



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

3401 Santa Fe
Corpus Christi, TX 78411
Phone: 361-854-3044
Fax: 361-854-3062
www.fcc-cc.org

Sunday Schedule

Church School

9:15 a.m.

Worship

10:30 a.m.

Staff

Senior Minister

Rev. Rusty Wright
pastor@fcc-cc.org

Church Coordinator

Linda Butler
coordinator@fcc-cc.org

Financial Assistant

Elena Garza
finance@fcc-cc.org

Day School Director

Noelia Torrez
dayschool@fcc-cc.org
361-854-1241
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When we lived in San Antonio and our girls were younger, there were many times when, after a long day of doing “preacher stuff,” then coming home and taking care of all my domestic duties, all I wanted to do is relax. But inevitably, just as I would sit down on the couch, Madeline and/or Julia would come over to me and ask in a sweet little voice, “Daddy, will you play with me?” Now, I must be honest— sometimes I didn’t want to play.



After a long day, all I wanted to do is “veg” and, to my shame, sometimes I would tell the girls that I was too tired and ask them to go play with their dolls (which they were content to do). But, other times I’d say “yes” and I would drag myself off the couch for a game of baseball or soccer in the backyard. And, even though I initially didn’t want to play, I was *always* glad I did. Because, during our time together, I would see a look of incredible joy on the faces of my little girls and I was glad that I didn’t let this opportunity pass by.

When I was serving as Youth Pastor in Azle, our youth group teamed up with the youth groups from a couple of other churches for a mission trip to Kansas and, honestly, I really didn’t want to go. Of course, I went anyway (it was my job, after all). But, as I made the long drive back to Texas, I was so thankful for the experience. Because, Jesus was on that trip with us. I saw the face of Christ in the faces of those sweaty youth as they helped people who couldn’t help themselves. I felt the presence of God under the hot (and I mean HOT) Kansas sun as kids and adults from different churches and different walks of life worked side by side, building enduring friendships with their shared love for Jesus as the foundation. And, today, I see the whole experience as an incredible blessing.

How often does this happen in the church? How many opportunities to experience the presence of God do we let pass us by? I mean, we know of a fellowship event or a service project that’s coming up and think it might be nice if we helped out. We know that Sunday School starts at 9:15 and there is a Bible study on Tuesdays at 6:30 and it would be helpful to our spiritual journey if we attend. Maybe someone even took the time to invite us to participate in one of these events. But, it’s been a long day and we’re so “tired,” or we think of a million other things to do so we decide to skip the fellowship event and tell ourselves that we will help out “next time.” Or, we decide to skip Sunday School so we can get an extra hour of sleep or because we think it’s just for kids. But, how much joy do we miss experiencing because we say we’re “too tired?” How often do we miss seeing the face of Jesus through those with whom we worship and serve? How many opportunities to feel the presence of God do we let pass us by because “we have too many other things to do?” In my case, the answer is far too many. Maybe that’s your answer as well. So, if you have an opportunity for fellowship, to serve or to learn more about God and God’s plan for your life, before making an excuse, maybe you should take a moment to think about what you might be missing. Because, life is short and what we do with the little time we have will show the world what is really important to us. So, don’t let those opportunities pass you by. Because, I have absolutely no doubt that, somewhere along the line, you *will* see the face, hear the voice, and feel the presence of Jesus, and that’s so much more satisfying than even the most comfortable couch.

Peace and Blessings,
Rusty

(reprint from February 2016)

Ministry Reports

Ministry Council

The Ministry Council will meet Wednesday, July 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Sabbatical Ministry

Greetings from the Sabbatical Ministry Team (SMT). We are now officially halfway through 2019. It seems like we were just celebrating Easter and enjoying the beautiful, flowered cross outside the narthex doors after the worship service that Sunday morning. It was a breezy day, and the sun was bright as we thought of those things that Easter Day brings – amazement, hope, and joy.

We are now able to see how quickly two months have passed and we will soon realize that the Sabbatical Season for Rev. Rusty, Amy, Madeline, and Julia *and* First Christian Church will come to a close until 2024.

