



THE TIE THAT BINDS...

APRIL 2022

SEARCH AND CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

A special board meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 6th, at 7:00pm. The meeting's purpose is to vote on the possible approval of a potential new Pastor. As always the meeting will be available on Zoom.

The Search Committee has identified a candidate whom we will be recommending to the board for approval at a special meeting called on April 6th. If the board approves, the candidate will preach in Burnet on April 24th. A congregational vote will be scheduled in May. If approved by the congregation, the new pastor could arrive in June.

We all appreciate your patience, and most of all your prayers, as we have journeyed through this process for almost a year. Please continue to pray for the candidate, our church and the committee.

Blessed to serve with each of you,
Sharon, Bennie, Ron, Wayne, Michele

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Observing Lent through Devotion, Prayer and Giving

- ✦ **Devote** time to God each day by reading the Guidepost devotional. There are several still available in the foyer.
- ✦ Find a reminder to **Pray** in your pocket or purse each day with a "pocket" cross. Again, available in the foyer.
- ✦ **Give up to Give Hope** – Lent/Easter special offering will benefit the Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center which serves families suffering from abuse. Drop off your monetary gift of hope in the butterfly vase in the foyer. Our individual contributions, no matter how large or how small, affirm our FCC commitment to helping others in our community.

From the Interim Minister...

Rev. William "Bill" Howden



In San Antonio, where I live, it took us only 14 days to go from freezing temperatures to highs in the 90s. Such is spring in Texas: Do I wear my winter coat today? Or a T-shirt and shorts? Springtime in Texas can be something of a whipsaw, back and forth, back and forth, never knowing what to expect.

Something similar can be said of that spring in Jerusalem some 2000 years ago, although then the whipsaw was far more profound. On Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem to the sound of cheering crowds. By Friday, the crowds were shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Before the day was over, he was dead – dead and buried.

The opponents of Jesus thought they were done with him. But God had other plans. The story didn't end with the cross and a sealed grave. The story continued – or should I say *continues*? – with new life, resurrection, and a rebirth of hope.

No matter how bleak your day may appear, God is still at work. The future is still hopeful. And the Risen Christ is still the Ruler of the World.

We celebrate that good news every Sunday, but this month, we celebrate especially at our services on Palm Sunday (April 10), Maundy Thursday (April 14), and Easter Sunday (April 17). Please join us!

* * *

At the church board meeting in March, my contract as your interim minister was extended for (up to) another three months, through June. Although I am in Burnet only on Sundays, I would remind you that I am available throughout the week by phone or by email; my contact information is below. On Wednesday and Friday mornings, I keep "office hours" from 9:30 to 11:00, generally holding those hours free for church business. Of course, you may always contact me at other times, as well.

Let me remind you that I am also available on Sunday afternoons in Burnet. If you would like me to visit your home, or come meet me at the church, please let me know.

Rev. Bill Howden

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Apr 01		April Fool's Day
Apr 03		Noisy Offering benefitting the Burnet County Child Welfare Board
	12p	Elders/Committee Council Meeting
Apr 06	7p	Called Board Meeting
Apr 07		Chloe Williams' Birthday
Apr 8-10		39 th Annual Bluebonnet Festival
Apr 10		Palm Sunday
		Easter Special Offering
		Second Sunday Luncheon – Pizza Party – contact Michele for sides/desserts to bring
Apr 14	6p	Maundy Thursday Service
		Easter Lily order is due
Apr 15		Good Friday
	2p	Prayer Vigil Begins
Apr 16	2p	Prayer Vigil Ends
Apr 17	9:45a	Easter Brunch Potluck
		Easter Service
Apr 19		Allen Rodgers Birthday
Apr 20		LuLisa Nance's Birthday
Apr 30		Edna Niebanck's Birthday



Congratulations to us! I am so proud of the efforts of our church for its monetary gifts to Week of Compassion. We sent a total of \$335. Most of this total was designated to go to Ukraine. If you want to know more about how your dollars are being used, please check out the letter from the Executive Director of Week of Compassion which I placed on the bulletin board in the hallway by the office. You will learn the many things that are being done to support those in need impacted by the Ukraine crisis.

As if the war on Ukraine was not enough for WOC to handle, we also have the recent tornadoes all over the country. If you care to donate, address your check to First Christian Church, with "Tornados" or "Texas Tornados" in the memo line on your check.

Thank you for your generosity and your caring about people in need throughout the world. Together, we can make a difference.

Marilyn

Dear Friends,

April is Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month. It began in 1983, when a report of abused and neglected children caught the attention and heart of President Ronald Reagan. Sadly since that day, the number of abused children has grown from half a million children to over 6 million new reports of abuse along with 1600+ children dying annually as a result of their abuse.



As a faith community, we have a responsibility to confront this problem. The church is the single most untapped resource for hurt children and broken families. This battle cannot be won without you. You may have empty classrooms for parenting classes or you may be able to provide a Parents Night Out for parents or foster families or other respite services.

I would ask you to wear blue or blue ribbons (available in the foyer) to increase awareness.

I thank you in advance for your support in bringing awareness to this serious problem in our country as well as our nation.



First of all, I want to apologize for two things. First, I missed the deadline for last month's newsletter. Therefore, this article will be a little longer than usual as I want to make sure you all know what was discussed in the February

board meeting as well as March. Second, if anyone tried to log into the March meeting on Zoom I was not able to set it up. I will make sure I get better information going forward so this doesn't happen again.

