

## VBS Family Night!



Mark your calendars for tomorrow evening, Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>! We will be having our end of VBS celebrations from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. We will start the evening in the Sanctuary and then make our way to the food trucks in the parking lot and Fellowship Hall for more fun!

The VBS Family Night isn't just for families of participants or for the volunteers. It's for you, too. Every generation in our church should be represented there because it demonstrates our commitment to this next generation of adults and their kids. Yes, many of these families have churches they call home. But the goal for your participation tomorrow evening isn't to press our guests into deeper engagement with First Christian. Instead, the simple gift of your presence speaks volumes about our commitment to every kid/every family that comes into our orbit, and that matters more than we may ever realize. I hope you will make every effort to join us tomorrow evening!

## MSU International Students Baskets Giveaway

Once again we have the opportunity of welcoming new International students to Wichita Falls and MSU by putting together baskets of items to help them get started. We will be providing approximately 150 baskets this year. We are so fortunate and blessed this year to be partnering with four other neighborhood churches on this project: First Presbyterian, City Hope, Park Place Christian and Grace. They have agreed to join us in welcoming these new students. The basket giveaway will be Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, after orientation.

Baskets are available in the Chapel & Sanctuary Narthex. **PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR BASKETS UNTIL AFTER JULY 14<sup>th</sup>.** If you have any questions, you may call Linda Gipson or Linda & Larry Carr.

If you would like to start purchasing items for the baskets, the items needed are listed below. **PLEASE PLACE IN BASKET "ONLY" WHAT IS LISTED. "NO EXTRAS."** PLEASE, ALSO MAKE SURE DISHES ARE MICROWAVABLE.

### APARTMENT:

Queen sheet set  
 Standard pillow  
 Blanket or throw

### DORM:

Long Twin sheet set  
 Standard Pillow  
 Blanket or throw

### BOTH APARTMENT & DORM:

- Towels – 1 bath, 1 hand, 1 washcloth
- 1 Dish towel set – towel, hot pad, dish cloth
- 2 Dinner Plates
- 2 Small Bowls
- 2 Each – fork, knife, spoon
- 2 Drinking glasses
- 2 Mugs
- 1 Large Microwavable Serving Bowl
- 1 Large Spoon
- 1 Spatula for flipping and serving
- 1 Skillet or Saucepan
- 1 Kitchen Knife
- 1 Hand Can Opener
- 1 Small Dish Detergent



## CMF Men's Breakfast - Friday, July 14

Join the Christian Men's Fellowship for breakfast, a devotional, and great conversation this Friday, July 14, at 7:00 am at the Hwy. Cafe (2808 Old Jacksboro Hwy.). Invite a friend to join you!

## Are We Ready? August Adult Forum



Join your church family for a conversation on what it means to say a good word for Jesus Christ. The August Adult Forum will take place on August 13, 20, and 27 at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.



# Make Your Mark

Dr. Mark R. Bender  
Senior Minister



## Knowing Who We Are, Part 1

This Summer, I've been using this *Make Your Mark column* to talk about how to ready ourselves for the assignment of making God known. As I said in the June 14 column, we want to be ready when someone shows up looking for God...and that starts with knowing who we are and what we're about.

In worship on Sunday, July 2, I shared some of the commonalities between our nation's *Declaration of Independence* and the *Declaration and Address* written by one of our founders, Thomas Campbell. While the *Declaration* described the form and function of the newly-formed (1809) Christian Association of Washington, Pennsylvania, it is the *Address* that contains a series of thirteen "propositions" which provided some of the genesis for the formation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In 2009, as a part of the Bicentennial celebration of the Declaration and Address, Abilene Christian University professor Douglas A. Foster put together a "Contemporary Restating of the 13 Propositions":

### Proposition 1

Christ established one church-just one. This church is made up of everyone who has faith in Christ and is trying to follow him in the ways God's Spirit in scripture has told us, and who others can see are being transformed into his likeness by the way they act. No one else has a right to be called a Christian.

### Proposition 2

It is physically impossible for all Christians to be together in one place to worship and work, so there have to be local groups of Christians that reflect the culture, language, and context of each place. These groups will not all look, think, or act alike, yet they are all part of Christ's church and ought to recognize it. They must accept and embrace each other just as Christ has accepted each of us. This will happen when Christians have the mind of Christ-that is, when they are willing to give themselves for those Christ died to redeem. This is the rule of Christ. This and this alone will join them perfectly.

### Proposition 3

Therefore, nothing should be required to recognize, fellowship, embrace, work, worship, and be fully and visibly united with all Christians that is not specifically made a requirement by God in his word. Nothing should be required in the way local bodies of Christians operate that is not specifically required by Christ and his Apostles for the church. Furthermore, the chief requirements for full fellowship that God has declared are our love for God and for people. This love is formed by our understanding of God's love for us shown through Christ.

