



First NEWS

February 22
Weekly E-Newsletter

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[Gregory's Message](#)

I've been giving a lot of thought to our public worship. For years I have believed that our Sunday morning worship is for and about the members of our church, and while we desire and encourage guests to join us, worship on Sunday morning is for the church. At the same time, I have always understood that to be the church we can't just exist for ourselves. A church has a mission to reach people with the good news of Jesus. If we exist just for ourselves, we are really not a church, we are a private club.

Two things have happened recently to change my thinking about public worship.

First, our new Regional Minister, Andy Mangum, spoke at the Blue Bonnet Area Assembly. He, like me, is concerned with the obvious decline of church attendance, pretty much everywhere. That is happening to us at FCC. Andy told the assembly that he has always

believed, to quote the song, "they will know we are Christians by our love". But, Andy says, that isn't necessarily true. We are mistaken if we think people see all the good services we do and will want to join us. Andy says Disciples tend to believe that if we are loving and serving, that will be enough to attract others to want to be with us. What attracts people isn't a nice bunch of Christians. What attracts people is Jesus. We need to express our faith in Him, not just try to be hospitable and friendly.

I thought about all that, and it makes sense. But, how to do that? Andy has some suggestions to help us Disciples talk about our faith in Jesus to others. If you are curious, let me know and I'll share his four questions we need to answer. That's for us as individuals.

What about the church body?

That's the second thing: The arrival of Prince and Leta Altom, our newest church and staff members at FCC. They keep asking me, "but how will a visitor feel about that?". Good question! I thought our public worship was for insiders, not visitors, but I didn't think what we do in public worship would not be understood or appreciated by someone new.

It turns out, that may not be true. In fact, my long-held assumption that church services are for members may not be true at all. If it is public worship, if it is open to the public, our focus really needs to be on the public--the guest, the person who isn't a member of our church and doesn't know how we do things.

When we are in our own homes, we get pretty comfortable with what is familiar to us. But when we invite someone over for dinner, we see our home from a different perspective. We dust the furniture, vacuum the carpet, pick up piles of stuff that have accumulated over time. When we are in our church building, we need to do the same. Make our worship visitor friendly and Christ-centered. How do we do that? I'm trying to learn to do that better, and I ask you to join me in our endeavor. Because we are not a club. We are a church. We have a mission. Let's do our best to share our faith in Jesus with everyone who enters our home.



Is an 8 Week Study
of the book
Growing Young

*6 Essential Strategies to Help
Young People Discover
and Love Your Church*

CLASS SCHEDULE

Chapter 1

Sunday March 10, **9AM** - *room to be announced*

Wednesday March 13, **6PM** - *room to be announced*

Chapter 2

Sunday March 17 • Wednesday March 20

Chapter 3

Sunday March 24 • Wednesday March 27

Chapter 4

Sunday March 31 • Wednesday April 3

Chapter 5

Sunday April 7 • Wednesday April 10

Chapter 6

Sunday April 14 (Palm Sunday) • Wednesday April 17

**WE WILL SKIP EASTER SUNDAY AND THE
FOLLOWING WEDNESDAY**

Chapter 7

Sunday April 28 • Wednesday May 1

Chapter 8

Sunday May 5 • Wednesday May 8



February 24 Serving Schedule

Elders:

Katie Carpenter, Tory Carpenter

Deacons:

Bobbie Coley, Shawn Colson, Karen McGowan, Phil Elam

Lay Leader:

Chase Stapp

Remembering Lois Lewis

Lois Lewis, a very wonderful Christian woman, passed away this week after serving her Lord for the 100 years of her beautiful life. She is survived by family and friends.

A Memorial Service will be held in her home church in New Orleans.

All who knew her were blessed by her and will miss her.

Please keep Gloria and her family in your prayers.

Calling all who can **MEND** and **SEW!**

We need help repairing current **Stations of the Cross** costumes as well as creating some new ones. We have the patterns and will supply the fabric.

It is very basic straight sewing but does require a sewing machine.

The repairing can be hand sewing in some cases. We also need cloth belts, head pieces, etc. **Please contact Gael** if you are able to help:

832-858-0932, gael@fcc-sm.org

Fellowship Time Each Sunday at 10:00 am.

A Special **Thank You** to Shepherd Group #2 for hosting the Fellowship time on February 10.

Please join us this Sunday, February 24 at 10:00 am and our host group will be Shepherd Group #3.

I Live Here
I Give Here

Amplify Austin

[connect to Amplify Austin](#)

A Special Opportunity to Support some of our favorite non-profit organizations.

GIVE on February 28!

Amplify Austin is a week away! Mark your calendars to give any time between 6:00 PM on February 28 to 6:00 PM on March 1. This program funds many services and ministries supported by FCC, including **CASA, Hays-Caldwell Women's Center, Janey Hall's SOCO Women's choir, Greater San Marcos Youth Council, Hays County Food Bank**, and others.



[donate to Hays-Caldwell Women's Center](#)



[donate to SOCO Women's Chorus](#)

Male Call - Date Change

March Male Call will be the **Second Saturday** this month in order to provide breakfast for the Elder & Deacon meeting.

MARCH 9th
Breakfast at 8:00

Deacons and Elders Meeting

Saturday, March 9
9:00 - 11:00
Come early for breakfast hosted by Male Call starting at 8:00 AM



YOUTH: ***CYF Spring Rally*** ***March 1 -3*** ***Camp Gonzo***

Pray for Shawn and our Youth this next weekend at Camp Gonzo!

Lost and Found

For the next two Sundays during Fellowship Time there will be a

lost and found table in Fellowship Hall. Please take a moment to check it out.
There are many items such as eye glasses, a YXL UT windbreaker,
personalized coffee cups, and other miscellaneous items.
After March 3 the items will be donated.



BOBCAT LUNCH - Monday, March 11

FCC is hosting the Spring UMC Bobcat lunch on Monday, March 11. If you are available to provide food or service, please call the church office. 512-396-1926.