



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

# The Visitor

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May 2025

## Mike's Musings

*Deuteronomy 33:26-27 – "There is none like God, O Jeshurun, who rides through the heavens to your help, majestic through the clouds. He subdues the ancient gods, shatters the forces of old; he drove out the enemy before you..."*

I love this picture of God! Just imagine this awesome Being—none other like God—who rides through the heavens to be your help. God gathers the entire divine self to be with you. Can you imagine walking into the great palace of a mighty king and having him run down the corridor with all his authority and majesty to be with you? To invite you to live there with him? Wow! That is what this passage is saying. You are important to God.

What a promise from God! It tells us so much about God's character. God is eternal in authority, power, and majesty. All that God is will never quit or run out. God is awesome and to be revered. It is this same God who invites you to dwell with the Most High. God is tender and protective of you. And God is the one who fights your battles for you.

Though my earthly address has changed often, I know what my true address is. God. God is my dwelling place. My home. My place of safety and security. God holds me safely in those mighty, eternal arms. God will not let me go. I have had precious moments in my life when my earthly father held me in his arms. I needed his warmth,

strength, tenderness, and protection. But he had to let me go. God never does.

How do we dwell with God? The same way we learn to dwell with other people. We invite them in. We learn what they like and don't like. We talk to them. We listen to them. We remove things from our home that cause them to be uncomfortable or are offensive. It is the same with God. We develop a dwelling place with God by daily cultivating a relationship with God. We do that by reading and studying God's Word, listening for God's voice, talking to God, and obeying God. As we dwell with God, God drives out the enemies we face.

Take a moment and ask yourself where you live. Do you live in your own strength, trying to do it all yourself? Do you live in fear and anxiety? God invites you to live in Divine presence, and God gives to you all that God is. God loves you. God will guide you, protect you, and hold you securely.

Blessings!  
Pastor Mike



## May Sermon Schedule

### "First Encounters" Sermon Series

May 4 - "Stephen's Witness"

Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60

May 11 - "Ethiopian Eunuch Baptized"

Acts 8:26-39

May 18 - "Council at Jerusalem"

Acts 15:1-18

### "The Church at Galatia" Sermon Series

May 25 - "Living by Faith"

Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21

Friends pastor Dan DeLeon and I produced on the First Christian Church Facebook page.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### Bread for the World:

<http://www.facebook.com/share/p/14btsqp3nN/>

## Church Board Meeting



**Board Meeting, May 18**, following the worship service. Please have your reports ready!

## OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

Join us **THIS Sunday** after church services as we celebrate our MAY Birthdays and enjoy a **Cinco de Mayo fellowship (taco bar) lunch**. We hope you will enjoy some fellowship as well as some Mariachi music while dining. Please drop off any of your items in the kitchen before church to allow us to set up and be ready to eat after the service. You can contact Mike or Karen Townsend if you have any questions.

In addition, you have an opportunity to write a letter to our elected officials concerning the need for food assistance in the U.S. and around the world. Bread for the World is a food justice advocacy organization who strives to motivate our lawmakers to address the ongoing hunger needs of the world. Sample letters will be provided as well as all the writing instruments you will need, paper, pens, etc.

Along with Friends Congregational Church, these letters will be collected and hand-delivered to our local elected official, Congressman Michael McCaul. Please watch the Bread for the World video that

## Disciples Women/CWF

CWF will meet on **May 7 at 9:30** for brunch, study, and worship.



## Kraft Korner



We will be meeting on our regular day and time **May 15th at 10AM**. If possible please bring a jar of modge podge, as we will be doing a cross decoupage craft. Please contact Karen Townsend if you have any questions.

## 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.



## Music Ministry

**PICKERS** – Thursdays @ 11:00am

**CHOIR PRACTICE** – 10:00am, before church

**HANDBELL PRACTICE** –Please watch for updates.\_

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## 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



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## Sunday Morning Fellowship



We are looking for anyone who is willing to bring a snack item (financial assistance is available), help set up and clean up our Sunday Morning Fellowship Time in our Gathering Space on Sundays. The sign up sheet is on the glass doors going to the

Fellowship Hall. We have openings for May and June. If you have any questions you can reach out to Karen Townsend or Vicki Green. Donations to the coffee fund are welcomed!



## Behind the Scenes

Well, Lent has ended and Christ has Risen. Michael and I are recovering from the busy season, a little worn around the edges. We also learned a valuable lesson – never set your option period for buying a home during Holy Week! It has been a stressful time but we are excited about buying a home here in Bryan. It is a lovely 4 bedroom, 2 bath, with a yard, a big tree in the front and even an above-ground pool in the back (thankful to the current owner who is gonna show us how to maintain this). We are BLESSED! Soon we will be closing and moving our items room by room to avoid the need to pack the whole house. Please bear with us as we will try to keep up with all our commitments and we ask that you pray for strength and endurance during this time. We look forward to having everyone over once we get settled.

