

the Light

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

**September
2020**

**Volume 31
Issue 9**

*For at one time you were darkness, but now you are
Light in the Lord. Walk as children of Light.*

Ephesians 5:8



message of Light

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Reverend
Paul
Carpenter
Senior Minister
paul@fcclubbock.org

FCC Family,
As we round the corner into the Fall, I wanted to update you all on the state of our church. Like most of the nation we are facing unique challenges. History will name this season; it won't be quickly forgotten.

You and I also know the strength of our church. I have confidence in our members' faithfulness and persistence. We should also be emboldened by the grace of God toward us.

FCC is currently in an enviable position. We never stopped meeting; in fact our April 2020 in person attendance matched April 2019 at 276 people, in addition to those who joined us online. So far our finances are holding through weekly tithes and offerings. Thank you! **One of the greatest ways you can bless your church is by staying involved, attending services, and contributing.**

Our leadership is able to fully function, including our General Board, Elders, and Deacons. Our Sunday School classes are each choosing how to meet and grow together. Our children and youth have gotten creative on ways to grow together. While we are staying organized, I'm confident that our members continue to call, write and check in on each other so that no one feels left out. **Another way to contribute is to protect the relational health of FCC. Let us all continue to practice the New**

Testament teachings to encourage, forgive, and love one another.

God's mission has not slowed. The Lord has opened doors, allowing us to enjoy double matching grants to bless Kenya with up to 20 new water wells. Our local missions carry on through the coordination and volunteerism of our members. FCC is still advocating for children, feeding the hungry, and befriending the homeless. Several people have put their faith in Jesus during this time as well. One of our elders is currently assisting me in creating a discipleship curriculum, designed to help men and women progress more purposefully down the path of faith in Jesus. **The prayers of every member fuel these efforts, as they are coupled with the money and hard work generously given. Working together, God can multiply and magnify every effort if we persist in prayer.**

Now, more than ever, being an active church member is doing wonders - keep praying, participating, and contributing. FCC is as strong as we are because our members are doing the basics with excellence. And, as always, God is gracious.

In Love,
Pastor Paul

Upcoming SEPTEMBER Gatherings & Meetings...

- ◇ Labor Day, Monday, September 7th – FCC Offices Closed
- ◇ Noon Bible Study, Every Wednesday Afternoon, 12:00-12:50 pm
- ◇ Finance Meeting, Monday, September 14th, noon, Conference Room
- ◇ Bible Babes, Mondays beginning September 14th, 7:00 pm, Kuykendall Hall
- ◇ South Plains Food Bank Food Vouchers Issued, Wednesday, September 16th, 9am-12pm – Parking Lot
- ◇ Personnel Change – The day off for all ministry personnel will be Fridays. As always the FCC Office closes at noon on Fridays. The office will be staffed on Friday mornings.

Back-to-School Prayers . . . Marilyn Wragg

Each new school year, students, parents, and educators experience the thrill of new beginnings. Anticipation ranges from joy to anxiety over what lies ahead. But this year, school startup brings unprecedented challenges and complexities. In light of concerns about spread of COVID and related uncertainties about whether and how to teach in person and online, one thing is certain: **we all need to pray.**

First Christian Church has many back-to-school connections. We have adopted Bean Elementary School. Many students, teachers, administrators, and support personnel are members and friends of FCC. And most of us have immediate or extended family members in the educational system.

Whatever your connection, resolve to pray daily over everyone involved. Some suggestions are offered, but as events unfold, ask God to direct your heart and the Holy Spirit to direct your prayers during this critical back-to-school season.

Lord God, in these crazy times, only You can work hard things for good and bring order out of chaos. Pour Your mercy upon students, parents, and educators. Protect them physically, emotionally, and mentally. Provide from Your abundant storehouse resources they need. Please let them see You at work and be drawn to You, Heavenly Father.

- **School administrators.** Grant wisdom, creativity, and clarity. Strength to work through difficult decisions. Flexibility to change course when needed.
- **Teachers.** Impart courage to face new challenges and learn new skills. Discernment, patience, and hearts to encourage. Strength, energy, and miraculous effectiveness in reaching all students. Needed support. Protection from criticism. Relief when overwhelmed.
- **All school support staff,** with varied positions and challenges. Equip, encourage, and undergird each according to specific needs.
- **Students of all ages.** Provide safe environments to learn, whether in school or online. Empowerment to learn. Desire to learn; ability to focus. Encouragement and support for varying and special needs.
- **Parents and caregivers.** Guidance to face perplexing situations and schedules. Help in juggling family and educational needs. Stamina and perseverance to help and encourage children amid their own challenges.

