



Christian Challenger

Vol. 66

June 5, 2019

No. 12

Celebrate Pentecost — Wear Red This Sunday



"Indian Tacos" Meal

To Benefit Common Ground Recovery Ministries
This Sunday, June 9th, at Noon in Fellowship Hall
Make your reservations by calling the Church Office.

Church Board Meeting Rescheduled

To Sunday, June 30th, in the Sanctuary
Immediately following the 10:45 am Worship Service

Give an Animal to Dad



A gift for Father's Day is often a challenge, but we have a suggestion. Heifer International is greatly respected for its assistance in the U.S and abroad. It started after World War II when Dan West noticed that food donations were quickly used up, with the recipients no better off. A farmer himself, he and his friends arranged to ship some cows to a community with the stipulation that the first offspring go to other families. Heifer still gives animals along with required training and sharing of the gift. As a result, now millions of animals and their offspring have made life more stable for families and communities. Families have more to eat, extra to sell, and growing knowledge of good farming practices. Watch for forms with which to give a gift of bees, rabbits, goats, cows, and other animals.



Join us this summer for Family Movie Nights at First Christian in the Theater Room (Room 300).

Bring your whole family to enjoy family friendly movies this summer. These films will be used as tools to help people of all ages dig deeper into their faith and open up opportunities for faith development at home. After each movie you will be sent home with a "Talk at Home" sheet. This sheet will have conversation starters, scriptures, and activities for you to do as family that tie back into the movie and tie back into our walk with Christ.

There will be snacks and sweet treats for everyone! Our films in June will be "Paddington 2" on Thursday, June 6, and "Moana" on Thursday, June 20, and both movies will start at 6:00 pm.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2019

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
in the United States and Canada

July 20 - 24, 2019, Des Moines, IA

If you would be interested in attending as one of our delegates,
please contact Dr. Bender, 692-2282.

To register or for more info go to: disciples.org/ga.

Make Your Mark

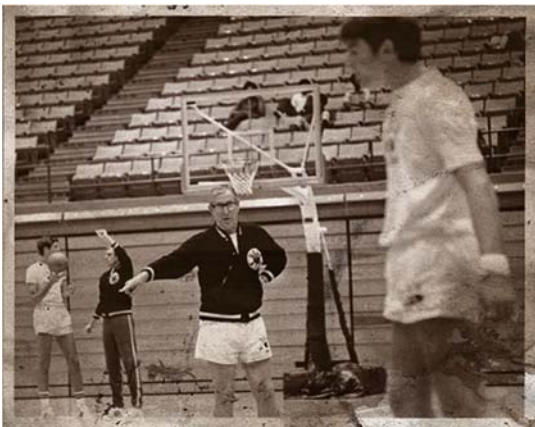
Dr. Mark R. Bender
Senior Minister



Don't Wait on Perfection

Recently, I've been reading a book about practice. The book, *Practice Perfect*, by Doug Lemov, Erica Woolway, and Katie Yezzi, focuses on the "art of practice." This book describes how to deliberately engineer components and conditions that support the success of a group or organization, whether it be a basketball team, a school, a multinational corporation, or a medical doctor.

Practice Perfect opens by talking about the Greatest Coach of the 20th Century, John Wooden (who, by the way, was a Disciple). Wooden's UCLA basketball teams won ten national championships in 12 years, won 88 consecutive games, and had the highest winning percentage (.813) of any coach in NCAA basketball history.



Given this, lots of people studied Wooden's methods to discern how he achieved the results he did. In the opinion of the authors, the secret of

Wooden's success was "old-fashioned practice, efficiently run, well-planned, and intentionally executed."

As a kid, I didn't like to practice much. I didn't like to practice for piano lessons. I didn't like running drills at soccer practice. I didn't like practicing a speech for class. But, as I grew older, I learned the value of practice, and how it can make a real difference when playing the "game."

