



Good News!

First Christian Church
405 N. Adelaide St.
Terrell, TX 75160 (972) 551-4700
Minister.craig2@gmail.com
Facebook: First Christian Church (DOC) - Terrell, TX

To Know Jesus Christ and Make Him Known to Others



No Where to Turn?

A great philosopher once said, “when you have exhausted all other possibilities, the only one remaining is to come face to face with God”. For many of us in this modern way of living that we call life, that confrontation has become a far more real event. Each day I have heard about someone who has been dealing with some decision or some overpowering circumstances that appear even darker and alone with no way out. What do you do when you have nowhere to go?

There are so many stories that we hear doing ministries that show just how hard and difficult life can be. Some people contact their **local** church with some overwhelming problems such as: pregnancies, drugs, criminal activities both personal and in the immediate family, mental illness and poor health decisions. On top of these powerful problems there exists a lack of any contact with **God** or **their** church. They are under the impression they have been left alone and have no one on their side.

Then there are the stories from those who have heard from their doctors about some disease that has invaded their bodies. They are now looking at a future of tests, drugs, doctors, nurses, hospital visits, needles, and all of the systems that will accompany whatever are their core events. There is also with these stories, the same symptoms that are common with the earlier examples, that feeling of being alone in the world with no one that understands or cares for them.

It is during these “nights of darkness” that many come to a pivotal moment where all of our old and incorrect beliefs about God and our relationship to God are abandoned for something truer. We stop seeing God as the distant, unapproachable, and unknowing mist that we have no contact with. We begin to acknowledge the knowledge that we have not only tried not to come into contact with God, but have really tried to separate from this God that we were so wrong about. We come face to face with what many have termed “the overpowering Love” that fills them with peace and comfort. God moves from being the last possibility to God’s rightful place of first in our lives.

It is sometimes hard for those of us who have not gone through some night of darkness to understand this authoritative transformation that we witness within the lives of those who have. We may even long for the change that we are a spectator, but we are consumed with holding on to our selfish and self-centered view that we are in some way superior to or immune from any of the troubles of this life. We look, as the Gospel writer says, “through a mirror darkly” and hide behind our blind image.

Resurrection Sunday is coming soon and part of the celebration of the Easter time: Lent, the 40 days, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, is the concept that all that we are and all that we understand is not anything that we have any control over, but all is in God’s control. We are not made holy by any means at our disposal and any act that we might perform. The Cross of Jesus has within it all of the power of transformation. It is only upon the cross where love is truly displayed and we are mere lonely humans that can come to comprehend that we are never alone on the walk of life. God did not just push a little hole to peek in on us as we still live separate, but God invaded and established a beachhead into our existence.

We have been set free from the darkness that was trying to devastate our lives and we are now given a new bill of pardon. We walk with a renewed perception and a new examination of the God whose only desire is to be with us. The darkness and the loneliness have been discarded along the road of life as some old flat tire that we had been driving on for miles not acknowledging that the air was out of it a long time ago.

We hear the stories of those who have heard the good news that their cancer is not so bad or that it was not there and we rejoice with them. The morning is bright and the sun rises for them again. But keep those who still live in the darkness, even those of us, by their own unwillingness to accept or rejection of what God is for them. There are still so many of them and us out there.

Praying for you as I hope that you are praying for me. *Pastor Craig*

BAG LADIES

We are always looking for help! Why not join us for the fellowship and stay to help us produce more mats for those in need!

We will meet on
MARCH 3, 17 & 31
9:00 am

SAVE
THE
DATE

CHICKEN SPAGHETTI LUNCHEON—Sunday, March 1
CWF MEETING—Monday, March 2 at 2:00 PM
BAG LADIES—Tuesdays, March 3, 17 & 31 at 9:00 AM
CHOIR—Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 6:00 PM
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS—Sunday, March 8
VBS MEETING—Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 PM
BOARD MEETING— Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 PM
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—Thursday, March 19 at Noon
SERENITY DINNER OUTREACH—Friday, March 20 at 5:30
FAREWELL TO HARRIS' BRUNCH - Sunday, March 22
30 PIECES OF SILVER BAG HANDOUT — March 22
EASTER LILY ORDERS BEGIN—March 22
NURTURE MEETING—Tuesday, March 24 at 10:30 AM

PRAYER

Those For Whom Prayer is Needed
(Know that we are praying for you)

As you go to God in quiet time this week, please remember these individuals in your prayers. Thank you!

