



FIRST CHRISTIAN NEWS

May 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

- May 7
Board Meeting 9:30
- May 8
Women's Bible Study and Lunch (Rockfish in McKinney)
- May 14
Mother's Day
- May 21
Honoring our High School Graduates
- June 4
Weston Community Homecoming 1:00 - 4:00

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Happy May First Christian Church,

It is hard to believe that we are in the month of May already. There are so many events that are in this wonderful month. As we are in the midst of Spring, and passing of Easter, we are coming upon several times of remembrances. The first is one that many, I assume, just overlook. Maybe not on purpose, but more so I don't feel many consider it a priority. That is the National Day of Prayer.

The origins of the National Day of Prayer dates all the way back to 1787 when Benjamin Franklin asked President George Washington to open each day with prayer and to realize that prayer is deeply intertwined in the fabric of the United States. It was not until February 1952 however, that Reverend Billy Graham petitioned support of Representative Percy Priest to observe a National Day of Prayer. On April 17, 1952, President Harry Truman signed a bill proclaiming National Day of Prayer, to encourage Americans to turn to God in prayer and meditation. National Prayer Day is celebrated every year on the first Thursday of May. Which will be May 4th of this year. My hope is that many of you and your family will come together and pray. Not only for each other, your friends, but also for this nation's leaders, its people to unite, together as one nation, but for the nation as a whole to come back to God.

Another day of remembrance is of course one that none can miss, and that is Mother's Day. And we should never forget, but **Mother's Day** is a day we set aside to honor our mothers (whether they be our birth moms, foster moms, or people who cared for us like a mom). Truth be told it shouldn't have to be just one day; it should be every day. They have helped to shape who we are today.

For many, thoughts of this day will evoke a varying array of emotions. Some good, some not so good, some sad, some happy. Some will enter into the day with joy and anticipation of being surrounded and pampered by family. And yet others will withdraw, avoid, and feel pain at the mention of Mother's Day.

Here's something to ponder – how do we handle Mother's Day in our churches? Think about it for a minute. It's easy to celebrate the happy memories, the successful motherhood experiences. It's not so easy to acknowledge that this day can be painful for so many who are a part of our churches.

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We need to find ways to celebrate the good and acknowledge the difficult. After all, this is what life is like outside the garden. Not what God intended for us. But being created in God's image, we are equipped with the grace and compassion needed to be able to celebrate the good about motherhood and walk alongside those who find this path so difficult.

To all our mothers this coming holiday I would like to share this with you.

- To those who gave birth this year to their first child — we celebrate with you.
- To those who have lost a child — we mourn with you.
- To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains — we appreciate you.
- To those who experienced loss this year through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away—we mourn with you.
- To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment — we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.
- To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms — we need you.
- To those who have warm and close relationships with your children — we celebrate with you.
- To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children — we sit with you.
- To those who lost their mothers — we grieve with you.
- To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother — we acknowledge your experience, and we love you.
- To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood — we are better for having you in our midst.
- To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year — we grieve and rejoice with you.
- And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising — we anticipate with you.

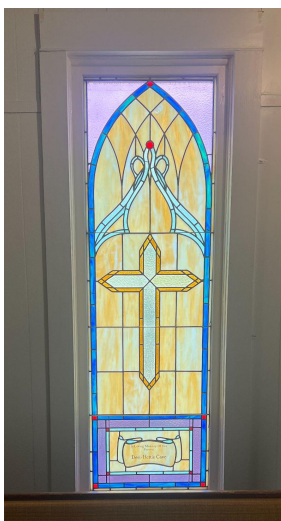
This Mother's Day, we walk with you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst. We remember you.

I know there are many holidays that I may not have covered (Pentecost being one, but it will be covered through the sermon on the 28th), but there is one that I can never forget. It is one of the hardest times for many friends, husbands, wives, children, and parents that comes each year. Memorial Day is a day that many remember and to seek to honor the selfless acts of sacrifice that many of our men and women in uniform, in every military organization; Army, Marines, Air Force, and Navy have given to this great nation. That sacrifice of life for our liberty can never be repaid, but in one way. To live out and stand for the principles and liberties that they laid down their life for. And to pass on their memory, their heroism, so the generations to come can experience the liberties and freedoms of this great country, given to us by the grace of God and the blood of its people. For many, there will be bar-b-q's, fireworks, days off from work, parades, and maybe even a small memorial of remembrance. During that time, let us remember that the best thing that can be done is to never forget those that gave everything for us who still draw breath and benefit from their sacrifice.

As each one of these very important holidays arrive, let us as a church show the love of Christ and be the ambassador that we are entrusted to be. The vision, the overarching goal — "Christ for a Better Life"!

In Christ and with much love,
Pastor Dr. Doc Gardner Sr.

