



# Christian Challenger

Vol. 67

February 12, 2020

No. 3

Christian Men's Fellowship Hosts  
**LADIES NIGHT DINNER**  
 Thursday, February 20, 2020

The Christian Men's Fellowship will host their annual Ladies Night Dinner on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy great entertainment, good food, fellowship, and the special recognition of the "Person of the Year".

Where else can you get all this for just \$10.00? Single and unescorted ladies, who are members of FCC, will be the guests of the Christian Men's Fellowship, but please stop by the church office and pick up a ticket. **Make your reservations in worship this Sunday or by calling the church office, 692-2282.**

As in previous years, this is an adults only dinner, but childcare will be available. **Please contact the church office by noon on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, if you need childcare.**

## Lenten Bible Study

*This Risen Existence*

by Paula Gooder

Paula Gooder is an author and freelance writer as well as an honorary lecturer at the University of Birmingham, Canon Theologian at Birmingham Cathedral, a Reader in the Church of England, and a member of General Synod.

According to Gooder, the theology of resurrection is central not only to what we believe about God and Jesus but also to an understanding of ourselves. In *This Risen Existence*, she leads us on a biblical exploration of the resurrection accounts in the New Testament. On this journey, we will discover what these narratives tell us about life after death, the end times, and what it means to be a Christian.

Join Sheri Sutton as she leads this 8-week study beginning Wednesday, February 26 in Room 310. **Each session will begin at 10:30 am.** Call the church office at 692-2282 to register and purchase a book (\$9.00 each).

**Please read How to Use This Book and the Introduction before the first session.**

**SAVE THE DATE: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
 July 13–17, 2020,  
 "To Mars And Beyond", Ephesians 3:20

## Young Ages Preschool Open House

Young Ages Preschool would like to cordially invite you to our "Wild, Wild West" Open House Thursday evening, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30. We will begin the evening with a BBQ Dinner from Branding Iron. Tickets are \$10 for Adults and \$5 for Children and Adult Half Plates. Tickets will be on sale February 10 - 24. For your entertainment, our amazing students will put on a western themed program following dinner!

Are you looking for a preschool for your child/grandchild? Would you like to see what we do? Please come, look around and celebrate our students' accomplishments. We are very proud of our Preschool and we love to show off! Our classrooms will be open and available to tour during the evening.

Our spring fundraiser will be a bake sale during the Open House and a raffle which will begin on Thursday February 13<sup>th</sup>, to benefit our school. The raffle items will be posted around the church, listed in the Church Office and put on the Young Ages Preschool Facebook page. You may purchase your dinner and/or raffle tickets from a YAS student, in the YAS office or in the Church Office.

## 2020-21 School Enrollment for Church Members Begins on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Registration packets will be available at Open House. For more information, please call Alisa Gardner at the Young Ages office, 692-3640.

## Pastor's Class Starts March 1!



Pastor's class is a 6-week study for children 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade who desire to profess their faith and make a commitment to be a devoted follower of Christ through Baptism. During

these 6 sessions, your child will learn along peers and seasoned congregation members the foundations of our faith and what it means to be a follower and disciple of Jesus Christ.

Pastor's Class will be held on Sunday afternoons beginning March 1, 2020, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm in Room 402. Lunch will be provided.

Contact Claire (claire@firstchristianwf.com) for more information.

# Make Your Mark

Dr. Mark R. Bender  
Senior Minister



## Matters of Faith

Several weeks ago, I viewed one of the best sermon series promotion videos I have ever seen. It was for a series called *Talking Points: The Perfect Blend of Faith and Politics* at North Point Community Church in Atlanta. The video opens with the pastor, Andy Stanley, sharing his excitement about this upcoming sermon series. He tells the camera that he came home and told his wife about the series, thinking she would also be excited. Instead, she said to him: "I think I have the flu that day." And throughout the remainder of the video, you see his wife in the background, getting progressively "worse." In the opening scenes, she has a box of tissues and a minor cough. In the middle, you see her wrapped up in a blanket eating chicken soup. By the end, she is wearing a robe and dragging around an IV stand. The genius humor of this illustrates so well the reality that discussions of faith and politics can be challenging - ones that we find excuses to avoid.

