



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

November 20, 2014

Extending Jesus' hospitality
to the Odessa area

Advent 2014 at First Christian Church

This Advent at FCC we are entering into the Advent Conspiracy. Come conspire with us as we Spend Less, Give More, Love All, and Worship God this Christmas!

Sunday, November 30- Advent begins with Worship at 8:45 and 10:45am

Sunday, December 14- Children's Pageant and Smorgasbord at Noon

Sunday, December 21- The Music of Christmas at 8:45 and 10:45am Worship Services

Wednesday, December 24- Christmas Eve Worship with Fellowship at 6:30pm and Carols, Communion, and Candlelight at 7pm

Sunday, December 28-
Worship at 10:45am



Welcome New Members

Cricket Harrison

Michael and Christina
Chavez and daughter
Angie

Scripture this Thanksgiving Sunday

Matthew 25:31-46

“...when you have done
it for one of the least
of these brothers and
sisters of mine, you
have done it for me...”



Why the World Needs the Disciples of Christ



Reason #7. Disciples offer a place at the communion table every time we worship.

Disciples are often the only church in a community where all are welcomed to take communion weekly. We practice communion every time we gather just as the churches in Acts did. We offer all Christians from all churches to join at the Table as a sign of our unity in Christ. We extend the grace of God in tangible form to any and all every time we gather. What a witness to the world!



601 N. Lee Ave
Odessa, TX 79761

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

This Week's Reflection

This weekend, Pastor Joe will be at the national meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature. This is the academic group that keeps biblical scholarship current and vibrant in our world. Thousands of Bible scholars will gather in San Diego (because you know you can interpret the Bible better by the beach). The vast majority who attend are teaching in a college or seminary setting. A rare few, like Pastor Joe, are pastors who specialize in biblical study and want to keep their minds sharpened for that work.

It makes me proud that our church has a pastor like Pastor Joe, who works at reading the Bible in its original languages and learning the latest news on discoveries and insights about the Bible. I'm proud not just because I'm his wife! I think this is part of what makes the Disciples of Christ a unique witness in our world.

Disciples of Christ are People of the Book. We revere Scripture, but not by putting it up on a pedestal saying, "God says it, I believe it, that settles it." We revere Scripture by having a relationship with it, by diving in, asking questions and listening to it on its own merit, not with a preconceived idea of what it must say. We want to keep hearing fresh insights from archaeology, linguistics, and more, so the Word of God can be alive for us, today! I'm especially grateful for the work of our Sunday school teachers for children, youth and adults, who help us in life-long conversation with the Bible. They study so we can be inspired to study for ourselves, and to apply God's Word in life-changing ways.

This Sunday, we will study a story from Matthew. In Advent, all our sermons will be from Isaiah. Keep reading your Bibles daily, will you, and studying them with all the vigor your mind can muster?

Being free to do this is one of the ways we are blessed.

Pastor Dawn

Reminder: Congregational Meeting Dec 7
On Sunday, December 7, we have a congregational meeting after each worship service, in order to approve 2015 Elders, Deacons, Officers and the budget.

Children and Youth

It's a great time to say THANK YOU to the faithful, funny, fabulous folks who support our children and youth ministry. We are so blessed to share their gifts! Thank you to:

Leslie Gillian, who facilitates our Children's Worship each Sunday morning and our kids' fellowship group Sunday nights, AS WELL AS serves as our chair of education ministry;

Sarah Grove, children's Sunday school teacher extraordinaire

Gina Yarbrough, who has been teaching our youth Sunday school this fall

Penny Boss and Steve Cheaney, who have been our fearless sponsors for our youth fellowship group Sunday nights

Michelle Taylor, who leads our children's choir with joy

All of our Snack Supper makers, who have been so wonderful to feed our bellies on Sunday nights while we feed our minds and hearts with God's word!

Hope for Grieving During the Holidays

Holidays might be especially tough if you are grieving due to health or job loss, divorce, or death. Listed below are some ideas that others have found helpful in coping with the Holiday Season. Choose the ones that will help you:

