

FEBRUARY
2018



CONNECTING POINTS



Pastor Mike's Paper Pulpit

WE  OUR TROOPS

In the early morning hours of February 3, 1943 the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers. The ship was struck by three German torpedoes and sank 20 minutes later with all but 229 perishing. Through the chaos and pandemonium four Army chaplains, Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish Rabbi; Lt. John P. Washington, Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed brought hope in despair and light in darkness. After giving up their life jackets they sought to minister and bring comfort to others even as the ship went below the waves.

On the 75th anniversary of this tragic event, we choose to honor of these four brave men by purchasing Military BibleSticks to bring that same kind of hope and light they so freely shared so long ago.

These small digital audio players give our troops an easy way to listen to the complete New Testament as well

as some selected Psalms. With each BibleStick an offer of an MP3 New Testament to a loved one back home, and a Kids Bible to their children is extended. In this way, the serviceperson's family can listen along with them and have an inspirational connection to home.

More than 900,000 Troops have already received God's Word on the Military BibleStick, but more are waiting for this gift.

Join with us in February and honor the 4 chaplains through the donation of a Military BibleStick.

\$25 covers one service person as well as a family member back home. Through the gracious gift of an anonymous donor your donation will be matched and your one BibleStick becomes two.

Our collection days will be February 4th and 11th just in time to remember the 4 brave chaplains.

I will see you Sunday!



First Christian Church Elder & Contact Information

Elders

- Mack Jones—267-3090
- Brett LeTourneau—706-2192
- Michael Piersol—808-226-6754
- Scott Stutsman—559-479-1946

Secretary

Amanda Stutsman—559-674-5203

Pastor

Michael G. Stipe—559-259-6879

Connecting People To God - To Each Other & To The World

THE BACK PAGE . . .

When I was a little girl, my favorite thing in the world other than Barbie Dolls, was going to Blockbuster and Hollywood Videos. It was a special day when my mom allowed my brother and I to agree on one movie and watch it on the good old VCR. Oh, the glory days right? Well, since we could never agree on a movie, we had decided that whoever picked the VHS tape that had "Be Kind: Please Rewind" on it, they would get to pick the next movie. To me, all that sticker meant was victory- little did I know that it was to remind renters that someone else was going to be using this VHS tape so out of the kindness of their hearts, they should rewind the tape so others could enjoy it as soon as they put the tape on, instead of waiting. It was such a small thing, but made so many people happy. Sometimes it's difficult to be kind, especially when we do not want to be or we feel as the other person has wronged us. However, we have to remember that being kind not only was commanded, but God showed it by saving us! We all fall short when it comes to kindness and the littlest things could be seen as unkind; so I challenge us this month to think about everyone when it comes to being kind to them- not just the people we like because being kind to people we like is easy, it's harder when we do not know them or they are strangers. -xoxo **Katie**

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Greg & Vicki Syverson
CMF International – Mexico

Vince & Gretta Payne
Panama Mission Foundation

Dr. & Mrs. Yoon Kwon Chae
Korea Gospel Mission

Champions For Tomorrow
Clovis, CA

American Indian Christian Missions

Doors of Hope

Madera Community Food Bank

Madera Rescue Mission

Madera Love INC

Discover more information on the missions we support on our website: www.maderafcc.org

Our Church



This month, Pastor Mike is continuing his series about what the church really is. I wish I had some cute story or some profound metaphor to contribute, but I don't. What I do have, however, are examples; practical, real-life instances of what my church has been for me. I'm not going to call out names, because I know that none of the people I'm about to mention would want public recognition. Even so, these brothers and sisters in Christ, along with many others, have taught me what it is to be the church. So here is my list of heroes. First, there is the person who prays every day for every member of First Christian Church. This directly touches my life and those of my family. Next, there is the fellow believer who gave me his turkey soup that he was saving for leftovers when I had pneumonia and couldn't eat much else. We have ladies who have watched Elsa for a few hours when I needed to be at work and couldn't line up childcare. We have several brothers in Christ who have helped me move pieces of furniture, gym equipment, and

even an entire house of furniture. There are the sisters in Christ who are willing to listen, without judgment, when I'm discouraged or frustrated. These are just a few of the many who have offered a helping hand, a wise word, or an encouraging hug.

