



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



Dear FCC family,
During the past weeks, our family has experienced the wonderful and loving hands and hearts of the members of this church family. We are so very thankful for all the wonderful meals that were provided by everyone, (especially the brownies). A special thank you to Marilyn and Kimberly for driving those meals to our new home, and Brenda Lambert for ensuring I was able to cook the meals correctly, because of the small print on the labels. I don't have the words to express the gratitude and love we have in our hearts for the many blessings from each of you that have worked and organized this wonderful blessing. All I can say is Ginger, I and the boys thank you so very much for everything each of you has done for us.

Before the events of the move and Covid hitting the family, I was preparing this message for this February's newsletter, and I believe that this speaks clearly to what our family has just experienced.

Like Bill Hybels, I believe that there is nothing like the local church when it is working right. In addition, I agree with what he says after that sentence:

"Its beauty is indescribable. Its power is breathtaking. Its potential is unlimited. It comforts the grieving and heals the broken in the context of community. It builds bridges to seekers and offers truth to the confused. It provides resources for those in need and opens its arms to the forgotten, the downtrodden, the disillusioned. It breaks the chains of addictions, frees the oppressed, and offers belonging to the marginalized of this world. Whatever the capacity for human suffering, the church has a greater capacity for healing and wholeness." Hybels concludes, "Still to this day, the potential of the **local church** is almost more than I can grasp. No other organization on earth is like the church. Nothing even comes close."

This month I will be starting a new sermon series called "Building Bridges". I believe this is so fitting, not just for the reason that this month encompasses the idea of unity, camaraderie, and personal love between people by observing Valentine's Day, or Black History Month. But rather it is fitting because of the genuine outpouring that each one in this church has felt or experienced at one time or another from within the FCC family. We are all called, to go out and spread the good news, and in doing so the essence of John 13:35, "By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another", should be seen and felt with those that encounter us.

As a city or town grows, new roads and bridges are needed to be built to connect those new communities and business areas. So as we grow in our faith and seek to grow not only the members of our church but the kingdom, it is essential that we build bridges to connect to those outside our community so they too can experience the outpouring of love and family we all share here at FCC of Weston.

"Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor." - 1 Corinthians 10:24
Let us begin to build new bridges and share that which Ginger, and I have richly received from this wonderful family!

In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Damon Gardner Sr.

UPCOMING events

- Adult Sunday School - ON HOLD
- Children's Sunday School - during service
- February 6 - Board Meeting 9:30am
- February 13 - Valentines Luncheon
- February 20 - Food Distribution 3pm-5pm
- February 21 - Ladies Lunch 11:00am
La Cima Restaurant
21 FM-3356, Van Alstyne
- March 20-27 - Michael Strange Memorial Food & Clothing Drive
- March 20 - Food Distribution 3pm-5pm

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VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON - FEBRUARY 13, 2022

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 13th and enjoy a yummy “cooked with love” luncheon after our service. Bring your favorite dish or dessert to share with your fellow church family members.



MEN'S 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.



SERMONS AND TEXTS FOR FEBRUARY

Building Bridges Sermon Series

February 6	Forgiveness	Colossians 3:13-14, Ephesians 4:32
February 13	Reach Out Your Hand	Luke 10:25-37
February 20	He Threw A Party	Luke 15:11-32
February 27	Breaking Barriers	Ephesians 2:11-18

LADIES LUNCH

Mark your calendar for Monday, February 21, 2022 for our next Ladies Lunch. Lunch will be at La Cima Restaurant located at 21 FM-3356 in Van Alstyne beginning at 11:00 am. We hope to see everyone there!



WEEK OF COMPASSION SPECIAL OFFERING - FEBRUARY 20 & 27

LOVE Remains: Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your gifts to Week of Compassion bring hope out of despair, find blessings amid devastation, and help transform loss into new life. Your contributions bring tangible relief and change the course of lives. When you give, you help rebuild communities recovering from disaster. You also empower farmers to grow new kinds of crops in a changing climate; you support refugees; you empower youth through education, and empower women through vocational opportunities. In so many different ways, your gifts of love have the power to transform lives. Love is shelter. Love is a listening ear. Love is community. Love is a hopeful future. Love is a path forward. When all else seems lost, love remains.



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 20th and February 27th.

