



## Family Afternoon with the Rangers 2022

Get the whole family together (or just you, the serious baseball fan) and join your church family for an afternoon of watching baseball and fellowship!

On Saturday, July 9, we will travel to Globe Life Field in Arlington to watch the Texas Rangers take on the Minnesota Twins.

For more information and to reserve your spot go to: [www.firstchristianwf.com/rangers](http://www.firstchristianwf.com/rangers)

## The Challenger is Going Digital

Beginning in July, the *Christian Challenger* will be moving to a primarily digital format. The same news and information you've come to expect every two weeks will soon be delivered to your email inbox. This new delivery format will enable you to receive this news in a timelier manner while also helping the church to be good stewards of its resources.

While the *Christian Challenger* will be moving to a primarily digital format, we will still print and mail a small number of *Challengers* every two weeks. We know there are those who are homebound or who have no/limited access to the internet. These individuals will continue to receive a printed version in the mail.



To make this transition as smooth as possible:

1. Make sure we have your current email address, and a current email address for every member of your family. Send an email to [mail@firstchristianwf.com](mailto:mail@firstchristianwf.com) with your name and preferred email address and we'll confirm that we have you on our mailing list.
2. Let us know if you have a family member or friend who still needs to receive a paper copy of the *Challenger* by mail. You can call the church office (940.692.2282) or email us ([mail@firstchristianwf.com](mailto:mail@firstchristianwf.com)) to make that note.

## Imagine the Difference You Can Make

*First Christian Church is offering two Vacation Bible School experiences for the children and families of our community.*

This summer, you have the one-of-a-kind opportunity to:

- Demonstrate God's love for each person
- Model your faith through joyful service
- Influence a young person's life of faith
- Make connections with participants, their parents, and other volunteers
- Have a lot of fun!

Experience this joy of serving and introducing young people to Jesus Christ by serving as a volunteer at one or both of our Vacation Bible School experiences.

### Off-Site VBS

June 20-23 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm  
 Paul Irwin Center - Wichita Falls  
 Housing Authority

Adventure Leaders are needed to lead explorers on a quest for God's great light! Serve as an age group leader, a rotation leader, or help with food, registration, or other behind-the-scenes tasks.



### VBS at First Christian Church

July 11-14 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm



The word is out about our high-quality VBS experience and, already, 120+ kids have registered to be a part of this summer's *Food Truck Party*. You can open the door for participants to learn about the prayerful petition - *Give us this day our daily bread* - as you serve as an age group leader, a rotation leader, or help with registration, decorating, and other important tasks.

**What's my next step?** Whether you can give one hour, one day, or one week, there is a critical role for you. Contact Claire Baer ([claire@firstchristianwf.com](mailto:claire@firstchristianwf.com) or 940.692.2282) to find your perfect position to serve the young people and families at our two VBS experiences!

# Make Your Mark

Dr. Mark R. Bender  
Senior Minister



## A Person of Influence

There's an old story told about one of President Calvin Coolidge's White House guests. This guest was having breakfast with Coolidge one morning, and he wanted to make a good impression on the president. He noticed that Coolidge, having been served his coffee, took the coffee cup, poured some of its contents into a deep saucer, and leisurely added a little bit of sugar and cream. Not wanting to breach any rules of etiquette, the visitor followed the commander in chief's lead, and he poured some of his coffee into his saucer and added sugar and cream. Then he waited for the president's next move.

Soon, he was horrified to see Coolidge place the saucer on the floor for the cat. No one reported what the guest did next...

We recently spent the season of Easter thinking and talking about what it means to be an Influencer. In social media terms, Brooke told us in her sermon, an influencer is someone who can persuade others to act based on their recommendations. As she reminded us, our task as Christians is to be an influencer for Jesus Christ - to be salt and light in a world that needs both. And in the weeks that followed, we saw biblical depictions of influencers who characterized that kind of living.

