



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

Spring is now upon us, and we are at the time when many people are busy at work planting seeds in their gardens. Some enjoy the vegetable gardens while others enjoy the fragrance and beauty of the flower garden.



Some people even enjoy planting gardens solely for the enjoyment of others as the following little story illustrates – "Auntie, you are putting some of your choicest rose bushes away in the backyard!" "Yes," answered Auntie, "and I am going to put some geraniums and pinks and other lovely flowers which will bloom all summer out there, too. I know they seem to be out of sight, but there is a woman who sits and sews day after day, week in and week out, at the upstairs windows in the dingy house opposite, and I'm fixing that corner for her." – A Treasury of Bible Illustrations

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all" (Gal. 6:10).

Jesus teachings help us understand how to spread this Good to everyone we contact, and He has challenged us to become part of their lives, even of their sufferings. Sometimes we are tempted to be that kind of Christian who keeps the worlds unrighteous at arm's length. Yet Jesus wants us to touch human misery, to touch the suffering flesh of others. He hopes that we will stop looking for those personal or communal niches which shelter us from the maelstrom of human misfortune and instead enter into the reality of other people's lives and know the power of tenderness. Whenever we do so, our lives become wonderfully complicated and we experience intensely what it is to be a community, to be part of the Body of Christ.

It is true that in our dealings with the world, we are told to give reasons for our hope our testimony, but not as an enemy who critiques and condemns. We are told quite clearly: "do so with gentleness and reverence" (1 Pet 3:15) and "if possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all" (Rom 12:18). We are also told to overcome "evil with good" (Rom 12:21) and to "work for the good of all" (Gal 6:10). Far from trying to appear better than others, we should "in humility count others better" than ourselves (Phil 2:3). The Lord's apostles themselves enjoyed "favor with all the people" (Acts 2:47; 4:21, 33; 5:13). Clearly Jesus does not want us to be grandees who look down upon others, but men and women of the people. This is not an idea of the religious leaders, or one pastoral option among others; they are injunctions contained in the word of God which are so clear, direct and convincing that they need no interpretations which might diminish their power to challenge us. Let us live them without commentaries. By so doing we will know the missionary joy of sharing life with God's faithful people as we strive to light a fire in the heart of the world.

What, we might ask, is the biggest need of modern humans? It's not a cure for cancer and heart disease and AIDS or any other human ailment. It's not a fix for global warming. No, what we need is a cure for our biggest problem, and that is sin. Sin separates us from God and from each other. Sin is the disease, and the cross of Christ is the cure. It's that sacrifice of Jesus that we make present every time we celebrate communion together. Let us as a body of Christ be the hands and feet on earth so that we will plant beautiful seeds in those the Holy Spirit leads us to, so that they may be blessed by the sacrifice of Christ in their life as well. Be a seed planter this Spring so others can enjoy the beauty of God's love.

God bless each of you,
Dr. Damon "Doc" Gardner Sr.

UPCOMING events

- Children's Sunday School - during service
- March 7 - Board Meeting 9:30am
- March 14 - Adult Sunday School begins 10:15am
- March 28 & April 4 - Easter Special Offering
- March 28 - Palm Sunday
- April 4 - Easter Sunday

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MEN'S TOOLBOX DEVOTIONAL

“This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty. Zechariah 4:6

During the past several years, I have witnessed men commit to becoming God’s man. I’ve found that it’s not about asking guys to do more; it’s about asking them to be more. It’s not about asking them to pursue a plan or respond to a cool idea or even to a dare. It’s about convincing guys, deep down, that being God’s man is worth the risk. Why is that?



Doing more puts a man in control. Being more puts God in control. Doing more is a safe style for men. Being more is risky. Doing more implies there is an end to it. Being more is a process — fluid and unpredictable. Doing more lets a man pick the changes he needs to make. Being more allows God to reveal the changes a man needs to make. Doing more requires trying harder. Being more relies on training humbly. Being more reaches the private self — the man God wants to reach.

So, here’s the bottom line. Working with men the last fifteen years has been... challenging men to love more, say more, pray more, read the Bible more, allow God to discipline them more, love their wives more, and serve their kids more. Men have wanted all those things, but the majority of them are failing over the long haul. God has asked men to do what their heart and character cannot deliver. Author Dallas Willard got it right: “What’s needed is a renovation of the heart before a renovation of lifestyle.”

Challenge: Meditate this coming month and ask God to help you be more rather than just doing more.

HYMN OF THE MONTH - “HEAVEN CAME DOWN AND GLORY FILLED MY SOUL”

Heaven Came Down is a hymn that is of recent origin as it was written in 1961 by John W. Peterson. It draws its inspiration from a testimony delivered by an old man named Jim at Montrose Bible Conference Grounds, Pennsylvania. During the testimony, he talked of his conversion experience. In the testimony he used the phrase, “It seemed like Heaven came down and glory filled my soul.” It is this phrase that inspired John W. Pearson to write a song using this phrase later that week.

Born in Lindsborg, Kansas, John W. Peterson served as an Army Air Force pilot flying the *China Hump* during World War II. Later, he attended Moody Bible Institute and served on the radio staff there for a number of years.

In 1953, he graduated from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago and shortly thereafter settled in Pennsylvania to continue his songwriting career. He then moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where for over ten years he was President and Editor-in-Chief of Singspiration, a sacred music publishing company. He also served on the board of Gospel Films, Inc. of Muskegon, Michigan.

Before Peterson’s death on September 20, 2006, at the age of 84, he wrote over a thousand hymns, but it is this song that has touched and continues to touch millions of Christians all over the world.

