

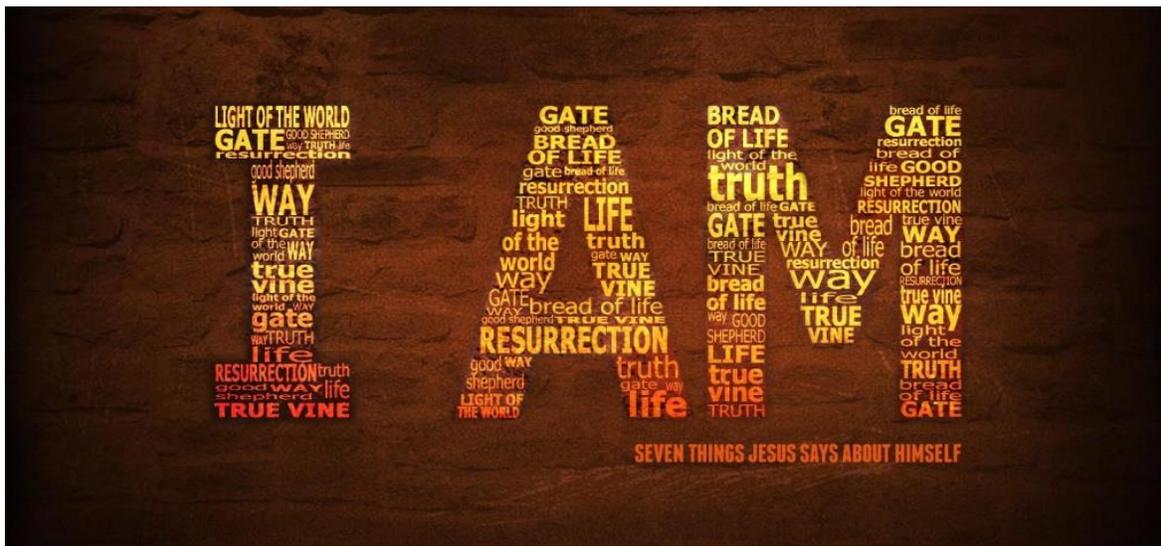


Vision

A publication of **First Christian Church** (Disciples of Christ), **Tulsa** • **March 6, 2019**
913 S. Boulder Ave., Tulsa, OK 918.582.8237 fctulsa.org

Coram Deo

“**Christian living IN the presence of, UNDER the authority of, and TO the honor and glory of God.**”



March SERMONS – *In His Own Words*

Who is Jesus? If we’ve not had the occasion to meet someone first hand then *to know about them* we can access either a biography of the person, or we can access the person’s autobiography if it is available. The apostle John was one of Jesus’ biographers and arguably His best friend. John helps us get to know Jesus. In this series we will listen in on several conversations in the Gospel of John in which Jesus *Himself* makes very specific, far reaching **I AM** statements about Himself. Our goal is to sit, listen, and receive a clear, accurate picture of Him we follow and call **Lord**.

- March 10 **I AM** the **Light of the World** – John 8
- March 17 **I AM** the **Bread of Life** – John 6
- March 24 *Michael Davison, Associate Regional Minister, speaking*
- March 31 **I AM** the **Vine, You are the Branches** – John 15
- April 7 **I AM** the **Way, the Truth, and The Life** – John 14



Don't forget
that Saturday night **March 9** is our
Spring Time Change.
It is *spring forward*. Move your clocks forward
one hour before Sunday morning.

February Financial Stewardship We took a bit of a hit in February's offerings. We received **\$22,408.38** in General Fund and Pledged offerings. That compares to **\$20,422.83** one year ago in 2018. A full report including additional income will be available at March's Ministry Council.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- **Don Swanson** will chair FCC's Trustees through 2019.
- **Boulder Ave Construction.** Boulder Ave renovation continues. The work includes replacing water lines, utilities conduit, and sanitary lines. Once that is accomplished the street will receive new asphalt. If you have been parking on the west side of Boulder, for the next couple of months you will probably want to park on the north or east side of our facility.
- **FCC/ERB News.**
Erik Beelman is planning to meet with our congregation at FCC's April **Ministry Council, April 14.** This meeting will be open to our entire membership, giving everyone present an opportunity to meet Eric and hear first hand an outline and timeline of ERB's proposed joint venture with FCC.
- **Keep in Your Prayers:** Jan Kottwitz, Jean Swanson's sister in OKC, receiving chemotherapy for stage four cancer. Robin Dowling's niece, Haylee continues her long recovery from an automobile accident. She's had multiple surgeries with more to come. Theo Sellers who is waiting on Medicaid to authorize additional treatments. Linda Hess and Mary Lynn Howard have recently had heart related tests and procedures.
THANKSGIVINGS: Mary Ann Hargrove's brother in Tennessee, who is also dealing with stage four cancer has had an amazing response to his treatments. Patty Sellers who has been looking for a job secured one. Darlene Blackburn's husband Darrell, is now at home recovering from his hospitalization.
- **Winter Weather Policy.** It will soon be spring but several weeks remain where inclement winter weather can occur. If roads and surfaces become icy and slick and there is a travel alert, stay in. Your safety is our concern.

