



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

We often hear the words "Hindsight is 20/20," but I want to share these words with you today; "2020 is Hindsight".



I've been waiting to share those words for many months as the year 2020 held challenges we have never seen before. Individuals, families, churches, businesses, and governments worldwide have been impacted due to the Global Pandemic.

I don't want to be a "downer," but I think it is essential to give a reminder that simply because the calendar has now flipped to a New Year doesn't mean all our troubles are behind us. I have little doubt that 2021 will still hold many situations that will require us to look to God for answers.

As a Church, we have done our best to be faith-filled while responding to things and events that came up. I often say light-heartedly, "they never taught this in Bible School or Seminary." In other words, there was no "Pandemic 101" class!

As we forge ahead into 2021, isn't it good to know that we serve a God who never changes? Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

While this past year may have left a few scars along the way in all our lives, I pray that we do not dwell on those things. May we have the strength to look back and learn, but look forward and be inspired!

The Apostle Paul saw this as vital to continual grow in God. Philippians 3:13-14 (NKJV) 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

As we look forward to 2021, experience tells us that we have no idea all the New Year will hold. Yet, we can also rest assured that the same God who brought us through this past year will continue to be there for us "if" we reach out to Him.

There's a beautiful old song that has a line like this: "Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand, but I know who holds tomorrow and I know who holds my hand."

2020 is Hindsight! Now, on to 2021!
May it be a year that we ALL grow closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Doc Gardner

UPCOMING events

- Adult Sunday School - ON HOLD
- Children's Sunday School - during service
- January 3 - Congregational confirmation of 2021 board members
- January 10 - Board meeting 9:30am
- January 10 - 2021 Officer Installation
- February 7 - Board Meeting 9:30am

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IF NOT ME, WHO

“For even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than pulling you down, I will not be ashamed of it.”

2 Corinthians 10:8

The Holy Spirit gives believers the exclusive authority to encourage other believers. No one else can provide this service to your brothers and sisters in Christ.



In other words, a Christian is the Holy Spirit’s only officially endorsed and sanctioned ambassador of encouragement to God’s sons and daughters. He is looking for us men to shoulder this responsibility personally, proudly, and powerfully to defeat discouragement and unfaithfulness in our spiritual family.

By definition, unwholesome exchanges between believers involve tearing down versus building up. The Holy Spirit inside a believer helps to deliver targeted and helpful words that impact the heart of other believers to fit their situation. Spirit-filled encouragement says no to unhelpful or self-serving comments in order to say yes to directed support.

This means listening well so we can encourage well. This means being okay with another believer’s success and blessings in the midst of our own failures or tough times, knowing that God is working all things toward His purpose, good and bad. It means overcoming jealousy, envy, conflicts, and personality differences through the healing work and security the Holy Spirit provides. We as men, husbands, brothers, fathers, grandfathers, uncles and nephews are a walking, talking suit of clothes for the Holy Spirit.

Who else can give Holy Spirit encouragement other than someone who is under the influence of the Holy Spirit?
 “Be ye filled with the Holy Spirit”

Embrace the strength that God gave you, stand firm as the man God created you to be!

SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR JANUARY

January 3:	What Am I Worth?	Ephesians 1:1-14
January 10:	God’s Saving Grace	Psalms 145:8
January 17:	God’s Healing Grace	Psalms 147:3
January 24:	God’s Restoring Grace	Psalms 51:10-12
January 31:	God’s Amazing Grace	Ephesians 2:8-9, Isaiah 46:3-4

CONGRATULATIONS TO SHELBY CARTER GEE

A big congratulations to Shelby Carter Gee who virtually graduated with her masters degree in Educational Leadership. FCC Weston is so proud of you and your hard work!



