

The Tie That Binds...



If you haven't read the Christmas Story from Luke 2:1-20, please do so. There's an old TV commercial that shows a man looking at a bowl of corn flakes and saying, "This looks pretty boring to me, pretty common, pretty ordinary." After pouring in some milk and sugar he tastes it and says, "Hmm, I like it. It's really pretty good. What is it?" The announcer answers, "Kellogg's Corn Flakes." Then the guy says, "You really got me on that. I hate it when you do that." Then we hear the announcer saying, "Kellogg's Corn Flakes taste them again for the first time."

Maybe that is one of our problems with Christmas. Christmas is such a familiar and common experience that we almost miss it. So let me challenge you to see it again for the first time. There are some things in the Christmas story which are very ordinary. In the scripture from Luke 2, it reminds us that a census

was being taken. And the purpose of the census was to make it easier to collect taxes. That's pretty common. Almost everybody pays taxes. Then, there's Joseph, a carpenter. Most of us wouldn't consider ourselves carpenters at all. But most of us have swung a hammer or tried to saw a board. So, in this way we can identify with Joseph. There's also the little town of Bethlehem. Bethlehem's only claim to fame was that it was the home of King David, and out on its hillsides David wrote his Psalms and watched his sheep. It was just an ordinary town. Then there's Mary, who came from just an ordinary family. But there was a purity about her, something that impresses you and causes you to respect her. Other than that, she was just a girl from Nazareth. There's also a pregnancy mentioned. That's pretty common, too.

People, places, and things are very common and ordinary. And they unite to bring the Christmas story. And yet, God is able to take the ordinary things of life and do wonderful things with them. May your Christmas be the very best as you see it again for the very first time.

Pastor Charles and Margaret



Sunday, December 06

10:45a Rev. Charles Waugh
"Christmas Ties"
John 1:1 - 14

Sunday, December 13

10:45a Rev. Charles Waugh
"A Special Word for Christmas"
Luke 2:1 - 7

Sunday, December 20

10:45a Rev. Charles Waugh
"God's Gifts for Christmas"
Isaiah 9:6 - 7; Luke 2:8 - 14

Sunday, December 27

10:45a Rev. Charles Waugh
"What A Difference A Year Makes"
Luke 2:52

Oooooooh boy! I am excited about the three vaccines that are in the late stages of development and testing.

Oooooooh boy! Won't it be nice to go out in public with no virus concerns!?!?

Oooooooh boy! Won't it be nice to have our regular church activities!?!?

Looks like all is going well on broadcasting a weekly service of ours on the radio station KITY, out of Llano. It will be played at 6:30a on Sunday mornings. The station has a strong signal here in Burnet. This is an opportunity for us to share our Lord with any and everyone that would like to listen.

I want to thank the Nominating Committee for all their work in filling next years leadership team. On December 6th, at our congregational meeting, we will vote them in and start the celebrations of another great Church year.

I want to give a giant thank you to the 2020 Team for their great work all year. Last, but not least, I want to thank the volunteers that accepted the Nominating Committees request for their service to the Church in 2021!

I want each and everyone of our Church family to know that you really are my family and you mean everything to me. My prayer and hope is that each one of you are protected from this virus and you stay well.

In Christian Love,
 Grover



General Checking Account

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| September 30, 2020 Balance | \$60,909.23 | |
| October 2020 Deposits | | |
| General | \$4,249.36 | |
| Designated | \$60.68 | \$4,310.04 |
| October 2020 Disbursements | | |
| Budgeted/General Fund | (\$4,268.37) | |
| Other Fund/Pass-Through | (\$596.11) | (\$4,864.48) |
| August 31, 2020 Balance | \$60,354.79 | |

In December 2020!

| | |
|--------|--|
| Dec 02 | 10a Bible Study with E. Spiekermann |
| Dec 05 | Brenda Huff's Birthday |
| Dec 06 | Second Sunday of Advent Peace Sunday Linda Guess' Birthday |
| Dec 09 | 10a Bible Study with E. Spiekermann |
| Dec 11 | Melissa Johnson's Birthday Richard Dunegan's Birthday |
| Dec 13 | Third Sunday of Advent Christmas Special Offering Congregational Board Meeting |
| Dec 16 | 10a Bible Study with E. Spiekermann |
| Dec 17 | Charolette Collie's Birthday |
| Dec 20 | Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Special Offering |
| Dec 24 | Christmas Eve – No Service |
| Dec 25 | Christmas Day Church Office Closed |
| Dec 27 | First Sunday after Christmas Day |
| Dec 28 | Adam Engen's Birthday Brandon Colclaires Birthday |
| Dec 29 | Brenda William's Birthday |
| Dec 30 | 10a Bible Study with E. Spiekermann |
| Dec 31 | New Year's Eve Margot Spiekermann's Birthday |

This year the Christian Church in the Southwest has chosen “Hopeful Path” as our Christmas Offering theme and Romans 5:1-5 as the biblical foundation. This passage foreshadowed what this year has proven – that hope doesn’t happen by accident. The image of a path symbolizes the work of crafting hope. Paths are not so much found, as made. Hope, like a path, is built. Hope is built from God, and to God, and more importantly with God.