One of the concerns a church typically has when preparing for a pastor sabbatical is that attendance will go down during that time. Actually, the summer of 2019 vs. the summer of 2018 has not been too different when we review attendance. Yes, our membership change a little due to family vacations and such, but that is the way it is each summer – even when we are not in a sabbatical season.

I would like to think that one of the reasons our summer worship attendance has been steady is due to the Messengers bringing the Word to us during this time. Our next wave of Messengers will surely be inspiring and uplifting. Every single person who has stood or will stand in the pulpit, to deliver God's Message to us during Sunday Worship, will not only be changed, but will make a difference to those who hear their words. Each Messenger has something to say for some or for all. We never know how God's Word will change us... it may not happen during worship, it may not even happen a week or a year later, but at some point, the words we hear from God, coming from our Messengers, will make a difference in our lives.

We still have five Messengers and their witness to hear; Rev. David Bartlett, Linda De La Garza, Richard Crews, Rev. Dr. Linda Frost, and Christi Cowan. God is extravagant in his gifts to us and each of these Messengers will be sharing their gift with us in the next five weeks. On the sixth week Rev. Rusty will return to tell us what God revealed to him during this short time apart.

Please accept this invitation from the SMT; come to church at 10:30am for the next six Sunday mornings. If you want to attend Bible Study come at 9:15am. If you have a weekend away scheduled during that time, then come on the Sundays you can and listen to the Messengers online at www.fcc-cc.org under "What's New".

Please contact me or any member of the SMT if you have any questions.

—Kelle Clark, SMT Chair

Membership Ministry

The Membership Ministry welcomes ideas regarding how to connect new members to our church family and familiarizing them with our facilities. The Membership Ministry is also looking at ideas as to how to reconnect all of our church family members to classes, ministries, volunteer opportunities and/or special events at First Christian. The Membership Ministry is looking for additional members to our ministry which normally meets the 3rd Wed of each month at 5:30PM, next meeting will be Aug 21st.

Please contact Terry Klinger with any questions or ideas.

Evangelism & Outreach Ministry

TAMUCC IZZY'S FOOD PANTRY DRIVE A HUGE SUCCESS!!

Once again the First Christian Church Family came through in an amazing way for Izzy's Food Pantry at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi! Leaders from TAMUCC were here to pick up food donations and were very appreciative of the generosity of our congregation. Their vehicle was filled to the brim with numerous boxes and sacks of grocery food items! Your donation will provide critical, non-perishable food items to students experiencing food insecurity within the campus and will ultimately aid in their academic performance. Thank you once again for helping First Christian Church to shine the Light of Christ at TAMUCC!

Blessings,

—Evangelism & Outreach Ministry Team

All Church Retreat

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT!!

"PLANTED BY GOD"

Worship Leader: Rev. Rusty Wright

August 30 – September 2, 2019 – LABOR DAY WEEKEND!!

Camp Gonzo, Gonzalez, TX

REGISTRATION BEGINS: Sunday, July 28

DEADLINE to REGISTER: August 15, 2019



Join us in spending Labor Day Weekend with your FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH FAMILY as we explore ways to "Bloom Where We Are Planted"! You will experience the joy and laughter of Praise and Worship, delicious meals, hilarious games, swimming, quiet time, door prizes, and fellowship in a relaxed atmosphere on the grounds of BEAUTIFUL Camp Gonzo! It will be an experience YOU AND YOUR FAMILY will never forget! More details coming SOON!

Thoughts on Stewardship

Time, Talent, and Treasure. These are the components that we reference when we hear about stewardship. Each of us might interpret these “T’s” differently; for example, “Time” is pretty straight forward when we think of the 24/7/365 we expect to have and use each day, but if we think about it in terms of something lost or never received it can change how we think about “Time”. Often we may say, “I’ll take care of that tomorrow”, or “I’ve got until next week to worry about that issue”. We are expecting to have and to use that time. The fact is that we don’t know if we will get a tomorrow or a next week. We want to get that “Time”, but it may just not happen. Things we plan or put-off today are just as important as those things we will plan or put-off until tomorrow.

