



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF EDMOND

FIRST LOOK

JUNE 2020

FEATURE ARTICLE:

Grow in Understanding **Virtual VBS**

(left) Nancy and Chuck Smith with grandchildren Adeline, 9, and Holden, 7, who encourage all to participate in VBS online this summer!

(below)

Sandi Morgan with the Warren and Lisa Creed family who have benefited over the years from VBS at First Pres

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT:

SERVE DAY
for CITY RESCUE MISSION

JUNE ANNOUNCEMENTS



MISSION MOMENT

Grow in Understanding

by: Carol Hartzog

Vacation Bible School this year calls upon our members to ENGAGE with those on our street and neighborhood online.

Ask a neighbor or two to send their children over to your front yard or driveways, and lead a virtual VBS, if safety guidelines allow. Hey, if you have already stretched yourself technologically during this pandemic, you can do this! And what better way to make disciples.

The investment is worth it, according to fifth-grader Adeline Ouellette of Frisco, Texas, granddaughter of members Nancy and Chuck Smith.

“(Two years ago,) Nana and Papa got me a children’s Bible. I got real interested in it, and I thought, “If I go (to VBS), I can learn more about (the Bible),” said Adeline.

Adeline did not know any attendees beforehand but she was pleasantly surprised. “It was more than what I expected that first year. When we got to sing the songs, they were very catchy. When I got to sing about God, two things happened at once – I was singing and learning about God.”

“One time, we learned about how you can always talk to God. You can shoot up all the thoughts about bad things (to God) and He says, ‘All these things you can tell me and it’ll be OK.’”

And to parents who are thinking of participating, she would say: “It’s very good for your kids to get out there and explore what God is trying to tell you. It’s going to be fun being online. I really feel like it’s changed how I think about God

MISSION

GATHER FOR WORSHIP & COMMUNITY
GROW IN INTIMACY & UNDERSTANDING
GO TO SERVE & SHARE

and everyday He is there when I talk to him. It changes the perspective. He’s really alive and he can be there when you need Him to be.”

Chuck says that VBS has put the story of Jesus all together for her and now she is leading and mentoring her younger brother, Holden, 7, who also attends.

VBS is four, two-hour online sessions, which includes: Opening music; hysterical skit videos; Bible story videos with questions; snack suggestions; how-to craft videos and craft supplies provided (pick up kits **1-3 p.m. June 17**); more hysterical videos; and then closing music. The material is all VERY engaging material for the children to burn off that extra energy.

The material is for elementary ages but, with a parent’s help, the VBS age can begin at 3. Register the number of children for craft supplies. Go to FpcEdmond.org/kids.

Although the camp is June 22-25, it doesn’t have to be done in a specific time period. You could gather in the evenings or any day of any week for any length of time, as the materials will all be archived.

“This allows parents to fit it in their schedule. It’s not just 9-11,” said Danielle Jones, Kids Ministries Associate Director. VBS is free.

VBS will bring so much joy as there has been much loss in the pandemic with class ending abruptly, said Melina Owen, Kids Ministries Special Event Coordinator. Many athletic, music and art camps have closed for summer, including sleepovers and vacations.

The theme is “Focus: Take a Closer Look,” where children will explore

ways they can focus on God: Hear, talk, pray and live. What better time to bring focus to what’s really important? The VBS scripture is: “Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And He is the one who completes the journey of faith.” Hebrews 12:2A

“This church is unique,” said Owen. “It has a long history of reaching out to the community on a much larger scale.”

Lisa Creed with her five children is one of those families served by our VBS since her 18-year-old was 3 or 4 years old. Now, her children range in age from 11 to 18 and most have volunteered over the years.

“VBS puts a softness in their hearts,” Lisa said of her children. As a small-town girl, she remembers VBS as being very touching and impactful. When the children were smaller, she admits her children would attend four or five VBS camps in the summer, but found FPC’s to be the most family-like, even with lunch provided in her earlier days.

To parents, she would say: “(Other than you,) let other people show Jesus to your kids.... It’s showing how people can work together.”

Be praying for God to prick your heart to ask a neighbor. What a gift to that parent to give them a break. Our church’s three-prong mission includes “GROW in intimacy and understanding.” What better time to help our future generation do that?”

Call your neighbor kids to come to your driveway for VBS!

Reopening Update

Our Session (Board of Elders) has voted to enter a four week reopening phase which started on May 24, 2020 and will end on Sunday, June 14, 2020. For those four Sundays we will have stricter guidelines than the State of Oklahoma and the City of Edmond. Worship services will be offered on site and on line at 9 and 11:15 a.m. We will not have Sunday School, a Nursery, Food Service (Donuts and Coffee), a Comfort Room, or a Choir during worship. Seating will be in every other pew. Masks are encouraged

but not required. We ask that everyone keep social distance. Our offering will be received in baskets in the back of the sanctuary.