JANUARY BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS

- The Board welcomed Scott Franklin to the board. We appreciate you volunteering to serve. We will have a board induction in the coming weeks during the service.
- The board voted Marilyn Chamberlin to be the Chair and Larry Lambert as Co-chair for 2022.
- The board thanked Ken Bean for his service as Chair. Marilyn Chamberlin presided over the meeting.
- Treasurer: Mike Rippy has resigned from the treasurer position. The board thanks Mike Rippy for all his hard work. It is appreciated. Our new treasurer is Danielle Chamberlin. Thank you for volunteering to serve Danielle.
- The minutes from the November board meeting were approved.
- Financial Report: In December, our income was \$7,296.70 and expenses of \$6,643.68. Year to date totals were \$88,565.68 in income and \$82,127.25 in expenses. CDs total \$63,850.58.
- General repairs and renovations update: Scott Franklin has a contact for a painter and will contact them to get a quote for the work. We will compare quotes with Randy Tarabo and then make the decision on who to hire for the renovations.
- Church Building Exterior: The exterior of the building needs some repair. Our siding is 30 years old and needs to be replaced. The board will get a quote to replace the siding on the church. Scott Franklin will write up a list of work that needs to be done for the board to get quotes for repairs.
- Annual Clothing and Food Drive: The Michael Strange Clothing and Food Drive will be March 20-27, 2022 with delivery after the 27th. Kimberly Tisserand will contact Samaritan Inn about specific needs that they have.
- Valentine's Luncheon: Our luncheon will be after service on February 13, 2022.
- Videoing Sermons: We are not getting many views on our sermons that we video. Averaging 0-2 for the past few months. The board voted to stop the in-person videoing of our services except for special occasions.
- Our next board meeting will be February 6, 2022 at 9:30 am. The March board meeting will be March 13, 2022.

DECEMBER TREASURY REPORT

Income

Sunday Offerings: \$7,296.70
 Memorial Gift Fund: \$0.00
 Special Offering: \$0.00
 Miscellaneous: \$1.99

Monthly Total:
\$7,298.69

Expenses

Salaries: \$6,075.00
 Utilities: \$193.44
 Supplies & Food: \$245.24
 Insurance: \$0.00
 Miscellaneous: \$0.00
 Taxes: \$0.00
 Maintenance: \$130.00

Monthly Total:
\$6,643.68

2021 YEAR TO DATE TOTALS

Income

Sunday Offerings: \$87,922.20
 Building Fund: \$0.00
 Memorial Gift Fund: \$0.00
 Special Offering: \$618.00
 Miscellaneous: \$25.48

2021 YTD Total:
\$88,565.68

Expenses

Salaries: \$55,675.00
 Utilities: \$3,403.93
 Supplies & Food: \$1,766.62
 Insurance: \$7,543.74
 Miscellaneous: \$3,809.67
 Taxes: \$0.00
 Financial Council: \$305.00
 Local Outreach: \$2,783.29
 Maintenance: \$6,840.00

2020 YTD Total:
\$82,127.25

Gain/Loss: \$6,438.43

2022 CHURCH BOARD

Thank you to the following members for your willingness to serve on our church board during this upcoming year. As a body, we have been blessed with your wisdom and dedication to the church, serving faithfully and always reaching above and beyond what is asked of you to help further the message of the Gospel. Your passion for bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world is evident in everything you do, and we are so blessed to have your experience and wisdom on the church board this year at FCC.



2022 DEACONS

Scooter Cave
 Karen Chilton
 Jenna Jacques
 Scott Franklin

2022 ELDERS

Marilyn Chamberlin - Chair
 Larry Lambert - Co-Chair
 Daniel Tisserand
 Ken Bean (non board member)
 Dr. Jim Mitlyng (non board member)
 Gayle Strange (Elder Emeritus)
 Clark Neill (Elder Emeritus)

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

02/01 Jason Cave
 02/15 Karen Chilton
 02/18 Juliet Dimock
 02/20 Steve Harlow
 02/21 Daniel Tisserand

