



First Christian Church
 302 NW 6th Street
 Mineral Wells, TX 76067
 940-325-4277
 fccmw.org

May 2019

*Season of Easter
 April 21—June 2
 Worship Series: The Power of Love*

Mental Health Awareness Month

- 1 Wednesday Night, 6 pm
- 5 Christian Family Week
Nurse Appreciation Day (PPHG Visit)
- 7 Teacher Appreciation Day (Palo Pinto
ISD Goodies)
- 8 Wednesday Night, 6 pm
- 9 Funeral Planning, noon
- 12 Mother's Day
- 13 Church Board Meeting, 7 pm
- 15 Wednesday Night, 6 pm
- 16 Funeral Planning, noon
- 19 Mental Health Sunday
- 22 Wednesday Night, 6 pm
- 29 Wednesday Night, 6 pm

May 1, 2019

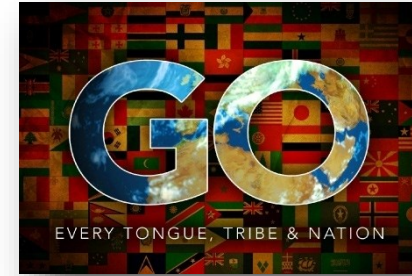


the **Messenger**

EXALT. EXPLORE. EXPERIENCE

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

The Disciples identity reflects the belief Jesus the Christ invites all people to the Table and ministers to all those who would seek him. We understand this to be our primary example of practicing our faith in and outside of the church. All people are given the gift of God's grace—therefore, we are to practice hospitality, forgiveness, and justice in our community. Come as you are.



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"GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES"

BY: REV. BRIAN J NIERMAN

The current Gallup polls concerning the religious and spiritual lives of Christians in North America are not good news. It is even worse news for mainline denominations, such as ourselves. Our social culture and habits are moving people away from religion and out to other social activities. I believe the growing population of nonreligious people is a direct result of our inability and absence from proclaiming the Good News in North America. Debates over issues like nationalism (tribalism), abortion rights, poverty issues, LGBTQ rights, women's rights, climate change, and sexual abuse scandals have contributed to our declining numbers because we have failed to talk about these issues civilly and cooperatively. Emotions and personal politics have removed any reason and understanding from the conversation. The Church suffers because we fail to engage in meaningful conversations.

When Jesus asks the Disciples to go and make disciples, he isn't asking them to invite people to conform to a particular religious standard or set of beliefs. Jesus is asking them—us—to engage in meaningful conversation concerning the Good News, that God is with us. Jesus did not say, go defend the Scriptures (Bible), he is asking them to share what has been revealed. Jesus did not say, go and discriminate and shun the outcasts of society, the invisible and closeted, the diseased and the poor; he is asking them to share compassion and love for all people. Jesus did not say, go and make an institution for yourselves, making God into your own image; he is asking them to see God among the people who share in your journey within and outside the walls. Jesus did



Scouting

Scouting is a positive experience for boys and girls. We have been asked by the Girl Scouts if they can use our church building to host meetings and Girl Scout events. This is one way we can give back to the community, to participate in the lives of young women, and to share our love. They will begin meeting toward the end of May. Contact us if you have questions.

Season of Easter



CHURCH MISSION

Appreciation Days

We will be visiting the staff of PPGH and Palo Pinto Elementary School at the beginning of this month to show our appreciation for our community's nurses and teachers. To show our appreciation, there will be cards to sign and goody bags to distribute to each station and class. Please donate some cookies or candy for the goody bags. Thank you.

Funeral Planning

Pastor Brian would like to invite you to help plan your funeral (hopefully in the distant future). The discussion will include the following topics: 1) funeral service, 2) inviting other pastors and non-staff (code of ethics), 3) Scriptures and Music selections, 4) information on how our Special Gifts and Memorial funds operate, and 5) obituary writing. The class will help provide information for the current or future pastor to conduct the funeral you desire and help us understand how we can help each other in times of grief and tragedy. Join us for one of the Thursdays.

Church Cabinet

According to our current Constitution and our future Constitution, we have stood up our Church Cab-

net to provide a means to communicate among our teams (committees) and to cooperate together where ministries intersect. Some of you may be confused as to why this meeting is happening.

First, communication within the church has been problematic. The Cabinet is a good way to make sure our leadership is on the same page.

Second, some teams do more than others. Worship and Education are our primary ministries and therefore carry much of the workload. However, our other teams are designed to provide and support the primary ministries. By combining efforts, everyone feels needed and less stressed.

