



# 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.*



## UPCOMING events

- Adult Sunday School - ON HOLD
- Children's Sunday School - during service
- February 7 - Board Meeting 9:30am
- March 7 - Board Meeting 9:30am
- March 28 - Palm Sunday
- April 4 - Easter Sunday

## THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Greetings in Christ!

I trust you are doing well during these challenging times. I wanted to take a few moments to write you a letter to encourage you and to let you know that God is available to all of us as we grow and progress in Him.



Take a moment to let this encouraging scripture soak into your spirit: Philippians 3:13 – Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. While we may feel tempted at times to “take cover” until the storms are over, I would encourage you today to use these challenging times to take your faith to another level!

Making progress in God means we are willing to step out of our comfort zone and move into areas that may be different than what we are used to, but we know there's more!

To get to “the greater,” we must leave “the lesser” behind!

To pursue the new, one must let go of the old.

To “press on,” one must first “release.”

We cannot live only on past blessings, yet we can use them as springboards to the new thing God wants to do in us. I pray that I never get to a place in my spiritual walk that all I can think about are “the good old days” – The problem is that we often forget those days were also filled with tremendous challenges. We need to be motivated! Dr. Henry Cloud said: “We change our behavior when the pain of staying the same becomes greater than the pain of changing. Consequences give us the pain that motivates us to change.”

## In This Issue

|                        |   |   |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Announcements          | 1 | One of the reasons I believe in the importance of being in God's house or in this day, at least watching the service online at home if possible, is that we need motivation and inspiration to move forward! When I'm around other believers of the Gospel, it is motivating and inspirational! |
| Sermons and Texts      | 2 | Perhaps you're in a place today that you are greatly encouraged in the Lord, and that's wonderful. Yet, there may be some who need to remember that we still serve a wonderful, miracle-working God!  |
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God bless you!  
Pastor Doc Gardner D.Th.

## MEN'S DEVOTIONAL - KINGDOM BUILDING

**"From the days of John the Baptist the kingdom of God has been forcefully advancing. And forceful men lay hold of it." Matthew 11:12**

When your view of God is right, your identity as God's man is settled (as in, no more competing identities), and you are willing to sacrifice your agenda for his service. It's time to build something that will outlast you.



It's time to invest in something you can't take with you but something you can send ahead to eternity. It's time to get busy building the kingdom of God, right where you live in the church, and in your world. It's time to think outside the box and dream big God dreams. The Kingdom doesn't need more religious guys. It requires more big hairy audacious dreamers. Think I'm playing you? The opening verse describes the kind of man God uses for this breakthrough. Could he be talking about you?

Men throughout history have been challenged to cross that line, out of comfort and into risk for their King. Forceful men have been moved from within with God's vision for kingdom expansion. It's about winning — souls, communities, people in desperation, countries in darkness, and all the particular battles of your world. It's about winning men you know to join forces and affect the course of history. Over the next couple of decades it will be the most powerful show of force the church has mounted in history and men like you will be at the center of this movement.

God has called us to be the men He created us to be... Let us be that man our families, our communities and our church require us to be.

## SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR FEBRUARY

|             |                           |                  |
|-------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| February 6  | Just One More Lord        | Luke 15:1-59     |
| February 13 | You Can Make A Difference | Jude 1:22-23     |
| February 20 | Out of your comfort zone  | Matthew 14:22-33 |
| February 27 | Parodical Father          | Luke 15:11-31    |

## WEEK OF COMPASSION SPECIAL OFFERING - FEBRUARY 21 & 28

**Let LOVE Flow:** When you give to Week of Compassion, you deploy resources to people in need all around the world. Through sustainable development projects, our partners help provide life-giving water and other critical resources that help communities reinvent and reimagine what is possible. When water comes to a village, people are safer, healthier, and more free to pursue learning and growth , and share more than just water.



"Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty, shade from the sun, shelter from the wind, For the Compassionate One guides them, takes them to the best springs." — Isaiah 49:10

We will collect our Week of Compassion Special offering on February 21st and February 28th.

## DECEMBER TREASURY REPORT

| Income                                     | Expenses                                   |
|--|--|
| Sunday Offerings: \$6,193.39               | Salaries: \$5,650.00                       |
| Memorial Gift Fund: \$0.00                 | Utilities: \$261.97                        |
| Special Offering: \$285.00                 | Supplies & Food: \$135.42                  |
| Miscellaneous: \$3.15                      | Insurance: \$0.00                          |
|  | Miscellaneous: \$51.64                     |
|  | Taxes: \$0.00                              |
| <b>Monthly Total:</b><br><b>\$6,481.54</b> | Maintenance: \$130.00                      |
|  |  |
|  | <b>Monthly Total:</b><br><b>\$6,299.03</b> |

