

the Light

**DECEMBER
2020**

**Volume 31
Issue 12**



*“But the angel
said to them,
“Do not be
afraid. I bring
you good news
that will cause
great joy for all
the people.
Today in the
town of David
a Savior has
been born to
you; he is the
Messiah, the
Lord.”*

Luke 2:10-11

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

message of Light

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Reverend
Paul
Carpenter
Senior Minister
paul@fcclubbock.org

“Let there be light,” are the first recorded words of God. After the world

fell into darkness and it was time for a Redeemer to come, God repeated those words on Christmas morning – “Let there be light.” Jesus Christ is the light of the world that God has given to a people walking in darkness. As Christians, we confess that the light is not overcome or understood by the darkness. No matter how shadowy the world appears, God’s glory is not threatened. He will not leave or forsake us.

Advent and Christmas is a time to thank God for the light of Jesus Christ. It’s also a time to rejoice in hope that the light we see by faith will one day return in fullness. So this Christmas lift high

your song and the light you’ve received from the Holy Spirit.

This Christmas Eve we will hold our services outside in the west parking lot at 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM. Communion will be served at both services. At the conclusion of each service the church is invited to sing *Silent Night* either from your vehicle or by standing just outside your vehicle. We encourage each person to bring an appropriate light to shine as we sing (examples: candles, electronic candles, cell phones flashlights, standard flashlights).

Between services the decorated sanctuary will be open for families who want to take their pictures safely. Spacing will be monitored by our staff and volunteers to promote safety and to keep things moving. Restrooms are also available.

We have been celebrating Christmas Eve for 119 years as a church family. This year we will celebrate again, though we will

be gathering outside. This was not my plan for 2020, but God’s plans and ways are always greater and more creative than ours. This Christmas Eve will be different and special, but through Christ it will also be the same – the same faith, the same Lord, the same hope, and the same song:

“Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin Mother and
Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace”

Let there be peace,
Paul



Upcoming DECEMBER Gatherings & Meetings

- ◇ Noon Bible Study, Every Wednesday Afternoon, 12:00-12:50 pm
- ◇ Finance Meeting, Monday, December 14th noon, Conference Room
 - ◇ Foundation Meeting, Tuesday, December 15th, 4:00 pm
- ◇ South Plains Food Bank Food Vouchers Issued, Wednesday, December 16th, 9am-12pm– Parking Lot
 - ◇ FCC Office will close at noon on THURSDAY, December 24th.
 - ◇ FCC Offices CLOSED Friday, December 25th for Christmas

Pray for Hope... *Marilyn Wragg*

The word that best epitomizes Christmas for me is *hope*. A line from “O Holy Night” expresses my sentiment: “A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.”

Unfortunately, another word from that line epitomizes the state of the world this season—*weary*, as in “tired, fatigued, waning in endurance.” Our world is weary, and weariness has opened doors to hopelessness, fear, and discord.

2020 has been a hard year. I remember fervently praying in the hardest year of my life, “God, whatever happens, let us not lose hope.” In answer, God put a scripture on my heart, Romans 15:13. Ever since, when hope wanes, I pray it over and over and over until the Spirit replenishes hope.

I can think of no better gift for followers of Jesus to offer the world this Christmas than hope.

Recently, I inadvertently tuned in to a talk show discussion about widespread anxiety and depression, just as a distraught viewer asked, “Are we going to be all right?” In a loving, calm, and sure voice, the host responded, “Yes. We are going to be all right.” The words were not spoken from a Christian perspective, yet God used them to extend hopeful assurance that I needed to hear in that moment.

That is the message our weary world desperately needs. “Yes, we are going to be all right. You see, God sent His Son Jesus to bring hope to the hopeless, strength to the weary, and eternal salvation to all who believe.” Daily preach that good news to yourself, and spread the word wherever you are, however you can, this Christmas. And remember that the harder your circumstances, the more brightly shines the hope you profess. “We are going to be all right. God has made, is making, and will make all things right.”

God of hope, please fill us with all joy and peace this season. Help us trust in You, so we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. God of hope, please fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in You...

