



First Christian News

*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.*



THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear Church,
Stop me if you have heard this, "Boy, has this been a difficult season." That is an attitude I have heard time and time again. I think we have given up on the idea of ever returning to normal, but we should not give up on the Church getting back to what it does best. As we learned about being Bridge Builders, I believe the Church (as a whole), needs a reminder of its purpose. In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he writes:

"I, therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift." (Ephesians 4:1-7).

The Gift of Inspiration

The first gift the Church (us) has to offer the people, not only our own in the Church but those in our communities and areas of influence is inspiration. Paul reminds the people to hold their heads up and "walk in a manner" worthy of their callings (Ephesians 4:1). In this season filled with pain, uncertainty, and chaos, do not lose heart. We need a bit of inspiration. A reminder of who still sits on the throne. God will never forsake us. Believers need the constant hearing of the inspired Word of God. They and those around us need to hear accounts of God's faithfulness.

The Gift of Encouragement

The second gift the Church can offer is encouragement. Paul lays out beautifully what form the encouragement takes. Meet this season with humility, gentleness, and with patience. As we do that remember to lift each other up and continue our unity with the Spirit with "the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). We are, after all, one glorious body of believers connected with a common Savior, one common faith, and one life-changing baptism. Paul says the Church points people back to the Means of Grace and the work of Salvation of Jesus Christ. That is the source of our encouragement.

The Gift of Identity

And lastly, the final gift, and maybe one of the most important gifts the Church provides, is to remind people who they are. Today, we live in a world seeking its identity. There is no limit to the amount of input the world seeks to give on the issue of identity. Identity starts with our beginning. We have "one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:6). Our identity is found in God, not in the constructs of society. We are children of God. Does that mean we are perfect? No, far from it. Does it mean we won't be tempted to take on the world's definitions? Of course not. What it does mean is we live under grace. We are flawed yet forgiven. The Church has a great opportunity to remind people of these three gifts. So, inspire them to live up to their high calling. Encourage them to support and bless one another. And remind them they are all children of God.

UPCOMING events

- Adult Sunday School - ON HOLD
- Children's Sunday School - during service
- March 13 - Board Meeting 9:30am
- March 20-27 - Michael Strange Memorial Food & Clothing Drive
- March 20 - Food Distribution 3pm-5pm
- March 21 - Ladies Lunch at 11:00am
- April 3 - Board Meeting 9:30am
- April 10 - Palm Sunday - Processional, Luncheon, Easter Egg Hunt
- April 17 - Easter Sunday

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MEN'S DEVOTIONAL

I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. — John 15:11

Remember Eeyore and Tigger in the Winnie-the-Pooh books? For Eeyore, no matter what amazing circumstance came his way, doom and gloom remained the focus. For Tigger, bouncing through life without a care in the world, he never perceived anything to go wrong. In our daily lives, it is easy to have the attitude of Eeyore while wishing we could have the outlook of Tigger — two quite extreme viewpoints of life.



The biblical brand of joy is not simply overcoming our inner Eeyore, nor is it strolling through life in ignorant bliss; rather, it is to be found in facing each day's ups and downs through the contentment Christ offers.

KEY QUESTION: What gives us true happiness and contentment in life?

The first order of business is to identify the difference between joy and happiness. For many men today, being happy is fully dependent on whether life is "all good." If someone asks, "Rate your life right now on a scale of 1 to 10," often the number given is based on the number of problems present. Happiness slides up and down the scale, based on the perception of negative issues going on at the time. Problems arise; happiness goes south. Troubles begin to go away; the happy scale starts to climb. Joy, however, is not dependent on circumstances, and, in fact, ironically, can become strongest when trouble comes. The psalmist reminds us of the reality of joy that comes when we rest in God's presence: *You make known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. — Psalm 16:11*

Joy has more to do with remaining in the presence of Jesus than with avoiding problems and struggles in our lives. Harkening back to John 15, we know that joy is always available to us when we remain in Christ, through whatever life brings. Let these statements guide you to see how true joy differs from mere happiness.

- Happiness is a state of mind, while joy is a mindset.
- Happiness comes and goes, while joy can be constant.
- Happiness is dependent, while joy is independent.
- Happiness is conditional, while joy is unconditional.
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We all will have good and bad days. We will all experience life's ups and downs. But has life robbed you of your joy, or are you growing in this virtue? What does your face reflect to others? What does your attitude communicate about your faith?

Happiness will be all too fleeting, but the joy of Jesus is available to your soul right now.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RYAN & JENNA JACQUES

Lucas Michael Jacques arrived on February 23, 2022 weighing 8 pounds, 10 ounces. Congratulations to Ryan, Jenna and big sisters Maya and Tessa! We can't wait to meet the newest member of the FCC Weston family.





Don't forget to set your clocks **FORWARD 1 hour** Saturday night before you go to bed.

LADIES LUNCH

We had a great Ladies Lunch on February 21!

Mark your calendar for Monday, March 21, 2022 for our next Ladies Lunch. All are welcome and we hope to see you there!



MICHAEL STRANGE MEMORIAL CLOTHING & FOOD DRIVE

Our Michael Strange Memorial Clothing and Food Drive will run from March 20 through March 27 and it will support of Grace Bridge food bank and The Samaritan Inn of McKinney.

We are collecting children's and adult clothing, shoes, as well as **regular size** non-perishable food items. Industrial size cans of food are not needed since we will be donating the food to Grace Bridge Food Bank.

