



# FIRST CHRISTIAN NEWS

September 2024

*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.*



## MINISTER'S MESSAGE



### UPCOMING events

- September 8  
Board Meeting 9:30
- September 9  
Women's Bible Study and Lunch
- September 29 and October 6  
Disciples Mission Fund  
Reconciliation Ministry  
Special Offering

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Hello First Christian Church Family,

As summer begins to come to an end, when our children head back to school and the family vacations come to an end, we begin to look towards another year that is almost over. Labor Day is the unofficial mark of the end of the summer and the beginning of fall. For some, we welcome the lower temperatures and more rainfall, but as we look back to summer, there have been some very enjoyable times. Meeting new people, seeing old friends, and most of all enjoying more fellowship together.

As we begin to wind up for the coming fall activities and festive holidays, I would invite everyone to come and enter the Annual October Chili Cook-Off and see who will walk away as the champion this year. Last year we enjoyed several different types of chili, and I can't wait to see what is on the judging table this year.

As we have every year, we will be seeking volunteers for our live nativity scene, and we will be reaching out to see if Weston will be performing their hayride activities. So, if you are able to volunteer this year, we would be very grateful.

Before I end, I would like to mention that for the past two Sunday services, I have asked people to find a "Prayer Buddy". I hope many of you have found someone other than your spouse, to buddy with. Praying together can motivate each other to do good deeds and love others and help you focus on the requests you're bringing to God instead of your own thoughts. It can also help you understand your "buddies" faith and heart, which can lead to a deeper fellowship and spiritual growth for both.

When we pray with others who also are submitting themselves to the will of God, we're less likely to be deceived or to pray foolishly. Praying with a buddy positions us to experience God's greater wisdom and love as he choreographs our destinies with his loving providence.

The focus of this is to move our church towards a healthy spiritual life and strengthen our prayer life as a unified church.

Ginger and I look forward to these upcoming months with our First Christian Church family. Let us live out 2 Corinthians 4:18 loud and proud!

Happy Labor Day to everyone.

In Christ,

Doc Gardner, Sr.

**MEN'S TOOLBOX DEVOTIONAL****His Will Is Your Power**

*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. —Hebrews 11:1*

Willpower. It's a word I heard a lot growing up. My Dad—who was a former Army Drill Sergeant—used to say, “*We need to exercise our willpower to live a healthy life.*” And he was correct. However, for God's man, a successful life is defined through a Kingdom lens: Submitting our will to the power of His purpose for us. That's not easy to do, because we are trained to strive; we are trained to fight; and we are trained to succeed in our own gifts and talents and willpower (stick-to-it-iveness). And hear me clearly: All those attributes are important and necessary!

In the end, every man will discipline himself to his strongest hope. To get the girl, we discipline ourselves to buy flowers, write sappy cards, and concentrate on listening. Why? We hope to win her affections. To get the contracts for our business, we network, smile, and dial, and follow up on leads. Why? We hope to get paid (financially, promotionally). To get that six-pack stomach, we discipline ourselves to eat right and suffer a core workout at the gym. Why? We hope to look like the dude on the cover of Men's Health.

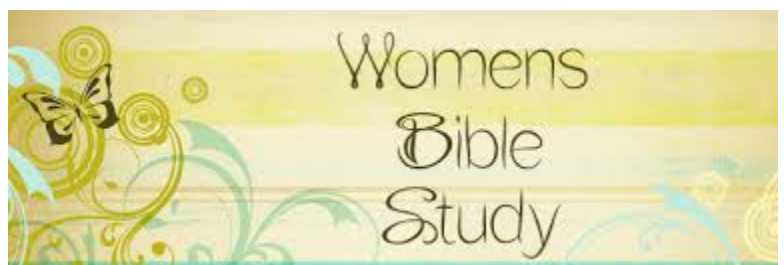
The soldier, athlete, and farmer are each married (or “wired”) to give in to temptation. The soldier is tempted by civilian life. The athlete is tempted to cut corners (steroids). The farmer is tempted to sleep in. But each also has a strong hope waiting for him that is stronger than the temptation, which causes him to discipline himself and practice self-control. The soldier's hope is to win the approval of his commanding officer, so he concentrates on his military duty. The athlete's hope is to attain the gold medal, so he follows the rules of the competition. The farmer's hope is the upcoming harvest, so he wakes up early and walks behind smelly oxen while plowing his field. When the stimulus comes to those three guys, their hope intervenes, and they say no to their temptation and yes to their hope. Hope is power and it's the Holy Spirit's mission in our life is to remind us of our strongest hope.

It's pretty nice to live a guilt-free life, to know that the Creator of the universe has decided to lay His hand on your shoulder and say, “I want you as my son.” That's true willpower: Doing the Father's will in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

*Friendship in the Fire - Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego* will be the chapter we will be discussing on September 9. This chapter begins on page 177. Shannon writes, “Stripped away from their families and their homes, the men had God and each other. I have no doubt He put them together to stand as a band of brave witnesses, willing to face even death in order to honor God.” She discusses the blessing that friendships can be in times of trial.