But the other compelling part of this video was the fact that Stanley read samples of the emails he expected to receive:

*Dear Andy, your left-leaning political agenda is showing. As much as I enjoy your excellent teaching, I cannot abide by your progressive worldview. I know for a fact Jesus is a Republican...*

*Dear Andy, your Republican roots are showing. Clearly you are more concerned about building a big church than on taking a stand for what is right. P.S. Jesus is definitely a Democrat...*

As Stanley later points out, we tend to let our political lenses take precedent over our lenses of faith. He rightly suggests, shouldn't it be the other way around? Shouldn't it be the lens of faith that we look through when we think about dealing with political and societal issues?

20<sup>th</sup> Century theologian Paul Tillich suggested that, "Society poses questions that theology (the church) must answer." One of his contemporaries was the Swiss theologian Karl Barth. Barth famously said, "We must hold the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other." What both Tillich and Barth are suggesting is that our faith should inform our worldview - the way we think about life and community and politics. But, what you should know is that Tillich and Barth are just about as far apart on the theological spectrum as they can be. They argued vociferously with each other on many points of theology. Yet, both would acknowledge that faith speaks to all other matters of life.

The agreement on this matter by two theologians who were otherwise polar opposites was on my mind as the political events of last week unfolded. People on all sides of a drama-filled week spoke of God. Senator Lindsey Graham said he used his God-given common sense to inform his decision not to impeach President Trump. On

the other hand, Senator Mitt Romney declared his faith compelled him to believe the president was guilty of an impeachable crime. "I am profoundly religious," Romney said. "My faith is at the heart of who I am." And these were just two examples of many that featured lawmakers from both parties invoking the divine and using faith to shore up their arguments.

As you know, the suggestion that faith played a role in these decisions became a subject of criticism at the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual National Prayer Breakfast last Thursday. Starting there, and continuing throughout the day, there were heated exchanges between the President, the Speaker of the House, and their surrogates over faith, prayer, and the role of religion in politics. At the heart of this war of words were the questions of whether faith was being used as a crutch for decision-making and if someone could truly pray for their enemy.

I'm not going to venture into the minefield of how faith informed decisions on impeachment. There isn't enough space to do that justice in any satisfactory way. Instead, I want to use these exchanges to highlight a value we hold as a church.

Every other year, members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) gather for a General Assembly. Part of the work of the General Assembly is to conduct the business of the church, which includes celebrations, receiving reports, and considering resolutions. In the Rules of Procedure for General Assembly resolutions, is the following rule:

*A resolution is out of order and shall not be considered by the General Assembly when it contains doctrinal statements as "a test of fellowship" for participation in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).*

In other words, you can't propose a resolution that says, in effect, "to be a Disciple (or a Christian in general) you must think this way - you can't think otherwise." Having attended ten of the last eleven General Assemblies, I have seen several resolutions referred to the *Committee on Reference and Counsel* to clarify that the resolution under consideration does not contain a test of fellowship. As Disciples, we hold firm to the belief that as long as another earnestly and faithfully agrees that Jesus is Lord, we will not question his or her faith. We may not all agree, but we will leave a wide berth for a spectrum of responsible and faithful beliefs.

