

The Light

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2323 Broadway St.
Lubbock, TX. 79401-2916

*And suddenly there was
with the angel a multitude
of the heavenly host
praising God and saying
Glory to God in the
highest and on earth
peace, goodwill towards
men”*

Luke 2: 13-14

**December 2019
Volume 30, Issue 12**



Season of Light

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Reverend
Paul
Carpenter
Senior Minister
paul@fcclubbock.org

Advent and Christmas season are upon us! I hope you are able to join FCC in the warmth of this month. "Advent" comes from the Latin word for "Coming". The season is designed to grow our faith and assurance that just as Jesus came into the world on Christmas, He will surely come a second time. As Hebrews 9:28 writes:

"So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those *who are waiting* for him."

We prepare and wait together, remembering God's promises and singing songs of faith. Our Deacons put together a **Devotional** based on **Advent Hymns** and **Christmas Carols** as a gift to all our households. This is a generous tool to help us all grow in anticipation for God's promises to be fulfilled. A special thank you to our Deacons!

Also, Valerie and I invite you to **Cookies at the Carpenter's!** We would love to welcome our church family to our home on Saturday, December 21. Please stop by between 3:00pm and 5:00pm for some homemade cookies and cider punch.

Paul and Valerie Carpenter
6314 Nashville Drive
Lubbock, TX 79413



Using GPS is recommended because the streets in our neighborhood change names. No RSVP required. Hope you can drop by for a sweet treat and fellowship!

May God bless you this Advent and Christmas season with the warmth of His love and the fellowship of our church family.

Pastor Paul

a Light word

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In the Life of the Church

As we celebrate Christmas this year, a highlight will be the beautiful Chrismon tree that graces our sanctuary. A Chrismon tree is decorated in white and gold, the liturgical colors of Christmas. Its ornaments are historic symbols for Christ that have been passed down through the centuries. White symbolizes the purity and perfection of Christ, while gold signifies His majesty and glory.

This year marks the 49th anniversary of our tree! In 1970, the women's craft classes met each Wednesday at the church fashioning the ornaments in a year-long project. They completed thirty of the beautiful ornaments before taking a summer break, and completed the remainder in the fall, in time for revealing the Chrismon tree on December 13, 1970.



Noah's Nook

Jane Stuart has donated 2 boxes of Christian education books to Noah's Nook that she bought at the Friends of the Library sale. Thank you Jane! And because Jane has always been such a great friend to our library, 3 beautiful Thanksgiving books have been donated in her honor:

- Sharing the Bread
- P is for Pumpkin
- One is a Feast for Mouse

Thank you Jane, for being a great friend to Noah's Nook!



NOVEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

	Nov. 3 rd	Nov. 10 th	Nov. 17 th	Nov. 24 th
General	\$ 36,947.89	\$17,368.00	\$13,373.00	\$14,777.00
Designated	\$1,100.00	\$4,530.00	\$1,075.00	\$1,402.00

Emmanuel- God with Us... Brittney Hardin

Advent is my favorite time of the liturgical year and I love getting to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ here at First Christian Church. In my personal bible study time, God has stirred my heart to explore original lyrics of many of our tried and true Christmas carols and hymns. It was a joy to read and sing the texts of so many ancient hymns of the faith, each one remembering the first Advent but also point us toward the second Advent to come. As I read and sang each musical line, I was reminded that the story of God has always been and remains to be that the Lord has made Himself a people and that He will dwell with His people. This promise was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ that first Christmas and will be completed when He returns to gather us to Himself once more on the final day. I pray this Advent that God cause us to sing out joyfully and draw us closer to the truth that Jesus Christ is God's promise made flesh and that He is indeed Emmanuel-God with us, now and forevermore.

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

*O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily.
To us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go.*

*O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to Your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.*

*O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem, unto Your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell Your people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.*

*O come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road and bar the way to death's abode.*

*O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.*

*O come, O King of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*



The Children's Development Center Christmas Program will take place on December 13th at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Afterwards we will all gather in Kuykendall Hall for cookies, punch, and a visit from a VERY special guest! Please come to support these children and spread the love of Christ this Advent season.

The Sanctuary Choir Christmas Brunch will be on December 7th from 9:30-11:30 am at the Reeves Residence, 3301 53rd Street. Sign up to bring something yummy in the upstairs Choral Suite.



message of Light

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Pray to the God of Hope . . . Marilyn Wragg

The theme I associate most closely with the season of Advent is “hope.” Just this past Sunday, I heard “hope” in our communion hymn, “To our strong hope we will hold fast, unshaken to the end.” And again in the choir’s beautiful offertory: “In eternal life, He gives me hope.” Pastor Paul spoke of hope multiple times in his sermon from Luke 21:5–19.

