



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

OF BRYAN / COLLEGE STATION
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

The Visitor

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April 2026

Mike's Musings

Jeremiah 31:3 – "I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you."

Some years ago, there was a little book titled *Love Is a Warm Puppy*. That's a pleasant thought—puppies give so much love and pleasure. They reward you with love no matter what. They are always happy to see you. They jump and run to greet you. When you have had a difficult day, they snuggle up beside you and lick your face! They love unconditionally.

Have you known a love that ended? A love that betrayed you and left you gasping for breath? Many of us have. Betrayed, rejected. With that came measureless amounts of unkindness. Cruel words, anger, abuse, and neglect. Perhaps it made you uncertain about yourself, your worthiness, your ability to make choices. Uncertain of your future. Somehow you felt as if you didn't measure up; you were lacking; it was your fault. You must be unlovable. I have felt that way. I had trusted and was betrayed at the deepest levels by the one I had given my heart to. It left deep wounds in my heart and emotions. The pain has faded, wounds healed over the years, but scars remain. Hearts mend, but scars mark the damage.

The Bible tells us that "love is from God...God is love" (1 John 4:7-8). Love is part of God's unchanging character. God is the source of love and has loved you with an everlasting love. That is

a love that does not end. It is eternal. It is unconditional. It never forsakes. Never betrays. Never rejects. And God draws you into this everlasting love with lovingkindness.

When you are wounded and beaten up by life, you long to feel the comfort of kindness. How many times after an exhausting day, when you were weary and your nerves were frayed, has someone shown you a kindness that revived you and lifted your spirits? How much more so the lovingkindness of the One who knows you best! God knows just what you need and when you need it. God draws you into an embrace with tenderness and love. It's a love into which you can snuggle. You are secure within God's love. You can find the comfort and strength you need, and you can find rest for your weary soul. God's love shelters you. But it is not a love that depends on feelings. It is a fact. God loves you.

Take a moment and think about the heartache you have experienced. Remember it. Feel it. Then ask God to heal that pain and replace it with God's unconditional, everlasting love. Sense God's kindness toward you. Reach out and grasp it for yourself.

Blessings!

Pastor Mike



"Lent" Sermon Series, cont.

April 2 – Maundy Thursday

"Jesus' Last Words"

John 19:23-30

"Two Perspectives on Life" Sermon Series

April 5 – Easter Sunday

"Resurrection"

John 20:1-18

April 12 – "Thomas"

John 20:19-31

"A Funny Thing Happened (to Paul) on the Way to the Forum" Sermon Series

April 19 – "Paul's Conversion"

Acts 9:1-19a

April 26 – "Paul and Silas"

Acts 16:16-34

Behind the Scenes

Easter is only a few days away and it has been a busy season. Reflecting on the past month has had a great impact on my faith, or some days the lack of faith. It's hard not question life when you see loss, grief and constant challenges at every corner. This year I spoke with the Worship Arts Team about building Jesus' tomb. The goal was to build a representation of what it would have been like being there on the day he rose. This was a team effort, much like everything we have done during the Lent season.

In preparation for our Annual Easter Bunny Trail Egg Event, we took Rabbi T over to see the kids and staff at Bonham Elem School. It was so

wonderful to get to meet the teachers, and see their cafeteria staff at work. So many things go on behind the scenes that we often don't take time to notice. From there it was over to the Bryan Administration Building to spread more joy, then a quick stop at Walmart and Sam's club. Lots of smiles and laughter and even a few photo ops.

Our Church Easter Event brought us around 50 kids, 25 adults, 13 Ambassadors, 22 church members and family helping us, 6 Outreach Agencies, the Bryan Fire Dept with the big ladder truck, and the FGC Towing Company with their families. A fun afternoon with lots of smiling faces. Plus we couldn't have asked for better weather.





We also met our goal collecting 167 pairs of socks and 68 pairs of underwear for BCS Together. A special thank you to everyone who helped us make our goal. We will be taking these to BCS Together after Easter. If you would like to go with us to drop these off and see the closet please let Karen Townsend or Anne Parkin know.



