



# Christian Challenger

Vol. 67

September 9, 2020

No. 18



Youth and Children's Ministry programs kick back into gear this week! Below you will find the schedule for each program!

### Youth Ministry

**Wednesday Youth Activities** - 7:00 pm, Room 403/Gym

**Sunday School** - 9:30 am, Room 403

**Sunday Night Youth Fellowship** - 7:00 pm, Room 403/Gym

### Children's Ministry

**Wednesday First Kidz** - 6:00 pm, Room 402

**Sunday School** - 9:30 am various classrooms

**Children's Church** - Room 402/Gym

**Sunday Evening Young Disciples** - 6:00 pm, Room 402

### College Ministry

**MSU Bible Study** - Thursdays, 6:00 pm, Rapid Fire Pizza

## Shepherds Wanted

Membership is looking for volunteers that are interested in being a Shepherd to some of our families at FCC. It doesn't require a lot of time, and training is included! Please contact Susan Buckley, 781-6128, if you have any questions, or if you are interested in helping us out by taking a "Flock".

## Coats For Kids



September is here and school has started. Despite the heat at this time of year, it is time for the Coats for Kids committee to begin making plans for coat delivery.

In normal years we purchase coats at the after Christmas sales and have a spring fundraiser, with a thank you breakfast to a selected Sunday School Class. In March all was going as planned. And THEN COVID-19 arrived, chasing away all that was "normal", including our plans for a fundraiser.

And in response to the virus, FCC has said, we can change and still meet needs in our community. Our worship has changed, the way we support Interfaith has changed, responding to member needs have changed, but our hearts and dedication to serving the needs of our community has NOT changed.

For the past several years we have given 600 coats to WFISD. With the coats that have already been purchased, and the funds presently in the Coats for Kids account, we believe we can do that with an additional \$5000. So we are asking you, the congregation, to help us meet this goal.

The celebratory breakfast will be replaced with a home cooked gourmet dinner delivered to someone's home. Donate to Coats for Kids and have your name put in a drawing for the dinner.

Our fundraiser has begun and will end on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Six hundred coats for \$5000 is real bargain, please give generously!

## The Next Phases in our Worship ReEntry Plan: Sunday School and Children's Activities

The Worship ReEntry Task Force has agreed that beginning this Sunday, September 13, Sunday School classes may resume in-person meetings at the church. This includes classes for children, youth, and adults. *Please note:* not all of the adult classes will resume onsite this Sunday or in the coming weeks. Many will continue to meet only online or in a hybrid of in-person and online. Check with your class leaders for details. Please wear masks when entering the building and until you are in your classrooms.

Additionally, this Sunday will mark the return of Children's Church for children age 4 through second grade. Following the Children's Moment, these children will go with Ms. Claire for an age-appropriate worship experience just for them. (Nursery is also available for children age 3 and under). Sunday also marks the return of *Young Disciples* from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. We look forward to safely welcoming our children back to these faith formation opportunities.

## Drive-In Dining Family Night

Let's put the "Social" back in Social Distancing! Make plans to join us for a fun and safe evening outdoors for burgers, hot dogs, games and a movie. The fun will be on Saturday, September 26, beginning at 6:30 pm. Bring your own chairs and stay, or drive up and we will be happy to make yours to go!

## Adopt A Student To Pray For

This school year is going to be like no other. We want to cover our schools and especially our students in prayer as they navigate new ways of learning.

We would like to encourage you to commit to praying for a student for the 2020/2021 school year. If you would like to pray for a student from our congregation, please call the church office at 940-692-2282 or email [Claire](#) to receive the name of a student/students you can pray for.

# Make Your Mark

Dr. Mark R. Bender  
Senior Minister



## Trip Planning (Part 1)

I want you to remember these numbers: 2025, 1, 5000, 3500, 1000, 300, 200. I'll explain why in just a moment.

Jodi and I have recently been doing some trip planning. We began with a premise: where can we go where the rates of coronavirus are low but the breathtaking scenery potential is high? With that guiding premise in place, our consideration of possible destinations started with figuring out the time constraints. How much time could we be away? How long would it take to get there? Would we be able to see all we "should see" in the time we allotted? These questions further narrowed the possible list of destinations. After all, we didn't want to spend all of our time getting there and not any time enjoying the journey's objective.

