



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.



UPCOMING events

- Adult Sunday School - ON HOLD
- Children's Sunday School - during service
- NO JULY BOARD MEETING
- July 4 - Weston 4th of July parade begins at 10:00am
- July 11 - Women's Bible Study at FCC Weston 10:00am
- July 18 - Ladies Lunch at 11:00am
- August 7 - Board Meeting at 9:30am
- August 14 - Honoring All Educators during service followed by Luncheon

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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.

And celebration has become the tradition for the Fourth of July! We look forward to celebrating with you all at the Weston Fourth of July parade. What a wonderful reason for us to all come together as a church to show our pride for America and our love for our church. Thank you to everyone that has worked tirelessly to make our parade float this year. It is appreciated!

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

In Christ,
Pastor Dr. Doc Gardner Sr.

MEN'S DEVOTIONAL

When Moses failed to come back down the mountain right away, the people went to Aaron. "Look," they said, "make us some gods who can lead us. This man Moses, who brought us here from Egypt, has disappeared. We don't know what has happened to him." - Exodus 32:1

When the boss is out of town, the office staff often proves the old adage, "When the cat's away, the mice will play." Nevertheless, good leadership is often sorely missed, and the boss's return is usually welcomed.

For the children of Israel, Moses was the boss. He was a visible reminder of the presence of the Lord in their midst, a tangible expression of God's leading in their lives. So even though they at times threatened to reject his leadership and return to Egypt, they became very nervous when he went away to meet with the Lord on Mount Sinai. They said, "This man Moses, who brought us here from Egypt, has disappeared. We don't know what has happened to him" (Exod. 32:1). Their consternation was understandable. They had been deposited leaderless in the middle of a vast wilderness.

Their course of action was understandable, too, though not acceptable. They panicked and decided to take matters into their own hands. They approached Aaron. " 'Look,' they said, 'make us some gods who can lead us' " (32:1). Their plan was to go back to the kind of idol worship they had left behind in Egypt.

Amazingly, Aaron acquiesced. He instructed the men, "Tell your wives and sons and daughters to take off their gold earrings, and then bring them to me" (32:2). The people did as Aaron directed, and the donated gold was made into a golden calf. Incredibly, the people declared this statue to be "the gods" that had brought them out of Egypt! Aaron promptly built an altar and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord" (32:5). But the situation became completely unmanageable when the "festival to the Lord" quickly turned into unabashed "pagan revelry" (32:6). The Lord was incensed, Moses was appalled, Aaron was rebuked, the calf was ground to powder, and many of the people were killed as a result of their own fickleness.

When people panic, they resort to desperate measures. They turn to what they fondly imagine will prove to be an immediate solution, however illogical or even immoral. They abandon their principles, they deny their commitments, and they make decisions in haste that they are then required to repent of at leisure.

What is most needed at such a time is a cool head and clear conviction. Imagine how the situation would have changed if the people had come to Aaron and said, "Aaron, we are frightened, we are unsure, we don't know which way to turn. Moses has disappeared; what shall we do?" Aaron could have said, "I don't have the answers to your questions. I understand your fears, and I, too, am afraid. But this one thing I know. The Lord brought us this far and he will not abandon us. He has proved faithful in the past, he will be faithful in the future. So we will trust and not be afraid."



HYMN OF THE MONTH - "IN CHRIST ALONE"

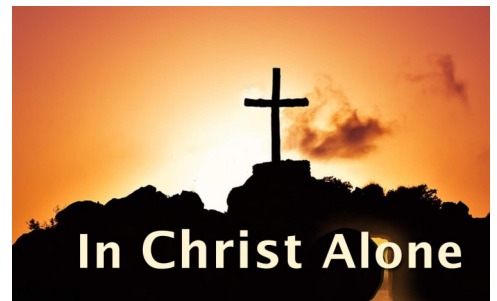
"In Christ Alone" (2001) is one of the most popular Christian songs in this century. Northern Irishman Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Englishman Stuart Townend (b. 1963) are worship leaders and song writers who have collaborated to produce some of the most well-known and vibrant hymns of this era. This hymn was the first collaboration by Getty with another writer; it is the duo's most popular song, appearing in thirteen hymnals according to Hymnary.org. It was ranked as the number one song in the UK CCLI listing by 2006 and remains in the top 25 hymns (No. 19 as of August 12, 2019 in the USA CCLI rankings).

Townend offers the following account of the song's origins:

Keith and I met in the autumn of 2000 at a worship event, and we resolved to try to work together on some songs. A few weeks later Keith sent some melody ideas, and the first one on the CD was a magnificent, haunting melody that I loved, and immediately started writing down some lyrical ideas on what I felt should be a timeless theme commensurate with the melody. So the theme of the life, death, resurrection of Christ, and the implications of that for us just began to tumble out, and when we got together later on to fine tune it, we felt we had encapsulated what we wanted to say (Atkins, 2004, n.p.).

