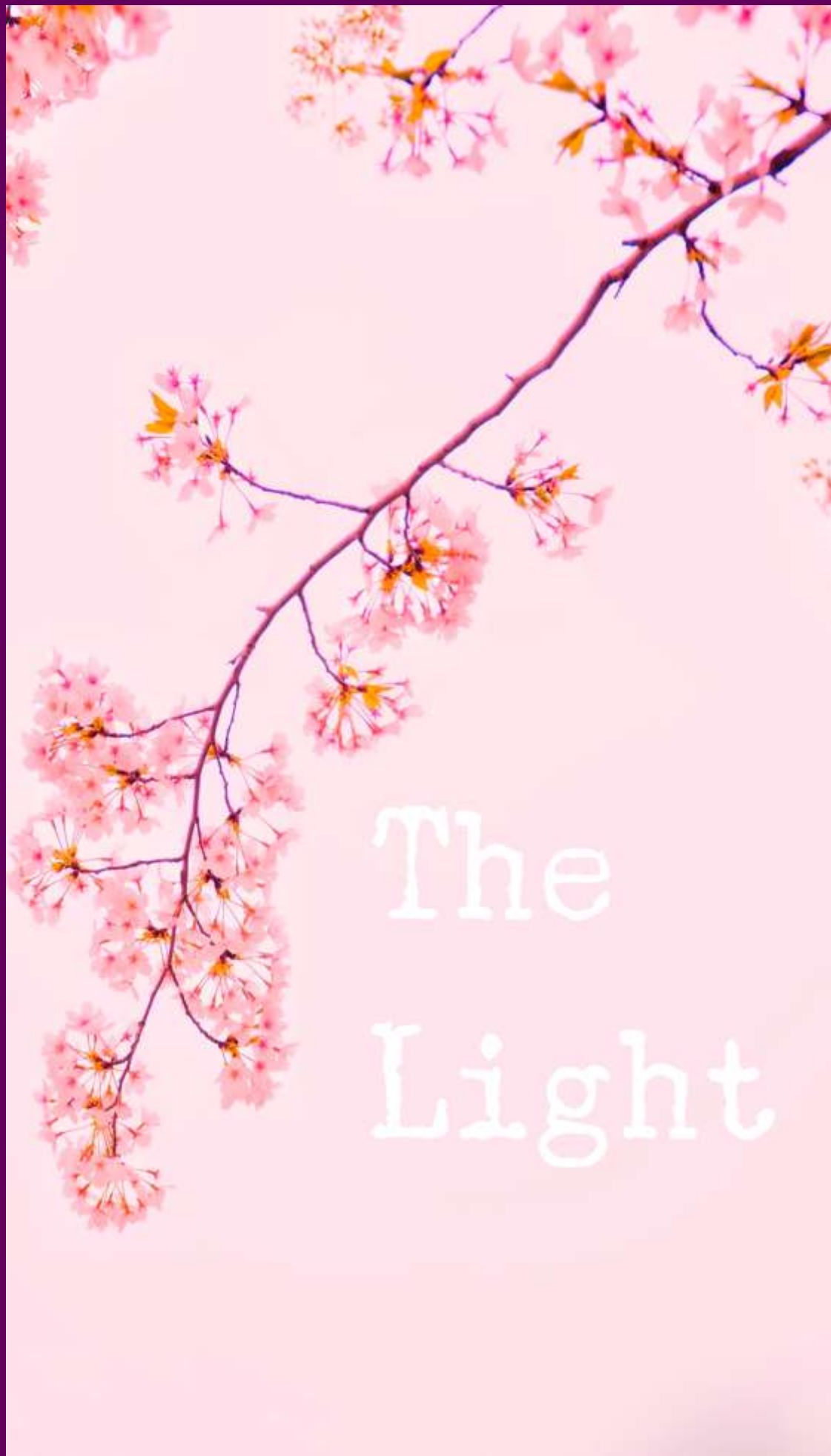


The Light

**March 2020
Volume 31
Issue 3**

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

Faithfulness springs
forth from the earth,
and righteousness
looks down from
heaven.