Once we settled on a location, two tools became very important to us. The first was the road map. The road map became a guide for determining how we would get there and the other points of interest we could "check off" along the way.

The other important tool for us was a travel brochure. This travel brochure provided us with pictures of what it would look like when we arrived at our destination. There were pictures of stunning sunrises over the mountains. There were pictures of wildlife in dramatic nature scenes. There were pictures of individuals and families enjoying themselves as they participated in various activities. With these wonderful pictures in hand, it wasn't hard to "picture" ourselves there as well.



In my last *Make Your Mark* column, I noted that, given the blessings of where First Christian Church, Wichita Falls, finds itself today, we have a mandate to make the most of what we have been given; to live into the future God is calling us towards. And, fortunately, we have a future destination in mind for where we are going as a congregation - how we will make the most of what God has blessed us with. The work our Vision Team did last year on behalf of the entire congregation gave us the tools we need to get there. We have a "travel brochure" that gives us pictures of what it will be like when we get there. And we have a "road map" which tells us how we will get there.

Let's start with our destination. We are giving ourselves five years to get there. By **2025**, we want to be in a particular point in this congregation's journey. And, to say it succinctly, here's where we want to end up: *By 2025, we want to go from the One (1) Table to 5000 tables.*

For the last 130 years, there has been one constant in our church's history. When we have worshiped as a congregation, we have gathered around the Lord's Table (the *One Table*) where we have remembered what God has done for us through the saving acts of Jesus Christ. That action of remembering is twofold. It is first a reminder of what was done for us on the cross. As we recall every

Sunday, the bread and the cup are symbolic reminders of Christ's body broken and his blood shed for each of us for the forgiveness of sins.

But our gathering at the Lord's Table each week is also a reminder that as people transformed by God's gracious love, we are called to be different as a result. We are called to do our part in re-remembering the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-27). When we gather at the Table, we have to look around and see who is not here with us. We are tasked with joining the pieces - the members - of the body together. This is not something we do on our own, but is a process guided by the spirit of the Risen Christ in our midst.

So, when we take the premise of this re-remembering mandate seriously, it sends us out from the Lord's Table to address the human hopes and hurts of people who have found themselves fractured from the body. And this is where the movement from the One Table to 5,000 tables gets really exciting.

Just as we gather at the One Table each week, we picture that by the year 2025, as a congregation, we will have gathered at 5,000 other tables. Five years from now, we will stand on the top of a vista where we will see how:

- **we filled 3500 empty tables.** Imagine the difference we could make if we provided both physical bread and the bread of life to hungry families in our community...
- **we filled 1000 neighborhood tables.** If there is one thing that the pandemic has reset for us as a society, it is the need to care for our neighbor. Imagine if every family in our congregation sat down around a table with one of the people who lives beside them. If each of you did this just once a year, we would more than exceed our target of setting 1000 table gatherings with our neighbors...
- **we filled 300 family tables.** Given the reality that the average church only has 40 hours in a given year to influence a child, whereas the average parent has 3,000 hours per year to influence that same child, parents need us to help them know how to be spiritual leaders. Imagine if we could equip 300 families in our community to influence their children spiritually simply by resourcing our parents and grandparents to have authentic spiritual conversations around the dinner table...
- **we filled 200 leadership tables.** We're a church with a long history of celebrating spiritual, servant leadership. We've got the pictures to prove it. The long line of Senior Minister pictures. The pictures of congregation members called into ministry (our "Timothys" and "Priscillas"). And a project is underway to gather and celebrate all of the young men and women from First Christian Church who served as Area and Regional Youth Council Officers. Imagine if we could sit together at tables with mentors and learners, with the experienced and inexperienced drawing leadership lessons from one another. Imagine the shape our church and city would take if we unleashed these filled up leaders into the community...

This is a snapshot of the travel brochure. This is our vision of going from the One Table to 5000 tables - our picture of what we want things to look like when we arrive in the year 2025. But to get there, we need a map. We need to know which direction to go - which way to go first. And as I will share with you in Part 2, that first step towards 2025 involves *family ministry*.

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 Sept. 23! FCC Ministry News is sent by email every Monday.

## Welcome New Member!



It was a joy to welcome into our fellowship on Sunday, August 30th, Joshua Miller by transfer of membership from Central Baptist Church in Burkburnett. Josh is an architect with Gary Baker & Associates, and has a 13 year old daughter, Samara, who is in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. His contact information is 5021 Taft Blvd #1302, 76308, 940-631-4730, josh@arcadium.net. Welcome, Josh!

