



*Matthew 25:1-13 – Wise & Foolish Bridesmaids*

Sunday, Nov. 8, 2020

## **First Christian Church**

(Disciples of Christ)  
Bartlesville, OK

Dear Church,

How have you prepared in 2020? Having a crystal ball to see into the future has been a frequent fantasy for me, of late!

This year as a church, we've spent countless hours planning how we can be church in ways that protect each other's health and honor God. Through New Beginnings, we are thinking boldly about a missional future. In our annual planning, we are putting forward our best leaders and developing a budget for our congregation to consider at the Nov. 19 Administrative Board Meeting and Dec. 13 Congregational Meeting. That's a lot of planning, particularly without that crystal ball.

In Matthew 25:1-13, Jesus tells the parable of two groups of bridesmaids, one group wise enough to prepare for contingencies, and one group not so wise. One group that was perhaps, most importantly, prepared to wait for the bridegroom, how ever long it took for him to arrive.

A wise person told me that these times call for marathon runners, not sprinters. Preparation, plus patience, puts us on the road to faithfulness.

Blessings,

*Susan*

# Weekly Devotion

Sunday, November 8, 2020

*What you do behind the scenes, predicts your scenery. —Jonathan Di Lemme*

Leonard Bernstein was one of America's greatest composers and conductors, directing the New York Philharmonic Orchestra from 1958-1969. His musical "West Side Story" brought him wide acclaim.

As a musician, he could do just about everything. He was an accomplished pianist. He was an innovator, delivering lessons on classical music by way of television — which in the 1950s was a new medium. He composed music in different genres. He developed orchestras comprised of only talented young people. And he was charismatic: he looked good on television.

An admirer once asked Bernstein what the hardest instrument was to play. What would your answer be?

I would have answered that question by saying, "The oboe." I played the oboe when I was in school. It's a double reed instrument. It's not easy to play.

But you might say that the hardest instrument to play is the French horn. What about a harp? Then again, the piano is not easy to learn, either, or a pipe organ. All of these are difficult instruments to master.

But which one is the hardest? Bernstein replied without hesitation: "Second fiddle. I can always get plenty of first violinists, but to find one who plays second violin with as much enthusiasm, or second French horn, or second flute, now that's a problem. And yet, if no one plays second, we have no harmony."

Sometimes, people who are retired say that retirement feels as though they're playing second fiddle. Those who have serious illnesses also feel sometimes that they are no longer "first chair."

It's hard to take a backseat when we've been used to the front seat.

Let's not be afraid to play second fiddle — to add harmony to the melody of the first fiddle.

—by Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Gracious God, thank you for allowing me the unspeakable privilege of being part of a grand symphony! Whatever my gifts and contributions may be, let them bring glory to you. Amen.*

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*Send Tithes and Offerings to this address:*

First Christian Church, PO Box 1177, Bartlesville, OK 74005

## Order of Worship

Nov. 8, 2020

(Facebook or YouTube – now posted Sunday afternoons)

1. Gather something to eat and drink for **communion**.
2. Get your **Bible** or open your Bible app if you like to read along.
3. **On Sunday afternoon**, go to the church's Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/bvillefcc](http://www.facebook.com/bvillefcc) or to our YouTube channel, [www.youtube.com/channel/UCes62ltQuRxytQtgaKq7HwA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCes62ltQuRxytQtgaKq7HwA).
4. Scroll down until you see our worship post for Sunday. Adjust your volume settings.

### Prelude & Lighting of Candles

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### Welcome and Announcements

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### Call to Worship

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### Joys & Concerns

Type yours in the comment section on Facebook or call the office or Rev. Susan during the week.

