



Central Area Churches Praying for Churches Week of Oct. 11— First Christian Church, Luther

Attendance		Giving	
Sunday Worship	53	Giving for operations	\$2,232.63
Emerging Worship	8	Giving for Capital	0
Total	61	Pumpkin Patch	897.75
Sunday School	28	Giving total	\$3,130.38

Indeed the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
Hebrews 4: 12 NRSV

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Lunch times vary

Email: office@fccshawnee.com

Church Website: www.fccshawnee.com

Keep Us Informed

Please contact your church if you or a loved one is ill, injured, in the hospital, needs special prayer, wants a visit, or has other needs.

Pastor Ray's: Cell Phone-405-833-2272
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Dear FCC Family and Friends,

Karl Barth is often quoted as saying one "should preach with the newspaper in one hand and the Bible in the other." While much research has been done, that exact quote has not been found in Barth's teachings or writings. However, he did say many things that are similar. I think the quote is often used because there is a real sense that when we preach, we need to be well-versed in current events in our communities and in our world.

I received a free copy of *The Wall Street Journal* from Glenn and Landa Davis as it seems they are getting multiple copies delivered to their dental office. It may have been a God thing; for the very first copy I received had an article titled "Swords Into Plowshares". The sub-title to the article written by Jonathan Sacks says: "Islamic State's creed embodies evil in the name of a sacred cause. To defeat it, we must recover the values that can bring Jews, Christians, and Muslims together."

He says the world has not been prepared for the rise of the Islamic State "because of a blind spot in the secular mind: **the inability to see the elemental, world-shaking power of religion when hijacked by politics.**" (Emphasis mine)

He writes that much of the world view now seems to connect religion and violence.

He goes on to say that over the past several decades, "The age of the true believer, religious or secular, was over. In its place had come the market economy and the liberal democratic state, in which individuals and their right to live as they chose took priority over of all creeds and codes."

"What the secularists forgot," Sacks writes, "Is that Homo sapiens are meaning-seeking animals. If there is one thing the great institutions of the modern world do not do, it is to provide meaning. Science tells us how but not why. Technology gives us power but cannot guide us as to how to use that power. The market gives us choices but leaves us uninstructed as to how to make those choices...."

He says there is a return to religion in this century because, "it is hard to live without meaning." However, "The religion that has returned is not the gentle, quietist and ecumenical form that we in the West have increasing come to expect. Instead it is religion at its most adversarial and aggressive. It is the greatest threat to freedom in the postmodern world. It is the face of what I call 'altruistic evil' in our time: evil committed in a sacred cause, in the name of high ideals," Sacks writes.

He says, "Today Jews, Christians, and Muslims must stand together, in defense of humanity, the sanctity of life, religious freedom, and the honor of God himself."

Some of the solutions that Sacks sees include:

- Developing the same kind of long-term planning into strengthening religious freedom as was put into the spread of religious extremism.
- Campaigning internationally among all religions and all peoples against the teaching and preaching hate.
- Working to recover the absolute values that make Abrahamic monotheism the humanizing force it has been at its best: the sanctity of life, the dignity of the individual—insisting on peaceful modes of resolving conflicts, and learning to live together in grace and peace.

"These are the ideals on which Jews, Christians, and Muslims can converge, widening their embrace to include those of other faiths and none," he writes. "To be a child of Abraham is to learn to respect the other children of Abraham even if their way is not ours, their covenant not ours, their understanding of God different from ours. Our common humanity must precede our religious differences."

"We must raise a generation of young Jews, Christians, Muslims and others to know **that it is not piety but sacrilege to kill in the name of the God of life, hate in the name of the God of love, wage war in the name of the God of peace, and practice cruelty in the name of the God of compassion,**" Sacks writes. (Emphasis mine)

Sacks concludes with these words: "Now is the time for us to say what we have failed to say in the past: We are all the children of Abraham. We are precious in the sight of God. **We are blessed. And to be blessed, no one has to be cursed....God is calling us to let go of hate and the preaching of hate and to live at last as brothers and sisters, true to our faith and a blessing to others regardless of their faith, honoring God's name by honoring his image, humankind.**" (Emphasis mine)

I believe what he says is some good food for thought. I remember Dr. Imam Imad Enchassi and Rabbi Barry Cohen travelled Oklahoma a few years ago in an effort to show that Jews and Muslims can get along. They were almost like a comedy team and called themselves "Twin brothers of different mothers." They also worked with leaders of the Christian community in Oklahoma City to develop stronger interfaith relations. I believe we have seen positive results in our state of the sons and daughters of Abraham beginning to come together at least at some level.