“There is no time like the present” and “money doesn’t grow on trees”. Both of these clichés have stood the test of “Time”. Am I saying that Treasure is more important than “Time”? Nope. I think they are both important – maybe equally. We can’t make either one. We can earn money, but we can’t earn time. We can make time to do something, but that something won’t necessarily make treasure. A circle. Each can depend on the other or they can stand on their own.

There are many in First Christian Church who have chosen to give of their time. I am going to list a few below, not because they are better or doing more, but because they need some assistance and I think that there are more in our church family who can give a little of their time to make it easier and better for us all.

- Communion Preparation/Postparation: There is a group who makes sure that the Holy Communion elements are ready before worship each and every Sunday. They also make sure that the elements are cleaned-up after each service, taking care to clean and cover the silver service and prepare for the next worship service. They also prepare for special services such as Rev. David Bartlett’s recent Ordination Service. We are blessed that Claudia Grivich, Karen Whelan, Linda De La Garza, Elena Blackburn, and Barbara Baker are willing to give of their time to make sure that everything is ready *every* Sunday. After all, it would be a very different Disciples of Christ worship if Holy Communion was not prepared and ready at the Lord’s Table.
- Audio/Visual: There is a team present each Sunday to make sure that we can hear and see the worship service. Judith Whitlock, Bud Sutphin, Art Serrano, and Frank Palacino are the members of the Audio/Visual Ministry. They give their time on Sunday mornings to run the visuals during the Sunday morning Praise Team practice, microphone check the Elders serving that day, and load any last minute changes or additions as they occur. Then they do it all again during worship. These folks also volunteer to be present on Thursday evenings during the Praise Team practice and also when a special service will be held in the sanctuary such as a wedding or memorial service to make sure that the event goes smoothly.

There are other areas where our FCC brothers and sisters have given their Time and we will explore those in other newsletters. Maybe you have some spare time to assist with one of these two ministries. If more folks would assist, then the time spent by the current team members would be reduced – in this scenario you actually could make time; time to help another, time to participate, and time to give of our first fruits and make praise and worship to God the most important thing that we do.

—Rev. Kellē Clark

FCC Youth & Stewardship Minister

p.s. To those of you who are teachers or maybe you are passionate about the English language, I know postparation is not a word, but it made you look! Thank you for taking the time to notice.

Youth Group Ministry

Happy July FCC family from everyone with the Youth Ministry. As you are reading this, the youth have completed 3 summer events already this summer; CYF Conference for High Schoolers, Eighter's Camp for 8th Graders, and the Disciples Summer Mission trip to Missouri which was available to our Middle and High Schoolers. As we are looking ahead, we have 3 more summers events coming up this month and another in August.

First, we have the Chi-Rho Summer Camp for Middle Schoolers coming up July 7-13 and the CYLS July 8-13. Many of you are aware of the many camps going on at the Disciples Oaks Camp & Retreat in Gonzales, Texas; or affectionally known as Camp Gonzo by the youth. However, some of you might not know what CYLS is. CYLS stands for Christian Youth Leadership Seminar and is aimed to help cultivate and enhance the leadership skills of youth that have exhibited leadership in the Church. This year we are so blessed to send two of our youth to this event being held in Athens, Texas and we ask everyone to pray for them as they attend.

This summer we have been sending our youth all over Texas to places like Gonzales, Athens, and Fort Worth: and Springfield, Missouri. But many have not known about a camp/retreat that takes place much closer to home and has been involving numerous Disciples of Christ churches across Texas and the Bluebonnet Area. This Camp & Retreat is called the Xodus Project and they host camps and retreats throughout the entire year. They have retreats for Men, Women, Married couples and Youth. This summer (July 19-20) they are hosting a 2-day Youth Retreat at a beautiful camp less than an hour away from Corpus Christi or maybe an hour or so away if you drive slow like me.

