

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



Did you know that Jesus often withdrew from the crowds to be alone with God and pray? He spent so much of his time surrounded by people, those who praised him and those who hated him. In Luke’s Gospel, we get a glimpse into Jesus’ prayer life with his Father. Over and over again Jesus pulled away from the crowd and sometimes even from the disciples to be alone with God. Luke 5:16 says, “Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” The word used here for “lonely” means desert places, solitary places. Jesus went back to the “desert” often to be with God.

If Jesus needed to be alone with God and connect with him and draw strength from his Father, then how much more do we? I want to encourage you during this season of Lent begin your day alone with the Lord. Find a quiet place in your home, make space to be with God. This year I set up a new place in my house to spend with the Lord each morning. I have a comfy chair, table with a lamp, and my Bible. Each morning I begin with a cup of coffee and reading through the Word of God. It makes a huge difference in my day when I have been with the Lord before I face the world. I am more aware of his presence throughout my day.

For the next 6 weeks, Brad Stewart will be leading a Midweek Devotional on the Jesus Creed. Join him on Facebook at 6pm on Wednesday nights. I want to encourage you to use the Jesus Creed as your devotional this year during Lent. It’s not too late to start now!

Friends, I have missed you. We will gather for worship this Sunday morning in our Sanctuary and online. I hope you will join us one way or another. We need each other. I think this year has taught us a lot about community and how much we need our family of faith. Pray for one another. Pray for the church. Pray for your friends who do not know Christ and ask God to give you opportunities to share your faith with them. May God work in our hearts more and more. See you Sunday my friends!

Sarah



FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY



Check out the upcoming Verses Project passage for March! Luke 10-25-28

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” ²⁷ And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

CareForOKC – Come Serve With Us

Contact Brad Stewart to volunteer or get more information! We’d love to chat with you!

bradstewart@fbcokc.org

405-232-4255

fbcokc.org/careforokc

facebook.com/careforokc

We would absolutely love for you to join our team whether it’s once a week, once a month, or whatever you can give. We will happily train all volunteers so they can be equipped to serve and have fun at the same time! Come once and just watch what we do. No obligations, no commitments.

Drivers – Our drivers pick up food from Walmart (SW 59th and Pennsylvania) on Monday and Friday mornings each week in their own vehicles. They pick up boxes of food from Walmart and transport them to CareForOKC. Ideal vehicles for this job would be a truck or van but we are not picky! If you are available on Monday or Friday morning and are interested, please chat with us about this opportunity! Estimated time commitment is 9am – 10am on either Monday or Friday.

Unloading/Restocking – Once the drivers arrive at CareForOKC with the Walmart boxes, we have a team who unloads, weighs, and puts the food away. In addition to the Walmart food, we also receive a food delivery from the Regional Foodbank every 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. Estimated time commitment is 9:30am – 11am on Mondays or Fridays.

Food Prep/Serving Clients – A group of volunteers comes at 4:00pm on Mondays to begin prepping the boxes that will be distributed to clients. We also load up the meat, bread, frozen foods, and other items that will be given away. At 4:30pm, we serve clients outside under the carport outside the north entrance of FBCOKC. Estimated time commitment is 4:00-5:30pm on Monday.

Clothes Closet – We need volunteers to help sort, organize, and move clothes as we renovate the clothing room. Call us for more information about volunteering in the clothes closet!

Need: Empty egg cartons and winter gloves. Thank you

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FBCOKC, we want to hear from you! Whether you are a member or join us occasionally online we hope to connect with you. Please take a few minutes and fill out this survey. It is our hope to hear how we can better support you and minister to you this season. Click on the link below. Thank you!

<https://www.shelbygiving.com/App/Form/2b5939ad-ce28-4ca0-ae88-7dbe5c7a7442>

We grieve the death of dear friend, Barbara Cromer. Barbara passed away February 15. Please pray for Ray and family. If you would like to send a card, the address is 3701 Yucca Drive, Edmond, OK 73013

A memorial service will be available on Zoom for the church to view. The in-person service is for family members only. Thank you

Topic: Memorial Service for Barbara Cromer

Time: Feb 27, 2021 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89436975703?pwd=eFlBenZoOGNPMUFXbDg1UTRPLzFjZz09>



Meeting ID: 894 3697 5703

Passcode: 740996

FBCOKC—Come be YOU with US!

FBCOKC What dates should I save for 2021?

[All](#) [Images](#) [News](#) [Videos](#) [Registration](#) [More](#)

- February 28: Resume In-Person Worship
- March 28: Easter Egg Hunt
- April 4: Easter Sunday
- Summer: School Supply Drive
- June 14-18: Kids Off Broadway
- July 24-27: Children's Camp | Brownwood, TX
- July 29-Aug 1: Acts 242 Weekend
- October 15-16: Men's Retreat
- October 23: Trunk or Treat

*Learn more by visiting fbcoc.org
All events subject to change

FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY

Verses Project – February: Psalm 23

Psalm 119:11 says, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” When we internalize God’s word and memorize it, transformation happens. Mere words on a page are transformed into the Living Word of God alive inside of us. It impacts our actions, speech, character, and witness in the world. That’s why we’re starting “Verses Project” at FBCOKC where you will be challenged to memorize one passage of scripture per month. Of course you are welcome to memorize more than one passage but we’re setting a reachable goal that all of our church family – from kids to senior adults – can memorize. You can do this as an individual or invite your family to join you in memorizing God’s word. You’re free to choose your favorite translation. This month we’ve chosen the ESV (English Standard Version) for Psalm 23. Below is a link to a Bible Memory app that helps people learn how to memorize scripture! It’s available for both apple and android devices. If you’re committing to join us in **Verses Project**, email bradstewart@fbcokc.org or call us so we know to be encouraging you along the way!

