

Moving Work Day

On Saturday, December 9, from 9-Noon, we invite you to come pack a box or clean a room as we prepare to move. We will be moving our belongings into a storage area at 4241 Tanglewood.

Temporary Location

Starting January 7, we will be meeting temporarily at Blanton Elementary School at 4101 Lynbrook on Sunday mornings. Sunday School will be at 10 am; Worship will be at 11 am. See you there!



December 2017

Extending Jesus' hospitality to the Odessa area



601 N. Lee Ave
Odessa, TX 79761



The time has come! Sunday, December 31 will be our last worship together at our downtown location, and our last as "First" Christian Church. Please be a part of this historic moment in your congregation's faithfulness in the coming month! Here are opportunities to remember and celebrate:

Faith Forward Sunday

Sunday, December 10, we will welcome back some of the significant leaders on our church's journey for a prayer walk around our downtown location at 10am, a worship celebration at 11am, and the annual smorgasbord at 12:15pm. Bring a finger food to share. You don't want to miss this!

Christmas Music Sunday and Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 17, our choir will present special music and our children will offer a Christmas play at our 11am worship service. Following worship, we will hold our annual congregational meeting to plan for our upcoming year together.

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This Weeks' Reflections

"A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse; a branch will sprout from his roots." -Isaiah 11:1

A shoot coming from the stump, how about that. When you thought the garden was done, one last green leaf popped from the brown, dry soil. When you thought the friendship was gone, suddenly laughter came again. When you thought you could not live life after she died, you felt love again and considered that maybe, you could go on. A shoot coming from the stump.

Here in Isaiah the stump is Jesse, the father of the most important king of Israel, King David. Generations later, from David and his wife Bathsheba, through Joseph and Mary, by the power of the Holy Spirit, came Jesus Christ. Jesus is the one who gives abundant and eternal life for all people, yet he came from what seemed to be ancient history.

Advent is the season of waiting for Christ's coming anew into our lives. We confess that we are still yearning for more of Christ's peace and love in our lives, yet! Yet we hold on to the promise that a shoot will grow from our past. As our church takes the huge step of faith towards relocation and renaming as "Connection Christian Church," I invite you to trust in the promise with me: from God's faithfulness in the past, there is more to bloom forth in the future. 20th century Christian leader Dag Hammarskjold is famous for saying, "For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, yes!" This special Advent season, may the God of new life help us see not just what was, but what is coming!

Couldn't be prouder to be your pastor,
Dawn

Elders Serving December 2017

*Shepherding Elder
Earlene Smith*

12/3 Bryan Paddack, Susan Paddack
12/10 Steve Cheaney, Mike Kelly
12/17 Earlene Smith, John Gillian
12/24 Cricket Harrison, Steve Cheaney
12/31 Susan Paddack, Earlene Smith

Deacons Serving December 2017

Melissa Bergmann, Joyce Houser, Jackie Barnes & Marita Hendrick

December Birthdays

8 Tom Pace
10 Renee' Earls
13 Patti Sprawls
17 Dan Wagoner
24 Janell Lewallen
27 Hunter Hendrick

December Anniversaries

27 Truman & Sissi Warren

Christmas Eve Worship

Emmanuel! God is with us! We will celebrate Christmas Eve with two services. We will celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent at 11am on Sunday morning (no Sunday school or Children's Worship). At 7pm on Sunday evening, we will celebrate Christ's birth with candles, carols, and communion. Come rejoice with your church family!

New Year's Eve Worship

On Sunday, December 31 at 11am, we will gather for worship in our downtown location for the final time. Come watch as Connection Christian Church grows out of the foundations of First Christian Church as the new year dawns.



Grateful: Stewardship

Thank you to the 49 households who pledged a total of \$231,328.00 to undergird the ministry of this church in 2018! If you have not yet sent in your pledge, please do so. Every gift counts.

<http://fccodessa.com/pledge/>

Tom Pace is turning

Eighty

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

Thursday 6:00 PM December 7, 2017

Dee's Bistro

622 N Lee Odessa, Texas

RSVP at (409)344-1805 or (432)332-6059

The pleasure of your company is the best gift.

Newsletter Service

Due to our move, our print newsletter service will be suspended for a time. We will get you back in service as soon as our new office is set up. Thanks for your understanding.

Crisis Center Groundbreaking

Our church is an important partner to the West Texas Crisis Center, Odessa's domestic violence shelter. We have donated many dollars and hours to see the dream of a new domestic violence shelter in Odessa come true. On Thursday, December 14th at 4pm, the Crisis Center will break ground on our \$5 million new shelter! Praise God and thank you!