We have continued to have excellent sermons for the months of February and March. On February 6th, our guest minister, Jay Fry asked us to "Seize the Day." On February 27th, Mari Lyn Jones' sermon was titled "Mists, Mountains, Mystery, and Meaning." Bill Howden presented all the other sermons. February 13th was titled "Blessed are Who?", and the 20th was titled "To Be Like God". His March sermons on the 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th, were titled in order "Off the Beaten Path", "Finding Our Way", "Sustenance for the Journey", and finally "The Way Home." As always these are available for your listening pleasure on the FCC Burnet website, fccburnettx.org/sermons/.

February 9th board meeting: We had an excellent meeting. The Elders reported by Ron on members who needed our support. The Deacons reported by Marilyn have settled on how the schedule for their duties are set up. I will add at this point that it continues to evolve based on the attendance, and seating arrangements, at each service. Michele reported for the Committee Council that we raised \$170 for the Child Welfare Board through the Noisy Offering, and that plans for the Easter services are underway.

She also reported as the Search Committee Chair that a job request, with description, has been added to the Southwest Regional website.

For his pastor report Bill apologized for being gone two weeks in a row. As you probably remember his wife, Jan, had back surgery which turned out to be very successful. He was also looking forward to his second meeting with the Care groups. He also reminded the board, and this also pertains to all the members, to let him know if there are prayer requests during the week to let him know.

New business discussions: Received a scholarship application. Bennie is working to get information on how much is available to give out this year. Bennie is also in the process of setting up the account for the Howell's contribution. As a reminder it is always available to contribute to. Jonnie continues to work on the directories. The board discussed the matter of voting rights for the membership. Once this is ready, we will bring it to the entire congregation. Lastly, Marilyn was in the process of organizing the kitchen.

March 9th board meeting: Another excellent meeting that was a little less attended due to my mess up with Zoom and Ron and Marilyn being on their cruise. The only committee reports were by Michele. The Committee Council is focusing on Lent and Easter. The Search Committee is scheduling a second conversation with a candidate. As an aside continue to pray for this committee to help make the best decision possible for our church.

Bill's pastor report included asking how the Ash Wednesday service was received. Those in attendance were appreciative of his video message as well as the contributions of Ron for presiding, Susan for her music, and Michele for her help with the Communion. Bill will be taping a message for the Maundy Thursday service, so please be sure to join us, April 14th at 6:00pm. The service is titled "Finding Our Place at Jesus' Table." Finally, Bill gave some information regarding a program he heard about for small churches in Texas and Oklahoma. He and I attended a Zoom meeting on this subject. I will give an update on this if we, the board, decide to move forward with it.

New business discussions: The board voted to extend Bill Howland's contract for the months of April, May, and June. Bennie reported that \$315 had been received in the Week of Compassion offering. Marilyn has reminded us, at church services, that contributions to this can be made year-round. 100% of your contributions goes toward your individual designees. Lastly, with the next board meeting falling on the week of Easter it was decided to move it back one week to Wednesday, April 20th, at 7:00pm. If you are interested in attending you are more than welcome to meet at the church, or on the Zoom meeting, which I know will be available since Ron is back.

If you made it this far, I applaud you! Until next month may God continue to bless you!

Wayne

April 2022 Newsletter

**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Serving Schedule
April 2022**

	ELDER Joys/Concerns Communion Prayer Stewardship Prayer	DEACONS Prepare/Serve Communion Offering	WORSHIP LEADER Welcome & Announcements Call to Worship Invocation & Prayer
Apr 03	Hank Holt	Marilyn Petrick Grover Howell	Sharon Tippie
Apr 10	Michele Darling	Wayne Spiekermann Jonnie Stark	Jonnie Stark
Apr 17	Bennie Clark	Linda Guess Marilyn Petrick	Ron Petrick
Apr 24	Ron Petrick	Jonnie Stark Wayne Spiekermann	Sharon Tippie

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.



April 2022

Seasons and Colors of the Christian Year

04/01 Maundy Thursday (white); 04/02 Good Friday (red or black or none); 04/04 Easter (white); 04/04 - 05/22 Eastertide (white)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 5th Sunday in Lent 9:30a Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service NOISY OFFERING Elders/Council Mtg.	4	5	6	7 Chloe Williams Birthday	8	9
10 Liturgy of the Palms 10:45 Worship Service 2nd Sunday Luncheon Easter Special Offering	11	12	13 6:30p Elders Meeting 7:00p Board Meeting	14 Maundy Thursday Service 6 p.m.	15 Good Friday Prayer Vigil Begins 2 p.m.	16 Prayer Vigil Ends 2 p.m.
17 Resurrection of the Lord NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45a Easter Brunch 10:45 Easter Service Easter Special Offering	18	19 Allen Rodgers Birthday	20 LuLisa Nanoe's Birthday	21	22	23
24 2nd Sunday of Easter	25	26	27	28	29	30 Edna Niebanok's Birthday

Elders	
Ron Petrick (2022)	Hank Holt (2023)
Michele Darling (2022)	Bennie Clark (2024)
Deacons	
Linda Guess (2023)	Sharon Tippie (2022)
Marilyn Petrick (2022)	Jonnie Stark (2024)
Wayne Spiekermann (2024)	
Trustees	
Art Johnson (2022)	Richard Dunegan (2023)
Ron Petrick (2024)	

2022 Leadership Team

Moderator	Wayne Spiekermann	
Vice-Moderator	Bennie Clark	
Secretary	Melissa Johnson	
Treasurer	Bennie Clark	
Historian	Sharon Tippie	
Education	} Committee Council -	
Faith-Sharing		Michele Darling
Membership		Marilyn Petrick
Outreach		Sharon Tippie
Property		Ron Petrick
Worship		Susan Clark
Disciple Men Rep		
Disciple Women Rep		

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