



THE LONG VIEW

Volume 58, Issue 24, November 29, 2023

The mission of this congregation is the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through all areas of its life and work, witnessing in all situations to the grace of God in Jesus Christ, thereby seeking in all people a response in faith and commitment to him.

Matthew 28:18-20

"O COME TO US, ABIDE WITH US, OUR GOD, EMMANUEL" - O Little Town of Bethlehem

This beloved Christmas carol closes with inviting the divine to "Abide With Us."

Perhaps our ultimate hope and prayer is knowing that God is with us in our most sacred and quiet moments as well, as amid a frenetic season that calls us to do just about anything other than abide with our God.

Abide With Us is a daily Advent devotional that will help you remember that our God is always with us every time, even in the most unlikely of places.

Beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, each day's devotion includes an Advent scripture, reflection, and prayer. As you engage with the traditional themes of Advent hope, peace, joy, love- you will reflect on what you can do to create a welcoming space for God in our hearts and our world. Weekly candle lighting moments in Spanish and English. Candle lighting moments for each Sunday and Christmas plus devotions including the 12 Days of Christmas until Epiphany make Abide With Us a welcome guide in experiencing Advent this year.



This book was prepared by pastors in the regional ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). They are now available and can be found in the Narthex. Please take one per family!



If you have signed up to bring food, please deliver it to the House of Hope on Hwy 80 by 4:30 pm on December 3rd.



You may order your poinsettias, now through December 3rd. Simply fill out the order form on the Action Card in the bulletin or call the office by December 4th. Each plant is \$11.00. Make checks payable to First Christian Church, memo poinsettia.

December 3, 2023, 1st Sunday in Advent 10:30 am

December 10, 2023, 2nd Sunday in Advent 10:30 am

December 17, 2023, 3rd Sunday in Advent 10:30 am, Joy-Music Sunday: Special Music by the Choir, Handbells, Children's Choir and lots of hymns.

December 24, 2023, 4th Sunday in Advent 10:30 am

December 24, 2023, Christmas Eve 7:00 pm: Candles, Carols and Communion! Bring the family and join us for this beautiful service. Dr. Richard will be reading a special story to the children. No childcare will be available.





Craig King and his band of elves will be putting out the luminaries around the church on Saturday, December 16th at 9:00 am. Everyone is invited to come be an elf. We will be removing them on January 6th.



Remember Special Music Sunday is December 17th, the Third Sunday of Advent. The theme is Joy and will be presented by our handbells, children singing, choir specials and hymns.



GIFTS (Growing In Faith Together Studies) would like to invite all ladies to join them Mondays at noon in the Acts Classroom, even if you don't have the book or study guide. Join us!

Bible Study meet at 6:30 pm on Thursday in the Conference Room. All are welcome to join us.



Hello ROMEO! (Retired Old Men Eating Out.

Most are retired, but not all of them. Come join the fellowship of these experienced men. Mondays at noon at Jason's Deli.

Bible Study meets at 6:30 pm on Thursday in the Conference Room. All are welcome to join.



Children ages 3 1/2 thru 5th grade are welcome to join us for Sunday School @ 9:30 am and practice singing at 10:00 am in the GGD room and then Children's church during worship. Music Sunday is December 17th and we need to be ready to perform.



Don't forget to bring those nonperishable food items for LCM (Longview Community Ministries). The children will collect them when they walk down the aisle after the Children's Sermon.



6th Grade thru 12th Grade meet in Disciples House on Wednesdays from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. December 20th will be Caroling and Coco.



RETREAT REGISTRATION CLOSES 2 WEEKS BEFORE EACH RETREAT @ 11:59PM
Fall Retreats: (Current Grade) **Registration is Open Now**
DC Youth High School: December 2-4

Attention Parents: Please go online to register and pay in full to Disciple Crossing. Then notify the church office that your child/family is going. Scholarships are available if requested.

PICKLEBALL



New Hours and Days!
Church Members & Friends Only Pickleball times are:
 Tuesdays 2:00 – 4:00 pm
 Thursdays Noon – 2:00 pm



We had fun shopping for Heifer International again at our November meeting. We were able to purchase 3 biogas stoves, a heifer, clean water, seeds, a hope basket, honeybees and a food basket, as well as sending a girl to school. Thank you everyone for your generous donations! **Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 11 at 10:30 in Cornerstone Hall. Please join us as we hear Vicky lead a program on Mary's perspective of the Christmas story. We will enjoy snacks and will be contributing to Haverty's Angel Tree as our service project.**



PREP School is having their annual Giving Tree program **Wednesday, December 16th.** Please bring unwrapped toys, ages 1 month to 10 years old to the PREP hall bench, by Tuesday, December 5th. All donations will be given to the Foster Kids of Gregg County.



