



First Christian Church (DOC)
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Return Service Requested

Volume 23 • December 21, 2017

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...INSIDE CROSSWORDS:

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Identity Statement

Pr aising God,
 Changing Lives!



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Services each Sunday...

Praising God, Changing Lives for 127 Years!

Contemporary Worship

9:00 AM

Sunday School

9:30 AM and 10:00 AM

Traditional Worship

10:50 AM

Coffee Mingle

12:15 PM

Church Office Hours:

8:30am-1:30pm

Monday-Thursday

Our Ministry Statement

First Christian Church
exists to:

Reach Up to worship God,

Reach In to grow in
Christ-like maturity,

Reach Out to serve others in
Christ's name, to share the
Good News of Jesus Christ
with others and to invite
them to become members of
His family.

The Staff

Welcomes You...

Rev. Brad Barton

Sr. Minister

970-644-2274

revbradbarton@gmail.com

Rev. Melanie Ferron
Associate Minister

Paula Schaffer, Pianist

Tish Key, Secretary

John Moore, Custodian

Merry Christmas

It's almost time to celebrate Jesus' birth! I hope you've been preparing this Advent season. I hope you're ready. I hope this Christmas Eve and Christmas Day you will be ready to shout "Joy to the World" from the literal and metaphorical rooftops of your life.

As we complete our preparations, I would like to share with you my favorite part of the biblical Christmas story. I've been leading a study of the biblical birth narratives for a month now, and my personal favorite element of the story begins:

"In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night." - Luke 2:8

The visit of the angels to the shepherds and the subsequent visit of the shepherds to the baby Jesus provide my favorite element of the biblical Christmas story because of who and what the shepherds represent. I've read that shepherding was a despised occupation in the first century and so shepherds were therefore despised. As a result, the story of the shepherds reminds me that Jesus came not JUST for the wealthy and powerful or even the regular folks like you and me. Rather, Jesus came for everyone, even the despised people.

It's a great reminder for us modern Christians. It's easy to think that Jesus came for us and people like us. It's easy to think Jesus wants us to keep our focus on the comfort of our friends and family, of the people inside the walls of the church. But the reality is that God sent angels to announce Jesus' birth to the despised people. Shouldn't we be announcing Jesus' birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection to the despised people of our time...with our words and our very lives?

Merry Christmas!

- Pastor Brad

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Announcements



FCC Birthdays

December 23	Marian Velarde
December 26	Tammy Rosencrans
December 27	Gabriella James
December 31	Joanne Eggers
January 2	Nancy Armbruster
January 4	Lois Dunning
January 6	Cole Barton
January 6	Lamar Edwards
January 16	Juanita Davis
January 17	Flora Jones
January 24	Terry Laughlin

FCC Anniversaries

December 27 Leonard & Kathy Gardner



It's That Time Again!

The beginning of the new year is upon us! Please submit your 2018 calendar request forms as soon as possible! Even if you filled one out in 2017, please fill out a new form! You can pick up a calendar request form in the church office, email your information, or call the church office!

THE DAILY SENTINEL

You Said It, Dec. 3 2017
 What an uplifting story about the baker, Lamar Edwards, who bakes pies for The Salvation Army's Thanksgiving dinner.
 Thank you, Mr. Edwards! You are an inspiration to us all.

CROSSWORDS!

next deadline is...

Thursday, December 28

Please submit to the church office
or

email them to:

firstchristiangj@hotmail.com

Articles arriving later than the deadline included until the next published Crosswords.

2018 is just around the corner:

- 1) Do you need a new devotional? There are so many different ones to select from in the church library. Check them out.
- 2) Do you need another calendar? There are several to select from on the Membership table in the Fellowship Hall. Help yourself. Also some free notepads.



Thanks

Thank you!!!

To all that helped make the FREE Community Thanksgiving Day Meal a huge success.

We served 156 Plates

35+ to-go Boxes

that doesn't count the 2nd and 3rd helpings and what we took to Homeward Bound.

Thank you to all that helped with food, money and serving.

Thank you for your wonderful generosity for allowing us to utilize your facility for our monthly meetings.

PEO chapter HU

Thank You

With sincere appreciation for your continued support on behalf of the Community Food Bank— Thank You. It is through people, such as yourself, that we are able to meet the ongoing demand of those in need in Mesa County. You

donated 315 pounds in

November!