Along with our move we have also been working on the BISD Strategic Task Force. This team has members of the school district (teachers, admin, auxiliary, board members, and students), faith based leaders, community officials, parents, businesses, and certified specialties (plumbing, electric, architecture, hvac etc). Together we are looking at the future of the schools in the district and determining what is needed and how the future of the students entering those schools will be impacted. It is exciting and mind boggling at the same time. LOTS of information especially with the new changes to school choice. Did you know a school bus costs \$176,000 and takes 2 years to build? Time and money, the thing that goes into everything in our lives. I pray that God will allow us to find the right way to use the knowledge we are given to make the best decisions possible. Not just in these endeavors, but in everything that we do. To God be the Glory! So as the school year comes to a close and summer is just around the corner let us celebrate life's joys and be ever mindful of the blessings we have that we often take for granted.



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## June Newsletter Deadline!

We would like to publish the February monthly Newsletter **May 27. Please submit any articles or calendar items by May 26.**

Please submit your articles to:  
[firstchristianbcs@gmail.com](mailto:firstchristianbcs@gmail.com)

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### Worship Services

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

### Our Facebook Page:

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

## COVID and the Church:

### Update for May

*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 take care of yourself and be considerate of others.

## 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)  
Cheryl & Karl Aufderheide  
Kay & John Benes  
Rose Bowden (sister of Diane Weber)  
Family of Liza Culpepper (Mary Anne Culpepper's granddaughter)  
Family of Charles Dishman  
Bill Dixon  
The Fuller Family  
Terry & Eva Hart  
Laura Johnson (Bob Richards' cousin)  
Lois & Shorty Kindt  
Jeanene Kindt  
Jackie Kranz  
Caton Milstead (Karen Smith's nephew)  
Roger & Emily Nichols (friends of Mary Richards)  
Jeff Pittman  
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  
Jane Young

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

# Church Calendar: May 2025

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY                                     | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY                                  | SATURDAY   |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
|  |  |  |   | <b>1</b><br>Pickers, 11:00am                                  | <b>2</b><br><br><b>Pat Boleman</b>      | <b>3</b>   |
| <b>4</b><br>Sunday school,<br>9:30am<br>Choir practice,<br>10:00am<br><br>Worship, 10:45am,<br>in person & live-<br>streamed<br><br>Fellowship Taco<br>Luncheon<br><br><b>Elders Meeting<br/>following worship</b>         | <b>5</b><br><b>News from the<br/>Pews due</b>        | <b>6</b><br>10:30 am Worship<br>Planning Mtg<br><br><br><br><b>Sue Elrod</b>                                     | <b>7</b><br>Disciples<br>Women/CWF,<br>9:30am | <b>8</b><br>Pickers, 11:00am                                  | <b>9</b>                                | <b>10</b><br><br><br><br><b>Jeanette Phariss</b> |
| <b>11</b><br>Sunday school,<br>9:30am<br>Choir practice,<br>10:00am<br><br>Worship, 10:45am,<br>in person & live-<br>streamed  | <b>12</b><br><b>News from the<br/>Pews due</b>       | <b>13</b><br>10:30 am Worship<br>Planning Mtg<br><br><br><b>Brandon York</b>                                     | <b>14</b>                                     | <b>15</b><br>Kraft Korner,<br>10:00am<br><br>Pickers, 11:00am | <b>16</b>                               | <b>17</b>  |
| <b>18</b><br>Sunday school,<br>9:30am<br>Choir practice,<br>10:00am<br><br>Worship, 10:45am,<br>in person & live-<br>streamed<br><br><b>Board Meeting<br/>following worship</b><br><br><b>Jackie Green</b>                 | <b>19</b><br><b>News from the<br/>Pews due</b>       | <b>20</b><br>10:30 am Worship<br>Planning Mtg<br><br>Disciples<br>Men/CMF,<br>12:30pm<br><br><b>Jeff Pittman</b> | <b>21</b>                                     | <b>22</b><br>Pickers, 11:00am                                 | <b>23</b>                               | <b>24</b>  |
| <b>25</b><br>Sunday school,<br>9:30am<br>Choir practice,<br>10:00am<br><br>Worship, 10:45am,<br>in person & live-<br>streamed<br><br><b>Anniversaries:<br/>Mary &amp; Bob<br/>Richards<br/>Pat &amp; Larry<br/>Boleman</b> | <b>26</b><br><b>June<br/>Newsletter<br/>Deadline</b> | <b>27</b><br>10:30 am Worship<br>Planning Mtg  | <b>28</b>                                     | <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b><br><br><br><b>Ben Tedrick</b> | <b>31</b>  |