Pray for our Country

Over 100 ladies from Lubbock, who regularly pray for our country, made a quilt of Bible Verses for the President of the United States. They wanted the President to know, and be encouraged by the fact, that people are praying for our country. The quilt was presented by Congressman Jodey Arrington to President Donald Trump when he visited Odessa at the end of July. Several FCC ladies participated in the making of this quilt.



Light notes

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Prayers for God's People as We Sing

Based on Psalms 98:1-7

Precious Lord, I sing to You a new song because You have done marvelous things, I am in awe of the works of Your salvation! I shout because the joy You give me is uncontainable! I praise You with the harp and with the sound of singing. I pray that all music that comes from my heart and mouth is to glorifying to Your great Name. Please help me to worship You in Spirit and truth in all that I do. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.



Brittney
Hardin
Worship
and
Music Pastor

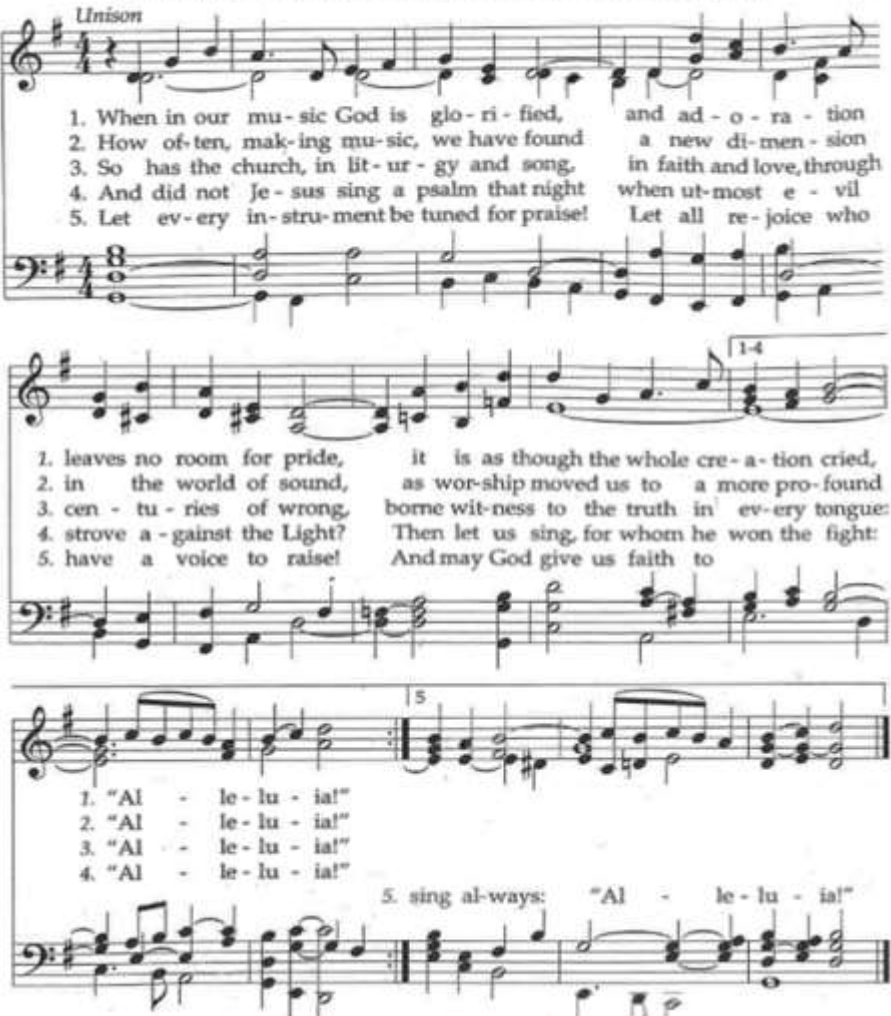
Based on Ephesians 5:19-21

O Lord God, I pray that the music I make and the songs that I sing are always from my heart to You. I pray that as I sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, I genuinely dedicate each melody to You. I pray that I always give You thanks for all things, in Christ Jesus. I thank You for this ability You have given me, and I choose to give it back to You by using it to glorify You. In the name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.