In his book, *Outliers*, Malcolm Gladwell describes the "10,000 hour rule." It takes 10,000 hours to become an "expert" in a given field. Exceptional talent equals an exceptional quantity of practice. Of course, practicing the wrong things for 10,000 hours won't make you an expert. As John Wooden said well, "Never mistake activity for achievement."

There are many who would be happy with describing the church as efficiently run, with well-planned and well-executed programs and ministries. And there is nothing wrong with avoiding sloppiness and inefficiency, as long as these things don't become ends in themselves. After all, efficiency and being a well-oiled machine are not what Jesus commissioned the church to be or to do.

In a recent podcast, Will Mancini, who is the founder of Auxano (the consulting group working with our Vision Team), was asked about the trends he is seeing in church life. One of these paradigm shifts Mancini described related to "content" (teaching). He noted that "content" is

now a cultural commodity. People can go online and find content in abundance (e.g. Biblical commentaries, theological explanations, study resources, sermons), perhaps in a better manner than they find in their local church. Given this, Mancini believes that church need to move from being primarily teaching centers to being training centers. This doesn't discount the need for teaching and spiritual formation. It simply recognizes that many churches over-rely on knowledge transfer rather than recognizing that learning to follow Jesus is about practicing a different way of living.

Mancini further illustrated this point with an analogy. Supposing that he wanted to start a business that taught

people how to swim, he noted that at some point, people have to get out of the classroom and into the pool. Unfortunately, too many churches are like businesses that teach people how to swim but only provide a classroom.



This Sunday (June 9) is Pentecost Sunday. This observance, 50 days after Easter, celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. In the book of Acts, just before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father - the baptism of the Holy Spirit (1:4-5). There, Jesus said, they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they would then be his witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (1:8).

As you know, this was the case. On the day of Pentecost, they were filled with the Holy Spirit. The time of waiting was over. It was now time to be witnesses.


The same is true for us. The promise of Pentecost is that we have been gifted by the Holy Spirit to be and to share the good news of Jesus Christ. And we don't need to wait until we are experts - until we have spent 10,000 hours in church - to go talk about Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we can jump into the deep end knowing that the Spirit will fill in the gaps in our knowledge and experience, and even our trepidation.

All this to say, we've got to put into practice what we have learned. Just as your medical doctor "practiced" diagnosing real people before receiving her license, we must also take what we have learned in church and apply it to the real life situations of the people we encounter each day. We may not get it perfectly right each time, but the good news is that the Holy Spirit will be at work, deliberately engineering components and conditions that will achieve greatness beyond our human limitations. And so, as the old petition of the church says:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!

FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Faith Shapes
*Current Worship Series
 at the Neighborhood*



Join us for our worship series that uses common shapes to teach and build biblical principles into your life.
The Neighborhood meets in the Fellowship Hall each Wednesday night, beginning with a meal at 5:30 pm, followed by acoustic worship at 6:00 pm.



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Rolling River Rampage VBS
 Ages 4 years old - 5th Grade

Off-Site: June 24-27, 5:45 – 8:00 pm
 On-Site: July 15-19, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Registration is now open for Vacation Bible School!
 Click the link below to register!

<http://www.firstchristianwf.com/vacation-bible-school-registration/>

If you are interested in volunteering for either Vacation Bible School, please email Claire at claire@firstchristianwf.com or call 940-692-2282 for more information.

The **Challenger** is biweekly, with the next publication on June 19! FCC Ministry News is sent by email every Monday.

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study! Bring a friend and attend the FCC Men's Breakfast & Bible Study on Friday morning, June 14th, from 7:00-8:00 am, at Jimmy's Egg on Midwestern Pkwy.

Through the Bible in a Year Study: The next "discussion and encouragement gatherings" will take place on Thursdays, June 6th and June 20th, at 6:00 pm in Room 310.

June Meetings: will be as follows:

Tuesday, June 11th: **Property** at 6:00 pm, Rm 310
Outreach at 6:00 pm, Library

Wednesday, June 12th: **Vision Team** from 2:00-8:30pm, Rm 310

Thursday, June 13th: **Vacation Bible School** at 6:00 pm, Rm 310

Tuesday, June 19th: **Stewardship** at 6:00 pm, Rm 310

If you will need childcare, please RSVP to the church office, 692-2282, by noon on Mondays, June 10th & 18th.