This year's Xodus summer retreat is called "No Filter" and is aimed at helping youth discover their voice in a world bombarding them to remain silent and unheard. This 2-day Youth Retreat is \$65; however, our youth are able to attend this retreat for only \$35 due to the generous support our youth receive at First Christian Church. If you want to know more about this camp, feel free to contact me; but do it soon, as time is running out for registration.

Youth Group Planning Meeting

For all those that work with the youth or are interested in working with the youth, there will be a planning meeting on Sunday, July 21, following the service in the Conference Room. Please mark your calendars.



Notes of Interest

Sanctuary Flowers

Do you have a special Loved One(s) you wish to remember or honor? Or a Momentous Occasion such as a Milestone Anniversary or Birthday you would like to mark? Or perhaps just want to help Beautify our Sanctuary on a Sunday morning...

We still have a few openings on our Flower Calendar this year for just such times as above. All you have to do is give Agnes Fankhauser a call at 361-855-2008 or email her at agnesfank@sbcglobal.net and she can help you. The cost of the flowers are \$40.



The dates that we have available for this year are:

July 21

October 20

November 3

November 24

FROM OUR MAIL BAG....



“To All,

Thank you to everyone who worked to make Chris Hoover’s memorial service so special. It was evident that there were many faithful hearts who came together last Saturday. The music, message, and reception were a beautiful tribute to my mother. It moved Clay, Bill, and me to be able to come home to the church in which we were raised, and that taught each of us what our Christian lives should focus on; love for one another, and service. It was clear that the love for Christ continues to flourish at First Christian.

With gratitude,” —**Clay, Bill, Kathy Hoover**

“To My Wonderful Church Family, I am as grateful for your prayers, support and love you have expressed to me in so many ways. I really understand why Jesus told us to stay close to our brothers and sisters in Christ. He sends his love directly to us when we need it most—always and forever. Thanks to each of you and God Bless each of you,” —**Harriet Null**

July Celebrations

Happy Anniversary to . . .

15 MJ & Carl Crull



Birthday Wishes For . . .

- 1 Gary Cowan
- 3 Pat Getz
- 3 Henry Sepulveda
- 6 Cathy Harrison
- 6 Eva Sepulveda
- 7 Cheryl Jackson
- 8 Linda Hicks
- 10 Butch Watkins
- 15 David Bartlett
- 17 Winkie Peters
- 18 Rick Dupriest
- 19 Charles Cromwell
- 20 Kay Van Dorn
- 20 Kelle Clark
- 21 Jackson Lovvorn
- 22 Amy DeAtley
- 23 Claudia Grivich
- 25 Jim Davis
- 25 Barbara Mikolasky
- 25 Emily Baggerly



Editor's Note: If your birthday or anniversary is not on our list, we may not have it in the church records. Please either call or email the church office with the information — 854-3044 or coordinator@fcc-cc.org

Remember in Prayer . . .

The Wright Family (on sabbatical), the family of Chris Hoover, Billy Dean, Sharon Magill, Mike Kirkham, Harriet Null, David Green, David & Gerry Holloway (all at home)

Lois Chesney (Holmgren)
Doris Williams (Homewood)
Verlyn Nolen (The Villa, South)

Irene Moore (Round Rock, TX)