Gratefully,

Community Food Bank



Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated in Operation Christmas Child, We can only imagine how wonderful it will be for these Children when they open their boxes! What a rewarding outreach project! You may bring empty shoe boxes all year. Then, they can be wrapped and ready to fill next year when the time comes.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you,
Carolyn

Dear Friends at First Christian Church,

This December marks my last month as Clinical Director of the Rocky Mtn. Center for Spiritual Caregivers. I am retiring to a small limited practice as a Spiritual Director seeing pastors or former students, as I have done in the past, I am happy to say thank you with this small gift for your library for hosting our Chaplain Training and Certification classes in you library for almost 30 years now! Your parish is an extremely giving resource to the GJ community and full of wonderful kind & friendly people.

Thank you from RMCSC and Blessed Christmas!

Dee Jaquet

Great Job, Elves! Thanks to Jeanice Swank, Jean Bird, James Krenzer, Virginia Johnson, and Lois Dunning for your much needed help in making our church beautiful this Advent Season. Chuck was a master again with the greenery and lights on the Narthex railing.

And John Moore came along cleaning up after us all. THANK YOU AGAIN! -- Membership



Save the Date & Announcements

Deacon Meeting

Sunday, January 1st 2018

after each service

Save The Date!

Sunday, January 14, 2018

The Vision Committee invites you to a Luncheon In Fellowship Hall at 12:30

To visit together about First Christian Church's Vision For the Future.

More details to come, please add this date to your calendar now.

Commissioning of Congregational Leaders

January 28, 2018

It's almost a new year...which means it's almost time to commission a new group of congregational leaders.

Please mark your calendars for and plan to attend a special worship service on January 28, 2018 (both worship services), during which we will commission for 2018:

- All Board Officers
- All Committee Chairpeople
- Elders and Deacons (with new terms beginning 2018) Please come to show your support for these leaders and to celebrate God's gifts given to these leaders!
- Pastor Brad

CHRISTMAS EVE 2017

Cookies, Cider, Coffee and Worship



This December 24 (it's a Sunday):

6:00 p.m. Come to the Fellowship Hall for cookies, cider, coffee and greetings prior to our Christmas Eve by Candlelight Worship Service.

7:00 p.m. Enter the sanctuary to participate in our annual Christmas Eve by Candlelight worship service...with a little something extra this year. We'll tell the story of Christmas and end by singing "Silent Night" while holding candles - as always, and this year we'll add a Las Posadas celebration (a re-enactment of the scene at the inn), as well.

Celebrate Christmas Eve with your FFCGJ Family!

2018 Congregational

Results

Budget

49 approved
7 against
1 no vote

Slate of Officers

56 approved
1 against

For those that voted "no" or did not vote

If you have concerns Please contact:

Nancy Armbruster

or

Bill Fitch

Announcements



Christmas Poinsettia 2017



Advent & Christmas 2017

First Christian Church
Christ's Light Is Coming!

Advent Soup and Carols
Eat, Sing & Study, Wednesdays
Nov 29 - Dec 20
6:00 p.m.

First Sunday of Advent
December 3
Hanging of the Greens
10:50 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent
December 10
The Prophets Foretold
10:50 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent
December 17
The Innkeeper's Children
Youth Christmas Program
10:50 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24
Christmas Cantata
10:50 a.m.

Christmas Eve
December 24
Christmas Eve by Candlelight
7:00 p.m.

Christmas Carol Sing
December 31
10:50a.m.

In Memory of:

Les Armbuster
Anna Bilyeu
Lois Braun
George Dorson
Jerney Fink
James Jeffery
Randy Johnson
Richard D. McPeck
Gregory Stouffer
Leo Wittwer

In Honor of:

Beverly Dorson &
The Van Ministry Drivers
The Krepes Family
Lost Solders & those not
with their Families
Parents
The Peach Family

Presented by:

Nancy Armbuster
Sharon Emweller
David Morgan
Beverly Dorson & Family
Melissa McKay & Tim Fink
Gloria Jeffery
Charles & Virginia Johnson
Wayne & Tammy Ostermiller
Lois E. Stouffer
Melissa McKay & Tim Fink

Presented by:

Gloria Jeffery
Betty
Melissa McKay & Tim Fink
Johnny & Jeanette West
Betty

Food Bank Donations 2017

In Memory of:

Jeremy Fink
Carol Johnson
Pamela Mitchell Krebill
Leo Wittwer

In Honor of:

Lost Solders & those not
With their Families
The Krepes Family
The Peach Family

Presented by:

Melissa McKay & Tim Fink
Gayle Johnson
The Krebill Family
Melissa McKay & Tim Fink

Presented by:

Melissa McKay & Tim Fink
Betty
Betty





Merry Christmas

The birth of a baby is always exciting, including the waiting for the glad day to come and the anticipation of the joy and happiness this child will bring to us. In this season of Advent, we find ourselves again waiting in hopeful prayer and joyful expectation of the birth of a Child – the very Son of God, our Savior and Lord, Jesus the Christ.

