



FIRST CHRISTIAN NEWS

February 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

- February 5
Board Meeting 9:30
- February 12
Valentine's Luncheon
- February 13
Women's Bible Study and Lunch 9:30/11:00

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Dear FCC Church Family,

Well, the first month of 2023 is now over. During the past month, we covered the book of James, which is not one many would consider at the start of the year off with. But the book of James though is how to receive wisdom from God's Word. Wisdom from God results in a life that is fruitful even in the face of hardships. In this time and age, we all need to be mindful of it, as we are experiencing those adversities daily. James explains what a life of obedience to Christ looks like. James applies the teachings of Jesus, especially the Sermon on the Mount, to everyday life, but we must always remember, just hearing the word is not enough. It must be applied to all areas of our daily life.

With the book of James being the cornerstone for 2023, it can assist in leading us to truly begin to apply those principles. The important thing to remember is that the application of the principles and teaching of James helps us to strengthen our resolve within our faith so we can be ready when the storms of life come, and unfortunately, they will, as we all know or have experienced.

That leads me to the title of our sermons for February, which is "Live Ready". When I say, Live Ready, I'm sure there are many images that come to mind. For me, I think about being vigilant, alert, and awake. In regard to our souls, we've got to stay awake and alert throughout our lives. God can and will show up in some of the most unexpected and unusual moments... So, we keep watch. I look forward to unpacking this and more as we move through this month.

Also, we are in the month known for love and romance. We all know that Valentine's Day occurs every February 14th. Across the United States and in other places around the world, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between friends and loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. I hope all are looking forward to coming to our upcoming Valentine's luncheon on the 12th. Another great opportunity for warm and loving fellowship together as a family in Christ.

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE cont'd

I pray many of you are as excited as I am as we begin to move forward in 2023 not just aiming on strengthening our faith, but also performing the actions of our faith.

As James stated, "Faith without works is dead". Let us a church, a family, and a community of believers be the beacon to all around us. Not just by knowledge, or instruction, but with action!

Everyone you come into contact with, leave them better than they were before you were there. A single smile can change the perspective of the day and a kind word can change the outcome of a life.

In Christ and with much prayer of blessings to all,

Pastor Dr. Damon Gardner Sr.

MEN'S TOOLBOX DEVOTIONAL

Take the Fight to Evil

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" - Matthew 28:18



Reality demands response and some things need to be said now about choosing this fight. The days of being distant and ambivalent toward evil are over. With knowledge comes responsibility and with responsibility comes new choices that will uncover our commitment to fight or renew our willingness to fight harder and longer. The facts go like this: You are about to embark on the greatest crusade known to men and angels. Heaven is watching and the hopes and prayers of your brothers march with you. Locking arms with other brave soldiers in Christ, serving on other fronts, you will be called to bring about the destruction of evil plots against the good, the elimination of the stronghold of Satan over the lives of others, and the advancement of the kingdom of God.

The tide is turning and the days of living in defeat and despair have been replaced with the full commitment of God's men who are willing to fight in the open, hand to hand. We have overwhelming superior weaponry placed at our disposal and rising numbers of skilled warriors locking arms.

God has full confidence in your loyalty to His cause and your abilities to fight for Him when you are called upon by circumstances and the mission of Christ.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY and LUNCHEON

We held our first Women's Bible Study and Lunch of the year on January 9. We were blessed to be able to spend time studying God's Word and time in fellowship with each other. Our next bible study and lunch will be on February 13. We will be discussing the chapter on Ruth and Naomi beginning on page 31. All are welcome to attend!



SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR JANUARY

February 5	Waiting and Praying	James 5:7-18
February 12	Ready Your Soul	Matthew 24:42-44; John 16:33
February 19	Ready Your Heart	1 Peter 3:15; Proverbs 4:23
February 26	Ready to Respond	1 Corinthians 16:13-14; Proverbs 4:23



FINANCIAL REPORT - December

Income

Sunday Offerings:	\$7,049.00
Memorial Gift Fund:	.00
Special Offering:	80.00
Miscellaneous:	7.01

Expenses

Salaries:	\$5,000.00
Utilities:	288.77
Supplies & Food:	257.74
Insurance:	
Maintenance:	4,830.00

Monthly Total Income:

\$7,136.01

Monthly Total Expenses:

\$10,376.51



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

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

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



thank you!

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers for teaching our children's Sunday school. We appreciate you sharing your time and talents with our young people.



*Birthdays
of the Month*

- 02/01 Jason Cave
- 02/04 Carter Gee
- 02/15 Karen Chilton
- 02/18 Juliet Dimock
- 02/23 Lucas Jacques
- 02/21 Daniel Tisserand

February Anniversaries

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



Congratulations!

Congrats to Brandon Tisserand for being awarded the CREED Award for Empathy! He attends Cockrill Middle School in McKinney and was selected from 400+ students. We are proud of you and your example to others.



Please join us for our
Valentine's Luncheon
 February 12, 2023
 After services

HYMN OF THE MONTH - Give Thanks

Henry Smith Jr. (b. 1952) has composed approximately three hundred worship songs, but “Give Thanks” (1978) is the only one to be published and extensively recorded. “Give Thanks” was written in 1978 in response to a sermon by his pastor who shared 2 Corinthians 8:9. *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”* This scripture tugged Smith at the heartstrings. He realized how Jesus made himself poor just to make others rich through him. Finding hope in the scripture, Smith crafted the song of thanksgiving and trust. Henry and his future wife Cindy sang the song at their church on several occasions. A military couple attending the church took the song with them to Germany, where they were stationed. The song then developed a life of its own. During the early years of the song’s use, the composer was unknown. It was not until 1986 that a friend brought Smith a cassette tape of a recording of the song by Integrity Music, who had listed the author as “unknown.” Henry Smith contacted the publisher. They informed him that they had been trying to locate the composer because the song had been recorded more than fifty times and published in several collections.

“Give Thanks” was conceived by Smith during a difficult time in his life. Instead of being sour and bitter, he turned his experience into a positive one and became grateful. Henry Smith composed the song during a time of unemployment, financial insecurity, and an uncertain future due to a degenerative visual impairment that would eventually lead to his becoming legally blind. No doubt he found strength in Paul’s words, *“That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong”* (2 Cor 12:10, NIV).

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/history-of-hymns-give-thanks-with-a-grateful-heart>

<https://www.countrythangdaily.com/give-thanks-grateful-heart/>

WEEK OF COMPASSION - FEBRUARY 19 AND 26

As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

We will collect our Week of Compassion Special offering on February 19h and February 26th.

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For God
so loved
the world,
that He gave
His only begotten son,
that whosoever believeth on him
should not perish,
but have
eternal
life

John 3:16

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