



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

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Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9 AM-2 PM

Pastor Isaac Mahler, Senior Minister • Faith Milam, Youth Director

COME WORSHIP WITH US

COFFEE BAR AT 8:00 AM • WORSHIP AT 9:00 AM • SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:15 AM

First Christian Church's mission is to grow disciples who are:

***“Believing in Christ,
Behaving as Christ,
Becoming like Christ”***

PASTORS CORNER CONTINUED

One last thing I want to share—and it's something new I'm trying. A few weeks ago, I went to the baseball game with the church, and I had a chance to sit next to Joe. Now, I see Joe every week—he's always around helping fold the bulletin and newsletter—but something about sitting side by side at a ballgame gave us a more relaxed space to talk and connect. That conversation reminded me that not everyone feels comfortable having a formal meeting in the Pastor's office or hosting me in their home. So, I'm starting something I'm calling “Community Office Hours.” I'll be setting up at Stagecoach Coffee on Mondays from 12:00 to 2:00PM—just me, my Bible, my laptop, and a hot cup of - well not coffee, because I don't drink coffee, but there is plenty of delicious options at Stagecoach. Anyway, I am hoping that some of you will stop by. There's no agenda, no pressure, no sign-up list. Just a casual chance to say hello, ask a question, share a story, or simply connect in a more natural setting. Of course, I'm still always available to meet at the church or come visit you—just reach out. But if you're in the area and want a mid-day pick-me-up, I'd love to see you at Stagecoach. This is a wonderful church, filled with loving people doing great things for the Kingdom of God. I feel blessed every day to be your pastor, and I'm excited to see what God has in store for us—this summer, this fall, and beyond.

— Pastor Isaac

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NEW BUILDING UPDATE

This past Sunday, July 6th, we were blessed to have **Rich Hamilton** join us and share updated drawings and ideas for a potential new building. His presentation reflected thoughtful feedback gathered from both the New Building Committee and members of the congregation. Around 40 people stayed after worship to view the plans, ask questions, and offer input.

The New Building Committee will now meet to review these designs in greater detail and continue moving the conversation forward. A copy of the proposed drawings will be available to view at the church in the coming weeks.

Please continue to pray for wisdom and discernment as we seek the best path forward for our church family!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

- July 13: Annual Church Picnic @ Twin Lakes
- July 24: Staff the Hospitality Tent @ the Fair
- July 28: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WEEK!
- Aug 7: CWF Leadership Meeting at 9:30 am
- Aug 10: Pool Party for the kids @ the Bennetts
- Aug 10: Card Tournament 4 the adults 11-4PM
- Sept 7: Tailgate Party and Fall Relaunch!

THE MESSENGER

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

July 10 2025

PASTORS CORNER

“I've said it before, and I'll say it again—I really love this church!

We're only halfway through summer, and already there's been so much to celebrate. Our Relay for Life Yard Sale wasn't just a success in raising funds—it opened the door for meaningful connections in our community. In fact, one of those connections led to a baptism and a brand-new member of our church family! Our participation in the Shrine Parade was full of energy and joy—passing out hundreds of popsicles on a hot summer day and welcoming new families who registered for VBS shortly after. Our church bowling event at Iron Pin was a blast—we shared lots of laughs, friendly competition, and more than a few gutter balls. Our summer sermon series has helped us reflect on the lyrics behind some of our favorite hymns, and each Sunday has felt special with beautiful music, meaningful moments, and a real spirit of joy. From recognizing graduates and providing scholarships to celebrating Father's Day and sharing Patriotic Sunday together—it's been a fantastic summer so far! But we're not done yet!

This Sunday is our annual Christmas in July celebration—complete with a special offering to support Disaster Relief in Texas. After Church is our annual church picnic at Twin Lakes park which is one of my favorite events of the year. It gives us the chance to connect in a more relaxed setting and spend more time together than we usually get on a Sunday morning. Vacation Bible School is also just around the corner, and it's not too late to sign up or volunteer to help. We'll also be hosting the Hospitality Tent at the Edgar County Fair on July 26, and in August we still have our church pool party and card tournament at the Bennetts' home. We'll wrap up our summer and launch into the fall with a brand-new event I'm really excited about: Tailgate Sunday! So, get ready to bring a lawn chair, wear your favorite team's gear, and enjoy some great food and fellowship as we kick off a new season together.

Speaking of the fall—yes, I know, it's still summer—but I'm already looking ahead and making plans for what's next. This fall we'll be relaunching many of our regular programs: God's Gang, Club 3-5 Sunday School, Club 3-5 Youth Group, Choir and Bell Choir, and a brand-new Grief Share group, which I believe will be a tremendous source of comfort and growth for those who have experienced loss of any kind. If there's interest, we'll offer both a morning and evening Grief Share session.

I'm also excited to bring back the Pastor's Bible Study! This fall, we'll be diving into a study called *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*. If you've ever felt overwhelmed, stretched too thin, or anxious from the pace of life—this study is for you. It speaks directly to the struggles so many modern families face and offers real, practical spiritual tools to find balance again. As always, we'll offer both morning and evening options so more people can join in.

See you Sunday,

— Pastor Isaac

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Paris Healthcare: Martha Stephen, Ron Odle
Pleasant Meadows: Linda Driver
Twin Lakes: Irma Julian, Brandon Bell

Continued Prayers for: Paula Shepherd, Carol Winemiller, Linda Chittick, Rev. Mike Dixon, Dorothy Farnham, Brad Farnham, Marge Houghland, Roy Rogers, Sue Bennett, Russ Adams, & Roz Davis.

