



Christian Challenger

Vol. 67

July 15, 2020

No. 14



To Mars and Beyond Family VBS!

Has been postponed. Date TBD

Please join us this Sunday, July 19th,
for Family Drive-In Movie Night at 8:30 pm on the
East Parking Lot. Go to our Facebook page to vote
for the movie we will watch.



Join us on the East Parking lot Sunday mornings at 8:40 am for a Drive-In Communion service! This short service features hymns, prayers, a message, and communion. Come start your Sunday with this Onsite Worship Experience.



Project Back to School and PowerPak 4 Kids Backpack Programs

We are getting closer to back to school time! That means it is time for First Christian Church to support two very important local programs: Project Back to School and PowerPak 4 Kids Backpack Program.

Project Back to School was created to ensure that no children in Wichita Falls begin school without the supplies they need. The program works to improve the educational success of disadvantaged students in our community. For about \$20, a student can receive grade-appropriate school supplies and a backpack, in order to start the school year ready to learn. This year, with no Round-Up, these supplies and backpacks will be available at each WFISD campus.

PowerPak 4 Kids Backpack Program was created by the Food Bank to help fill students' hungry stomachs over the weekends during the school year. Many children in the WFISD who rely on free or reduced-price lunches during the week go home to little, or no, healthy foods over the weekend. PowerPaks 4 Kids are bags of nutritious and easy-to-prepare foods (such as peanut butter, fruit cups, cereal, trail mix, and more) that are handed discreetly to a child (usually placed in their backpacks) at the end of the school week.

FCC Outreach Ministry encourages our congregation to support both of these worthy programs that will help nurture and nourish the children in our community. The deadline for donations is Sunday, August 2. Just indicate "Back to School" on the memo line of your check that you mail, or take, to the church office. We will divide all contributions evenly between the two programs. Thanks in advance for your support!



Exciting New Option Available for Joining in Worship!!

Especially for those who don't have internet or who have trouble with technology

Have you missed being able to worship with your First Christian Church family during the COVID-19 pandemic because you don't have good internet where you live? Beginning this Sunday, July 19, you can now listen to the 10:45 am worship service live through your phone. All you have to do is dial 940-FCC-1100 (940-322-1100) to connect to the worship service audio.

Plus, when you dial in, you will be asked if you would like to be notified when First Christian Church is live for worship. If you select this option, you will receive a phone call connecting you to the worship service audio stream every Sunday. You don't have to remember to call us...we'll call you!

If you would like the church office to add your phone number (or someone else's phone number) to the list to receive this automated call every Sunday, just call the church office (940-692-2282) or send us an email (mail@firstchristianwf.com).

Make Your Mark

Dr. Mark R. Bender
Senior Minister



Establishing our Focus

Every morning I receive an email with an Old Testament and a New Testament verse, followed by a brief prayer. One morning this week, the Old Testament text for the day was Proverbs 19:21:

The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established.

This particularly caught my eye because of our current worship series, *The Return*. The stories of Ezra and Nehemiah are all about God's purposes being established. Ezra, as we will continue to see in the coming weeks, is very focused on establishing a priority of worship. Nehemiah, on the other hand, is very focused on mobilizing the people to establish their identity - through walls, teamwork, and reform. As we learned this last Sunday, Nehemiah knew the *what* - what God had placed in his heart to establish. It was then about waiting for God to identify the *how*.

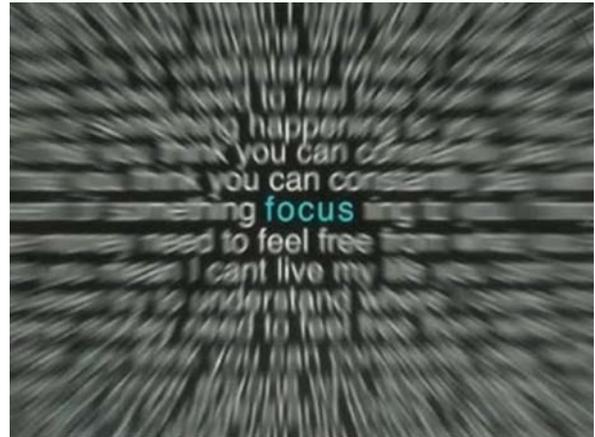
Last year, our church went through a visioning process that greatly focused on the *what*. We spent months praying, discussing, and discerning *what* God was calling First Christian Church to be and to do. In the process, we determined that God was calling us *to shepherd every person to encounter the abundant peace of Christ*. And then, over many more months of prayer, discussion, and discernment, we developed a plan for *how* we would live out this mission in the next five years.

