



Join in the next Fellowship Lunch

"Lettuce" make plan to join together for an all-church lunch on Sunday, September 17, at 12:00 pm, as we "Taco Bout" all the great things FCC has to offer, just in "queso" you've forgotten! Invite a friend to join you for a "supreme"-ly good time. After all, everyone eats, so why "nacho" here? We promise it won't be too "cheesy". Please RSVP on your Connection Card in worship or by calling the church office.

Volunteer at the Food Bank



The World Outreach Ministry has arranged for FCC members/visitors to volunteer at the Wichita Area Food Bank on the 2nd Thursday morning of each month from 9:00 am to noon. We will help with the PowerPak4Kids program to address weekend hunger in children. Volunteers are needed beginning on Thursday, **September 14th**, and should call the church office, 940-692-2282, to sign up.

Choirs Resume

Our Sunday afternoon of choirs begin this week on September 10. **Chancel Ringers**, led by Jeanette Showalter, resume in Stratten Hall at 3:45 pm.

Young Disciples Choir, grades K through 5, led by Jeanette Showalter, begins at 5:00 pm in Stratten Hall, and our newest choir, our **Pre-school Choir**, ages 3-4 and

5's not in kindergarten, begins at 5:00 pm also.

This week, the **Pre-school Choir** will first gather in Stratten Hall, then move to their permanent home in Room 311. Maggy Anderson will be leading this new choir.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeanette Showalter at 940-781-5199.



CMF Men's Breakfast Friday, September 8

Join the Christian Men's Fellowship for breakfast, a devotional, and great conversation on Friday, September 8th, at 7:00 am at the Hwy. Cafe (2808 Old Jacksboro Hwy.). Invite a friend to join you!

Christian Women's Fellowship Luncheon



The September CWF Luncheon will be Monday, **September 11th**, at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. This year's theme for our luncheons is "Journeys of Faith," and the speaker in September will be Kris Gossom, Executive Director of Interfaith Outreach Services. Reservations are not required and guests are welcome. Cost is \$8.00 per person. The CWF Board will meet at 10:30 am in Room 310 prior to the luncheon.



2023 Fall Bible Study A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23

by W. Phillip Keller

Psalm 23 is probably the most well-known and popular of all the psalms. In W. Phillip Keller's *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*, we will travel the shepherd's path to green pastures and cool, refreshing waters. As a shepherd himself, Keller shares his insights into the life and character of sheep and of the Good Shepherd who loves and cares for them. This book will give new meaning to the ageless Shepherd Psalm, enriching our trust in and love for the Lord who watches closely over us.

Join Sheri Sutton for this 6-week study beginning September 20 2023. **There will be two in-person options for this study: Wednesday mornings at 10:15 am and Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm.** Both sessions will meet in Room 310. A Zoom option will be offered at both times as well with the sign-in information available before the first session.

Please call the church office at (940) 692-2282 to register and order your book (\$7.00). **Read the Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2 before the first session.**

Make Your Mark

Dr. Mark R. Bender
Senior Minister

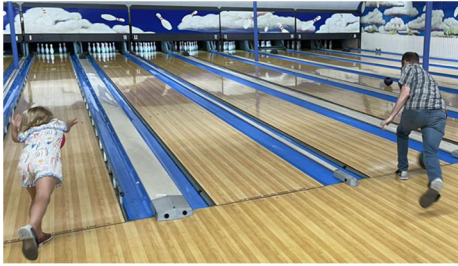


God is at Work

I took a moment earlier this week to look back. As we moved fully into the Fall season, I spent some time reviewing all that we had done as a church during the summer. It was almost mind-blowing to think about the ministry that took place inside and outside the church. For example:

- Our children capably led us in worship on **Children's Sunday**.

- More than 60 of us knocked down pins at the **All Church Bowling Night**.



- Our **Off-Site VBS** at the Wichita Falls Housing Authority

brought kids and families together for a week of fun.

- We hosted our first **Father-Daughter Dance** on the weekend of Father's Day.

- We sent our children and youth to four different **summer camps at Disciples Crossing** as well as kids and grandparents to Grand Camp.

- Our **College Ministry** met for Bible Study every week and threw in a couple of fun trips.

- Our church generously **collected diapers** for the Youth Mission Trip.

- The **Christian Men's Fellowship** continued their monthly breakfasts, and had to add tables to accommodate more participants.

- More than 150 kids and 40 volunteers participated in our **Vacation Bible School**, and more than 350 kids and family members joined in the VBS Family Night.



- Eighty participants from the church loaded up on a bus (and in cars) and traveled to Arlington for our **Family Afternoon with the Rangers**.

- Fifteen youth and adults spent a week working around Austin on our **Youth Mission Trip**.

