



Christian Challenger

Vol. 67

November 4, 2020

No. 22

Coats For Kids Update



We will be sorting and delivering coats to the schools during the week of November 16th to 20th in two shifts from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The rising number of COVID 19 cases has made us "rethink" our procedures for sorting and delivering coats.

In the past we have operated with a "just show up" policy and it has worked very well. Many times 15+ volunteers have come and tasks were quickly completed. Positive cases of the virus have made us realize we need to work in specific time slots to adequately safe distance. You may sign up for one or two shifts daily.

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|------------------------|--|
| Monday, November 16 | 10:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon |
| Tuesday, November 17 | 9 - 10:30 a.m. OR 10:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon |
| Wednesday, November 18 | 9 - 10:30 a.m. OR 10:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon |
| Thursday, November 19 | 9 - 10:30 a.m. OR 10:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon |
| Friday, November 20 | 9 - 10:30 a.m. OR 10:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon |

Please contact Judy Muir or Diana Costello to sign up for your preferred shift:

Judy: 766-0491 jamuir2410@att.net

Diana 723-5203 dmariec64@sbcglobal.net

Thank you for all of your help!

Fill a Thanksgiving Basket

Help families in Wichita Falls have a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Pick up a grocery bag and shopping list, and/or a turkey monetary donation envelope, in the Church Office. Then, return your envelope to the Church Office, or your bag filled with food items to either the cart inside the Chapel entrance, or to the Fellowship Hall stage - by Sunday, November 15. A turkey and roasting pan will be added to complete the baskets for delivery.

If you have freezer space which can serve as a backup "turkey hotel" during the week of November 16-20, call the church office (692-2282).

Finally, help deliver these Thanksgiving Baskets on



Saturday, November 21. It's best to deliver in pairs, so if you don't have a partner, we will provide one for you. Arrive at the East parking lot of the Church at 9:45 am. Remain in your car as we wait for everyone to gather. In the short time it takes to deliver these Thanksgiving Baskets, you will be richly blessed.

If you are able to help deliver Thanksgiving Baskets, please sign up by calling the church office (692-2282).

Schedule of Events

Now

- Pick up your bag and shopping list and begin filling it.
- Volunteer your freezer space as a "turkey hotel".

Sunday, November 15

- Deadline to return your filled bag and donation envelopes.

Saturday, November 21

- Meet in the East Parking Lot at 9:45. Please remain in your cars - to receive instructions and for a blessing of the Thanksgiving Baskets.
- Deliveries should begin shortly after 10:00 am.



Fall 2020 Diaper Drive

What an amazing and giving church family we have – even during the craziness of COVID and social-distancing – you still stepped up and gave! Many babies and families will be blessed! Total Donations were:

4,277 Diapers

9 packages of wipes

\$200 in monetary donations

Thank you for this wonderful gift!
Kris Gossom, Executive Director
Interfaith Outreach Services

Make Your Mark

Dr. Mark R. Bender
Senior Minister



The Day After Election Day

One of the questions asked at this morning's Elders Meeting was how late people stayed up watching election results. While the results of this unofficial poll varied, I was one who went to bed at 11:00 pm. At that point, it seemed to me that we had most of the results we were going to get for the evening. So, I settled into bed and fell asleep quickly. However, I know there were others around the nation who, perhaps, didn't find sleep as easy to come.

Last night before the polls closed, I shared a pastoral note (video) on Facebook. If you didn't see it, I shared the story about my struggles as a kid with winning and losing. As I related to you on my first Sunday in the pulpit, as an elementary and junior high student, I was never a gracious winner and always a poor loser. One summer, after spending a few weeks with my grandparents, in which playing games in the evenings was a regular occurrence, my grandmother sent me a note in the mail. The note said: *Win with humility, lose with dignity.*

You and I hope we live out those expressions in our lives. But, the hours and days following election day are when our ability to win with humility and lose with dignity will be put to the test. Multiple months of campaigning and bickering, name-calling and demagoguery, my way and their way, is finally coming to end sometime soon.

