



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

The Visitor

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February 2025

Mike's Musings

As I personally struggle with the events happening in our nation and around the world, I am overwhelmed as a minister as to how to respond to all the differing voices who come from varied cultures, faiths, belief systems, and experiences. Staring at a blank screen, attempting to address the circumstances we all find ourselves in, I find comfort in knowing that you at FCC Bryan/College Station support and edify my ministry as your pastor, regardless of personal beliefs. Now, it is difficult for me to articulate my own feelings without creating confusion between my personal theology, church doctrine, and my own "love of God and Country." I would certainly describe myself as an American patriot, being an Active-Duty Army veteran. However, I would vehemently oppose any statement that would place me among those who identify as Christian Nationalists.

This nation was founded upon principles of freedom, one of which is the free exercise of religious expression. That is not to say this nation was founded as a "Christian" nation. Certainly, Christian values are inherent in most of our nation's precepts, but they should not be confused as "one and the same." As a patriot, I exhort all citizens to exercise their rights afforded under the U.S. Constitution.

As a Minister of the Gospel, however, I exhort believers to exercise their responsibility to live out the Gospel in word and deed. And this sometimes is in direct opposition to the "laws of the land," especially those laws that oppress, isolate, devalue, and lessen an individual or group's agency to have forethought, to implement steps to success, to self-manage, and to learn and adapt.*

In my moments of personal struggle, I reach for Scripture to help guide, focus, and instruct me. (It is at this moment that my phone rang; Pastor Dan De Leon from Friends Congregational Church in College Station was calling to ask a few questions, but also because he felt that I needed to hear a comforting voice. That is truly God at work, right there!) Three specific texts spoke to me today: Hannah's Prayer in 1 Samuel 2:2-8; the wise words of the writer in Proverbs 21; and the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37.

I encourage you to pray for yourself (supplication), for and with another (intercession), and as a group (incorporation).
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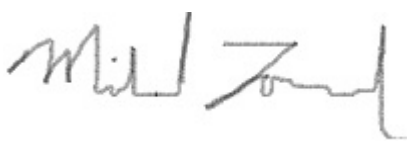
*Bateman, Thomas S. "Agency Is the Highest Level of Personal Competence." *Psychology Today*, Sussex Publishers, 27 Mar. 2022, www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/getting-proactive/202203/agency-is-the-highest-level-personal-competence?msocid=198cf7c5eff963462dbce60eeae62cd.

I encourage you to seek wisdom in Scripture: reading it with your own eyes, speaking it with your lips, and hearing it through another's voice. Finally, I encourage you to live out the example that Christ has given us: through reflection, through personal action, and through support for other advocates. Jesus says, "...remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

As always, my door is always open: to listen, to encourage, and if needed, to advise.

Blessings!

Pastor Mike



February Sermon Schedule

February 2 – "Healing on the Sabbath"

Luke 6:1-16

February 9 – "Raising the Widow's Son"

Luke 7:1-17

February 16 – "More than a Prophet"

Luke 7:18-35

February 23 – "Forgiven at Jesus' Feet"

Luke 7:36-50

Stewardship - 2025 Budget

At the congregational meeting this past Sunday, the membership approved the proposed budget for 2025 for our church. If you were not present, there are copies of the information on the table in the narthex. Let's all work together to meet our goals and plans for this year. If you have any questions, you may contact any member of the stewardship committee as listed on the report.

"Thinking Theologically... About Salvation"

Disciples of Christ believe that we are called "To be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving, and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth." However, many Disciples struggle with how to put the Good News into words.

"Thinking Theologically... About Salvation" will be a six-hour workshop on how to put our understanding of the gospel into words.

"Thinking Theologically... About Salvation" is an essential question for each Christian leader and congregation to answer today. It is the foundation of our evangelism.

"Thinking Theologically... About Salvation" can be a model of thinking theologically about other concerns like the nature and purpose of the Church, the shape of Discipleship, and the hope we have in Christ.

"Thinking Theologically... About Salvation" alongside others can help us practice speaking with one another within spaces of theological difference.

On **Saturday, February 15, 2025**, members and ministers in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest will join together in a discussion—part presentation and part workshop—with the goal of each person crafting a short, clear, and authentic statement about their theology of evangelism.

You are encouraged to attend by joining Ann Pittman and Karen Townsend at FCC Bryan, in the Conference Room on **Saturday, February 15, 2025, from 10am-4pm (please arrive by 9:30am)**. Lunch will be provided. A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the narthex.

OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

Superbowl of Caring

We will be collecting canned goods/non perishables for the next **2 Sundays – February (2nd & 9th)** for the **Church Food Pantry**. Any items brought in can be placed on the table in Gathering Space.

Fellowship/Worship Arts

(Decor) Team will be meeting on Monday, **February 3rd at 10:30 AM**. If you would like to help in either area we would love to have you join us!

