



Christian Challenger

Vol. 67

August 12, 2020

No. 16

**Pray for our
Students,
Teachers
& Schools!**

2020 WFISD Prayer Walk for Schools

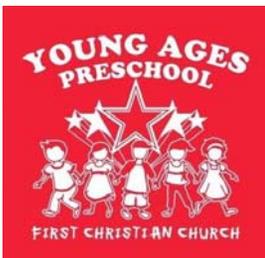
Join us, as well as churches from all over Wichita Falls, to cover our schools in prayer! First Christian Church will be

going to Fain Elementary this Sunday, August 16, at 1:00 pm for a time of prayer. You are welcome to go to any WFISD location! There will be a designated person there to lead the prayer. We will simply gather together (with masks and appropriate distance!) and spend a couple of minutes in prayer together.

Church Board Meeting

There will be a Church Board Meeting on Wednesday, August 19, at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Zoom information will be sent out soon for those who choose to participate via Zoom.

Young Ages Preschool



Time for our school is fast approaching!! Young Ages Preschool will begin on Wednesday, September 2nd. There are a few openings available for 3, 4 and 5 year olds. We offer a half day, morning preschool program, in a loving Christian environment with experienced teachers. At Young Ages, learning is fun, age

appropriate, and hands-on!

We are also adding to our teaching team. We are looking for caring, experienced teachers and substitutes. We have a teacher opening in our three-year-old classes. Hours are 8:30 - 12:30, Monday-Friday with a few added hours throughout the school year.

If you are interested or would like more information about our wonderful program, please contact our Director, Alisa Gardner at 692-3640 and email resumes/questions to youngageschool@yahoo.com.

Two Opportunities for FCC to Help MSU Students

Household Items

This August, we have the opportunity to help incoming students at MSU. Although the number of international students coming is unknown given the current situation, when students arrive, they will be given a welcome letter from FCC. This letter will list the normal household items we've provided in the past, allowing each student to indicate what they need. If you would like to help fulfill items on these lists, sign up by calling the church office. These lists will be distributed for fulfillment around August 20.



Once the items have been gathered, the student will be contacted and a time will be arranged to leave it on their door step (while honoring social distancing). We will know these students' names and be able to say "welcome" in person.

Out of necessity I believe this year could be even more meaningful for our church members and these students. Thank you in advance for being such a caring and giving FCC family.

Food Pantry



This is a busy time of year for anyone starting school this fall! It's also busy for our church family as we plan to help the students at our neighbor college MSU TEXAS, get settled in. In addition to pairing up church families with new International students that wish to help them, our church will continue

the tradition we started last year to help stock the MSU food pantry.

We have placed reusable grocery bags with lists attached for you to pick up in two locations. One box - outside the chapel, and one box in the church office. We will be collecting them on Sunday, August 30th, and Cindy Cummings with MSU will be helping us at the church that day. More info to come on where to drop them off & we're hoping for a safe-get-together celebration and blessing over these bags after church that Sunday.

If you have any questions about either of these projects, reach out to Polly Tonemah, myself or any Outreach team member and we are happy to help you participate in whatever way is best for you! Thank you for your giving hearts.

Sally Hastings
940-224-4416

Make Your Mark

Dr. Mark R. Bender
Senior Minister



Our College Ministry

Earlier this week, we moved Abby into the dorm at TCU. It was an amazingly smooth experience. We waited in few lines (in our cars) and then were finally directed to her dorm where we had 15 minutes to unload all of her stuff. With the help of a TCU cart, we were able to get her stuff up to the fourth floor in three loads.

Of course, once we were in the room, the list of things Abby needed grew exponentially. Shoe holders. Under bed cabinets. A rug for the floor. Various electronics. It took hours to find just the right things. But then came the challenge. No longer were we in the line to drop off. We would have to lug these new furniture pieces and fixtures from the freshman parking lot.

As I was unloading our car, and watching fellow parents do the same with their freshman, a realization came over me. Our child is so lucky that she is going to college fully equipped. She has all that she really needs (and more). What hit me is that this isn't the case for so many... especially for the international students across the street at Midwestern. Many of them will arrive in the U.S. with little more than they can carry with them.

The front page of the *Christian Challenger* details opportunities for us to help these international students and other MSU Mustangs. By supplying household items to college kids who don't have them, we can make sure they are properly equipped for living in Wichita Falls. Likewise, by supplying food to the Mustang Pantry, we can ensure that the focus of the students across the street remains on their studies, and not where their next meal is coming from.