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him" (1 John 3:9).

As the days close out 2017, we reflect on the big move we have made this year as we sold our beloved log home in the mountains of Colorado and built our new home in the hill country of Texas. The Bible says "there is a time for everything" (Ecclesiastes 3:1) and it was time for us to get back to Texas where we can live full time in the home of our dreams on a place where we will appreciate to the fullest God's creation. We are truly "home on the range, where the deer and the antelope play." Life is truly a gift, so we call our place Legacy Ranch for all that has been brought to our lives by God and our family, especially our dear parents and children, and the wonderful friends who have walked with us in life's journey.

Now we celebrate Christmas and look forward to the opportunities and enjoyable times the New Year will bring. Have a wonderful Christmas and may God's blessings be yours in 2018.

Love,

Barbara and Curtis

Our new address:
707 Grape Creek Road
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

curtislkeithjr@aol.com
936-674-7505
bjkeith39@aol.com
830-992-8555



FCC Prayer Concerns

“Pray without ceasing.”

I Thessalonians 5:17

Scott Allen	Family of BettyAnn Jones
Brenda Armstrong	Ed Jones
The Arnold Family	Nora Julette
Clara Arroyo	Jean Keees
Jack Barton	Betty Learned
Eugene Braun	Mike Loehring
Lois Braun	Blanche Marshall
Sandy & Tim Brown	Cecilia Massey
Tim Burke	Norma Matteson
Amy Burns	Jennifer McDaniel
Randy Cass	Brian Neukman
Chuck Cummings	Scott & Shirley Nider
Dannielle	Phil Oliver
Dennis	Kendra Pappan
Dennis & Family	Carol Perry
Helen Dillard	Janice Riches and Family
Kat Edwards	Oscar Aaron Rodriguez
JoAnne Eggers	Diana & Memesio Rodriguez
Larry Eggers	Dr. and Mrs. Schwartz
Vicki Gassman	John Sherry
Ethel Goebel	Lois Stouffer
Kyle Graham	Alysia Tannery
David & Vickie Hagan	Terry
Connie Hawley	Joan White
Jason Hawley	The Worrell Family
JoAnne Hill	
Kameron Hill	
Ethel Hoffman	
Eleanor Hubbell	
Thomas Hunn	
Dee Johnson	
Richard Hughes	



FCC SUNDAY SERVERS' 4-Week ASSIGNMENTS

December 24, 2017

No First service

December 31, 2017

No First Service

January 7, 2018

January 14, 2018

December 24, 2017 4th Sunday

<u>Worship Leader</u> Brad Barton	<u>Serving Diaconate</u> Marion Velarde	<u>Greeter</u> Carol Steed
<u>Offering Elder</u> Ray Farrell	David Morgan	<u>Van Driver</u> TBD
<u>Communion Elder</u> Al Baumgartle	Jeanne Klitzke	<u>Keyboard</u> Paula Schaffer
<u>Preparing Diaconate</u> Marian Velarde	JoAnne Eggers	<u>Collection Team</u> Al Baumgartle Ray Farrell
	<u>Coffee Mingle</u> Lamar Edwards	
	Joyce Wittwer	

December 31, 2017 5th Sunday

<u>Worship Leader</u> TBD	<u>Serving Diaconate</u> Al Ladage	<u>Greeter</u> Earn Eachus
<u>Offering Elder</u> Gene Matteson	Bob Wise	<u>Van Driver</u> TBD
<u>Communion Elder</u> Chuck Haigler	Carolyn Bryant	<u>Keyboard</u> Paula Schaffer
<u>Preparing Diaconate</u> Ray Farrell	Doug Bryant	<u>Collection Team</u> Al Baumgartle Ray Farrell
	<u>Coffee Mingle</u> Jeanice Swank	
	Jeanne Klitzke	

