Our Vision for Ministry is Love! Live! Give!
LOVE God, love self, and love each other unconditionally.
LIVE into our faith journey, shepherding one another.
GIVE of ourselves to make a difference in our world.

Malget’s Musings: What’s in a Name?

We are Disciples First! Followers in the Way of Jesus!

No, we have not changed the name of our congregation. We are still First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Oklahoma City. But we have re-branded as Disciples First, in the same way that First United Methodist Church of Oklahoma City is now calling themselves “First Church.”

Disciples First! This “new name” gives a nod to our past by reminding us that we were among the first congregations founded in 1889 the day after the land run. It also reminds us that we are a part of a larger body of faith called the Disciples of Christ. However, it does more than that. It stresses that before anything else in our lives, we are followers of Jesus.

We did not make this decision to rebrand lightly. We did some self discovery of who we say we are as a people of God. So, we re-read General Church’s vision statement: “We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord’s Table as God has welcomed us.” Then we reviewed our own vision statement of “Love! Live! Give!” Finally, we looked at the open and affirming statement that our congregation passed unanimously in December of 2019. In part it says:

We differ in race, age, gender, cultural background, marital status, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, gender identity, family structure, political stance, theological perspective, life circumstances and spiritual journey.

Diversity is a gift from God, and we are called to celebrate our differences as well as what makes us the same. We know that the church has at times rejected diversities, and denied God’s promises for itself and for others. So without reservation, we proclaim:

“You are a beloved child of God, embraced as you are at the Welcoming Table of our Lord. Together let us share God’s love so completely, that we might make a difference in God’s world!”

We have been using the moniker: “Love ALL the People!” for several years now, and decided that it still describes who we are. Jesus taught us to Love God and Love Neighbor. And who is our neighbor? We are called to love everyone! Even those unlike ourselves. We are Disciples First! Followers in the Way of Jesus!

Love ALL the People!
Jewel Box Theatre

Jewel Box Theatre, a proud ministry of Disciples First—OKC, is Oklahoma’s oldest continuously running community theater now in our 63rd season.

Jewel Box Theatre is halfway through a soft reboot in 2021. Things are changing with the storied company, such as a new location and new leadership. Derek Kenney took the position of Artistic Director/Production Manager in early March, just in time to oversee the first production of the year. Doobie Potter directed Yellow by Del Shores, and it served as an introduction for more thought provoking, timely, and worldly dramas to be included in our seasons. It was a huge critical success. Longtime patrons need not be concerned about missing out on the classics, however, as historic thriller Gaslight by Patrick Hamilton immediately followed, directed by a familiar face in Richard Lemin. It was equally well received.

New murder mystery The Vultures by Mark Ridge is premiering on June 3rd and will be directed by Karalyn Merritt, with Greater Tuna by Ed Howard, Jaston Williams, Joe Sears wrapping up the season starting on July 15th. It will be the first of JBT’s Tuna series that will span four seasons, an endeavor codirected by Doobie Potter and Adrienne Pierce. Auditions for Tuna will be held on May 22-23. The lineup for next season is not yet finalized, but it is expected to include more of JBT’s traditional style of comedy, as well as some new dramatic surprises.

The world has changed since 2020, and so has Jewel Box Theatre. We are continuing to rebuild, which includes bringing our attendance back up. We are always looking for volunteers. Donations are also welcome, as we look to make renovations and produce the best quality productions that we possibly can. However, what we need more than anything is for you to come see our shows. We thank you for your continuous support of our company, and we look forward to seeing what the future holds.

Chalice Kids

Hello Everyone! The Chalice Kids are really enjoying meeting in person again. Our first day to meet in person was on Easter and we had a blast! We are being safe and using lots of hand sanitizer and wearing our masks, even during playtime!

There are two big events we are really looking forward to this summer. Event number one is our Summer Sermon Series: “The Gospel According To. . .” where we will be exploring the Gospel according to modern day figures such as Daniel Tiger, Trolls, Pooh Bear, Doc McStuffins, and, of course, Mickey Mouse. “The Gospel According To. . .” sermons will start on June 6, 2021 during the regular service.

