



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

3401 Santa Fe
Corpus Christi, TX 78411
Phone: 361-854-3044
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

Vicki Pollard
finance@fcc-cc.org

Day School Director

Noelia Torrez
dayschool@fcc-cc.org
361-854-1241

It is more than an understatement to say that 2020 has been a difficult year. The pandemic has turned all our lives upside down and mixed messages from official sources often made things worse. Lockdowns, and the threat of even *more* lockdowns, have many people struggling financially and emotionally. Social unrest exposed the deep divisions among the citizens of our country and a



contentious election only served to make those divisions deeper... shattering many relationships between friends and even family members. In fact, the bitterness was so great that people saw those who didn't agree with their positions as not only wrong, but as the embodiment of evil that needed to be destroyed at all costs. The viciousness of the attacks breaks my heart, especially when they come from people I know to be Christian. Because, as you've heard me say many times... we, as Christians, are supposed to be different. When the world hates, we love. When the world seeks vengeance, we offer forgiveness and work toward healing. When the world rejects the other because they don't measure up to their standards, we accept all people as a precious part of God's creation. At least, that's what we're supposed to do.

Of course, sometimes we all get caught up in the rhetoric (including me) and wonder why people just don't see things the way we see them (that is, the *correct* way). But, if we want to claim to be followers of Jesus, we should at least *try* to be like him... forgiving, accepting, and loving not insisting that *our* way is the *only* way, but knowing that *God's* way of healing and reconciliation is truly the only way our world will change. Of course, we can, and should, point out actual instances of oppression and injustice when we see them. But, as followers of Jesus, we must do it in the spirit of love with the hope of helping people see that there is another way... a *better* way... the way of Jesus. After all, his way changed *our* lives, didn't it? It can do the same for others as well. They just need an example to follow... and that should be us.

Christmas is the time when we celebrate the birth of the greatest gift the world has ever received, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. The angels who announced his birth said he would be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." I pray that his peace will reign in all our hearts this Christmas season and beyond and that 2021 will be a year in which we all recommit ourselves to be more like Jesus and work for the healing of our broken world.

Merry Christmas,

Rusty

Stewardship Installment – November 30, 2020

Most likely you reflected on something, or things, that you were thankful for this past week. Most of us are thankful year-round, but it seems that at Thanksgiving we are more aware and more willing to acknowledge our many blessings. We take an interest in what our friends and family are thankful for as well. But this has been a different Thanksgiving. Many of us were not able to celebrate in the way that we have been accustomed.

We would have had our annual Consecration Sunday. We would have provided our pledges to the church for this coming year and then had a Thanksgiving Feast in the Fellowship Hall after worship. The homemade side dishes and desserts, along with the turkey and ham prepared by the Fellowship Ministry are currently a memory. It's always a wonderful meal and even better fellowship with our church family. That feast day will come again, but for now we will remember.

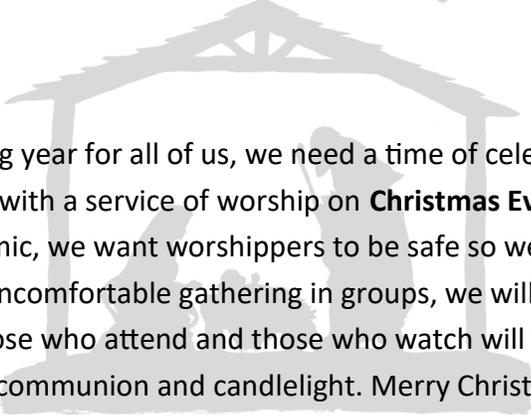
We are thankful that Vicki, our Financial Secretary, has completed our 2020 income and expenses reports and that none of the numbers were in red! There will be a 2021 FCC budget, but to begin that process, we need to begin with our pledges. The Stewardship Ministry recommended to the Ministry Council that we wait until January to begin our Stewardship Season and then move our Consecration Sunday to February 14th. This will give our church family time to prepare their upcoming household budgets and think about their pledge to God.

