

The Messenger



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January 13, 2021

2021 Leadership Commissioning

"I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church" -Roman 16: 1

Paul ends his weighty letter to the Romans with a long list of "thanks yous" and greetings. Whatever work he has done in the name of Jesus Christ, he has done with the help of countless others. Phoebe. Prisca and Aquila. Epaphroditus. Mary. Andronicus and Junia. Ampliatus. Urbanus. Stachys. Apelles. Aristobulus. Herodion. And the list continues. In all, Paul devotes 16 verses of the last chapter of arguably his most important letter to remembering names. And why? Why after having explicated matters of faith and justification, sin, and salvation, would a serious theologian of Paul's stature do this? The answer is simple, really. Paul understood that he could never have accomplished the work he has, completed the mission journeys, established new congregations, preached, and disciplined so many first Christians had it not been for the help of so many good people.

"I commend you to our sister, Phoebe, a deacon of the church. . . ." I commend you, too. All the names of all those who have presided over our church's ministries. Those of you who've served as Board Officers, Elders, Deacons and Trustees.

Any pastor who thinks the church depends on him alone is mistaken. Any member who thinks the church program rises or falls on the work on one leader is mistaken. It takes the work of many.

Sunday, January 24 in worship, I want to recognize the names of these many committed persons. I want to give thanks for those who have served, and bless those who have accepted the call to serve the Church in the year to come. In my book, each of you, all of you, are essential workers. Thank you. Thank you. May the Lord bless you—for all that you have done, for all that you hope to do in the coming year. -Dr. Dan

Church
Leadership

Harold and Martha Rusk Scholarship Presentation

February 21st at 10:00am

We will announce the scholarship winner, and unveil a commissioned piece of artwork for the church by artist Mark Mullino.

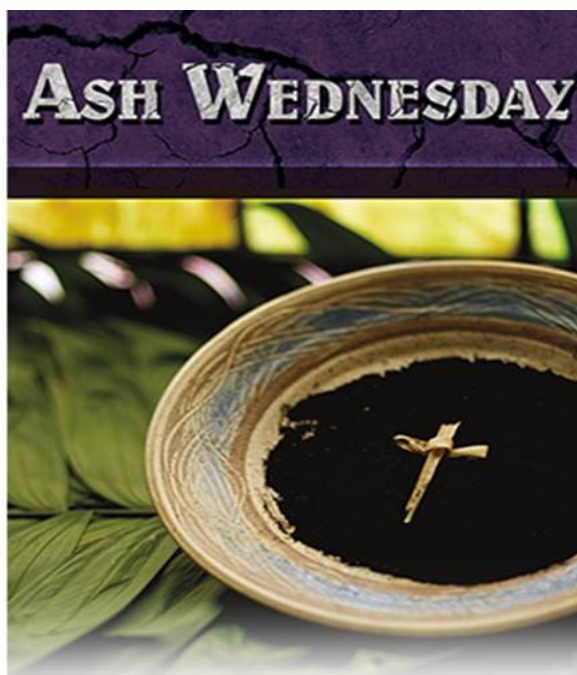
Virtual Ash Wednesday Service

February 17th • 3:00pm

Marking the beginning of a
Season of Lent

This year's service will be online during regularly scheduled MIDWEEK PAUSE, 3 p.m.

The service will feature both Dr. Dan and Rev. Dave in leading members in a moment of prayer reflection.



Coming Soon: Lenten Study

Dr. Jones and Rev. Hargrave will lead a Lenten study in the coming months. More information will be available soon. Look for next month's newsletter for details.

Spiritual Development Offerings

Looking for a way to stay connected to your church? Log on to some of our spiritual development courses. Have questions? Confused about how to get the Zoom link to work? Contact the church office.

