



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



Warm Greetings!

Once again, we are coming to that special day of the year that we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I wanted to share a verse that we would not often associate with Christmas, but I believe it is relevant, especially in light of all we have faced over the past months.

John 10:10 (NKJV) 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly.

The Global Pandemic and the current economy has impacted so many lives in a variety of ways. Last year at this time, there was so much division about the various opinions of how things should or should not be. It was hard to imagine things could be more divided at the time, but it seems the enemy is doing all he can to "divide and conquer." The verse we just shared gives such a powerful thought that Jesus came not just so that we could have life, but that it would be abundant life!

Perhaps we can become just a bit too focused on the things the enemy is doing and forget that the very purpose of the Lord's coming was to be a life-giver! Not only in the physical sense of living a full life but eternal life so that when we take our final breath on earth, we take our first breath in eternal bliss. The message of Christmas is breath and life to all who believe! It is up to us to share this good news with the world, yet if we are so preoccupied with our own problems, it just won't get done!

If you are looking to the media to share the "good news," you will find great disappointment as that will not happen for the most part! At the end of a half-hour, or hour of news, I have noticed that they might share a two-minute good news story. Then again, maybe not! Jesus came to bring life to a lost and dying world, yet it's up to us as believers to share the message!

Proverbs 18:21a (NKJV) 21a – Death and life are in the power of the tongue.

During this Christmas Season and on into the New Year, I would encourage each of you to let your words be healing words! I pray your words would be life-giving! I pray you and your loved ones have a wonderful Christmas as you remember and appreciate the Christ of Christmas!
Keeping Christ in Christmas,

Pastor Doc & Family

UPCOMING events

- Children's Sunday School - during service
- December 10 & 11, 2021—LIVE NATIVITY
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- December 13, 2021—Ladies Lunch at 11:00am
- December 19, 2021—Community Lifeline Food Distribution
3:00pm-5:00pm
- December 24, 2021—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00pm

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MEN'S TOOLBOX DEVOTIONAL

SHOWING UP

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever — John 14:16

Jesus used the word Helper four times in one discussion with His disciples to describe the nature and work of the Holy Spirit (John 14-16, 26; 15:26; 16:7, ESV). The Greek word is paraclete, and at its root are the concepts of advising, encouraging, comforting, strengthening and intervening.

When Jesus spoke to His men about the Helper, He knew the disciples would soon meet with great distresses, trials, difficulties, and persecutions. They would need all of the assistance that the Helper could offer to stay loyal, faithful, and productive in the midst of the great changes and challenges, in their lives. On the flip side, filled with the Spirit's mighty presence and power, they would become agents of that same help, comfort, and encouragement, producing healing and hope in the lives of others. The disciples would accomplish this by showing up and speaking up in the lives of the people they would encounter.

This is the same mission the Holy Spirit seeks to carry forward in every disciple. Our little family Christmas tradition is a good reminder to me that while big opportunities to help others rarely come, the small ones surround me daily. In baseball, they call it winning by "small ball," which is the strategy of steadily advancing base runners versus relying on the big home-run hitters.

Jesus knew how important that it was to show up in our lives after his physical departure, so he provided his Helper the Holy Spirit to help us be involved with others.

LIVE NATIVITY - DECEMBER 10 & 11

Our annual Live Nativity Scene will be held on two nights this year!

Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11th from 6:30pm 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.

We will have refreshments inside for congregation members and visitors.

Your help is needed to make this event a success. Please sign up for a time slot on the electronic sign up genius that was sent to the congregation. This will be a one hour shift. Characters will change every 30 minutes so you can rest and recharge for the second half of your shift. Children can work shifts as well and earn volunteer hours. Thank you for giving your time for this special gift to the community.

Please join us in the annual tradition!



**LIVE
NATIVITY**
*A Celebration
of the birth of
Jesus Christ*

December 10 & 11, 2021
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm *Come & Go*
Live animals and actors
Refreshments Served

FREE to the Public
100 Chicken Street, Weston
Near FM 455 & FM 543 Intersection
Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm

**First
Christian Church**
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
WESTON

(972) 382-3347 | FCCWeston@outlook.com | www.firstchristianweston.com

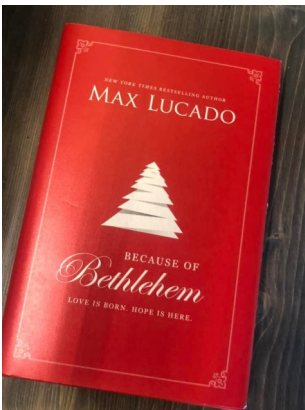
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - 6:00 PM

Join us for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight service beginning at **6:00pm** 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 ending with lighting candles throughout the congregation.



LADIES LUNCH

In November, we enjoyed another ladies lunch! Brenda Lambert was so wonderful to gift all the ladies with a copy of "Because of Bethlehem" by Max Lucado. She read a passage of the book for our devotional. Thank you Brenda! Our next ladies lunch will be on Monday, December 13. We will be doing a small gift exchange, so bring an inexpensive wrapped tea towel for our Christmas gift game. All ladies welcome...please come join us!