PRAISE TO GOD

When in Our Music God Is Glorified 7

Unison



1. When in our mu-sic God is glo-ri-fied, and ad-o-ra-tion
2. How of-ten, mak-ing mu-sic, we have found a new di-men-sion
3. So has the church, in lit-ur-gy and song, in faith and love, through
4. And did not Je-sus sing a psalm that right when ut-most e-vil
5. Let ev-ery in-stru-ment be tuned for praise! Let all re-joice who

1. leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole cre-a-tion cried,
2. in the world of sound, as wor-ship moved us to a more pro-found
3. cen-tu-ries of wrong, borne wit-ness to the truth in ev-ery tongue:
4. strove a-gainst the Light? Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
5. have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to

1. "Al - le - lu - ia!"
2. "Al - le - lu - ia!"
3. "Al - le - lu - ia!"
4. "Al - le - lu - ia!"
5. sing al-ways: "Al - le - lu - ia!"

Light reading

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GOD LOVES US: CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?



Arlano Funderburk
Pastoral Care

An Old Testament professor and hero of mine, Robert Cate, once said, “The ultimate test of our faith is whether or not we really trust God enough to believe He loves us.” I think that is exactly why He sent Jesus to us; to show us His love. It was a love that found its deepest expression as He gave His son to save us. Jesus came to reveal his Father and in the process, to redeem us.

Jesus did this in both word and deed. He said to his early followers, God loves you and wants to be close to you; to fellowship and talk with you. Jesus said, “Just call him Abba, Dad.” He said our Father wants this kind of intimate relationship with you that a loving parent has with a young child, one characterized by love and trust. But in addition to words Jesus showed them, and us, what that kind of relationship would look like. At the age of twelve, Jesus knew his Father loved him and had sent him to reveal that love to a lost world that He also loved.

Our New Testament accounts show clearly Jesus’ reliance on, and confidence in, His Father’s love to accomplish this assignment. We will never be asked to walk a path that Jesus hasn’t already walked. He experienced disappointment, hardship, rejection, persecution, and the loss of loved ones so he understands wherever you are today. And in each and every circumstance, he counted on and was blessed with his Father’s enabling love. One example, that is illustrative of his whole life, was in the garden on his last night in agony. The Father sent an angel to strengthen him. (Luke 22:43) Jesus received just what he needed just when he needed it. Jesus was able to experience all that we must experience, and much more, and accomplish his Father’s will because of his confidence in and reliance on his Father’s love. So can we - no matter what our present circumstances are. We can count on our Abba to give us everything we need just when we need it, because just as Jesus has so beautifully shown us, GOD LOVES US! BELIEVE IT!



FCC Family – you have another family – Juliette Fowler Communities. Children and both young and older adults experience transformed lives at Juliette Fowler Communities because of your generosity. We have been making a difference at JFC, a Disciples of Christ outreach, for 127 years. Because of your generosity: children needing love have been placed in foster homes; young women who have aged out of foster care can find purpose for their lives at The Ebby House; adults needing supervised health care are given TLC; and adults, both financially capable and poor, live in community and grow in spirit. You have made this happen.

But because their needs do not disappear, neither does the need to fund this ministry. Your support beginning September 1st through 17th will be matched making an even bigger difference. When you go to <https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/JulietteFowler> and make a donation, you can be a part of North Texas Giving Day and provide joy in the lives of the residents at Juliette Fowler Communities.

In the Life of the Church...Deborah Bigness

On Sunday, September 13, 1953, Reverend Dudley Strain delivered his first sermon as pastor of the First Christian Church. The Strain family, his wife Helen, and their children Ann, 12 and Keith, 9, made their first home in Lubbock in the Church's parsonage at 2214 16th Street. After only five years here, Rev. Strain was awarded the honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree from Texas Christian University for "his outstanding work in his own denomination, cooperation to other church programs, and contributions to his community."