But our ministry to these college students doesn't (and can't) stop there. These students need to be fed with the Word of God. We've got to be ready to welcome them. We've got to be ready to attend to their needs. We've got to make the most of the four years that they "flow through the riverbanks of First Christian Church" so that they are equipped to be Christ's disciples wherever life may take them.

And here's some interesting facts about these college students (and the young professionals who are just a few steps ahead of them). In my last *Make Your Mark* column, I shared some statistics from a recent report from the Barna Group and American

Bible Society (ABS). While much of that report wasn't cheery for churches, there was some good news in it. This annual report showed that millennials read the Bible more frequently than any other generation, with 26 percent reading it multiple times each week. That's consistent with previous findings that practicing Christian millennials know the Bible as well as or better than their parents and grandparents. What stunned me was that adults aged 74 and up are the least likely age group to read their Bibles multiple times each week, with only 10 percent doing so.

And here's another important thing for us to consider. While most Bible readers (65%) prefer a printed version, millennials are about as likely to read the Bible digitally (52%) as they are in print (48%). Americans who live in a household that owns a Bible (77% of the population) are as likely to use a Bible app as those without a Bible in the house (56% vs. 55%). In fact, many church leaders are now having to say, "Turn in your Bibles *or scroll on your device* to <Romans 8>." What this means is that, someday, when you see a college kid on his or her phone beside you in the pew, consider that they might be reading the Bible (and not just texting or checking social media).

As a church, we named one of our core values to be *Generational in our Leadership*. This value isn't just about bringing in younger people to lead established ministries. It's also about letting the those of every generation lead in new ways and with new patterns. The joy of intergenerational

leadership is that everyone is learning from each other. That's the church Jesus called us to be.

So, as Paul Harvey used to say it, now for the rest of the story... As we returned to campus with a car full of heavy furniture and bulky items, I wasn't looking forward to making multiple trips from the parking lot to Abby's dorm in the 102 degree weather. So, I pulled back into the unloading line for her dorm. I reached the checkpoint staffed by the TCU police. I explained that we had unloaded this morning but that we now had another car load of stuff. "Is there any possibility we can jump back in line to drop this off." The TCU policeman smiled beneath his mask and said, "Sure. Good luck to you!" He extended a little bit of grace to some hot, tired parents.

Ministry with college students (and their parents) takes a little grace. And as the 2020-2021 school year unfolds, I can't wait to see the ways First Christian Church extends a little grace - the grace we know in Jesus Christ - with some young people in need of connection.

Mark



FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS



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.

The **Challenger** is biweekly, with the next publication on August 26! FCC Ministry News is sent by email every Monday.

Member News:

♥**Hospitalized:** no one.

♥Our sympathies are extended to John Bridgman and Family on learning of the death of his wife, Gretchen Bridgman, on August 8th. Services were held in the Sanctuary on August 12th.

♥Our condolences are extended to Sarah Stewart and Family on learning of the death of her grandfather, Dale Thompson, on August 3rd.

♥We extend our sympathies to BJ Barrett & Matthew Tatro and Family on learning of the death of their grandfather, Julian Harlan, on July 30th in Florida.

♥Congratulations to Hannah & Kyle Bailey on the birth of their son, Solomon Jac Bailey, on August 8th in Apex, NC. He weighed 8 lbs 10 oz and was 21 1/2" long. He is the brother of Elias & Abigail and grandson of Angela Muir McCulley and great-grandson of Judy Muir.

Pantry Sunday for Interfaith Outreach Services:

In July, FCC donated 249 pounds to Interfaith Outreach Services! On behalf of Outreach Ministry and Interfaith - Thank You for continuing to drop off your donations in the box by the Chapel entrance. Your donations are helping to feed many in our community!

You can continue to help keep the pantry shelves filled by:

1. Donating items needed for Pantry Sunday in August: **The collected item(s) will be: jars of jelly (large and small) and toilet paper.**

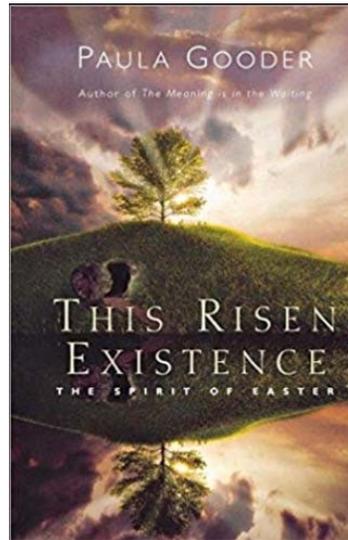
2. Donating any type of food items directly anytime into the large box on the porch by the Chapel entrance. It will be emptied daily over the summer.