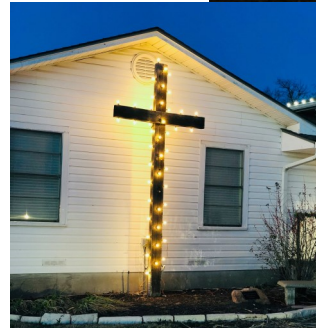
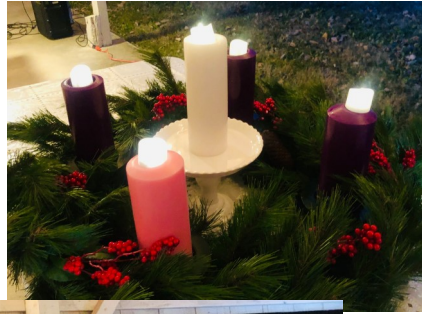
LIVE NATIVITY

Our Live Nativity on December 12th was a wonderful gift to the Weston community! Thank you to all those who volunteered during this unprecedented time to make this event happen! Such an amazing celebration of the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

This year our Christmas Eve service looked a little different from previous years. It was held outside under our tabernacle and ended with everyone gathered around the manger scene singing Silent Night. It was such a wonderful service celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



DECEMBER BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

- The minutes of the November Board Meeting were approved.
- New Water Heater/Filtration System: Doc Gardner researched a tankless water heater. The electric water heater would require us to upgrade our subpanel. Gas water heaters can be placed on the outside of the building. Gas is about \$1900 and electric would be a little less than \$1000. We are currently electrical at the church. We would need a filtration system as well. Filtration system would cost approximately \$350 to \$400. We will need to upgrade our sub panel in order to have enough current to run the heater. The panel that we have to upgrade is a 320 amp box. GCEC should swap out the box for free. Cost would run between \$2,000 and \$2,500 for the entire system. Mike Poen stated he thinks it would be well worth it to invest that money into a new system. We will continue to get estimates and research. The board all agrees that we should go with a tankless water heater. We will work on upgrading the electrical within the next few weeks.
- 2021 Board Members - Scooter Cave and Karen Chilton have both agreed to serve another 2 year term. Elders for 2021 will be Daniel Tisserand, Marilyn Chamberlin and Ken Bean.
- End of year donations from church: Clark Neill mentioned giving to the local food banks to support those in need during the holidays. Scooter Cave brought up with the church to give back to our church family. Tralyn Tadlock is looking at large medical bills coming up and asked if the church could give to her. Clark Neill stated the church is here for things exactly like that. The board feels that it is a wonderful idea. The board voted to give a monetary donation to Tralyn Tadlock to help her with whatever she needs.

Grace Bridge has a food list on their website. They are asking for the food donations to come in by December 30, 2020. We could do both a food drive and give them a monetary donation. Grace Bridge also has the opportunity to sponsor a family for \$40 a month. Jenna Jacques will get the information on sponsoring a family and email that out to the board. Scooter Cave motioned that we do a food drive for Grace Bridge and that we sponsor a family. Mike Poen seconded. Motion passed.

- The Disciples Mission Fund is asking for donations for their Special Christmas Offering. Sunday, December 13th and the 20th we will have a designated basket for the Christmas Special Offering. Mike Rippy will cut a check to the Disciples Mission Fund after the 20th.
- Our next board meeting will be on January 10, 2020 at 9:30 am.

NOVEMBER TREASURY REPORT

Income

Sunday Offerings: \$8,600.50
 Building Fund Offerings: \$0.00
 Memorial Gift Fund: \$0.00
 Special Offering: \$0.00
 Miscellaneous: \$6.18

Monthly Total:
\$8,606.68

Expenses

Salaries: \$5,375.00
 Utilities: \$139.26
 Supplies & Food: \$900.03
 Insurance: \$1,878.00
 Taxes: \$0.00
 Maintenance: \$130.00
 Miscellaneous: \$0.00

Monthly Total:
\$8,422.29

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

01/09 Tralyn Tadlock
 01/12 Daniel Mitlyng
 01/13 Scott Franklin
 01/14 Carl Winnette
 01/16 Linda Waco
 01/18 Danielle Chamberlin
 01/20 Paul Zimmerebner
 01/22 Jean Young
 01/23 Nancy Neill
 01/26 Emma Dimock
 01/29 Jessica Ploch
 01/31 David Stiles



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

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



*May the Lord bless our coming year
with spiritual growth.
love for people.
and many opportunities
to spread the Gospel of Life!*

Prayer Requests

Please keep Heather Carter, Jeannie Greenwald, Michael and Linda Waco, Nancy Neill, Amy Davey, Louis Cave, Betty Fowler, Debbie Reno, Angie Poen, Tralyn Tadlock, Ginger Gardner's Aunt Judy and grandmother, Dawson and Shanna Bean, Terri Ricketts and Jess Harlow 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.