Back in 1997, leadership guru John Maxwell, along with business coach Jim Dornan, wrote a book titled *Becoming a Person of Influence*. In it, they described an influencer (a person of influence) as someone who:

Has **I**ntegrity with people

**N**urtures other people

Has **F**aith in people

**L**istens to people

**U**nderstands people

**E**nlarges people

**N**avigates for other people

**C**onnects with people

**E**mpowers people

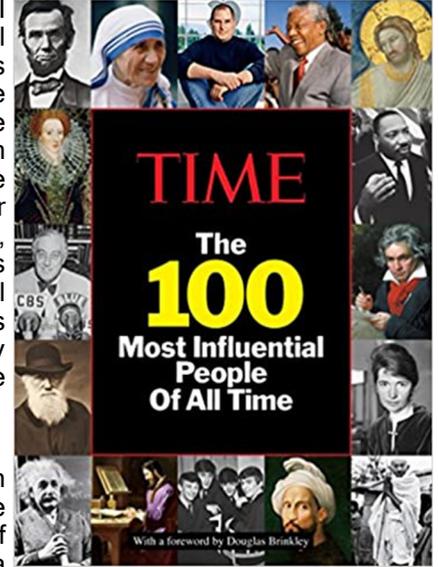
**R**eproduces Other Influencers

The characteristics that complete this acronym identify well what makes someone influential. Esther listened to her cousin and navigated a solution which saved the Hebrew people (Esther 4). Eunice and Lois nurtured the faith of their son and grandson, Timothy (2 Timothy 1). The early church disciples enlarged and

empowered people to share the good news (Acts 4). And, Nathan's witness to David was one filled with integrity (2 Samuel 12).

One of the things I like about Maxwell and Dornan's list is that it helps separate those things which are truly influential from those things that are copycat (e.g. a saucer full of coffee). And, this list also describes how being influential sometimes results from some fairly simple and mundane activities.

Mennonite theologian Alan Kreider once told the story of a student of his named Anna Geyer:



*"Anna is a 30-year-old mother who lives with her husband and children in an area where very few Mennonites live. Anna tends a large garden, 'The Cutting Garden,' to which people can come and cut flowers. A wide variety of women do and they are invited for a cup of coffee at her kitchen table. Anna reports that people look at her and ask questions:*

*'Anna, you're living in a way that I'm not used to.'*

*'Anna, why are you and your husband so kind to each other?'*

*'Anna, why do your kids talk politely?'*

*'Anna, why do you live like you do?'*

*And at the right moment, which may take years in coming, Anna will say, 'Because of Jesus.'*

*Anna is a radical, who lives simply, who is committed to a peacemaking lifestyle, who is a good friend and an excellent listener. She has built up a remarkable network of women who don't go to church but who want to talk about life – and about God. Anna is odd and interesting."*

Kreider said that the New Testament never batters, begs, badgers, or bargains with Christians to get on with the Great Commission. Instead, it tells them to live lovingly, peacefully, joyfully, faithfully, patiently, gently, and hopefully, because when Christians do, when they are Christ-like, when they live in ways that are "odd" and "interesting," then people are invariably going to ask questions. "It's living the way of Christ that leads people to ask questions," Professor Kreider concluded from his lifetime of studying the mission of the church. In other words, living this kind of "question-posing" lives can make one influential.

Everyday, you have the opportunity to be a person of influence...just by going about your life in Christ-like ways. The question is...will you?

Mark

# FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

## Spots are Full!

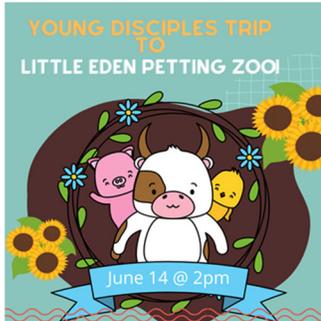
Registration for  
Vacation Bible School  
Has Closed!  
July 11-14 |  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm



Sundays at  
8:40 am | Chapel  
10:45 am | Sanctuary



## Young Disciples



The Young Disciples are going to Little Eden Petting Zoo on June 14<sup>th</sup>! We will meet at the church at 1:15 pm to load the vans. Cost is \$15.00 per child. Younger siblings are welcome to come if a parent attends with them! After the petting zoo we will take a trip to Braum's for ice cream! If your child would like to go, please contact

Claire Baer, 940-692-2282. Parents are more than welcome to join the fun!

## Camping Season

Our middle school and high school students will head to Disciples Crossing June 20-24 for *DC Youth*. This week-long adventure will provide these students with the opportunity to learn, grow, play, and worship together. Our own Brooke Reid will be at DC Youth as one of the counselors that week.

The following week, June 27 - July 1, our elementary-aged students will head to Disciples Crossing for *DC Kids*. This camp introduces these kids to church camp and what it's like to be a child of God. These campers form family groups (which include at least one person they already know) so that they can continue to develop friendships while learning about God's love. We're excited that Claire Baer will be serving as a counselor for DC Kids!