One thing Paul said is that hope differentiates those who love God from those who do not call on the name of Jesus. All will experience the same things, including suffering and grief, but believers will do so with hope.

I absolutely believe these teachings, and hope has sustained me through many calamities. And yet, at times my hope still wanes. So, what can I do at those times? The answer that came to me is: Pray to the God of hope.

Pray to the God of hope. Tell your Heavenly Father how you are feeling. Ask Him to renew your hope. Read Scriptures about hope, and ask God to write them on your heart. Ask God to give you the hope of Abraham, who, against all hope, in hope believed (Romans 4:18a). Ask Him to give you confidence in what you hope for (Hebrews 11:1). Ask Him to make you joyful in hope (Romans 12:12a). Thank God that you have hope as an anchor for your soul, and ask Him to make it secure (Hebrews 6:19). Praise God that He has given you new birth into a living hope through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:3).

And finally, I suggest praying my all-time favorite as many times and as often as needed when hope is waning: *God of hope, fill me with all joy and peace as I trust in You, so I may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit* (from Romans 15:13).

Merry Christmas!
May the God of hope enable each of you to overflow with hope this Advent season through the power of the Holy Spirit.



This Christmas we are hosting Buckner’s FYI’s (Fostering Youth Independence) Christmas party! Buckner’s FYI Center is a program that assists youth in and aging out of the foster care system. Buckner equips them with the resources they need to get on solid ground spiritually and physically. We are excited to provide them Christmas presents showing them the love of Christ! Please visit the angel tree in the Great Hall where you can pick someone to buy for. Take the paper ornament off the tree and write your information on the podium that corresponds to the number on your ornament. Return your unwrapped gift to the front office by December 8th with the ornament taped to it.

Contact Holly at Holly@fcclubbock.org with any questions.

Light events

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Heralding the Good News
Advent Devotionals
2019

2019 Advent Devotional Book

The Deacons of First Christian Church have joyfully prepared *meditations for this year's season of Advent. This year they have* pondered the meaning of some of your favorite Christmas carols to share with you and your family. Please pick up a copy to help guide you through this season of joy beginning Sunday, December 1.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

4PM & 6PM
IN SANCTUARY

COMMUNION BETWEEN SERVICES

First Christian Church of Lubbock

COLLEGE MINISTRY

December is here which means Christmas is just around the corner! How do you get into the holiday spirit? Do you spend countless hours decorating your home...inside and out? Or are you more casual with this season and prefer to just set up a small tree and enjoy the season with a warm fire and Hallmark Christmas movies? Whatever your traditions are, I hope that this will be the year that you develop new traditions that will grow you spiritually. Consider, turning off the Hallmark channel for a hour and just sit in silence...enjoy peace. Before you turn in for the night, consider picking up the advent devotional (provided by the Deacons of FCC) and reading the daily devotional. Or maybe this is the year where to spend time each a day writing a letter/card to a loved one and mailing it to them...25 days of letters/cards. Find a new tradition this year...one that will help you find more of the peace, joy and love of this season. It is my prayer that our many traditions, whatever they are, will help us fix our eyes on the Lord as we celebrate the greatest gift...Emmanuel, God with us.

Merry Christmas everyone!



Soli Deo Gloria!

Scott Hall

University Minister

First Christian Church-Lubbock

COLLEGE MINISTRY

WINTER CALENDAR 2019

NOVEMBER	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

19 **WORSHIP NIGHT**
Meet at the church @ 6:30pm for a night of worship and fellowship. Dinner provided!

20 **OUTREACH: KNO**
Join us as we serve our community and church with Kid's Night Out! Meet at the FCCC @ 5:30pm!

DECEMBER	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				

5 **DEAD DAY PIT STOP**
Come to the church throughout the day for refreshments, a quiet place to study, and prayer! Chili/Stews. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served from 6:30pm-8pm!

10, 17 **HOME BIBLE STUDY**
Come to the Halls home on Dec. 10th and 17th for bible study and dinner 6:30pm - 2823 53rd st

JANUARY	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	

28 **WORSHIP NIGHT**
Meet at the church @ 6:30pm for a night of worship and fellowship. Dinner provided!

17-20 **ANGEL FIRE SKI TRIP**
Want to go Skiing/Snowboarding? Sign up to go on our ski trip to Angel Fire, NM! Details on cost pending.