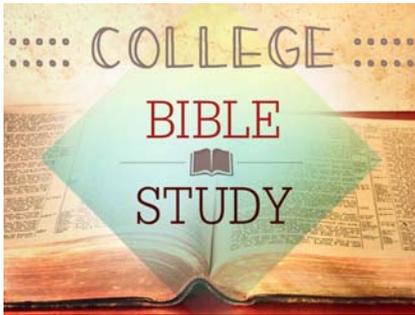
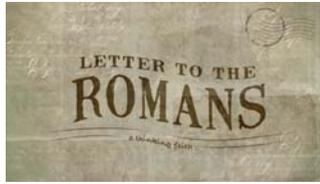
That value comes from, and is remembered, each time we gather at the Lord's Table. We gather there by the Lord's invitation and we welcome all as Christ has welcomed us. What we remember there is that Christ died for all - and that includes people who think like us and people who don't think like us. Each week, we gather around that table with good and faithful people who approach matters of faith and practice in diverse ways, who interpret scripture differently than we do, and whose politics might not be the same as ours. After all, we are the church that was home to both President Lyndon Johnson and President Ronald Reagan. These two men, on opposite ends of the political spectrum, were both Disciples. They may not have agreed on much politically, but they could agree that, because Jesus was their Lord and Savior, the other was equally as welcome. And so should we.

Mark

# FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

## New Sunday Evening Bible Study

A new study of Romans has begun on Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm in Room 310. Led by Dr. Bender, this study will go verse-by-verse through Paul's letter to the Romans to examine what Paul said then and how it applies to us today. Bring your Bibles and grow your faith through the spiritual practice of scripture engagement.



## Calling All College Students!

Join Josh at 6:00 pm on Thursday evenings at Rapid Fire Pizza for food, fellowship, and bible study!

## Week of Compassion Offering

Each year in February, congregations across the United States and Canada collect a special offering for Week of Compassion. While many congregations choose to collect their offering during this designated week, the offering truly supports the work of this ministry throughout the whole year! Funds received through the offering allow the Church to respond to disaster when it occurs, enabling Week of Compassion to immediately provide grants for urgent needs like emergency supplies, water and food. The Week of Compassion Special Offering is a time when congregations come together to lift up and celebrate this important work that we do together. We will receive this offering on Sundays, February 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>.





**Ash  
Wednesday  
SERVICE**

**Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

The **Challenger** is biweekly, with the next publication on Feb. 26! 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, February 14<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00-8:00 am, at Hwy Café, 2808 Jacksboro Hwy.

**Welcome New Member!** It was a joy to welcome Makenzy Wyatt into our membership this past Sunday! Makenzy began attending at the invitation of David Wyatt and the late Mary Beth Wyatt. Her contact information is 1617 Hampton Rd, 76301, 882-4935. Welcome, Makenzy!

## February Meetings:

**Tuesday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>:** **Education** at 6:00 pm, Rm 222  
**Stewardship** at 6:00 pm, Rm 310  
**Evangelism** at 7:00 pm, Rm 222

**Tuesday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>:** **Executive Council** at 6:00 pm, Rm 310  
 If you will need childcare, please RSVP to the church office, 692-2282, by noon on Mondays, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Christian Women's Fellowship

**Group Meetings** will be as follows on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>: **Group 1** will meet at 1:30 pm at Judy Muir's home, 2410 Farington; and **Group 3** will meet at 2:00 pm in Room 405. **Group 2** will meet on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon in Room 405.

**Pickleball!** Join us on Sunday afternoon in the gym to play Pickleball. No experience required, on the court instruction, and loads of fun. We play from 2-4, so come for the whole time, or half the time and find out what the BIG "dill" is!

**First Time Guests!** We are excited to report that the following persons visited for the first time on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bobby & Kari Collins; and on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>: Shaun Spaulding.

## Member News:

♥**Hospitalized:** at URHCS is Gretchen Bridgman, Joe Etoch, Jean Puckett and Elizabeth Stites-deSteiguer. Released and back home are Peggy Fitts and Harry Gordon.

♥Our condolences are extended to Kristin & H.P. Schuele and Family on learning of the death of Kristin's mother, Phyllis Lewis, on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Services were held in the Sanctuary on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

♥Our sympathies are extended to Claire Baer and Family on learning of the death of her grandfather, Richard Baer, on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

♥Congratulations to Rev. Josh deSteiguer and Rev. Elizabeth Stites-deSteiguer on the birth of their son, Asher Robert deSteiguer, on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Asher Robert weighed 10 lbs 3 ounces and was 23 inches long.