- Members of our church filled baskets for newly arriving International (Global Education) students at MSU. These **baskets** included bedding, towels, kitchen supplies, and more.

- We gathered as a church for three weeks during the **August Adult Forum**, where we talked about why people need Jesus Christ, the Church, and *this* church.

- Our kids joined with kids from First Presbyterian

Church and First United Methodist Church in a **Children's Day of Service**, making cookies, serving at the Food Bank, and doing other mission work.

- Nearly every Sunday afternoon, youth, college students, and adults gathered for fun and fellowship as they played **Pickleball** in our gym.

- Our youth had a blast on one of the hottest days of the year for their **Youth Trip to Six Flags**.

- 27 youth and adults traveled to Carrollton for a **Youth Lock-In** at Group Dynamix.

- More than 60 folks joined an **At the Table Group** and have met in groups of 6-8 in restaurants and homes.



- Our Outreach Ministry helped host a **Back to School Bash** for new students at Fain Elementary.

- The **Feed My Flock** ministry met and prepared meals for those in our church who need a home-cooked meal.

- Our children, youth, and Young Family tried to escape the heat through multiple **Pool Parties** held throughout the summer.

- The Discovery Class **hosted more than 65 riders** in town for the Hotter 'n' Hell race.

- Our **Children Come First** program had more than 85 kids enrolled over the summer and began the Fall season with nearly 80 kids and a waiting list exceeding 70.

- Our **Young Ages Preschool** kicked off their 51st year with 39 students.

- We asked our FCC church family to consider serving as a **Fain Elementary Prayer Partner**. In 72 hours, every teacher, administrator, and staff member at Fain had someone from our church signed up to pray for them this year.

And we could add to this list all sorts of ongoing ministries - our **Sunday worship services**, **The Neighborhood**, the **Chancel Choir**, **Sunday School classes**, **Common Ground Recovery Ministries**, our **Elders**, and others - faithfully continued to meet and *shepherd every person to encounter the abundant peace of Christ*.

The first reason to look back is to give thanks. We can give thanks for the many ways we saw God show up in the lives of our congregation this summer. Throughout all of those ministry opportunities listed above, we saw God's faithfulness abound.

But another reason to look back is to identify areas where we need to "add fuel to the fire" - to further support growing ministries and prepare for new seasons of engagement. And, we've got more than a few of these! God has been at work in our congregation, and so we will continue to do our part to prepare for what God is doing in our midst. That will include our ministry planning this Fall, the presentation of an architectural master plan, budget planning for 2024, and more.

I am amazed at all that has taken place through First Christian Church. And I'm excited for what lies in front of us this Fall as we help others engage with Jesus Christ.

Mark

FCC MINISTRY NEWS AND CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS



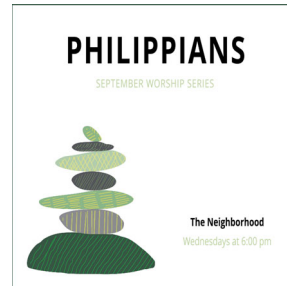
Welcome New Member!

It was a joy to welcome Renee Eschmann back into our membership this past Sunday, September 3rd, from San Antonio TX. Her contact information is: 4923 Big Bend Rd, 76310, 940-704-5041. Welcome back, Renee!

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



Wednesdays at
The Neighborhood
6:00 pm | Fellowship Hall



Interfaith Outreach Services Pantry Sunday



The **September** items are canned corn, canned potatoes, canned spaghetti sauce & pasta. **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.

The **Challenger** is biweekly, with the next publication on Sept. 20! 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.

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!

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 4:00 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).

Member News:

♥**Hospitalized:** at URHCS is David Gately; at Windmill Rehab is Debbie Carlton. Released and back home are Linda C. Carr, David Diebold, Genie Ratliff.

♥Our sympathies are extended to Joe Vaccarella & Family on learning of the death of his sister, Glenda Jeter, on August 23rd in Arlington TX.

Take advantage of and enjoy your First Christian Church Library and its contents any time the church building is open.

Birthday Party
Carol's 80th

Join us to celebrate
Carol Nowell
turning 80!