Study of Ephesians

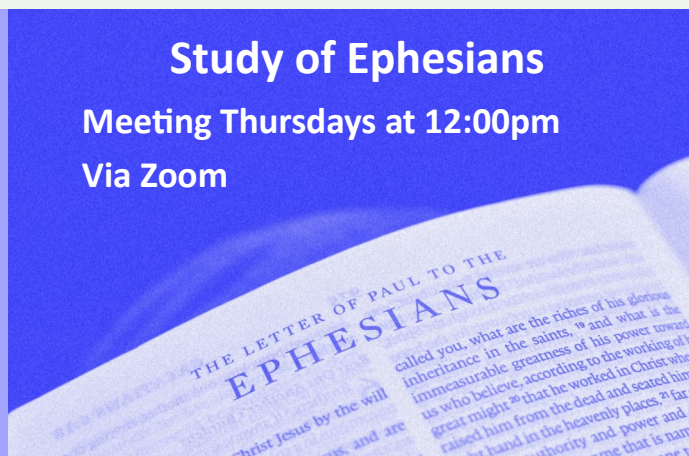
Rev. Dr. Douglas Skinner, member of our congregation, invites you to a Bible Study.

The class will meet weekly, Thursday at noon. Check your email each week for the link to the

Study of Ephesians

Meeting Thursdays at 12:00pm

Via Zoom



2021 Elder Retreat From Normalcy to Transformation

January 24th 1:0pm-3:30pm

Fellowship Hall

Contact Rev. Hargrave or Elaine Roeger for more information.

Midweek Pause

Each
Wednesday at
3:00pm

Mid-Week Pause

Be sure to check out Dr. Dan and Rev. Dave every Wednesday at 3:00pm for their **Mid-Week Pause**. These are days of high anxiety for us as a Church. It's a hard time for so many. Quite frankly, we could all use a break—just a minute or two to refocus and get some perspective. Take a few moments each week for a meditation and spiritual renewal from your ministers. Watch on the [FCC Garland Facebook page](#) or on the [FCC Garland YouTube channel](#).

Communion Elements



If you have exhausted your supply of pre-filled communion cups and wafers and would like some more as you take part in worship at home, please contact the church office 972-272-5423 or officeadmin@fccgarland.org. There are kits assembled and we'll make an arrangement for you to come to the church to pick some up.

YOUTH EVENTS

We hope our youth can join us for these events in January.

ChiRho—Jan 17th

4:00–5:30pm in

Fellowship Hall

JYF & CYF—Jan 24th

4:00–5:30pm in

Fellowship Hall

How can I give to the Church?

You are asked to place your offering into an offering plate as you enter the sanctuary. We will not be passing an offering plate during the service. We encourage all who can to use direct deposit or regular mail to our CPA for your offering:

**Click here
to give
online!**

**Clopton & Company
ATTN: Stacey
Garretson
610 Main Street
Garland, TX 75040**

WHEN IS IT SAFE FOR ME TO RETURN TO CHURCH?

When determining whether to attend an in-person worship service, we understand it is a personal decision that each of us must make based on our comfort level. We understand that while everyone may not have the same level of comfort in returning to the building, some are comfortable and ready. Therefore, we will continue offering online services while we add in-person services.

Steve Sutton has provided the following guidance which we believe may be helpful to you in making your decision.

It is suggested to evaluate your health-status by:

- Communicating with your Primary Care Physician's office regarding your medical history and risk factors for high-risk illness associated with contracting COVID-19.
- Is it safe for you to risk herding and exposure to COVID-19 in public specific with your medical history?
- Do you have any of the following known high-risks for hospitalization associated with COVID-19?

- | | |
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| ◇ Coronary Artery Disease | ◇ Immune Deficiency (HIV/AIDS, Auto-Immune Disease(s), others, etc.) |
| ◇ Heart Disease | ◇ History of Deep Vein Thrombosis |
| ◇ Blood Clotting / Embolism History | ◇ Cancer and Risk for Hypercoagulable (Blood Clotting) Disorder |
| ◇ Stroke History | ◇ Pregnancy |
| ◇ Congestive Heart Failure | ◇ Obesity |
| ◇ Cardiac Arrhythmias | ◇ African American |
| ◇ Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease | ◇ Sickle Cell Disease |
| ◇ Respiratory history, Reactive Airway Disease / Inflammatory Diseases | ◇ Immobilization |
| ◇ Diabetic | ◇ Prolonged Travel |
| ◇ Advanced Age | |

High-risk individuals based on age or predisposed health conditions may decide to not to attend the in-person service and wait a little longer before coming to the church. We are dedicated to making sure all members have access to a weekly service whether in person or online. Please reach out to the church office (officeadmin@fccgarland.org) if you need assistance connecting with the church.



IS IT SAFE?