FOR THE RECORD . . .	
CGRM: (Tues., Feb. 4) . . . . .	20
The Neighborhood (Wed., Feb. 5) . . .	Did not meet
Worship (Feb. 9): 8:40am . . . . .	41
Worship (Feb. 9): 10:45am . . . . .	181
Total Worship . . . . .	222
Sunday School . . . . .	87
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$18,362.35
Sunday Receipts for 2/9/20	\$33,786.00
Through Feb. 10: Income \$150,205.54	Expenses \$97,945.11

## This Sunday:

“Jeremiah's Call and Message”  
 Jeremiah 1:1-3:5  
 Dr. Mark Bender

# Participate in a Ministry of the Church in 2020!

You make a difference! The gifts you bring, combined with the power of Christ at work within us, enable First Christian Church to accomplish more than we can ask or image (Ephesians 3:20). Therefore, each member of the congregation is encouraged to participate in one or more of the ministries that further the church's mission, both on our front doorsteps and to the ends of the earth.

No prior experience is required. All that is needed is a passionate willingness to further the ministry of the church. Indicate where you would like to serve by checking the box beside one or more of the ministries below.

( ) **EDUCATION** – Ashley Burross, Chair - Responsible for the total education program and related ministries.

( ) **EVANGELISM** – Chris Showalter & Robert Hastings, Co-Chairs - Responsible for direction of the church growth ministry of the church.

( ) **MEMBERSHIP** – Susan Buckley & Alice Gordon, Co-Chairs - Plans meaningful opportunities for the total congregation with special attention to special need groups. Responsible for membership assimilation and cultivation. Responsible for planning, organizing and serving on pastoral care teams for membership. Plans recreation, dinners & other fellowship opportunities.

( ) **PROPERTY** – Rick Appling, Chair - Responsible for supervision of church maintenance and related areas.

( ) **STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE** – Jerry Johnson & Eddie Tucker, Co-Chairs - Responsible for stewardship education and management of church funds.

( ) **WORLD OUTREACH** – Polly Tonemah, Chair - Responsible for education and promotion of local and worldwide outreach ministries.

( ) **WORSHIP** – Stacey Strickland & Emily Thomas, Co-Chairs - Responsible for worship, music and drama.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

(Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Fax) \_\_\_\_\_

If you plan to stay on the same Ministry as you served on in 2019, please still fill out this form and return it so that we may also confirm phone numbers and email addresses, otherwise you may be removed from the 2020 Ministry listing. **THANK YOU!!!**

Don't forget...Church Board Members are expected to serve on a Ministry and if a form is not received they may be drafted to a Ministry.

## OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, February 16, 2020 WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING

8:40 Worship (Chapel)  
9:30 Sunday School  
9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)  
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)  
2:00-4:00 Pickleball (Gym)  
3:45 Chancel Ringers (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)  
5:00-5:45 Grow in Grace Choir (Grades K-5)  
5:00-7:00 Chi Rho & CYF (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)  
5:45-7:00 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402)  
6:00 Sunday Evening Bible Study (Rm 310)

Monday, February 17, 2020 PRESIDENT'S DAY

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)  
Young Ages Preschool Closed  
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)  
1:30 CWF Group 1 (2410 Farington)  
2:00 CWF Group 3 (Room 405)  
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

9:00-12:00 Young Ages School "YAS" (T-F)  
9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)  
10:00 YAS Music (Rm 220) (Tues. & Wed.)  
2:00 Library Committee (Library)  
6:00 Education Ministry Meeting (Rm 222)  
6:00 Stewardship Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)  
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups (Rm 304-308)  
7:00 Evangelism Ministry Meeting (Rm 222)

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)  
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)  
12:00 CWF Group 2 (Rm 405)  
12:00 YAS Staff Meeting (Rm 310)  
5:30-6:00 The 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)  
7:00-8:30 Chancel Choir (Stratten Hall)