### Proposition 4

Both the Old and New Testaments are essential parts of the revelation of God's nature and work. They cannot be separated. While it is true that the practices required in the Old Testament (sacrifices, temple worship,

priesthood, etc.) are not in force for Christians and that the good news of God's saving work is found fully in the New Testament, both testaments teach us about God's nature and work. The Bible is not primarily a constitution that functions as a legal document to consult in legal disputes. It is, instead, the sword of the Spirit; it is a place where we encounter God's Spirit and are transformed increasingly into the likeness of Christ. Attending to scripture is essential to the visible unity of Christ's church.

### Proposition 5

The Bible does not spell out in detail everything Christians are supposed to think, do or be-that is just not the nature of scripture. When there are specific actions Christians are told to take, there is



almost never a set of detailed requirements for how to do it. Humans often want more detail and try to expand on the specifics, often making them requirements for accepting other Christians or groups of Christians. That is wrong. Again, Christians are those who say they are Christians and who show that they are by the way they live. No one should be allowed to require anything for recognition and fellowship that is outside of scripture and its work of transformation.

### Proposition 6

God gave us the ability to think and reason-that is a good thing. If, however, in the process of using our reason we come to conclusions that other Christians do not reach, and that causes us to reject them, we have been deceived by the evil one. Our pride has taken over and stopped our continued growth into the mind of Christ-a mind of complete humility and self-sacrifice. Human reason is not the ultimate standard for truth. Christians ought to be growing constantly in their understanding of the profound truths of the gospel-that's part of our spiritual growth as communities. But requiring or even expecting others to be where you are is not conducive to the visible unity Christ so much wants.

### Proposition 7

Again, it is a good thing to use the intellectual abilities God has given us to plumb the depths of the marvelous truths of God. It is a good thing to think, and struggle and write about these matters. Individual Christians and Christian communities can and should draw great benefit in their spiritual growth from such efforts. Statements of belief can be very helpful in drawing our minds to the unspeakable riches and blessings we have been given and of which we can and should tell others. However, we must realize that such statements are the product of our human reasoning which, like everything else human, is not perfect. Even when we reach a mature level of doctrinal understanding, we need to remind ourselves constantly that there will always be Christians at all maturity levels-but they are still Christians!

In Part 2, we will pick up with the final six propositions which speak clearly about divisions within the church. But as you can already see above, Campbell's vision was for a unified church that takes discipleship seriously and works to extend grace. You can see that heritage in what we still do today.

Mark

# FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

## Summer Dates To Note

### July

July 15 Family Fun at Rangers Game  
July 16-21 Youth Mission Trip (Austin TX)  
July 26 Children's Day of Service (Grades 4-5)  
July 27 Youth Trip to Six Flags  
July 31-Aug. 4 DC Kids (Grades 1-5)  
at Disciples Crossing in Athens TX

### August

Aug. 6 Youth End of Summer Pool Party  
Aug. 11-12 Youth Lock In  
Aug. 13 Promotion Sunday & Backpack Blessing  
Youth Disciples Back to School Pool Party

## Interfaith Outreach Services Pantry Sunday



The **July** items are macaroni & cheese and cans of soup. **Interfaith is in need of regular size paper grocery sacks.** You may drop off any of the monthly requested items or paper sacks at any time in 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.

## An Evening of Music

Please join Mark Sutton & David Holcomb for a family friendly evening of Texas Acoustic-Americana, Jazzy-Folk-Soft Rock Music on Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 7:00-9:00 pm, at the Red River Valley Venue & Opry House, 719 Main Street, Byers TX. Cost is \$10.00 at the Door (12 Years & Under Free). Concessions available.

## Lloyd Mark Sutton David Holcomb

Saturday, July 22 7pm-9pm

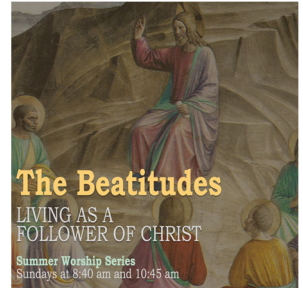


## Red River Valley Venue & Opry House

719 Main St, Byers, TX  
281-785-1990



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



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

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

**Pickleball!** Join us for Pickleball on Sundays at 3:00 pm in the Gym. No experience required, on the court instruction, and it's loads of fun. For more information contact Colleen James or Susan Buckley.

**College Bible Study - Monday Afternoons:** Join Brooke and fellow students on Monday afternoons for fellowship and Bible Study in our college classroom, Room 305, at 3:00 pm. For more information contact Brooke Reid at 940-692-2282 or brooke@firstchristianwf.com or follow the **FCC Wichita Falls College Ministry** on Instagram (@fccwf\_college).

**Sanctuary Flowers** - There are open dates for Sanctuary flower donations! If you would like flowers displayed in the Sanctuary worship service in honor or in memory of a loved one or group, please contact Sherry Tucker at 940-696-2490.

**Meal Masters** - Our youth group is looking for some meal masters to help provide their Sunday evening meals! If you would like to help contact Brooke Reid at: brooke@firstchristianwf.com to sign up for a date!

**Electric Scooter Available in Sanctuary:** First Christian now has available an electric scooter in the Sanctuary Narthex for congregational use. Inquire at the Welcome Center in the Sanctuary Narthex if you need to use it.