message of Light

Page 2



**Reverend
Paul
Carpenter
Senior Minister
paul@fcclubbock.org**

The status quo, “the existing state of affairs”, and the seemingly immovable mountains of life are well known to us all. We read and remember stories of how God parted waters, raised the dead, fed and led His people through impasses. When it comes to our lives, even though we have faith, we often do not expect God to provide new life

or change. Internally we think, “I believe in miracles, I just can’t relate.”

There are many prayers to pray, which include justice, mercy, hope, and healing. A prayer I ask often is for God to reconcile people to Himself, to give them second birth from heaven, and to include them in the New Covenant of His grace. In general I pray for the world, and specifically I pray through lists provided to me by many of you – for relatives, coworkers, neighbors and friends. “Pastor, I just learned that my coworker doesn’t know Jesus. Will you pray?”

In Matthew 19:16-26, Jesus says that a self-confident, good-in-their-own-eyes person is more difficult to be brought into faith, than it is to bring a camel through the eye of a needle. Similarly it is more challenging to get a moralistic, busy, and apathetic-to-the-Gospel person into the saving arms of Jesus, than it is to squeeze an elephant through a keyhole. BUT IT STILL HAPPENS! The disciples bemoan, “Who then can be saved?!” Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but with God *all things are possible*.”

When it comes to faith unto salvation, we are asking people to do what they cannot do. However, in the call to come to Christ, God works the miracle of bringing another sinner into the fold of the saints. He switches their representative from Adam to Jesus. God births them a second time and adopts them as His eternal child. He gives them a willing spirit, they joyfully change directions, and they run to the Father’s heart! This is impossible, and yet is still happening!

In our weakness the status quo asserts itself. Nearly fatalistically we succumb to its temporal power. I often tell myself as I face a mountain, “Anything can happen as long as Jesus is alive.”

Three things to hold onto when we consider the people we love who do not love the Lord. **Pray.** God commands us to tug on the bell tower’s rope. Never be lacking in asking, seeking, and knocking. We are to plead before God who alone can work a miracle. We also are confident that even our prayers and our knowledge are being created and carried by God’s own Spirit. **Seek.** God is doing new things each day in unexpected places. Train your eyes to see the Father’s fingerprints in this world. When God provides new life in a sinner, be sensitive and nurturing to it. Rejoice with heaven and don’t unknowingly be a person from their past who doubts the work of God. Pray that what you see is confirmed in maturity and holiness in this new Christian. **Never give up.** Do not say, “what’s the point?” You are participating in the grand work of the season of grace – God saving sinners. As long as this season persists, God is still saving rebels, agnostics, atheists, and hypocrites. The impossible is still occurring, and the Lord walks through the status quo, offers grace, and life for His glory and praise.

Prayer from *The Valley of Vision*: “I was dead in iniquities, having no eyes to see thee, no ears to hear thee, no taste to relish thy joys, no intelligence to know thee; But thy Spirit has quickened me, has brought me into a new world as a new creature, has given me spiritual perception, has opened to me thy Word as light, guide, solace, and joy.... Help me to walk by thy side, lean on thy arm, hold converse with thee, that I may be salt of the earth and a blessing to all.”

Faith and Prayer . . . Marilyn Wragg

Many of us have at times prayed like the disciples in Luke 17:5, "Lord, increase our faith!" In hard times, we long for faith that replaces doubt and fear with unshakeable hope. In uncertain times, we crave the blessed assurance of Hebrews 11:1.

I read somewhere, "Do you want more faith? Then, you must pray more." In God's kingdom, faith and prayer are inextricably linked. Two links come immediately to mind.