1. Be careful of "shoulds." It is better to do what is most helpful for you and your family. Traditions are only helpful if they bring comfort to you.
2. Set limitations. Do only the things that are very special and/or important to you. Do the best that you can.
3. What you choose to do this year you don't have to do the next. One possibility for the first year may be to visit relatives, friends, or even go away on a vacation. Planning, packing, etc., keeps your mind somewhat off the holiday and you share the time in a different and hopefully less painful setting.
4. How do we answer, "Merry Christmas?" You may say, "I'll try" or "Best wishes to you." You will think of many answers that you don't say.
5. Some people fear crying in public, especially at religious services. It is usually better not to push the tears down any time. You should be gentle with yourself and not expect too much of yourself. Worrying about crying is an additional burden. Cry and you may feel better. It should not ruin the day for other family members, but will provide them with the same freedom.
6. Do something for someone else, such as volunteer work at soup kitchens or visit the lonely and shut-ins. Ask someone who is alone to share the day with your family. Provide help for a needy family. Donate a gift or money in your loved one's name.
7. Share your concerns, feelings, apprehensions with a friend or pastor as the holiday approaches. Tell them that this is a difficult time for you. Accept their help. You will appreciate their love and support at this time.

Save the Date-

January 6

Our Bold Journey in 2015 begins on Epiphany, Tuesday, January 6.

You are invited to attend one of two meetings, a day meeting at 2pm or an evening meeting at 7pm. You will meet Dr. Rick Morse, Vice President of Missional Church for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and author of *Developing a Ministry Plan that Makes Sense*.

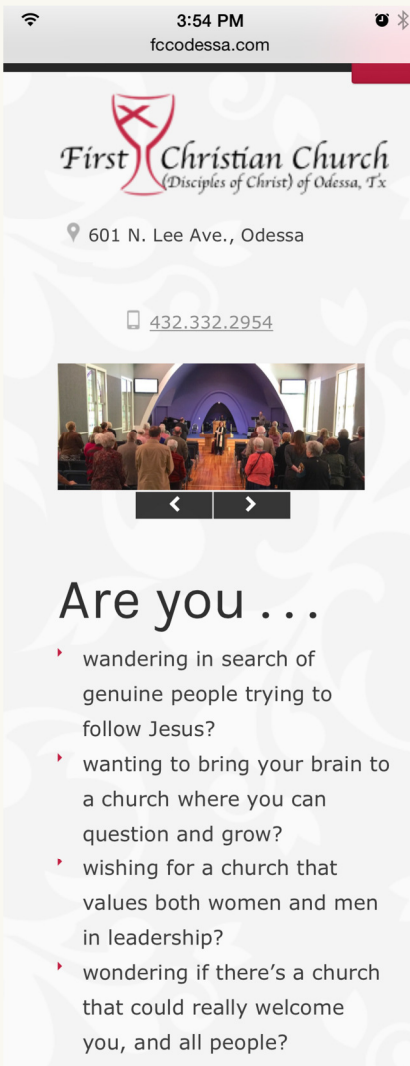
Dr. Morse will lead us through a 4-month process to help us determine what people and places our church can strategically reach for Christ.

This Sunday:

Sermon	"Counting Our Blessings"
Text	Matthew 21:31-46
Financial Assistants	Tom Pace & Steve Johnson
Shepherding Elder	Beth Carrell
Communion Elder	Amy Hendrick
Offertory Elder	Jeanene Taylor
Sound System	John Gillian
Diaconate	Bryan Paddack, Jackie Sue Barnes, & Rhonda Lewallen

Please hold in your prayers: The Sprawls family in the death of Tom and Jan's father, H.G.; Richard Owens; Israel Martinez, brother of Mary Helen Amescua; Janell Lewallen; Beth Carrell; Sarah Grove; Marissa Regalado; Major Troy Fisher; Ozella Qualls; Keith Yarbrough; Dortha Bennett; Austin Montessori & ECISD Administration; Those who don't know God's Love

Check out the church's updated website at:
fccodessa.com



Statistically Speaking

Sunday, Nov 9, 2014

Worship (8:45)	20
Worship (10:45)	55
Total	86

Sunday School 37

Offering

\$ 3,319.39

Total 2014

\$ 253,710.53

Glance at the Calendar

Sun, November 23rd

Thanksgiving Offering will be collected

8:45am Worship with Praise Band

9:30am Sunday School

10:45am Worship with Traditional Hymns

Wed, November 26th

No choir or band practice

Thur, November 27th

Enjoy Thanksgiving!

Sun, November 30th

First Sunday of Advent

8:45am Worship with Praise Band

9:30am Sunday School

10:45am Worship with Traditional Hymns

(See Advent Calendar on page 1 for more info)

Poinsettias for Advent

Reserve your poinsettias for the Advent Season. The plants adorn our worship center through the holidays and may be taken home following the Christmas Eve service. Fill in the blank order form (Orders CANNOT be processed without correct information) and return to the church office or place in offering plate with your check marked "poinsettia." Number of plants ordered ____ @ \$10.00 each.

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

or

In honor of: _____