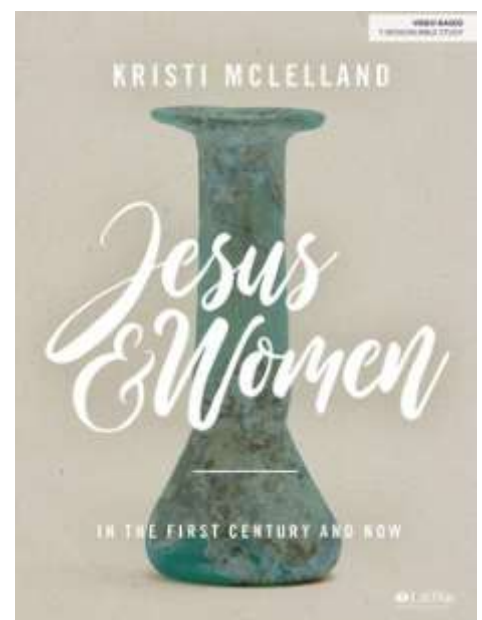
While in Lubbock, Dr. Strain presided over tremendous growth in the church's family and facilities, and served in leadership positions of many civic organizations. An enthusiastic traveler, he frequently led groups on foreign travels and was a driving force behind the establishment of the International Cultural Center at Texas Tech University. He delivered his final sermon to the church on January 25, 1976. For a generation, it was "Dudley" who shared the significant events of our lives. He counseled us, blessed our children during the Vows of Christian Parenthood, taught us in the Pastor's Class, baptized us, married us, and comforted those we left behind.

Bible Babes

Hey, all ladies of FCC! Fall is fast approaching and I am SO excited to announce that we will be having a new Bible study starting in September! This study is by Kristi McLelland and is called Jesus & Women: In the First Century and Now. Kristi is a biblical culturalist who takes you back to Jesus' first-century world, explaining the historical and cultural climate of His day to help you know Him more dearly. This study is a thoughtful look at several of Jesus' interactions with women in the Bible that will fuel your worship of the Living God. This 7 session study will help you:

- Explore how Jesus generously restores dignity and honor to women in the first century and now.
- Learn how to study the Bible through a Middle Eastern lens.
- Gain deeper insight into the biblical world with fresh perspective on familiar Bible stories.

The study will be 7 weeks long starting Monday, September 14th through Monday, October 26th at 7:00pm in the Kuykendall Hall. Some study books will be available to purchase for \$14.00 each. Contact Paula Gibson at apaulagize@gmail.com or 806-632-5850 to reserve your book! I so look forward to learning and exploring the Word of God with all of you again!



Lift up the Light

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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: Charles Cypert, Steve DeHay, Sylvia Etter, Chris Kebert, Lucy Lanotte, Carolyn Lawrence, Troy McNeill, Randell Resneder, Nancy Stamps, Dick Tarr, Lori Wilhelm, Sue Williams

Friends: Mary Ashley Adkins, Sandra Bermingham, Debbie Boen, Bear Bock, Marilyn Brinkley, Paula Sue Dunbar, Kate Finley, Steven Garcia, Joe Gillispie, Deborah Haywood, Eric Hite, Jean Johnson, Chris Mackey, Kristen Mata, Katelyn Mills, Leroy Montoya, Shari Morris, Kerry Coats Nielson, Eli Overley, Kenneth Patterson, Paula Purkeypile, Stacy Slaton, Lee Stuart, 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, Cara Irvin, Barbara Onstead, Ruby Power, Mary Jane Shannon, Marty Wells, Jan Sanders, Shelley and Bert Nelson, Joan Brown, Gypsie Taylor

Entered into Heaven

We lift up the following families in prayer-

Anice Joy-Twin sister of Gery Joy. Pray especially for Gery and Sheila, Anice's mother Latrelle, and her two children.

Baptisms



Scott Hillyer was baptized on
August 16th.



Gery Joy was baptized on
August 16th.

AUGUST CONTRIBUTIONS

	August 2 nd	August 9 th	August 16 th	August 23 rd
General	\$17,703.30	\$18,105.75	\$13,685.60	\$15,307.00
Designated	\$12,410.00	\$8,880.00	\$7,575.00	\$606.00

Light of youth

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Our Children and Youth have been active this summer with fun events.

Children's Church with Ms. Lou occurs every Wednesday evening at Community Christian Church.