## Christian Women's Fellowship

The **September CWF Luncheon** will be Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. This year's theme for our four luncheons is "Faith In Our Neighborhood," and the speaker in September will be Rev. Josh deSteiguer, Minister to Youth & Young Adults here at FCC. The devotional will be given by Cathy Gately. Reservations are not required and guests are welcome. Social distancing will be observed. Cost is \$5.00 per person. The CWF Board will meet at 10:30 am in Room 310 prior to the luncheon.

**Group Meetings** will be as follows **Group 1** will meet on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, at 1:30 pm in Room 310; **Group 2** will meet on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 12:00 noon in Room 405; and **Group 3** will not meet in September.

## Member News:

♥**Hospitalized:** at URHCS is Sherrie Phillips; at Dallas Methodist is Mary Kay Dolberry. Released and back home is Carol Propper.

♥Our sympathies are extended to the Family & Friends of George Joseph "Joe" Etoch. Joe passed away on August 30<sup>th</sup> and services were held on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

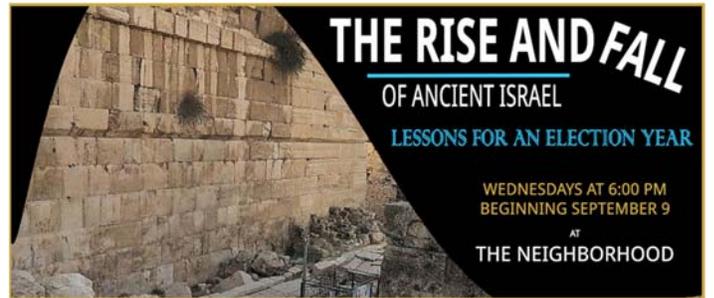
♥Congratulations to Lindsey Dalton & Preston Carew on the birth of their son, Cristian Scott Carew, on August 29th. He weighed 7.3 lbs and was 20" long. Cristian Scott is the grandson of Shelly & Chuck Dalton and great-grandson of Curtis Sullivan.

♥Congratulations to Kim Ballard, who has been named the Senior/Junior Forum's "Woman of the Year".

**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!

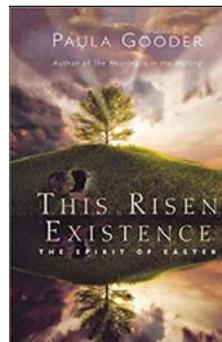
## Pantry Sunday for Interfaith Outreach Services:

In August, FCC donated 253 pounds to Interfaith Outreach Services! Thank you for continuing to drop off your donations in the box by the Chapel, or bringing them to the Church on Pantry Sunday!



## 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.

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.

Don't Forget to "Like Us" on  Or Subscribe to "Us" on 

## FOR THE RECORD...

CGRM: (Tues., Sept. 1)	20
Neighborhood Online Prayer Service (Wed., Sept. 2)	Did Not Meet
Sunday School (Sun. Sept. 6 – via Zoom)	26
Worship (Sept. 6): 8:40am Drive In Worship Service	24
10:45am Worship Service	217
Total Worship	241
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$18,362.35
Sunday Receipts for 9/6/20	\$8,672.00
Through Sept. 7: Income	\$586,642.34
Expenses	\$617,469.36

## This Sunday:

"Defiance & Delivery"  
Daniel 6:1-28  
Dr. Mark Bender

## OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, September 13, 2020

- 8:40 Drive In Worship Service (East Parking Lot)
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 10:45 Worship & Baptism (Sanctuary or Watch the Livestream on YouTube or Facebook.com/FCCWF)
- 2:00 Pickleball (Gym)
- 3:45 Chancel Ringers (Stratten Hall)
- 6:00 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402)
- 7:00 Youth (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)

Monday, September 14, 2020

- 7:30-6:00 Children Come First (M-F)
- 8:55-10:30 CCF Music (Rm 220)
- 9:00-9:30 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
- 9:00-12:00 Young Ages Preschool (M-F)
- 10:30 CWF Board Meeting (Rm 310)
- 11:45 CWF Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

