



# First Connect

November 24, 2020

WWW.FBCOKC.ORG

405- 232-4255

*FBCOKC – A family of faith, growing in God's love, striving to be faithful.*

Happy Thanksgiving FBCOKC Family!

My one and simple prayer for you this week is that you sit before the Lord and remember that He is enough. Take the time to pray the Lord's Prayer each day this week. Stop and dwell on the words, "Give us this day, our daily bread." What does that mean to you? What do you need from God this day? Are you looking for a light at the end of the tunnel? Are you searching for meaning and purpose to this year and all that it has brought? Maybe, we all just need some hope. Hope that the Lord is with us. Hope that God will provide what we need for today and then do it again tomorrow. Hope that God really did come down and change everything.



This year as you sit around your table and eat your Thanksgiving Feast, I want you to remember that everything you have comes from the Lord. The bread that sits before you began when a seed was pushed down into the dark earth and it took time for it to grow. This year, once more, I will make my grandmother's homemade hot rolls. I will wake up early in the morning to begin mixing the ingredients and kneading the dough. The process involves a lot of waiting. After I knead the dough, it has to sit for two hours and it will rise. Again I will knead the dough, roll out the rolls, and let them rise once more. It is when the bread is resting that it rises and eventually becomes the sweet smelling bread that reminds me of home. How do they do that? How does the bread take a beating and just keep on rising? It rises because of the tiny amount of yeast I put in at the very beginning.

I wonder if this year feels like we've been in the mixer. Many of us feel beaten up by all the challenges and setbacks we've experienced. Perhaps there's something for us in the resting. In the sitting back and waiting for the work of the Spirit to help us rise. Maybe we need time to breathe and time to reflect and remember who we are. As you sit around your table this Thanksgiving, whether it is a meal for one or more, take a moment to think about the bread. Remember the bread God rained down from heaven to feed his children when they were desperate. Remember the bread that Jesus fed the 5,000. Remember the bread that Jesus broke and remember how he taught us to pray. Give us this day, our daily bread. It is not an individual prayer. It is a prayer for God to provide for all his children, not just a few.

This means for us to further the Kingdom of God, we get to join in the work that God is doing. [In Mark 6 Jesus stood before the hungry crowd of 5000 and had compassion on them. The disciples wanted to send them away to find food to eat. Jesus looked at them and said, "You give them something to eat."](#) Give us this day, OUR daily bread. We are called to be generous with others because God has

been generous with us. We are privileged to share our bread, because we trust there is enough for everyone. Thank you for all the ways you live this out all year long. Thank you for giving so generously to the [Bedlam Canned Food Drive](#) this year. Your gifts mean families around our city have food to eat on Thanksgiving Day. As you eat your meal on Thursday, pray for the ones who received the food we gave. May God continue to use us to further his kingdom this year.

Church Family, you are a blessing. You are a reminder of what church is meant to be. It is the people of God faithfully and imperfectly striving to run after God. You love God well and your love for others shines as a light for our city. You remind me of the goodness of God. I am grateful to be your pastor. See you online on Sunday morning for our First Sunday of Advent. Blessings my friends. –Sarah



# FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY

*Letter from Sarah sent November 20, 2020*

Dear FBCOKC Family,

It is with much prayer that I am coming to you. Over the past ten days we've heard from doctors, nurses, and hospital administrators all telling us we are at a crisis point in our city. Yesterday, Mayor Holt pleaded and asked us to be a part of the solution. He called on everyone in Oklahoma City to reduce the risk of spread for ten days. Church family, we need to do our part and not ignore the pleas of our city to help slow the spread of this disease.

The leadership of the church has prayed, discussed, and wrestled with this decision, but ultimately feel at peace. We have decided to offer our **worship services online only for at least the next two Sundays**, Nov. 22 and 29. We believe this is one thing we can do to support the welfare of our city. I was reminded this week of the words of the Lord in Jeremiah 29:7. "Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you." The welfare of our city is in critical condition right now. We learned yesterday that 1 out of every 100 OKC residents is currently positive for Covid-19. The most staggering statistic we heard is that 10% of the people who test positive end up in the hospital. This is serious and we need a serious response.

This decision is not made out of fear, but out of love. It is not an easy decision but one we feel is best for our church family and for the city of Oklahoma City. Let's do our part to support the hospital staff who are fighting so hard for our loved ones.