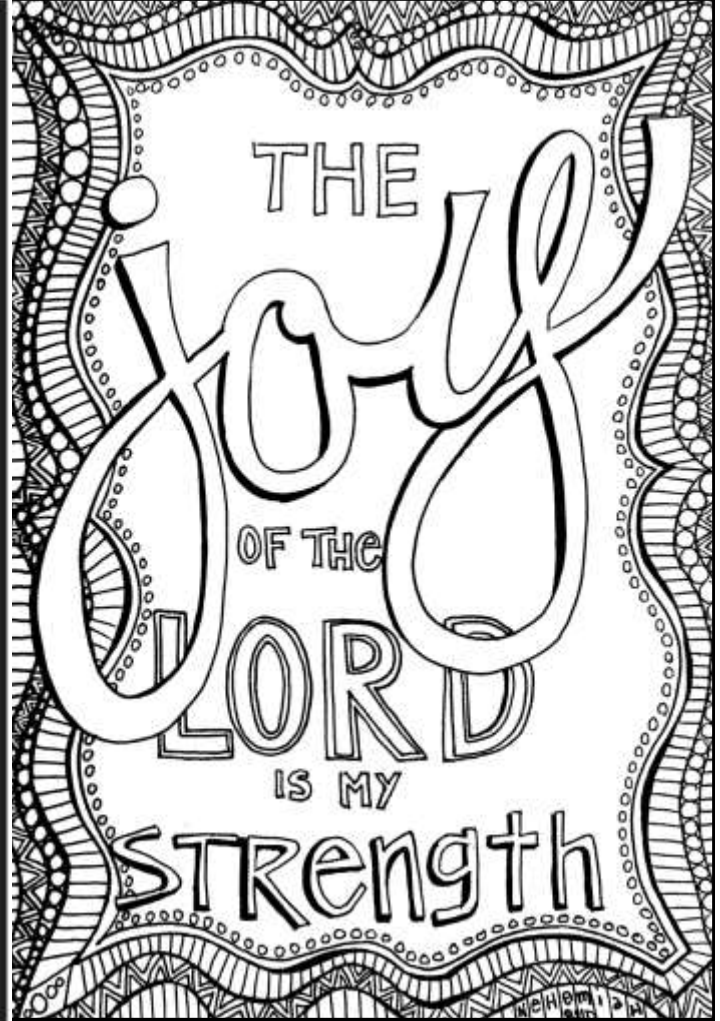
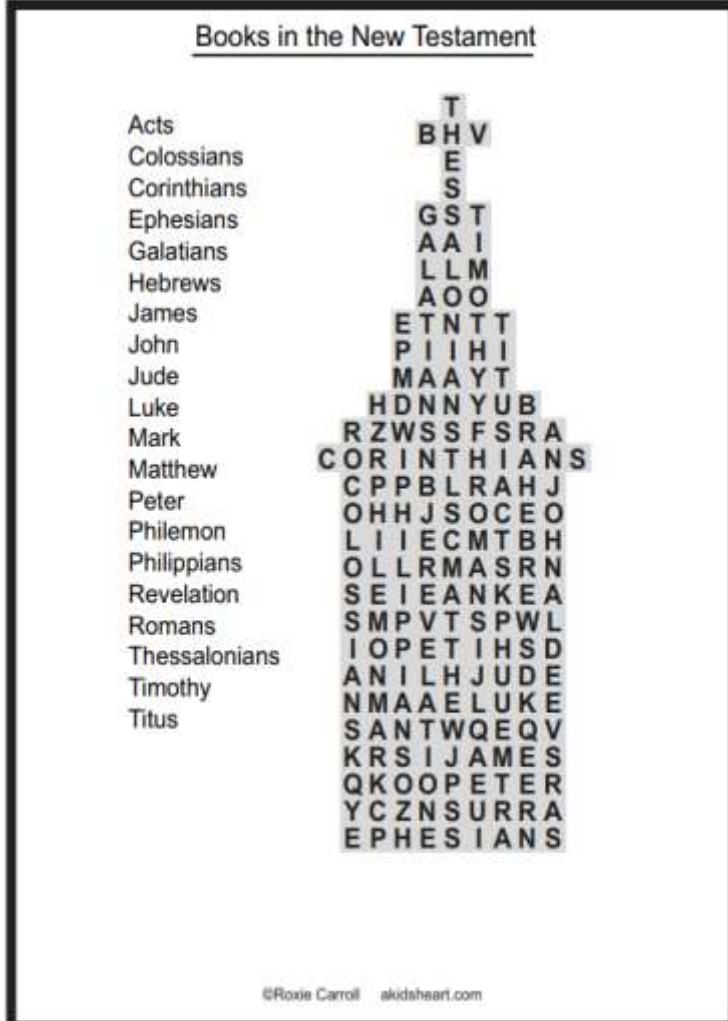
The Youth participated in a fun day of paintball on August 15th at Elite Paintball of Lubbock.

