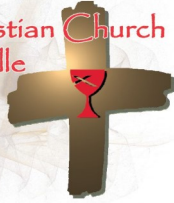


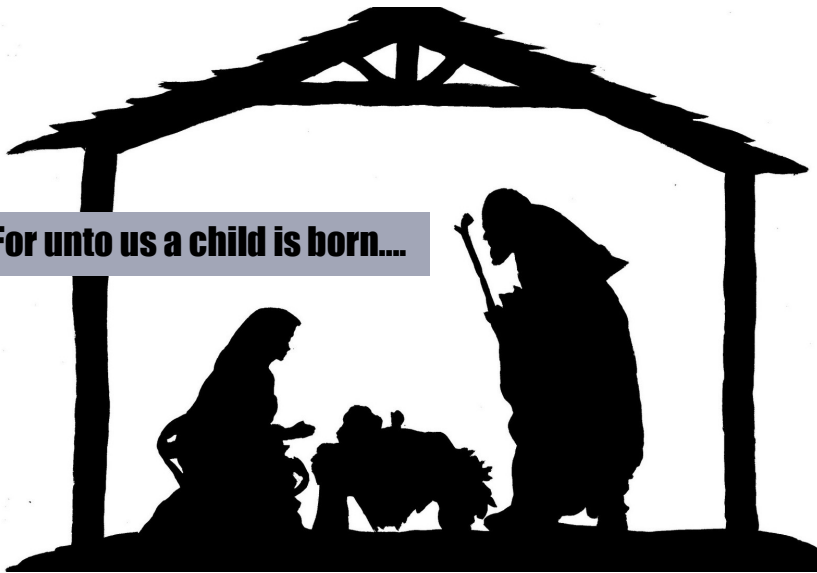
First Christian Church  
Stephenville



December 2019

# The Lampstand

For unto us a child is born....



*let's celebrate!*

HAPPY  
NEW YEAR  
2020

Tomorrow, is the first blank  
page of a 365 page book. Write  
a good one.



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## COMING UP

New Years Day—office closed  
CMF Sat, Jan 4 @ 8:30 am  
CWF Meeting, Jan 8 @ 10.00 am  
First Fruits Sunday, Jan 5  
First Sunday Luncheon, Jan 5  
Elders & Board Meeting, Jan 12  
Lunar New Year Party, Jan 25  
(details to follow)  
Senior Saints on Tuesdays

## FROM OUR PASTOR

The prophet Isaiah possesses a different kind of vision: he sees the world as it is, but also possesses the prophetic imagination to articulate a vision of God's promise. Though they often tell deeply uncomfortable truths about us, we could not do without the prophet's insistence on hope, rooted in a deep faith in God's ultimate power to determine the future. We may live in a time where we desperately need someone who can see beyond what we see; without that vision, we might be abandoned to cynicism. According to Isaiah the transformation and peace begin with the stump. The stump may appear finished, lifeless, left behind, however, a green sprig and a tiny tendril can be the sign of new life. The book of Isaiah 11:1, "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." The little shoot will rise to be a new hope for the coming kingdom of God, the peaceable kingdom with harmony. Isaiah also calls us to another way of living. Verse 4, "He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear." If we shall not judge others by what our eyes see, If we shall not decide by what our ears hear, then, the peaceable kingdom with harmony breaks forth now.

Isaiah's prophecy seems odd and absurd, wolf with lamb, leopard with kid, calf and lion, cow and bear, and little children playing without fear. Even snakes do not bite. This is very true that wolf, leopard, lion, and bear cannot live with the domestic animals, such as lamb, calf, kid, and cow. Think of the world and society in which we are living. We would not be wrong to reflect here on the dreadful abundance of human predators in the world. Predator nations, individuals, institutions, and societies live by destroying the vulnerable. Most of us can relate to feelings of both weakness and aggression. Most of us have felt preyed upon at one time or another; most of us have sometimes been the predator as well. That is way, it sometimes may lead us to be too cynical about hope for the peaceable world with harmony.