We have a number of church members who are currently in quarantine as well as church members and staff who are positive for Covid-19. Please pray for our church family and pray for our city. Pray especially for those who are sick and for the medical teams caring for them.

We will continue to monitor the situation and will communicate with you as decisions are made in the coming weeks. We ask for your prayers and your grace as we lead through this impossible situation. I am ever aware that each decision we make comes with a cost. I love you all and I humbly ask for your kindness as we do the best we can to walk through these difficult days.

Be well, my friends. Pray for one another. Please continue to support the mission and ministry of FBCOKC. This will not last forever. No matter what, God is in control. See you online at 10:30am on Sunday morning.

Joyfully,

Sarah Stewart, Pastor

# ONLINE ONLY SUNDAY WORSHIP



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK LIVE



FBCOKC.ORG/LIVE

10:30AM

## CareForOKC Volunteer Opportunities

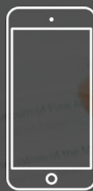
We need help at CareForOKC and you can make a difference! We need people to help sew smaller blankets together to make larger, warmer blankets to give out this Winter. We are also needing help organizing and sorting items in the clothes closet. We have available time slots on Mondays from 9am – 6pm where you can sign up to come volunteer for 1-2 hours by yourself or with a friend. Sign up in the Commons!

## how can i give?



ONLINE:

[fbcokc.org/give](http://fbcokc.org/give)



MOBILE:

Download the FBCOKC App  
in the app store



ENVELOPE:

Cash & Check

*Offering plate located  
in The Commons*

# FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY

Church family, we have an incredible opportunity this year. The folks who run the Red Andrews Christmas Dinner have asked to use our church as one of the host sites for this year. It is a joy to use our church facility for kingdom work! The dining hall will be filled with donated toys that will be passed out during the drive thru on Christmas Day. Our professional kitchen will be used by volunteers to prepare meals for hundreds of families. This is a beautiful way for FBCOKC to be a part of loving our community and joining in with others to do this sacred work. We would love for you to let us know if you want to volunteer for a few hours to be a part of this special opportunity. You will sign up through the Red Andrews website listed below. There are hundreds of volunteers who sign up every year to be a part of the Red Andrews Christmas Dinner. They will provide most all the volunteers needed at our church, but we would love for some of you to volunteer as well. Thank you and help us spread the word!

To volunteer, please go to: <https://redandrewsdinner.org/>



A CHRISTMAS DAY TRADITION SINCE 1947, THE RED ANDREWS CHRISTMAS DINNER IS PROUD TO PROVIDE WARM MEALS AND TOYS TO APPROXIMATELY 7,000 CITIZENS EACH YEAR AT THE COX CONVENTION CENTER. DUE TO COVID 19 FOOD WILL BE PREPARED IN TO GO CONTAINERS. CURBSIDE AND WALK UP DELIVERY ONLY - NO INSIDE DINING. TOYS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE CHILDREN WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR FOOD.

## LOCATION –HOST SITES

Due to COVID 19, the Red Andrews Christmas Dinner will be hosted at the following locations:

St. James Catholic School - 4201 S. McKinley - Christmas Day 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Homeless Alliance - 1724 N W 4th -Christmas Eve - 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Northeast Community Center - 3815 N. Kelley - Christmas Day - 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

**First Baptist Church Oklahoma City - 1201 N. Robinson- Christmas Day - 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

## CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Dinner will be providing in to go boxes, no inside dining.

Plus, a gift for every child and a warm, free Christmas meal!



# FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY



*Happy Thanksgiving*



*From.....Sarah, Brad, Andrew, Steven, Don, Ariel, Jordan, Barbara,  
Debbie, Lonnie, James, Jon, Arlandus, and Toni*

## FBCOKC—Come be YOU with US!

### FBCOKC MINISTERS

**Sarah Stewart**, Pastor

**Andrew Bowles**, Minister of Students and Missions

**Brad Stewart**, Minister of Discipleship

**Steven McConnell**, Minister of Music

**Don Clothier**, Pianist

**Ariel Koerner**, Praise Leader

**Jordan Browne**, Children's Coordinator

*“Many thanks to our Media Ministry and all they do!”*