



**FIRST
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**
OF BRYAN / COLLEGE STATION
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

The Visitor

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January 2025

Mike's Musings

John 16:33a – "I have said this to you so that in me you may have peace."

In all the wrong places, humanity persists in its fruitless quest for peace. Personal, domestic, social, economic, and political peace are all lacking today. Why? The seeds of suspicion, violence, hatred, and destruction are ingrained in human nature. The world won't be at peace until Christ returns. "Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division" (Luke 12:51)! Jesus warned that His message would cause division, but He did not claim to have stopped peace. Who wants to be told they are sinners and need to turn from their ways? Christ demonstrated compassion, offered consolation, and performed healing when He first started His earthly ministry. In response, the populace rejected him, resisted him, arrested him, and killed him.

Evildoers make every effort to divert those seeking peace from Jesus Christ, the Peacemaker. Those who advocate for peace, hold peace conferences, and speak about it are frequently the same individuals who are oblivious to evil and do not want the world to acknowledge the Source of peace.

However, one can achieve personal peace right now. The state of the world, no matter how dire it gets, does not determine the future. What everyone does regarding Jesus Christ will determine this.

Blessings!

Pastor Mike



January Sermon Schedule

- January 5 – "Boy in the Temple"
Luke 2:41-52
- January 12 – "Jesus' Baptism"
Luke 3:1-22
- January 19 – "Sermon at Nazareth"
Luke 4:14-30
- January 26 – "Fish for People"
Luke 5:1-11

Love One Another
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. JOHN 13:34

Behind the Scenes

The holidays have come and gone, and 2025 is already moving fast and furious. Like most of you, Michael and I are still reeling from the holidays. We enjoyed Christmas in a new way this year by celebrating from Dec. 21st to Jan. 3rd. We got to spend time with our daughter and son-in-law, my Mom, and his parents, our niece and nephew in Kingwood, a quick hug from our nephew in Georgia (visiting his Mom in Houston), see some friends all while doing Christmas with each set. I got a huge blessing as this was the first time I ever got to spend Christmas with both of my brothers, and they both got to come to church along with my sister-in-law. We've seen so many blessings this year.

We have already hit the ground running for 2025, working on Lent, and even next Advent season. We have already taken down a few items, and could use extra hands on **Tuesday, January 14th at 10:00am** to remove and pack up our remaining Advent decor. Planning ahead is key to getting everything ready for the next season and inviting others to join us.

This is a year of building! Building community, building up each other and building faith. This means change, it means stepping out of our comfort zones as we allow God to lead and show us the way. I'm excited to see what talents, leadership, and drive FCC has, and how we can build a relationship with others and strengthen the one with have with God. What would you like to try this year? What passion drives you? Where do you see God leading you? Opportunities await us, we only have to open the door! If you have something you would like to lead or work on please let us know how we can help you achieve that goal. Working together and with God anything is possible!

- Karen Townsend

Advent & Christmas Photos



Christmas Eve



"Quiet Christmas" – Dec. 29



Opportunities Ahead

Kraft Korner will meet on **Jan 16th from 10:00-12:00**. We will be making new feelie hearts(teacher & kids), teddy bears for the police department and getting a few items made for next Advent season. If you are interested in an evening Kraft Korner please contact Karen Townsend with the best day and times so we can get this set up for everyone to have a chance to attend. All are welcome! Feel free to bring a friend!

Help us deliver feelie hearts to the schools for the new hires for 2024-2025 school year. Dates are TBD. Let us know if you would like to be a part of this exciting ministry.

We will be taking down our remaining Advent decor on **Tuesday, January 14th at 10am**, If you are available to help please contact Karen Townsend. Many hands make light work! This should only take 1-2 hours.

Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF)

Our Women's Fellowship will be collecting school items for Stephen F. Austin Middle School, and cleaning supplies for Habitat for Humanity. The school supply drive is **Jan 8- Feb 5th**, and the cleaning supplies will be collected **until March**. Items needed include laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, bathroom & kitchen cleaner, Lysol wipes, dust spray etc. (They have plenty of dish soap, so this is NOT needed at this time). Collection boxes will be in the Gathering Space.

Also, all of the women in the church are being asked to pick up a ribbon piece, which will also be available in the Gathering Space. This ribbon piece is for a prayer, your name, or anything you would like to write on it. In February, these will be woven into a special banner to celebrate 125 years of First Christian Church's Christian Women's Fellowship. Contact Anne Parkin or Ann Pittman for more information. More information on this celebration will follow.

Kraft Korner

Kraft Korner will meet on **Thursday January 16th at 10AM to noon**.



Disciples Women/CWF

Our next meeting will be **January 8, at 9:30am**



Disciples Men/CMF

CMF will meet on the **third Tuesday of the month at 12:30 for lunch, location TBA**. If you currently do not receive an email from Rev. Mike about this, please contact him.