Member News:

♥**Hospitalized:** at Encompass/Health South Rehab is Gretchen Bridgman. Released and back home are Jim Hay, Jim Hogan, Betty Lyons, Jimmy Smriglio, and Dennis Schmidt.

First Time Guests! We are excited to report that the following persons visited for the first time on Sunday, June 2nd: Maggy Anderson and her children: Zetty, Lucy & Leif.

Open Flower Dates: If you would like to donate the flowers for the worship service in the Sanctuary, **all the Sundays in June & July are open.** Call Sherry Tucker, Flower Coordinator, 696-2490, to donate.

Library News:

Top Reasons to Use Our Church Library

Reason #2 "Faith is a journey, and the church library is a source for Christian CPE (Continuing Professional Education), where one can continue to gain knowledge and inspiration, to ensure a successful trip." the late Rev. Jim Zug

Books recently added to the Church Library

1. Baird, William - The Nature of the Church - What Is Our Authority
2. Browning, Dominique - House of Worship, Sacred Spaces in America
3. Calderhead, Christopher - Illustrated the Word, the Making of the Saint John's Bible
4. Duke, James O. - The Nature of the Church - The Lord's Supper
5. Harrison, Peter - Castles of God
6. Keller, Timothy - Encounters With Jesus
7. Keller, Timothy - The Prodigal God
8. Moore, Lance - Outdoors With God, devotional thoughts on the great outdoors
9. National Geographic - The Biblical World an Illustrated Atlas
10. Reader's Guide - The Bible Through the Ages
11. Smith, Benjamin - Millennial Harbinger Abridged - Vol. I and II
12. Taylor, Barbara Brown - Learning To Walk In The Dark
13. Wangerin, Walter, Jr. - The Book of God - The Bible as a Novel
14. Williams, D. Newell - The Nature of the Church - Ministry - Among Disciples, Past, Present, and Future
15. Williamson, Clark M. - The Nature of the Church - Baptism: Embodiment of the Gospel

If you will be "**Temporarily Away**" for a period of time from your home address this summer, please let the church office know, so that we can either 1) hold your mail until you return or 2) give us your temporary address so you can continue receiving your church mail at your temporary address while you are gone. This will help the church to not be charged by the Post Office for every piece of mail returned to us marked "Temporarily Away". Thanks!

FOR THE RECORD...

CGRM: (Tues., May 28)	36
The Neighborhood (Wed., May 29)	26
Worship (June 2): 8:40am.	42
10:45am.	184
Total Worship.	252
Sunday School	120
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$17,867.62
Sunday Receipts for 6/2/19	\$8,474.00
Through June 3: Income \$390,567.92	Expenses \$379,083.63

This Sunday:

"What Should We Do?"
 Acts 2:37-42
 Dr. Mark R. Bender

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, June 9, 2019

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Pentecost Offering & Heifer International Project

8:40 Worship (Chapel)

9:30 Sunday School

10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)

12:00 "Indian Tacos" Meal (Fellowship Hall)

5:00-7:00 Chi Rho & CYF (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)

5:45-7:00 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402)

Monday, June 10, 2019

Chi Rho Camp 1 (Grades 6-7) (June 10-15) (Athens TX)

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)

9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)

7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)

2:00 Library Committee (Library)

3:30 Leave to see "Raleigh Ringers" (Southlake TX)

4:00 CCF "Kona Ice" (East Parking Lot)

6:00 Property Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)

6:00 Outreach Ministry Meeting (Library)

6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)

9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)

2:00-8:30 Vision Team Meeting (Rm 310)

5:30 Neighborhood Meal (Fellowship Hall)

6:00-7:00 The Neighborhood Worship (Fellowship Hall)

6:00-7:00 First Kidz (Grades Pre-K-5th) (Rm 402)

7:00-8:00 Youth Activities (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)