I read something that keeps playing in my head, "2020 didn't give me everything I wanted, but it allowed me to enjoy the things I already had." It's true. It certainly has not been a year of working, shopping, visiting, learning, educating, worshipping, or any other –ing we probably took for granted. So, for that I am thankful. We have gotten the opportunity to learn to do things a new way. We have learned how valuable memories and presence are to others and ourselves. The Body of Christ does not stop helping, providing, mourning, celebrating, witnessing, or worshipping – it is in times like these that I am thankful to have the opportunity to share with others the many blessings God has provided. Right now is the best time to be Church.

Rev. Kellē Clark

FCC Associate Pastor

Stewardship & Youth



Christmas Eve

As this has been a very trying year for all of us, we need a time of celebration. So, we will celebrate the birth of the Savior of the world with a service of worship on **Christmas Eve at 6:00 pm**. Of course, since we are still dealing with the pandemic, we want worshippers to be safe so we will still follow social distancing protocols. For those who still feel uncomfortable gathering in groups, we will stream the service through Facebook as well. We hope that those who attend and those who watch will feel the joyful spirit of the season through this time of carols, communion and candlelight. Merry Christmas.

Live and Streaming Worship

As most of you know by now, FCC has been streaming our worship service on Facebook Live since the beginning of the pandemic. A few months ago, we opened the sanctuary to in person worship following social distancing protocols. However, even though we have taken many precautions to keep people safe, attendance in the sanctuary has been very light. As things settle down, we pray that people will begin attending in person once again. But, our online views have been very encouraging, so we will continue to stream our worship through Facebook even when things get back to “normal.” We also hope that those watching will “share” the video with their friends, or maybe start a “watch party” each week, so we can reach even more people with the life changing message of the gospel. Either way, in person or online, we will continue to share the GREAT news of Jesus here at First Christian and beyond. Thanks for coming and thanks for watching

Ministry Council

The Ministry Council will meet next Wednesday, December 16, at 6:30 pm. We will continue to meet in the sanctuary and follow social distancing protocols. Zoom option will be provided for the Council members who don't yet feel comfortable gathering in groups.

Order Your Poinsettias



You may purchase plants in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Please fill out this form and return it to the church office by December 20

Cost is \$10 each.

Your name: _____

| Name(s) | In Honor | Memory of | Name(s) | In Honor | Memory of |
|---------|----------|-----------|---------|----------|-----------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Amount Paid: _____

I will pick up my plant(s): Yes () No ()

You may pick up your poinsettias following the Christmas Eve Service.

BOAR'S HEAD & YULE LOG FESTIVAL

This is just a reminder from the Boar's Head Guild, like many other activities and events this year Boar's Head has been cancelled. So mark your calendars. We are so sorry to miss you at our performance the time, but next performance, 2022, will be better than ever.



Remember in Prayer . . .

Adore Trowbridge & family, Jo Haggard, Nancy Moore, David & Gladys Green, Gerry Holloway, Elena Blackburn, Donna Watkins

Lois Chesney (Holmgren)

Adore Trowbridge (North Carolina)

Doris Williams (Homewood)

December & January Celebrations

Birthday Wishes For . . .

DECEMBER:

- 1 Evin Rae Meurer
- 1 Phyllis Allen
- 5 Tina Strakos
- 5 Jon Garrett
- 6 Billy Dean
- 10 Donna Watkins
- 10 Sophie Almaguer
- 13 Barry Whelan
- 20 Allen Lowe
- 22 Lois Chesney
- 23 Linda Garrett
- 23 Terry Klinger



JANUARY:

- 6 Elena Blackburn
- 10 MJ Crull
- 11 Terri Sutphin
- 14 Kate Lovvorn
- 16 Rick Ott
- 16 Cathy Crews
- 16 Debbie Brooker
- 21 Tommy Whitlock
- 25 Barbara Baker
- 25 Julie DeBoard
- 27 Beth Hoekje

Happy Anniversary to . . .