We are called to pray for faith. The Bible teaches that faith is a gift from God, and Jesus assures us that God gives such gifts to His children who ask. In Matthew 7:7-11, Jesus tells his disciples to ask for God's good gifts. Faith is one of the good gifts your Heavenly Father desires to give you; ask for it.

The very act of praying both demonstrates and exercises our faith. This second link between faith and prayer is grounded in Hebrews 11:6. We will not come to God unless we believe He really exists. We can neither please God nor develop a relationship with Him unless we pray to God and expect Him to respond. The more often we pray, the better we learn to communicate with God. Our relationship with God deepens and our faith in turn grows.

The links between faith and prayer create a powerful cycle. The more you pray for faith, the more faith you have. The more faith you have, the more you are drawn to please your absolutely-truly existing God by earnestly seeking Him in prayer. And the more you pray, the more you exercise, demonstrate, and grow your faith.

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. *Hebrews 11:1*

Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. *Hebrews 11:6*

If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him! *Matthew 7:11*

THANK YOU

I want to thank everyone for their prayers. I am glad to be home and back at church. I have wonderful friends and family.

Love,
Elaine Chaney

Dear First Christian,

Thank you so much for your prayers for Carl and Me. Nothing could be more appreciated. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,
Carl and Gay Foster

FEBRUARY CONTRIBUTIONS

	Feb. 2 nd	Feb. 9 th	Feb. 16 th	Feb. 23 rd
General	\$18,351.29	\$14,805.32	\$13,153.70	\$11,027.30
Designated	\$450.00	\$600.00	\$468.00	\$100.00

Meet our Scholarship Singers in the Sanctuary Choir



Brittney
Hardin
Director
of Music



Vinnie Santana
Tenor

Where are you from?
Recife, Brazil

What school do you attend and what's your major?
Texas Tech University and Music Education-
Instrumental

What are your hobbies?
I love to watch movies, drink coffee, and spend time
with my friends.

What's a fun fact about yourself?
I have been with my girlfriend since the 7th grade!

How did you spend your break?
I spent it at home with my family in Garland, TX.

How do you want to grow closer to God this semester?
I want to dedicate more personal worship time to Him.

How can we pray for you as a church?
Prayers for my health would be of great value.
Also for my finishing this final semester of college.



Logan Rivard
Tenor

Where are you from?
San Antonio, TX

What school do you attend and what's your major?
Texas Tech University and Music
Education-Choral

What are your hobbies?
Music, designing buildings, and driving
around

What's a fun fact about yourself?
I love watching crime shows

How did you witness the power of God during your break?
Having a smooth transition while
transferring schools. It couldn't have been
any smoother.

What are your current prayers?
Prayers for control, peace of mind, being
able to focus on the music
I have to learn, and comfort.

In the Life of the Church

by Deborah Bigness

Spring break is usually associated with revelry. But in March 2011, spring break meant service for eight members of our college ministry. The students traveled to Los Fresnos, Texas, to work with other volunteers building a house for a family in need. Located at the tip of Texas, Los Fresnos is a small community between Harlingen and Brownsville, named for the ash trees scattered along streams and in woods in the area. Throughout their week of ministry, the group worked alongside and formed special bonds with the family and a team of college students from the First Christian Church of McKinney. They reported their experiences to the congregation by reporting that, "We arrived as strangers and all left as a big family united by Christ."



FCC Spring Retreat

Famous Last Words—Arlano Funderburk

I find it fascinating that we often take special notice of the last words of famous people or even family and friends. I believe this is true because last words tend to reveal the character and priorities of the person. They can be a window into the very heart of the person.

The focus of our Ruidoso retreat, April 24-25, will be some of Jesus' last words found in John's gospel Chapters 13-17. I believe we will be able to see not only who he is but who he wants us to become. Like last years retreat it will be an opportunity to grow in Christ likeness. Dr. Utley will join us in both worship services Sunday and lead a special question and answer opportunity during the Sunday school hour. All classes are invited to participate in this time with Dr. Utley. I will say more about this but this will be a time to ask that bible question you always wanted to ask and have never found a good answer for.