UPCOMING

- **March's Ministry Council** will meet on Sunday, March 10, after worship.
- March's Day Center for the Homeless meal will be March 14. Check with Pattie Gay-Sittler, (918) 693-0592 for preparation and service times.

Upcoming Continued . .

- March's **Christian Women's Fellowship**, will meet Thursday, March 21, @ 10:30 a.m. Check with Zenobia Mayo (918.694.1996) for upcoming details.

YOUR ROLE IN EVANGELISM

Easter, 2019, will be **April 21**. It would be difficult to *overemphasize the importance of a **personal invitation*** when actively engaging in evangelistic outreach with friends and relatives. We can guess but we really don't know what another person is thinking. That is a two way street. Have you ever considered that some who know us might wonder, *"I know they are a Christian, I know they attend worship, I wonder why they've never invited me?"* From now through Easter is a season where it is a proven fact that people are *MORE receptive* to personal invitations. Think of your relational web of influence and invite. It may seem like a small step but in reality be a very significant step in another person's faith life.

WHAT IS LENT

Although its format has varied throughout the centuries and throughout different cultures, *the basic concept remains the same: to open our hearts to God's refining grace through prayer, confession, fasting, and almsgiving as we anticipate Holy Week*. Lent traditionally lasts 40 days, modeled after Christ's forty day fast in the desert, and ends on Good Friday. In the Western Church, Lent officially begins with a reminder of our mortality on Ash Wednesday .

Lent is a penitential season. The 40 days are set aside to really examine areas of *recurring sin* in our lives that diminish our discipleship and prevent us from being conformed to God's Will. The goal is to honestly examine our life in light of God's Word and to make a commitment to change in any areas we have not submitted to the Lord.

To fast or not to fast. There are numerous precedents in the Scriptures where fasting leads to an enhanced awareness of who we are spiritually and who God is in His majesty and grace. The objective is to make room for God to make His presence and power known to us, by *minimizing* less important things. Some possibilities: *unhealthy foods, unbiblical habits, inordinate obsessions*.

May these weeks leading up to the tragedy of Good Friday and the glory of Resurrection Sunday remind us of who God is, how He loves us, and who He has created us to be as His followers.

May we walk through this season intentionally, removing distractions that take our gaze away from God's glory.

- **2019's Lenten Season** will begin with an **Ash Wednesday** devotional service on March 6 and conclude with a **Maundy Thursday** communion service April 18.
- **Lenten Season Devotional – The Cross.** You are invited to take this insightful and penetrating guide to enhance your *Lenten Journey*. The guide is designed to be flexible, you can read through the articles *at your own pace*. Each article concludes with a suggested Scripture and reflection prompt. It's difficult to experience a *difference* in this season IF we don't incorporate some *different* practices. Let us know your reaction.

From Pastor Lynn –

In my years of ministry there have always been challenges. As each year and decade unfolds there has been forewarnings and then astonishment at the changes in our culture. There is a lot of good in our world – and there is a lot of bad, *dare I say evil*, in the world. Each generation has always known its hidden proclivities and weaknesses so it is not as though former decades and generations were better. But in my opinion what is becoming more prevalent and egregious is the *openness* in which our culture flaunts its independence from Biblical truths and values. We must not forget the *Holy Righteousness* of the God who has revealed Himself – and we and must not ignore **His gift of grace and resurrection** for those who will submit their lives to Him.

{the following is from James Every White, one of my favorite bloggers}

“*The message of the Christian faith is deeply counter-cultural, and increasingly so with each passing day. It is, by its very nature, offensive. But it is precisely that offense that makes it the gospel. I, for one, will continue proclaiming it in all of its glorious offense.*

While offensive to some, only in its clearest and most convictional form will it retain its potency and potential to arrest the world’s attention. Make no mistake—a lukewarm religion holds little value in the midst of a settling secularism. What grips a conscience is anything *gripping*. **The only kind of voice that will arrest the attention of the world will be *convictional* in nature, *clear* in its message, *substantive* in its content and *bold* in its challenge.”**

‘Coram Deo’

Lynn Taylor – Interim Senior Pastor vllyntaylor@gmail.com

Paul Pinkosky – Organist, Choir Director

Deborah Ahearn – Bookkeeper, Office Assistant

Dwight Wallace – Head of Building Maintenance

Sunday Schedule

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

Wednesday

Bible Study Fellowship	6:00 p.m.
Choir Practice	7:15 p.m.

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