While DC Kids is taking place on one side of the camp, the other side of the camp will be hosting *Imago Dei* - a camp for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in which campers learn what it means to be created in the image of God. This unique camp experience will take place June 26 - July 2.

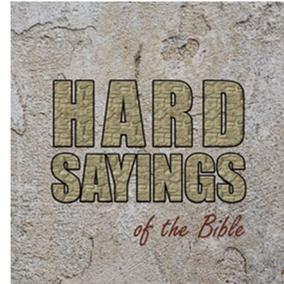
Although the regular registration deadline has passed, there is still the opportunity for your child or youth to join in the fun. Check our website:

[www.firstchristianwf.com/summercamps](http://www.firstchristianwf.com/summercamps)

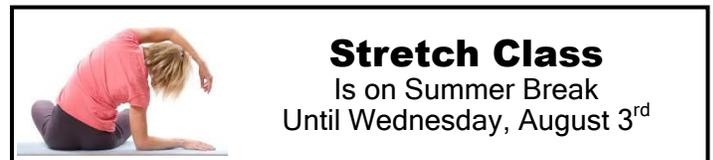
for more info or contact Brooke or Claire. Scholarships are plentiful so don't let costs deter you from a great week at Disciples Crossing!

## Tech People are Cool People

Want to be a part of something that shares our church worldwide? Here's a cool opportunity to make that happen as a member of our online worship production crew. Whether you want to run a camera or the sound board, monitor Facebook, or even produce or direct our livestream, we've got a position for you...and no experience is required. We'll provide all of the training you need. Want to learn more about this worship experience? Contact Jerry Johnson (call/text 940.704.1471 or [jerry@teamjerrys.com](mailto:jerry@teamjerrys.com)).



Wednesdays at  
*The Neighborhood*  
6:00 pm | Fellowship Hall



**Stretch Class**  
Is on Summer Break  
Until Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>

The **Challenger** is biweekly, with the next publication on June 22! FCC Ministry News is sent by email every Tuesday.

**Men's Breakfast & Bible Study!** Bring a friend and attend the FCC Men's Breakfast & Bible Study on Friday morning, June 10<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00-8:00 am, at the Hwy Café, 2808 Jacksboro Hwy.

**New Testament in a Year:** Our next gathering to discuss the makeup of the New Testament and what we're reading will take place on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall and via Zoom.

**Pantry Sunday for Interfaith Outreach Services:** The **June** collected items will be spaghetti sauce and Ramen Noodle Soup cups.

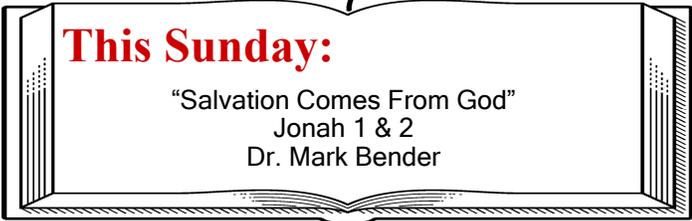
You can continue to help keep the pantry shelves filled by: Donating the monthly items or any type of food items directly anytime into the large box on the porch by the Chapel entrance. If you would like to support Interfaith with a financial gift, you may mail your donation to Interfaith (1101 11th St., Wichita Falls, TX 76301), or donate on their website.

## Member News:

♥**Hospitalized:** at URHCS is Mary Carlton. Released and back home is Sheila Poole.

♥Our condolences are extended to Ed Robinson & Family on learning of the death of his grandson, Xavier Rodriguez, on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

♥Our sympathies are extended to Alice Vallejo & Family on learning of the death of her sister, Judy, on May 28<sup>th</sup>.



**SERVING SUNDAY  
ELDERS**

6/12: David Collins, Scot Hafley; Kim Ballard, Presiding  
6/19: Jerry Johnson, Bill Jennings; Ann Hunter, Presiding

**JUNE DIACONATE SERVERS**

Twila Boydston, Dave Clark, Jaiden "JJ" Johnson, Sheila Reynolds, Karen Watson, Ashley & Kyle Watson, Sarah Cook, Becky Looney, Josh Miller, Curtis Dolberry, Davidson Cook.

