

The Tie That Binds...



Search and Call Announcement

The Search and Call Committee is happy to announce that we will be proposing the hiring of Rev. Bill Howden as the interim minister for our congregation beginning January 1.



The proposal and the agreement between Rev. Howden and the church will be brought before the Board and congregation for

approval during the December 12th meeting following the worship service.

Rev. Howden travels from San Antonio and will be in the pulpit three Sundays each month.

January 9th will be his first Sunday in his new role and we invite you to hear him preach and meet him personally as we host a reception for him following the service.

For more information on the Search and Call process, please see the article on page 3.

December 5th Guest Speaker

Rev. Mari Lyn Jones



I am a beloved child of God. Relationally I am daughter to Doris; wife of Kevin; mother of Sarah and Mary; and faithful friend to my pastor colleague group. Vocationally I have been teacher, librarian, and pastor. In each of these vocations, connecting with people has given me joy and energy. My favorite days as a pastor are those days I spend with members, neighbors, and community folk. Whether I'm visiting them—in their homes, in hospital waiting rooms, or in the shade at a local park; or if I'm working alongside them—stocking food pantry shelves, assembling care backpacks, or delivering meals, my favorite days are days spent with others.

I find comfort in cycles: the cycle of the sun, the cycle of seasons, the cycle of sermon preparation. The rising and setting of the sun focus my meditation. During the lengthening nights in the winter, I metaphorically snuggle into my burrow where I plan, pray, read, and discern. During the subsequent lengthening of days in the summer, my mind, energy, and direction turns outward. Weekly I find challenge, opportunity, and fulfillment in praying, reading, studying, and writing to prepare for Sunday worship leadership. Whether I'm sitting on our patio listening to the morning birdsong, walking our dog in the neighborhood, wandering paths in local parks, or watching the changing palette of the evening sky, God's good creation energizes me. I enjoy reading a variety of genres, but I tend to find the most meaningful theological connections in children's fiction, which takes me back to – I am a beloved child of God.

December 12th Guest Speaker

Rev. Jason Fry



Rev. Fry grew up in Burnet as a member of the First United Methodist Church of Burnet, from which he was recommended as a candidate for ordained ministry. He was ordained as a United Methodist pastor in 1983 and retired from active pastoral ministry in July 2019 after 39 years, having served rural and urban congregations, from small with no staff to large with multiple staff. He has a passion for growing disciples who can disciple others. Rev. Fry holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from McMurry University, a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary.

After retiring from pastoral ministry and moving back to Burnet, Rev. Fry has been engaged in a ministry of coaching pastors and other ministry leaders with a focus on leadership, organizational structure for missional effectiveness, stewardship/financial leadership and staff development and supervision. He has been married to Joan, also of Burnet, since 1978 and they have a son John and a daughter Sarah, a grandson Ruben and are expecting a granddaughter in November of 2021. Rev. Fry's hobbies include amateur astronomy, history, genealogy, and he is very involved in Scouting.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Dec 01 Fatima Evans Birthday
- Dec 05 Noisy Offering
Advent Week 2 Reading –
Wayne/Margot Spiekermann
Guest Speaker-Rev. Mari Lyn Jones
- Dec 06 Katlyn Williams' Birthday
Linda Guess' Birthday
- Dec 11 Melissa Johnson's Birthday
Richard Dunegan's Birthday
- Dec 12 Advent Week 3 Reading – Art/Melissa
Johnson
Congregational Board Meeting after
worship
Church RED Christmas Party after
meeting
- Dec 17 Charolette Collie's Birthday
- Dec 19 Advent Week 4 Reading – Allen/Susie
Rodgers
Farewell Reception for Allen/Susie
Rodgers after worship
- Dec 22 Newsletter Articles are due
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve
Church Office Closed
- Dec 25 Christmas Day
- Dec 28 Adam Engen's Birthday
- Dec 29 Brenda Williams' Birthday
- Dec 31 Margot Spiekermann's Birthday



Search and Call Committee

Dear Congregation,

We are thankful for your prayers, support and patience as we work through this process. We reviewed eight profiles provided by our regional minister, Rev. Al Walker, and we interviewed several potential candidates. Unfortunately, we were not able to proceed past the interview stage.

Rev. Walker is reviewing other profiles at this time and we expect to hear from him in the next several days. We are also seeking alternative options and have reached out to the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary to see if there is anyone interested in pulpit supply or ministry in our area. We have already received positive feedback on pulpit supply.

We know that the search and call process can seem never-ending, but we have been active as a committee for only six months. Each of us is prayerful and determined to find the best person for our congregation. We are listening for God's guidance as we carefully review each profile.