We invite you to join us on the Hopeful Path, and we ask you to prayerfully consider your contribution to the ministry of the CCSW. One-hundred percent of your contribution to the Disciples Mission Fund (DMF) Christmas Offering goes to support your Region. We ask you to do three things. First, prayerfully read Romans 5:1-5. Take time to study it with friends or a Sunday school class. Second, we ask you to promote the Christmas offering within your congregation. Let others know what God has done in and through the CCSW in 2020. Finally, we ask you to give to the Christmas Offering either through gifts to your congregation designated as “DMF: Christmas Offering” or through the Region’s online giving platform: www.ccsw.org/donate.

“...hope does not disappoint...” These four words come in the middle of the first five verses of Romans 5. It is a promise for the CCSW to claim during the closing months of 2020 and the opening months of 2021. Hope is not wishful thinking, helpless anticipation, or blind optimism. Hope is the gritty determination to remain faithful in the midst of difficulty and hardship. To see a hopeful path and go together along that path in devotion to God our Creator and Sustainer.

To God be the Glory,
Rev. Dr. Andy Mangum
Regional Minister and President



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Serving Schedule - December 2020

- Dec 06 "Christmas Ties" - John 1:1 - 14
 Dec 13 "A Special Word for Christmas" - Luke 2:1 -7
 Dec 20 "God's Gifts For Christmas" Isaiah 9:6-4; Luke 2:8-14
 Dec 27 "What A Difference A Year Makes" - Luke 2:52

| | ELDER Prayer-Bread & Cup Inv. to Stewardship Prayer-Offering | DEACONS | WORSHIP LEADER Welcome & Announcements Call to Worship Invocation & Prayer & COUNTER | ACOLYTES |
|--------|---|--|---|------------|
| Dec 06 | Grover Howell | Linda Guess Teri Howell Jim Nance | Jonnie Stark | Adam Engen |
| Dec 13 | Ron Petrick | Jonnie Stark Sharon Tippie Marilyn Petrick | Yvonne Evans | TBD |
| Dec 20 | Susie Rodgers | Linda Guess Teri Howell Jim Nance | Ron Petrick | Adam Engen |
| Dec 27 | Bennie Clark | Jonnie Stark Sharon Tippie Marilyn Petrick | Grover Howell | TBD |

The Elder is responsible for Stewardship Meditation/Prayer and Prayer for Bread and Cup.
Communion Preparation: TBD

If you are unable to serve on the day you are scheduled, please notify the Office Administrator
and a replacement will be assigned.



December 2020

Seasons and Colors of the Christian Year
 11/29 - 12/24 Advent (violet or blue); 12/25 - 01/05 Christmastide (white)

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 10:00a Bible Study | 3 | 4 | 5 Brenda Huff's Birthday |
| 6 Second Sunday of Advent Peace Sunday 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship w/Noisy Offering Linda G's Birthday | 7 | 8 | 9 10:00a Bible Study | 10 | 11 Melissa J's Birthday Richard D's Birthday | 12 |
| 13 Third Sunday of Advent 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship Christmas Special Offering Congregation Board Meeting | 14 | 15 | 16 10:00a Bible Study | 17 Charolette C's Birthday | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship Christmas Special Offering | 21 | 22 | 23 10:00a Bible Study | 24 Christmas Eve | 25 Christmas OFFICE CLOSED | 26 |
| 27 First Sunday after Christmas Day 9:30a Sunday School 10:45 Worship | 28 Adam E's Birthday Brandon Colclasure's Birthday | 29 Brenda W's Birthday | 30 10:00a Bible Study | 31 New Year's Eve Margot S's Birthday | | |

Elders

Bennie Clark (2021) Paula Harris (2020)
Grover Howell (2021) Ron Petrick (2022)
Susie Rodgers (2022) Greg Williams (2020)

Deacons

Alayna Engen James Engen
Jennifer Engen Linda Guess
Jerry Hostetter Ronda Hostetter
Teri Howell Jim Nance
Marilyn Petrick Jonnie Stark
Sharon Tippie

Trustees

Richard Dunegan Art Johnson
Susie Rodgers

2020 Leadership Team

Moderator Grover Howell
Vice Moderator Liz Smith
Secretary Lana Orr
Treasurer Bennie Clark
Historian Sharon Tippie
Education }
Faith-Sharing } Committee Council -
Membership } Wayne Spiekermann
Outreach } Michele Darling
Property
Worship
Disciple Men Rep
Disciple Women Rep Jonnie Stark



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