Special thank you to Jen Swartz for helping to organize our event, and to everyone who helped stuff eggs, run a booth, set up and tear down. We could not do this without you!

*Feeling blessed,
Karen Townsend*

Dear Church family,
As we continue our year long celebration for 160 years, we the Elders would like to challenge you to 160 hours of scripture reading. Make yourself a plan - maybe a favorite Gospel, or the Psalms. Read and study, and lift yourself in the Word.

The Elders



Disciples Women/CWF

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



Women's Fellowship

Disciples Men/CMF

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

This month they will
meet at **4P Pub & Grub**
in Somerville on
Tuesday, April 21.



Men's Fellowship

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

Music Ministry

PICKERS – Thursdays @ 2:00pm

CHOIR PRACTICE – 10:15am, before church

HANDBELL PRACTICE – Please watch for updates.

Kraft Korner

Kraft Korner will meet on **April 16th**
from **10:00am -12:00pm.**



OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

* We have begun a **new young adult/college student Sunday School class, at 9:30 on Sunday mornings.** It is available to those who are within the ages of 14-29.

* We are looking for 3-4 enthusiastic volunteers who would be willing to teach a **children's Sunday school class**, for ages 5-13. If you or someone you know are interested, please contact Pastor Mike.

* On **April 12, at 6pm**, First Christian Church will be hosting **The Southern Plainsmen Quartet**, a Southern-Gospel group based out of Louisiana. A love offering will be gathered. Please invite your family and friends.

* **UCM Bingo, Boards and Brew Fundraiser Basket**
Our church is a member church of **United Campus Ministries at Texas A&M**. They are having a major fundraiser on **April 24, 2026**, Bingo, Boards and Brew. Each of the member churches are contributing by creating a basket to be auctioned to raise money to support our local UCM.

The theme of our basket is *A Brazos Valley Experience*. We are asking our church members to be involved by filling our basket with many options to create a memorable experience in BCS. Donations for the basket can be a single donor or several donors together.

Donation example should include one entire experience in BCS. Examples could be a restaurant experience that would include a gift card for two to the establishment. This could include a menu, a picture of the restaurant, anything that might physically show what and where it is located etc., Another example would be a sporting event that might include tickets, snacks, flag or T-shirt, or a trinket that represents the team. These are just some examples to be placed in our combined basket. Again, another example could be a visit to our church, Feely Hearts, Sunday Lunch, possibly a Bible.

Please use your imagination as to what would represent a great Brazos Valley Experience. Topics could be eating out, sports, weekend retreat, spa treatment, shopping spree, exercise, tours and more.

Contact Brooke Horak at 979-255-8621 or Anita Foley if you have questions, concerns or ideas. Donations can be brought to the church. A box will be available to collect items. Deadline is April 19, with arranging the basket at the church on April 22. Watch for further information.

***Coastal Plains Area Assembly, April 25 9:00am-4:00pm**, First Christian Church, Pasadena. Free event with lunch provided. Registration link: checkout.eventcreate.com/gha-assembly2026/select-buy. If you would like to carpool, please contact Pastor Mike. *

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 2: 4:45pm - Soup Supper
5:30pm - Maundy Thursday Service

April 5: Easter Sunday

April 11: *Run for the House*

April 12: 6:00pm – Southern Plainsmen Quartet concert

April 24: Friday, April 24, beginning at 6:30pm, United Campus Ministries of Aggieland fundraiser: "Bingo, Boards, & Brews." You are invited to attend and participate in this fun- and fund-raising experience.

April 25: Coastal Plains Area Assembly, 9:00am-4:00pm, First Christian Church, Pasadena. Free event with lunch provided. Registration link: checkout.eventcreate.com/gha-assembly2026/select-buy. If you would like to carpool, please contact Pastor Mike.

May Newsletter Deadline!

