



Discipleship:
Catching the Vision!

*Called to make fully-devoted followers of
Jesus Christ:
Inwardly Strong,
Outwardly Focused.*

July 23, 2023
Kerr Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

*First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa
Born by grace in 1885*

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Kerr Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

The Words of Preparation

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters. Psalm 24:1

The LORD God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it. Genesis 2:15

The Welcome

Dr. Miller

(Please sign, pass, and return the blue Friendship Register)

The Call to Worship

Into this house of prayer, dedicated to the worship of the Triune God, we come this morning!

According to His own promise, He is right here among us.

So lift up the gates of your heart; open wide for the King of glory to enter!

To you, O Lord, we lift up our soul! We lift high Your Name and sing your praise! Alleluia! Amen!

◆ The Hymn

Great God, In Your Mercy

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Great God, in your mercy, come bless us today. By grace we are gathered to worship and pray. We bring all our failures, our hurts and our sin, O come, Great Physician, and cleanse us within.

Allelu! Allelu! Hear the praise that we sing! Allelu! Allelu, to our Savior and King! O Christ: Lord of mercy, eternal I AM, Incarnate from glory, the Unblemished Lamb!

Messiah and Savior, You come from above; our Alpha, Omega, God's incarnate Love. O Power of Salvation, O Infinite Grace, we lift high your mercy; your great Name we praise! *Refrain.*

Come, now, by your Spirit, and breathe on us, Lord. Awaken our worship, and speak through your Word. Cause us to be fruitful that others may see –that in Christ we share Life that truly is free!
Refrain.

◆ **The Prayer of Adoration**

Elder Amy Russell

The Old Testament Reading Deuteronomy 10:12-22

So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? Only to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being.

Although heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the Lord your God, the earth with all that is in it, yet the Lord set his heart in love on your ancestors alone and chose you, their descendants after them, out of all the peoples, as it is today.

Circumcise, then, the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stubborn any longer. For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing.

You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; Him you shall serve; to Him you shall hold fast; and by His name you shall swear.

He is your praise; He is your God who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen. Your ancestors went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the Lord has made you as numerous as the stars in heaven.

The Prayer of Confession

Rev. Robert Biederman

Giver of every good gift, Author of every blessing: from your storehouse of delights You give to each of us generously. You give with open hand and open heart, and you urge us to do the same --to use the gifts You've given to further Your purposes: to care for the needy, to remember the orphan and widow, to love the immigrant and strangers. Forgive us for forgetting that we have been called into your service, privileged to collaborate with you, redeeming the time, employing our talents, serving you faithfully, holding fast to You and Your Way. Lord, revive us by your Holy Spirit. In your mercy, hear our prayers... *(in silence)*

The Invitation to Embrace Christ's Forgiveness

Friends, embrace this good news with all of your hearts: in Jesus Christ there is forgiveness —for all who call upon Him!
Alleluia! Amen!

◆ **The Response**

We have heard the joyful sound: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
Spread the tidings all around: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
Bear the news to every land, climb the steeps and cross the waves; onward!—'tis our Lord's command: Jesus saves!
Jesus saves!

Sing above the battle's strife: Jesus saves, Jesus saves! By His death and endless life, Jesus saves, Jesus saves; sing it softly through the gloom, when the heart for mercy craves, sing in triumph o'er the tomb: Jesus saves, Jesus saves!

◆ **The Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from

thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN.

The Joys and Concerns of the Church

The Offertory

Eternal Life

Olive Dungan

Brad Morgan, soloist

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. St. Francis of Assisi

The New Testament Reading Luke 12:16-21

And Jesus told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain.' And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'

But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

The Sermon The Most Pivotal Distinction: Owner or Steward?

He thought to himself, what should I do? I have no place to store all my crops. *Luke 12:17*

The Invitation to the Table

- Words of Institution
- Prayer of Blessing
- Sharing of the Bread and Cup

The Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

- ◆ **The Hymn** 422 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending BEACH SPRING
- ◆ **The Charge and Benediction**
- ◆ **The Postlude**

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Today

A heartfelt welcome to each and all as we gather to worship in this *House of Prayer*. If you’re here for the first time, we pray you’ll sense the presence of Christ and the warmth of this congregation.

Our *Letter of Blessing* today goes to Kim Flanagan and family.

The flowers that beautify the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lila Smith and her love for Christ and the children of the world.

Thank you for your faithful support of the ministries of First Church! Weekly tithes and offerings to the Lord may be given electronically at firstchurchtulsa.org, text 405-276-4141 or by using the QR code below.



Today! “Faith & Film” – An all-church, summer Sunday School class gathering at 9:30 a.m. in the library! We’ll explore how faith intersects culture on the silver screen. In July, Dan Hutchison and John Shelton consider popular movies and search out Christian themes that emerge.

- Today – Arrival
- July 30 – Star Wars Series

In August, we will dive into Season 1 of The Chosen and review how scripture is messaged and depicted through this series. Pastors and lay teachers will lead our conversations in the Miller Library at 9:30 a.m.

Aug. 6	Episode 1 – I Have Called You by Name Episode 2 – Shabbat	Dr. Miller
Aug. 13	Episode 3 – Jesus Loves the Little Children Episode 4 – The Rock on Which It Is Built	Rev. Metcalf
Aug. 20	Episode 5 – The Wedding Gift Episode 6 – Indescribable Compassion	Elder Jacob Thompson
Aug. 27	Episode 7 – Invitations Episode 8 – I Am He	Elder Jacob Thompson
Sept. 3	Pilot – The Shepherd Closing Discussion of Entire Series	Rev. Hutchinson

Dr. Miller’s Summer Session on *Christian Apologetics* – today at 9:30 (and Wednesdays at 11:30) in E104. We’re reviewing Rebecca McLaughlin’s book, *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World’s Largest Religion*. Rebecca will be speaking in Stephenson Hall on Saturday night, September 16, at 6:30 p.m.