Third, as we await the new Constitution and By-Laws, we need to get in the habit of meeting and coordinating. It takes a long time to form new habits and figure out all the kinks. We need your prayers and patience as this process continues and hope that it improves our communications to you and our community.

Thank you for your prayers and patience!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 Genie Quincy 23 Barbara Upham
 2 Kevin Kelly 28 Rodney Hall
 10 Katelynn Olson 29 Jim Ashby
 13 Linda Kelly Jim Crawford
 15 Judy Gayler Jimmy Walker
 16 Hank Gayler 30 Christine Keen
 21 Caron Shiflett

MAY ANNIVERSARYS

3 Jim and Holly Crawford
 19 Jimmy and Mary Beth Walker

FLOWERS

If you would like to donate altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, you can do so by dropping your check marked "altar flowers" in the offering plate, or handing it in to the church office. Cost of the weekly flowers is \$70.00.



Altar Flowers

STEWARDSHIP & MEMBERSHIP

Month of May (Totals)

Sunday School	59
Worship	125
General Fund	\$5,130.15

Average of \$40/person for the month.

Pledges

We have not run our pledge drives as well as the past. The Stewardship team encourages you to turn in a pledge, via mail, email, text, or card to Tina. Our next Stewardship campaign will begin in September.

Vision 2025 Vision 2025 is our strategic planning goals for the next 5 and 10 years of our church. It is extremely important that you take the

Church Life

SERVING AT THE TABLE

Worship Leader for May:
Jennifer Nierman
 Communion Preparation:

Deacons:
Mark Staley, Jennifer Nierman, Tracy Cox, Darleen Garrett, Marilyn Rhodes

Elders Serving:
 5/5/19
Jimmy and Mary Beth Walker
 5/12/19
 Gene and Genie Quincy
 5/19/19
Helen Huffman and Carla Hay-Perdue
 5/26/19
Judy Gayler and Marilyn Rhodes

Continuing Prayers for Members: Billie Pratt, John Vaughan, Mike Olivares, Dorothy Welch, Sadie Martin, Janet Holland, Clydell Singleton, Anita Hueber, Mary Beth Walker, Sydney Hoefelmann, Robbie Pierson, Donna & James Seigler, Caron Shiflett, Dwan Barron, JJ Francis, Betty Couch

Continuing Prayers for Our Community: Judy Jones, Bob Spangler, John A. Huffman, Norma Walker, Kasen (Crawford family), Lamar Myers, Sylvia Douglas, Gene Martinez, Ken Dodson (Waddy), James Sturgill (Gayler), those with mental illnesses and disabilities, **Joyce Chester (Nierman), and Toliver (James)**

Military: Michael Green, USA; Connor Bean, San Diego, USN; Blake Chestnut, USA

College Students: Ben Hellie, Isabelle Gardner, Victoria Huffman, Kara Hartnagel,

COMMUNITY NOTES

If you have something you would like to share, please contact Tina, and we will place it in the bulletin and the newsletter. Please, do not assume that we have the information if you told it to someone.

Congratulations to the Huffmans celebrating their 65th anniversary

online survey (or if you prefer a paper copy) by the end of

Easter Lilies: This year's Lilies have been given by:

- Lurlein Spangler, in memory of John and Paul Spangler
- Barbara Upham, in memory of Loved Ones
- Mildred Hestand, in memory of Lela Utley and Ed Hestand
- Norm and Linda Hickman, in memory of John and Laura Duncan
- Norm and Linda Hickman, in memory of Basil and Dixie Hickman
- Hank and Judy Gayler, in memory of Gayler and Sturgill families
- Marilyn Rhodes, in memory of Gaye Rhodes
- Frank and Lynn Waddy, in memory of James Waddy
- Frank and Lynn Waddy, in honor of the Nierman family
- Randy and Lou Warren, in memory of Newt and Blanche Hayes
- Randy and Lou Warren, in memory of John Hayes Jr, Travis Newton Warren
- Burt and Billie Slater, in honor of our church family
- Jimmy and Mary Beth Walker, in honor of family and friends who have and continue to bless us daily.



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not say go and never bend, he asked them to go with the flow of the Holy Spirit wherever it led. Jesus wanted the world to study, to listen, to pray, and to worship God in a variety of ways, recognizing the God is bigger than any label, denomination, and political argument we may have.

We have forgotten to go. Go to people and invite them in, not to our church, but to the journey of faith. We have forgotten to tell the story. We have failed as a generation to instill and inspire faith in the next, and we are losing them to wood, stone, and plastic idols. Let us GO. Let us INVITE and SHARE!

PRAISE AT THE BRIDGE

We are preparing for our next Praise @ the Bridge (June 27th). Stay tuned for meetings and opportunities to serve our community.