The initial focus of our *how* was on family ministry. We believed, and still believe, that a focus on this aspect of our ministry could be *the one thing that changes everything*.

Our commitment to Family Ministry is more than just our children's ministry and youth ministry. It's also about our care and dedication to the children and parents of *Children Come First* and *Young Ages School*. It's about resourcing parents and spiritually equipping our children and youth to develop a faith of their own. And it's about caring for the families in our community through specialized programs like the one described below (PCHAS).

As I said on Sunday, God placed a burden on Nehemiah's heart - a burden for his people and for Jerusalem. In the same way, God has placed a burden on our collective heart as a church. And while we may devise many plans for how to carry out our ministry, we will always do so seeking the Lord's direction so that God's purposes for the families in our church and community might be established. It's exciting to think about what God will do in us and through us as a result!

Mark



A New Home for PCHAS Child and Family Program

As a part of our commitment to family ministry, First Christian Church is excited to welcome Magan Mangold, M.A., LPC-Supervisor, to our campus. Magan is a Child and Family Specialist with Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS). Previously, Magan officed out of Fain Presbyterian Church, but as they prepared for their move to a new location, PCHAS began to look for a new home for their Child and Family Program. Through a mutual friend, PCHAS reached out to Dr. Bender and to FCC to see if the church might be interested in this kind of partnership, particularly given the common relationship between PCHAS and our Common Ground Recovery Ministries.

FCC's leadership met with PCHAS leaders several times throughout 2019. Following these meetings, a proposal to provide office space to PCHAS was presented to the Executive Council, who wholeheartedly and unanimously endorsed this effort. Additionally, the Executive Council further agreed to support the efforts PCHAS is making with children and

families in our community by providing this office space without charge.

Even in the midst of a pandemic, Magan was able to move her office to the FCC campus (Room 312) and is now working from her new office. Prior to the pandemic, Magan spent 80% of her work hours meeting with clients in their homes, seeing only a few clients in her office. While that has changed somewhat in recent weeks, the important work that Magan is doing with children and families facing a crisis such as death, divorce, illness, violence, homelessness, child abuse/neglect, alcohol/drug abuse, and other situations continues.

If you know someone who could benefit from these kind of services, you are encouraged to reach out to Magan at 940-631-1375.

When she's not here at the church or in a client's home, Magan can be found with her family - her husband, Cody, and four daughters: Harper, Emerson Brynn, Lennon, and Briar Jude.



FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS



The **Challenger** is biweekly, with the next publication on July 29! FCC Ministry News is sent by email every Monday.

Member News:

♥**Hospitalized:** at URHCS is Glorie Steele; at Presbyterian-Dallas is Ted Smith; at the Gables is Carolyn Ford. Released and back home is Karl Stewart.

♥**Congratulations** to Rachael & Eric Wilson on the birth of their daughter, Winifred Adeline Wilson, on July 1st in Alexandria VA. Winnie weighed 5 lbs 9 oz and was 19 inches long. She is the granddaughter of Emily & Andy Wilson, great-granddaughter of Bobbie Caldwell, and niece of Andrea & Eustaquio Deases.

♥**Congratulations** of Amy & Eric Carman on the birth of their son, Jameson Odin Carman, on July 1st. Jameson weighed 8 lbs 9 oz and was 20 3/4 inches long. He is the grandson of Sherrie & Joe Vaccarella and great-grandson of Annetta & Leon Vaccarella.

♥**Congratulations** to Kate & Andy Jennings on the birth of their son, Wyatt Bee Jennings, on July 8th in Fort Worth TX. Wyatt weighed 8 lbs 1 oz and was 18 1/2 inches long. He is the brother of June Jennings, grandson of Melody & Bill Jennings, nephew of Carly & Slate Westbrook and cousin of Greyson & Sloane Westbrook.

Don't Forget to "Like Us" on



Or Subscribe to "Us" on



Outreach Ministry News

Thank you for your 333 pounds of donations to Interfaith Outreach Services in June! That is an increase of 32 pounds over our May donations! Great Job First Christian Church! Please continue to donate your food items in the box by the Chapel entrance. Interfaith Outreach Services, and our Outreach Ministry, are so thankful for your support!

Pantry Sunday for Interfaith Outreach Services: You can help keep the pantry shelves filled by:

1. Donating for Pantry Sunday in July: **The collected item(s) will be: Ramen Noodles or Cup Noodles and cans of corn.**
2. Donating directly anytime into the large box on the porch by the Chapel entrance. It will be emptied daily over the summer.
3. If you would like to support Interfaith with a financial gift, you can mail your donation to Interfaith (1101 11th St., Wichita Falls, TX 76301), or you can donate on their website.

