



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

- Children's Sunday School - during service
- November 7, 2021—Board Meeting 9:30am
- November 7, 2021—Day of Remembrance Service
- November 14 & 21, 2021—Thanksgiving Special Offering Collected
- November 14, 2021—Community Thanksgiving Service at First Baptist Church 5:30pm
- November 15, 2021—Ladies Lunch 11:00am
- November 21, 2021—Community Lifeline Food Distribution 3:00pm-5:00pm
- November 28, 2021—Hanging of the Greens Service

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THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The more that we humans increase our awareness, the more that we need to make adjustments in the way we live and interact. At this time, I am thinking about Thanksgiving. The picture of the so-called first Thanksgiving, I am now aware, was a small pixel taken out of a very large picture. I don't doubt that there was some sort of a celebratory event which happened between those early settlers and the Native Americans. Of course, it is easy to view history with rose-colored glasses. The subsequent treatment of those native peoples is something that never made it into our history books. It was anything but an attitude of gratitude. However, this short message is not the right place to delve into the matter; we will continue to search for what that truth was as time goes on.



If one looks at the matter of giving thanks from a larger perspective, I cannot find a single culture which does not value the attitude of gratitude. Everyone from the Tibet Buddhists to the Aboriginal people of Australia to the Native Americans to the Abrahamic religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism) and everyone in between knows that giving thanks is important. Why?

Well for starters, there is the matter of psychology. That attitude helps us to realize that we are not alone. It takes a 'village' to get ourselves educated, fed, housed, employed and connected. Knowing that we need each other helps to keep our relationships in a state of healthy connection.

There is also the matter of our emotions. Holding the attitude of gratitude keeps our heart open and our emotions balanced. Giving and receiving is a cycle. When we lose gratitude, it is easy for the cycle to stop working. It's a downward spiral from there. There is also the matter of spirit. Ultimately one realizes that there is a creative Source from which all springs. We can call it by a thousand different names. Knowing that we have been given much helps us to have some degree of humility. It is in that state of humility that we can have some happiness in our life.

The turning of the leaves during this season is a beautiful reminder that when we name the many gifts in our life, we realize that we are blessed. At this season I give thanks for you, the wonderful individuals who make up our community. We are blessed to have this community wherein we share our values, our loves, our lives, our spirits, and our songs! Thank YOU!

As the holiday season begins, please know that Ginger and I are praying for each of you and our churches future. Also, it is our prayer that during this coming year, that our family will have a greater opportunity to get to know each one of you more. From our family to yours, have a wonderful and Happy 2021 Thanksgiving Holiday!!!!

In Christ,
Pastor Dr. Damon "Doc" Gardner and Family

MEN'S TOOLBOX DEVOTIONAL

"So Moses cried out to the Lord for help." —Exodus 15:25

When we pray, sometimes we feel as though we need to give God directions. "Lord, here's what You're going to do, and here's when You're going to do it."

We don't need to do that, but we do need to pray and bring our needs before the Lord. When the Israelites were turning against Moses, for example, we read that he cried out to the Lord (see Exodus 15:25). And when John the Baptist was beheaded, Matthew's gospel says that his disciples went and told Jesus (see Matthew 14:12). I love that. An unspeakable tragedy took place, so what did they do? They told the Lord about it.

When King Hezekiah received a threatening letter, the Bible tells us that "he went up to the Lord's Temple and spread it out before the Lord" (2 Kings 19:14 NLT). Mary and Martha did this as well. When their brother, Lazarus, got sicker and sicker, they appealed to their loving friend with a message: "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick" (John 11:3 NKJV).

Notice the basis of their appeal. They didn't say, "Lord, we've cooked so many meals for You that You owe us big time. Remember all those times You showed up without warning?" Rather, they simply said, "He whom You love is sick." Ultimately Jesus would do His work in His way in His timing.

So, when we're sick or in need, we should call on the Lord—but we shouldn't necessarily tell Him what He's supposed to do. Has someone threatened you? Are you being criticized? Are people turning against you? Have you been betrayed by a friend, a loved one, or a business partner? Cry out to the Lord. Whatever comes your way, you can find comfort in knowing that God loves you and is watching out for you.



