

The Messenger



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Jan 12, 2022

A Moment's Reflection



"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives."

-Prayer of Jesus, John 14:27

Peace, like hope, isn't necessarily the absence of what troubles me. I'm gradually learning that peace, like hope, is a disposition of heart and mind despite all the things I wish would go away. John Claypool writes about three ways our prayers for deliverance are answered: (1) miraculous intervention (the problem is completely removed), (2) collaboration (God helps us solve the problems we face), and (3) acceptance (the problem isn't removed, but God helps us live with it). (The Hopeful Heart)

The peace of Christ is like this. Sometimes we feel a flood of peaceful bliss. Other times, God helps us make changes that lead to greater peace. But still other times, we learn to come to peace with those things we can't change.

This year, I find myself learning to do more of this. Instead of blustering about perpetual irritants, I'm trying to find a sign of God's peace despite them. To this end, I'm drawn to one of Howard Thurman's prayers (Meditations of the Heart).

"GOD is present with me in the midst of my anxieties. I affirm in my own heart and mind the reality of God's presence. God makes immediately available to me the strength of His goodness, the reassurance of His wisdom and the heartiness of His courage.

My anxieties are real; they are the result of a wide variety of experiences, some of which I understand, some of which I do not understand. One thing I know concerning my anxieties: they are real to me. Sometimes they seem more real than the presence of God. When this happens, they dominate my mood and possess my thoughts.

The presence of God does not always deliver me from anxiety, but it always delivers me from anxieties. Little by little, I am beginning to understand that deliverance from anxiety means fundamental growth in spiritual character and awareness. It becomes a quality of being, emerging from deep within, giving to all the dimensions of experience a vast immunity against being anxious. A ground of calm underlies experiences whatever may be the tempestuous character of events.

This calm is the manifestation in life of the active, dynamic Presence of God. God is present with me this day."

Today, I invite you to join me in this experience of God's dynamic presence. -Dr. Dan

DWM Meeting

Come celebrate our time together in DWM

Quitting the Blame Game—a study of Jeremiah Chapters 26-32

Speaker: Shirley Miller

Spiritual Color: Brown

Our sins

Memorabilia: Yes badge

Help us serve others in the name of Jesus

February 7	9:30am	Morning Circle
February 8	6:45pm*	Evening Circle
*Childcare will be available for this session		

We are saving a chair for you!

Stewardship Update

The 2022 Operating Budget was approved by the Board and the Congregation and stands at \$464,019, which is more than 8% above the 2021 budget.

Thank you to the faithful stewardship of the congregation in keeping FCCG going strong and growing stronger.

Your Stewardship Ministry:

Sharon Campbell

Bill Dunn

Mitchell Armstrong

Randy Preskitt - chair



Youthful Pursuits

On Sunday, December 12th, First Christian Church Garland Children's Program presented "Silent Night, Holy Night: Just a Little Christmas". The story of the Birth of Christ was told and performed beautifully by the youth. Our program was directed by Leasa Wolf. A reception followed the program.



UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Jan 23 @ 4:00pm—Youth groups

Feb 6 @ 4:00pm—Youth groups

Feb 20 @ 4:00pm—Youth groups



Spiritual Development Offerings

Looking for a way to stay connected to your church? Log on to some of our spiritual development courses. Have questions? Confused about how to get the Zoom link to work? Contact the church office at 972-272-5423.

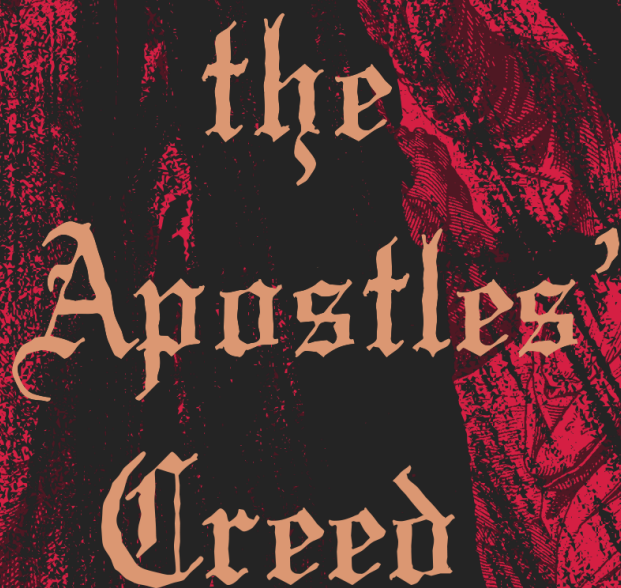
Study the Gospel of Mark - Thursdays at 12pm

Rev. Dr. Douglas Skinner invites you to join his continuing bible study. The course will continue an ongoing in-depth study of the Gospel of Mark.

The class will meet weekly, Thursdays at noon. Check your email each week for the link to the Zoom meeting.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
MARK



the
Apostles'
Creed

BEGINNING
January 17th

Mondays
7:00pm via Zoom

Led by
Dr. Shaun Brown

**Circle of Fellowship**

Marilyn Fowler

Paula Moore

God's Messengers

Laurie Dodd

Hands of Faith

Brenda Cooper

Cara Prestenberg

Kate Walker

Kim Whalin

Shepherds

Patty Crow

Lee MacDonald

James & Kim Schnitker

Sandra Stofan

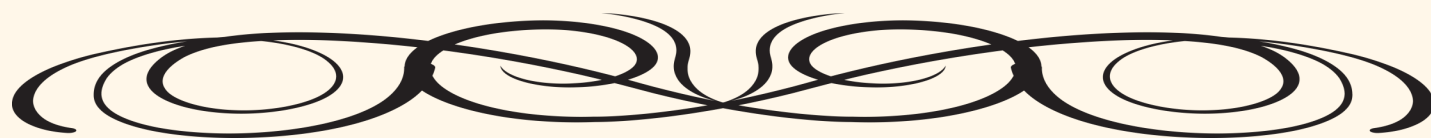
The Grapevine

Doris Daniel

Julian Olalde

Carol White

Jane White



IN SYMPATHY

We give our condolences also to Jane White, Carol White, Laurie Dodd
and family on the passing of

Tom White,

who died on Thursday, December 30 at the age of 89.

A memorial was held at the church on January 7th.

We give our sympathy also to Brenda Cooper, Kristen, Kate, and Cara
along with Doris Daniel, Kim Schnitker, Susan Boulden and the rest of
their family upon the loss of

Gerry Cooper,

who passed away Thursday, January 6, 2022. A memorial service is
planned for Saturday, January 15th at FCC Garland.