## 2020 YEAR TO DATE TOTALS

| Income                                       | Expenses                                     |
|--|--|
| Sunday Offerings: \$77,810.54                | Salaries: \$41,649.50                        |
| Building Fund: \$10,900.00                   | Utilities: \$2,565.71                        |
| Memorial Gift Fund: \$0.00                   | Supplies & Food: \$1,634.89                  |
| Special Offering: \$402.00                   | Insurance: \$7,539.48                        |
| Miscellaneous: \$1,960.14                    | Miscellaneous: \$1,417.29                    |
|  | Taxes: \$0.00                                |
|  | Financial Council: \$402.00                  |
| <b>2020 YTD Total:</b><br><b>\$91,072.68</b> | Local Outreach: \$1,000.00                   |
|  | Maintenance: \$20,179.77                     |
|  |  |
|  | <b>2020 YTD Total:</b><br><b>\$76,388.64</b> |
|  | <b>Gain/Loss: \$14,684.04</b>                |

## 2021 CHURCH BOARD

Thank you to the following members for your willingness to serve on our church board during this upcoming year. As a body, we have been blessed with your wisdom and dedication to the church, serving faithfully and always reaching above and beyond what is asked of you to help further the message of the Gospel. Your passion for bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world is evident in everything you do, and we are so blessed to have your experience and wisdom on the church board this year at FCC.



### 2021 DEACONS

Scooter Cave  
Karen Chilton  
Mike Poen  
Jenna Jacques

### 2021 ELDERS

**Ken Bean - Chair**  
Daniel Tisserand - Co-Chair  
Marilyn Chamberlin  
Clark Neill (non board member)  
Larry Lambert (non board member)  
Dr. Jim Mitlyng (non board member)  
Gayle Strange (Elder Emeritus)

## FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

### Birthdays

02/01 Jason Cave  
02/15 Karen Chilton  
02/18 Juliet Dimock  
02/20 Steve Harlow  
02/21 Daniel Tisserand

### Anniversaries

02/13 Jason & Shelly Cave  
02/16 David & Heather Carter



## JANUARY BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

- The minutes of the December Board Meeting were approved.
- Year End Financial Report: Offerings for 2020 were \$91,072.68 and expenses were \$76,113.64. That is a net gain of \$14,959.04. In December, our offerings were \$6,481.54 and expenses \$6,229.03. Outreach for 2020, we did not give for Easter, Pentecost, or Thanksgiving since we were closed or had limited attendance. We were closed 27 of the 53 Sundays during the year and our average attendance was 33.3, compared to last year we were open all 53 weeks and attendance was 40.1. The decrease in attendance was due to COVID and members not attending. 1099's and tax forms will be mailed out this week that were not picked up at the church. Daniel Tisserand thanked Mike Rippy for all he has done this year with keeping our financials organized.
- Daniel Tisserand welcomed Marilyn Chamberlin and Ken Bean to the Board. He also thanked Scooter Cave and Karen Chilton for serving another 2 year term. The board approved Ken Bean as Chairman and Daniel Tisserand as Co-Chair for the upcoming year.
- Credit/Debit card for checking account: The board approved for Mike Rippy to go to the bank and get 2 physical debit cards one for the treasurer and one for the secretary to use for various purchases for the church including sponsoring a family through Grace Bridge Food Bank.
- New Water Heater/Filtration System: Our water tanks are 13 years old and probably need to be replaced. We will discuss this more at the February meeting. Scooter Cave informed the board that Jason Cave would like to come in and wire the fellowship hall with speakers and a camera, so people can watch a service from the fellowship hall. The board thanks Jason Cave for this generous gift.
- Special donation for Tralyn Tadlock: Tralyn Tadlock will have a double hip replacement surgery on January 21, 2021. Several members have given through a Go Fund Me account set up for her, but the church would like to take up a special offering to benefit Tralyn as well. A basket will be put out for donations to go directly to Tralyn.
- Videoing sermons: There are some problems we are running into with videoing the sermons. Our bandwidth at the church only allows up to upload about two weeks of sermons to the cloud. Daniel Tisserand will talk to AT&T about adding more bandwidth for the church.
- Mike Rippy brought up the idea of having a project manager for different events throughout the year. We have many events and it would help with organizing all the events if different people spearheaded events they were passionate about. For example, Danielle Chamberlin graciously has taken over Children's Sunday School and done a wonderful job overseeing that. We will put this on the agenda for the February meeting.
- Restarting Adult Sunday School: Doc Gardner brought up the idea of restarting Adult Sunday School and the possibility of a weekly bible study online. The board feels that it would be great to start it back up.
- Ken Bean stated that looking at the financials, our outreach has dwindled over the past few years. We need to look at more outreach for this year. He would like to see us closer to 10% for our giving. Sponsoring a family through Grace Bridge will be a wonderful start to get our outreach up. The board will bring other ideas to the next meeting.
- Our next board meeting will be on February 7, 2021 at 9:30 am.



How GREAT is the LOVE  
the FATHER has LAVISHED on us,  
that we should BE CALLED children of GOD!  
1 John 3:1

## First Christian Church of Weston

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Find us on Facebook!

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

Doc Gardner, Pastor  
Cell (317) 480-2961  
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Kimberly Tisserand, Secretary  
Cell (972) 658-9409  
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## 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](mailto:tisserand@outlook.com)



## Prayer Requests

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.