*Please join us  
Monday, September 9,  
for our bible study and  
lunch to follow.*



**SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR SEPTEMBER**

Date	Title	Scripture Text
9/1	The War in Heaven	2 Chronicles 22:1-2
9/8	The Book That Changes Nations	2 Chronicles 33:2-6
9/15	Gather for Encouragement	Hebrews 10:24-25
9/22	Gather for Rhythm	Acts 2:42-47
9/29	Gather for Strength	Proverbs 14:4, 1 Peter 5:8



**FINANCIAL REPORT - July**

**Income**

Sunday Offerings: \$9,254.85  
 Building Fund Offering: 150.00  
 Memorial Gift Fund: .00  
 Special Offering: .00  
 Miscellaneous: 7.70

**Expenses**

Salaries: \$4,000.00  
 Utilities: 201.60  
 Supplies & Food: 174.08  
 Insurance: .00  
 Taxes: .00  
 Maintenance: 1,041.00  
 Miscellaneous: .00

**Total Income: \$9,412.55**

**Total Expenses: \$5,416.68**



Please keep the following in your prayers for strength, healing and comfort: Heather Carter, Jeannie Greenwald, Scooter and Louis Cave, Sandra Zimmerebner, Laura Latham, Janet Rippy, Clark and John Neill, Amy Davey, Mary and Jerry Smith, Melanie Starr, Doc and Ginger Gardner, Blaise Ramer, Tessa Kautz, family of Arlis Parish.



# happy birthday

09/02 Brandon Tisserand  
 09/03 Holly Ferguson  
 09/12 Kimberly Tisserand  
 09/14 Brian Larsen  
 09/16 Brenda Lambert  
 09/17 Ginger Gardner  
 09/17 Shirley Larsen  
 09/30 Pamela Herzberg

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

09/03 Doc and Ginger Gardner  
 09/24 Brian and Shirley Larsen

# CELEBRATE!



# WAY TO GO!

Congrats to **Brandon Tisserand** for making the Varsity Swim Team at North High School!



On August 17, a party was held here at the building for **Mary Smith** to celebrate her 80th birthday. Many friends and family stopped by to offer their birthday greetings and well wishes. We are so blessed to have Mary in this congregation. We appreciate her example of service and dedication to others.

## **BACK TO SCHOOL LUNCHEON**

After services on August 11, we held our Back to School Luncheon. As usual, there was an abundance of delicious food and church family fellowship. We honored past and present educators during service. Donations of \$200.00 will be given to each of the four elementary schools, the Early Childhood School, and the middle school of Celina ISD. These donations are given to honor those in our membership who have or who are currently serving in our public schools or in other educational settings. We appreciate those who are willing to serve the young people of our community and be a guiding light in their life. Remember to keep all our students and educators in your prayers.



**First Christian Church of Weston**

100 Chicken Street  
 P.O. Box 7  
 Weston, TX 75097

Email: fccwestontx@gmail.com  
 Facebook: First Christian Church,  
 Weston, Texas  
 Website: firstchristianweston.com

Service: Sundays 11 a.m.  
 Adult Bible Class: 10:15 a.m.  
 Children's Sunday School: during  
 Service

Dr. Damon "Doc" Gardner, Pastor  
 Cell: 469-417-8431  
 Email: dagardnersr@gmail.com

Karen Chilton, Secretary  
 Cell: 972-849-9084  
 Email: kdchilton85@gmail.com

**Newsletter Information Needed**

To make the newsletter more personal,  
 please send pictures or information on  
 achievements, births, awards, or anything  
 else of interest to Karen Chilton at  
 kdchilton85@gmail.com.

**Pantry Donations Update**

I have been trying to go through my old school things and get rid of or donate things I do not need at this point. After teaching for many years, I had a lot of stuff! I came across this little saying on a poster I had. I thought of our Pantry program and the items we have been collecting this year.

“ Yes, I am only one,  
 but still I am one.  
 And though I cannot do everything,  
 I can do something.  
 And because I cannot do everything  
 I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.”

*Edward Everett Hale*

We started doing the pantry item last September. The generous people of this congregation have donated the following.

- Macaroni and Cheese 35 boxes
- Dry Beans 35 lbs.
- Peanut Butter 36 lbs.
- Pasta 32 lbs.
- Soup . 68 cans
- Canned Fruit 15 cans
- Canned Tuna 43 cans
- Breakfast Cereal 24 boxes
- Ramen noodles 92 pkgs.
- Pasta Sauce 10-45 oz. jars, 13-24 oz. jars

**Thank you** to all who have donated food this year! You are a true blessing to those in need. By doing the little something you can do, our little pantry has made a difference to many people in our area. ~Karen



**MONTHLY PANTRY ITEM FOR SEPTEMBER - Canned Meat**

This month we will collect canned meat for our Food Pantry item. Items can be placed in the baskets in the fellowship hall. Collected items are being donated to Grace Bridge in Celina.