<https://biblememory.com/>

February 2021 – Psalm 23 (ESV)

23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness^[b]
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,^[c]
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely^[d] goodness and mercy^[e] shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell^[f] in the house of the LORD
forever.^[g]



**VERSES PROJECT
FEBRUARY 2021
PSALM 23**

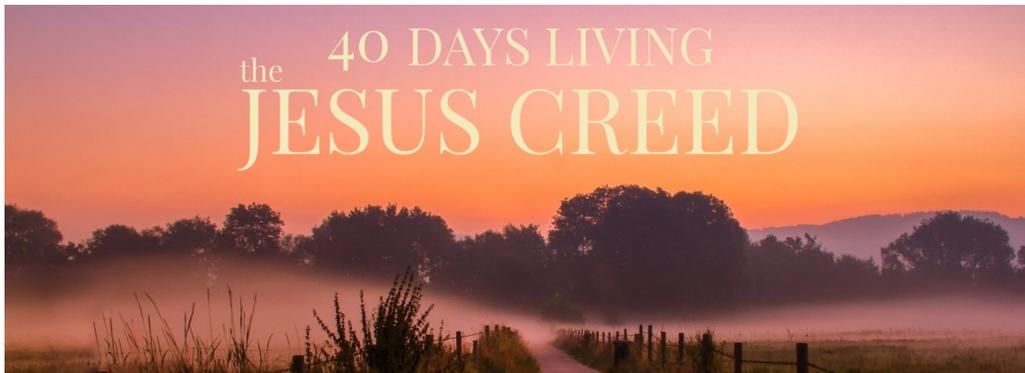
FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY

FBCOKC Passport Kids Camp – July 24-27: Brownwood, TX

Attention FBCOKC Kids and Parents! It's still a long way off and we have no idea what the world will be like this summer in terms of covid, vaccinations, health restrictions, etc.... But we're HOPEFUL that we will get to go to kids camp! Kids camp is for kids who've completed 3rd – 6th grades.

Dates are Sunday, July 24 – Tuesday, July 27 in Brownwood, TX. Brownwood is 5 hrs away. We had a blast at camp in 2019 and we're really excited about going again. Price and more details coming soon. Just wanted to gauge your interest. Check out the link below to get a sense of what camp is like!

<https://passportcamps.org/kids-camps/>



40 Days Living the Jesus Creed – A Devotional for Lent

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. And...love your neighbor as yourself.” What if we focused our whole life on Jesus’ double commandment to love God and love others? How could we and those around us be transformed? Join us in this challenge! Copies of “40 Days” are available for \$10. Email bradstewart@fbcokc.org or call the church office to reserve your copy today!

What is Lent?

Lent is the period of 40 days (excluding Sundays) which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebration of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. **Ash Wednesday is February 17 this year, so we will begin the devotions on that date and continue until Good Friday.** Remember: we don't count Sundays as part of the 40 days.

The Jesus Creed

Before the Season of Lent, I (Brad) will be reading the book from which “40 Days Living the Jesus Creed” came. The title is “The Jesus Creed: Loving God, Loving Others” by Scot McKnight. I invite you to join me in reading this resource as a way to prepare for the Season of Lent and lift our gaze to Jesus! I will be giving short reflections this month as I'm reading, both written and through Facebook Live. Stay tuned! FBCOKC will not have copies of “The Jesus Creed” available for purchase, but you can find it on Amazon or wherever books are sold.

FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY

Luke 5:27-31 Reflecting on Pastor Sarah's sermon on Sunday regarding the calling of Levi (Matthew)- With God there are no outsiders, all are welcome to the table. No misfits, no "not good enough", no "you will never be enough". That is the beauty of the Gospel. Jesus came to town for all and said come to my table.

For myself, I have always been a seeker, an outsider, a misfit. I grew up just wishing and hoping for someone to pick me. You know what? Jesus picked me. He said, I love you just the way you are. Bumps, bruises, scars and hurts. When I was in my forties I realized maybe for the first time that I was wanted. I didn't have to carry that feeling any longer because I was loved, accepted, redeemed, called and set apart with a certain respectability that only Christ could bring to me. Maybe that is how Matthew might have felt.

I really like doing jigsaw puzzles. My daughter and I have had a sweet time doing them lately. (See picture) I think the reason I enjoy putting them together is because one by one you begin the process of putting the pieces together until you get this beautiful picture. Just think, chaos to completion; pieces to perfection. All because you take this piece and that piece and make them into a bigger picture of something to marvel at. Jesus did that for me.

As Pastor Sarah is taking us through the study of Luke, I am reminded that Luke is an outsider (Luke the Gentile). He tells the story of all those who found themselves not fitting in and looking at life with no hope of getting chosen and feeling like a small piece of the puzzle created to be found and welcomed by Jesus Christ. That makes a beautiful picture. Let Jesus put the pieces together.

Toni



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

Thank you to our amazing Media Ministry Team