Thursday, February 20, 2020

1:30 Knit Wits (Parlor)  
6:00 MSU Bible Study (Rapid Fire Pizza)  
6:30 CMF Ladies Night Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, February 21, 2020

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)  
Saturday, February 22, 2020

8:30-5:00 Regional Elders Retreat (Fellowship Hall/Rm310/Rm 405)

Sunday, February 23, 2020 WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING

8:40 Worship (Chapel)  
9:30 Sunday School  
9:45 Journey Through Scripture (Parlor)  
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)  
2:00-4:00 Pickleball (Gym)  
3:45 Chancel Ringers (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)  
5:00-5:45 Grow in Grace Choir (Grades K-5)  
5:00-7:00 Chi Rho & CYF (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)  
5:45-7:00 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402)  
6:00 Sunday Evening Bible Study (Rm 310)

Monday, February 24, 2020

7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)  
9:00-12:00 Young Ages Preschool "YAS" (M-F)  
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)  
10:00 YAS Music (Fellowship Hall) (M-Th)  
6:00 Safety & Security Committee Mtg (Rm 405)  
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

7:30-Noon CCF Picture Day (Parlor)  
9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 222)  
2:00 Library Committee (Library)  
6:00 Executive Council Mtg (Rm 310)  
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups (Rm 304-308)

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405/Chapel)  
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)  
10:30 Sheri Sutton's Lenten Bible Study (Rm 310)  
6:00-7:00 Ash Wednesday Service (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)  
7:00-8:30 Chancel Choir (Stratten Hall)

Thursday, February 27, 2020

5:30-7:30 YAS Open House Dinner & "Wild West" Show (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 MSU Bible Study (Rapid Fire Pizza)

Friday, February 28, 2020

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)

## SERVING SUNDAY

### ELDERS

2/16: Howard Morris, Jerry Johnson; Linda Cook, Presiding  
2/23: Woody Gossom, Richard Phillips; Kathleen Lauck, Presiding

### DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

2/16: Melody Jennings, Davidson Cook  
2/23: Philip Dudenhoefter, David Strickland, Stacey Strickland

### DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

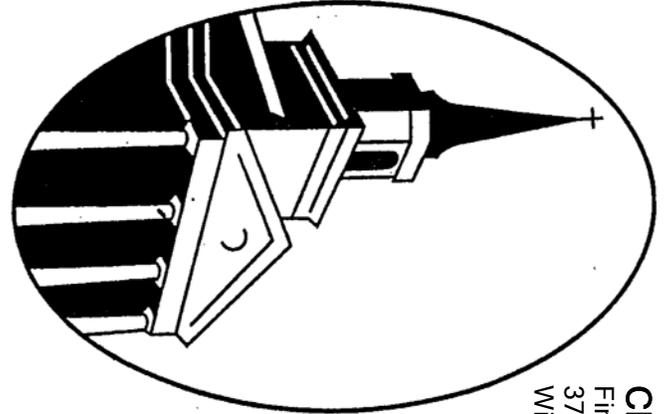
2/16: Nancy Smith & Teresa Archambo  
2/23: Philip Dudenhoefter & Davidson Cook

### FEBRUARY DIACONATE SERVERS

Kim Ballard, Buddy Edgemon, Lynette Gill, Scot Hafley, Nancy Smith, Teresa Archambo, Philip Dudenhoefter, Melody Jennings, David & Stacey Strickland, Bob & Mary Carlton, Vicki Kunkle, Mistie Seguine, Karen Watson, Davidson Cook, Hannah Earley.

### THE CHURCH STAFF...

Church Number	940-692-2282	FAX Number	940-696-3085
Web Page:	www.firstchristianwf.com	Church e-mail:	susan@firstchristianwf.com
Dr. Mark Bender, Senior Minister			692-2282
Rev. Josh deSteiguer, Minister 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	
Karen Watson, Receptionist		Debbie Watson, Organist	



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