

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

The Visitor

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November 2026

Mike's Musings

Matthew 5:5 – "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."

Have you ever noticed how often the world celebrates people who push their way to the front? We admire those who speak the loudest, win arguments, climb the ladder, and seem to have everything under control. We are often taught that success requires us to stand up for ourselves, make our voices heard, and never let anyone take advantage of us.

There is some truth in learning to speak up and stand firm. But what happens when our desire to succeed becomes a desire to control? What happens when being right becomes more important than being kind? And what happens when we see gentleness as weakness rather than strength?

Jesus offers a different way of looking at life. In the Sermon on the Mount, he says, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." These words challenge many of the values our world teaches us. Jesus reminds us that the people who are truly blessed are not necessarily the strongest, wealthiest, or most powerful. Instead, he points toward those who live with humility, gentleness, and trust in God.

But what does it mean to be meek? And how can we live that way in a world that often rewards the opposite?

Sometimes we hear the word meek and imagine someone who is timid, afraid to speak, or willing to let others walk all over them. We picture someone who never disagrees, never stands up for what is right, and quietly accepts whatever life brings.

That is not the kind of meekness Jesus describes.

Meekness is not an absence of strength. It is strength guided by love. It is the ability to respond with patience when anger is easier. It is the willingness to listen when we would rather interrupt. It is choosing not to humiliate someone, even when we have the power to do so.

Think about a parent speaking with a frustrated child. The parent could respond with anger and demand immediate obedience. Sometimes firm boundaries are necessary. But a wise parent also understands that patience, understanding, and calm words can accomplish something anger cannot. The parent is not weak. The parent is choosing how to use their strength.

We face similar choices every day. Someone says something hurtful. A coworker takes credit for our efforts. A family member misunderstands our intentions. In those moments, we choose how to respond.

Meekness does not mean pretending nothing is wrong. It means refusing to let someone else's behavior determine who we become. We can speak the truth without cruelty, establish boundaries without hatred, and stand against injustice without

surrendering our compassion. That kind of strength takes practice. It also takes faith.

Jesus did not live a life free from conflict. He challenged religious leaders, confronted hypocrisy, welcomed people others rejected, and spoke openly about injustice. He did not remain silent simply to keep everyone comfortable.

Yet Jesus also showed remarkable gentleness. He welcomed children, offered compassion to people burdened by shame, and treated outsiders with dignity. He did not use his authority to make others feel small.

His life reminds us that gentleness and courage belong together. We do not have to choose between being kind and being truthful. We can love our neighbors while standing up for what is right.

Following Jesus can be difficult because we often want immediate results. We want people to understand us, admit their mistakes, and change their behavior. We want fairness now. But faith sometimes calls us to release our need to control every outcome. We can do what is right, speak with love, and trust God with what happens next. That is not giving up. It is learning to place our confidence in something greater than our own power.

Jesus' promise that the meek will inherit the earth may sound surprising. History often seems to belong to the powerful. Nations rise through military strength, businesses grow through competition, and individuals gain influence through wealth and connections. Yet Jesus points toward a different understanding of what it means to possess the earth.

Those who live with humility recognize that the world does not belong to them alone. Creation is a gift entrusted to all of us. Our neighbors are not obstacles to our success but people with dignity and worth. Our resources are not simply possessions to protect but opportunities to care for others.

When we live meekly, we begin to see the world differently. We become less concerned with winning every argument and more interested in building relationships. We become less focused on getting our way and more willing to ask what serves the common good. We learn that a meaningful life is not measured only by what we own, but also by the love we give.

Perhaps inheriting the earth begins with learning how to live peacefully and faithfully in the part of the world God has placed before us. It begins in our homes, where we choose patience over harshness. It begins in our churches, where we listen to people whose experiences differ from our own. It begins in our communities, where we treat people with respect even when we disagree.