Our Church Family: Terry & Alta Condran, Lori & Maurice Uptmor, Gary Barnett, Ronnie Glenn, George Purnell, Scott Gilmore, Kurt Cone* Liz Palmer* Joe Parnell, Craig Rutherford, Ann Embry's family, Barbara Gale, Jay Cole, Guylene & Robert Ballard, David Dickens, Pat Hopper, Pat Sparks

Our Extended Church Family: Sarah Curry Coffman, Sue Sickel, Barbara Beatty, Ariel Baska, Andrew Howard* Don Dozier, Sarah Beth, Lisa Taylor, Ricky Stone, Bennie Stone* Justin Dickens, Kristen Soule, Trevor Dickens, Kat Braziel, Deb Fruit

In
Loving
Memory
of

Harold Leigh
Mary Lindsey
Maintenance Fund

Don Lindsey
Mary Lindsey
Maintenance Fund

Doug Lane
Mary Lindsey
Maintenance Fund

Serving Schedule for March 2020

Sunday, March 1, 2020

Elders: Ron Norris & Saundra Wnorowski
Greeting, Serving at the Table and Serving the Homebound: Janet Baska, Ron & Jan Compton, David & Carol Dickens, Kristi Johnson, Lisa Stevens
Acolyte: Remington Cross
Sound System: Sherri Winton
Camera Operator: Ryder Norris

Sunday, March 8, 2020

Elders: Helen Remes & Dale Hogue
Greeting, Serving at the Table and Serving the Homebound: Sue Ann Norris, Joe & Donna Best, Erik Vick, Reece Norris, Jerry Vick, Gary Barnett
Acolyte: Valcus Best
Sound System: Lisa Stevens
Camera Operator: Ryder Norris

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Elders: Dana & Sherry Skelton
Greeting, Serving at the Table and Serving the Homebound: Lori Uptmor, Linda Conder, Sherri Winton, Ann Winton, Lynda Roberts, Spencer Cross
Acolyte: Lynna Johnson
Sound System: Mike LeVasseur
Camera Operator: Ryder Norris

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Elders: Mike Siemann & Pat Hopper
Greeting, Serving at the Table and Serving the Homebound: Janet Baska, Jan Compton, Ron Compton, David Dickens, Carol Dickens, Kristi Johnson, Lisa Stevens
Acolyte: Elliot Cross
Sound System: Sherri Winton
Camera Operator: Ryder Norris

Sunday, March 29, 2020

Elders: Craig & Prissy Shaffer
Greeting, Serving at the Table and Serving the Homebound: Sue Ann Norris, Joe Best, Donna Best, Erik Vick, Reece Norris, Jerry Vick, Gary Barnett
Acolyte: Kinsler Bratz
Sound System: Lisa Stevens
Camera Operator: Ryder Norris

MONTH OF JANUARY, 2020

INCOME AND EXPENSE

INCOME: \$14,407.00

EXPENSES: \$13,861.96

DIFFERENCE: \$545.04

EASTER CANTATA: "MY JESUS LIVES"

SUNDAY, APRIL 5
10:50 AM





Sunday, March 1, 2020

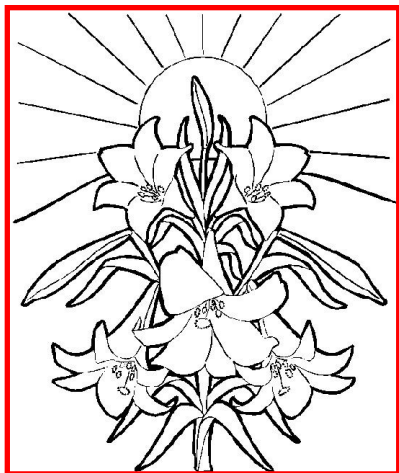
CWF Fundraiser Luncheon

Menu

Chicken Spaghetti
Salad
Ron's Garlic Toast
Tea and Coffee
Desserts

Please be prepared to make a donation to CWF
for our Outreach Projects.

