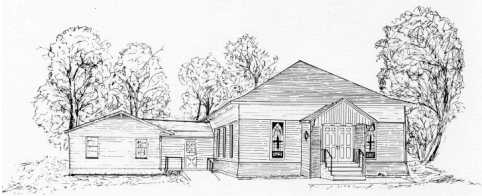




FIRST CHRISTIAN NEWS

July 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

No Board Meeting
this month

July 3
Decorate float 8:00 a.m.

July 4
Weston Parade 10:00 a.m.
Judging starts at 9:00 a.m.

July 8
Women's Bible Study and
Lunch 9:30/11:00
54th Street - McKinney

In this Issue

Upcoming Events 1
Minister's Message

Men's Devotional 2
Women's Bible Study

Financial Report 3
Sermons and Texts
Prayer List

Celebrations 4-5

Contact Info 6
Pantry Item

Hello FCC Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we gather together in this season of reflection and celebration, we are reminded of the tremendous gift of freedom that has been bestowed upon us. With the Independence Day of our great nation approaching, we have a unique opportunity to meditate on the profound concept of freedom—not only as citizens of America but, more importantly, as followers of Christ.

The founding fathers of our nation understood the significance of freedom. On July 4, 1776, they declared independence, setting forth a vision of a land where liberty, justice, and the pursuit of happiness are fundamental rights. This historical milestone is not merely a political event but a spiritual testament to the yearning of the human spirit to live freely and righteously.

In John 8:36, Jesus declares, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." True freedom is found in Christ alone. While our nation's independence provides us with many earthly freedoms, it is through Christ that we experience the ultimate freedom from sin, fear, and death. This divine freedom transcends all earthly circumstances and grants us eternal life and peace.

As we celebrate Independence Day, let us remember the sacrifices made for our nation's freedom and the ultimate sacrifice made by Jesus Christ for our eternal freedom. Let us also reflect on how we can embody and share this freedom in our daily lives.

As we come together for the Annual Weston Independence Day Parade, we are inviting all members to come and assist with the decorating of our float. This year's theme is "Sea to Shining Sea, so bring along your folding chairs and beach stuff. We will need volunteers to ride in the float and pass out candy. We look forward to another great turn-out and the opportunity for us to inspire others by the Holy Spirit as we live out our faith boldly. Let our lives be a testament to the freedom that is found in Christ and a beacon of hope to a world in need.

May God bless you abundantly, and may He continue to bless and guide our great nation.

In Christ,

Pastor Dr. Damon Gardner Sr.

MEN'S TOOLBOX DEVOTIONAL

When Moses failed to come back down the mountain right away, the people went to Aaron. "Look," they said, "make us some gods who can lead us. This man Moses, who brought us here from Egypt, has disappeared. We don't know what has happened to him." - Exodus 32:1

When the boss is out of town, the office staff often proves the old adage, "When the cat's away, the mice will play." Nevertheless, good leadership is often sorely missed, and the boss's return is usually welcomed.



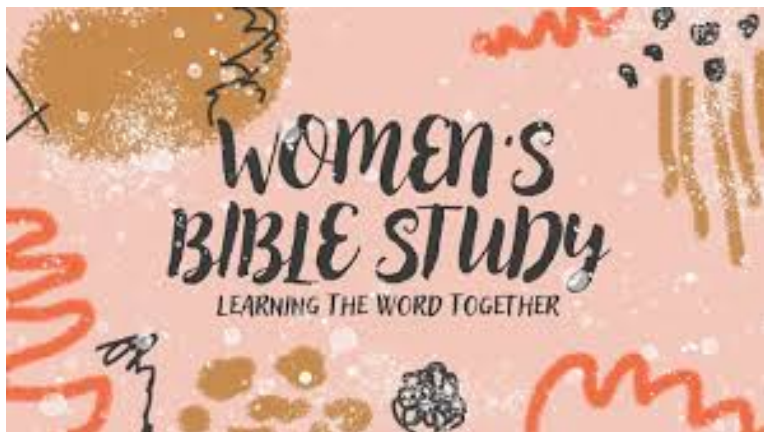
For the children of Israel, Moses was the boss. He was a visible reminder of the presence of the Lord in their midst, a tangible expression of God's leading in their lives. So even though they at times threatened to reject his leadership and return to Egypt, they became very nervous when he went away to meet with the Lord on Mount Sinai. They said, "This man Moses, who brought us here from Egypt, has disappeared. We don't know what has happened to him" (**Exod. 32:1**). Their consternation was understandable. They had been deposited leaderless in the middle of a vast wilderness. Their course of action was understandable, too, though not acceptable. They panicked and decided to take matters into their own hands. They approached Aaron. " 'Look,' they said, 'make us some gods who can lead us' " (32:1). Their plan was to go back to the kind of idol worship they had left behind in Egypt.