Join teacher, George Terrell, for an Advent Bible Study on Thursday nights at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room. We will start our Advent series 12/7/23. Everyone is welcome.



This year we are collecting for several Angel Tree children from the local community of Harleton. Please bring all items purchased to your Sunday school class or the office before December 8th.

Also, Angel Tree is collecting wrapping paper and tape if you would like to donate to this wonderful outreach.



Supporting Ministries Across 31 Regions:

As we eagerly anticipate the Advent Season, we're excited to extend an invitation for you to be a catalyst for lasting impact. Your support holds the extraordinary power to not only transform lives but also uplift communities and drive positive change. Together, we can create a ripple effect that resonates far beyond our Region.

The Christmas Offering impacts 31 regions across the United States and Canada. Regional Ministry is not just about nurturing ministers—it's a beacon of opportunities for meaningful work and worship with ministers, lay leaders and congregations. Beyond the

2023 IMPACT

In 2023 your support had a HUGE impact on our Region!

1500 people

participated in Men's, Women's, Youth, Young Adult, and Educational Events

40 candidates

Candidates for Ordination under care by RCOM in 2023

7 newly ordained

Newly Ordained Clergy in 2023

well-deserved recognition for impactful camps and conferences, these regions play a vital role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination, acting as keystones for church leadership and development. Collaborating with congregations, our regions ensure a smooth process for calling new ministers, helping with an easy transition and the continuity of impactful leadership.

This holiday season let's kindle the flame of positive change together. Will you join us on this transformative journey?

175 commissioned

Commissioned Clergy In 2023

\$300,000 given

New and transforming church grants given

10 congregations

Congregational visioning/transforming consultations

Be Part of the Magic:

1. **Visit our website:** Dive into the magic of giving and learn more about how your gifts have impacted the region this past year
2. **Donate:** Your contribution, no matter the size, will be a catalyst for positive change. Let's come together to make a meaningful impact on regional ministries.
3. **Share the Joy:** Spread the word! Share the campaign with friends, family, and colleagues. Together, we can create a ripple effect of joy and generosity.
4. **Follow the Journey:** Stay connected on our socials for updates, stories, and glimpses of the impact your generosity is creating.



Operation Christmas Cheer

It's not too early **to** be thinking about sending Christmas cards (and save on postage) to your First Christian Church family and friends. Don't forget the homebound. If you would like to share one or several cards, we will help you get them delivered.

Bring your cards to the church and put them in the large basket in the narthex from **November 28th - December 14th**. We ask you to band them together in alphabetical order by last name to help those who are sorting them.

You may pick **up your cards on December 17th**.

This is a form of discipleship within our church. *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* 1 Peter 4:8

Please phone the church office if you have any questions.



Join us for a Christmas BINGO night, Thursday, December 14th, it will be so much fun with all the Christmas spirit floating around. Wear your Christmas attire (ugly sweater, red or green tops, Christmas pajamas or your Christmas T-shirt) and bring something to share and join us at 5:30 pm in Cornerstone Hall.



If you aren't cooking either, join us at 5:30 pm for good food and great company. On December 5th we will be eating at Pizza King on Hwy 80. Everyone is welcome to join! Call Lyn Blount @ (903) 237-8019 or Teresa Mitchell @ (432) 553-6305 for more details.

Thinking About Legacies

There are so many legacies from which we draw. Parents oftentimes leave us with a powerful set of values and a strong legacy of service and acceptance of others. Even our faith creates in us a legacy of strong biblical knowledge and curiosity and humility.

Our congregation has invested in us legacies of affirmation and opportunity, of unconditional love and friendships that stand the test of time, of nurtured faith and tested values and growing stewardship.

As we focus on all the blessings left us by others, by our church and by our life experiences, we must ask ourselves: What legacy will I leave?

Hopefully this legacy will include the hope of a strong faith, the enduring power of nonjudgmental love, and perhaps even the desire to make a difference in the world.

As part of this, consider how including the church in your end-of life giving plans will provide a legacy to future generations seeking to grow in faith and wisdom.

Making a legacy gift to our congregation doesn't have to be difficult.

It is as easy as making the church the beneficiary of all or part of one of your retirement accounts (traditional IRA, 401(k), 403(b), etc.). You can do the same thing with a life insurance policy.

The process is simple and costs you nothing: Just contact your plan administrator or insurance representative and request a new beneficiary designation form. In many cases the form will be completed and mailed to you for your signature.

No lawyer fees, no complicated processes. It's something you could do this week!