This coming Sunday, Pastor Josh will also be bringing us some good food for thought. His sermon title is "First" and is based on Mark 10:17-27.

If you are able, be in worship this Sunday.

Pastor Ray

PUMPKIN PATCH Rum Cakes

Baking will be October 6th & 8th. **COME HELP ;)**
A CHANGE: Pick-up for ordered cakes will be Tuesday,
October 6th. Buyers will be called.

EXTRA HELP NEEDED SATURDAYS

**GIVE ANY TIME YOU HAVE
30 MINUTES OR MORE
WOULD BE GREAT!**



Please, Help Us with the Pumpkin Patch

**THANK YOU! for helping with
the bicycle ministry here.**

We are no longer storing bikes.

**You may take them to FCC in OKC if
you wish.**



- Sign-up for the blood drive.
- Donate money for bridge refurbishing.
- Decorate the Pumpkin Patch.
- **Provide Bundt pans.**
- **Help bake rum cakes.**
- Be a sitter or keep a worker company.
- Be our face to potential congregants.
- Visit and talk to the customers.
- Drop by and turn pumpkins.
- Read a story to school children.
- Serve snacks to school children.
- Bake for the bake sale.
- Bake pumpkin seeds.
- Paint pumpkins.
- Help unload, next time.
- Provide water to those who unload.
- Haul-off bad pumpkins.

Recycle — Donate



Bibles



Clothes



Cues



Canning Jars



Fruitful Fall Fellowship



Hey! Who's workin'?



ASSOCIATE MINISTRY MATTERS

It is time again for our Fall Food Drive! The food collected during this annual event is used to make "Thanksgiving Baskets" for needy families in our community. It is our hope to provide Thanksgiving dinners to twelve families this year. If you know of a family that would be blessed to receive one of our baskets, please leave a contact name and phone number at the Church Office. As always, the recipients list is kept confidential and delivery can be arranged if needed. Beginning this Sunday, food collection baskets will be placed at the entrances to the Sanctuary. Each week, donations will be brought forward by our Youth during the Doxology. Here's what we need.

Canned Yams
Canned Vegetables
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Instant Gravy
Instant Stuffing
Cranberry Sauce
Tea or Coffee
Cake Mix
Cake Icing



In addition to the non-perishables listed above, we will also hope to provide a Turkey Breast, Ham, frozen rolls and a \$10 gift card (for milk, eggs, oil, butter etc.) with each basket. If you would like to sponsor a family for these more costly, perishable items, please make out a check for \$50 to the Youth Discretionary Account with "Fall Food Drive" in the memo line and we'll take care of the rest.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity. This annual outreach project would not be possible were it not for your ongoing prayers and support!

josh



Tues., Oct. 6—Baking rum cakes. All hands helpful! Bring Bundt pans if you have 'em. Change — ordered cakes are to be picked up OCT. 6, probably around 4:00. Apologies!

Wed., Oct. 7—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m.

Youth work the Pumpkin Patch 4-7:00 p.m.

Thurs., Oct. 8—Baking rum cakes. All hands appreciated!

Sat., Oct. 10—Bake sale (smaller rum cakes, too); pumpkin decorating contest 1:00, Bedlam Blood Drive.

Sun., Oct. 11—Sunday school 9:00-9:30 a.m. Fellowship 9:30-9:50 a.m.

UNITED SERVICE 10 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal 11:15-12:00.

Wed., Oct. 14—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m.

Youth work the Pumpkin Patch 4-7:00 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 17—Bluegrass music, trunk/table sales-space \$10.

Sun., Oct. 18—Sunday school 9:00-9:30 a.m. Fellowship 9:30-9:50 a.m.

UNITED SERVICE 10 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal 11:15-12:00.

Mon., Oct. 12—Sine Nomine 6:00-7:30 p.m.

