



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

The Visitor

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October 2025

Mike's Musings

Isaiah 51:3 – "For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song."

What a wonderful picture of restoration this verse paints—from ruins and wasteland to a garden with joy, gladness, thanksgiving, and singing! What made the difference? What created the change? God's compassion. God's compassion isn't the same as pity. One can feel pity and yet be passive—do nothing about it. God's compassion creates action. It is an emotion that stirs deep within God, moving God toward us, like the prodigal son's father, who, when he saw his son in the distance, felt compassion, and sprinted toward his son, demonstrating unconditional forgiveness and full restoration. God's compassion is active.

This is one of my favorite verses. I have claimed it as my own. I know it speaks of the restoration of Jerusalem, but I have made it personal for me. When I surveyed my ruins because of one bad choice after another, I saw wasteland and desert. I remember reading this verse one day and being unsure if I'd ever read it before. I spent time meditating on it. I visualized my ruins—bad choices, sin, regret. Ruins are the broken bits and pieces of what used to be. Not much left. Not very usable. But then I visualized God's look of compassion. God's eyes see differently. God sees futures built out of wrecks. God sees hope where

others see failure. God doesn't stop at ruins—it is where God begins!

Instead of ruin and wasteland, God saw a garden filled with joy, gladness, thanksgiving, and singing. I want God's eyes. Not only for myself and my life but for those I encounter daily. My family, friends. Even strangers. I can be so hard on others. Instead of judging and criticizing what I consider their ruins, I want to see the promise and potential God can work in them through the Divine restoration process. God did it for me. God could have washed his hands of me, but instead God had compassion and restored me for holy use and purpose. God gave me an opportunity to begin again. God will do the same for you.

Take a moment and visualize the ruined, broken places in your life—the bits and pieces of what used to be. Feel pain and regret. Then imagine God's look of compassion. The tenderness, kindness, gentleness. God's look doesn't condemn or blame. God understands and loves you. God is holding out comforting arms, inviting you to let the Divine begin the restoration process. Embrace God.

Blessings!

Pastor Mike



October Sermon Schedule

"Encounters with God in the Old Testament" Sermon Series

October 5 – "God Provides Manna"
Exodus 16:1-18

October 12 – "God Calls Samuel"
1 Samuel 3:1-21

October 19 – "God Calls David"
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14

October 26 – "Solomon's Temple"
1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13

Behind the Scenes

Well, our vacation is over and it is time to start working on the holiday season. Michael and I enjoyed visiting friends, watching the daughter of my childhood best friend get married, and seeing some sights along the way including a trip to Laura Ingalls Wilder's home. This brought back wonderful memories on all fronts. We also got to spend time with fellow ministers and their congregations. This brought forth a few new ideas and exchange of how our churches work within the community. As we return, we prepare for an upcoming funeral (community request from Hillier), 2 weddings this month, and working on Advent decor.

This week we start gearing up for our Trunk or Treat Event on **October 19th from 2:30 to 4:30**. Our beloved Ambassadors from BISD have already been requested for our event, we have several community outreach resources that will be returning as well as new ones that have been invited. We need all of our church members to be a part of this event, handing out candy and connecting with the community. Each conversation can impact someone to come visit or find a place in our wonderful church. "YOU" are the face of FCC! Please plan to attend. Lunch will be provided!

Candy (individually wrapped) and small treats (toys, snack packs of crackers or cookies, pencils, stickers, etc.) are needed and will be collected up to the event date (preferably by Oct 15). A box is set up in the Gathering space for these items. Costumes are available as well.

Blessings to all of you! - Karen T.

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OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

Friday, October 3 from 5-8pm **Bryan Community Church** invites you to **Bryan's Gloria Sale Park** for food, fun, and fellowship! (It's the Southwest end of town, just past the vintage car show.) They'll have a casual potluck featuring tacos and nachos (yum!), so bring your lawn chairs to relax under the evening sky. It's the perfect chance to connect with friends, neighbors, and the wider community.

Tuesday, October 7, at 6pm **National Night out events** will take place at both **Bryan Community Church** and **Covenant Presbyterian Church**, beginning at 6pm, with food and fun at both spaces.



Sunday, October 26, **Bryan Community Church** will be hosting their annual **Fall Fest** from 4-6pm. Bring the kids (and adults) and explore the various games and treats!



Trick or Treat on Ennis Street

We will have our annual Trick or Treat Event on Sunday, **Oct. 19th from 2:30-4:30 PM**. We have invited our Community Outreach Partners and the BISD Ambassadors to be a part of our event. We have new games that will be added, and with your help, lots of trick or treat stations to stop and get some candy. In order to make this event happen we ask for you to come be a part of this event. Individually Wrapped Candy and small treat items **will be collected from Sept 21st to Oct 19th**.

Small treats can be Individually wrapped crackers, cookies for our little trick or treaters, stickers, small toys, pencils etc. Look for the green box in our Gathering Space.



Disciples Women/CWF

CWF will meet on **October 1 at 9:30am**



Disciples Men/CMF

CMF will meet on the **third Tuesday of the month at 12:30 for lunch, location TBA**.

In October, they will meet at Taco Crave in downtown Bryan.

If you currently do not receive an email from Rev. Mike about this, please contact him.



WAT (Worship Arts Team) team

welcomes anyone who would like to help us with decorations for Advent season. Contact Karen Townsend or Anne Parkin for more information.



