



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



Happy Independence!

For over 235 years, America has been blessed as the longest on-going Constitutional Republic in the history of the world. These blessings are not accidental, they are blessings of God. This is evident as we look at the turmoil in other nations and contrast that to the stability we see in America. Preserving American liberty depends first upon our understanding of the foundations on which this great country was built, and then it depends on preserving the principles on which it was founded.

On July 2, 1776, Congress voted to approve a complete separation from England. Two days later, the early draft of the Declaration of Independence was signed. Four days later, members of Congress took the document and read it out loud from the steps of Independence Hall, proclaiming it to the city of Philadelphia, and afterward, they rang the Liberty Bell. The inscription on the top of the bell is Leviticus 25:10, which reads, **"Proclaim liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof."**

John Adams said, *"The general principles on which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity."* Probably the clearest identification of the spirit of the American Revolution was given by John in a letter to Abigail the day after Congress approved the Declaration. He wrote her two letters that day: One was short and jubilant that the Declaration had been approved; the other letter was much longer and gave serious consideration to what had been done that day. Adams could already foresee that their actions would be celebrated by future generations.

Adams also noted: *"This day will be the most memorable epic in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival."* He felt the celebration should be in a manner that would commemorate the day as a *"day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty."* John Adams believed that the Fourth of July should be a religious holiday. The two top holidays celebrated in this country are Christmas and the Fourth of July. According to John Quincy Adams, the two dates are connected. On the Fourth of July, the Founding Fathers simply took the precepts of Christ and His birth (Christmas) and incorporated those principles into civil government.

The Declaration of Independence was the birth certificate for this nation, but the men who signed it knew it could be their death warrant. The closing paragraph states, "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance of the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." The 56 Founding Fathers, 27 of whom were trained as ministers, took their pledge seriously. On the morning of the signing, there was silence and gloom as each man was called up to the table of the President of Congress to sign the document, knowing that it could mean their death by hanging. Most wars have a motto. The motto of World War II was "Remember Pearl Harbor." The motto during the Texas war for independence was "Remember the Alamo." The spiritual emphasis, directed towards King George III who violated God's laws, gave rise to a motto during the American Revolution: "No King but King Jesus." The Founding Fathers passed the torch to us. It is our responsibility to not let it go out.

From our family and our hearts, have a very wonderful, safe and blessed July 4th.

In Christ,
Pastor Dr. Doc Gardner Sr.

UPCOMING events

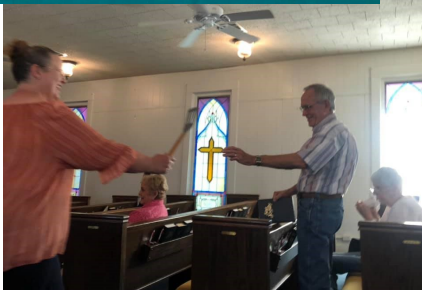
- Children's Sunday School - during service
- Adult Sunday School - 10:15 am
- **July 3 - Weston 4th of July Parade 10am**
- August 8, 2021 - Honoring all Educators and Back to School Luncheon following service

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FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION—JUNE 20TH

We enjoyed honoring all the fathers in our congregation.



GOODBYE CELEBRATION FOR THE POEN FAMILY

We celebrated the Poen family with a small going away reception on June 20. This sweet family will be moving to Iowa in July. We presented Mike with a Deacon pin and the family with a book of pictures of them at church events through the years. Our church has been so blessed to have them as members. We know God has wonderful plans for them. They will be missed.



MEN'S TOOLBOX DEVOTIONAL

Darkness or Light

“I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.” John 12:46



At times we all wonder why God allows us to experience such incredible pain. There seems to be no point in it. Whether it is something we did, or others did to us, or even what is called today “an act of God.” In God’s perfect wisdom and outside of ours, He knows exactly what we need to bring out His bright light into our dark world. Unless we are willing to accept the fact that he wants this for us we live in a colorless, dark world.

When I received this understanding, I began to see the value of my limits and setbacks. It has helped me understand this from a constructive perspective rather than a degrading, judgmental, destructive frame of mind. This is a paraphrase of exactly what Paul was saying in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

Paul’s handicap, or “thorn,” was a part of his life now. It was always going to be there, and it was a source of struggle and pain. Instead of removing it, God used it. How we view our circumstances is an especially important issue. It is God’s will for us to go from darkness to light, not for us to stumble around in our weakness, sin and selfish desires.