DAY OF REMEMBRANCE — SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

Sunday, November 7th, we will observe our annual Service of Remembrance for those members or friends and loved ones of our church family who have passed away during the preceding year. This service commemorates the legacy passed on to us in the church by those faithful persons who have lived and contributed so much to our lives, our church and our community.

This is the time in our family of faith when we celebrate God's human triumphs. We remember and rejoice in these men and women in whom God's grace has won a victory over sin and death. The saints are men and woman whose lives have reflected a wholeness and a glory. They are human beings who express clearly in our own persons the spiritual values of their times.

We will be calling the names and lighting a candle to honor them. If you have a loved one that has passed in the past year, please let Kimberly Tisserand know so we can make sure to include them.



Lester Greenwald

Brad Cave

Jess Harlow

Michael Waco

David Carter, Sr.

Linda Waco

FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMUNITY LIFELINE

Our food distributions are slowly growing each month helping more people in need. Our next distribution will be November 21, 2021. Spread the word, so we can help as many people as possible.

www.feedingfriendsandfamilies.org



CELINA GARDEN CLUB

The Celina Garden Club used our tabernacle for their "Diner en Blanc" celebrating end of summer celebration! We are so thrilled to have them use our church.



14TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF

On October 24th, we had our 14th Annual Chili Cook Off. It was such a fun event with 9 chili entries, lots of side dishes and our first ever Brownie Competition! Thank you to our judges: Marilyn Chamberlin, Brad Chilton and Doc Gardner.

Winners were:

- Best Traditional Chili-Shirley Larsen
- Best Non-Traditional Chili-Kimberly Tisserand
- People’s Choice-Andy Dimock
- Best Traditional Brownies-Andy Dimock
- Best Non-Traditional Brownies-Laura Latham



LADIES LUNCH

We had another successful Ladies Lunch on October 18. Mark your calendar for our next ladies lunch on **Monday, November 15, 2021 at The Gin in Prosper beginning at 11:00 am.** We hope you can join us!



HYMN OF THE MONTH - "WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE IN ME"

What can God do? What cannot He do? These must have been some of the thoughts running through the mind of Reuben Morgan in 1998 when he composed "What the Lord Has Done in Me". Or, more precisely, it was actually a family member whose changed life he was celebrating with this song. If you've ever seen someone's life turn completely from a wasted mess to a positive, affirming model for others, then you may know emotionally what the exclamation 'Hosanna' means. It was an intensely personal and powerful episode for the Morgan family, one with which you may identify. See if you agree.



Reuben Morgan stated that "What the Lord Has Done in Me" was written at the time of his brother's baptism. To say it was a special time would be an understatement, because his brother had just come out on the other side of a life of addiction. It was obviously a very tough period, made all the more special when his brother wanted to give himself to God, to start anew. Indeed, Reuben says his brother is now a pastor (as of 2006). Reuben doesn't provide any other details, but from the song's words, it sounds as if 23-year old Rueben (in 1998) and his brother had had at least one conversation, one with words exchanged like those in the song. Can you hear them? 'Brother, you can be strong with God on your side. You might be weak, but He's not. Just give Him the chance, and see what He can do for you. Wash all those mistakes away, in baptism. ' And when his brother agreed, what a moment! Hosanna! It's the cry only someone who's messed up so much, and who's nevertheless given the greatest gift – a new beginning—can make. It's reaching out to cling to something infinitely more valuable than oneself. It's the criminal who's finally discovered how ugly and perverted his existence has been, and wants desperately to change. 'How can I?', he laments, when he owes so much to pay for his wrongdoing. He owes millions or even billions, if his life's mistakes could be calculated in dollars. The compassionate God says 'I'll pay it'. In fact, He already has, so just cash the check in that watery grave, and watch the sins go down the drain. They cried 'Hosanna' when they saw Jesus (Matthew 21), perhaps because they saw themselves in perfect clarity. It was a stark relief next to the purity of Him. Can you sense how Reuben's brother felt at that moment?