Youth Minister, Derek Jerezano and College Minister, Scott Hall attended.



Light activities

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Lemon Ice Cream Pie

- 1 1/2 c. crushed corn flakes
- 1/3 c. sugar
- 6 T. melted butter
- 1 qt. (or a little more) vanilla ice cream
- 1 (6-oz.) can frozen pink lemonade
- 1/3 c. orange marmalade
- 2-3 T. lemon juice

Make crust by combining crushed corn flakes with sugar and melted butter. Mix well and press into a 9 inch pie pan. Bake 5 minutes at 350. Cool. For filling, soften ice cream and mix in pink lemonade. Spoon into cooled crust and place in freezer for several hours. Make glaze with orange marmalade diluted with lemon juice. Pour glaze over pie and return to freezer for 15 minutes.

Submitted by Elizabeth Tidwell in the FCC Cookbook Bon Appetit-No More Secrets, 2012

ACTIVITIES

AUGUST ATTENDANCE

August 2	9:00 am– 163 11:00 am (Sanctuary)– 60
August 9	9:00 am– 180 11:00 am (Sanctuary)–53
August 16	9:00 am– 200 11:00 am (Sanctuary)- 48
August 23	9:00 am– 178 11:00 (Sanctuary)- 59

Sharing our Light

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Bean Elementary Update ...Bob and Marcy Lawless

School Supply Gratitude

Once again, we want to thank everyone who participated in the recent School Supply Drive for FCC's adoptive school, Bean Elementary. Many of you dropped off the requested items at the bin in The Great Hall, and with COVID concerns, more people than in the past gave monetary gifts. After taking inventory of what was given, we purchased 1000 more Composition Books, 200 Dry Erase Markers, 108 boxes of tissues and various other needed supplies, all of which were delivered to the school on Tuesday, August 11th. There are still funds available which will be used to fill in additional items once school has been in session for a few weeks and Principal Thomas advises us as to other specific needs. In the meantime, please accept our sincere appreciation for your generous assistance in this ministry!



Praying the Perimeter

On Wednesday, August 12th at 8 a.m., 24 members of FCC masked up and gathered outside the front doors of Bean Elementary to participate in a prayer walk led by Pastor Paul. We walked the perimeter of the school, praying for wisdom, energy, physical health/safety/protection, and confidence/peace from God. Several teachers came out for conversation and a special prayer was prayed over them prior to the start of the walk.



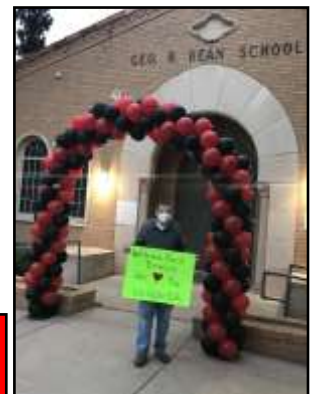
Virtual Prayer with Teachers

In previous years, we have gathered within the school walls to pray with the teachers at the start of each six weeks. This year—for obvious reasons—we embarked on a new method of getting together. On Friday, August 14th at 10 a.m., utilizing the LISD system (similar to Zoom), Pastor Paul and several FCC members joined about 18 teachers on screen to ask the Lord's covering over the school, the teachers & staff, and the students & parents. It was a sweet time and likely the "new normal" for praying together for the foreseeable future.




Welcome Back, Students!

The first day of school on Monday, August 17th looked very different this year as the students arrived and were directed to three separate entrances, dependent on grade level. Although the balloon arch graced the front doorway, several members from FCC greeted the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students on the northeast side of the school where teachers held grade signs and gathered their classes before entering the building. Everyone but the youngest of students (P-K through 1st grade) wore masks and all teachers entering the building had their temperatures checked. Please keep the administration, teachers, staff, and students at Bean Elementary and across our city, state and nation in your daily prayers.