7:00-9:00 Chancel Choir (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

Thursday, June 13, 2019

6:00 VBS Meeting (Rm 405)

Friday, June 14, 2019

7:00 Men's Breakfast & Bible Study (Jimmy's Egg)

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)

Sunday, June 16, 2019

FATHER'S DAY

8:40 Worship (Chapel)

9:30 Sunday School

10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)

NO Sunday Evening Activities

Monday, June 17, 2019

CYF Conference (Grades 10-12) (June 17-22) (Athens TX)

Niners Camp (Grade 9) (June 17-22) (Athens TX)

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)

9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)

7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)

10:00-2:00 Young Disciples Mission Project (Grades K-5)

2:00 Library Committee (Library)

4:00 CCF "Kona Ice" (East Parking Lot)

6:00 Stewardship Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)

6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)

9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)

5:30 Neighborhood Meal (Fellowship Hall)

6:00-7:00 The Neighborhood Worship (Fellowship Hall)

6:00-7:00 First Kidz (Grades Pre-K-5th) (Rm 402)

7:00-9:00 Chancel Choir (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

Thursday, June 20, 2019

9:00 CWF Group 3 Birthday Breakfast (IHOP on SW Pkwy)

1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)

6:00 Family Movie Night (Theater Room)

6:00 Through the Bible in a Year (Rm 310)

Friday, June 21, 2019

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)

CCSW Disciples Women's Assembly (June 21-23) (Kerrville TX)

SERVING SUNDAY

ELDERS

6/9: Cal Edgemon, Gary Ballard; Emily Wilson, Presiding

6/16: Alice Gordon, Linda C. Carr; Ricky Scales, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

6/9: Stacey Strickland, Sally Wilson, Ashley Burross

6/16: Kyle Burross, Scot Hafley, Eric Hartman

DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

6/9: Ashley & Kyle Burross

6/16: Ronnie James & Eric Hartman

JUNE DIACONATE SERVERS

Sandy Hay and Ashley & Kyle Burross, Co-Captains

Sarah & John Cook, Eric Hartman, Mac Reid, Sally Wilson, Scot Hafley, Hollie

Murphey, Nancy Smith, Philip Dudenhoefter, Ronnie James, David & Stacey

Strickland, Davidson Cook, Isabell Murphey.

THE CHURCH STAFF...

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FAX Number 940-696-3085

Web Page: www.firstchristianwf.com Church e-mail: susan@firstchristianwf.com

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Rev. Josh deSteiguer, Director of Youth Ministries 692-2282

Claire Baer, Director of Children's Ministries 692-2282

Jeanette Showalter, Director of Music Ministries 763-8515

Cheryl Appling, Business Administrator 691-7265

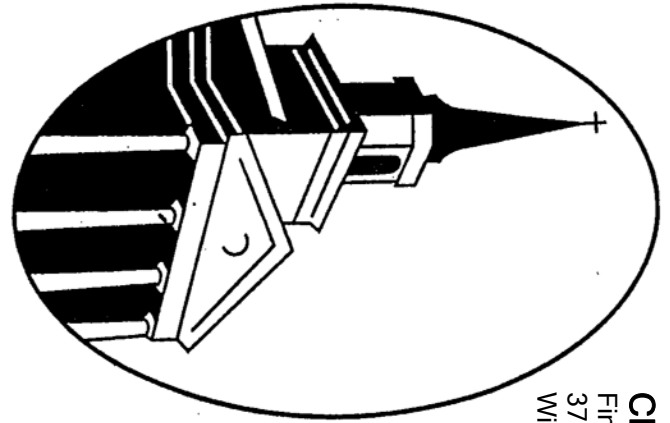
Heather Dickerson, Director of Children Come First 687-2231

Alisa Gardner, Director of Young Ages School 692-3640

Rev. Margaret Scales, Common Ground Recovery Ministries 337-1712

Susan Marrs, Executive Secretary Tina Williams, Financial Secretary

Ann Hunter, Receptionist Debbie Watson, Organist



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