Morgan also shares with other believers his encouragement to persevere – a characteristic that's so important for those people who've had difficult challenges like addiction. That also sounds like good advice for those of us who share the same life with someone who needs to change, but doesn't yet know it. Reuben's journey as a Christian began when he was 17, he was six years into this Christian adventure when his brother's conversion compelled "What the Lord...". He must've been praying and hoping all that time, right? How long do you think God's been watching and waiting for believers to come to their senses? Maybe He's able to persevere because He knows how great the reward is.

Think....really think, about His reward. Isn't that worth at least one little 'hosanna'?

SEPTEMBER TREASURY REPORT

Income

Sunday Offerings: \$7,467.00
 Memorial Gift Fund: \$0.00
 Special Offering: \$0.00
 Miscellaneous: \$1.85

Monthly Total:
 \$7,468.85

Expenses

Salaries: \$3,125.00
 Utilities: \$190.71
 Supplies & Food: \$0.00
 Insurance: \$0.00
 Miscellaneous: \$130.00
 Taxes: \$0.00
 Maintenance: \$84.00

Monthly Total:
 \$3,529.71

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

11/04 Vernon Fleet
 11/09 Dakota Poen
 11/11 Heather Carter
 11/12 TexieAnna Forkner
 11/15 Brice Lambert
 11/15 Delaney Waco
 11/18 Ann Winnette
 11/22 Shelby Carter
 11/26 Janet Rippy
 11/26 John Neill

Anniversaries

11/12 Mike & Angie Poen
 11/23 Jim & Susan Mitlyng
 11/27 Larry & Brenda Lambert



SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR NOVEMBER

Series – Get into the Game

November 7 - **Being Part of the Team**

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

November 14 - **The Believer is Equipped**

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

November 21 - **The End Zone**

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

November 28 - **Thanksgiving Living**

Luke 17:11-19



Don't forget to  **FALL BACK** 
1 hour for Daylight Savings Time.

Change your clocks
before you go to bed
on **November 6th**

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

- Doc Gardner opened with a prayer.
- Marilyn Chamberlin motioned to accept the minutes. Karen Chilton seconded. Motion approved.
- Mike Rippy presented the financial report to the board. Income for September was \$7,468.85 and expenses were \$3,529.00.
- General repairs and renovations: The board reviewed the bids on general repairs and renovations. We would need to stay with small jobs that could be completed during the week, so the church is still usable for church on Sunday. The board will contact both companies to schedule to get the front and side doors painted. The big jobs will wait until the beginning of the year.
- Community Lifeline Food Distribution: Our second food distribution will be Sunday, October 17, 2021 from 3-5 pm. Kimberly Tisserand will place a facebook ad to advertise.
- Chili Cook Off: Our 14th Annual Chili Cook Off will be held on Sunday, October 24, 2021 following our service. We would like to have the luncheon outside weather permitting. We need people to arrive about 9:30 am to set up tables and chairs outside. Marilyn Chamberlin made a motion to purchase extra extension cords, prizes and supplies. Scooter Cave seconded. Motion passed.
- Live Nativity: This will be the weekend of December 10 and 11, 2021 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The board voted to place an ad in the November issue of Prosper and Celina magazines and also do a two-week facebook ad for Live Nativity.
- Filing open positions: We have been announcing that the Treasurer and Children's Sunday School teacher open positions for months and no one has contacted the board to volunteer for those positions. We will look into rotating teachers if we had 3 or 4 volunteers. Each person could take one month instead of weekly. Karen Chilton is willing to volunteer to be part of a team to teach Sunday School. We will recruit other people to help.
- Daniel Tisserand nominated Larry Lambert to serve on the 2022 nominating committee. Karen Chilton volunteered to be the deacon on the nominating committee. We will ask the congregation if someone is willing to volunteer to serve on the nominating committee. Jenna Jacques is willing to come back and serve as a deacon if no one else wants to fill that position.
- Our next board meeting will be on November 7, 2021 at 9:30 am.

First Christian Church of Weston

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Find us on Facebook!

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

Dr. Damon "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



Prayer Requests

Please keep Heather Carter, Jeannie Greenwald, Louis Cave, Tralyn Tadlock, Doc & Ginger Gardner, Margaret Marlar, Linda Waco, Clark & Nancy Neill, Daisy Nicodemus, Danielle Chamberlin and Doc's father 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.