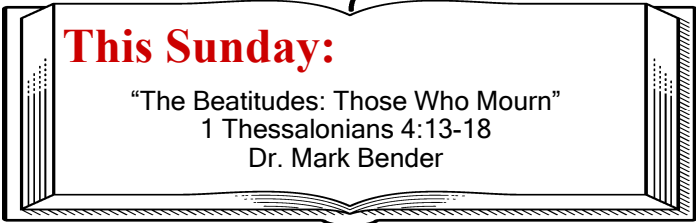
### Member News:

♥**Hospitalized:** No one. Released and back home are Ronnie James, Ted Lauck & Pat Sutton.

♥Our sympathies are extended to Chris Staley, Camille Brookshire & Nancy Jirick and Families on learning of the death of Chris' father, Camille's brother and Nancy's uncle, Conrad Staley, on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Services were held July 12<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

♥Our condolences are extended to Samantha Preston on learning of the death of her father, Greg Thomas, on July 1<sup>st</sup>. A public celebration of Greg's life will be held at a date and time to be determined in August.





# This Sunday:

“The Beatitudes: Those Who Mourn”  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Dr. Mark Bender

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Sunday, July 16, 2023

8:40 Worship (Chapel)  
9:30 Sunday School  
10:00 Leave on Youth Mission Trip (July 16-21) (Austin TX)  
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary or Join the Livestream on YouTube or Facebook.com/FCCWF)

3:00 Pickleball (Gym)  
NO Youth Fellowship (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)  
5:45 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402/405)

### Monday, July 17, 2023

7:30-6:00 Children Come First “CCF” (M-F)  
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)  
NO College Bible Study (Rm 305)

### Tuesday, July 18, 2023

9:30 FCC Staff Mtg/Worship Planning (Rm 310)  
3:30 CCF Kona Ice (Parking Lot)  
6:00 Stewardship Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)  
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Groups (Rms 304, 306, 308)

### Wednesday, July 19, 2023

7:00 Elders’ Breakfast (Rm 405)  
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 300)  
1:00 Stretch Class (Parlor)  
5:30 The Neighborhood Brown Bag Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 The Neighborhood Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 First Kidz (Pre-K-5) (Rm 402)  
NO Youth Fellowship (Grades 6-12) (Rm 402/Gym)

### Friday, July 21, 2023

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 300)

### Sunday, July 23, 2023

8:40 Worship (Chapel)  
9:30 Sunday School  
10:45 Worship (Sanctuary or Join the Livestream on YouTube or Facebook.com/FCCWF)

3:00 Pickleball (Gym)  
5:00 Youth Fellowship (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)  
5:45 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Rm 402/405)

### Monday, July 24, 2023

7:30-6:00 Children Come First “CCF” (M-F)  
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)  
3:00 College Bible Study (Rm 305)

### Tuesday, July 25, 2023

9:30 FCC Staff Mtg/Worship Planning (Rm 310)  
3:30 CCF-Kona Ice (Parking Lot)  
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Groups (Rms 304, 306, 308)

### Wednesday, July 26, 2023

7:00 Elders’ Breakfast (Rm 405)  
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 300)  
9:00 Children’s Day of Service (Grades 4-5) (WF Area Food Bank)  
1:00 Stretch Class (Parlor)  
5:30 The Neighborhood Brown Bag Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 The Neighborhood Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)  
6:00 First Kidz (Pre-K-5) (Rm 402)  
6:00 Youth Bible Study (Grades 6-12) (Rm 305)  
7:00 Youth Fellowship (Grades 6-12) (Rm 402/Gym)

### Thursday, July 27, 2023

9:00 Leave on Youth Trip to Six Flags (Arlington TX)

### Friday, July 28, 2023

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 300)

## SERVING SUNDAY

### ELDERS

7/16: Linda C. Carr, Chris Showalter; Fred Gentry, Presiding  
7/23: David Collins, Harry Tonemah; Polly Tonemah, Presiding

### JULY DIACONATE SERVERS

Bob Hayes, Captain; Debi Ballard, Co-Captain  
Larry Ballard, Lee Bybee, Sarah Cook, LyDora Martin, Caitlin Barker, Charles & Jeanna Berry, Davidson Cook, Debbie & Mark Turnbow, Ethan Earley.

### DIACONATE SCHEDULED FOR COMMUNION PREPARATION

7/16: Lee Bybee & Bob Hayes 7/23: Debbie & Mark Turnbow

### DIACONATE SCHEDULED FOR COMMUNION VISITATION

7/16: Debi Ballard, Ethan Earley, Larry Ballard  
7/23: Bob Hayes, Caitlin Barker, Lee Bybee

## 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., July 4) . . . . .	
Neighborhood (Wed., July 5) . . . . .	29
Sunday School (Sun. July 9) . . . . .	69
Worship (July 9): 8:40am Worship Service . . . . .	32
10:45am Worship Service . . . . .	217
Total Worship . . . . .	278
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week	\$22,566.58
Sunday Receipts for 7/9/23	\$15,767.84
Through July 10: Income \$570,509.19	Expenses \$638,007.50

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