The Gettys offer their description of the song's composition:

["In Christ alone"] grew first out of an excitement to write hymns that would help twenty-first century Christians sing, know, and embrace the incredible truths of the Lord in fresh language, and second out of a frustration with the lack of depth in the songs that were being sung in many churches (in this sense, it was a kind of "protest" music). We envisaged a hymn that told the incredible story of the gospel and settled on the title "In Christ Alone." Keith wrote most of the music, and Stuart wrote most of the (genius) lyrics (Getty, Sing, 2017, 91).



CELEBRATING CLARK NEILL

On May 22, we celebrated Clark Neill and all he has done for FCC Weston at his Elder Emeritus Ceremony. Thank you Clark for decades of service to our church. What a blessing you are!!!



FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

June 19th we honored all the fathers in our congregation. Thank you for all you do!



WESTON 4TH OF JULY PARADE

The 37th Annual Weston 4th of July parade will be held on **MONDAY, July 4, 2022.** The Grand Marshalls are Robbi & Donna Estep. Judging begins at 9:00 am and the parade will begin at 10:00 am. Our float theme will be "Happy Birthday America". We need people to fill the float, wave and throw candy! Please come prepared to ride the float during the parade. We will have water in coolers and handheld fans on the float to keep everyone cool.



Thank You Educators!

Sunday, August 14, 2022

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: \$10,697.00
 Memorial Gift Fund: \$0.00
 Special Offering: \$310.08
 Miscellaneous: \$0.00

Monthly Total:
\$11,007.08

Expenses

Salaries: \$5,000.00
 Utilities: \$221.50
 Supplies & Food: \$69.27
 Insurance: \$0.00
 Taxes: \$0.00
 Maintenance: \$2930.00
 Miscellaneous: \$574.68

Monthly Total:
\$8,795.45

JULY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

07/01 Ava Shirley
 07/01 Sam Shirley
 07/03 Jeannie Greenwald
 07/05 Mike Poen
 07/07 Clark Neill
 07/08 Riley Gardner
 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



SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR JULY

July 3:	Cost of Freedom	1 Corinthians 9:19-23
July 10:	How to Pray Like a Righteous Man	I Kings 18:22-24, 38-40
July 17:	The Power of Persistent Prayer	Daniel 10: 10-12
July 26:	The Power of Persuasive Prayer	Exodus 32:7-14
July 31:	The Prayer of Antioch	Acts 13:1-3

JUNE BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

Review of Minutes: Minutes from the May board meeting were approved as amended.

Financial Report: Income for April was \$11,007.08 and expenses were \$8,795.45. We have made over \$14.00 in interest for our savings account. This is more than we have ever made when the cash was in CD's. Marilyn Chamberlin came up this past weekend and our septic system alarm was going off. She contacted Nortex Septic System and they came out and found a root ball inside the 500 gallon cylinder tank. Marilyn Chamberlin paid the \$150.00 fee and we have reimbursed her. The board voted to allocate \$2,000.00 for the septic system clean out. Marilyn Chamberlin will schedule Nortex to begin the clean out.

Fence clean out and replacement: When the removal of the old fence happened, a small part of Mr. Adkins' fence was accidentally removed. The church will take care of replacing that. Trey King with III Kings will come out Wednesday to give us a quote about removing more trees before a fence is put in. We will also get a quote from Mark Riddings with Texas Tree & Landscape (214) 385-3895 for the tree removal. Marilyn Chamberlin will contact III Kings and Texas Tree & Landscape.

4th of July Parade float: Kimberly Tisserand will oversee our float this year. Our theme will be "Happy Birthday America". We need people to ride on the float and will create a sign up sheet for people to state that they will ride the float so we know that it will be full.

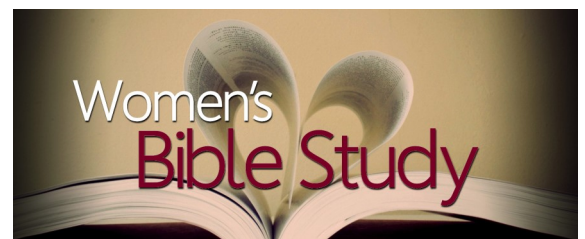
Local Outreach: Someone dropped off baby items on the front porch of the church. Marilyn Chamberlin will load the items up and donate them to Grace Bridge.

Church Secretary: Kimberly Tisserand submitted her letter of resignation as the church secretary since the Tisserand family will eventually move. Her last day will be August 31, 2022 or earlier if a new secretary is chosen. She has been in the position for 7 years.

THERE WILL BE NO BOARD MEETING IN THE MONTH OF JULY.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Mark your calendar for our next bible study on Monday, July 11, 2022 at 10:00 am. We would love for you to join us to learn more about women in the bible.



For our July bible study we will be discussing Deborah and Jael on pages 77 –101.

**First Christian Church
of Weston**

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Service: Sundays at 11:00 am
Children's Sunday School
During Service

Doc Gardner, Pastor
Cell (469) 417-8431
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, Louis Cave, Tralyn Tadlock, Clark & Nancy Neill, Daisy Nicodemus, Sandra Zimmerebner, Mary & Jerry Smith and Louis Cave 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.