We do not have to wait for a major life event to practice meekness. Opportunities appear in ordinary moments. When someone tests our patience, we can take a breath before responding. When we disagree, we can ask whether winning matters more than understanding. When we have influence over someone who is struggling, we can use that influence to encourage rather than to embarrass.

And when we are the ones who have been overlooked or treated unfairly, we must remember that meekness does not require us to accept mistreatment. We can seek help, establish boundaries, and speak honestly without allowing bitterness to define our hearts.

We will not always get it right. Sometimes anger will speak before patience has a chance. Sometimes pride will win an argument that love might have handled better. When that happens, we can acknowledge our mistakes, ask for forgiveness, and begin again. God's grace gives us room to grow.

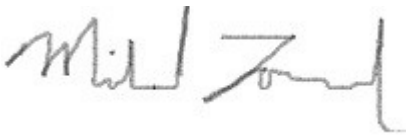
Jesus reminds us that the way of God's kingdom is not always the way of the world. We do not have to become harder, louder, or more demanding to live meaningful lives. We can be strong without being cruel, confident without being arrogant, and courageous without losing compassion.

The world may tell us that we must fight to control everything around us. Jesus invites us to trust God enough to live with gentleness. Perhaps that is where the blessing begins: when we stop measuring our lives by how much power we possess and begin measuring them by how faithfully we love.



Blessings!

Pastor Mike



Sermon Schedule for November

"A Walk Through the Old Testament" Sermon Series

November 1 – "Solomon's Wisdom"
1 Kings 3:4-28

November 8 – "Elisha Heals Naaman"
2 Kings 5:1-15a

November 15 – "Micah"
Micah 1:3-5; 5:2-5a: 6:6-8

November 22 – "Swords into Plowshares"
Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7; 2:1-4

"Advent" Sermon Series

November 29 – Advent 1
"Faith as a Way of Life"
Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4;
3:3b-6, 17-19

Behind the Scenes

October is now over and the holidays are fast approaching. This is the busy season!! We have spent the past two Sundays and a Saturday night celebrating Halloween at our church, the Habitat for Humanity Pumpkin Patch, and Bonham Elementary School's Monster Mash. It has been fun, we are tired and we are trying to catch our breath a bit this week.





I recently had a member ask why we do this knowing it is so much work and they even asked if anyone has ever joined our church because of these types of events. The honest answer is no, not as of yet. My answer - We do this for the lives we touch, the connections we make, the ripple effects we may never even see. Human connection is important, especially in these days. AI and computers allow us to do almost everything without ever having to see or talk to another human being. We are wired to be with others, Covid showed us ho much contact is needed for our mental health. Yes, our events takes months of planning, many sleepless nights, errand running, hands on time and ALL of you! I can't speak for everyone else but here is what I see and hear from our events.

From our Outreach Agencies - We get to connect with the community, let people know about we do

and have to offer. It's a chance to help those who may not know where to go for help. We get to see how the agencies around us work and we get to network together! We love working with your church and look forward to the next time! Even our Fire Dept looks forward to being with us!



From our Ambassadors **-** We love working these events and look forward to signing up for the next one. We get to know the church members and hear about what your church has to offer. We love watching the puppet shows and want to see more of them. When is the next event? It's so much fun and we love the different games. I have even heard from our ***church members*** that they feel like we make a difference, we offer a safe place for families to have fun. Many of the same families keep coming back and so do our Ambassadors.

So maybe for now it doesn't fill the pews, maybe one day it will. Maybe we made a difference in someone's life, helped them find food or medical care. Maybe a place to belong on campus? Learned something new. Michael has said its not the number of people we get to show up, its the lives we touch. Now isn't that worth it? I think so! I hope you do as well.