January 7, 2018 1st Sunday

<u>Worship Leader</u> TBD	<u>Serving Diaconate</u> Jerry Francis	<u>Van Driver</u> Terry Laughlin
<u>Offering Elder</u> TBD	Wes Wade	Jo Laughlin
<u>Communion Elder</u> TBD	Jeanice Swank	<u>Keyboard</u> Paula Schaffer
<u>Preparing Diaconate</u> Karen Lehman	Yvonne Warner	<u>Collection Team</u> Lois Dunning Grace Farrell
	<u>Coffee Mingle</u> TBD	
	<u>Greeter</u> TBD	

January 14, 2018 2nd Sunday

<u>Worship Leader</u> TBD	<u>Serving Diaconate</u> Al Ladage	<u>Van Drivers</u> Jerry Francis
<u>Offering Elder</u> TBD	Bob Wise	<u>Keyboard</u> Lily Fitch
<u>Communion Elder</u> TBD	Carolyn Bryant	<u>Collection Team</u> Lois Dunning Grace Farrell
<u>Preparing Diaconate</u> Alice Wiesler	Doug Bryant	
	<u>Coffee Mingle</u> TBD	
	<u>Greeter</u> TBD	

Church Calendar of Events - December 21, 2017— January 14, 2018



Thursday December 28, 2017

**** Pastor Brad Vacation****
 1:30 pm CWF Executive Meeting
 6:00 pm Praise Team

Sunday December 31, 2017

*** Christmas Carol Sing****
 *****New Year's Eve*****
 *****Food Bank Sunday*****
 9:30 am Traditional Sunday School
 10:50 am One Worship Service
 12:15 pm Coffee Mingle

Monday January 1, 2018

*****Office Closed*****
 7:00 pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday January 2, 2018

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group
 10:00 am Friends going Forward
 12:00 pm Lessons at Lunch
 5:00 pm Healthy Living
 6:30 pm Night'ngals

Wednesday January 3, 2018

10:00 am Morning Bible Study
 3:00 pm Parkinson's Support Group
 6:00 pm Wednesday Night Fellowship
 Meal
 6:30 pm Youth Group
 6:30 pm Evening Bible Study

Thursday January 4, 2018

9:30 am Ruth Group
 1:30 pm Agape Group
 1:30 pm Esther Group
 6:00 pm Praise Team
 6:00 pm Co. West Quilters Board

Sunday January 7, 2018

9:00 am Contemporary Worship
 9:30 am Traditional Sunday School
 10:00 am Contemporary Sunday School
 10:50 am Traditional Worship
 11:00 am Jr. Church
 12:15 pm Coffee Mingle

Monday January 8, 2018

10:30 am Staff Meeting
 7:00 pm M&M Bible Study

Tuesday January 9, 2018

9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group
 12:00 pm Lessons at Lunch
 1:30 pm PEO Chapter Meeting
 5:00 pm Healthy Living

Wednesday January 10, 2018

9:30 am Newcomers Group
 10:00 am Morning Bible Study
 6:00 pm Wednesday Night Fellowship
 Meal

6:30 pm Youth Group

6:30 pm Evening Bible Study
 7:00 pm Co. West Quilters Guild

Thursday January 11, 2018

1:30 pm Homeward Bound Ministry
 1:30 pm CWF General
 6:00 pm Praise Team

Friday January 12, 2018

2:00 pm Mexican Train Group

Sunday January 14, 2018

9:00 am Contemporary Worship
 9:30 am Traditional Sunday School
 10:00 am Contemporary Sunday School
 10:50 am Traditional Worship
 11:00 am Jr. Church
 12:15 pm Coffee Mingle



Thursday December 21, 2017

*** Pastor Brad out of office***
 1:30 pm CWF Executive Meeting
 6:00 pm Praise Team

Friday December 22, 2017

2:00 pm Mexican Train Group

Sunday December 24, 2017

*** Fourth Sunday of Advent****
 *****Christmas Eve*****
 9:30 am Traditional Sunday School
 10:50 am One Worship Service
 12:15 pm Coffee Mingle
 6:00 pm Cookies, Coffee & Cider
 Before Service

7:00 pm Christmas Eve by Candlelight

Monday December 25, 2017

***** Christmas Day*****
 *****Office Closed*****

Tuesday December 26, 2017

*** Pastor Brad Vacation***
 9:00 am Burger King Coffee Group
 12:00 pm Lessons at Lunch
 5:00 pm Healthy Living

Wednesday December 27, 2017

****Pastor Brad Vacation****
 10:00 am NO Morning Bible Study
 6:00pm Advent Soup & Carols
 6:30 pm Youth Group
 6:30 pm NO Evening Bible Study