WEEKLY:

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY
Select Tuesday Nights; 6:30pm
Dinner Provided | 2323 Broadway

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS
Every Sunday; 9:30am

FIND US ON:

@fcc_college_ministry

@FCCCollegeMinistry

TEXT
"FCCC COLLEGE" to
84576 to receive
important updates
on your phone!

www.fcclubbock.org/college-ministry/ Questions? scott@fcclubbock.org

Light of youth

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Devotional Thought

I'll be honest with you, when I used to hear the word normal, it irked me. I hated being perceived as normal and especially hated when systems around me would fall into a normal routine. I guess you could attribute this to a post-modern culture that made me believe that normality was a taboo word, never to be used or practiced. Recently though, I have started to see the drastic effects of not having this "normality" in my life and how crucial it is for me as a Christian adult to have it now. What I mean by this is that by rejecting/ delaying some system or pattern to become normal can be incredibly damaging. Ex: not normalizing talking about issues; rejecting the normalization of talking about sex with parents/teens in an increasingly sexualized culture; delaying the normalization of praying in the household. These are but a few of the examples that I've realized were truly damaging to me as an adolescent. What I needed most was someone to normalize speaking about my issues instead of hiding them, to normalize talking about sex and relationships instead of being scared to, to normalize pursuing the Lord over all things rather than the world/ my desires. Normal is holy, I started to realize this truth when I started looking into and studying the monastic tradition. These monks would rigorously repeat the same disciplines, prayers, and practices so that they could normalize them and integrate them into their own lifestyles. They did this so that pursuing God wouldn't be based on whim, emotion or situational; rather it would be on lifestyle, and normality. You see normality defends against the "church camp high", and "the worship experience". Normality helps build up the Christian and mature one in faith and righteousness (not salvation). I hope that you will lean in towards this concept of normalizing practices, disciplines, and conversations even within your own life and potentially the life of an adolescent.

Derek Jerezano
Youth Minister



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram at [fcc_youth_ministry](#)

If you would like to start receiving youth ministry updates, text "FCCLUBBOCK" to 84576

Lift up the Light

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Military News And Concerns

**Lt. Brant Brock-
Norfolk-**
Home from
Deployment
son-in-law of
Brenda Hendricks

**Christopher
Colgrove**
Kuwait
nephew of
Laurie Williams

**Lieutenant
Colonel
Ethan Diven**
Fort Stewart, GA
husband & father of
Sabrina, Jacob
&
Kendall
and son-in-law of
Jerry & Brenda
Stanfield

**1st Lt Nicholas
Swanson**
USAF, Elmendorf
Air Force Base,
Anchorage Alaska
grandson of
Virginia Myers
Dorman

**Capt. Nathaniel
Swanson**
USMC, Cherry
Point Marine
Corps, Havelock,
North Carolina
grandson of
Virginia Myers
Dorman

We lift up in prayer our Friends and Family

Members: Alan Barkley, Robbie Bedker, Bobbie Bernard, Jerry Brown, Elaine Chaney, Lynn Cooper, Charles Cypert, Steve DeHay, Laura Flieller, Ethel Forman, Chris Kebert, Doris Kochanek, Monica Matzner, Shelley Nelson, Pam Patton, Alta Reeds, Randell Resneder, Jerry Stanfield, Dick Tarr, Cindy Wiseman, Lavender Young

Friends: Betty Bennet, Sandra Bermingham, Bear Brock, Debbie Boen, Marilyn Brinkley, Beth Brown, Dennis Brown, Shirley Cleveland, Paula Sue Dunbar, Twana Evers, Steven Garcia, Mary Garribey, Joe Gillispie, Donna Harger, Deborah Haywood, Jon Hendricks, Gary Hughes, Kate Irvin, Milton Jones, Chris Mackey, Kristen Mata, M'Lee McDonald, Leroy Montoya, Kerry Coats Nielson, Judy Palacios, Becky Peckham, Sydney Robinson, Shannon Etter Thompson, Darnell Vandivort, Pauline Webb, Carol White, Connie Turner Wilson, Mike Yont

Homebound & Home Communion Prayers

Kaye and Stumpy Greer, Lynise McDonald, Frances Evans, Cara Irvin, Ruby Power, Marty Wells, Jan Sanders, Shelley and Bert Nelson, Joan Brown

Baptisms

Charles Cypert - November 11th
Parker Polumbus - November 11th
Cooper King - November 24th



Welcome New Members



Jay and Lonna McKay

Jay and Lonna McKay joined
November 24th during the 8:30 am
service.

Blake and Mallory Billings joined
October 20th during the 10:40 am
service.



Blake and Mallory Billings

Attendance

November 3 rd	November 10 th	November 17 th	November 24 th
8:30 am- 67	8:30 am- 53	8:30 am- No Service	8:30 am- 59
10:40 am- 219	10:40 am- 264	10:40 am- 329	10:40 am- 254
Sunday School- 134	Sunday School- 116	Sunday School- 115	Sunday School- 131



Every other month the youth group hosts Kid's Night Out for our families at First Christian and the Child Development Center. This is a free night for parents and a fun evening for the kids. November's Kid's Night out was a blast! Here are three boys who had a great time. Pictured from left to right is Parker Polumbus, Charles Cypert, and Cooper King. All three boys are in 3rd grade and just completed acolyte training! They also were all baptized this last November. They are three extraordinary boys that we are blessed to have in our Children's Ministry! God is moving in their lives and they shine the light of Christ wherever they go. Please pray for these three boys and their growing relationship with God as well as all the kiddos in our Children's ministry to grow in their faith!