OCTOBER TREASURY REPORT

Income

Sunday Offerings: \$8,031.00
 Memorial Gift Fund: \$0.00
 Special Offering: \$0.00
 Miscellaneous: \$1.79

Monthly Total:
 \$8,032.79

Expenses

Salaries: \$5,375.00
 Utilities: \$211.78
 Supplies & Food: \$155.08
 Insurance: \$0.00
 Miscellaneous: \$569.95
 Taxes: \$0.00
 Maintenance: \$565.00

Monthly Total:
 \$6,876.81

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

12/05 Doc Gardner
 12/19 Maya Jacques
 12/25 Dorothy Marlow Tingle

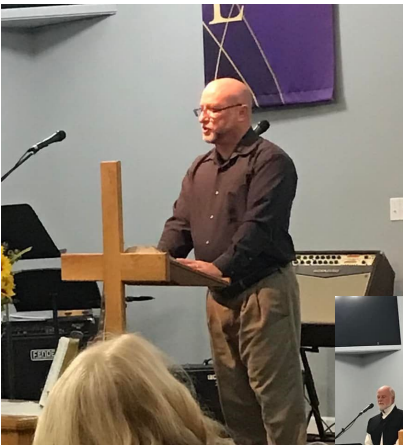
Anniversaries

12/17 Clark & Linda Hornbaker

Celebrate

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

We had a wonderful gathering on Sunday at our Community Thanksgiving Service partnering with the two other churches in Weston! Such a blessing for us all to be able to come together. Thank you to our amazing praise band and Brian Larsen for playing Governor Bradford and reading the proclamation.



HYMN OF THE MONTH - "AWAY IN A MANGER"

"Away in a Manger" is a Christmas carol first published in the late nineteenth century and used widely throughout the English-speaking world. In Britain, it is one of the most beloved carols; a 1996 Gallup Poll ranked it joint second. "Away in a Manger" is a Christmas Carol that is taught to children at an early age. It explains the manger scene in a simple and easy to remember story. The actual author/writer of the song has been lost to history. The song with its simple and easy to remember verses has survived though. The first known publishing of the song was in May 1884 in the publication, "The Myrtle".



The vast majority of early hymnals, including the earliest known to us, cite the words to German Protestant reformer, Martin Luther. For many years it was thought that the song was written by Martin Luther and sung by him to his children. It is now known that the song was written as part of a collection for Martin Luther's 400th anniversary. There is even speculation that the song was credited to Luther as a marketing gimmick to promote sales. Many go so far as to name the carol "Luther's Cradle Song" or "Luther's Cradle Hymn", to describe the English words as having been transposed from Luther.

The claim of Luther's authorship remained to be made well into the twentieth century, but it is now discarded as false for various reasons. For instance, no text in Luther's known writings corresponds to the carol. Also, no German text for the hymn has been discovered from before 1934, more than fifty years after the first English edition.

SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR DECEMBER

Series: The Promise

December 5	The Shepherds – PEACE	Luke 2:8–14
December 12	Zechariah – JOY	Luke 1:8–20
December 19	Mary - LOVE	Matthew 1:18–23
December 25	The Day of All Days	John 1:9–14

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

- The minutes from the October board meeting were approved with changes.
- Mike Rippy presented the financial report to the board. Income for October was \$8,032.79 and expenses were \$6,876.81. The board voted to donate \$200 to the Weston Fire Department.
- General repairs and renovations update: The front and side doors have been painted and have new hardware. We were having issues with the door not staying closed during the service. Ken Bean adjusted the front doors and now the door closes properly and stays closed. We talked to Randy Tarabo about painting the library, bathrooms and office and he will not be able to work that in to his schedule until February 2022. The work will take about a week to complete. We will get an updated quote from Randy Tarabo for the painting.
- No one has volunteered to help with this. Karen Chilton will begin asking people in the congregation.
- Live Nativity will be Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11, 2021 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. A 1/4 page advertisement has been placed in the Prosper and Celina Magazines for the November issue. The magazines should arrive in mailboxes 11/5 – 11/8. We will place a facebook ad to run from before Thanksgiving until December 11, 2021. Building the structure will be done by the men of the congregation a week before depending on weather. We will need to set up all the costumes and organize food for the event as well.
- Our Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be December 24, 2021 beginning at 6:00 pm. Brad Chilton will be out of town. Marilyn Chamberlin will lead singing. We would like to have someone playing Mary and Joseph in the manger. We will have the service inside and move outside to the manger with LED candles to end the service.
- Nominating Committee for 2022 Board: We need to recruit someone from the congregation to serve on the nominating committee. We will need two new deacons and an elder on the board. We will announce the new slate on December 5, 2021 and then have a congregational vote on it December 19, 2021 during the service.
- Danielle Chamberlin has agreed to be our new Treasurer. Mike Rippy will meet with her to go over responsibilities and she will attend next month's board meeting.
- Doc Gardner led a Baptism class for 5 young men and women. The Baptism will be Sunday, December 5, 2021.
- We will not have a board meeting in December.

First Christian Church of Weston

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Weston, Texas 75097

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www.firstchristianweston.com

Find us on Facebook!

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

Dr. Damon "Doc" Gardner, Pastor
Cell (317) 480-2961
Email: dagardnersr@gmail.com

Kimberly Tisserand, Secretary
Cell (972) 658-9409
Email: tisserand@outlook.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 Kimberly Tisserand at tisserand@outlook.com



Prayer Requests

Please keep Heather Carter, Jeannie Greenwald, Louis Cave, Tralyn Tadlock, Ginger Gardner, Margaret Marlar, Clark & Nancy Neill, Daisy Nicodemus, Ralph Gardner (Doc's father), Sandra Zimmerebner and Betty Fowler 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.