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](#).



Fall Bible Study

This Risen Existence
by Paula Gooder



Because we had to cancel *This Risen Existence* in March due to the onset of COVID19, we will continue this study beginning September 23, 2020.

Why should we continue this study? The power of the resurrection transcends the empty tomb and changes us. According to Gooder, it transforms our lives by changing our thinking and our actions. Consequently, when we change, our families change, our workplaces change, and our communities change. When

we live the resurrection life, we live expecting the sudden, powerful presence of the risen Christ in our midst.

Join Sheri Sutton as she leads this 5-week continuation beginning Wednesday, September 23, 2020. **Each session will begin at 10:15am.**

Call the church office at 692-2282 to register and indicate whether you prefer a Zoom meeting or an in-person meeting.

More information about protocols and the logistics of meeting will be determined in the next few weeks.

FOR THE RECORD...

CGRM: (Tues., Aug. 4)	24
Neighborhood Online Prayer Service (Wed., Aug. 5)	Did Not Meet
Sunday School (Sun. Aug. 9 – via Zoom)	38
Worship (Aug. 9): 8:40am Drive In Worship Service	31
10:45am Online Facebook Page	220
Total Worship	251
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$18,362.35
Sunday Receipts for 8/9/20	\$16,023.00
Through Aug. 10: Income	\$540,646.87
Expenses	\$553,386.09

This Sunday:

“Reformed and Always Reforming”
Nehemiah 13:4-14
Dr. Mark Bender

Don't Forget to "Like Us" on

facebook

Or
Subscribe to
"Us" on

YouTube

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, August 16, 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)
1:00 Prayer Walk for Schools (Fain Elementary)
4:00 Romans Bible Study (Zoom)
7:00 Youth (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)

Monday, August 17, 2020

7:30-6:00 Children Come First (M-F)
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
10:30 CWF Board Meeting (Rm 310)
5:30 CCF closing early for "Meet the Teachers"
(Zoom/Facebook Live)

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 310)
6:00 Stewardship Ministry Meeting (Fellowship Hall/Zoom)
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups
(Rm 304-308)
7:00 Evangelism Ministry Meeting (Rm 310/Zoom)

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)
6:00 Church Board Meeting (Sanctuary/Zoom)
7:00 Youth (Grades 6-12) (Zoom)

Thursday, August 20, 2020

6:00 College Bible Study (Rm 405)

Friday, August 21, 2020

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)

Sunday, August 23, 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)
7:00 Youth (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)

Monday, August 24, 2020

7:30-6:00 Children Come First (M-F)
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 310)
6:00 Executive Council Meeting (Rm 310/Zoom)
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups
(Rm 304-308)

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 220)
7:00 Youth (Grades 6-12) (Zoom)

Thursday, August 27, 2020

6:00 College Bible Study (Rm 405)

Friday, August 28, 2020

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 220)

SERVING SUNDAY

ELDERS

8/16: Emily Wilson, Linda Cook; Cindy Hernandez, Presiding
8/23: Ricky Scales, David Collins; Cheryl Smiley, Presiding

DIACONATE DRIVE-IN SERVICE SETUP

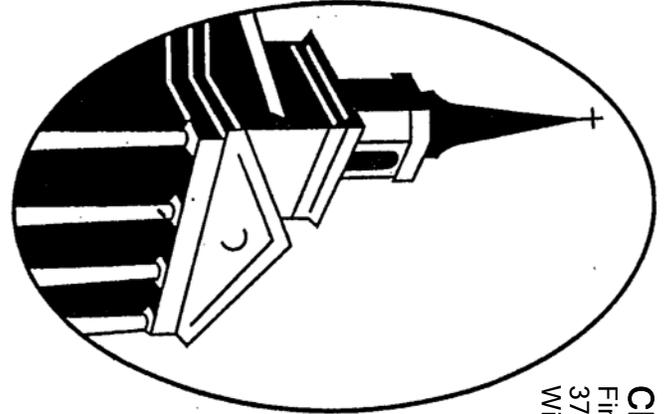
8/16: Ashley & Kyle Burross
8/23: Robert Hastings & Jim LaValley

AUGUST DIACONATE SERVERS

David Strickland, Captain
Kim Ballard, Buddy Edgemon, Lynette Gill, Scot Hafley, Nancy Smith, Teresa Archambo, Philip Dudenhoeffer, Melody Jennings, 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	
Tim Williamson, Director of Digital Media			



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