

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Date: April 25, 2024



First Christian Church, 306 E 5th Ave., Belton, TX 76513

Website: fccbelton.com Email: fccbeltoninfo@yahoo.com

Phone: 254-654-5096

Coming Events



Pastor's Corner

Reverend Byron Singleton

June's Newsletter Deadline: May 23, 2024

Board Meeting:

DWM Meeting: Hiatus

Bible Study: Hiatus

STAY ON THE WHEEL!

"If you don't like something, change it; if you can't change it, change the way you think about it."—Mary Engelbroit

"There is a God shape vacuum in the heart of every man (woman) which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus."—Blaise Pascal

There are probably many inspirational stories about the Potter's Wheel that can deeply impact our lives. Today, I would like to share one with you, it is the story the tea-cup. It begins with a couple who went to England to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary and shopped at a beautiful antique store. They both liked antiques and pottery, especially tea-cups, and so spotting an exceptional cup, they asked, "May we see that? We've never seen a cup quite so beautiful."

As the owner of the shop handed it to them, suddenly the tea-cup spoke, "You don't understand." It said, "I have not always been a tea-cup. There was a time when I was a lump of red clay. My master took me and rolled me, pounded me and patted me over and over. I yelled out, don't do that. I don't like it! Let me alone." **But my master only smiled and gently said, "Not yet!"** Then, **WHAM!** I was placed on a spinning wheel, and suddenly, I was spun around and around and around. I screamed, "STOP IT! I AM GETTING SO DIZZY! I'M GOING TO BE SICK!" **But the master only nodded and quietly responded, "Not yet."** He spun me and poked and prodded and bent me out of shape to suit himself, and then he put me in the oven. **I never felt such heat.** I yelled and knocked and then **POUNDED** at the door, "HELP! GET ME OUT OF HERE! **Again, the master said, "Not yet."** When I thought I couldn't bear it another minute, the door opened. He carefully took me out and put me on the shelf, and I began to cool. I said to myself, "Oh, that feels so good. This is much better." But after I cooled, he picked me up and he brushed and painted me all over. The fumes were horrible. I cried out, "Oh please, STOP IT! STOP IT!" **The master shook his head again and said, "Not yet."** Then suddenly he put me back in the oven. Only it was not like the first time. This time it was twice as hot, and I just knew I would suffocate. I begged, pleaded, screamed, as I cried out. I was convinced I would never survive the heat. I was ready to give up, and just then the door opened, and he took me out and again placed me on the shelf where I cooled and waited and waited. I was wondering, "What's he going to do to me next?" **An hour later he handed me a mirror and said, "Look at yourself."** I did and I said, "That's not me, that couldn't be me. It's beautiful! I'm beautiful!" **Quietly, my master spoke, "I want you to remember, then, I know it hurt to be rolled and pounded and patted, but had I just left you alone, you'd have dried up. I know it made you dizzy to spin around on the wheel, but if I had stopped, you would have crumbled. I know it hurt, and it was hot and unbearable in the oven, but if I hadn't put you in there, you would have cracked. I know the fumes were bad when I brushed and painted you all over, but if I hadn't done that, you never would have hardened. You would not have had any color in your life. And if I hadn't put you back in the oven the second time, you wouldn't have survived long because the hardness would not have held. Now YOU ARE A FINISHED PRODUCT. Now YOU ARE WHAT I HAD IN MIND WHEN I FIRST BEGAN WITH YOU."** (Listen to "The Potter's House," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C14OuEGgghk>)

At some point in our lives, each of us have been on the potter's wheel undergoing a creation/transformation process. **I would dare say that most of us are probably still on the wheel.** The designing, shaping, and molding that we must undergo can be very painstaking in order for us to become **the finished product** of the Creator's design. There are many moments in our lives where we probably were like the tea-pot yelling, screaming, and questioning God/Providence/Fate, "What are you doing to me? I am reminded of the quote of Elder Jeffrey R. Holland which says, "Though we may feel we are like a broken vessel, we must remember that vessel is in the hands of the divine potter." I can identify many moments in my life where I thought I knew a better way, a better road, or a better process to progress in my life's journey, but all I did was make matters worse. We need to heed the words of Kenny Gatlin, "We need to stop trying to get God to fit into our mold and start fitting into His." (Kenny Gatlin Ministries). It would behoove us to trust the process and design for our lives and just **STAY ON THE WHEEL!** We all have significant stressors which impact us (normal everyday stressors and the unexpected and unusual ones like COVID-19 and the civil unrest in our country). But regardless of the stressors and how deeply we may be impacted, each of the painful circumstances are part of our process of **BECOMING...** Whatever is in the mind of the Creator/Divine/ Providence/Fate, it will come to fruition as long as we undergo the process of creation and transformation. Today, we are being invited to **TRUST** what is occurring, just **STAY ON THE WHEEL!**