Calendar

July 1 — 22

Mon, July 1	5:30 p.m. AIR Group	Sun, July 14	9:15 a.m. Sunday Classes 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Elders' Meeting 8:00 p.m. AA
Tues, July 2	9:00 a.m. Tai Chi 7:00 p.m. Tai Chi 8:00 p.m. AA	Mon, July 15	5:30 p.m. AIR Group 6:30 p.m. Property Ministry
Wed, July 3	7:00 p.m. Tai Chi	Tues, July 16	9:00 a.m. Tai Chi 7:00 p.m. Tai Chi 8:00 p.m. AA
Thurs, July 4	4th of July Holiday Church offices & Day School closed 8:00 p.m. AA	Wed, July 17	FCC McKinney — men 11:00 a.m. Cluster Meeting 5:30 p.m. Membership Ministry 6:30 p.m. Ministry Council 7:00 p.m. Tai Chi
Fri, July 5	Church Offices Closed 9:00 a.m. Tai Chi	Thurs, July 18	FCC McKinney — men 10:30 a.m. Day School Chapel 6:00 p.m. Praise Team 8:00 p.m. AA
Sat, July 6	10:00 a.m. Tai Chi	Fri, July 19	FCC McKinney — men 9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
Sun, July 7	8:00 a.m. Music Dept Rehearsal 9:15 a.m. Sunday Classes 10:30 a.m. Worship 8:00 p.m. AA	Sat, July 20	FCC McKinney — Men 12:00 p.m. Tai Chi
Mon, July 8	5:30 p.m. AIR Group	Sun, July 21	FCC McKinney — Men 8:00 a.m. Music Dept Rehearsal 9:15 a.m. Sunday Classes 10:30 a.m. Worship 8:00 p.m. AA
Tues, July 9	9:00 a.m. Tai Chi 7:00 p.m. Tai Chi 8:00 p.m. AA	Mon, July 22	10:00 a.m. Math Tutoring 5:00 p.m. AIR Group
Wed, July 10	7:00 p.m. Tai Chi		
Thurs, July 11	10:30 a.m. Day School Chapel 6:00 p.m. Praise Team 8:00 p.m. AA		
Fri, July 12	9:00 a.m. Tai Chi		
Sat, July 13	12:00 p.m. Tai Chi		

Calendar

July 23 — August 10

Tues, July 23	9:00 a.m. Tai Chi 10:00 a.m. Math Tutoring 7:00 p.m. Tai Chi 8:00 p.m. AA	Thurs, Aug 1	10:30 a.m. Day School Chapel 6:00 p.m. Praise Team 8:00 p.m. AA
Wed, July 24	10:00 a.m. Math Tutoring 7:00 p.m. Tai Chi	Fri, Aug 2	9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
Thurs, July 25	10:00 a.m. Math Tutoring 10:30 a.m. Day School Chapel 6:00 p.m. Praise Team 8:00 p.m. AA	Sat, Aug 3	12:00 p.m. Tai Chi
Fri, July 26	10:00 a.m. Math Tutoring 9:00 a.m. Tai Chi	Sun, Aug 4	8:00 a.m. Music Dept Rehearsal 9:15 a.m. Sunday Classes 10:30 a.m. Worship 8:00 p.m. AA
Sat, July 27	12:00 p.m. Tai Chi	Mon, Aug 5	5:00 p.m. AIR Group
Sun, July 28	8:00 a.m. Music Dept Rehearsal 9:15 a.m. Sunday Classes 10:30 a.m. Worship 8:00 p.m. AA	Tues, Aug 6	9:00 a.m. Tai Chi 10:00 a.m. DWM Board 7:00 p.m. Tai Chi 8:00 p.m. AA
Mon, July 29	5:00 p.m. AIR Group	Wed, Aug 7	7:00 p.m. Tai Chi
Tues, July 30	9:00 a.m. Tai Chi 7:00 p.m. Tai Chi 8:00 p.m. AA	Thurs, Aug 8	10:30 a.m. Day School Chapel 6:00 p.m. Praise Team 8:00 p.m. AA
Wed, July 31	7:00 p.m. Tai Chi	Fri, Aug 9	9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
		Sat, Aug 10	12:00 p.m. Tai Chi

July

Serving Schedule

Elders Serving at the Table

- July 7** Jerry Livingston, Wayne Morris
July 14 Kelle Clark, Trey McCampbell
July 21 David Getz, Pat Getz
July 28 Debbie Brooker, Richard Crews

Greeter:

Nancy Dow

Communion Servers

Elena Blackburn, Richard Katz

Flower Delivery

- July 9** TBA
July 16 Molly Bates
July 23 No Flowers
July 30 Pat Getz



**The Church Offices will be closed
Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5**

**The Day School will be closed
Thursday, July 4**