- 9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 310)
- 10:00-11:00 YAS Music (Rm 220) (Tu/Wed)
- 6:00 Education Ministry Meeting (Rm 405 / Zoom)
- 6:00 Stewardship Ministry Meeting (Rm 310 / Zoom)
- 6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups (Rm 304-308)
- 7:00 Evangelism Ministry Meeting (Rm 222 / Zoom)

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

- 7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
- 8:55-10:30 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
- 9:00-9:30 CCF Music (Rm 220)
- 12:00-2:00 YAS Staff Mtg (Rm 405)
- 5:30 Brown Bag Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 Neighborhood Worship (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 First Kidz (PreK-5th Grade) (Rm 402)
- 7:00 Youth (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)

Thursday, September 17, 2020

- 9:00-9:30 CCF Music (Rm 220)
- 6:00 College Bible Study (Rapid Fire)
- 7:00 Bible Story Time with Claire (Facebook/YouTube)

Friday, September 18, 2020

- 8:55-10:30 CCF Music (Rm 220)

Sunday, September 20, 2020

- 8:40 Drive In Worship Service (East Parking Lot)
- 9:30 Sunday School
- 10:45 Worship (Sanctuary or Watch the Livestream on YouTube or Facebook.com/FCCWF)

- 2:00 Pickleball (Gym)

- 3:45 Chancel Ringers (Stratten Hall)
- 6:00 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402)
- 7:00 Youth (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)

Monday, September 21, 2020

- 7:30-6:00 Children Come First (M-F)
- 8:55-10:30 CCF Music (Rm 220)
- 9:00-9:30 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
- 9:00-12:00 Young Ages Preschool (M-F)
- 1:30 CWF Group 1 Mtg (Rm 310)
- NO CWF Group 3 Mtg
- 7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

- 9:30 FCC Staff Meeting (Rm 310)
- 10:00-11:00 YAS Music (Rm 220) (Tu/Wed)
- 6:00 Executive Council Mtg (Rm 310/Zoom)
- 6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups (Rm 304-308)

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

- 7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
- 8:55-10:30 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
- 9:00-9:30 CCF Music (Rm 220)
- 10:15 Sheri Sutton Bible Study (Rm 310/Zoom)
- 11:00 YAS Board Mtg (Parlor)
- 12:00 CWF Group 2 Mtg (Rm 405)
- 5:30 Brown Bag Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 Neighborhood Worship (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 First Kidz (PreK-5th Grade) (Rm 402)
- 7:00 Youth (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)

Thursday, September 24, 2020

- 9:00-9:30 CCF Music (Rm 220)
- 6:00 College Bible Study (Rapid Fire)
- 7:00 Bible Story Time with Claire (Facebook/YouTube)

Friday, September 25, 2020

- 8:55-10:30 CCF Music (Rm 220)

Saturday, September 26, 2020

- 6:30 Drive-In Dining Family Night (Parking Lot)

## SERVING SUNDAY

### ELDERS

- 9/13: Sherry Tucker, Sandra Ross; Rick Appling, Presiding
- 9/20: Andy Wilson, Kerry Roach; David Collins, Presiding

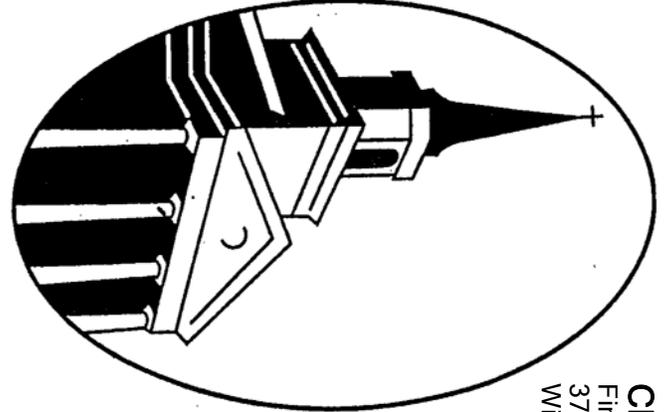
### SEPTEMBER DIACONATE SERVERS

- Dave Clark, Captain
- Ashley & Kyle Burross, Linda Gipson, Ann Kable, Curtis Sullivan, Brandi Brannon, Fred Gentry, Margaret Phillips, Fred & Jane Ridenour, Jodi Bender, Leann Elder, Robert Hastings, Stacey Lingbeek, Ashley Warton, Abby Bender.

*Let's Stay Connected...*

### 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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