BUILDING RENOVATION



Thanks to Scott Franklin and Ken Bean for all the work they have done to oversee the renovations on our building. We appreciate all you did to ensure the historical beauty of the building was maintained. Exterior work to the building was done by Roofing Service Company, LLC. Work on the stained glass windows was done by Susan Bates of Bates Art Glass in Dallas. We appreciate the skill and care these talented persons provided to our building. A building fund has been created if you would like to support and contribute to these renovations.

MEN'S TOOLBOX DEVOTIONAL

God's Influence in Us

When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13b



The Holy Spirit's best work in people is seen in how He changes the way they relate to one another. You want the best parts of your character displayed in your kids. When your positive qualities, ways, words, action, and encouragement are reproduced in your child's interactions with others, that brings you joy. However, your opposite qualities bring you grief.

In the Holy Spirit's framework it is incongruent for the grace receiving sinner to become an anger driven destroyer. Only a man who has forgotten his own encounter with God's grace could deny it intentionally to someone else. No believer can claim a close relationship with the Holy Spirit while acting out of anger, bitterness, and resentment toward someone else. Only a spiritual con man in spite of having a mountain of debt forgiven by God would try to squeeze emotional nickels out of another through a lack of forgiveness.

His point being in the parable of the wicked unforgiving servant: You didn't deserve grace, but now that you have it, you better give it as liberally as you received it! If we don't, the same thing grieves the Holy Spirit. All of us, by honestly and sincerely saying a prayer, can restore spiritual equilibrium in this area. This prayer acknowledges that, in spite of our best intentions, pray this prayer as a simple realignment or if a relationship is challenging you in the area of forgiveness.

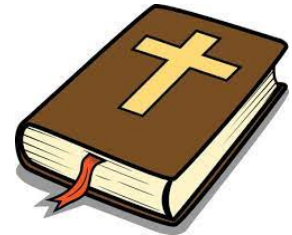
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY and LUNCH BUNCH

Our study of The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible continues. Next, we will take a look at Bathsheba (page 109.) We had a great meal together at the new Chili's in Anna after our April bible study. Come join us on May 8 for our study and lunch to follow at Rockfish in McKinney.



SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR MAY

May 7 th	Remember Why!	Psalms 33: 4-12; 20-22
May 14 th	Being a Woman of Noble Character	Proverbs 31: 10-31
May 21 st	Where is Jesus Right Now?	Acts 1:4-11
May 28 th	After Pentecost - Then What	Acts 2:1-13

**FINANCIAL REPORT - March****Income**

Sunday Offerings: \$5,750.00
 Memorial Gift Fund: .00
 Special Offering: 150.00
 Building Fund Offering: 3,150.00
 Miscellaneous: 12.74

Expenses

Salaries: \$4,000.00
 Utilities: 640.36
 Supplies & Food: 296.91
 Insurance: .00
 Maintenance: \$130.00
 Miscellaneous: .00

Monthly Total Income:**\$9,062.74****Monthly Total Expenses:****\$5,067.27**

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

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



Her children arise
and call her blessed.

PROVERBS 31:28

Mother's Day is May 14. Please join us as we honor the mothers in our congregation and in our lives.



Birthdays of the Month

05/12 Connor Gardner
05/17 Louis Cave
05/20 Mike Rippy
05/24 Jim Mitlyng

HAPPY Anniversary!

05/01 Clark & Nancy Neill
05/19 Ryan & Jenna Jacques

Congratulations!

Congrats to Tara Tisserand for being named the Dennis Baker State Farm Scholar of the Week. We are proud of you and your accomplishments!



- Senior/Soccer
- AP Scholar with Distinction
- 10 AP Classes
- Ranked 18th/4.74 GPA
- VP of Student Council
- PALS
- 4 year Academic Excellence Cord recipient
- Green Cord recipient for 100+ volunteer hours
- First Christian Church of Weston
- 2022 McKinney Youth Servant Leader of the Year Finalist
- Plans to study Aerospace Engineering
- Plans to attend Texas A&M or Colorado School of Mines

Tara Tisserand

YOUTUBE.COM

Dennis Baker State Farm Scholar Athlete of the Week - Tara Tisserand



The Bean's grandchildren have taken the Easter Egg Hunt to their church in the UK! Their church in London had never participated in an Easter Egg Hunt tradition such as the one at First Christian Church in Weston so Joshua (middle in pic) asked if he could help start the tradition for their new church. Many nationalities attend their new church and the little ones really enjoyed the new tradition. Pictured with Joshua are Caleb and Mary Elisabeth.

Dawson Bean is teaching an adult Bible study on Sunday. They also have study groups in their home during the week.



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

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Cell: 469-417-8431
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Karen Chilton, Secretary
Cell: 972-849-9084
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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 Karen Chilton at
kdchilton85@gmail.com

Palm Sunday Highlights