Want to learn about other ways to provide First Christian Church with a legacy gift? Contact the Christian Church Foundation at (800) 668-8016.

Retirement Assets can be a Great Gift

A retirement account such as an IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) often comprises a large portion of a person's wealth. Yet did you know they are the most heavily taxed and a perfect instrument for making a charitable gift at death?

The way in which you distribute the assets in your retirement accounts can reflect your faith and values. By naming our church as beneficiary of your retirement account, you can pass on assets you no longer can use, and spare your estate the tax burden affiliated with these plans.

Simply ask the manager of your account to send you a beneficiary designation form and complete it with the proper legal name of the church. Doing so allows the funds to pass tax-free.

Remember to consult your financial advisors on the ramifications of this decision since individual circumstances vary. If you'd like to learn more about how you can help our church through a gift of retirement plan assets, contact the Christian Church Foundation which is the general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) designed to help church members create a lasting legacy through planned gifts. Foundation development officers are ordained or licensed clergy who understand the church and stewardship, to speak to one, call (800) 668-8016.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

ABC Class – *The Righteous Reign of God*- 4th floor, West End, Last Room-Teacher: Rotating

ACTS Class – *Help is Here*, Max Lucado-Meets 4th floor, East End, Last Room-Teacher: Rotating

Cornerstone Class – *Faith That Pleases God-The Present Word*-Meets in Cornerstone Hall-Teacher: Rick Shepherd

GNG Class – "Faith That Pleases God"-Meets in the Conference Room-Teacher: Rotating

Seeker's Class – *What's so Amazing about Grace?*-Meets 4th Floor, East End, Last Room on Right

Sojourners Class –Meets on 4th Floor East Wing-Teacher: Not meeting at this time.

Visions Class– 1 Corinthians-Meets 4th floor, Middle of Hall, South Room-Teachers: Charlie & Dottie Bachtell

**Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 10th**

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8
Dr. Richard Emerson

Lectionary Texts For:

**Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 17th**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dr. Richard Emerson

Attendance

On 11/19/23 We had 130 people in the Worship Service, 80 in Sunday School and 149 Facebook views.

On 11/26/23 we had 97 people in the Worship Service, 57 in Sunday School and 73 Facebook views.

Members and Friends Prayer List

Members: Dottie Bachtell, Charlie Bachtell, JoAnn Malone, Colton Rieger, Pat Terrell, Barbara Dickinson, Ramona Dickinson, Susan Ellison, Margaret Griffin, Susan Goodson, Cara Cline, Jennifer Fields, Carolyn McAninch, Kathy Hays, Jim Ruth, Steven Brizius, Ruth Lewis, David Bondurant, Mary Ann Tinsley, Gary Ayers, Tom Cook, Elaine Kauffman, Patsy Pliier, Brian Whitenack, Micah Johnson, Shelton Foster Baby Gigi, Delmar Pliier, Levi Grant, Emily Racicot Thomas, Betty Kindle, Dr. Ken Glaze, David Grimes, Mike Fields, Keri Rieger, Les Cole, Sharon Wilson, Betty Kindle, Alyza McFarland

Friends: Marsh Family, Gilbert Family, Lomelo Family, Tony Sasser, Cindy Gann, John McClough, Billy Lewis, Justin Croft, Kathy Stewart, Family of Virginia Epps, Yvonne Davis, People of Ukraine, People of Gaza & Israel, Marcus Jefferson, Thomas, Shelby Durst, Lonnie Pritchett, Jim Beville, Jamie Walzell, Sharon Smith, Tommy Gray, Steve Hooper, Hannah & Carter Tysen, Israel, Christy, Rae "Spoon Lady" Bryant, Amy Martin, Joel, Amy, Miles & Melba, Frank Franchina, our homebound, shut-in members, Our nation, government, military, police, fire department, medical personnel and those who do not yet know Jesus' love and saving grace.

- Worship** @10:30 am (SAN)
- FCC Pickleball** Tuesdays @2:00 pm-4:00 pm & Thursdays @ Noon-2:00 pm (DH)
- Sara's Sisters/DWM 2nd Monday** @ 10:30 am (CH)
- Monday School**-Mondays @ Noon (Jason's Deli)
- GIFTS** Mondays @ 12:00 pm (AC)
- Tuesday Fellowship Dinner** @ 5:30 pm (TBD)
- Handbell Practice**-Wednesday @ 5:15 pm (MS)
- Choir Practice**-Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm (MS)
- Tai Chi**-Thursday @ 9:00 am (CH)
- Bingo** 2nd Thursday of the month @ 5:30 pm (CH)
- Bible Study** Thursdays @ 6:30 pm (CR)



CHURCH STAFF: DR. RICHARD C. EMERSON-Senior Minister, AMANDA GRIMES-P.R.E.P. School Director, ELICK ARP-Children & Youth Director, REMINGTON FOSTER-Choir Director, AARON TURNER-Pianist/Organist, GEORGE TERRELL-Sunday Coordinator, DEBRA THOMPSON-Administrative Assistant, RUTH LEWIS-Maintenance Manager, SALLY FARMER-Financial Assistant.