Recycle Team

If you have recycling at your home and are willing to take some home with you from the church we would greatly appreciate it. There is a recycling bin in the Fellowship hall as well as one in the copy room. You can contact the office for more information



Board Meeting

There will be a board meeting **January 19**, immediately following the worship service.



Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting to approve the 2025 budget immediately following the worship service on **January 26**.

Pastors Cabinet

Mark your calendar and bring your date book and ideas. We are planning out the year. Join us on **February 9th** for a snack and planning session 12-1pm (approximately). Please let Pastor Mike know if you are able to join him!

Sunday Morning Fellowship

The Fellowship Team would like to thank those who have signed up to help with our Sunday Morning Fellowship. It is wonderful time to enjoy a cup of coffee, have a morning snack, and as one member has said, "sit around talking and solving the problems of the world together!"

Wouldn't you like to be a part of this?

Opportunities to sign up and facilitate this time together are available. Sign up sheets are on the glass doors to the Fellowship Hall. A guide book will be available starting in February to outline these duties.

Music Ministry

PICKERS – Thursdays @ 11:00am

CHOIR PRACTICE – 10:00am, before church

HANDBELL PRACTICE –Please watch for updates.



February Newsletter Deadline!

We would like to publish the February monthly Newsletter **January 28**. Please submit any articles or calendar items by **January 27**.

Please submit your articles to:
firstchristianbcs@gmail.com

Thank
you

I greatly appreciate my church family, and would like to thank you for the generous Christmas staff appreciation gift. Those who know me well will not be surprised to learn that I used some of the funds to purchase another teapot for my collection!

~Mary Richards

COVID and the Church:

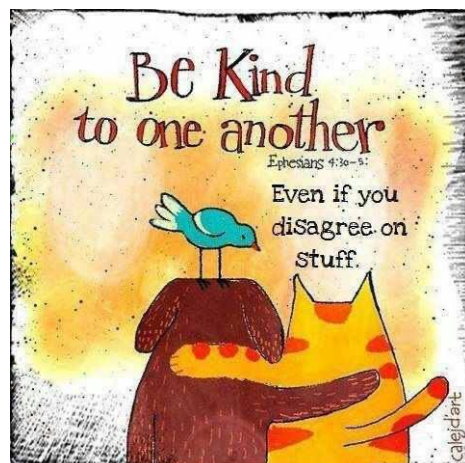
Update for January

We continue to follow CDC, and local Health Department guidance, in order to keep everyone attending our services as safe as possible.

People may choose to mask at any time. **People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a high-quality [mask or respirator](#) when indoors in public.**

Please be considerate of others.

There are a lot of respiratory illnesses going around lately – please take care of yourself, and be considerate of others.



Journey of the Magi

“A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.”
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the
darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

— T. S. Eliot

Prayer Concerns

While we believe everyone needs prayer, those named on our list have specific and ongoing needs:

Diane Andrews (friend of Cheryl Aufderheide)
Julie (Atterbury) Porter
Teddy Atterbury (great-grandson of John Atterbury)
Karl Aufderheide
Kay & John Benes
Rose Bowden (sister of Diane Weber)
Family of Liza Culpepper (Mary Anne Culpepper's
granddaughter)
Charles Dishman
The Fuller Family
Terry & Eva Hart
Laura Johnson (Bob Richards' cousin)
Lois & Shorty Kindt
Jeanene Kindt
Caton Milstead (Karen Smith's nephew)
Roger & Emily Nichols (friends of Mary Richards)
Monique & David Reed (friends of the Aufderheides)
Brad Slocum (Stacy Atterbury's brother)
Annette & Richard Stadelmann
Ashley Weber
Elizabeth Weber
Reba Wood
John Wright

Shut-ins:

Jackie Kranz,

Worship Services

In person and live streamed,
Sundays at 10:45am:

Our Facebook Page:

[https://www.facebook.com/
BryanCollegeStationDisciples/](https://www.facebook.com/BryanCollegeStationDisciples/)

Church Calendar: January 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5 Epiphany Sunday Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:00am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed	6 News from the Pews due Zoom Elders meeting, 4:00pm	7 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg	8 Disciples Women/CWF, 9:30am	9 Pickers, 11:00am	10 Michael Townsend	11 Marge Crouch
12 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:00am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed	13 News from the Pews due Jayce Phariss	14 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg Bob Richards	15	16 Kraft Korner, 10:00am Pickers, 11:00am	17	18
19 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:00am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed Board meeting following worship Avery Marie Douglas	20 News from the Pews due	21 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg Disciples Men/CMF, 12:30pm	22	23 Pickers, 11:00am	24 Jonathan Gilmore	25 Bob McGee Anne Parkin
26 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:00am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed Congregational meeting following worship	27 February Newsletter Deadline	28 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg	29 Melvin Weber	30 Pickers, 11:00am	31	