While I haven't been able to find this proverbial advice written like this anywhere in the Bible, I do believe that winning with humility and losing with dignity seems like Christian things to do. And while those phrases may not be expressed like that in the Bible, there is a list of Christian "marks" - measures of what should characterize Christians - in Romans 12:9-18

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Paul tells us in verse 9 that the first mark of a Christian is genuine love. While the word *genuine* may not be found in political campaigns, it should be found in what we do. And, it should be the depiction of those of us who vote Libertarian or Green or Reform or Democrat or Republican or independent AND also call ourselves Christian. Regardless of our political affiliation, we are called to love God and one another... genuinely. It's not an "either-or"; it's a "both-and."

As you can see, Paul didn't stop there. He suggested that a respectful, diligent, never-ending servant spirit is the way for Christians to build community. And, then Paul got specific. He

described for us what this might look like in our relationships with others. *Bless those who persecute you. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony. Do not be haughty. Do not think you are so smart. Do not repay evil for evil.*

For all of us who bear the wounds of a long political season, these are critical reminders. However, for some, the idea of rejoicing with those who are rejoicing that their candidate won, while ours didn't, is difficult. For others, the idea of weeping with those whose candidate lost is difficult as well. But, if prideful statements and evil responses characterize the discourse going forward, the fractures will widen and the wounds will deepen and the things that unite us will shrink.

Paul suggests it shouldn't be this way. *So far as it depends on [us,] [we are called to] live peaceably with all.* And that means we've got to love Democrats and Republicans and Libertarians and Greens and everyone else whose political party or viewpoint is not the same as ours. It depends on us... Christians...those whose allegiance to God comes before their allegiance to country or party. If we truly love God, then we've got to work diligently, fervently, ardently to live peaceably with all.

In the video last night, I shared how my friend Doug Skinner articulated the three phases of this week so well. He said on Monday we were **partisans**. As partisans, we concluded for ourselves which party and which candidates we felt the world needed right now. By doing so, we stated that we wanted our candidate to win and the one on the other side to lose.

On Tuesday, Doug said, we were **citizens**. On Election Day, while we cared about the outcome, we also should have cared even more about the process. We wanted people to exercise their right to vote and to have free and easy access to polling places. That's what comes with being a part of a democracy.

Finally, Doug rightly noted that today and every day going forward, we are **Americans**. Our candidates may win. Our candidates may lose. We may be ecstatic or we may be disappointed.

But either way, the candidate the people choose will be the leader for all of us - red and blue, Republican and Democrat, conservative, progressive, and moderate. Our task going forward is to offer appropriate respect and not adulation, and to expect accountability and not authoritarianism.

Daniel Silliman, the editor of *Christianity Today*, brings this into context for us as Christians. In his article this month, he noted: *Polarization makes it seem like unity in Christ can only come after political unity. Polarization makes it seem like partisanship is stronger than the gospel.* And what that means for a "purple church" like ours, where there are both blue and red political persuasions represented, is that we've got to hold firm to our value of being *Open in our Communion*. We've got to let the gospel supersede our politics...and not just on Sundays, but every day.

We get that reminder each and every Sunday at the Lord's Table. There, because of what Jesus Christ did for each of us, we can come together as the body of Christ and recommit ourselves to living peacefully with each other - not just for a few minutes each Sunday morning, but in every minute of our lives. Because Jesus is our Lord and Savior - and if we believe that matters - then what happens when we leave the Table on Sunday, and what happens in the days ahead for us as a country, is not about red and blue, left and right, us and them. It's about the unity we have in Jesus Christ and the citizenship we have in heaven because of God's love for you...and me...for us...and for them.

Mark

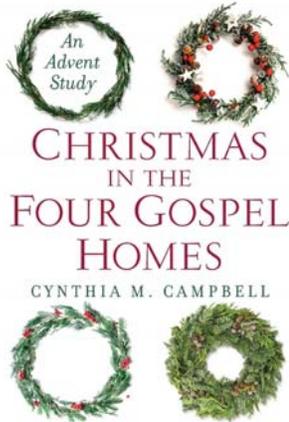
FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS



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 Nov. 18! FCC Ministry News is sent by email every Tuesday.

