



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.*



CHURCH CLOSURE UPDATE

We hope you are all doing well and taking care of yourselves during this time. We continue to seek prayerful diligence in our response, and trust the actions and guidance of local school districts and government officials. We will follow the guidance of the State of Texas and will continue to suspend services through April 5th, which is Palm Sunday. Please do not hesitate to contact the church staff if we can be helpful to you during this time.

We hope you are finding ways at home to spend time in worship in the way that best allows you to experience God's presence. He will see us through this trying time.

Though we will not worship together in person this week, our ministry and our obligations to our staff do not cease. Thank you to those that continue to mail in their regular offering checks to the church. It is appreciated and vital support. We have also received many checks towards our remodel fund. We are almost to \$5,000 that you have graciously given directly to our remodel fund! What a glorious gift you have given as a congregation! That \$5,000 will be matched by a generous church family. That means that almost every penny of our remodel cost will be covered by your donations. The church board is blown away by your generosity. Thank you!

Our church board and staff will continue to be in conversation about how we will proceed in the weeks to come. We will keep you updated on our plans regarding worship, especially with Easter coming up.

Please stay in contact with one another through phone calls, text messages, Facebook, and other communication methods. It is easy to feel isolated during this time and continued connection will be important for all of us. If you are in the at-risk population (over age 60 and/or have underlying health conditions) and need assistance in any way (grocery shopping, etc.), please e-mail Kimberly Tisserand at tisserand@outlook.com. We have folks who are ready and willing to assist.

There have been many times in history when the church could not meet regularly, or even out in the open. Yet through those times God was faithful and continued to knit together the people into the embodiment of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. We give thanks that although we cannot meet together as we would like, we can remain in touch via social media, e-mails, texts, etc. God is still at work among us to help us grow through these days so that we are ever more ready to live and love like Jesus.

Stay healthy everyone.

UPCOMING events

- Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM
- Children's Sunday School
 - During service
- POSTPONED - Michael Strange Memorial Food and Clothing Drive benefitting Grace Bridge and Samaritan Inn
- No Board Meeting in April
- Church suspended through April 5th
- April 12 - Easter Sunday

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MICHAEL STRANGE MEMORIAL CLOTHING & FOOD DRIVE POSTPONED

Our annual Michael Strange Memorial clothing and food drive will start back up when church resumes. Thank you to those who already donated. 15 bags of clothing and shoes have been donated to Samaritan Inn of McKinney and Grace Bridge Food Bank was so appreciative when Clark Neill dropped off the food donations.

During this time, keep cleaning out your closets and grabbing a couple extra food items when you are at the grocery store to donate.



EASTER EGGS FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH

Sadly, we will be closed for Palm Sunday and unable to do our annual Easter Egg Hunt for the children of the church.

Instead, the church will be providing filled Easter Eggs and will deliver those to the front porches of the families of the church with children. Please email Kimberly Tisserand at tisserand@outlook.com to arrange delivery.



This way the children can have their own Easter Egg hunt at home and still receive an Easter treat from the church.

HYMN OF THE MONTH - "LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS"

This is the perfect hymn for us to sing this month. With everything going on in the world right now, we all need to lean on Jesus and our faith.

Anthony Showalter was leading a singing school in an Alabama church in 1887. When he returned to his boardinghouse room one night, two letters awaited him. Both were from former students, and both men told of the recent loss of their wives. Mr. Showalter wrote back, seeking to comfort the young men in the midst of their grief.

But what to write? When he came to the end of each letter, he wanted to include a Bible verse. He picked Deuteronomy 33:27, "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms"

He pondered the words of that verse as he penned them into the letters, and the lyrics of the chorus of *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* came to his mind. He wrote to his friend, Elisha Hoffman, explaining that he had a chorus, but no verses. Mr. Hoffman wrote back with the rest of the words of this famous hymn.

Sam Duncan, a student and nephew of Mr. Showalter, was given the class assignment to write the tune for this poem. The piece was published under his uncle's name in the book *Glad Evangel for Revival, Camp and Evangelistic Meeting Hymnal*.

FEBRUARY TREASURY REPORT

Income

Sunday Offerings: \$8,104.43
 Memorial Gift Fund: \$0.00
 Special Offering: \$117.00
 Miscellaneous: \$

Monthly Total:
\$8,221.43

Expenses

Salaries: \$3,000.00
 Utilities: \$318.59
 Supplies & Food: \$25.25
 Insurance: \$1,905.36
 Miscellaneous: \$20.65
 Taxes: \$0.00
 Maintenance: \$230.00

Monthly Total:
\$5,499.85

APRIL CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

04/04 Laura Welch
 04/14 Linda Hornbaker
 04/14 Betty Fowler
 04/18 Marilyn Chamberlin
 04/23 Kim Tingle
 03/27 Cade Ferguson

Anniversaries

04/21 John & Tralyn Tadlock
 04/22 Andy & Kristie Dimock



CHURCH RENOVATIONS

The renovations at the church have begun. Artisan Construction has completed repairing paneling in the Fellowship Hall, painting of the Fellowship Hall, painting the kitchen cabinets, removal of the kitchen wall and replaced the back door.

Other renovations that will be done in the kitchen are: new flooring, new counter tops and backsplash, replacing the knobs and drawer handles, moving electrical for lights and fridge, and changing outlets and light switches to white.

Artisan Construction will also enclose the opening near the piano and install new handrails on front steps.

Thank you again to everyone that donated to our Remodeling Fund! This is much needed maintenance for the church and enlarging the kitchen will allow us to have ample space for luncheons and much more storage.



MARCH BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

- The minutes were approved from the February board meeting.
- Mike Rippey presented the financial report. We paid our quarterly insurance payment of \$1,905.36. Income for February was \$8,221.43 and expenses were \$5,616.85. We received a donation check for \$1,000 for Dickerson Construction.
- Clark Neill met with Jason Miller and went through the remodeling quote. Daniel Tisserand motioned to go forward with all the remodeling except the plumbing concerning the water heater and hold that for a later date. Scooter Cave seconded.
 Motion passed. Total will be \$10,175.00. Clark Neill will contact Jason Miller to schedule the work.
- We will be honoring Gayle Strange as Elder Emeritus. We will find a Sunday service that works with her schedule.
- Scooter Cave informed the board of a new preacher option. His name is Roland Burnett and he currently lives in Van Alstyne. He is a retired preacher and might be interested in a part time position. His wife is named Alice and she plays the piano.
 Salary would be negotiable with him. Scooter Cave will contact him and ask him to preach two Sundays in March.
- Feed My Starving Children Service Project: Our service project will be on May 9, 2020 from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm.
- We will not have a board meeting in April.
- Next meeting will be on May 3, 2020 at 9:30 am

First Christian Church of Weston

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

Phone: (972) 382-3347

Email: fccweston@outlook.com
www.firstchristianweston.com

Find us on Facebook!

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

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



Please keep Heather Carter, Lester and Jeannie Greenwald, Michael and Linda Waco, Christian Dimock, Kyle Schindler, Brian Larson, Kim Rogers, Nancy Neill, Amy Davey, Austin Daughtery, Jerry & Mary Smith, Louis Cave, Catherine Worsham, Margaret Marlar, Hudson Biggio and Arlis Parish 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.