PRAY FOR OUR SCHOOLS

SEPTEMBER 2020 PRAYER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>"Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work." ~ Oswald Chambers</p> 	<p>1</p> <p>Pray often for FCC ministers and staff: for God to protect them and their families and guide them as they lead us in these days.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>For God to guide decision-makers and protect our community through this COVID crisis, especially with school and college startup.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Use "The Light" to prompt you to pray over FCC leaders, members, ministries, and activities. May God bless and protect.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Pray for God's mercy and protection over students of all ages in our community, as well their families and all educators.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Pray for the prodigals in our families; may God soften their hearts and restore them to faith and wholeness through Christ.</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Ask God to fill you with His Spirit and give you a heart to worship Him intently today and through the coming week.</p>	<p>7 LABOR DAY</p> <p>Give thanks for purposeful work God has given you; pray always to work as if for the Lord, per <i>Colossians 3:23</i>.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Pray for the Spirit to direct Pastor Paul as he works to lead FCC members and friends to grow in faith and discipleship.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Pray for children, youth, and their families; and for Lou as she finds ways creatively to minister to them just now.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>That the Spirit nurture bonds of love and fellowship among FCC families and friends, even when we don't gather in person.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Pray for those in your circle who are homebound and especially isolated. Ask God how you can uplift and help.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>For God's Spirit to overpower the divisive spirit rampant in our nation and empower Christians to model love and unity.</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Pray for and with all who worship God this Lord's Day—whether in cars or homes or prisons. May God be glorified!</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Pray for the financial health of our church and all its members; may God make us cheerful givers and obedient stewards.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>For God's provision in hard economic times; mercy for those whose jobs have been impacted and those most disadvantaged.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>For God to multiply impact of all FCC outreach ministries. For all who receive food vouchers distributed today.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>For God to bless FCC's ministry of digging water wells in Kenya; may efforts change lives, bring hope, and draw many to Christ.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Pray for all FCC care ministries; may the Holy Spirit guide us to ensure in creative ways that at FCC, no one walks alone.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>That God be magnified and glorified, and that many come to know Christ through this crisis. Ask God to show you your role.</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Praise God for freedom to worship. "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord" (<i>Psalms 122:1-3</i>)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Pray for those whose way is hard; pray in the Spirit for God's merciful hand to provide just what is needed, just when.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Ask God, in His grace, to work hard things for good and bring order out of chaos. Ask Him to help you rest and trust in Him.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>For the Spirit to draw FCC members and friends to stay strong through Bible study and prayer during these difficult times.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>That God bless and strengthen Christians facing persecution, plus COVID dangers. May their witness glorify God.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Pray today over those you know who are experiencing health issues: for God's peace, comfort, strength, and healing.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>On this National and Global Day of Prayer, join in praying for God's people to return to Him; pray <i>2 Chronicles 7:14</i>.</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Pray for revival through the Holy Spirit as people worship around the world today in many ways and places.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Read <i>Psalms 124</i> and worship God today. In light of circumstances, praise the Lord that our help is in Him!</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Take time to be a friend today; share your faith and the love of Jesus with those God puts into your path this day.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Read <i>Psalms 126</i>. Praise God for great things He has done. Ask God how you can sow seeds for His Kingdom today. Do it!</p>	<p>Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. <i>Ephesians 6:18</i></p>		

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

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NON PROFIT ORG.
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PERMIT NO. 366
LUBBOCK, TEXAS

**Return Service
Requested**

Worship Times

Sundays:

Parking Lot Service:
9:00a.m.
West Parking Lot

Sanctuary Service:
11:00 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.

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The Light informs
members of
congregational
news/activities

Managing Editor-
Mary Norman

SEPTEMBER Birthdays

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 Sally Barfield Gay Foster	2 Walker Belew	3 Ronnie Taylor	4	5 Clara Kitten Kelly Sihaloho
6	7 Allie Cushman	8 Mary Shannon	9 Lourdes Ariceaga John Paul Carpenter Jeff Jackson Ellis Ann Williams	10	11 Sandra Foster Becky Meador Brad Payne Shelly Ribble Mary Jane Ritchie Todd Williams	12 Rachel Smith
13 Robbie Bedker Jerry Etter Lynn Ford	14 Paul Carpenter Nathan Swindle	15 Koy Stair Josh Stevens	16 Scott Etter Jared Robinson	17	18 John McVey	19 Rodrigo Ariceaga Roger Bowers Carolyn Garnett
20 Ric Johnson Andy Smith	21 Jerry Brown	22 Blake Matzner Kathy Payne	23 Skeet Brown	24 Pam Castellano Mollie Parsley	25 Ginger Hunt Rita Pettigrew Hendra Sihaloho	26 Frieda Corley
27	28	29	30 Cal Brints Lyle Mashburn			