



FIRST CHRISTIAN NEWS

March 2023

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

March 5
Board Meeting 9:30

March 12
Adult Bible Class 10:15

March 13
Women's Bible Study 9:30
Lunch 11:00 Salsa (Anna)

March 19-26
Michael Strange Clothing
And Food Drive

April 2
Palm Sunday Luncheon and
Children's Easter Egg Hunt

April 9
Easter

April 10
Women's Bible Study and
Lunch

Dear FCC Church Family,

Yeah!!!! We are at the beginning of the change of seasons. I know many will say that we still have a few cold days ahead, but I am going to be optimistic and believe that we will start to see warmer weather. I hope that many of you are like me and are ready for warmer weather, where we see the trees bud, the daffodils spring up and the beautiful sounds of birds singing in the morning.

Not only does the changing of the season bring warmer weather, but also a holiday that 49 States of our United States of America does not celebrate. That is Independence Day... to be clear Texas Independence Day which is on March 2nd. The day that the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed The only state in the Union to ever be its own sovereign republic. No other state can say that. Our Governor Greg Abbott once said, *"The vision of freedom set down by our founders in the Texas Declaration of Independence lives on in the indomitable Texas spirit today. As we continue to build a 21st-century Texas, we must always remember how the sacrifices of past generations helped create a future for the next. At this time, I encourage all Texans to learn more about, reflect on, and take pride in our state's unique origins and rich history."*

This reminds me that as Christians we should remind ourselves of those generations who came before us, who sacrificed, suffered and took the baton from those before them to preach the good news and expressed the love of Christ outwardly to those across the world. The first chapter of Acts records the last face-to-face conversation the disciples had with Jesus. They asked him a crucial question in Acts 1:6, *"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"* It's a question we ask still today as we work to reconcile our current experiences with what we believe God has done in the past and will be doing in the future. Before the crucifixion, these same disciples had not understood Jesus' coming death and resurrection. Along the Emmaus Road after his resurrection, he connected for them the dots between the Old Testament and his death (Luke 24:13-27). It makes sense then that these same disciples wanted a little more clarity about the next steps after his resurrection. It makes sense that at times we still do as well. But Jesus didn't explain the details to them in Acts 1. Instead, in the next verses, he promised once again the coming of the Holy Spirit, who would equip them to be his witnesses to "Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Instead of explaining the details of what happened next, Jesus used language that reminded them (and us) of his instructions a few days before on a mountain in Galilee, recorded in Matthew 28.

Continued on next page

MINISTER'S MESSAGE cont'd

Then Jesus came to them and said, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* Matthew 28:18-20

Soon we will have a wonderful opportunity to come together to celebrate one of the most glorious and wonderful holidays of the year, Resurrection Sunday, or as most know it as Easter. I know I am talking about it a month early, but I want to mention it early so as to get everyone excited about it and planning to attend. My only ask is that you not only plan on being at church, but that you start discussing it with others that normally do not attend church on that Sunday. The first thing I would highly suggest is to pray. Pray for them to have an open heart and mind and then pray on how you can approach them and present that invitation. This is a time that we can not only honor our Lord Jesus but also those who have passed that baton to us so that we can "go and make disciples of all the nations". That nation starts with our own!

I look forward to seeing each of you these next coming Sundays where we get to worship Christ and love and support each other. Our next sermon series will be of the Psalms and please remember we will be starting back up our Adult Sunday School on March the 12th @ 10:15 to 10:45 am. Until we see each other then, may the Lord bless you and keep you.

In Christ,
Dr. Damon Gardner Sr.



MEN'S TOOLBOX DEVOTIONAL

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

Have you ever noticed that when God uses a crisis to get your attention, He doesn't solve that crisis right away? I've witnessed many occasions at which He seems to let things roll on for a long time while waiting to see whether a man will continue to trust Him.

During my financial free fall, God waited until I hit bottom before I turned to Him and submitted to His character-carving process as well as the practical steps toward good financial stewardship. It took two long years of watching every penny before Ginger and I mailed the last payment on the last credit card. I remember asking God to speed things up a little as we chipped away at that mountain of debt. Those prayers went lovingly unanswered, and a different message came back to me: *Did you get into debt supernaturally?* The Lord seemed to ask.