As a church, I am honored to note that our reach has extended far beyond our four walls this past year. We have provided coats for kids, funds for hurricane and wildfire relief, counseling and baby clothes for expecting mothers, toys for needy children, and various supplies for the homeless and disadvantaged. We have offered fervent prayer for people inside and outside our church. We provided outreach through our Vacation Bible School. Finally, many of our people have served others daily, unrecognized, outside the structure of any formal organization but within obedience to their calling. This is the Church. This is our church. It's not the building. It's not the pastors, although they are certainly a part of our church. It is us, reaching out as the hands and feet of Christ.

~Melissa

February 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Anniversaries 13 Larry & Kathy Walter 25 Wes & Joyce Ballard 25 Bud & Carmen Wright</p> 		<p>Birthdays 2 Carmen Wright 3 Katie Barsotti 6 Joyce Ballard 10 R.B. Moren</p> 		<p>1 Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm</p>	<p>2 </p>	<p>3 Men's Breakfast—7:30am @Perkos Women's Breakfast—8am @Robin Walton's home Elder's Meeting—9am Board Meeting—10am</p>
<p>4 Military Bible Sticks Bible Classes 9:30 Worship 10:45 Youth Group 6:30-7:30</p>	<p>5 </p>	<p>6 Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm</p>	<p>9  6:00– 9:00 pm</p> <p>10 9:00 am—3:00 pm</p>	
<p>11 Military Bible Sticks Bible Classes 9:30 Worship 10:45 Youth Group 6:30-7:30</p> 		<p>13 Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm</p>	<p>14   FCC Food Bank 10:00am– Noon</p>	<p>15 Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 Bible Classes 9:30 Worship 10:45 Youth Group 6:30-7:30</p>	<p>19 </p>	<p>20 Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Worship Team Rehearsal 6:00pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 Bible Classes 9:30 Worship 10:45 Youth Group 6:30-7:30</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Intercessory Prayer 6:30pm-7:30pm</p>	<p>28 FCC Food Bank 10:00am– Noon</p>			

Calendar Connecting Points

*CWF Breakfast—Saturday,
February 3rd—8am @ the home
of Robin Walton
2805 Willow Drive*

February 4th— "Hub Not Club"

February 11th— "This is the
Church—Fellowship & Family"

February 18th— "This is the
Church—Form & Flock"

February 25th— "A New Look
For FCC"

GOD
ME YOU THEM
RELATIONSHIPS
FRIENDS FAMILY
PASTORS ELDERS DEACONS
BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST
TEACHING PREACHING
FAITH BIBLE
SALVATION SANCTIFICATION
PRAISE ADORATION THANKSGIVING
LOVE JOY PEACE
WORSHIP

IF:GATHERING

LADIES— 2018 SIMULCAST

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9th

6:00-9:00 PM

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10th

9:00 AM—3:00 PM

(See the notes below to learn more.)

What Is Church?



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, February 3rd
@ Perkos—7:30 AM

**The Elders meeting follows at 9 AM in Pastor
Mike's Office & the Board at 10 AM.**



There are three emphases in prayer that are open to you as a part of our church family.

The **FCC Prayer Team** meets each Sunday morning in Pastor Mike's office at 8:45 to seek God, prayer walk the church facility and prepare the way for the gathering time.

Prayer Hosts are our volunteer prayer folks who are available during the service to pray specifically with you and for you.

The **Intercessory Prayer Ministry** meets Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 PM to lift up our church family. They take requests and are always ready for you to join them.

We just need YOU!

*"There is a mighty lot
of difference
between saying
prayers and
praying."*

-John G. Lake



IF:GATHERING

Vision: "To gather, equip, and unleash women to live out God's calling on their lives."

In 2007 Jennie Allen sensed God telling her to disciple a generation. She knew that if this call was truly from God, then He would make it a reality. From that IF:GATHERING was born. IF:GATHERING has grown into a teaching simulcast that emphasizes living out the call of God upon a lady's life. You can read more at www.ifgathering.com.

Have you ever wondered if what you are doing matters? IF:Gathering 2018 will remind us, as Paul reminded Timothy, of the power and responsibility of sharing the gospel—giving God away in the very places He's put us. We will gather to remember why following God and making disciples matters. The work we're doing to share the gospel on the earth is worth it and God DOES move through the little things that nobody sees.

FEBRUARY 9 & 10