Amazingly, Aaron acquiesced. He instructed the men, "Tell your wives and sons and daughters to take off their gold earrings, and then bring them to me" (32:2). The people did as Aaron directed, and the donated gold was made into a golden calf. Incredibly, the people declared this statue to be "the gods" that had brought them out of Egypt! Aaron promptly built an altar and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord" (32:5). But the situation became completely unmanageable when the "festival to the Lord" quickly turned into unabashed "pagan revelry" (32:6). The Lord was incensed, Moses was appalled, Aaron was rebuked, the calf was ground to powder, and many of the people were killed as a result of their own fickleness.

When people panic, they resort to desperate measures. They turn to what they fondly imagine will prove to be an immediate solution, however illogical or even immoral. They abandon their principles, they deny their commitments, and they make decisions in haste that they are then required to repent of at leisure.

What is most needed at such a time is a cool head and clear conviction. Imagine how the situation would have changed if the people had come to Aaron and said, "Aaron, we are frightened, we are unsure, we don't know which way to turn. Moses has disappeared; what shall we do?" Aaron could have said, "I don't have the answers to your questions. I understand your fears, and I, too, am afraid. But this one thing I know. The Lord brought us this far and he will not abandon us. He has proved faithful in the past, he will be faithful in the future. So we will trust and not be afraid."

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



July 8, 9:30

Lunch at

54th Street, McKinney

We will be discussing *David and Abigail, The Rebel and the Peacemaker*. This chapter begins on page 133. We hope everyone can attend and bring a friend!

SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR JULY

Date	Title	Scripture
7/07	Swimming Upstream	1 Peter 2:11-12, 1 Peter 2:24-25
7/14	Somebody's Watching Us	1 Peter 2:12-23
7/21	The Valley of Dry Bones	Ezekiel 37:1-5
7/28	Do You See What I See	2 Corinthians 4:18, Matthew 7:3-5

**FINANCIAL REPORT - May****Income**

Sunday Offerings: \$7,629.00
 Memorial Gift Fund: 25.00
 Special Offering: 50.00
 Building Fund Offering: 450.00
 Miscellaneous: 7.81

Expenses

Salaries: \$6,400.00
 Utilities: 220.02
 Supplies & Food: 174.58
 Insurance: .00
 Taxes: .00
 Maintenance: 4,673.00
 Miscellaneous: 302.02

Total Income: \$8,161.81**Total Expenses: \$11,769.62**

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 Rippey, 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

HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

07/03 Jeannie Greenwald

07/07 Clark Neill

07/08 Riley Gardner

07/21 Kristie Dimock

07/27 Ty Ferguson

07/28 Ryan Jacques

07/06 Scott & Holly Franklin

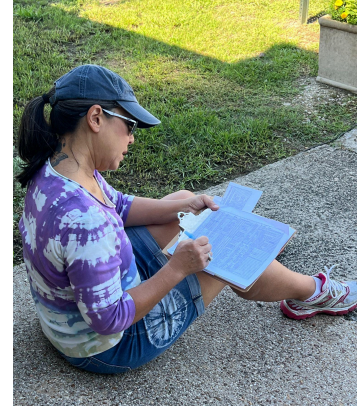
07/30 Joel & Beth Worley



First Christian Church Weston will once again be a part of the annual Weston 4th of July Parade. We will meet Wednesday, July 3, to start decorating the float. We plan to meet at 8:00 a.m. to decorate before the day gets too hot. On Thursday, July 4, we will finish decorating the float and be ready for judging at 9:00. The parade will begin at 10:00. This is a great time for all!

COMMUNITY LIFELINE DISTRIBUTION

On Saturday, June 8, First Christian Church Weston helped with the monthly food distribution conducted by Community Lifeline and the Women of Weston. Several from our congregation volunteered to serve. Some took food to individuals while others helped load food for those that stopped by. We appreciate those who took time that morning to serve others. We will provide volunteers again in October. Mark your calendar for October 12 and come be a part of this good work.



IN MEMORY OF ARLIS PARISH



Arlis Jean Parish of Celina, Texas passed away on June 19, 2024 at the age of 86. She was born on August 19, 1937 to loving parents, Arlis Jake Harlow and Louie Carruth in Weston, Texas. She attended First Christian Church Weston and her sons grew up going to church at First Christian. Funeral services were held at First Christian Church Weston on Sunday, June 23, at 2:00. She will be well remembered by her family and friends.

First Christian Church of Weston

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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.

**MONTHLY PANTRY ITEM FOR JULY - Pasta Sauce**

This month we will collect Pasta Sauce 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.