In 1986, he was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

It is so sweet to entrust and surrender our lives to our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Heaven does literally come down into our hearts when we do that.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BRAD & KAREN CHILTON

Brad and Karen Chilton welcomed their grandson, Henry Lee Watson on Wednesday, February 10, 2021.

We are so happy for you and your family.

He is just precious.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday school will begin the second Sunday in March.

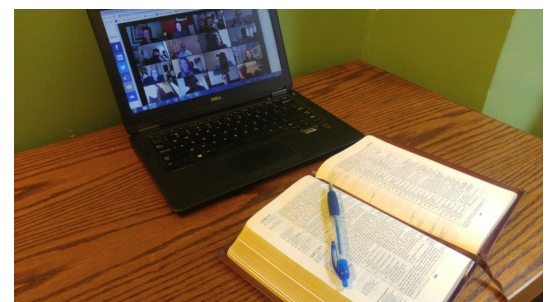
Doc Gardner will be presenting a wonderful bible class beginning at 10:15 am on March 14, 2021. We look forward to seeing you there.



Don't forget to set your clocks FORWARD 1 hour Saturday night before you go to bed.

VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY

We would like to begin a virtual bible study that would be held one evening during the week. If you would be interested in joining us for a Zoom Weekly Bible Study, please contact Doc Gardner at dagardnersr@gmail.com or (317) 480-2961. We would like to see which day and time will work best for everyone.



*You are invited
to celebrate God's greatest gift this Easter Season!*

March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday Service at 11:00 am

*Musical Message during service
Children's Easter Egg Hunt following service*

April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday Service at 11:00 am



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Minister: Dr. Damon "Doc" Gardner Sr.



JANUARY TREASURY REPORT

Income

Sunday Offerings: \$8,949.45
Memorial Gift Fund: \$0.00
Special Offering: \$0.00
Miscellaneous: \$3.43

**Monthly Total:
\$8,952.88**

Expenses

Salaries: \$5,375.00
Utilities: \$450.51
Supplies & Food: \$280.00
Insurance: \$0.00
Miscellaneous: \$0.00
Taxes: \$0.00
Maintenance: \$130.00

**Monthly Total:
\$6,235.51**

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

03/07 David Ferguson
03/08 Travis Taylor
03/10 Yvonne Heistand
03/14 Clark Hornbaker
03/14 Joel Worley
03/18 Theresa Taylor
03/20 Noah Shirley
03/21 Amanda Jones
03/26 Amy Davey
03/27 Cade Ferguson

Anniversaries

03/13 Brady & Leslie Tingle
03/16 Ivy & Laura Latham
03/19 Les & Marge Massey
03/19 Carl & Ann Winnette
03/28 David & Holly Ferguson
03/29 Jerry & Mary Smith



FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

- The minutes of the January Board Meeting were approved.
- Mike Rippy presented the financial report. Income was \$8,952.88 and expenses were \$6,235.51. The church raised \$298 in January for Tralyn and \$250 in February. Both checks have been mailed to her.
- We have received a debit card from our bank with Mike Rippy's name on it. Mike Rippy will contact the bank to see how to get a second card that the secretary can use.
- Ken Bean got two quotes from RG Plumbing Services in Gunner, Texas about our water heater. The first quote is for a conventional 50-gallon water heater with programmable timer installed with 6 year warranty. Total of \$1,500. The second quote is for a high efficiency hybrid heat pump 50 gallon with 10 year warranty with built in timer. Total of \$2,500. These quotes do not include a filtration system. A tankless water heater would require us to change out all our electrical and would cost upwards of \$5,000 - \$7,000. The board voted to purchase the high efficiency water heater and spend up to \$1,000 for a filtration system as well. Ken Bean will contact the company and get this process started.
- The board discussed the elders and deacons assisting with communion and offering prayers like we had prior to COVID. We will have only 2 instead of 4, edlers and deacons come to the front. This way they can sit in the chairs and remain socially distanced. They will remain masked while doing prayers.
- Adult Sunday School will begin on March 14, 2021. People will sit where they will sit during church for Sunday school so as to not spread germs by switching seats.
- Hymn of the month will be added into the service beginning in March as well. Brad Chilton will select those hymns and Kimberly Tisserand will include a write up in the monthly newsletters.
- Doc Gardner would like to begin a virtual weekly study. This would allow for anyone to attend the bible study even if they do not feel comfortable coming to church. We will solicit input from the congregation on what evening would work well for the bible study.
- Outreach Opportunities: Our church will be sponsoring a family with Grace Bridge and will also look to assist local residents in need. The board voted to give a one time gift of \$1,000 to Grace Bridge Food Bank. We will also check in to the Community Garden in McKinney and Hugs Café to see if they have needs.
- Land to expand: Scooter Cave suggested the board look in to purchasing the parking lot across from the church. The board will research this.
- Our next board meeting will be on March 7, 2021 at 9:30 am.

SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR MARCH

March 7	The Prodigal Father	Luke 15:11-31
March 14	A Law of Liberating Love	James 2:8-13 and Matthew 22:36-40
March 21	Have We Lost Our Awe of God?	Psalms 33:8
March 28	Sweet Aroma	2 Corinthians 2:14-17

First Christian Church of Weston

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

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



"COME TO ME, ALL WHO LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU, AND LEARN FROM ME, FOR I AM GENTLE AND LOWLY IN HEART, AND YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. FOR MY YOKE IS EASY, AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT."

-MATTHEW 11:28-30



Please keep Heather Carter, Jeannie Greenwald, Michael and Linda Waco, Nancy Neill, Amy Davey, Louis Cave, Betty Fowler, Angie Poen, Tralyn Tadlock, Mary and Jerry Smith, The Cave family, Elizabeth and Abby Gardner 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.