We have so many opportunities to let others see us as Disciples. I know we are tired, worn, and life gets in the way. I challenge you as we go into the Thanksgiving holiday and the Advent season to pray and reach deep inside. What gift or talent do you have to offer? How can **YOU** make a difference? Our church has 160 years of rich history and those who touched so many lives. Can you help us build the next 160 years? Can you teach Sunday School (we still NEED this to have an active children's ministry), sing in the choir, lead or serve on a committee, what is God calling you to be a part of? It takes a village and her at FCC we have built a STRONG community to share with others. Think about it and let us know where you would like to serve. It's okay to be tired and worn, God will refresh us and lead us to the next opportunity.



OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

First Christian Church

Celebrating our 160th year of worshiping and serving in this community!
November 8
Coffee and Fellowship @ 10:00am
Special Worship Service @ 10:30am



Thanksgiving Potluck & 160th Celebration

On Sunday November 8th we will have our 160th Celebration and, following our church service, we will have our annual Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon. Buppy's will be catering the Turkey, Ham, Dressing/Stuffing, Gravy and some Green Beans. Fellowship will be providing Pumpkin, Pecan and Apple Pie along with a cake**.** You are asked to bring a side dish to contribute, if you wish. **Please see Karen Townsend or Sharon Jeffrey for more information.**

Kraft Korner



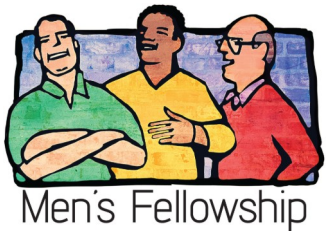
Kraft Korner will meet on **November 19 from 10:00am -12:00pm.** We will continue to work on our Chrismons. We may need additional time to work on these, so check with Karen Townsend or Anne Parkin for more information.

Disciples Women/CWF

The next meeting is **November 4, at 9:30am.**



Disciples Men/CMF



CMF meets on the **third Tuesday of each 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 at 2:00pm
CHOIR PRACTICE – 10:15am, before church
HANDBELL PRACTICE – Please watch for updates.

December Newsletter Deadline!

We would like to publish the **December** monthly Newsletter on **November 24. Please submit any articles or calendar items by November 23.**
Please submit your articles to:
firstchristianbcs@gmail.com



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 November:

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
Cheryl & Karl Aufderheide
Kay & John Benes
Rose Bowden
John Delaney
Bill Dixon
Family of Kathy Ervin
Gayle French
Terry & Eva Hart
Family of Carolyn Hoyle
Caroline Jeffrey
Sharon Jeffrey
Family of Laura Johnson
Shorty Kindt
Jeanene Kindt
Gaby Kocmoud
Jackie Kranz
Bob McGee
Caton Milstead
Roger & Emily Nichols
Brad Slocum
Annette & Richard Stadelmann
Ashley Weber
Elizabeth Weber
Reba Wood
Bobby Woods
Dale Young
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: November 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 **All Saints Sunday** Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:15am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed **Elders meeting following worship** **Jen S.**	**2** **News from the Pews due**	**3** 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg House Church, 6:00pm	**4** Disciples Women/CWF –- 9:30am	**5**	**6**	**7** **Larry B.**
8 **Anniversary Celebration** Choir practice, 10:15am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed Luncheon following worship **Olivia B.**	**9** **News from the Pews due**	**10** 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg House Church, 6:00pm **Millie C.**	**11**	**12** Kraft Korner, 10:00am Pickers, 2:00pm	**13** **Marilyn M.** **Collin C.**	**14**
15 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:15am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed **Board meeting following worship** **Mark M.**	**16** **News from the Pews due**	**17** 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg Disciples Men/CMF, 12:30pm House Church, 6:00pm **Shorty K.**	**18**	**19** Pickers, 2:00pm	**20** **John W,**	**21**
22 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:15am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed	**23**	**24** 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg House Church, 6:00pm	**25** **Karen T.**	**26** **Thanksgiving Day**	**27** **Rae M.**	**28** **Jason A.**
29 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:15am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed	**30** **Christopher R.**					