Christian Women's Fellowship

We are gathering cleaning supplies for the Habitat for Humanity Home Dedication Baskets. Items include: Laundry supplies, kitchen and bathroom cleaning products, paper towels, toilet paper, sponges, dust cloths, etc. (Dish soap is NOT needed at this time).

If you would like to donate any school supplies CWF will be taking these to Stephen F. Austin Middle School this month (FEB). Boxes for both collections are located in the Gathering Space.

If you would like to help deliver our Feelie Hearts to BISD schools, and possibly St. Joseph Hospital please contact Karen Townsend or Sharon Jeffrey for more information. Dates to be delivered coming soon!

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.

Disciples Women/CWF

Our next meeting will be **February 5, at 9:30am**



125th Anniversary!

February 23, 2025 will celebrate **125 years of service by the Christian Women's Fellowship**. The 125 years of dedication will be honored in several ways on that day. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

Kraft Korner

Kraft Korner will meet on **Thursday February 20th at 10AM to noon**. The project is still being decided. We may also be taking our group to



one of the local nursing homes to work on a project with the residents. More information to come in the News from the Pews.

*** If you might be interested in **attending an evening Kraft Korner** group please let Karen Townsend know asap. We would like everyone to have a chance to participate. Please let us know what days and times work best for you.

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



Pastor's 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

We have open **slots for February and March** for our Sunday Morning Fellowship. If you are able to bring a snack item to share, help set up before and clean up after church we would welcome the assistance. Please have items out by 10AM to allow our choir to participate in this fellowship time. Sign up sheets are on the doors to the Fellowship Hall/Gathering Space.

Music Ministry

PICKERS – Thursdays @ 11:00am

CHOIR PRACTICE – 10:00am, before church

HANDBELL PRACTICE –Please watch for updates.



Behind the Scenes

The year is kicking into gear and the calendar dates are loading up! February brings the Faith Based Partners at BISD together on the 6th for updates of what is coming up in our schools and how we can help. On **February 9th, the Pastor's Cabinet** will meet, allowing us to share ideas and calendar events that will be happening this year. We would love for you to be a part of this! We are starting to plan for our Bunny Trail Easter Event in April, talking about our Halloween Event, and even Advent for 2025. Planning is the KEY!!! Have something you would like to offer, sharing your talents? We would love to know! Know of something that might interest or benefit our

community? We would love to hear about it! Help us find new ways we can interact with others and grow on all levels.

Our **Fellowship/Worship Arts (Decor) team will be meeting on Monday February 3rd at 10:30 am** to calendar out our Fellowship Events and start planning decor for Lent/Easter and you are welcome to be a part of this! **Be sure to bring your calendars with you!**

Kraft Korner is looking to take our projects beyond our building into the community and possibly add a night group and maybe a kids group. Would you like to be a part of these? Let us know!

Some of our men will be attending the **Men's Retreat in Gonzales** on Valentine's Day weekend, the region will be offering a workshop via Zoom (at the church) for those who are interested in participating about who we are as Christians, finding our identity and how we proclaim God's message to others on Sat. February 15th. This is a 6 hour presentation/worship allowing us to put our Gospel into words. We hope you will participate. This also allows us to continue to find out who we are as a church as we look for more opportunities to connect in our community.

Our Women's group will be celebrating its **125 years of history at FCC on February 23rd**. Our bulletin boards will continue to show other opportunities in our area and what our church is doing in the community. It is going to be a busy month but it will be exciting! Join us in planning, and stay tuned for more!!!

March Newsletter Deadline!

We would like to publish the February monthly Newsletter **February 25. Please submit any articles or calendar items by February 24.**

Please submit your articles to:
firstchristianbcs@gmail.com

COVID and the Church:

Update for February

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.



Worship Services

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

Our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BryanCollegeStationDisciples/>

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)
Linda Kay Lange Rector (Bonnie Harris-Reynolds' sister)
David Reed (friend of the Aufderheides)
Brad Slocum (Stacy Atterbury's brother)
Annette & Richard Stadelmann
Ashley Weber
Elizabeth Weber
Reba Wood
John Wright

Shut-ins:

Jackie Kranz,

(If you would like yours or a loved one's name added to, or removed from, this list, please let us know.)

Church Calendar: February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Kathy Bratz
2 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:00am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed Elders Meeting following worship	3 News from the Pews due	4 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg Kaisie Tedrick	5 Disciples Women/CWF, 9:30am	6 Pickers, 11:00am	7	8
9 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:00am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed Pastors Cabinet meeting, noon	10 News from the Pews due Emma Gilmore	11 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg	12	13 Pickers, 11:00am Tim Scott	14 Coastal Plains Area Men's Retreat - 2/14-2/16 Anniversary: Elma & Christopher Richards	15
16 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:00am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed	17 News from the Pews due	18 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg Disciples Men/CMF, 12:30pm	19	20 Kraft Korner, 10:00am Pickers, 11:00am	21	22
23 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:00am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed CWF 125th Anniversary	24 March Newsletter Deadline	25 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg	26	27 Pickers, 11:00am	28	