

Calendar

Sunday, May 7

12:15 pm Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 10

6:30 pm Summer Lunch Training

Sunday, May 21

12:15 pm Graduation Luncheon

Monday, May 29 Memorial Day

Office Closed

Weekly Events

- Worship with Band Sundays at 9:00 am
- Sunday School Sundays at 10:00 am**
- Worship with Hymns Sundays at

11:00 am**

- Meals on Wheels Tuesdays at 9:45 am
- Wine & the Word at Homemade Wines Tuesdays at 6 pm
- Men's Bible Study Wednesdays at 7:00 am
- Corporal Ray's Coffee Bible Study Wednesdays at 9 am
- Youth Group Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
- Choir Practice Wednesday at 7:00 pm
- Homework Help (La Promesa) Thursdays at 4:30 pm - Last day May 18

** Nursery Provided



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

May 2017

Extending Jesus' hospitality to the Odessa area

A New Chapter for Our Church Begins!

On Sunday, May 23, our congregation reached the culmination of our multi-year relocation exploration. We decided on accepting a contract from First Baptist Church to buy our property for \$1.5 million, with an approval of 93%. We also decided to purchase new property at 4241 Tanglewood for \$1.45 million, with an 89% approval. We give thanks to God for God's great faithfulness and for all who have prayed and discerned during this important time in the life of First Christian Church!

We are now in a 6 to 12 month period of facilitating that relocation. Currently, our design team, led by Bryan Paddock, is working on plans for renovation of the new location. Our mission team, led by Reneé Earls, is developing our evangelism plan for the new location. Our Trustees, along with our Treasurer Tom Sprawls, will be overseeing the financial stewardship of these decisions. Please pray for these leaders, and for our board chair, Penny Boss. Ask them any questions you have and bring them chocolate at any opportunity. Please also thank Cal Hendrick, chair of our Launching team, and Steve Barron, chair of our Landing team, who have carried the weight of leadership with grace and trust.

These decisions are both bittersweet and extremely hopeful for the future of our church. If you've not yet seen the video describing our new location, you may view it at <http://bit.ly/FCCRelocation>

"Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us. To God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!" -Ephesians 3:21



This Weeks' Reflections

Our congregation has done something very brave, and wonderful, and hard. We have decided to relocate to a new area of Odessa as our launching pad for worship and mission! We believe we can more effectively reach people with the radical hospitality of Jesus from this new location. So much trusting in God's provision has happened over our two-year process. Many expressed how amazing it was that on the same day, we were able to vote to both buy and sell. Surely the Lord is with us! Were not our hearts burning within? (Luke 24:32)

Something that made the day even more beautiful and meaningful was that we celebrated two baptisms in worship. We had a visual picture of what we are doing as a congregation: leaning back, dying to ourselves, saying goodbye to the past, and trusting the everlasting arms to bring us back up out of the water, sputtering and sopping wet, ready for new life to come. This is how growth happens in our spiritual lives: daily death and resurrection. And sometimes new life seems to happen all at once, like a big growth spurt of newness.

Author Richard Rohr puts it this way: "Loss and renewal is the divine pattern. Each time you allow the surrender, each time you can trust the dying, you will experience a new quality of life within you: 'How we do not know; of its own accord, the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear' (Mark 4:27-28). Paul calls this 'the hidden wisdom of God . . . predestined to be for our glory before the ages began' (1 Corinthians 2:7)."

Now, church, we've only just begun. God has opened a new chapter in the story of God's faithfulness to us. Keep doing what is brave, and wonderful, and hard. Daily surrender, and be raised up by God who loves us so much we are constantly receiving the gift of new life. Let's see what else God can do with lives overflowing with the waters of grace. Hallelujah!

- Pastor Dawn

Elders Serving May 2017

Shepherding Elder
Bryan Paddack

5/7 John Gillian, Steve Cheaney
5/14 Earlene Smith, Renee' Earls
5/21 Earlene Smith, Cricket Harrison
5/28 Bryan Paddack, Susan Paddack

Bless Your Neighbor

Your evangelism ministry keeps leading us to Bless Our Neighbors in 2017! This month we are giving you a beautiful May flower to share. Pick one up on Sunday, May 14 so you can share it and Bless your Neighbor!

May Birthdays

3 Zach Hirst
10 Gigi Hankins
12 Tom Sprawls
13 Tiffany McClure
14 Steve Johnson
18 Mike Kelly, Erin Patton
19 Hazel Pace
21 Pete Aranda

May Anniversaries

17 Renee' & Rich Earls
30 Jeanene & Bobby Taylor
31 Susan & Steve Barron

Deacons Serving May 2017

David Yarbrough, Sarah Grove,
Byrlene Paulson, & Hazel Pace

Ephesians Sermon Series

"In Christ you are being built together to become a dwelling place for God!" - Ephesians 2:22

Come discover or rediscover the foundations for our faith as we are being built up by God in Jesus Christ! Read the letter to Ephesians in May. A chapter a week, starting this week, will take you through the book and prepare you for Sunday worship. Our Bible studies on Tuesdays at 6pm at Homemade Wines and on Wednesdays at 9am at Corporal Ray's Coffee are also studying Ephesians and you are invited to be a part!

Summer Happenings Children/Youth Opportunities:

Camps:

Grand Beginnings Camp (K-3rd grade with grandparent) June 9-11 @Ceta Glen
JYF Camp (3rd-5th grade) June 25-29 @ Lake Brownwood
Chi Rho/CYF Camp June 12-17 @ Lake Brownwood
Vacation Bible School (K-5th grade) June 27-29 9:30-11:30am @ Wilkerson Boys and Girls Club

Outreach Opportunities: You can help to change a child's life this summer!

VBS:

Come fix a snack, do a science experiment, sing a song, or tell a Bible story to kids from our church and our community at Wilkerson Boys & Girls Club! Dates are above.

Summer Lunch Ministry:

Our church is again partnering with the West Texas Food Bank to feed hungry kids at La Promesa apartments. Can you volunteer 1, 2, or more weekdays from Noon-1pm? Training will be held Wednesday, May 10th at 6:30 pm. Please let Pastor Dawn or Amy Hendrick know if you are interested!

Mission Trip:

Our youth completed grades 6th-12th are going on mission around the first week of July! More info to come!

Contact Pastor Dawn or Amy Hendrick to tell us how you can be a part!