Sunday Worship
9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Worship Service
(Worship also available streamed on Facebook)
www.facebook.com/fcclongview

Office Hours
8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Monday – Thursday
8:30 am – 12:30 pm Friday

720 N. 6th Street
Longview, TX 75601
(903) 753-7611
www.fcclongview.org

December 2023 Elder & Diaconate Schedule

ELDER Schedule for Table

Dec. 3 10:30 am Cheryl McNulty George Terrell		Dec. 10 10:30 am Jolene Auderer Teresa Mitchell
Dec. 17 10:30 am Ellie Cochran Mallory Shelton	Dec. 24 10:30 am Donna McFarland Bill Holloman	Dec. 31 10:30 am Jamie Dippold David Farmer

DIACONATE/SERVER Service Schedule

Dec. 3 10:30 am Team 4		Dec. 10 10:30 am Team 1
Dec. 17 10:30 am Team 2	Dec. 24 10:30 am Team 3	Dec. 31 10:30 am Team 4

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IF YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO SERVE, YOU WILL ALSO BE GREETERS.

ELDER/DIACONATE Schedule for Homebound

December 10, 2023

Morning and Afternoon

Elders: Mallory Shelton, Rick Wilson, Donna McFarland, 903 Cheryl McNulty, Teresa Mitchell, Jeb Blount

Diaconate: Vicki Cole, Nancy Holloman, Jim Hurst, David Grimes, Lysa Dykes
Jr. Elder: Ellie Cochran

December Communion Tray Preparation

Week 1 & 2: Jerald Lewis
Week 3, 4 & 5: _____

***Please call the church office if you are not able to prepare.**

If you are unable to serve, please find a substitute from the appropriate Elder or Diaconate list below:

2023 SERVING ELDERS

Jolene Auderer
Charlie Bachtell
Dottie Bachtell
Jamie Dippold
David Farmer
Ray Hatcher
Bill Holloman
Donna McFarland
Terry McKnight
Cheryl McNulty
Teresa Mitchell
Brannon Robertson
Mallory Shelton
George Terrell
Rick Wilson

Junior Elders

Ellie Cochran
Kennedy Hatcher
Rylan Roberts

Life Elders

Jeannie Dykes
Richard Lucas
Bill Park
Julia Van Burkleo

2023 DIACONATE/ADDITIONAL SERVER TEAMS

Additional Servers are just that, they only serve communion.

They do not perform any duties of a Diaconate.

If you are willing to be an Additional Server, please notify the office.

D-Diaconate Members

A-Additional Servers

Team 1

Alex Avaltroni-D
Meagan Avaltroni-D
Danny Matherne-D
Melanie McKnight-D
John Roberts-D
Kelly Green-A
Kennedy Hatcher-A
Ray Hatcher-A

Team 2

Vicki Cole-D
Lysa Dykes-D
David Grimes-D
Brandon Hunter-D
Jerald Lewis-D
Rayna McFarland-D
Lyn Blount-A
Rick Johnston-A

Team 3

Nancy Holloman-D
Bobbie Roberts-D
Brent Thompson-D
Debra Thompson-D
Teresa Mitchell-A

_____-A
_____-A
_____-A

Team 4









Mark Goodson-D
Susan Goodson-D
Jim Hurst-D
Patti Racicot-D
Justin Smith-D
Sherri Tucker-D

_____-A
_____-A

If you would like to be an additional server or Diaconate, please call the church office.