Go to the Father. Concentrate on His love and forgiveness, His unconditional love and His total non-condemning nature. Look up to Him with praise and recognize that you are extremely valuable to Him.

WESTON 4TH OF JULY PARADE

The 36th Annual Weston 4th of July parade will be held on **SATURDAY, July 3, 2021.** The Grand Marshalls will be Fire Chief (Retired) David and Denise Henzler. Judging begins at 9:00 am and the parade will begin at 10:00 am. Our float theme will be “God Bless our Hometown Heroes”. Thank you to Marilyn and Danielle Chamberlin for overseeing our float decorating this year! Make sure to mark your calendars for this fun event!



HYMN OF THE MONTH - "O HOW HE LOVE YOU AND ME!"

Oh, How He Loves You and Me is a popular chorus that was very popular in churches in the 1980s and 1990s. This is one of the songs that children often learn, after *Jesus Loves Me* and *Jesus Loves the Little Children*. The chorus to *Oh, How He Loves You and Me* was written by Kurt Kaiser, also well known for the song, *Pass It On*.

Kurt Kaiser was born in 1934 in Chicago, Illinois. He is an award winning songwriter of Contemporary Christian music and a member of the Gospel Hall of Fame. Kaiser said "I was 7 years old when one Sunday evening we were all gathered around the piano in the living room of our home, singing, as was our custom each week. I began having a real urge from the spirit of God to know him and to give my heart and life to Christ. My mother went with me to my bedroom, and we knelt down by the bed and I accepted Christ into my life."

O How He Loves You and Me became one of his most popular songs. Kurt Kaiser provides the following account behind the writing of this song: "Through the years I have been in the habit of keeping my ears tuned to things that people say, a phrase that may give me an idea for a song. I'll write it down quickly. Occasionally, I will pull these things out and look at them. One day I came across this line, "Oh how he loves you and me," and I wrote it down. I remember very well writing it across the top of a piece of manuscript paper, and that's all I had. In 1975, I sat down to think about that phrase and the whole song quickly came to me. I could not have spent more than 10 or 15 minutes writing the whole of it. That's how rapidly it all came, the lyrics and the melody together. I sent it off to secure a copyright. I could not believe what came back in the mail."

"The Copyright Office in Washington said that there was not enough original lyric to warrant the granting of a copyright. I was extremely disappointed because I knew the song was very singable. A couple of days went by and I decided to write a companion verse, or a second set of lyrics. I sent it back to Washington, and this time I got the copyright."

The popularity of *O How He Loves You and Me* spread throughout the churches and eventually found it's way into the hymnal.

In the late 1960s and 1970s, Kaiser was an instrumental part of the Christian youth movement and wrote several Christian rock musicals. He has continued to be a well known presence in the Christian music industry through the years. He is the choir director at Day Spring Baptist Church, in Waco, Texas, which he helped found.

Thank You Educators!

Sunday, August 8, 2021

We will be honoring all the educators in our congregation during our service.



Following our service we will enjoy a **BACK TO SCHOOL LUNCHEON**

MAY TREASURY REPORT

Income

Sunday Offerings: \$5,955.00
 Memorial Gift Fund: \$0.00
 Special Offering: \$0.00
 Miscellaneous: \$1.86

Monthly Total:
\$5,956.86

Expenses

Salaries: \$5,375.00
 Utilities: \$306.91
 Supplies & Food: \$0.00
 Insurance: \$1,888.56
 Miscellaneous: \$147.78
 Taxes: \$0.00
 Maintenance: \$130.00

Monthly Total:
\$7,848.25

JULY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

07/01 Ava Shirley
 07/01 Sam Shirley
 07/02 Floyd Young
 07/03 Jeannie Greenwald
 07/05 Mike Poen
 07/07 Clark Neill
 07/08 Riley Gardner
 07/18 Brady Tingle
 07/18 Cameron Dimock
 07/21 Kristie Dimock
 07/22 Blayne Lambert
 07/27 Ty Ferguson
 07/27 Christian Dimock
 07/28 Ryan Jacques

Anniversaries

07/06 Scott & Holly Franklin
 07/10 Steve & Beth Harlow
 07/17 Brice & Amy Lambert
 07/30 Joel & Beth Worley



NEW PHONE NUMBERS FOR DOC & GINGER

Doc and Ginger Gardner have gotten new cell phone numbers. Please update this in your contacts.