Ways to Give

ONLINE

firstchristianwf.com



MOBILE APP

The GivePlus+ App

GIVE PLUS+



BY MAIL



FOR THE RECORD . . .

CGRM: (Tues., July 7)	25
Neighborhood Online Prayer Service (Wed., July 8)	16
Sunday School (Sun. July 12 – via Zoom)	28
Worship (July 12): 8:40am Drive In Worship Service	29
10:45am Online Facebook Page	191
Total Worship	236
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$18,362.35
Sunday Receipts for 7/12/20	\$6,335.00
Through July 13: Income \$477,714.21	Expenses \$510,956.04

This Sunday:

"Heart-set"
Ezra 7:1-10
Dr. Mark Bender

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, July 19, 2020

8:40 Drive In Worship Service (East Parking Lot)
9:30 Adult Sunday School Classes (via Zoom)
10:45 Worship (Watch the Livestream on YouTube or
Facebook.com/FCCWF)
4:00 Romans Bible Study (Rm 310 & Zoom)
7:00 Youth (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)
8:30 Family Drive In Movie Night (East Parking Lot)

Monday, July 20, 2020

7:45-5:30 Children Come First (M-Th) (Classrooms/Gym)
8:30-11:00 CCF Music (M-Th)
10:00-11:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

9:00-10:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 310)
4:00 CCF Kona Ice (East Parking Lot)
6:00 Property Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups
(Rm 304-308)
7:00 Property/Stewardship/Worship Ministries Meeting
(Sanctuary/Zoom)

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
8:30-11:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
6:00 The Neighborhood Service (Watch the Livestream on
YouTube or Facebook.com/FCCWF)
6:30 Chancel Ringers (Stratten Hall)
7:00 Youth (Grades 6-12) (Zoom)

Thursday, July 23, 2020

8:30-9:30 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
6:00 College Bible Study (Rm 405)

Sunday, July 26, 2020

8:40 Drive In Worship Service (East Parking Lot)
9:30 Adult Sunday School Classes (via Zoom)
10:45 Worship (Watch the Livestream on YouTube or
Facebook.com/FCCWF)
4:00 Romans Bible Study (Rm 310 & Zoom)
7:00 Youth (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)

Monday, July 27, 2020

7:45-5:30 Children Come First (M-Th) (Classrooms/Gym)
8:30-11:00 CCF Music (M-Th)
10:00-11:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

9:00-10:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 310)
4:00 CCF Kona Ice (East Parking Lot)
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups
(Rm 304-308)

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
8:30-11:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
6:00 The Neighborhood Service (Watch the Livestream on
YouTube or Facebook.com/FCCWF)
6:30 Chancel Ringers (Stratten Hall)
7:00 Youth (Grades 6-12) (Zoom)

Thursday, July 30, 2020

8:30-9:30 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
6:00 College Bible Study (Rm 405)

Let's Stay Connected...

SERVING SUNDAY

ELDERS

7/19: Ricky Scales, Linda Cook; Richard Phillips, Presiding
7/26: Woody Gossom, Kathleen Lauck; Jerry Johnson, Presiding

DIACONATE COMMUNION VISITATION

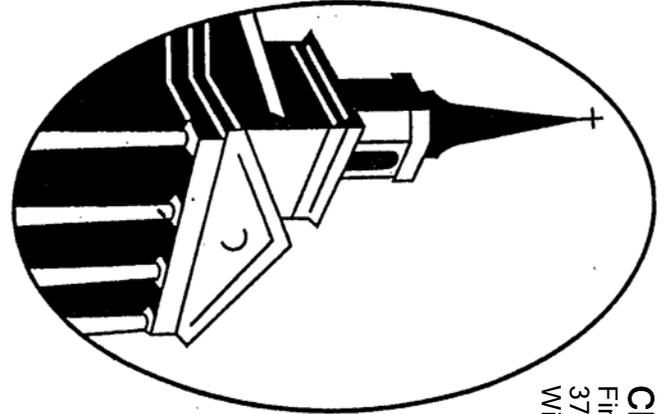
DIACONATE COMMUNION PREPARATION

JULY DIACONATE SERVERS

Twila Boydson, Captain
Debi & Larry Ballard, Alan Freeman, Kris Gossom, Hollie Murphey, Liz Thomas,
Shirley Craft, Ronnie James, Jim & Karen LaValley, James Poole, Jaiden "JJ"
Johnson, Sheila Reynolds, Tyler Thomas, Isabell Murphey, Emily Thomas.

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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