In the meantime, we feel blessed with the ministers who have filled the pulpit each week. We are extremely thankful for their sermons and their willingness to be with our congregation. Thank you, Ron Petrick, for working on the pulpit supply schedule each month.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to any or all of the committee members. We feel honored to serve the congregation in this capacity.

Susie, Sharon, Michele, Wayne, Bennie, Ron



Granny Cake
From Marilyn Petrick

Cake Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 large eggs
- 20 oz. can crushed pineapple, undrained
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup pecans

Icing Ingredients:

- 1 cup evaporated milk
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter
- 1 tsp vanilla

- Set oven to 350 degrees. Grease 9 x 13 pan.
- In a large bowl, whisk sugar, flour, baking soda and salt, then mix in the eggs and pineapple.
- Pour batter into pan. Top with an even layer of pecans and brown sugar.
- Place in oven. Bake for 40-45 minutes, or until toothpick comes out clean.
- While cake cooks, combine evaporated milk, sugar and butter in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat and bring to boil.
- Remove from heat, stir in vanilla extract. Then pour over hot cake.
- Let cake cool so it absorbs icing. Then slice and enjoy.



A Note from Susie---

Thanks to all of you for the gifts and experiences I have had while serving with you for the last 10 years. I have learned and grown so much from your example and the opportunities you have given me.

Allen and I are looking forward to our next adventure in Wana, OK. You'll have to call if you get any where near.

Thank you for encouraging us to question, and to study the Word. Thank for letting me sing with you.

I pray you will each keep a song in your heart and you'll remember with "Blessed Assurance" that we will all meet again someday.

Love, Love, Love
Susie & Allen Rodgers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP/CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*Please join your
FCC Church Family
for a **RED**
**Christmas
Party***

Menu

Please bring a favorite finger food such as: chips, dips, sandwiches, cookies, etc.

Hot Apple Cider-Christmas Punch-Coffee provided

Entertainment

Christmas Music & Gift Exchange

Please bring an unwrapped, RED gift. Spend \$5 or less; or it may be homemade or something regifted that is RED!

HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT
WAYNE, SUSIE, SUSAN OR MICHELE

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL NOT BE A FIRST
SUNDAY LUNCHEON ON DEC. 5TH



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Serving Schedule - December 2021

	ELDER Joys/Concerns Communion Prayer Stewardship Prayer	DEACONS Prepare/Serve Communion Offering	WORSHIP LEADER Welcome & Announcements Call to Worship Invocation & Prayer	ACOLYTES
Dec 05	Bennie Clark	Marilyn Petrick Sharon Tippie	Jonnie Stark	
Dec 12	Grover Howell	Teri Howell Linda Guess	Ron Petrick	
Dec 19	Hank Holt	Marilyn Petrick Jonnie Stark	Sharon Tippie	
Dec 26	Ron Petrick	Jonnie Stark Linda Guess	Yvonne Evans	

The Elder is responsible for Joys/Concerns; Communion Prayer; Stewardship Prayer
Communion Preparation: Covid Approved Containers

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



December 2021

Seasons and Colors of the Christian Year

Nov 28 - Dec 24 Advent (violet or blue); Dec 25 - Jan 5 Christmastide (white)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Fatima Evans Birthday	4
5 2nd Sunday of Advent Peace Sunday 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship Noisy Offering NO SUNDAY LUNCH Rev. Mari Lyn Jones	6 Katlynn Williams Birthday Linda Guess' Birthday	7	8	9	10	11 Melissa Johnson's Birthday Richard Dunegan's Birthday
12 3rd Sunday of Advent Christmas Special Offering 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship Congregation Board Mtg. Christmas Party	13	14	15	16	17 Charolette Collie's Birthday	18
19 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship Farewell reception for Susie/Allen Rodgers	20	21	22 JANUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	25 CHRISTMAS DAY
26 1st Sunday after Christmas Day 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship	27	28 Adam Engen's Birthday	29 Brenda Williams' Birthday	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE Margot Spiekermann's Birthday	

Elders	
Grover Howell (2021)	Bennie Clark (2021)
Ron Petrick (2022)	Susie Rodgers (2022)
Hank Holt (2023)	
Deacons	
Linda Guess, chair	Teri Howell
Jim Nance	Marilyn Petrick
Jonnie Stark	Sharon Tippie
Trustees	
Richard Dunegan	Art Johnson
Susie Rodgers	

2021 Leadership Team

Moderator	Grover Howell
Secretary	Melissa Johnson
Treasurer	Bennie Clark
Historian	Sharon Tippie
Education	Committee Council -
Faith-Sharing	Grover Howell
Membership	Wayne Spiekermann
Outreach	Michele Darling
Property	Susan Clark
Worship	Susie Rodgers
Disciple Men Rep	
Disciple Women Rep	



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