Doc Gardner 469-417-8431

Ginger Gardner 469-417-8356



JUNE BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

- The minutes from the May board meeting were approved via email three days after the May board meeting.
- Mike Rippy emailed the financial report to the board prior to the meeting. Income was \$5,956.86 and expenses were \$7,848.25 for the month of May. We paid our quarterly insurance to State Farm and all other expenses were as usual.
- Mike Rippy will be resigning as the treasurer. His resignation will be effective when we find a replacement or the end of the year, whichever comes first. He has served as treasurer for 4 years. The board thanks Mike Rippy for all the wonderful work he has done over the past 4 years.
- The new water heater has been installed.
- Church Fence: Nothing has been done due to the rain lately. We will address this after the ground dries.
- Community Lifeline Center of McKinney: Scott Elliott, the Executive Director of Community Lifeline of McKinney, presented information on their mission and all they do. In 2019, they were a small food pantry. During 2020 when COVID hit, the need for food raised greatly and the Community Lifeline Center answered that need. Community Lifeline Center also assists with rent and utility assistance for those in need. They work together with the community food pantries to distribute the food across the area and address immediate needs. FCC Weston could possibly become a neighborhood hub to distribute food to those that need it. This takes about 8-10 volunteers. There would be boxes of dry goods ranging about 20 pounds, and then 15 pounds of fresh produce and milk. Distribution could be once or twice a month and the days of distribution can change to work with our church and volunteer schedule. It is difficult for people to ask for help, and their mission is to make it easier on them to get what they need. They would deliver the food to our church and we would facilitate the distribution. It is distributed on a first come, first serve basis. Families requesting food will fill out an application, or may be pre-approved by prior application. Upon approval they are given a card for future use, so they do not have to apply again every time they pick up food. We would advertise that our location would be available at certain times and dates. Excess food would be picked up by Community Lifeline Center or we could store the food at the church if we have the space. First Christian Church of Weston would become a member of the Feeding Friends and Family Service Center. The food that is provided is not intended for people who are homeless. It is targeted to families to keep them from becoming homeless. The first few distributions there would be someone from CLC to train the volunteers and would be here to help until we felt comfortable. The only distribution point north of 380 right now is only Princeton. Distribution would in a 1-2 hour span. We can visit www.communitylifeline.org or www.feedingfriendsandfamilies.org for more information on distribution, volunteering and donating. The church has discussed doing a project like this for many years. Most of the distribution would be outside so there would not be much wear and tear on the church building. The board feels this is worth trying to do. We could ask the congregation with a show of hands how many people would be willing to volunteer and help. Daniel Tisserand will contact Scott Elliott to inform him that the church is very interested and get more information on how to begin the process. Daniel Tisserand will be our point of contact for this project.
- Dawson Bean presented to the church on May 16, 2021 regarding him and his family's upcoming move to London with the Center for Mission Mobilization. Ken Bean removed himself from the meeting while the board discussed due to conflict of interest. Marilyn Chamberlin led the discussion. Comments were that some struggle with this not being part of the mission of our local church. There is such a need in the United States and if the Bean family were doing something local, then the board might feel differently. There are homeless people in Celina that need help locally. We can support locally and support globally as well. The board wants to be cautious with our church financials, but also be good stewards with reaching out in the world and making disciples. The board voted to give them a one-time donation of \$2,500. Motion passed.
- Our theme for the float will be God Bless Our Hometown Heroes. We would like kids to dress up as local heroes: fire fighters, police, teachers, nurses, etc. and ride on the float. Parade will be on SATURDAY, July 3, 2021.
- Masks will be made optional for those that feel comfortable wearing them. We will pass communion, but leave sealed cups in the pews for those that do not feel comfortable touching the passing plates. We will begin passing the offering as well. People could place their offering in prior to the service if they do not want to touch the offering plate.
- Our next board meeting will be on July 11, 2021 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

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, Linda Waco, Nancy Neill, Louis Cave, Tralyn Tadlock, Doc Gardner and Margaret Marlal 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.