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

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/](https://www.facebook.com/BryanCollegeStationDisciples/)

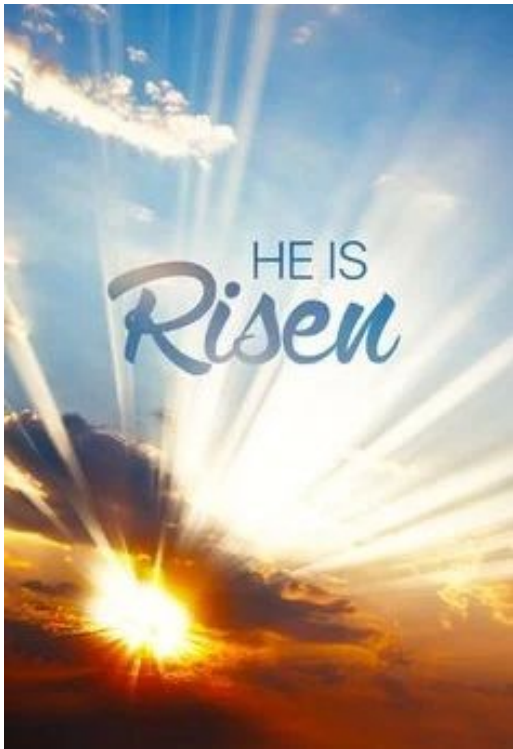
COVID and the Church:

Update for April:

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
Terry & Eva Hart
Caroline Jeffrey
Sharon Jeffrey
Laura Johnson
Shorty Kindt
Jeanene Kindt
Donna Kochan
Jackie Kranz
Bob McGee
Caton Milstead
Roger & Emily Nichols
Linda Kay Rector
Mary Richards
Brad Slocum
Annette & Richard Stadelmann
Ashley Weber
Elizabeth Weber
Reba Wood
Bobby Woods
John Wright
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.)



The UCM Board of Directors presents

Bingo

Boards & Brews



FRIDAY
04.24.26
6:30 - 8 p.m.
Regular ticket: \$25
Student ticket: \$10

Raising Funds for United Campus Ministry in Aggieland
Basket Bingo | Charcuterie Boards | Brewed Beverages

Friends Congregational Church, College Station, TX
Buy tickets at tx.ag/SupportAggieUCM

IN CONCERT



The Southern Plainsmen Quartet

DATE:
Sunday, April 12, 2026

LOCATION:
First Christian Church
900 S. Ennis St.
Bryan, TX 77803

TIME: 6:00 PM

WWW.SOUTHERNPLAINSMEN.COM

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



Our purpose:
LOVE. SERVE. TRANSFORM.

These are more than just words; they are our guiding principles as we seek to be disciples beyond the walls of our church buildings.

APRIL 25, 2026
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

GREATER HOUSTON AREA ASSEMBLY

First Christian Church
4544 Preston Ave.
Pasadena, TX 77505

No registration fee / Lunch provided / Activities for Children and Youth

Church Calendar: April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Disciples Women/CWF — 9:30am	2 Soup Supper, 4:45pm Maundy Thursday Service, 5:30pm	3	4
5 Easter Sunday <i>No Sunday School today</i> Choir practice, 10:15am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed Elders meeting following worship	6 News from the Pews due	7 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg House Church, 6:00pm	8	9 Pickers, 2:00pm	10	11 Run for the House BVMTA Focus Festival
12 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:15am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed Southern Plainsmen Quartet, 6:00pm	13 News from the Pews due	14 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg House Church, 6:00pm	15	16 Kraft Korner, 10:00am Pickers, 2:00pm	17	18
19 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:15am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed	20 News from the Pews due	21 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg Disciples Men/CMF, 12:30pm House Church, 6:00pm	22	23 Pickers, 2:00pm	24 “Bingo, Boards, & Brews” - UCM	25 Coastal Plains Assembly
26 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:15am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed	27 April Newsletter Deadline	28 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg House Church, 6:00pm	29	30 Pickers, 2:00pm		