You can register on our website; www.fcclubbock.org or in the church office. Don't miss this opportunity for fellowship, learning and worship.

*First Christian Church
Adult Retreat
Community United Methodist Church
Ruidoso, New Mexico
April 24-25, 2020*



Light of Youth

A Moment With a Martyr

Today, I would like to introduce you to my beloved sister Blandina. Blandina was a faithful young girl who was born into the time period of Christian persecution during the reign of Emperor Marcus Aurelius. She was believed to have been around the age of 15 at about 177 AD. Most people during this time, even her Christian brothers and sisters, described Blandina as ugly and frail. As the persecutions arose in the area of Lyons, France Blandina along with her mistress was seized and captured by the Roman officials.

The goal of Blandina and her mistress being seized was to discourage other local Christians from professing faith and naming Christ as Lord; to recant their faith. This was the intended hope of the Roman officials as they imprisoned Blandina. Many of the other Christians who were imprisoned with Blandina grew worrisome and doubted that she would be able to endure the trials and suffering to come, due to her frail body. Blandina went into the periods of complete torment and physical mutilation brought about by her tortures. Many doubted she would return, but the outcome was that the ones who tortured Blandina were exhausted and ultimately gave up...this time. As she went through the severe forms of torture Blandina grew stronger and stronger in her confession. She was refreshed and experienced relief from her great agony every time she professed *"I am a Christian!"*

Many other Christians experienced similar forms of torture and would pass on to be with their Savior after their profession of faith in Christ, but not Blandina; her time to pass would not yet come. Marcus Aurelius and other Roman officials grew angry that instead of deterring faith they were actually exciting it among the community of believers, because of this the sufferings increased; more Christians were seized and brought to be tortured. Each time Christians would be brought to the Amphitheatre for their torture, Blandina would also be brought. Blandina entered the amphitheater about 2-3 times with others and during these times no one was expected to return from these gruesome games that awaited them, yet Blandina would be the only one to return. Blandina, as if a mother encouraging her children, exhorted all the other Christians to faithfulness in Christ until she was the last of the Martyrs to pass. Blandina rejoiced and took delight in her death, because she did not consider it her being thrown into torture or wild beasts but instead she considered it being invited to a wedding banquet. This is Blandina, the Saint of Lyons, my sister in Christ.

"...Blandina, in whom Jesus Christ proved that what people consider worthless, ugly, and contemptible, God considers worthy of great glory. For Blandina's love of God was demonstrated by her steadfast strength, not by any boasting in her outer appearance"



Derek Jerezano
Youth Minister

March Events

- **March 7th Faith-In-Action**
Come join the Youth Ministry for a day of service from 10am-12pm. Meet at the FLCC
- **March 13-15 Six-Flags Trip**
What are your plans for Spring break? Come join the Youth Ministry on weekend trip to Six-Flags. Cost is \$80. RSVP by March 6th
- **Wed Night Meal Volunteer**
Interested in serving the youth ministry? Consider serving a meal on Wed. nights to our students. Contact Derek Jerezano if interested at Derek@fcclubbock.org

Weekly

- **Every Sunday in the Youth Room from 9:30-10:30pm**
- **Every Wednesday in the FLCC from 6-7:30pm**

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



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

children of Light

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First Christian Church Children's Ministry Calendar 2020



		FEBRUARY 2020						
		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
10	FCC Music Club							1
22	Family Service Day 7:15am-12 Lubbock Dream Center (3 rd -5 th)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15
24	FCC Music Club	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		23	24	25	26	27	28	29



		MARCH 2020						
		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
9	FCC Music Club	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23	FCC Music Club	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	Family Skating Noon-2:00pm	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		29	30	31				



