



THE LONG VIEW

Volume 58, Issue 26, December 14, 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





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.



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 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?

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.



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 luminaries on January 6th.



GIFTS (Growing In Faith Together Studies) All classes are canceled for the Christmas Holidays. They will resume Monday, January 8, 2024. We 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.



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 Carmela's and Coco.



RETREAT REGISTRATION CLOSES 2 WEEKS BEFORE EACH RETREAT @ 11:59PM

Registration is Open Now

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.



Mark your calendars

2024 FCC DAY/MINI CAMP: JUNE 10-14, 2024

PICKLEBALL



New Hours and Days!

Church Members & Friends Only Pickleball times are:

Tuesdays 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Thursdays Noon – 2:00 pm



If you aren't cooking either, join us at 5:30 pm for good food and great company. On December 19th we will be eating at Bodacious on the Loop. Everyone is welcome to join! Call Lyn Blount @ (903) 237-8019 or Teresa Mitchell @ (432) 553-6305 for more details.



It's really hard to express all of the kindness you as our church family have shown to Delmer and me during our surgeries.

We have received so many cards, texts, phone calls, visits, food and flowers.

We appreciate all your thoughts and prayers during the past weeks.

It meant so much knowing you were praying for us and for all the concern you have shown us.

*Our Love,
Patsy & Delmer*

What is it to Live Forever?

For the early Hebrews, living forever meant having progeny--bearing children so that your name would "not depart from the earth." Eternal life was through your "seed."

Subsequent to the exile in Babylon, they adopted a notion of the soul and came to believe that the soul could live on after death and some believed in the possibility of resurrection, where not only the soul would live on but the body as well would enter into some kind of afterlife.

We typically don't speculate much about the afterlife, whether we are on the great wheel of karma, or whether we meet Peter at the pearly gate, or whether our children are our way to live on. The Apostle Paul considered it a mystery and a blessed hope. And many of us simply side with those who understand that the gospel is much more about "Thy Kingdom come, on earth..." than trying to get into some afterlife eternal real estate.

That being said, one very practical and gospel way to live on is through legacy giving. A legacy gift continues our influence, our intentions, our goals and our values even after we have crossed over into the mystery. It funds "Thy Kingdom come, on earth . . ." Even after we pass on, we live on.

Churches that encourage planned gifts often can provide ministries that "non legacy giving churches" can only imagine -- youth programs, lecture series, mission trips, facility upgrades and repairs.

Let's be aware of the gifts from so many faithful people before us who sacrificed and gave and passed to us this amazing church. As we receive this gift, let's be willing to match their faithfulness and generosity so that folks fifty years from now will be blessed by the generous faithfulness of our time in the life of the church.

Legacy giving is one faithful way of living on.

Simple Ways to Give

One of the simplest ways to leave a gift to our church is to use the beneficiary designation on savings and retirement accounts, as well as life insurance policies. These can be done with no cost, and typically only require us to sign a new beneficiary designation form.

Retirement assets and similar accounts are called Income in Respect of a Decedent (IRD) assets. This is taxable income that's earned during life but not received before death, so it is never included in an income tax return. This may be assets in Individual Retirement Accounts or 403(b) plans, accrued interest on Certificates of Deposit and savings bonds, nonqualified stock options, deferred payments of capital gains, or other income that is earned but not acquired.

In most cases, naming the church as the beneficiary of these types of assets gives the estate and heirs the best tax benefits, since it avoids both income and estate taxes.

Life insurance also can be an excellent gift, too. Naming the church as a primary or contingent beneficiary of an existing or new life insurance policy will result in a federal estate tax deduction for the full amount of the proceeds payable to the church regardless of policy size.

Because individual situations vary, be sure to consult your financial and tax advisors, as well as the Christian Church Foundation, the general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) designed to help church members create a lasting legacy through planned gifts. The Foundation can be reached at (800) 668-8016.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

ABC Class Faith That Pleases 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 24th

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Dr. Richard Emerson

Lectionary Texts For:

First Sunday after Christmas Day Sunday, December 31^h

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

Elick Arp

Attendance

On 12/3/23 we had 117 people in the Worship Service, 65 in Sunday School and 125 Facebook views.

On 12/10/23 we had 112 people in the Worship Service, 66 in Sunday School and 158 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 Piler, Brian Whitenack, Micah Johnson, Shelton Foster Baby Gigi, Delmar Piler, Levi Grant, Emily Racicot Thomas, Betty Kindle, Dr. Ken Glaze, David Grimes, Mike Fields, Keri Rieger, Les Cole, Sharon Wilson, Alyza McFarland, Mallory Shelton, Vicki Cole, Pam Roberts, Sylvia Whitlock

Friends: Marsh Family, Gilbert Family, Lomelo Family, Tony Sasser, Cindy Gann, John McClough, Billy Lewis, Kathy Stewart, Yvonne, Antonio, People of Ukraine, Family of Marcus Jefferson, Tommy Gray, Amy Martin, Joel, Amy, Miles & Melba, Frank Franchina, Levi Williams, Chassenie Jefferson Family, Family of Reba Bull, Carel Rouch, Nashville, Zaiden Lopez, Betty Fields, Carrol Harris & Family, Family of Melanie Johnston, Anna Huntsinger, Miriam Tutt, Micky Klatz's mother, Helen Johnson, Ann Whitehurst, Wendy Carter, Rene', 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) **Canceled till January 8th**

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