BELIEVING LIKE CHRIST

That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe. (1st Timothy 4:10)

JULY PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,
In your world these days, we seem to wake up each day to news of disaster. Please help your children to find the beauty surrounding us and help us recognize the goodness in your people. Help us to remember this is your world and even though the wrong often seems so strong, You are still the ruler. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

HELPING HANDS SOUP KITCHEN

You are invited to the 1 year anniversary celebration of the Soup Kitchen. Everyone is invited to help us celebrate. There will an Open House on **Saturday, July 12th from 1pm to 3pm at the First Baptist Church (201 S. Central)**. Any questions, please call Vicky Dick (217-264-5514) or Sue Sheeran (217-264-3491)

SAVE THE DATES

Pool Party & Card Tournament at the Bennett's Sunday, August 10th, 11-4pm. Membership Committee will provide finger foods/snacks, drinks & popsicles!
Tailgate Sunday is September 7th, our Fall Ministry Kickoff Event, following the worship service. More information will follow but mark your calendars now!

ATTENDANCE

We count because YOU count!
June 15th: 116/ Nursery:1/ Online:48/72*/ SS:16
TOTAL 132 *
June 22nd: 97/ Nursery:3/ Online:36/54*/ SS: 12
TOTAL 109*
June 29th: 105/ Nursery:1/ Online: 55/83*/ SS:16
TOTAL: 205*
July 6th: 134/ Nursery:1/ Online: 38/57*/ SS:0
TOTAL: 192*

Per CCIW Regional Office: to allow for additional people watching electronically, the formula is - view count x 1.5

GIVING

OFFERING	June*	YTD*
General Fund	\$ 18,991.19	\$ 112,870.28
Missions Fund	\$ 1,551.00	\$ 8,875.00
Building Fund	\$ 5,270.00	\$ 124,813.00
Memorial/Scholarship	\$ 100.00	\$ 12,047.00
Permanent Fund	0	\$ 750.00
TOTAL	\$ 25,912.19	\$ 259,355.28

**Month to Date, As of Date of Publication*

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

On Sunday, July 13th, from 11am to 2pm the picnic will be held at Twin Lakes park. The membership committee will provide lunch, drinks & desserts. Please come join us for a free lunch & loads of fun!



EDGAR COUNTY FAIR
HOSPITALITY TENT

We will be manning the Hospitality Tent on Thursday evening, July 24th from 5-8PM. Sign-up sheet is available on the sign up desk.

CIRCLE NEWS

Circle of Light, Koinonia and Circle of Prayer will all be off for the summer. Meetings will begin again in September. **There is a CWF Leadership Meeting Thursday, August 7 at 9:30 in the Jerusalem room.**

TEEN MOVIE

We have sponsored one of the FREE Teen Movie Nights at the Paris Theater (119 N Central Ave). The movie nights are Friday & Saturday at 10pm. For more information, please call 217-465-6048.

POP CANS

Don't forget! We will once again begin collecting pop cans. Please bring in your **saved cans** on the **4th Sunday of each month**. Thank you.



COMPASSIONATE CLOTHING CLOSET

July is our church's month to volunteer to work each Monday and Tuesday at the CCC. The hours are Mondays 9:30-1:00 & Tuesday 11:30-2:00. **There are still open spots for Monday 14th & 21st.** Please check your calendars and sign up so our church can show our support of this worthy cause.



SCARECROW PROJECT

As summer approaches and you begin to clean out your closets and drawers please remember to bring any long pants, shirts or accessories to the church for our Scarecrow Project that takes place during Honey Bee weekend in September. See Coralie Smittkamp for further information if needed.



Hello from 412 Youth!
Summer means things are shifting around here as we have seen our seniors through the end of their high school journey and soon will be welcoming the new 6th graders to our group!
I'm excited for the upcoming VBS & to see the church filled with youth - young kids learning and older kids serving!
Upcoming Events:
July 6 - Youth Group 6pm
July 13th - Youth Group 6pm
July 20th - Youth Group **4pm***
July 27 - Youth Group 6pm
~ Faith Milam, Youth Director

VBS 2025

Kids from Pre-K through 5th Grade - Join us Monday, July 28th through Friday, August 1st at 9 -11:45am for



WONDER JUNCTION VBS!
Vacation Bible School is fast approaching!! Big thanks to those who have volunteered to help already! We are still in need of a person to lead the third grade class. This is a "guide" position which does not require teaching a Bible lesson. Also, we would love to borrow old suitcases, cowboy hats, cowboy boots, rope, saddles, and bales of straw for decorating. Most importantly, we need KIDS!! Spread the word and pre register now!! Contact Kim Woods or Megan Mahler if you have questions!

DISCIPLES MEN

The monthly breakfast meeting will be held at 8am in the Church Kitchen. Tony Peel will be the chef.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



The monthly blood drive will be held Monday, July 21 from 11:30AM- 5:30PM at the VFW Hall.

Date	Worship Elder	Bread Elder	Deacons	Deaconess	Jr. Deacons	Ushers
July 13, 2025	Steve Webb	Dan Smittkamp	Team #3	Margo Y.	Team #2	Team #1
July 20, 2025	Daniel Smittkamp	Tammy Terry	Team #1	Evie Gill	Team #1	Team #1
July 27, 2025	Cindy Mathis	Pete Templeton	Team #2	Nicole	Team #2	Team #1
August 3, 2025	Angel Templeton	Chris Milam	Team #3	Bev McCain	Team #1	Team #2
August 10, 2025	Chris Milam	Steve Webb	Team #1	Megan M.	Team #2	Team #2