		APRIL 2020						
		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
6	FCC Music Club				1	2	3	4
20	FCC Music Club	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
29	Kid's Night Out 5:45pm-7:45pm	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30		

		MAY 2020						
		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
4	FCC Music Club						1	2
18	FCC Music Club	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	End of Year Party	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
23	Summer Kick Off Pool Party 4-6pm (With Youth group)	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		31						



		JUNE 2020						
		S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1-4	Vacation Bible School 9am-12 (PreK-5 th)		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				

FCC Music Club: 5:00pm-5:30pm @ 3404 54th Street. If you want your child to perform at the CDC Christmas Program or in church then send them to the FCC Music Club! Parents are invited to stay. For children from Kinder to 5th grade.

Kid's Night Out: For FCC and CDC families. Free of charge for all ages from babies to 5th grade. The FCC Youth group will help host these events at the Family Life Community Center (FLCC).

Text FCCLUBBOCK to 84576 to sign up for FCC Children's Ministry updates via text and email. Contact Lou Ariceaga at Lou@fcclubbock.org 806 7895923



this little Light

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→ HOLLY-DAY ←
SUNDAY MARCH 1ST

Join us in thanking Holly Jessen for her dedication to the FCC Children's Ministry and bless her as she begins a new career.

Stop by Kuykendall Hall if you would like to give a card or a love donation.

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**
Newport News, VA
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, Lynn Cooper, Charles Cypert, Jody Dean, Steve DeHay, Laura Flieller, Nelda Jett, Carolyn Lawrence, Monica Matzner, Shelley Nelson, Randell Resneder, Shirley Sharp, Josh Stevens, Dick Tarr, Joy Turner

Friends: Fred Alley, Kyle Beirschmitt, Sandra Bermingham, Debbie Boen, Bear Bock, Marilyn Brinkley, Paula Sue Dunbar, Monica Etter, Steven Garcia, Mary Garibey, Joe Gillispie, Donna Harger, Deborah Haywood, Gary Hughes, Kate Irvin, Jeremy Johnson, Chris Mackey, Kristen Mata, M'Lee McDonald, Leroy Montoya, Kerry Coats Nielson, Eli Overley, Becky Peckham, Shannon Etter Thompson, Darnell Vandivort, Pauline Webb, Carol White, Connie Turner Wilson, Mike Yont

Homebound & Home Communion Prayers

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

Entered into Heaven

We lift up the following families in prayer

Gabe Lujan's mother, Dominga Lujan, entered into eternal life on February 20th.

Carol Anne Leaverton, daughter of Joe and Tommie Leaverton passed away on February 12th.

Tony Morton's mother, Carlene Morton passed away.

Upcoming MARCH Gatherings & Meetings...

- ◇ **Noon Bible Study**, Every Wednesday Afternoon, 12:00-12:50 pm
 - ◇ **BIBLE BABES**, Mondays at 7:00 pm, Chapel Parlor
 - ◇ **Elders Meeting**, Wednesday, March 4th, 7:00 pm, Chapel Parlor
 - ◇ **Finance Meeting**, Monday, March 9th, 12:00 pm, Conference Room
- ◇ **Christian Women's Fellowship**, Tuesday, March 10th, 6:30 pm, Cattle Baron
- ◇ **South Plains Food Bank Food Vouchers Issued**, Wednesday, March 18th, 9 am-12pm
- ◇ **Foundation Meeting**, Tuesday, March 17th, 4:00 pm, Conference Room
- ◇ **Saint Benedicts Tuesday Schedule:**
 - March 17th** **Team 6**
 - March 24th** **Team 1**
 - March 31st** **Team 2**

First Christian Church of Lubbock

COLLEGE MINISTRY

Quick reminder:

The Gospel is still relevant to you where you are at in this season of your life! Daily feast upon it and let it bring about mobility, joy and energy to walk in obedience with the Lord!