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him... 6/ Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel." (Jeremiah 18:1-6)

Motivating Thought/Prayer:

Loving God, who created us with imagination, we offer this time to you and pray that You will be present to guide and protect us. Help us to draw closer to You, especially at those times when we are on the potter's wheel under the transformation process. May we surrender ourselves to undergo the shaping which needs to occur so that we become what is in the mind of our Creator. Amen.



Moderators Memo

By: Diane Pressley



From the Board Chair

From the Board Chair

Well, May is here, Spring is in full swing, and school is soon to let out for the summer. This year seems to be speeding by. I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and enjoying the nice weather we have been having. What an exciting few weeks we have had with new people joining us, our continued work with FCC Temple, and two amazing baptisms to celebrate. God is so good.

The joint Long-Range Planning and Transition Teams continue to meet the first of each month to work on the amalgamation process. The sale of the Temple church seems to be progressing and they are packing and selling items and preparing to move. The search has been on to find a suitable place for all of us to worship as we anticipate moving together as one. An offer has been put in on a suite in Oak Village Shopping Center on Main Street in Belton, and we have also been exploring other opportunities as well. I once again ask that you continue to pray for us through this process. We are trusting that God will lead us in the right direction and to a place in which we can make a difference in the lives of people in our communities.

I was happy to see our congregation continuing to participate in the team meetings at our joint services. I again invite each of you to get involved with a Bible study group, women's or men's group, or choir. We have begun our book study over the Vital Merger book and have had some very productive meetings at Arusha's on Tuesday evening. We would love for even more to join us. Even if you are unable to make the Tuesday evening or Sunday morning book study groups, I do hope you will take time to read the book. It provides a very clear process for a successful amalgamation. It is very validating to see that what we have done so far and are moving toward has been successful for a number of merging churches. It will also help us all understand the process as we continue to move forward.

Please continue to pray for us through this amalgamation process and feel free to let your voice be heard. We all have things to bring to the table and important ideas to share. Wishing you all a magnificent May!

In Christ,

Diane



Recipe of the Month: By: Amy Larson

Rhubarb Matramonial Bars

Crust:

1 ½ C. Flour

½ tsp. salt

½ tsp. baking soda

1 ½ c. Oatmeal

1 C/ Brown sugar (packed)

¾ Butter

8 C. Cut up Rhubarb

1 C. Sugar (coating Rhubarb)

Put ¾ of crust mixture on bottom of 9 x 12 pan.

Then pour sugar coated rhubarb, then top with remaining crust mixture.

Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

A MESSAGE FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM



Worship team

April showers bring May flowers!

In May is Mothers Day!! Remember your Mom.

With the Merge in progress not much to report.

May: joint Service & Luncheon May 19, 2024

10 a.m. at FCC Temple.

Please keep our Church family in your prayers!

Your Sister in Christ, Amy



May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Schedule 11:00 Worship 12:15 Choir Practice			1	2	3	4
5 Kayla's Baby Gender Reveal Party	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16 Kirk's Birthday	17	18
19 Combined Service with First Christian Church of Temple	20	21	22	23 June's Newsletter Deadline	24	25 Darren's Birthday
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

16 Kirk Wallace



25 Darren Smith



	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
Communion Elder	---	---	---	---
Offertory Elder	---	---	---	---
Early Deacon	---	---	---	---
Deacon 1 (Jr Deacon)	Layla Pearson	Layla Pearson	---	Layla Pearson
Deacon 2	---	---	---	---
Deacon 3	---	---	---	---
Communion Preparation	Amy Larson	Amy Larson	---	Amy Larson
Greeter	---	---	---	---
Refreshments	---	---	---	---
Children's Moment	---	---	---	---
Worship Leader	Amy Larson	Amy Larson	---	Amy Larson

Prayer Requests

<p>First Christain Church Belton and Temple</p>			
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First Christian Church

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Pastor...Reverend Byron Singleton
Choir Director/Pianist... Marilyn Van Schoelandt
Song Leader... Amy Larson
Media Team... Kayla Holwerda
Nursery Attendant...

“Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it.”

- Maya Angelou

Come and See

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

fccbelton.com



First Christian Church
106 Tanglewood Rd.
Temple, TX 76502



Customer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code