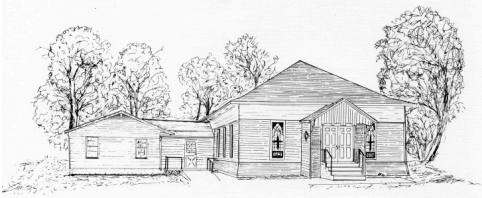




FIRST CHRISTIAN NEWS

October 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

- October 6
Board Meeting 9:30
- October 6
Disciples Mission Fund
Reconciliation Ministry
Special Offering
- October 12
Community Lifeline Distribution
- October 14
Women's Bible Study and
Lunch
- October 27
Chili Cook Off

In this Issue

- Upcoming Events 1
- Minister's Message 1
- Men's Devotional 2
- Women's Bible Study 2
- Financial Report 3
- Sermons and Texts 3
- Prayer List 3
- Celebrations 4-5
- Contact Info 6
- Pantry Item 6

Hello First Christian Church Family,

As the vibrant colors of fall begin to surround us and we feel the crispness of the autumn air, we are reminded once again of the beauty and the change that comes with each new season. October, with its harvest and cooler days, offers us a unique opportunity to reflect on the cycle of life, the blessings of the Lord, and the call for spiritual renewal.

As highlighted in September's Minister's Message, I would like to extend a warm invitation to everyone to participate in our Annual October Chili Cook-Off. This year, I encourage you to take the opportunity to invite a friend to join you, and perhaps even enter the competition themselves. It's a wonderful chance to share fellowship and fun with both our church family and those in the broader community.

This is a reminder that we are seeking volunteers for our upcoming Live Nativity scene. As many of you may already know, Daisy, our beloved participant in the Nativity, has retired. With that in mind, if you have any farm animals that could take part in this year's scene, we would love to hear from you. Please reach out to the elders for more information. If you are able to volunteer this year, we would be deeply appreciative. Your participation helps make these events special for all who attend.

I would like to take a moment to extend a heartfelt thank you to Larry and Brenda Lambert for graciously allowing Daisy to be part of both our Live Nativity and our Palm Sunday activities over the many years. Their generosity has been a true blessing to our church and community.

As I close, I would like to reiterate the importance of prayer, more so in having a Prayer Partner. Prayer holds a profound place in our faith and life as a Christian, serving as a direct line of communication with God and a means of drawing near to Him. The Bible emphasizes both personal and communal prayer, highlighting the importance of seeking God's will and aligning ourselves with His purpose. In Matthew 18:20, Jesus says, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them," underscoring the power and significance of praying together with fellow believers. Praying in unity not only strengthens our relationship with God but also fosters a deep sense of fellowship and spiritual support within the body of Christ. It reminds us that we are not walking the path of faith alone but are called to uplift and encourage one another as we seek God's presence, guidance, and grace in our lives.

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!

In Christ,

Pastor Doc

MEN'S TOOLBOX DEVOTIONAL**Cultivating a Heart of Gratitude**

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. — Psalm 107:1

As men of faith, October presents a unique opportunity for reflection, gratitude, and growth. The changing season and harvest imagery serve as reminders of God's provision, His constant presence, and the ways He continues to work in our lives. This month, as we see the land yield its harvest, we are called to cultivate a heart of gratitude—not just for the physical blessings we receive, but for the spiritual fruits God grows within us.



One of the greatest challenges we face is maintaining a spirit of thankfulness in all circumstances. Life often presents us with trials that can wear us down: the pressures of work, family, finances, and leadership can sometimes make it difficult to stop and give thanks. However, Scripture consistently reminds us that gratitude is not dependent on our situation but rooted in God's unchanging goodness. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, we are instructed to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Gratitude is an intentional posture that invites us to focus not on what we lack, but on what God has abundantly provided.

As men, we are often wired to think about what we can achieve or provide for others, which can make it easy to overlook the importance of simply pausing to give thanks. This month, I encourage each of us to slow down and reflect on what God has done in our lives. Take time to recognize His hand in both the small and significant moments. Consider how His grace has carried you through seasons of difficulty and blessed you in ways you may not have even realized.