**DIACONATE SCHEDULED FOR COMMUNION PREPARATION**

6/12: Karen Watson 6/19: Ashley & Kyle Burross

**DIACONATE SCHEDULED FOR COMMUNION VISITATION**

6/12: JJ Johnson,  
6/19: Ashley Burross, Kyle Burross, Becky Looney

**OPPORTUNITIES**

Sunday, June 12, 2022  
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY  
8:40 Worship (Chapel)  
9:30 Sunday School / Journey Through Scripture  
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary or Join the Livestream on YouTube or Facebook.com/FCCWF)  
5:00 Youth Activities (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)  
6:00 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402/405)  
6:00 New Testament Bible Study (Fellowship Hall / Zoom)

Monday, June 13, 2022  
7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)  
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)  
6:30 Vision Team Meeting (Rm 310)  
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)  
Tuesday, June 14, 2022  
9:30 FCC Staff Mtg / Worship Planning (Rm 310)  
12:00 Evangelism Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)  
2:00 Young Disciples to Little Eden Petting Zoo (Harrold TX)  
6:00 VBS Volunteers Meeting (Fellowship Hall)  
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries "CGRM" Support Groups

Wednesday, June 15, 2022  
7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405)  
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 300)  
5:30 Brown Bag Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 Neighborhood Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 First Kidz (PreK-5th Grade) (Rm 402)  
7:00 Youth Activities (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)  
7:00 Chancel Choir (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)  
Thursday, June 16, 2022  
12:00 Youth Fellowship (Chick-Fil-A on SW Pkwy)  
Friday, June 17, 2022  
9:00 CCF Music (Rm 300)  
Sunday, June 19, 2022  
FATHER'S DAY  
8:40 Worship (Chapel)  
9:30 Sunday School / Journey Through Scripture  
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary or Join the Livestream on YouTube or Facebook.com/FCCWF)

NO Sunday Evening Activities  
Monday, June 20, 2022  
DC Youth Camp (Grades 6-12) (June 20-24 at Disciples Crossing)  
7:30-6:00 Children Come First "CCF" (M-F)  
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)  
6:00-8:00 Off-Site Vacation Bible School (115 E Wichita Street)  
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)  
Tuesday, June 21, 2022  
9:30 FCC Staff Mtg / Worship Planning (Rm 310)  
6:00 Stewardship Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)  
6:00-8:00 Off-Site Vacation Bible School (115 E Wichita Street)  
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries "CGRM" Support Groups  
Wednesday, June 22, 2022  
7:00 Elders' Breakfast (Rm 405)  
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 300)  
6:00-8:00 Off-Site Vacation Bible School (115 E Wichita Street)  
7:30 Chancel Choir (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)  
Thursday, June 23, 2022  
6:00-8:00 Off-Site Vacation Bible School (115 E Wichita Street)  
Friday, June 24, 2022  
9:00 CCF Music (Rm 300)

**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  
Brooke Reid, Director of Youth & Young Adults 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  
Ashli Fischer, Director of Children Come First 687-2231  
Alisa Gardner, Director of Young Ages School 692-3640  
Elizabeth Ivey, Common Ground Recovery Ministries 337-1712  
Susan Marrs, Executive Secretary Tina Williams, Financial Secretary  
Karen Watson, Administrative Assistant Debbie Watson, Organist  
Tim Williamson, Director of Digital Media

**FOR THE RECORD . . .**

CGRM: (Tues., May 31) . . . . .	7
Neighborhood (Wed., June 1) . . . . .	22
Sunday School (Sun. June 5) . . . . .	74
Worship (June 5): 8:40am Worship Service . . . . .	44
10:45am Worship Service . . . . .	177
Total Worship . . . . .	243
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$21,040.06
Sunday Receipts for 6/5/22	\$11,168.00
Through June 6: Income \$412,030.79	Expenses \$476,438.86

Don't Forget to "Like Us" on **facebook** Or "Subscribe to Us" on **YouTube** Or "Follow Us" on **Instagram**



**FIRST CHRISTIAN**  
WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS  
CHRISTIAN CHALLENGER  
3701 Taft Boulevard | Wichita Falls TX 76308

**FCC Swag Shop**



Get outfitted with the latest FCC Swag! We've got t-shirts, polo shirts, denim shirts, button downs, and vests, with more on the way. Not only will you look good in this gear, it may provide an opportunity for you to share about First Christian Church in the community. You never know who will see your gear and

ask about it! Check out the online swag store on our website, [www.firstchristianwf.com/swag](http://www.firstchristianwf.com/swag), and order today!

THE CHRISTIAN CHALLENGER  
Pub. No. (USPS 559-820) Published biweekly by First Christian Church, 3701 Taft Blvd., Wichita Falls TX 76308-2315. Periodical postage paid at Wichita Falls TX. - POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to Christian Challenger, 3701 Taft Blvd., Wichita Falls, TX 76308-2315.