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### Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

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### Special Music

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### Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13

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### Message – “Enough to Go Around”

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### Service of the Table

Offering • Communion Meditation & Prayer • The Lord's Supper

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### Benediction & Postlude

## Lectionary Readings for Sunday

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalm 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

**Updated Nov. 3, 2020**

*Please keep these in your prayers this week:*

**JoAnn Lansford** (aunt of Debbie Lansford; sister-in-law of Harriett Lansford) – hospitalized with pneumonia

**Richard Franks** – recovering from pneumonia

**Janie Thompson** – recovering from surgery

**Faye Marlowe** – auto accident and health concerns



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**Rita & Larry Barnes**

**Shirley Brewer** (mother of Suzanne Shiflet's daughter-in-law)

**Gary Brown** – recovering from surgery

**Hollie Carlson** (friend of Margery Maple)

**Loretta Chaney**

**Lee Cooper**

**Rick Davis** (friend of Debbie Lansford)

**Dick Hall**

**Jim Hugger**

**Kyle McCallum**

**Ladonn Miller** (Charlotte Spencer's cousin's wife)

**Kathy Miller** (friend of Debbie Lansford)

**Janelle Moritz** (cousin of Debbie Lansford)

**Sally Neel** (friend of Margery Maple)

**Bob Peaster** (cousin of Gay Cooper)

**Charlotte Spencer**

**Chester Spencer**

***Upcoming Birthdays***

Laura Hines 11/7, C.A. Matthiesen, Niki Cowan 11/8, Ken Armstrong 11/11, Edna Earl Painter 11/11, Gaylene McCallum 11/12, Robert Bright 11/19, Larry Glass 11/19, Barbara O'Gara 11/25

*Contact the church at [minister@bvillefcc.org](mailto:minister@bvillefcc.org) or 918-520-9507 to add or remove someone from this list.  
Please ask the person to be listed (or the person's parent, caretaker, or guardian, as applicable) for permission as a courtesy.*

**Regular Happenings at First Christian Church**

Pastoral Care – Call Rev. Susan at 918-520-9507 (mobile)

Prayer Concerns – E-mail [minister@bvillefcc.org](mailto:minister@bvillefcc.org) or call 918-520-9507

**Prayer Group** – Mondays at 1pm – Fellowship Hall

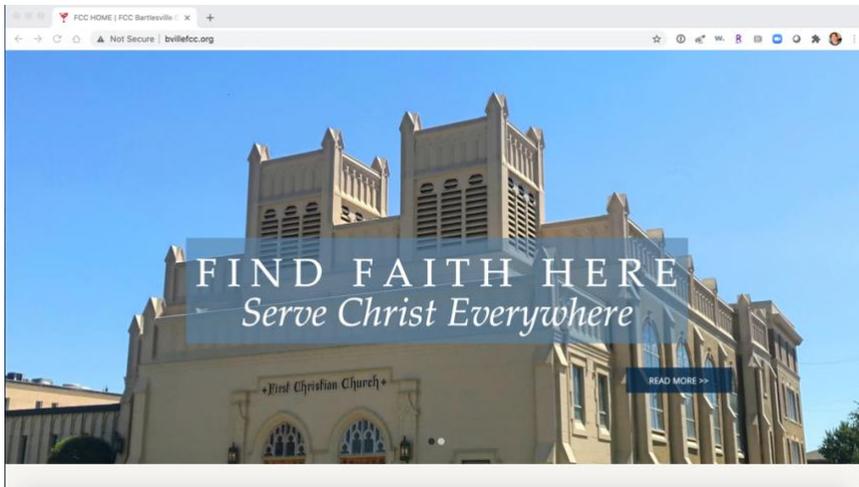
**Bible Study** – Mondays at 2pm – Fellowship Hall



First Christian needs **Two Volunteers** to represent the church on the **CONCERN board**. FCC is one of the founding churches for this ministry that provides food and so much more to people in need. If you can serve as either the representative or the alternate, please contact the church office as soon as possible. Thanks to **Faye Marlowe** and **Debbie Lansford** for their service!

### Please add these meetings to your calendar:

- Nov. 19, 5:30pm – Elders' Meeting
- Nov. 19, 6pm – Administrative Board
- Dec. 13, after worship – Congregational Meeting



Need Info? Find it on [www.bvillefcc.org](http://www.bvillefcc.org)!

- Newsletters
- Calendar
- Worship Videos
- Outreach Links
- ... and more!

### Re-gathering Update

- Worship is now in-person and virtual – *please continue to choose the service that best meets your needs*
- Prayer Group and Bible Study meet in Fellowship Hall, beginning Nov. 9
- Other small groups (CWF, etc.) have the option to meet in person, following masking, no food, and other guidelines
- Non-church groups and meetings will be considered after Jan. 1