



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



The story of Christmas centers on a familiar scene—the Nativity, with a spotlight on baby Jesus. We all know it well, and here at FCC Weston we'll be reminded again as we set up our make-shift stall, Larry Lambert hauls in a donkey and sheep, and children and adults take turns dressing up like Mary and Joseph, shepherds and the magi, while people gather in awe and a portable Bluetooth device fills the air with nostalgic melodies of Christmas. It's always moving to reflect on the humble birth of the Christ child in a Bethlehem stable, laid in a feed trough traditionally called a manger, and wrapped in "swaddling clothes." Even a normal birth in those days would have been remarkably crude compared to our time. At best a midwife would have been present to help the mother, along with a couple of other women. Not so with the birth of Jesus. Mary had no help except from Joseph, who was a carpenter and not an obstetrician. She had no medication and no diapers or soft blankets for her baby. The "swaddling clothes" mentioned by Luke were not "clothes," like a shirt, pants or pajamas, but long strips of cloth wrapped around the baby— probably a torn up under tunic, not sterile, and by no means "baby-soft."

Like the coming of the Christ child, the birth of a baby is always special. Often two people, still considered kids by their parents, are suddenly transformed into a real married couple, "married with children," and a mountain of responsibility presses heavy on their shoulders. But having a baby these days seems more complicated and dramatic compared to the humble manner of Jesus' birth. Just thinking about all the "essential" paraphernalia is mind boggling. Friends and family hold a baby shower, usually well in advance of the birth, for giving gifts more practical and immediately usable than the gifts of the magi— diapers, wipes, soaps and lotions, blankets, bottles, formula, spoons and bibs, rattles and mobiles— everything needed for a whole year. And often the bedroom for the new arrival is already laid out with furniture, equipment and supplies, and a changing station suitable for major surgery at Presbyterian Hospital. New babies are always a wonder of wonders.

During this Christmas season this old man is feeling exceptionally nostalgic, head rushing with mixed emotions, wondering how Santa must struggle to climb in and out of the sleigh, much less squeeze down a chimney. But as was the case at our community Thanksgiving Service, my thoughts are all about our children, and the wonder of what each new-born may become in a short twenty to thirty years.

So I say again, "teach the children well, and feed them on your dreams." I am proud of Danielle for all she is doing to nurture the children of our church, and for the parents who truly believe that one day those children will lead a strong and vibrant congregation with a clear vision of God's will, purpose and mission. May all your days be merry and bright.

Brother Les

UPCOMING events

- Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM
- Children's Sunday School
 - During service
- December 1 - Board Meeting 9:30am
- December 1 - Advent Hanging of the Greens Service
- December 13 & 14 - LIVE NATIVITY 6:00pm to 8:30pm
- December 15 & 22 - Special Christmas Offering Collected
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00 pm
- December 29 - Reception honoring Dr. Massey after our service

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HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE - DECEMBER 1ST

December 1st is the First Sunday in Advent, and we will celebrate with the “Hanging of the Greens” Service at which time the sanctuary will be decorated with garlands and wreaths by several of our congregation’s families. There will be the lighting of the first candle of the Advent wreath and favorite carols and hymns will be sung.

Advent is the beginning of the church liturgical year and the time of preparation for the coming of Christmas. It is the beginning of the Christian story, the preparation, the hope that the birth of our Savior brings.

Advent comes in the darkest time of the year; the Winter Solstice is in the middle of this season of the church year. Yet for the church this is the season of light. We light a candle each Sunday to put out the darkness, to witness to the light to the nations. This light comes into the world and will never be put out. And each week the sanctuary is brighter.

Prepare for the coming of Christmas and be present for the Hanging of the Greens Service.



HYMN OF THE MONTH - “O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”

The hymn, “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” was written by John Francis Wade, an 18th century Catholic layman involved in the music business in France. Copies of the hymn migrated to Portugal and then to England. First written in Latin — the original version begins with the words, *Adeste Fideles* — an Anglican clergyman, Frederick Oakeley, translated it into English. Today it is one of the most popular Advent/Christmas hymns, and is sung by Christians around the world.

One of the reasons for its popularity is the joyful character of its words and music. “O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,” it says — and the music has a joyful, triumphant lilt to go with the joyful, triumphant words.