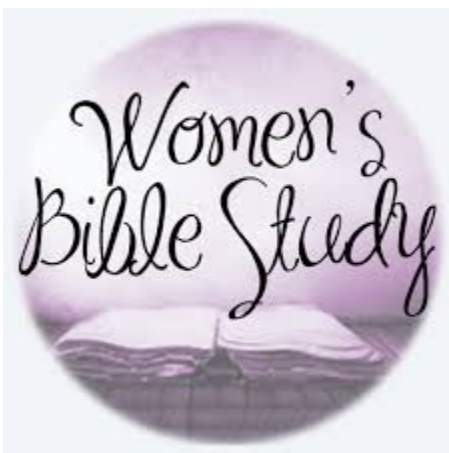
Additionally, let us not forget the power of expressing our gratitude, not just to God but also to those around us—our families, friends, and fellow believers. By fostering a heart of thankfulness, we model Christlike humility and leadership, showing those around us that our strength is found in God's provision, not in our own efforts.

Reflection Questions:

1. What are three things you are thankful for this month, both big and small?
2. How can you make gratitude a more consistent part of your daily life?
3. Is there someone in your life who you need to thank or appreciate more intentionally?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we come before You with hearts of gratitude. Thank You for Your steadfast love, Your provision, and the ways You continually guide us. Teach us to cultivate thankfulness in all circumstances and to trust in Your goodness, even when life is challenging. Help us to be men who model gratitude, recognizing that everything we have is a gift from You. Strengthen our hearts and minds this month and let us be a source of encouragement and support to those around us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

May this October be a time of reflection and renewal for each of you. Embrace this season with gratitude and faith, knowing that God is always working for your good.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join Us October 14, 9:30 a.m.

Join us for our Bible Study as we continue to discuss *The Love Stories of the Bible Speak*. We will be looking at The Friendships of Paul beginning on page 197.

Lunch to Follow

SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR OCTOBER

Date	Title	Scripture Text	Additional Text
10/6	Gather for Strength	Proverbs 14:4, I Peter 5:8	
10/13	Gather for Unity	Psalm 133	
10/20	If You Know Me	John 14:1-7	John 14:8-14
10/27	If You Love Me	John 14:15-21	John 15:9-14



FINANCIAL REPORT - August

Income

Sunday Offerings: \$6,177.13
 Building Fund Offering: 2,250.00
 Memorial Gift Fund: .00
 Special Offering: .00
 Miscellaneous: 8.99

Expenses

Salaries: \$4,000.00
 Utilities: 171.53
 Supplies & Food: 62.19
 Insurance: 2,503.98
 Taxes: .00
 Maintenance: 205.00
 Miscellaneous: 63.09

Total Income: \$8,436.12

Total Expenses: \$7,005.79



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, Amy Davey, Mary and Jerry Smith, Blaise Ramer, Tessa Kautz.

happy
birthday

HAPPY
Anniversary

10/13 Scooter Cave
10/13 Beth Worley
10/14 Ivy Latham
10/17 Jenna Jacques

10/12 Gloria and Dan Kautz
10/31 Louis & Scooter Cave

CHILI COOK OFF

Join us on October 27 for our annual Chili Cook Off. Judging will begin right after services. Children are welcome to wear their costumes. Get those chili recipes out and plan to be a part of the fun.

Mark your Calendars



October 27

**Great Food
Prizes
Fellowship
Children's Costume Parade**

17th Annual Chili Cook Off

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE - NOVEMBER 3, 2022

Sunday, November 3rd, we will observe our annual Service of Remembrance for those members or friends and loved ones of our church family who have passed away during the preceding year. This service commemorates the legacy passed on to us in the church by those faithful persons who have lived and contributed so much to our lives, our church and our community. This is the time in our family of faith when we celebrate God's human triumphs. We remember and rejoice in these men and women in whom God's grace has won a victory over sin and death. We will be calling the names and lighting a candle to honor them. If you have a loved one that has passed in the past year, please let Karen Chilton know so we can make sure to include them.



Volunteers
needed

COMMUNITY LIFELINE CENTER MOBILE DISTRIBUTION

First Christian Church - Weston will host the distribution on October 12. The distribution will be held at Calvary Chapel Honey Creek Weston.

For more information go to: www.communitylifeline.org or email: admin@womenofwestontexas.org.

Thank you to those that have helped set up, make deliveries and help with clients previously.



First Christian Church of Weston

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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.

BE STRONG
& Courageous

**DO NOT BE
AFRAID**

or Discouraged

FOR THE LORD
Your God

WILL BE WITH YOU

JOSHUA *Wherever You Go* **19**

Alanna D. Day

MONTHLY PANTRY ITEM FOR
OCTOBER - TOOTHPASTE

This month we will collect toothpaste 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.