B/CS Habitat for Humanity's Faith in Action committee (of which our church is a member) is hosting the **11th annual Pumpkin Patch** fundraiser running the entire month of October. All proceeds will go towards funding a B/CS Habitat home. The hours are **Sunday-Friday 12-8 pm and Saturday 10am-8pm**. The Patch is located at 2301 E. 29th St., Bryan, TX 77802 (the lot next to Hillier's Funeral Home).

This year's **Trick or Treat at the Patch will be on Sunday, October 26th from 2-5 pm**. There are also volunteer opportunities. If interested in volunteering, contact Anita.

Music Ministry

PICKERS – Thursdays @ 2:00pm

CHOIR PRACTICE – 10:00am, before church

HANDBELL PRACTICE – Please watch for updates.



Kraft Korner

Kraft Korner will meet on **October 16 at 10:00am**

We will be finishing our candy corn poppers. Please wear your paint clothes. We welcome bags of candy corn to fill these.



Feelie Hearts Ministry

If you would like to help make Feelie hearts for us to share with our community see Karen Townsend for patterns or kits. Donations are greatly appreciated to help us purchase fiber fill (stuffing), thread, and special fabrics. Please mark in memo "Feelie Hearts". Thank you for supporting this life touching ministry.

Sunday Morning Fellowship

Calling all members! The fellowship team could really use your help! Each week before church service we try to provide coffee and a small snack. In order to keep this fellowship time available we need people who are willing to set this up and clean up after church service. We are happy to help assist, however asking one or two people to take care of this every week can become overwhelming. Many hands make light work! Please consider signing up for a Sunday. Sign up sheet is on the glass doors to the Fellowship Hall. You can contact Karen Townsend or any of the Fellowship team for more information.

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.



November Newsletter

Deadline!

We would like to publish the September monthly Newsletter on **Oct. 28. Please submit any articles or calendar items by Oct. 27.**

Please submit your articles to:
firstchristianbcs@gmail.com

COVID and the Church:

Update for October:

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.

Worship Services

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

Our Facebook Page:

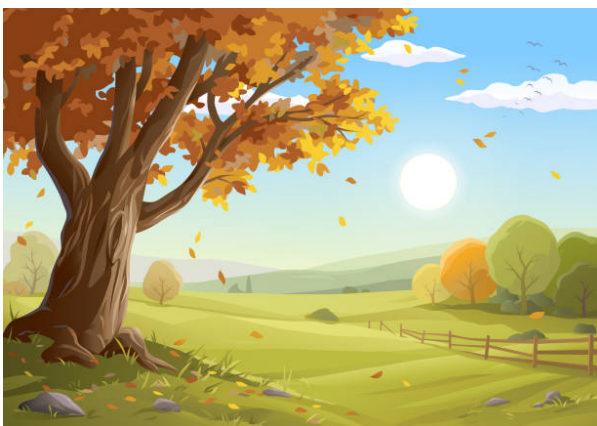
<https://www.facebook.com/BryanCollegeStationDisciples/>

Prayer Concerns

While we believe everyone needs prayer, those named on our list have specific and ongoing needs:

Diane Andrews
Julie (Atterbury) Porter
Teddy Atterbury
Cheryl & Karl Aufderheide
Kay & John Benes
Rose Bowden
John Delaney
Bill Dixon
Terry & Eva Hart
Caroline Jeffrey
Laura Johnson
Shorty Kindt
Jeanene Kindt
Jackie Kranz
Caton Milstead
Roger & Emily Nichols
Linda Kay Lange Rector
Brad Slocum
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.)



October's Bright Blue Weather

O suns and skies and clouds of June,
And flowers of June together,
Ye cannot rival for one hour
October's bright blue weather;

When loud the bumblebee makes haste,
Belated, thriftless vagrant,
And goldenrod is dying fast,
And lanes with grapes are fragrant;

When gentians roll their fringes tight
To save them for the morning,
And chestnuts fall from satin burrs
Without a sound of warning;

When on the ground red apples lie
In piles like jewels shining,
And redder still on old stone walls
Are leaves of woodbine twining;

When all the lovely wayside things
Their white-winged seeds are sowing,
And in the fields still green and fair,
Late aftermaths are growing;

When springs run low, and on the brooks,
In idle golden freighting,
Bright leaves sink noiseless in the hush
Of woods, for winter waiting;

When comrades seek sweet country haunts,
By twos and twos together,
And count like misers, hour by hour,
October's bright blue weather.

O sun and skies and flowers of June,
Count all your boasts together,
Love loveth best of all the year
October's bright blue weather.

By Helen Hunt Jackson

Church Calendar: October 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Disciples Women/CWF — 9:30am	2 Pickers, 2:00pm	3	4
5 World Communion Sunday Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:00am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed Elders meeting following worship	6 News from the Pews due	7 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg	8	9 Pickers, 2:00pm	10 Ron C.	11 Annette S.
12 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:00am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed Jane C.	13 News from the Pews due Heather B. Vicki G.	14 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg	15 Anniversary: Sharon & Calvin J.	16 Kraft Korner, 10:00am Pickers, 2:00pm	17	18
19 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:00am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed Trick or Treat on Ennis Street, 2:30-4:30pm	20 News from the Pews due Sharon J.	21 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg Disciples Men/CMF, 12:30pm Larry G.	22	23 Pickers, 2:00pm Susan B.	24	25
26 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:00am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed Jackie K. Anniversary: Jane & Ron C.	27 November Newsletter Deadline	28 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg	29	30 Pickers, 2:00pm	31 Halloween	