



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

OF BRYAN / COLLEGE STATION
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

The Visitor

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September 2026

Mike's Musings

1 Peter 3:9 - Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse, but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing.

It is easy to be kind to people when people are kind to us. The real challenge comes when someone hurts us, disappoints us, misunderstands us, or treats us unfairly. In those moments, our first instinct may be to defend ourselves, strike back, or make sure the other person feels some of what we are feeling.

1 Peter 3:9 calls us toward a different way: "Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse, but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing."

That sounds beautiful, but it is not always easy. Sometimes we want justice. Sometimes we want the last word. And sometimes, if we are honest, we want the other person to hurt because we hurt.

Peter reminds us that following Christ means refusing to let someone else's behavior determine our own. We may not be able to control how people treat us, but we can choose how we respond. A blessing does not

mean pretending the hurt never happened or allowing someone to continue harming us. It means choosing not to become what wounded us.

Jesus shows us another way: a way marked by grace, courage, and forgiveness. When we bless instead of retaliating, we break the cycle of hurt. We make room for God to work—not only in the other person, but also in us.

Today, when someone rubs you the wrong way, pause before responding. Ask God for the strength to answer with grace rather than anger. You may discover that blessing someone else becomes a blessing to your own heart.

Blessings!

Pastor Mike



Sermon Schedule for September

"The Ten Commandments" Sermon Series, continued

September 6 – "Do Not Covet"
Exodus 20:17

"A Walk Through the Old Testament" Sermon Series

September 13 – "Flood and Promise"
Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17

September 20 – Bob Richards preaching

September 27 – "Joseph in Prison"
Genesis 39:1-23

Updates - Revised Church Constitution

Hello members of First Christian Church Bryan/College Station! As a result of the previous Q&A, there are some updates to the Constitution and By Laws. You should have received an emailed copy by now. There will be a **second meeting for people to ask questions about the documents on Saturday, September 12 from 2 to 4 pm. There will be a Congregational Meeting on September 27 to vote on the new Constitution and By Laws.**

Behind the Scenes

The school year has started and we are running non-stop these days! Michael and I cheered on our Bonham Elementary School Buccaneers as they walked into school on their first day back. Most had big smiles, but a few tears. Some were parents leaving their little ones for the first time. Afterwards it was cheering the buses at Stephen F. Austin Middle School from the front doors of our church. It was an exciting morning! Staff at Bonham would

like to thank everyone for the thoughtful snacks that made preparation days much easier with a cookie, fruit snacks, granola bars and more. We are also working on Feelie Hearts for all of Bryan ISD staff new hires for this year.

As most of you know we have also been preparing our home for my mom to move in with us. It's almost ready! She will be arriving the beginning of October, and hopefully will be able to return to church later that month depending on her health. She wanted me to tell all of you "Thank you for all the prayers!"

In between, we have started planning for our **Truck or Treat on Ennis Street/Fall Event on Sunday Oct 18th from 2:30-4:30pm. WE NEED YOUR HELP!** If you are willing to hand out candy, work a small table game, share our church information, or anything else you would like to do please contact Karen Townsend or Jen Swartz for more information. A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex and Gathering space. We are also looking for candy for our event. A box will be in the Narthex for you to drop off. Please make sure candy is individually wrapped.

We will be sharing our 160 years of celebration with the community at our event, and collecting in non-perishable food items for the Church Pantry.

I would also like to take a moment to brag on our Deacons! Many have been out or traveling, sick, or had emergencies. It is wonderful to see a group that is so willing to fill in for one another on a moment's notice. Communication is great. Thank you to all of you for your faithful service to our church!

Save the date - November 8th will be our 160th celebration and Thanksgiving potluck meal. More information to come!

~Karen Townsend



OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

CCSW Regional Men's Retreat

will be taking place **September 18-20, 2026**, at Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat in Brownwood, TX. If you would like to attend, please register at the following link

(checkout.eventcreate.com/ccswmen2026/select-buy). Scholarships and discounts are available; please see Pastor Mike for more details.

Truck or Treat on Ennis Street

Sunday, October 18 from 2:30-4:30pm. We are looking for anyone who is willing to help with small table games, hand out candy, share our church information and history. We can only do these events with your help!!

We have added new games and a toddler corner for our little ones! Candy, goldfish crackers, teddy grahams, etc are also needed to hand out as treats (individual packages only please). These can be placed in the box in our Gathering space. We will also be collecting non perishable food items for the Church Pantry as part of our 160th Celebration.

If you would like more information please see Karen Townsend or Jen Swartz.

Regional Assembly 2026

Join clergy, lay leaders, congregations, and ministry partners from across the region for CCSW Regional Assembly 2026, a milestone gathering for worship, fellowship, discernment, and the shared work of the church. In 2026, we mark 50 years since the first Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest, and we will gather together in Fort Worth to celebrate that legacy and look ahead with hope.

One of most important topics to be discussed

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and voted on is a revised Design (think Constitution and Bylaws) that reaffirms the covenantal connection we have as individual congregations within a One-Region model
This is an in-person event only. There will be no Zoom option, or online participation - limited live streaming for viewing will take place throughout the event.

Location

University Christian Church
2720 S University Dr
Fort Worth, TX 76109

Start Times

Friday, November 6, 2026 — 9:00 AM
Saturday, November 7, 2026 — 9:00 AM

Registration Cost

\$100

Link: <http://www.ccsw.org/ra26>

Kraft Korner

Kraft Korner will meet on **September 17 from 10:00am - 12:00pm**. We will be possibly finishing up our Candy Corn holders for Bonham Elementary School. If you are willing to donate a small bag of chocolate candy bars (snack size) for us to fill these we would greatly appreciate it. We also will be starting to work on our Chismons.



Disciples Women/CWF

Meetings have resumed after the summer break. The next meeting is **September 2, 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 – On hiatus through September
CHOIR PRACTICE – 10:15am, before church
HANDBELL PRACTICE – Please watch for updates.



October Newsletter Deadline!

We would like to publish the June monthly Newsletter on **September 29. Please submit any articles or calendar items by September 28.**

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 September:

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
Kathy Ervin
Terry & Eva Hart
Caroline Jeffrey
Sharon Jeffrey
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: September 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg	2	3 Pickers are on hiatus through September	4 Mary R. Ron G.	5
6 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:15am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed Anniversary: Cheryl & Karl A.	7 News from the Pews due	8 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg House Church, 6:00pm Anita F.	9	10 Gerald B.	11	12 Julie P. Melissa T.
13 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:15am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed -	14 News from the Pews due Saphira S. McKayla G.	15 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg Disciples Men/CMF, 12:30pm House Church, 6:00pm	16	17 Kraft Korner, 10:00am	18 CCSW Regional Men's Retreat (through the 20th) Mary Anne C.	19
20 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:15am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed	21 News from the Pews due Rozan C. Anniversary: Karen & Mike T.	22 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg House Church, 6:00pm	23 Karen A.	24	25	26 Jesse M.
27 Sunday school, 9:30am Choir practice, 10:15am Worship, 10:45am, in person & live-streamed	28 October Newsletter Deadline	29 10:30 am Worship Planning Mtg House Church, 6:00pm	30			