice in the presence of our Lord and His Gospel which reminds us of God's promises, presence and pardon. ***O Come, Let Us Adore Him!***

## Christmas Eve continued ..

Please Note: We are inviting as our guests the street people we serve Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays with our Snack Pack ministry. We don't know how many will attend but we would like for them to experience a Christmas worship service that shares the Good News that they, like us, are important to God. We'll have special music and candle lighting. Lynn's devotional will be: *No Insignificant People, No Insignificant Places.*

## *Happenings* – at First Christian Church

### ▶ **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Fellowship – 9:30 a.m. – in the West Fellowship Room**

2017's Sweater Sunday is fondly remembered. **This December 23**, We'll start our morning together around tables with a light breakfast, special memories, Advent readings and special music. Even though we collected a lot of winter clothing items in October, we'll gladly accept any sweaters or warm scarves which we'll pass along to the needy. **Our Advent Worship service will be in the sanctuary @ 10:45**

- ▶ Our Outreach Team will be preparing and serving the evening meal at the Day Center for the Homeless, **Thursday, December 13**. See Patti Gay-Sittler for more information.
- ▶ There will be an organizational meeting of the **new Elder group**, Sunday, December 16, after worship. There will also be an organizational meeting for the **new Deacon group**, Sunday, Dec. 16, after worship. Both groups will choose leaders and created initial 2019 serving schedules.
- ▶ Our **Tuesday morning Prayer Group** needs additional servants. This group meets each week at 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the Archives room, just off the north elevator. It is a time of intercession for the requests submitted during Sunday's worship with personal follow up notes written to those prayed for. Could you give one or more Tuesdays each month to this ministry? See Vi Kennett or Sandra Lewis.

## Christian Women's Fellowship

Ladies, mark your calendars for **Thursday, December 20, at 10:30 a.m.** and join your sisters-in-faith for a time of study {Women in the Bible}, prayer, activity and fellowship. This program will incorporate ladies from other greater Tulsa area Disciples' congregations and include a Christmas oriented movie and luncheon for all to enjoy. *Questions?* Call Zenobia Mayo, (918) 694-1996

## FCC People News –

### Joys and Concerns for your Prayers

- .. **Condolences** to **Jay Gibson** at the death of his brother, and to **Betsi Phillips** at the death of her mother. We also ask you to lift up prayers for the family **Craig Eiland** who passed away Thursday, November 8, and for the family of **Carl Oliver**, who passed away Friday, November 9.
- .. **Jean Swanson** requests prayer for her sister **Jan Kottwitz** who is facing a difficult battle with pancreatic cancer.
- .. **Mary Lynn Howard** continues her long recovery from her back injury. She still is in a lot of pain. There have been many tests and she may have surgery after the New Year. Pray for her healing.

- .. **Anna Tarpennig** requests prayer for her friends, the Turner family, who daughter Marcia committed suicide on December 5'
- .. **Patti Sellers**, one of our new attendees, requests prayer for their family's difficult season. Patti's husband Theo has a serious liver disease.
- .. Keep **Zenobia Mayo** in your prayers as she recovers from knee replacement surgery.

**Thanks to Joan Hauger, David Dunning, Sue Ann Duckworth**, and our custodial staff for decorating the church for Advent. It looks great!

## 2019 Ministry Vision Plan

**A current 2018 update.** November's General Fund receipts {not counting designated giving, special funds and accounts} totaled **\$29,638.50**. An additional income of **\$17,976.40** was received from special funds and accounts). Expenditures for October totaled \$48,573.21. Your faithfulness and sacrificial giving continues to make a significant difference.

2018 is rapidly drawing to a close. Any funds you would like to be credited to your 2018 giving needs to be to the church by December 31, 2018. Individual financial statements will be sent out in January.

Our **2019 Ministry Vision Plan** –is predicated on three (3) major items:

- ▷ **Personnel costs** {salaries, allowances, taxes withheld, and other compensation benefits}; We are projecting that this area will be less in 2019 due to a reconfiguration and reduction of support staff.
- ▷ **Operational Costs** {keeping the doors open – utilities, maintenance, insurance} We are projecting that this area will be less in 2019. Due to a reduced use of our building, we have renegotiated some of our service contracts to our favor for 2019.
- ▷ **Ministry Costs** {sustaining or funding Worship, Education, Outreach, Membership initiatives}

**MVP** continued

At our 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting the slate of nominees for 2019 Leadership and our proposed 2019 Ministry Vision Plan was overwhelmingly approved. **The 2019 budget calls for an income of \$518,485 and a like projected expenditures of \$518,485.** Both income and expenditures are projections. A 2019 Stewardship prospectus soliciting your financial support will be mailed out shortly.

### **Inclement Weather Policy**

Your safety is priority. If Tulsa is under a severe weather alert or warning exercise caution.

If a winter weather storm creates unsafe travel conditions, stay home. For building closure or service cancellations check our FCC Facebook page and watch for a notice via our constant contact email messaging system. We will also post those notices on television stations 6 (CBS) and 23 (Fox) as well as NEWS102.3 KRMG radio.

## A Message from Lynn

I will soon complete one year with you. It's been a good year. We didn't know how 2018 would play out but we've seen God's blessings. We said goodbye to some precious people who passed. We've defied some projections and found strength for another new year about to begin. 2019 will bring more challenges but I have a sense that God is not through with us yet. Let's savor each week and month. Let's give ourselves as an offering to Him who blesses our lives. He is worthy of all that we are, all that we have, and all that we hope to be. May your days be blessed with wonderful times of family, good food, friends' voices, melodies that make your heart smile, and moments where God is incredibly real and near.

The LORD your God is with you, He is mighty to save.  
He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love,  
He will rejoice over you with singing."

**Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV)**

**Lynn Taylor – Interim Senior Pastor** [lynnntaylor@gmail.com](mailto:lynnntaylor@gmail.com)

Paul Pinkosky – Organist, Choir Director

Deborah Ahearn – Bookkeeper, Office Assistant

Dwight Wallace – Head of Building Maintenance

### Sunday Schedule

<b>Fellowship</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
Choir Warm Up	10:15 a.m.
<b>Morning Worship</b>	<b>10:45 a.m.</b>

### Wednesday

<b>Bible Study Fellowship</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Choir Practice</b>	<b>7:15 p.m.</b>

**Weekday Hours**                      **9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.** {closed Saturdays}