We work hard each year to make this luncheon the best ever.
We truly appreciate your support.



EASTER LILY ORDERS

Help us make the sanctuary beautiful by placing an
Easter Lily order in memory of or in honor of your
loved one.

Lilies may be purchased for \$8.00 a piece and can be
taken home following Easter service on April 12.

Forms and money are due by April 9. Drop them in the
collection plate, or give to Ann Winton, or leave them
in the church office.

2019 REPORT "OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD"



If you packed a shoebox or assisted with the cost of shipping, yours was one of 10,569,405 shoeboxes sent to children worldwide in 2019. The US collected 8.9 million of these and the rest came from partnering countries.

Through shoeboxes—packed with fun toys, school supplies, hygiene items, clothing—First Christian Church brought joy to children in need around the world. Each gift-filled shoebox is a tangible expression of God's love, and it is often the first gift these children have ever received. Thanks to the generosity of folks like us, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 178 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 160 countries and territories since 1993.

Thank you again, First Christian Church, and to every individual who helped in any way with our 2019 collection for this global project. Many of you do so every year and your giving heart does not go unnoticed. Through our very simple gifts we sent a message to children worldwide that they are loved and not forgotten.

Some of these kids have never had their very own bar of soap, or even a washcloth. In some cases, whole families have to share one toothbrush. Some children create "bottle shoes" to protect their feet, by crushing empty bottles. A bar of soap, hair barrette, a doll, socks, a stuffed animal, crayons, notebook, coloring book or a soccer ball can bring a child so much joy!

More importantly the shoebox recipients will learn that Jesus saves! Each child will be given THE GREATEST GIFT- a booklet about Jesus' saving grace, plus, the opportunity to attend THE GREATEST JOURNEY: a 12 lesson discipleship program, where they learn to share Jesus with their family, friends and entire village

Now is the time to begin thinking about shoebox gifts for next Christmas!!! For several years the Joy Class has packed 30 shoeboxes each year for just a little over \$300 (shipping not included). This is possible because Sue Ann Norris begins shopping the after-Christmas sales and continues through the next months to shop every special sale until the 30 boxes are filled. If each of us followed her example and began to shop now for our 2020 shoeboxes, maybe focusing on just one item per month, we could have at least 100 boxes next Christmas!

Now is the time to begin thinking about shoebox gifts for next Christmas!!! For several years the Joy Class has packed 30 shoeboxes each year for just a little over \$300 (shipping not included). This is possible because Sue Ann Norris begins shopping the after-Christmas sales and continues through the next months to shop every special sale until the 30 boxes are filled. If each of us followed her example and began to shop now for our 2020 shoeboxes, maybe focusing on just one item per month, we could have at least 100 boxes next Christmas!

**IN FACT, LET'S SET A GOAL FOR CHRISTMAS 2020
100 SHOEBOXES**

In the Spotlight

SERENITY CHURCH

By Charlotte Gilmore

NEW FOOD DONATION PROJECT FOR SERENITY

We will continue to collect food and hygiene items of various kinds for Serenity. Continue to place them in the containers in the basement and in the Family Life Center.

Now we are also going to try to help Don Ledbetter with the Food Bags he distributes weekly. He puts the same items in each bag and the cost of each bag, if we buy in bulk, is about \$15.00. We are asking for donations to buy in bulk and then we will have a packing party so everyone who is interested can come and fill bags. Make your donation to the church with a "Food Bags" notation.