It isn't until we understand that God is a God of love and that he loves His children perfectly, that we begin to understand the waiting times in our lives. God always works on a "Needs to Know" basis. He loves us so very much that he causes us to trust that love whatever way works best for His children.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY and LUNCHEON

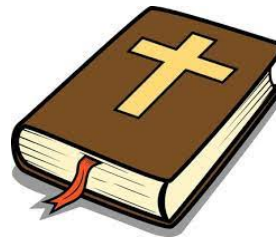
Join us on March 13 for our next Women's bible study and lunch. We will be discussing the chapter on Elizabeth and Mary

beginning on page 57. We are planning to eat lunch at the Salsa restaurant in Anna. All are welcome to attend!



SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR MARCH

March 5	Ready Your Prayers	Colossians 4:2-3
March 12	Pure Happiness	Psalm 1
March 19	The Shepherd's Psalm	Psalm 23
March 26	Our Generation	Psalm 78

**FINANCIAL REPORT - January****Income**

Sunday Offerings:	\$17,370.00
Memorial Gift Fund:	.00
Special Offering:	
Miscellaneous:	115.43

Expenses

Salaries:	\$5,000.00
Utilities:	283.31
Supplies & Food:	110.53
Insurance:	1,997.25
Maintenance:	65.00

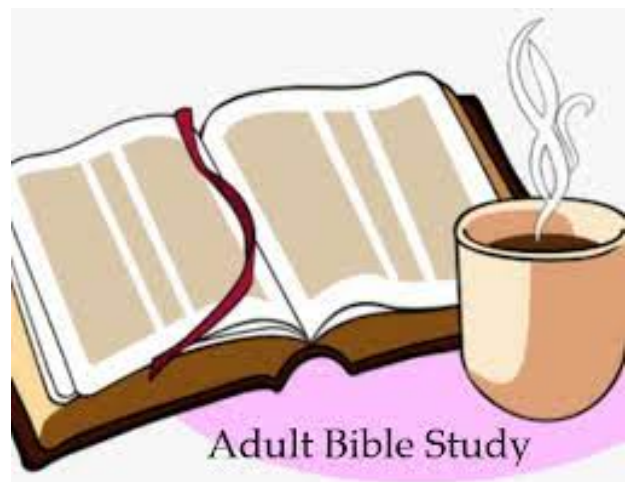
Monthly Total Income:**\$17,485.43****Monthly Total Expenses:****\$7,456.09**

Please keep the following in your prayers for strength, healing and comfort:

Heather Carter, Jeannie Greenwald, Louis Cave, Traylyn Tadlock, Daisy Nicodemus, Clark and Nancy Neill, Sandra Zimmerebner, Jerry and Mary Smith.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Beginning March 12, we will have an adult bible study before services. The class will start at 10:15. Come join us for this time of study of God's Word. We will be studying the names of God.





03/07 David Ferguson
 03/10 Yvonne Heistand
 03/14 Joel Worley
 03/20 Noah Shirley
 03/21 Amanda Jones
 03/26 Amy Davey
 03/27 Cade Ferguson

03/16 Ivy & Laura Latham
 03/28 David & Holly Ferguson
 03/29 Jerry & Mary Smith

HAPPY
 Anniversary!



Congratulations to Gloria and her piano students on a wonderful recital. The recital was held at the First Christian Church Weston building on February 5. Everyone played beautifully! Gloria is such a blessing to so many.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 2 - Palm Sunday

April 9 - Easter Sunday

VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON

We had lots of great food and conversation at our Valentine's Luncheon on February 12. Thanks to all who stayed and who brought food. Our next luncheon will be on Palm Sunday, April 2. We hope everyone will plan to attend.

**MICHAEL STRANGE MEMORIAL CLOTHING AND FOOD DRIVE**

Our Michael Strange Memorial Clothing and Food Drive will run from March 19 through March 26 in support of Grace Bridge food bank and The Samaritan Inn of McKinney.

We are collecting children's and adult clothing, shoes, as well as regular size non-perishable food items. Industrial size cans of food are not needed since we will be donating the food to Grace Bridge Food Bank.

Please place your donations on the table in the Fellowship Hall beginning March 19 .

Non perishable food items | kids clothing | adult clothing | shoes

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Service: Sundays at 11:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School during
Service

Doc Gardner, Pastor
Cell: 469-417-8431
Email: dagardnersr@gmail.com

Karen Chilton, Secretary
Cell: 972-849-9084
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I CAN DO
all things
THROUGH CHRIST
WHO STRENGTHENS
me
• Philippians 4:13 •

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