December:

- 17 Jane & Charles Cromwell
- 21 Lisa & Bobby Stephens



January

- 9 Amy & Rusty Wright
- 27 Linda & Mike Hicks

Editor's Note: If your birthday or anniversary is not on our list, we may not have it in the church records. Please

Calendar

December 10 — January 10

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|----------------------|---|----------------------|--|
| Thurs, Dec 10 | 9:30 a.m. Music Club 6:00 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m. AA | Sat, Dec 26 | 8:00 a.m. Music Dept Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. AA |
| Fri, Dec 11 | | Sun, Dec 27 | 8:00 a.m. Music Dept Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. AA |
| Sat, Dec 12 | 1:00 p.m. FH rented out | | |
| Sun, Dec 13 | Third Sunday of Advent 8:00 a.m. Music Dept Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. AA | Mon, Dec 28 | |
| Mon, Dec 14 | | Tues, Dec 29 | 7:00 p.m. AA |
| Tues, Dec 15 | 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. AA | Wed, Dec 30 | |
| Wed, Dec 16 | 11:00 a.m. Cluster Mtg 6:30 p.m. Ministry Council | Thurs, Dec 31 | New Year's Eve DS Closed 7:00 p.m. AA |
| Thurs, Dec 17 | 6:00 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m. AA | Fri, Jan 1 | New Year's Day Happy New Year (Yea! 2021) DS & Church Offices closed |
| Fri, Dec 18 | | Sat, Jan 2 | |
| Sat, Dec 19 | | Sun, Jan 3 | 8:00 a.m. Music Dept Rehearsals 10:30 a.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. AA |
| Sun, Dec 20 | Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:00 a.m. Music Dept Rehearsals 10:30 a.m. Worship 8:00 p.m. AA | Mon, Jan 4 | 5:00 p.m. AIR Group |
| Mon, Dec 21 | | Tues, Jan 5 | 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. AA |
| Tues, Dec 22 | 7:00 p.m. AA | Wed, Jan 6 | |
| Wed, Dec 23 | Day School Closed | Thurs, Jan 7 | 6:00 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m. AA |
| Thurs, Dec 24 | Christmas Eve Church offices & Day School Closed 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m. AA | Fri, Jan 8 | |
| Fri, Dec 25 | Christmas Day — Merry Christmas Church offices & Day School Closed | Sat, Jan 9 | |
| | | Sun, Jan 10 | 8:00 a.m. Music Dept Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. AA |

Calendar Continued

January 11 — January 31

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|----------------------|---|----------------------|--|
| Mon, Jan 11 | 9:00 a.m. Las Donas ?? 5:00 p.m. AIR Group | Fri, Jan 22 | |
| Tues, Jan 12 | 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. AA | Sat, Jan 23 | |
| Wed, Jan 13 | | Sun, Jan 24 | 8:00 a.m. Music Dept Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. AA |
| Thurs, Jan 14 | 9:30 a.m. Music Club 6:00 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m. AA | Mon, Jan 25 | 5:30 p.m. AIR Group |
| Fri, Jan 15 | 1:00 p.m. DAR ?? | Tues, Jan 26 | 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. AA |
| Sat, Jan 16 | | Wed, Jan 27 | |
| Sun, Jan 17 | 8:00 a.m. Music Dept Rehearsals 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Youth Group 8:00 p.m. AA | Thurs, Jan 28 | 6:00 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m. AA |
| Mon, Jan 18 | 5:00 p.m. AIR Group | Fri, Jan 29 | |
| Tues, Jan 19 | 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. AA | Sat, Jan 30 | |
| Wed, Jan 20 | 11:00 a.m. Cluster 6:30 p.m. Ministry Council | Sun, Jan 31 | 8:00 a.m. Music Dept Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Youth Group 7:00 p.m. AA |
| Thurs, Jan 21 | 6:00 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m. AA | | |

Serving Schedule Until end of the 2020

Elders Serving at the Table

Dec 20 Terri Sutphin
Dec 27 Jerry Livingston

Flower Delivery

Dec 15 Pat Getz

Greeter:

Terry Klinger

Merry Christmas

I wish for you much joy and love,

With a New Year

Full of God's goodness.