SERENITY CORNER Food Bags for the Homeless



2 Ramen Noodles in bags (no Shrimp)
2 Cans Beef Ravioli (pop top lid)
2 Cans Spaghetti Pasta Rings with Meatballs in tomato sauce
2 cans Macaroni and Beef
2 Cans Vienna Sausage (pop top lid)
2 Pouches or Boxes of tuna salad kit
3 Peanut Butter Cracker Packs
2 Individual pouches of SPAM
2 Peach Fruit Cups

Serenity distributes twelve grocery bags of food to our homeless friends every week. Each bag provides a meal a day for one week. We want to help fill bags.

serenity corner

The local ministry to the homeless, known to us as Serenity Church Terrell, has been operating now for five years in a small building at the corner of South Rockwall and Grove streets. That location has become known as Serenity Corner. You are encouraged to go to the website at serenitycorner.org to learn all about this ministry and to be lifted up and blessed by what you find there. All kinds of ministry takes place at Serenity Corner: worship, celebration, meals, Bible Study, food and clothing distribution, a resting spot to cool off or get warm, bathroom breaks and all kinds of Social Services. Don Ledbetter who has a fulltime job is the minister, mentor, mediator, Social Service director and friend to all who enter this small one-room building. Everything else that takes place at Serenity is done by volunteers. Volunteers serve a meal on Friday nights to 30-40 people, volunteers help plan the Annual Block Party, volunteers stock the food pantry and distribute food and clothing, volunteers have created the website and a facebook page.

And now a large group of volunteers has begun meeting to plan and prepare for Serenity's future because Serenity is growing. In the recent "PIT Count" (a point in time count of homeless persons in Kaufman County done in conjunction with the Kaufman County Homeless Coalition) around 25 homeless individuals were identified who call Terrell home. In order to minister to this homeless population and others who come to Serenity for help, bigger facilities are needed. Don's wish list for the future includes a building on property that has been donated with for serving meals, for worship, for a food pantry and clothing closet. It would include showers and a washer and dryer so folks who live on the street can get clean clothes and a clean body while their physical body is being fed and their spiritual body is being nourished.

Our church has been actively involved in Serenity's ministry and in this new planning endeavor. All kinds of tasks are being assigned to volunteers and a number of new activities are in progress: application for designation as a registered 501(c)3 tax exempt organization, creation of a video and a promotional brochure. If you are interested in participating in the ministry, contact Scott or Charlotte Gilmore, Pastor Craig or Lynn in the church office.

You are encouraged to continue to make donations to the food pantry. Please see the article in this newsletter about the "FOOD BAGS" for sustaining the hungry.

WHO ARE WE
AS HUMAN BEINGS
IF WE IGNORE THE
SUFFERING OF OTHERS?

EXTRAMADNESS - INSTAGRAM

**Farewell
and
Good Luck**

Sunday, March 22
10:00 AM
In the
Fellowship Hall

The Harris family will be leaving our area the end of March and we would like to invite everyone to a farewell brunch. If you would like to join us, please bring a dish to share as we gather together and wish our friends good luck in their future endeavors.

"Thank You to Lisa Cross for sewing bolster pillows and table runners for the Parlor."

**Thank
You!**

"Thank you to Ann Embrey for sewing a table runner for the Parlor"

WHAT IF

By Wayne Howe

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like our cell phone...

What if we carried it around in our pocket?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to get it, if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to the kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill....and no dropped calls!



CWF NEWS By Linda List

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!! Not that we really (shouldn't) need a special day to tell those we love how much we appreciate them. I think we too often take loved ones for granted or get into such ruts that we forget to acknowledge people that have gone out of their way to help us or to do something special for us or just to listen or is just there....just thinking. Now to our CWF news. We are really getting this year started fast, first with our wonderful trip to the Juliet Fowler Home. It was very interesting to see how they have grown not only in size but with what they offer. At Ebby House they offer girls leaving foster care help with their transition into being self sufficient. Also at their other beautiful facilities they have retiring adults who can live there first as regular renters then they can stay there through all stages of aging. Check it out. Then we have our "Parlor" project. We started at the end of last year with new couches and then we progressed with recovering the settee, three new lamps, new runners for the tables, cleaning the drapes, plus more updating to come. Stop by the parlor and check it out. Then we have our one and only fund raiser March 1st. Yep, it's our Chicken Spaghetti Luncheon followed by our special Desert Auction. So start smacking your lips and help us help others. We appreciate everyone's support! Bye for now.....



Our next meeting is
March 2nd at 2pm
in the Parlor
Y'all Come!!!!!!