Soli Deo Gloria!
Scott Hall
University Minister
First Christian Church-Lubbock



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF LUBBOCK
**COLLEGE
MINISTRY**

SPRING CALENDAR 2020

FEBRUARY	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

MARCH	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				

APRIL	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	

- 2 SUPERBOWL PARTY**
5:30pm-End of game
The Payne's Home | 3305 57th st.
- 4 TECH vs. OU GAME**
Meet at the church at 6:30pm for dinner, then will head to the Tech Basketball game (Tech students get in for free!) Must RSVP by Feb 28th if not a Tech student. Cost for non-students is \$10.
- 26 ASH WED SERVICE**
6:30pm in the Sanctuary

- 6-8 COLLEGE SPRING RETREAT**
Want to recharge, rest, worship, and have a blast doing it? Come to our College Retreat with Christ in Action and Monterey Church of Christ! ONLY \$5! Make new friends and grow in your faith.
- 31 TRAPPED! ESCAPE ROOM**
Meet at FCC at 6:30pm
RSVP by March 24th. \$5 per person. Let's test our skills and beat an Escape Room!

- 9 THE LAMB**
Join us for The Lamb - a live drama depicting the imagery of the lamb in scripture. Starts at 6pm.
- 10 GOOD FRIDAY**
Join us as we remember the cross, the crucifixion, and our saviors Passion. Starts at 6pm.
- 12 EASTER SUNDAY**
Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior!

- 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**
- "FCCCOLLEGE" to
84576 to receive
important updates
on your phone!



www.fclubbock.org/college-ministry/

Questions? scott@fclubbock.org

DeLIGHTful events

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Welcome our New Members



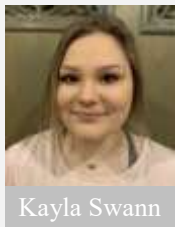
Susan Wass



Scott Hillyer



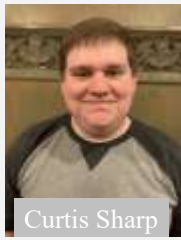
Brittney Stainbrook



Kayla Swann



Ashley Pingsterhaus



Curtis Sharp

New Addition



Alexander and Bastion Gibson born January 2nd to Travis and Cecily Gibson were dedicated on February 16th.

Big brother is William

Baptisms



Josh Stevens
February 16th



Mary Carpenter
February 16th



Kansas native, Anne Sweazy celebrates the Kansas City Chief's Super Bowl win!

FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE

February 2 nd	February 9 th	February 16 th	February 23 rd
8:30 am- 66 10:40 am-215	8:30 am-71 10:40 am-234	8:30 am-46 10:40 am-283	8:30 am-76 10:40 am-208
Sunday School- 95	Sunday School- 97	Sunday School- 91	Sunday School- 79

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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

MARCH Birthdays

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 Elizabeth Tidwell Felix Hernandez	2 Charlene Glenn Don Garnett	3 Kayton Trevey	4	5 Indie Williams Georgia Kitten	6 Choya Teichelman Marianna Chapman	7 Sammy Ribble Meredith Fowler Lennon Dodge
8 Matthew Trevey	9 Tom Johnson Lindy Lauderdale	10 Jodie Schneider	11 Wes Ninemire Lal Williams	12 Belle Ritchey Luke Stevens	13 Pam Patton Lynda Reid Jabeen Edmund	14 Stephen King
15 Wesley Allen	16 Fabian Davilla John Welch	17 Terry Parish Sawyer Williams	18 Kirk Cunningham Rebecca Cunningham	19 Marty Wells Karen Watt SuAnn Simon	20 Steve DeHay Shelton Bowers Dana Duty	21 James Pope
22	23 Valerie Carpenter	24 Bill Davis Susan Brints Kevin Hunt	25 Linn Parish	26	27	28
29 Virginia Dorman	30 Doris Kochanek Robin Carter Chris Armstrong	31 Allison Graham				