In addition, we will feature an outdoor worship service in celebration of Pentecost, to be held on Sunday, May 31, at 7:30 p.m. in front of the Rankin entrance to the office. Bring your lawn chairs and come to celebrate Pentecost!

Our Session will meet on Monday June 1, to review the first two weeks of our reopening plan. Should the Session wish to make any changes we will announce those to the con-

gregation. The Session will also be discussing a phase two for our reopening, with fewer restrictions and more options.

Please remember that we trust you to make the best decision for yourself. We are grateful for our live streaming options for those who choose to worship from home. We are also grateful for the opportunity to gather at 1001 S. Rankin for those who wish to do so. If you have questions about reopening, please contact Dave Moore, dmoore@fpcedmond.org.



LIFT DRIVE-IN

Students and Families! Get excited about LIFT: Drive-In! Bring a car or bring a lawn chair, and gather in fun socially-distanced spaces! ALL students and families are welcome! What is LIFT: Drive-In? You can expect an epic LIFT|LIVE custom movie each week (complete with a message from God's Word), worship that will re-center your heart on Jesus, and virtual games! When is it? 8-9:30pm in the FPCE Backyard June 3, 10, 17, 24 and July 8, 15 and 29th! Look for more information coming on social media:



• LIFT FPCE on Facebook



• fpce_students on Instagram

You can still watch online!

LIVE STREAM
SUNDAYS AT 9:00 & 11:15AM

CONNECT ONLINE



Cook's Night Out

Cook's Night Out will take place as scheduled on **June 12 at 5:00pm**. Only 4 people will be allowed in the kitchen to prepare the meals. All meals will be served "to-go" style and handed to cars outside. CNO has been providing meals to anyone who needs or wants one the second Friday of every month for over 10 years now! People of all faiths, churches, and backgrounds come to partake in a meal - usually together in the Family Life Center of FPCE. There are 4 other churches that provide meals, covering each Friday of each month all year. If you are interested in serving, donating, or just would like more information, please contact Liz Laska at stripedlizard@cox.net.

FIRST, BY THE NUMBERS

Church Attendance from April 12, Easter Sunday:

- April 12: 960
- April 19: 686
- April 26: 630
- May 3: 670
- May 10 (Mother's Day): 1028
- May 17: 896
- May 24: 138 in the sanctuary and 490 via livestream, 628 total

(NOTE: these are estimates based on best sources of information from around the country on how to determine online attendance.)

- Actual Giving in April, 2020: \$208,216
- Actual Expenses in April, 2020: \$232,901
- Giving/Expenses in April, 2020: (\$24,686)
- Actual Giving January through April, 2020: \$1,015,239
- Actual Expenses January through April, 2020: \$833,794
- Giving/Expenses January through April, 2020: \$181,445

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

SERVE DAY for City Rescue Mission

For decades, compassionately serving people in the Oklahoma City metro area has been and still is a key component of how we practice our faith in Jesus together at First Presbyterian Church of Edmond. Coming up on **Wednesday, June 24**, is an opportunity for everyone in the congregation to serve God and make a difference in someone's life by participating in Serve Day for City Rescue Mission! On that day, people of the FPCE community are called to bring donations of needed items to the church where they will be collected between the hours of **5pm and 8pm**. *There will even be a friendly competition between students and adults to see which group can collect more donations!*

After drop-off of all the items is completed, everyone is invited to gather in the church parking lot for a time of **worship at 8pm**. There will be food trucks, as well, so bring your lawn chairs and en-

joy some long-awaited fellowship that evening.

City Rescue Mission is a solution-based, faith-based ministry in Oklahoma City that provides a path back to hope for the homeless who wish to seek positive change in their lives or temporary shelter and a meal.

Here are some of the items they need. For safety and hygiene reasons, everything donated needs to be new and unopened.

Non-perishable items:

- paper towels
- to-go containers
- all-in-one cutlery packs (fork, knife, spoon, napkin)
- styrofoam plates
- 8 or 12 oz. styrofoam cups
- baby diapers (all sizes)
- baby formula
- baby wipes
- sippy cups
- shampoo (travel size or full size)
- body wash (travel size or full size)



- shaving cream
- disposable razors
- adult diapers (size XL and XXL)
- new underwear - Men's & Women's large sizes especially

Non-perishable Food items:

- Flour
- Powdered milk
- Pinto beans

If items are added to the City Rescue Mission wish list, we will announce them on the fpcedmond.org website over the days leading up to the collection. Coming together on Serve Day for City Rescue Mission is another way for us to praise The Lord and live into God's vision for First Presbyterian Church of Edmond: New Life through Jesus for Edmond and the World!