The second event we are looking forward to this summer is Promotion Sunday on August 29th during morning worship service. Every Chalice Kid who will be going into the 5th grade or above will be promoted to our newest class—Chi Rho Kids (pronounced Ky-Ro). We will have a promotion ceremony on August 29th complete with punch and cookies after the service. Each child promoted will be given a special gift from the Chalice Kids.

We have always wanted to do a Christmas Pageant with the children and this year it looks like we finally get to do just that! The Chalice Kids and the Chi Rho kids will be teaming up to put on our very first Christmas Pageant here at the church! You can connect with the church on our Facebook page, our website, and in our newsletters to get more information in the coming months. We are so happy to be back in person and we hope to see you all there!
Online with Tom: Growing Pains

A bit more than a year ago when COVID hit, we began presenting our Sunday Worship over the internet on FaceBook Live. It was my job to put together the video for broadcast every week, and it was a labor of love. It took most of the week, but I loved doing it.

Recently things began to look better, and we decided to try In-Person worship services again, beginning on Easter Sunday. But we didn’t want to just resume our old practice. We wanted to advance by coupling “regular church” with “internet church.” So we would do both together at once.

I was determined that we could both do it, and also do it economically. So I set my mind to figure it out. I didn’t want to spend any more money that was absolutely necessary, since we are not wise to waste money. And so we began to try things. We would run tests on week days in preparation for Sunday. And since we had no real content in these tests, we would tell everyone “Don’t watch this! Just a test!” And the funny thing was, this made them more attractive, causing people to watch them anyway!

The frustrating thing was, these tests almost always worked, but when we got to Sunday, it was 50/50 at best! I kept trying different things, and finally hit on a recipe that seems to be working fine. I hesitate to get too proud of our success, having been humbled by our recent trials and tribulations. And how much did it all cost? $100 for a little gadget that hooks the video camera to my laptop. That feels good!

Stay tuned...

Gardening Day

A wonderful thing about our new location is the large, multipurpose patio! How about we turn it into a BEAUTIFUL PATIO GARDEN!

So, on SUNDAY, MAY 23rd Wanda and Raylene need your help! Wear your work clothes to worship, we’ll provide pizza for lunch then the weed pulling and flower planting will begin!

Please bring your own gloves and any gardening tools and shovels you might have. Any plants (ones that like full sun) that you would like to share or have purchased would also be appreciated!

Church T-Shirts

Coming Soon!

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We have three easy ways to give financially to the church.

The first is Givelify, an online giving platform that allows us to receive offerings electronically. It is so easy to use. You can download the “app” on an iPhone or Android device, and give from your phone. You may also go to DisciplesFirstOKC.org and tap the GIVE button at the top of the website, or simply tap DONATE on our church’s Facebook page. This allows those who do not carry check or cash, or those who worship with us online to continue to give to the ministries of Disciples First Christian Church of Oklahoma City!

If you prefer, you can send a check to the church office to: PO Box 18636, Oklahoma City, OK 73154.

Finally, if you are present in person for worship, you can place your offering in the trays at the back of the sanctuary.

Your financial gifts are needed and appreciated. God bless you!
It has been a long year living through this pandemic. One of the hardest decisions that we had to make was putting Chain Reaction Ministries on hold until our staff was fully vaccinated. Now the day has finally come to re-open. Throughout, we have continued to receive bicycles, and now we are ready to start giving them away again. However, in order to keep everyone safe, we are opening slowly. Bikes will only be given away by appointment, Tuesday through Thursday. We will also only be working through local social service agencies, not just drop-ins.

We are in desperate need for volunteer bike mechanics. If you, or someone you know (who is vaccinated) would want to come work on bikes during the day, we would love it. Please let Josie know by email or by calling the church office at 405-525-6551. As always, we take adult bikes in donation so that we can get them to those who can use them for needed transportation. **We know that you cannot keep a job if you cannot get to your job.** This is why this bike ministry is so vital. You can also donate financially to Chain Reaction so that we can purchase parts (tubes, tires, brake accessories, etc.) to get the donated bikes up and running. Thank you for all of your support!

**Changing Lives One Bike at a Time!**