

DISCIPLE NEWS



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) McAllen, TX

Address: 1201 E. Fern Ave.
McAllen Tx, 78501
Phone: (956)687-8519
Email: fccdocmcallen@gmail.com

A Word from Your Interim Pastor

Your Search Committee for your next permanent settled minister is doing some strategic planning these days to get a better sense of the gifts that we have as a church, the needs of our surrounding community, and the mission that God in Jesus Christ is specifically calling us to at this particular moment in time. Using Kennon Callahan's *"Twelve Key of Effective Churches,"* so far we have taken a quick look at the shape of the existing religious community in Hidalgo County, talked about the particular gifts that we bring as *Disciples of Christ* to this mix, studied the five Biblical purposes of the church, done a realistic assessment of our present standing and stature as a church, calculated our mission potential, and have begun to assess our strengths in relation to the 12 Keys of Effective/Healthy Churches.

By early November we will have selected the specific keys that we believe will best advance our congregational future, and with that information in head, heart, and hand, we will then enter the festival season of Advent and Christmas with a new energy and focus, the new year with a clear direction for our next steps for growth, as well as a better refining the parameters of the search for First Christian Church's next pastoral leader.

These are positive, hopeful, and faith-filled days for First Christian Church. We're seeing some new faces, adding some new programs and activities to better serve people's needs, engaging in some specific and concrete acts of Christian mission at the point of human hurts and hopes, and sensing God in Christ calling us into an exciting future. The best way for you to support this work is to be fully engaged in the life and work of this church.

Oct 1st, 2018



Upcoming Events

Board Meeting Oct 7th
Following Worship Service

Wed. Oct 10th at 11:30am-
Greet & Eat
Location:

"Country Omelette"
Address: 3420 N 10th St,
McAllen, TX 78501
Phone: (956) 618-3560



Sun. Oct 14th:
Monthly - Pot Luck
Following Worship Service



Sun. Oct 28th:
Ice Cream day
Following Worship Service.
To celebrate
Birthday's &
Anniversaries



A Word from Your Interim Pastor

In the Methodist tradition church members make a public commitment to support their church with *“their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service, and their witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”* This makes explicit what’s implicit in our *“Good Confession”* as Disciples when we say that we believe that *“Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and our Lord and Savior.”*

The watershed question for churches like ours that are intentionally thinking, talking and praying about the future shape and direction of our congregational life and ministry is – *“Do you believe that our best years as a church are before us or behind us?”* The way we vote for the future is by our presence and participation in our congregational life and ministry right now. And it’s your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness that will position us for the future that God has for us as a church, and God does have a future for us as a church. Our best years are indeed in front of us.

DBS +

October Sermon Starters

Sunday, October 7 - *“You are the Salt of the Earth”*
(Matthew 5:13)

After eight weeks of looking at the Beatitudes --- what we are in ourselves as Christians --- we will now briefly turn our attention to what Jesus said we are going to be as Christians in the world. As salt has a distinctive taste, so Jesus told His disciples that they were to have a distinctive presence in the world. On the 7th we are going to take a closer look at what it is about us as Christians that makes us distinctive.

Sunday, October 14 – Joel Preaching

Sunday, October 21 – *“You are the Light of the World”*
(Matthew 5:14-16)

In the early church people were given a lit candle when they came up out of the waters of baptism to symbolize the fact that had been “enlightened” by Christ. Because of our identification with Christ we become part of the light that shines in the darkness, and that the darkness cannot put out. Where do you shine? That’s what we’ll be thinking and talking about on the 21st.

Sunday, October 28 – *“What Happens to us When We Die?”*
(Luke 23:39-43)

On the Sunday before All Soul’s Day (11/1) and All Saints Day (11/2) when the church has traditionally remembered her faithful departed and affirmed the Savior’s promise to be the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25-26) in whom we live and never die, we will answer the urgent question - “What Happens to us When We Die?” – by taking a closer look at what Jesus promised the Good Thief as they dying – “Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise” (23:43). Everything we need to know in order to be hopeful and confident about what happens to us next are found in these 13 words. Be in church on the 28th to find out what it is that Jesus is telling us.

Matthew 5-7

King James Version
(KJV)



5 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

=====

Our new website is up & running! Go and check it out! Visit us at
www.fccdocmcallen.org

If you have anything you would like to include in our Newsletter please send us an e-mail to
fccdocmcallen@gmail.com

Faith Goes to the Movies

"Amazing Grace"

Thursday, October 4 – 3pm

A recent conversation in one of our weekly Bible Studies here at the church revealed that there are many of us who have never seen the movie "Amazing Grace" about William Wilberforce and the movement he led as a Christian Statesman in late 18th and early 19th century England to abolish the slave trade. This is a wonderful story and a well-made movie about what the Christian faith in action looks like, and we'll be showing it at the church in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, October 4 at 3 pm. We'll watch the movie and then we'll talk about it for a little bit. We'll have popcorn and soft drinks. It will be both fun and inspiring. So, come, and bring a friend. And if this is something that appeals to you, we could easily do a "Faith Goes to the Movies" afternoon every month. There are lots of important and high-quality movies on important matters of faith that we could watch and then discuss. If you're interested, just let me know.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley District Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) @ First Christian Church, McAllen - Saturday, November 17



In other news:

COFFEE, TEA AND COOKBOOKS

We are closing out the unsold items that were prior fund raisers. The items are \$5 each (a real deal); Tonii Leadbetter has even offered to grind the coffee beans if someone wants her to; no charge for that personalized service. The recipes are from current and former church members, and sooooo good! These are available in the narthex; just pay Pat Schroder or Tonii L.

COFFEE TIME AFTER EARLY WORSHIP

It's great to be able to talk with people after service, with coffee and cookies. The only problem is that the cookie supply gets low really fast. Donations of store bought cookies or better yet, home-made ones would be greatly appreciated on an on-going basis. Thanks!!!



"Halloween Alternatives" We Christians can also view Halloween as a fun event for children by having events in the church or in our communities where children and their parents can dress up, play games, and share some treats in a safe place. Visit your neighborhood. Do a reverse trick-or-treat. Use the opportunity to **"Light Up the Night"**


*Birthdays
of the Month*
Cortez, Blanca
Oct 2nd

Helen, Baumeister
Oct 5th

Gene, Percival
Oct 5th

Sharon, Degroot
Oct 7th

Dr. Linda, Jackson
Oct 10th

Eileen, Veum
Oct 14th

Chris, Leadbetter
Oct 18th

Bill, Emry
Oct 19th

Johnnie, Collum
Oct 22th



**Dr. Doug & Mary
Lynn Skinner**
Oct 3rd



Dr. Nedra, Kinerk
Oct 7th
(over 60 years ago
open heart surgery)

Note: If we don't have your information put on the basket to add to the list.