Please place your donations on the table in the Fellowship Hall beginning March 20.



Non perishable food items | kids clothing | adult clothing | shoes

This is a great cause, so for the next few weeks start cleaning out your closets and pick up a few extra items at the grocery store to donate to those in need!

VALENTINES LUNCHEON

We had a wonderful Valentine luncheon on February 13. It was full of food, fellowship and fun!



SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR MARCH

March 6	Let's Get Crazy Happy	Matthew 5:3-12, Galatians 5:22-23
March 13	Unpacking Crazy Happy	Matthew 5:3-6
March 20	Crazy Happy Satisfaction	Matthew 5:7-12
March 27	Your Crazy Happy Choice	Galatians 5:16-25

JANUARY TREASURY REPORT

Income	Expenses
Sunday Offerings: \$5,290.80	Salaries: \$5,000.00
Memorial Gift Fund: \$0.00	Utilities: \$487.30
Special Offering: \$0.00	Supplies & Food: \$74.01
Miscellaneous: \$100.00	Insurance: \$1,888.56
	Miscellaneous: \$0.00
	Taxes: \$0.00
	Maintenance: \$130.00
Monthly Total:	Monthly Total:
\$5,390.80	\$7,579.87

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

03/07	David Ferguson
03/10	Yvonne Heistand
03/14	Clark Hornbaker
03/14	Joel Worley
03/20	Noah Shirley
03/21	Amanda Jones
03/26	Amy Davey
03/27	Cade Ferguson

Anniversaries

03/13	Brady & Leslie Tingle
03/16	Ivy & Laura Latham
03/19	Les & Marge Massey
03/28	David & Holly Ferguson
03/29	Jerry & Mary Smith



FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

- Review of Minutes: The minutes from the January board meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: Offerings for January were \$5,390.80 and expenses were \$7,579.87. Insurance was paid in the amount of \$1,888.56. This is paid twice a year. Offerings were down since we were closed for two Sundays. Danielle Chamberlin will go to the bank to update the signature card and Marilyn Chamberlin will check with the bank on closing out the CDs and putting them in an account that is more accessible.
- Contract for Pastor: It came to the board's attention that we have no signed contract for our Pastor. It is in the best interest of both parties to have a signed contract. The church will look in to writing a contract for Doc Gardner to sign.
- Sick leave for Employees: The church currently does not have sick leave for employees. Doc Gardner and Gloria Kautz are still paid if they are sick, so the church board feels that a designated sick leave is not necessary.
- Elder Emeritus: Clark Neill will be awarded Elder Emeritus status. The board is thankful for Clark's many year of service. Marilyn Chamberlin will contact Clark Neill to see what date will work for him to do a ceremony during the service.
- Monthly Newsletter: The church currently spends almost \$100 per month to mail the monthly newsletter. This includes printing costs, envelopes and stamps. The newsletter is emailed to the entire congregation and is available on our website. If the board decides to only do digital newsletters, we could print a small amount to have available at the church for those that want a printed copy. The board will revisit this at a later date.
- Next board meeting will be March 13, 2022.

HYMN OF THE MONTH—"MIGHTY TO SAVE"

"Mighty to Save" was written by Reuben Morgan and Ben Fielding.

Ben Fielding's words:

This is a song that came not from one situation or circumstance in our lives, but as the sum of many. Our God who is all powerful, chooses not to turn his power against us, but towards us, drawing us to himself, writing us into a new story—his salvation story. We

have seen it in our own lives. We see it every week in our church. God is all about restoring people to himself.

On the day we began working on "Mighty to Save," Reuben and I were sitting in his living room working on another song. We had sort of reached a dead end and decided to move on to a new idea. We definitely didn't realize at the time the significance of that decision, as we began to sing the words "mighty to save." Reuben and I have been friends since I was 15 years old and that helps a lot when co-writing, to feel comfortable to present ideas and to be honest throughout the process. "Mighty to Save" was the first song we ever finished together. Over the course of several months we wrote and rewrote verses and bridges with literally hundreds of ideas that never made it through.

I'll still never forget the first night I heard our local church singing that song. It's the kind of moment you live for as a songwriter. That particular song spoke to a period of time we were at in our own church life. It resonated with our home.

It still blows me away to read and hear stories of "Mighty to Save" connecting with people at defining moments in their life, as it has in my own life. It is deeply encouraging and humbling at the same time to realize that it is all by God's grace. God is able to take a song from a living room in the suburbs of Sydney to places we could have never imagined.



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NEWSLETTER

INFORMATION NEEDED

To make the newsletter more personal, please send pictures or information on achievements, births, awards, or anything else of interest to Kimberly Tisserand at tisserand@outlook.com

May the road rise up
TO meet you.

May the wind be always at your back,

MAY THE SUN
SHINE WARM
UPON YOUR FACE,

the rains fall *soft* on your fields,

& until we meet again,

MAY God HOLD YOU 
IN THE PALM OF *His* HAND.

Prayer Requests

Please keep Heather Carter, Jeannie Greenwald, Louis Cave, Tralyn Tadlock, Clark & Nancy Neill, Daisy Nicodemus, Sandra Zimmerebner, Betty Fowler, Mary & Jerry Smith, Lisa Karle, the Dimock Family, Nanny Dee and Adam Gross in your prayers for strength, healing and comfort.

If you have a prayer request, please fill out a pew card or let Kimberly Tisserand know.