Advent Bible Study 2020 "Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes" by Cynthia M. Campbell



How might a house look for Christmas based on what each Gospel says about it? In *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes*, Cynthia Campbell reflects on the distinctive perspective of the birth of Jesus or the incarnation offered by each Gospel. Beautiful illustrations by architect Kevin Burns reimagine each of the four Gospels as a "house," which the church visits at Christmas.

Join Sheri Sutton for the Advent study beginning November 18 through December 16 (not including Thanksgiving week) at 10:30am via Zoom. Meeting sign-in information will be available prior to November 18. Please register with the church office by calling 692-2282 to order your book.

Cynthia M. Campbell, president emerita of McCormick Theological Seminary, is pastor of the Highland Presbyterian Church, Louisville, Kentucky. She is a contributor to the Feasting on the Word and Connections series and the author of *A Multitude of Blessings: A Christian Approach to Religious Diversity*.

The **Thanksgiving Offering** supports Disciples colleges, universities and theological institutions. Disciples have a long history of post-secondary and theological education. This offering provides a direct connection to 15 colleges and universities, 7 seminaries and theological programs. Gifts from this offering continue the Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the Church.

Make a gift to the 2020 Thanksgiving Offering by donating online at www.disciplesmissionfund.org/give/ on Sundays, November 15th and 22nd, or you may send your checks to the church office made out to "FCC".

What's Your Favorite Hymn? Our organist would like to include your favorite hymn in the worship service on Sunday mornings. Please give us your name, hymn title, and then in 25 words or less, tell us why this hymn is special to you.

You can email your hymn information to susan@firstchristianwf.com, or you can bring it to the church office.



Don't Forget to "Like Us" on

facebook

Or Subscribe to "Us" on

YouTube

Pantry Sunday — You can continue to help keep the pantry shelves filled by: Donating items needed for Pantry Sunday in November or any type of food items directly anytime into the large box on the porch by the Chapel entrance. **The November collected item(s) will be: cans of pineapple and jars of jelly.**

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](#).

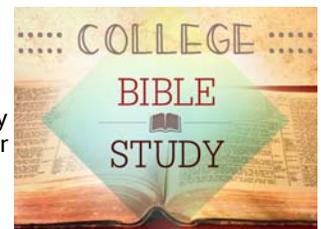
Member News:

♥ **Hospitalized:** at Baylor-Dallas is Jane Long. Released and back home are Rick Appling, Twila Boydston, Kyle Burross, Connie Cannedy, Diana Collins.

♥ Our sympathies are extended to Kristen Rierson & David Wyatt and Family on learning of the death of Kristen's husband and David's son-in-law, Jessie Rierson, on October 21st in Dawson TX.

♥ Our condolences are extended to Stacey Strickland & Family on learning of the death of her stepdad, Mike Fagan, on October 27th in Mineral Wells TX.

Calling All College Students!
Join Josh at 6:00 pm on Thursday evenings at Rapid Fire Pizza for food, fellowship, and Bible study!



FOR THE RECORD . . .

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| CGRM: (Tues., Oct. 27) | 16 |
| Neighborhood (Wed., Oct. 28—Online) | 25 |
| Sunday School (Sun. Nov. 1).(via Zoom) | 32 |
| Worship (Nov. 1): 8:40am Drive In Worship Service | 25 |
| 10:45am Worship Service | 173 |
| Total Worship | 223 |
| Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week | \$18,362.35 |
| Sunday Receipts for 11/1/20 | \$11,475.00 |
| Through Nov. 2: Income \$728,669.93 | Expenses \$776,308.13 |

This Sunday:

"Fearless Giving"
1 Timothy 6:3-10, 17-19
Dr. Mark R. Bender

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, November 8, 2020

8:40 Drive In Worship Service (East Parking Lot)
9:30 Sunday School (Zoom)
9:45 Journey Through Scripture Devotional (Email)
10:45 Worship (Watch the Livestream on YouTube
or Facebook.com/FCCWF)