December 2023

First Christian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26</p> <p>Thanksgiving Offering 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship (Sanc) 12:00pm Advent Decorations go up after Worship</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>12:00pm GIFTS (In Person) 12:00pm Monday School (Jason's Deli) 1:00pm PREP Tots (DH) 4:00pm CHCS Basketball (DH)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00am PREP-Practice 1:00pm PREP Tots (DH) 2:00pm FCC-Pickleball (DH) 4:00pm Heritage Bible Study (P) 4:00pm CHCS Basketball (DH) 5:30pm Fellowship Dinner(TBD)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:00am Andrea Silverthorne 9:00am PREP-Practice 5:15pm Handbell Practice (MS) 6:00pm Youth-Dinner (DH) 6:30pm Choir Practice (MS)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Newsletter 8:00am Andrea Silverthorne (DH) 9:00am PREP-Practice 9:00am Tai-Chi (CH) 12:00pm FCC-Pickleball 2:00pm Pickleball 6:30pm Bible Study (CR)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8:30am Longview Women's Forum (DH)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00am Train 2 Win (DH)</p>
<p>3</p>  <p>9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship (Sanc)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:00am Trinity School of Texas (DH) 12:00pm GIFTS (In Person) 12:00pm Monday School (Jason's Deli) 1:00pm PREP Tots (DH) 2:00pm Pickleball (DH) 4:15pm ETex Dance (DH)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:00am Trinity School of Texas (DH) 1:00pm PREP Tots (DH) 2:00pm FCC-Pickleball (DH) 4:00pm CHCS Basketball (DH) 5:30pm Fellowship Dinner(TBD)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00am Trinity School of Texas (DH) 9:30am Giving Tree in Sanctuary (PA) 1:00pm Andrea Silverthorne-Lessons (DH) 5:15pm Handbell Practice (MS) 6:00pm Youth-Dinner (DH) 6:30pm Choir Practice (MS)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:00am Andrea Silverthorne (DH) 9:00am Tai-Chi (CH) 12:00pm FCC-Pickleball (DH) 6:00pm Train 2 Win (DH) 6:30pm Bible Study (CR)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:00am Trinity School of Texas (DH) 5:00pm Train 2 Win (DH)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00am Train 2 Win (DH)</p>
<p>10</p>  <p>Homebound Communion 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship (Sanc)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:30am Disciple's Women/Sara's Sisters (CH) 12:00pm GIFTS (In Person) 12:00pm Monday School (Jason's Deli) 1:00pm PREP Tots (DH) 2:00pm Pickleball (DH) 4:15pm ETex Dance (DH)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1:00pm PREP Tots (DH) 2:00pm FCC-Pickleball (DH) 4:45pm ETex Dance (DH) 5:30pm Finance Meeting (CR)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1:00pm Andrea Silverthorne-Lessons (DH) 5:15pm Handbell Practice (MS) 6:00pm Youth-Dinner (DH) 6:30pm Choir Practice (MS)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Newsletter 8:00am Andrea Silverthorne (DH) 9:00am Tai-Chi (CH) 10:00am Shakespeare Club (YM) & (CH) 12:00pm FCC-Pickleball (DH) 6:30pm Bible Study (CR)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:00pm Train 2 Win (DH)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00am Luminaries-Set Up 10:00am Train 2 Win (DH)</p>
<p>17</p>  <p>9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship (Sanc)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30am PREP Christmas Party (DH) 11:00am PREP Christmas Party (CH) 12:00pm GIFTS (In Person) 12:00pm Monday School (Jason's Deli) 1:00pm PREP Tots (DH) 1:30pm Care & Concern (CR) 2:00pm Pickleball (DH) 4:15pm ETex Dance (DH) 5:30pm Elders Meeting (MS)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1:00pm PREP Tots (DH) 2:00pm FCC-Pickleball (DH) 5:30pm Fellowship Dinner(TBD)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:15pm Handbell Practice (MS) 6:00pm Youth-Dinner (DH) 6:30pm Choir Practice (MS)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00am Tai-Chi (CH) 12:00pm FCC-Pickleball (DH) 6:30pm Bible Study (CR)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:00pm Train 2 Win (DH)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00am Train 2 Win (DH)</p>
<p>24</p>  <p>9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship (Sanc) 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Office Closed</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Office Closed 5:15pm Handbell Practice (MS) 6:00pm Youth-Dinner (DH) 6:30pm Choir Practice (MS)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Newsletter 9:00am Tai-Chi (CH) 12:00pm FCC-Pickleball 6:30pm Bible Study (CR)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:00pm Train 2 Win (DH)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00am Train 2 Win (DH)</p>
<p>31</p>  <p>9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship (Sanc) 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>1</p>  <p>Office Closed 12:00pm Monday School (Jason's Deli)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>2:00pm FCC-Pickleball (DH) 5:30pm Fellowship Dinner(TBD)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5:15pm Handbell Practice (MS) 6:00pm Youth-Dinner (DH) 6:30pm Choir Practice (MS)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00am Tai-Chi (CH) 12:00pm FCC-Pickleball (DH) 6:30pm Bible Study (CR)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30am Longview Women's Forum (DH) 5:00pm Train 2 Win (DH)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00am Luminaries-Take Down 10:00am Train 2 Win (DH)</p>