However, Advent is a good time for reexamining our assumptions, presumptions, and definitions, including how we think of hope and use of power. In addition, God may be nurturing that growth of something new and good from their old and dead stump. Isaiah's promise and prophecy still tells you that God of hope, peace, joy, and love is not just a future one; even now there are tiny signs of hope and peace in places that look dead and discarded. In this Advent season, we renew our hope, peace, joy, and love, looking through the eyes of the prophets, including Isaiah in order to see beyond what people generally see. Isaiah's prophecy invites you to represent Advent's sign, Immanuel, which means God is with us. In Christ, with Christ, wolf with lamp, leopard with kid, calf and lion, cow and bear, and little children playing without fear is not a fictional story. Likewise, in Christ, with Christ, there is no longer rich or poor, no longer black or white or Hispanic, or Asian, no longer evangelical or progressive, no longer the republican or democrat, no longer capitalist or socialist or libertarian. This is how hope and peace get its start.

— Pastor KJ



*Come feast upon God's Word*

## WEDNESDAYS @ FCC

Wednesday are a great opportunity for our church family to gather for physical and spiritual nourishment. We will offer a time of intercessory prayer, a meal, and a time to get into God's Word. Here is the schedule:

<b>5:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Intercessory Prayer</b>	<b>Ladies, Inc. Classroom</b>
<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	<b>Fellowship Hall</b>
<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Women's Bible Study</b>	<b>Ladies, Inc. Classroom</b>
<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Men's Bible Study</b>	<b>Fellowship Hall</b>

**You are welcome at any or all Wednesday night activities.**



*You're  
Invited!*

We will resume  
**First Sunday  
Luncheon** after church  
in January. Bring a dish  
and join us  
on January 5th.



Celebrate the  
Lunar New Year  
on January 25, 2020  
at FCC. There will be  
traditional Korean  
games and food.  
Please bring 'Texas'  
food to share, and  
enjoy some fun and  
fellowship.  
More details to come!

*Thank  
You*

for the love offering  
for the Bradshaws.  
It was a blessing!

## O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree

Surely everyone has noticed our beautiful Chrismon tree this advent season. **Cindy and Jimmy King** are to be heartily thanked for the spectacular decoration of the tree. Last year when Cindy helped with the tree, she noticed that some of the original Chrismons were broken or very worn. These were handmade during the 1960's by a very special and long-time member, Opal Cunyus. Cindy recognized the love and talent that Opal shared in the creation of these ornaments. She asked to take these precious (Precious was Cindy's choice of words at the time.) ornaments home to restore them. She refurbished and reclaimed almost all of them. Thank you, Cindy, for recognizing and lovingly restoring these vintage Christmas decorations that we have been using for the last 40-50 years! Take a close look at the tree before it is packed away for another year. You will certainly be able to pick out the elaborate vintage Chrismons from some that have been made more recently.

## Fundraiser for Lisa Bradshaw

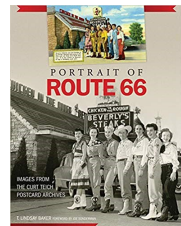


A drawing will be held on January 20, 2020 for the beautiful bench sitting in the church foyer, made by our own Gene Shipman. All proceeds will go to Lisa Bradshaw for medical expenses while she is fighting her third round of cancer. Prayers for Lisa are also requested.

Tickets are: \$5 each / 3 for \$10 / 6 for \$20 and may be purchased from Dianne in the church office.

## 5th Annual Gamma Zeta Book Review & Tasting Tea

Come join us on January 18, 2020 for a morning of food and fun as we travel Route 66 with Dr. T. Lindsay Baker. The event will be held at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the door, benefiting the Gamma Zeta Scholarship fund. For more information, see Linda Doyle.



## Food Closet



This month we need:

- tuna
- chili
- dried pinto beans

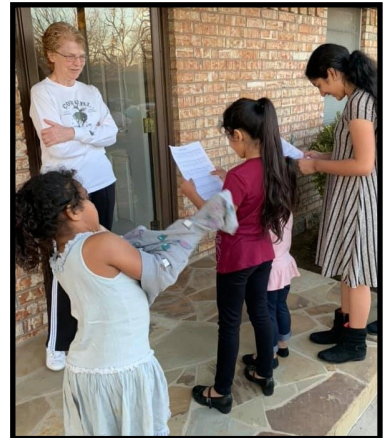
All other food items are also welcome! Thank you for your support!



# FCC

## Caroling and Christmas Party

Thanks to all those who helped and participated in the caroling and Christmas Party. If you were not there, you missed a wonderful opportunity for celebration and fellowship!



**Thank you** to the church family for our Christmas gifts. We are very blessed to have you in our lives, and appreciate your support, your friendship, and your generosity!

Sincerely,

KJ Kim  
Wonhye Kim  
Cindy Martin  
Kylee Ramsay  
Dianne Swanson



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