Summer Swim – Cool off this summer! Bring your family to Camp Loughridge, today and every Sunday: 1:30 - 4:45 p.m. through September 3.

This Week

Session meets this Tuesday, July 25: dinner, 5:15 p.m. and Session meeting at 6:15 p.m. in room E104.

College Update for July – All College Students are invited to join us this summer for UKirk Bible Study on Tuesday nights from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Dinner is provided as we enjoy fellowship and engage in conversation about faith and scripture. Follow us *@ukirktulsa* for more information or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at *jmetcalf@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

Summer Backyard Bible Study - Join at the Wambugu home for an in-depth Summer Backyard Bible Study to review and discuss the sermon series each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. through August 9. Contact Laura Stevens at *lstevens@firstchurchtulsa.org* for more information.

Mark Your Calendar

Inquirers' Class – Sundays, August 6 – 27 at 9:15 a.m., in the Miller Library. If you are interested in joining First Church, please contact Patricia Hall at 918-301-1028.

Volunteers needed for Camp Sunshine - Saturday, August 5, 11.00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Camp Loughridge. This annual event sponsored by the Board of Deacons, offers a day camp experience for children fighting cancer. Volunteers are needed; the minimum age to volunteer is 14. If you can spend a few hours helping to supervise an activity, assist with crafts or food, or help with set up or clean up, please sign up using this QR code, clicking the link on the church's web calendar, or call Hannah Damron at 918-301-1039.



Annual FPC Ping-Pong Tournament (including cookout!) – Sunday, August 20, following the 11:00 worship services. All ages welcome to participate.

Four Things Christians Must Reclaim - Join us on Saturday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. in Stephenson Hall to hear guest speaker Dr. Rebecca McLaughlin. Rebecca has always been fascinated by the power of words and the message of the gospel. Her first book, *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion* was named "Book of the Year" by Christianity Today.

Helping Hang Golf Tournament will be on Monday, September 18 at 8:30 a.m. at the Meadowbrook Country Club.

Ministry Opportunities

The Summer Choir Welcomes You! Why not add your voice to the Summer Choir during the 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary service? Join us Sunday mornings for a brief rehearsal at 10:15 a.m. in the Choir Room.

For more information, please contact Gretchen Bashforth at 918-301-1012/gbashforth@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Young Adults – First Church is committed to cultivating faith within the next generation, providing a place for young adults to connect with one another and with the larger church. Find us on Facebook, Instagram at [@fpcyoungadults](https://www.instagram.com/fpcyoungadults), or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

Parish Register

Prayers for Healing: Jane Azlin, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Carol Caldwell, Dwight Creveling, Marilyn Davis, Donna Droege, Cecil Drummond, David Dunning, Mary Ann Elliott, Gaye Graeler, Gena Gray, Dana Grogan, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Meg Hubler, Warren Hubler, Jeannie Dickey Kelsay, Joyce Kunkel, Carmelitti LeFlore, Amy Lesh, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, Jan Miller, David Osterholt, Larry Osterhout, Bill Peacher, Shari Postier, Rosemary Priest, Lyle Proffitt, Helen Quiring,

Carly Rivers, Mary Ruddle, Robert Shaw, Sarah Smith, Jane Sneed, Cissy Ssettimba, Shannon Thomas, and Susan Waldie.

The Joy of New Life! We welcome: Asa Mark Smith, son of Sarah and Alex Smith, was born on July 16.

The Sacrament of Baptism: Jonah Nathaniel Sloup, Jr., son of Adrianna and Jonah Sloup, was baptized on July 16.

Worship Notes

Services are broadcast on Cox channel 3 (each Sunday) at 11:00 a.m., 5:00 and 10:00 p.m., on the FPC Facebook page, or *FirstChurchTulsa.org/YouTube*.

Please notify the church if you have a pastoral need, change of address/phone number or other important family news. Contact Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 or *kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org*.

For those who need hearing assistance in the Sanctuary or Stephenson Hall, audio headsets are available from the ushers. Also available are large-print hymnals and Bibles.

First Church Cancer List – Do you or a loved one have cancer? Members of the Guild of Intercessors pray every day for those on the Guild's Cancer List. If you would like to add yourself, a loved one, or a friend or colleague to this confidential list, please contact Paula Peterson at 918-296-5548/*mandppeterson@msn.com* or Monte Prater at 918-605-9719/*monteprater@aol.com*.

COME, GROW YOUR FAITH!

TODAY 7/23

- 8:00 am Worship: Kerr Chapel
8:30 am Worship: Stephenson Hall
9:30 am Christian Apologetics, led by Dr. Miller, E104
 Faith in Film, Miller Library
 Faith and Family, Prayer Room
 Morning Glory Class, B318
 Reflections, E103
 Shepherds, E203
 Sojourners, E204
 Westminster Class, Tower Room
11:00 am Worship: Sanctuary, Stephenson, Great Hall

Tuesday 7/25

- 5:15 pm Session Dinner, E104
6:00 pm Session Meeting, E104

Wednesday 7/26

- 11:30 am Pastor's Study, E104
6:30 pm Summer Backyard Bible Study, Rev. Wambugu's Home

Saturday 7/29

- 8:45 am Before the Rooster Crows, E103