Sunday, September 24th
Come & Go 2-4pm
For Cupcakes & Punch
Cards Welcome

Presbyterian Manor
Fountain Lounge
4600 Taft, Wichita Falls, TX 76308

50's attire/costumes
welcomed and encouraged

*The Ladies of the
Christian Women's Fellowship
cordially invite you to a
Baby Shower
for
Chelsea McKee
Daughter of Jodi & Mark Bender
on
Sunday, October 8, 2023
from 2:00-4:00 pm
in the Church Parlor
of First Christian Church*

*Selections at:
Babylist.com*

****Gift Cards Only, Please,
Bring a Book****

This Sunday:

“Wake Up Call: Wacht Auf”
1 Thessalonians 5:1-8
Dr. Mark R. Bender

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, September 10, 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)
3:45 Chancel Ringers (Stratten Hall)
5:00 Preschool Choir (3-5 year olds) (Room 311)
5:00 Young Disciples Choir (Grades K-5)
5:00 Youth Fellowship (Grades 6-12) (Room 403/Gym)
5:45 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Room 402)

Monday, September 11, 2023

7:30-6:00 Children Come First “CCF” (M-F)
9:00-12:00 Young Ages Preschool “YAS” (M-F)
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
10:30 Christian Women’s Fellowship “CWF” Board Meeting (Rm 310)
11:45 CWF Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
4:00 College Bible Study (Rm 305)
5:30 ComTech Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

9:30 FCC Staff Mtg/Worship Planning (Rm 310)
10:00 YAS Music (Rm 300)
12:00 Evangelism Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)
5:30 Outreach Ministry Meeting (Rm 305)
6:00 Property Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Groups (Rms 304, 306, 308)

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

7:00 Elders’ Breakfast (Rm 405)
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 300)
10:00 YAS Music (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)
6:00 Youth Bible Study (Grades 6-12) (Rm 305)
7:00 Youth Fellowship (Grades 6-12) (Rm 402/Gym)
7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsals (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

Thursday, September 14, 2023

10:00 YAS Chapel (Chapel)
6:00 Membership Ministry Meeting (Rm 220)

Friday, September 15, 2023

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 300)
10:00 YAS Chapel (Chapel)

Sunday, September 17, 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)
3:45 Chancel Ringers (Stratten Hall)
4:30 Youth Parents Meeting (Rm 403)
5:00 Preschool Choir (3-5 year olds) (Room 311)
5:00 Young Disciples Choir (Grades K-5)
5:00 Youth Fellowship (Grades 6-12) (Rm 403/Gym)
5:45 Young Disciples (Grades K-5) (Room 402/405)

Monday, September 18, 2023

7:30-6:00 Children Come First “CCF” (M-F)
9:00-12:00 Young Ages Preschool “YAS” (M-F)
9:00 CCF Chapel (Chapel)
1:00 CWF Group 1 Meeting (1702 Cedar Ave)
4:00 College Bible Study (Rm 305)
7:30 Boy Scouts Troop 15 (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

9:30 FCC Staff Mtg/Worship Planning (Rm 310)
10:00 YAS Music (Rm 300)
6:00 Faith Formation Ministry Meeting (Parlor)
6:00 Stewardship Ministry Meeting (Rm 310)
6:30 Common Ground Recovery Ministries Groups (Rms 304, 306, 308)

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

7:00 Elders’ Breakfast (Rm 405)
9:00 CCF Spanish (Rm 300)
10:00 YAS Music (Rm 300)
10:15 Sheri Sutton’s Fall Bible Study (Rm 310)
12:00 CWF Group 2 Meeting (Rm 405)
12:00 YAS Staff Meeting (Parlor)
1:00 Stretch Class (Parlor)
5:30 Sheri Sutton’s Fall Bible Study (Rm 310)
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 to Student Worship Night (Faith Baptist)
7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal (High School-Adults) (Stratten Hall)

Friday, September 21, 2023

9:00 CCF Music (Rm 300)
5:30 MSU Mustang Meal (Fellowship Hall)

SERVING SUNDAY ELDERS

9/10: Rick Appling, Kathleen Lauck; Alan Freeman, Presiding
9/17: Teresa Archambo, Woody Gossom; Scot Hafley, Presiding

SEPTEMBER DIACONATE SERVERS

Curtis Sullivan, Captain; Terry Burross, Co-Captain
Curtis Dolberry, Linda Gipson, Becky Looney, Nancy Smith, Karen Burross, Shirley Craft, Martha Elms, Laura & Mark Pease, Mark Vallejo.

DIACONATE SCHEDULED FOR COMMUNION PREPARATION

9/10: Nancy Smith & Shirley Craft 9/17: Laura & Mark Pease
DIACONATE SCHEDULED FOR COMMUNION VISITATION

9/10: Linda Gipson, Becky Looney, Nancy Smith
9/17: Shirley Craft, Martha Elms, Curtis Sullivan

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., Aug. 29)	12	
Neighborhood (Wed., Aug. 30)	32	
Sunday School (Sun. Sept. 3)	58	
Worship (Sept. 3): 8:40am Worship Service	30	
10:45am Worship Service	218	
Total Worship	263	
Sunday Receipts Needed Per Week		\$22,566.58
Sunday Receipts for 9/3/23		\$8,462.40
Through Sept.5: Income \$693,792.14		Expenses \$802,213.79

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