The hymn calls us to come to Bethlehem to behold the baby Jesus. It calls us to come and adore him. It reminds us of the angel choir that accompanied Jesus’ birth — and of the shepherds who gathered around his cradle. It reminds us that God calls us, too, to sing Christ’s praises — and to give him glory in this Christmas season. Christmas is a busy season, and we have a thousand things on our minds and a thousand things to do. But through it all, let us remember to come and adore the Christ who came into the world in this season to bring us light for our darkness — and joy — and life eternal.

CANNED FOOD DRIVE



to everyone that donated to the canned food drive organized by Danielle Chamberlin and the children of the church. Such a wonderful gift that will help so many people in need in the community.



LIVE NATIVITY SCENE - DECEMBER 13 AND 14

Our annual Live Nativity Scene will be held on TWO NIGHTS this year on **Friday, December 13th and Saturday, December 14th from 6:00pm to 8:30pm.** We will offer our Christmas gift to the Weston community through this presentation of live animals and costumed characters representing the Holy Family, shepherds and wise men, and an angel, all in the scene of a manger.



This beautiful tradition is made possible because of the hard work of Larry Lambert, who provides the animals and, along with other men of the church, who build the stable. It takes many people to fulfill the rotation of characters, as well as assistants to help dress and change costumes. Your help is needed to participate as one of the characters in 30 minute intervals during the two hour period each night. You can sign up for a time slot on the sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to bring finger foods and snacks for a light supper to be served in Fellowship Hall during the course of the evening for participants, as well as guests.

Please join us in the annual tradition!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - 6:00 PM

Join us for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight service beginning at **6:00 pm** as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Bring the whole family and invite a friend to this very special service filled with scripture, Christmas carols and finally lighting candles throughout the congregation.



CHRISTMAS OFFERING - DECEMBER 15TH & 22ND

Our finest gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas.

Your regional ministry works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new



The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our regions.

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

- The minutes were approved from the October board meeting.
- Mike Rippy presented the financial report. AT&T bill was \$100+ when it was ~\$50 last month asked to confirm amounts with Daniel Tisserand.
- Constitution & Bylaws: Les Massey presented the updated constitution and bylaws. Board voted on approving changes to affiliations and baptism changes. The board voted on the adoption of the entire constitution. Bylaws still need some editing/reviewing.
- Nominating committee will need to have new board member options by December 1st.
- Leveling Church: The board voted to spend between \$3,200-4,000 to level the church. It will take about a week.
- New Minister Committee Report: Marilyn presented information from meeting with Larry Ross. Need to send out a congregational profile survey to the congregation to fill out.
- Next meeting will be on December 1, 2019 at 9:30 am



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION HONORING

Dr. Les Massey

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2019 FOLLOWING OUR SERVICE

*Thank you Dr. Massey for 4 years of dedicated service to First Christian Church Weston.
You will be missed more than you know and we wish you all the best.*

OCTOBER TREASURY REPORT

Income

Sunday Offerings: \$8,365.00
 Memorial Gift Fund: \$0.00
 Special Offering: \$0.00
 Miscellaneous: \$2.61

Monthly Total:
\$8,367.61

Expenses

Salaries: \$4,650.00
 Utilities: \$325.29
 Supplies & Food: \$110.80
 Insurance: \$0.00
 Miscellaneous: \$0.00
 Taxes: \$0.00
 Maintenance: \$220.00

Monthly Total:
\$5,306.09

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

12/01 Justin Ragsdale
 12/08 Imogene Poston
 12/10 Mitchell Hooks
 12/19 Maya Jacques
 12/24 Gentry Ragsdale
 12/25 Dorothy Marlow Tingle

Anniversaries

12/17 Clark & Linda Hornbaker
 12/21 Michael & Linda Waco
 12/22 Floyd & Jean Young

Celebrate

SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR DECEMBER

December 1	Celebrate Sustained Hope	Jeremiah 29:11-14
December 8	Peace Be Still	Mark 4:35-41
December 15	Rejoice Always	Philippians 4:4-7
December 22	Spirit of Christmas	Philippians 2:1-11
December 29	Great Expectations	Philippians 1:3-11

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Find us on Facebook!

Service: Sundays at 11:00 am
Sunday School: 10:15 am

Rev. Dr. Les Massey
Cell (214) 704-0279
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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



Prayer Requests

Please keep Heather Carter, Lester and Jeannie Greenwald, Michael and Linda Waco, Christian Dimock, Kyle Schindler, Brian Larson, Kim Rogers, Nancy Neill, Amy Davey, Les & Marge Massey, Austin Daughtery, Jerry & Mary Smith and Louis Cave 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.