5:00 Youth (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)
6:00 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402)

Monday, November 9, 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)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

9:30 FCC Staff Meeting / Worship Planning (Rm 310/Zoom)
10:00-11:00 YAS Music (Rm 220) (Tu/Wed)
6:00 Membership Ministry Meeting (Zoom)
6:00 Property Ministry Meeting (Zoom)
6:00 Outreach Ministry Meeting (Fellowship Hall / Zoom)
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups
(Rm 304-308)

7:00 Worship Ministry Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 11, 2020 VETERANS' DAY

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
8:55-10:30 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
9:00-9:30 CCF Music (Rm 220)
11:00 YAS Board Meeting (Parlor)
6:00 Neighborhood Worship (Online)
7:00 Youth (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)

Thursday, November 12, 2020

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

Friday, November 13, 2020

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

Sunday, November 15, 2020

8:40 Drive In Worship Service (East Parking Lot)
9:30 Sunday School (Zoom)
9:45 Journey Through Scripture Devotional (Email)
10:45 Worship (Watch the Livestream on
YouTube or Facebook.com/FCCWF)

5:00 Youth (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)
6:00 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402)

Monday, November 16, 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)
9:00-12:00 Coats for Kids Sorting & Delivering (Fellowship Hall)
1:30 CWF Group 1 Meeting (Room 310)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

9:00-12:00 Coats for Kids Sorting & Delivering (Fellowship Hall)
9:30 FCC Staff Meeting / Worship Planning (Rm 310/Zoom)
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, November 18, 2020

7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
8:55-10:30 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
9:00-9:30 CCF Music (Rm 220)
9:00-12:00 Coats for Kids Sorting & Delivering (Fellowship Hall)
10:15 Sheri Sutton's Advent Bible Study (Zoom)
6:00 Neighborhood Worship (Online)
7:00 Youth (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)

Thursday, November 19, 2020

9:00-9:30 CCF Music (Rm 220)
9:00-12:00 Coats for Kids Sorting & Delivering (Fellowship Hall)
11:15 YAS Thanksgiving Feast (FH/Facebook Live)
6:00 College Bible Study (Rapid Fire)
7:00 Bible Story Time with Claire (Facebook/YouTube)

Friday, November 20, 2020

8:55-10:30 CCF Music (Rm 220)
9:00-12:00 Coats for Kids Sorting & Delivering (Fellowship Hall)
11:15 YAS Thanksgiving Feast (FH/Facebook Live)

Saturday, November 21, 2020

9:45 Thanksgiving Baskets Deliver (East Parking Lot)

SERVING SUNDAY

ELDERS

11/8: Emily Wilson, Cheryl Smiley; Andy Wilson, Presiding
11/15: Ricky Scales, Cindy Hernandez; Linda C. Carr, Presiding

NOVEMBER 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 Seguire, Karen Watson, Davidson Cook, Hannah Earley.

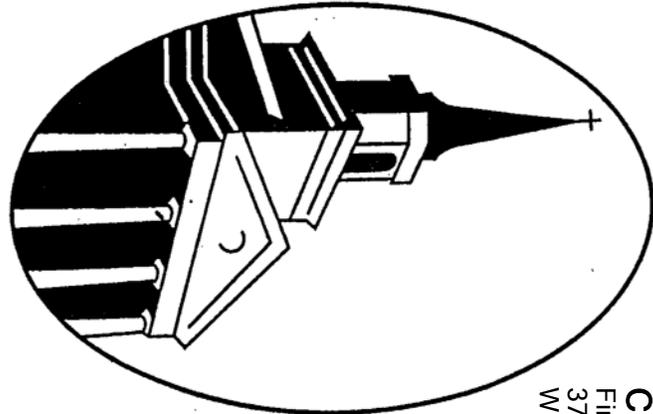
DECEMBER DIACONATE SERVERS

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.

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 | | | |

Let's Stay Connected...



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First Christian Church
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