Anniversaries

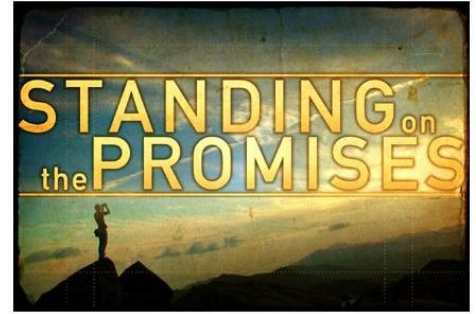
02/13 Jason & Shelly Cave
 02/16 David & Heather Carter



HYMN OF THE MONTH—STANDING ON THE PROMISES

“*Standing on the Promises*” was written and composed by Russell Carter in 1886. Carter was a professor at the time at the Pennsylvania Military Academy, a school in which he had been a member of the first graduating class.

Carter had a variety of jobs from sheep herding to professor of Natural Science, Civil Engineering, Chemistry and Mathematics. While sheep herding he developed a heart condition and began to feel he was near death. Praying for healing he drew closer to God.



After his healing he vowed to be used for God and this became the principle of his life “to stand on God’s promises”. If you notice, Carter begins each verse with the reminder to “Standing on the Promises.” He would claim 2 Corinthians 1:20 as his anchor. The rhythmic martial tone reflects Carter’s military academy experience.

Later, he became a Methodist minister while writing and publishing hymnals, textbooks and novels.

In 1886, he worked with John Sweney to co-edit the hymnal Songs of Perfect Love. Standing on the Promises appeared in this hymnbook.

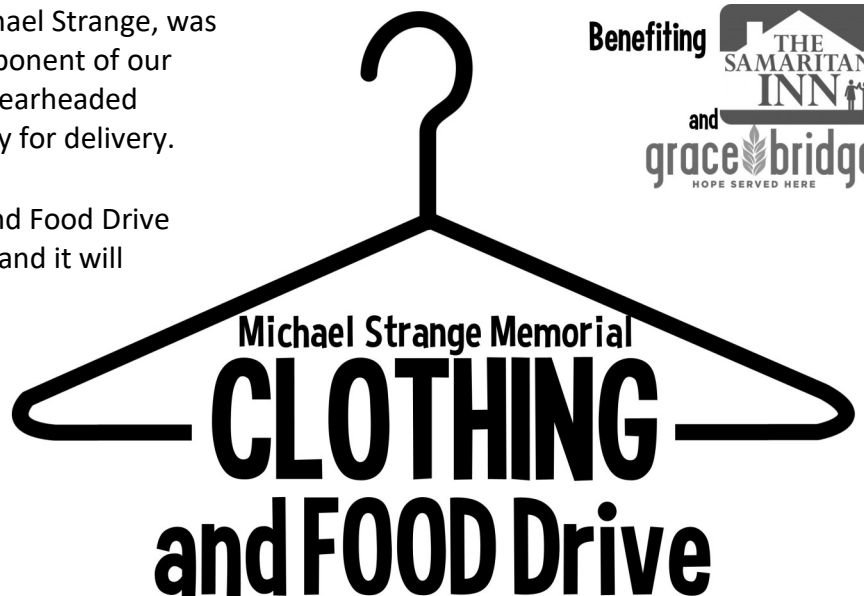
He then studied medicine and became a physician in Baltimore until his death in 1928.

MICHAEL STRANGE MEMORIAL CLOTHING & FOOD DRIVE

As you all know, our church member, Michael Strange, was very passionate about this charitable component of our church’s ministry. For several years, he spearheaded collections and took personal responsibility for delivery.

Our Michael Strange Memorial Clothing and Food Drive will run from March 20 through March 27 and it will support of Grace Bridge food bank and The Samaritan Inn of McKinney.

We are collecting children’s and adult clothing, shoes, as well as regular size non-perishable food items. Industrial size cans of food are not needed since we will be donating the food to Grace Bridge Food Bank.



Non perishable food items | kids clothing | adult clothing | shoes

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
Children's Sunday School
During Service

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

Let all that
you do be
done
in LOVE



1 Corinthians 16:14

Prayer Requests

Please keep Heather Carter, Jeannie Greenwald, Louis Cave, Tralyn Tadlock, Clark & Nancy Neill, Daisy Nicodemus, Sandra Zimmerebner, Betty Fowler, Mary & Jerry Smith, Lisa Karle, Jenna Jacques and the Gardner Family 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.