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 15:13*

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. *Hebrews 10:23*



Military Prayers

Lt. Brant Brock-
Navy, CA.—
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

Jay Underwood
Army
South Korea
son of LouAnn
Underwood

We lift up in prayer our Friends and Family

Members: Mike Chase, Steve DeHay, Jeannea Hill, Kristen Jerezano, Kim King, Carolyn Lawrence, Trois Payne, Randell Resneder, Jerry Stanfield, Phyllis Underwood, Lori Wilhelm, Sue Williams, Amber WilhelmAllen Young

Friends: Sandra Bermingham, Debbie Boen, Holden Brock, Jim Chase, Paula Sue Dunbar, Martin Englebert, Doris Evans, Steven Garcia, Joe Gillispie, Deborah Haywood, Lexi Herschberger, Donnie Leonard, Chris Mackey, Leroy Montoya, Shari Morris, Laura Morrow, Kerry Coats Nielson, Eli Overley, Kelly Padrick, Kenneth Patterson, Paula Purkeypile, Shannon Etter Thompson, Pauline Webb, Carol White, Connie Turner Wilson

Homebound & Home Communion Prayers

Frances Ansley, Alan Barkley, Robbie Bedker, Pat Davis, Lynise McDonald, Frances Evans, Sandra Foster, Barbara Onstead, Ruby Power, Mary Jane Shannon, Marty Wells, Jan Sanders, Shelley and Bert Nelson, Joan Brown, Gypsie Taylor, Gerri Young, Debbie Wilborn

Entered into Heaven

We lift up the following families in prayer-
Francis Christmann passed into eternal life on November 12th
Skeet Brown passed into eternal life on November 9th
Larry Lowe passed into eternal life on November 4th



NOVEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

	General	Designated
November 1	\$18,306.00	\$150.00
November 8	\$22,952.62	\$2,619.00
November 15	\$14,378.75	\$1,610.00
November 22	\$16,004.83	\$ 350.00

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

November 1	9:00 am (Sanctuary) – 75 11:00 am—148
November 8	9:00 am (Sanctuary) – 80 11:00 am – 153
November 15	9:00 am (Sanctuary) - 60 11:00 am –175
November 22	9:00 am (Sanctuary) - 82 11:00 am– 178

New Re-stated Certificate of Formation, Bylaws, and 2021 Budget Approved at Congregational Meeting.....

Thank You for Your Participation!

After many years, we have adopted a new Certificate of Formation and Re-stated our Bylaws bringing them up to date with all required state statutes. These documents were approved in a meeting of the congregation during services this past Sunday and will be effective on January 1, 2021. The vote, with 260 members present in both services combined, brought a conclusion to a project that has been ongoing for about four years. The new certificate will be filed with the Secretary of State in the next couple of weeks. We also approved the 2021 General Operating Budget during the meeting. Thank you to all who were present this past Sunday.



Jim Evans, CCA
Executive Minister

Giving Statements

Interim Giving Statements will be mailed in early December. We converted to a new system and are hopeful all records transferred accurately. Please review your statement for any errors. It will be much easier to correct before the end of the year if there is a discrepancy. The statements will look different from those you received in the past, but should still be very easy to follow. If you see an error, please call Marlene Hutton or Jim Evans in the Church office and we will get it corrected right away.



In our Chalice Hymnal on page 168, the Christmas hymn "Down to Earth" invites us to "sing, dance and spring." That is difficult at this time as we lose dear friends and futures are uncertain. With the birth of Jesus the Christ, however, we can sing and dance because as written in this hymn, "This is love come to light, now is fear put to flight. God defeats evil's blight; giving for our sorrows, hope of new tomorrows."

At Juliette Fowler Communities, our Disciples outreach, there is uncertainty and sorrow, but there is hope of new tomorrows because of the love and caring of the Fowler staff and residents. And although there is no price tag on this love and affection, given, it will be returned giving us a new tomorrow.

At our Christmas Eve services each year, we have the opportunity to give hope of new tomorrows to those living at Juliette Fowler Communities – there are children who are given new foster homes; young women, given a new start in life after foster care; the elderly poor, given faith and assurance in God; and those broken in spirit and body, given value and strength. Please join with Fowler in giving a new tomorrow to residents with your generous monetary gifts.