Holly Jessen

Director of Children's Ministry



"As with gladness...they offered gifts most rare at the manger...all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring." This Christmas carol reminds us that our gifts are His to be used to accomplish His mission here on Earth. Our Christmas Eve offerings each year are given to Juliette Fowler Communities "to provide the dignity of choice, build community and create beneficial connections for children, youth, and elders." Is that not what God asks of us? That is the mission at Fowler every day as team members Love People, Pursue Excellence, and ultimately Make a Difference in the lives of those living in communion with God.

Juliette Peak Fowler and her sister Sarah Harwood joined with the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church) in 1892 to create a community for those needing a place to belong and be loved. Won't you join the Team that continues to provide home and love for the 350+ residents living at Juliette Fowler Communities? On Christmas Eve, may we with gladness offer our costliest treasures for God's work on Earth.

UPDATE ON BOOKS FOR BEAN ELEMENTARY

Grateful Appreciation

Thanks to each person and family who contributed so that every child at Bean Elementary will receive a book from FCC for Christmas. For many of these children, the books given by our congregation are the only books they own, and their excitement in receiving them is evident from the moment they are presented. Your generosity put us over the top, and we have funds to help with gifts for teachers and staff.



Wrapping Fun

Join us on Sunday, December 8th to wrap the Bean books in Christmas paper and to enjoy an afternoon of fun together as we accomplish wrapping 550 books in record time! We'll begin at 3 p.m. and although scheduled until 5, we've always finished early and had time for cookies and hot chocolate afterwards. Hope to see you in Kuykendall Hall—"It's a wrap!" as they say when the production is over!



Delivery of the Books

On Friday, December 13th, we will gather at Bean Elementary School in the afternoon to divide up the books for delivery to each classroom as the Christmas parties for the children begin. We welcome anyone who wishes to participate in this process. Watch for updates in the church bulletin regarding time and place to meet.

Upcoming DECEMBER Gatherings & Meetings...

- ◇ Noon Bible Study, Every Wednesday Afternoon, 12:00-12:50 pm
 - ◇ Pilgrims Progress Study, Fridays, 12:00 pm, Chapel Parlor
 - ◇ Deacons Meeting, Wednesday, December 4th, 7:00 pm, Room 107
 - ◇ Books for Bean Wrapping Party, Sunday, December 8th, 3:00 pm, Kuykendall Hall
 - ◇ Finance Meeting, Monday, December 9th, 12:00 pm, Conference Room
 - ◇ Christian Women's Fellowship, Tuesday, December 10th, 6:30 pm, Cattle Baron
 - ◇ CDC Christmas Program, Friday, December 13th, 7:00pm, Kuykendall Hall
 - ◇ South Plains Food Bank Food Vouchers Issued, Wednesday, December 18th, 9 am-12pm
- FCC Offices will CLOSE, Wednesday, December 25th through December 27th***
FCC Office will CLOSE at NOON December 31st through January 1st

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Especially for:

Worship Times**Sundays:****Chapel Worship:**

8:30 a.m.

Chapel

Traditional Service:

10:40a.m.

Sanctuary

Sunday School:

9:30 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS**Monday-Thursday**

8:30 a.m.-Noon

1:00-4:00 p.m.

Friday

8:30 a.m.-Noon

OFFICE PHONE

806-763-1995

Fax: 806-763-5904

Family Life**Community Center**

747-5962


Office Hours: 3-6 p.m.

The Light is
published monthly
January-December.

The Light informs
members of
congregational
news/activities

Managing Editor-
Mary Norman

December Birthdays

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2 James Yaeger	3 Brian Dulaney	4	5 Brandy Davis	6 Zoe Phillips	7 Arlano Funderburk
8 Sue Sexton	9 Jan Holmes	10 Elaine Chaney	11 Tayden Sanders	12 Bethany Santillan	13 Susan Evans	14
Darryl Berry	Pat Renfro	Brax Wright				
15 Michael King	16 Dianne Moseley	17 Randy Meador	18	19	20 Georgianna White	21 Lisa Taulman
Chris Toelle					Victoria Henderson	
22 Linda Adams	23 Debbie Mullins	24	25 Landon Lauderdale	26 Gary Moore	27 Trois Payne	28
Jackson Dodge				Gwen Davis	John Russell	
Cliff Watt					Travis Gibson	
Otilo Castellano						
29 Jane Allison	30 John Holt	31 Randell Resneder				
	Dennis Reeves					
	Taylor Young					