Although we will be singing (dancing maybe not so much) in our cars in the parking lot, your special offering will be received there on Christmas Eve. If you are unable to attend, you can still bring hope for new tomorrows by sending your check to the church and designating on the memo line – Juliette Fowler. May you receive God's blessings during this Christmas season.

Light reading

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God Loves Us!

It's December and will soon be "The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year." Christmas! While we will be celebrating, it likely won't be as usual. Still we have much to be thankful for and reason to celebrate. It is at this time that we Christians remember and affirm the first Christmas and God's gift of His Son to His lost and hurting world.



Arlano Funderburk
Pastoral Care

It has been said, "it is possible to give without loving but, it is impossible to love without giving." This is true. It is, in fact, the very reason why we Christians are able to celebrate Christmas in spite of a raging pandemic for, "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...." Love always gives and, God is Love! Jesus became then the first and most wonderful Christmas gift God has ever given. It truly was a gift of Love - for He gave Himself.

Remember Jesus saying, "There is no greater love than when one lays down his life for another"? Christmas was the first step in laying down His life for sinful people, for us. It is the measure of how much He loves us. As my friend Brennan Manning said, "Jesus loves us so much He would rather die than be without us!" Christmas for us Christians is a reminder and an affirmation of just how much God loves us! So Merry Christmas! Let the celebration begin - GOD LOVES US!

In the Life of the Church...Deborah Bigness

In a year when so much has changed, so will how we observe Christmas together. Our traditional *Hanging of the Greens* ceremony will not happen this year, but our marvelous staff will ensure that the church building still reflects the season with evergreens. The language of symbols predates written language and the plants we most closely associate with Christmas are full of traditional symbolism that speaks to believers.



Spruce boughs, like the one pictured here, represent hope in adversity. Pine reminds us of the meaning of eternal life while its cones, that are actually seedpods, represent new life and resurrection. Even the shapes of our Christmas evergreens are symbolic. The triangular shape of our Christmas trees embodies the Holy Trinity of The Father, The Son and The Holy Ghost. Wreaths, being circular with no end or beginning, represent the eternity of God, the immortal soul, and everlasting life. So, this Christmas, take heart from the symbols of hope that surround you.

FCC Youth Ministry



FCC YOUTH MINISTRY

Join Our Christmas Party

December 18, 2020 | 6PM
At the FLCC
At First Christian Church

BRING A GAG GIFT OF UNDER \$10



FCC

SIX FLAGS TRIP DEC. 27-29TH

Arlington, TX
Cost: \$80
Register by Dec. 17th



FCC 
YOUTH MINISTRY

SUNDAY SCHOOL,
GRADES 6TH-12TH,
MEETS AT THE FLCC
AT 10AM



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Servant Saturday Dec. 5th at 10:30am

Helping Church Members Decorate
for Christmas!

First Christian Church
2323 Broadway
Lubbock, TX.
79401-2916

Especially for:

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 366
LUBBOCK, TEXAS

**Return Service
Requested**

Worship Times

Sundays:

Sanctuary Service:
9:00 a.m.

Parking Lot Service:
11:00a.m.
West Parking Lot

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.

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The Light informs
members of
congregational
news/activities

Managing Editor-
Mary Norman

December Birthdays

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2 James Yeager	3 Brian Dulaney	4	5 Brandy Davis
6 Zoe Phillips Emma Pierce Anne Reeber	7 Arlano Funderburk Randy Meador	8 Darryl Berry Sue Sexton	9 Jan Holmes Pat Renfro Andy Shaver Brax Wright	10 Elaine Chaney	11 Tayden Sanders Joaquin Santillan	12 Bethany Santillian
13 Susan Evans	14	15 Michael King Chris Toelle	16 Ethan Kitten Dianne Moseley	17	18	19
20 Nikolas Becker Victoria Hender- son Georgianna White	21 Lisa Adams Destiny Smith	22 Linda Adams Otilo Castellano Cliff Watt Sadi Young	23 William Gibson Debbie Mullins Augie Rawe	24	25	26 Gwen Davis Jackson Dodge Gary Moore
27 Travis Gibson Trois Payne	28 Momo Taylor Jr.	29 Jane Allison	30 John Holt Dennis Reeves Taylor Young	31 Randell Resneder		