



W THE INDOW

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No. 1

God and Sundays at Noon

I started regularly participating in church worship services when I was 18 years old. Therefore, when I started, I was far from fluent in the language of church! I remember the confusion that singing out of the hymnbook caused at first. I assumed you read a hymn like you do a book or a newspaper – the first line of the text and then the next line of text immediately below. I do not remember how I figured it out; however, life was much better when I learned how stanzas work!

Perhaps it is because church is not my first language that I find some common aspects of church culture strange. For example, some folks from every American congregation I have served have a strong conviction that Sunday morning worship should end at or before 12 noon. I remember thinking, when first confronted with this tradition years ago: does God leave the building at noon! In light of this peculiar (to me) aspect of church culture, allow me to offer a few of my own thoughts.

1 – First, when worship services run past noon, it is not due to the sermon alone! There are other important aspects of the worship experience. There are hymns, prayers, the children’s time, communion, and baptism. All components of worship are important. Thus, I would not ask Buddy to cut short the prelude or Anita the children’s time. Nor, do I think the sermon should be cut short if it appears we are going to run over 12 noon.

2 – Having said this, I am not in favor of dragging out a worship service! Perhaps you have noticed that we sing the hymn of commitment once and if we should need more time, we will take it. Furthermore, I am sensitive to practical issues such as people with back pain or the need to visit the restroom. Even on a communion Sunday, I don’t think

we have exceeded 12:20. Most Sundays we are done by 12:10. And some Sundays, 12 noon!

3 – As a pastor, I have many responsibilities. One of the most important, I believe, is worship leadership (not just preaching). Perhaps you have heard me say that a church that does not worship well will do little else well. Worship is the axis upon which all other church activity revolves. When we gather for worship, God is present. I sense that we do not honor God’s presence among us if I am anxious about getting everyone out by 12 on the dot.

Of course, I understand that some of the comments I have heard through the years in relation to “getting out by noon” are in good humor. However, I am also aware that humor is a powerful tool for communicating what we really think. Recall my analogy that worship is like a bridge in a rainstorm. If my understanding of worship is on track, is any harm done if we remain under the bridge (in the very presence of God) a few minutes, on some Sundays, past noon?

In Christ,
Trey



Worshiping Together

January 7, 2017
Epiphany Sunday

Let Us Use Them!
Romans 12:1-8
Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam



Deacon Ordination
Peggy Lou Springfield & Margaret P. Winn



Ordinance of The Lord’s Supper

From the Associate Pastor

I've never been a fan of cold weather, and usually dread those days between New Year's Day and the beginning of April. Interestingly, I don't seem to mind the cold during the Advent and Christmas seasons, but once we get past New Year's, I'm ready to join our local black bears and hibernate!

For me, what makes the colder months bearable is the warm fellowship we share as Christ's church. Once I make the effort to bundle up, venture out, and join you for worship, I forget about the cold outside, and immerse myself in the warm, loving fellowship of the body of Christ that we are together.



As we journey through these cold days of winter, I hope you will join me in making every good effort to bundle up, venture out, and gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ for worship. You and I will be glad we did, for we'll be sure to find the church building warm, and the church fellowship even warmer.

*'Tis winter now; the fallen snow
has left the heavens all coldly clear;
through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow,
and all the earth lies dead and drear.*

*And yet God's love is not withdrawn;
his life within the keen air breathes;
his beauty paints the crimson dawn,
and clothes each branch with glittering wreaths.*

*And though abroad the sharp winds blow,
and skies are chill, and frosts are keen,
home closer draws her circle now,
and warmer glows her light within.*

*O God, you give the winter's cold,
as well as summer's joyous rays,
you warmly in your love enfold,
and keep us through life's wintry days.*

- Samuel Longfellow

Grace & peace,

Resuming of Regular Ministries

Wednesday, January 10

5:00 pm Children's Music & Missions
For Age 3—Grade 6

6:00 pm Bible Study
Led by Trey Gilliam

7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

8:00 pm Vocal Ensemble

Sunday, January 14

4:00 pm Chairo Music Ensemble
For Grade 6—Adults

Altar Flowers



The 2018 Altar Flower Schedule has been posted in the first floor hallway. As you will see on the schedule, there are many open dates available to place flowers in our sanctuary for the worship services. Flowers may be in memory of or in honor of persons, or may mark a special accomplishment or milestone. Or you may just want to take an open date to place an arrangement for no specific reason.

If you would like to take one of the open dates, write your name on the flower schedule, or call the church office to let us know what date you desire.

Listed below are dates that are open at this time:

- January 21 or 28
- February 25
- March 4
- April 8, 15, or 29
- May 6, 13, 20, or 27
- June 24
- July 8, 15, 22, or 30
- September 2, 16, or 30
- November 18

Your willingness to grace our sanctuary with floral arrangements is greatly appreciated.

Church Staff Anniversary



Congratulations to Bland Baker, who celebrates his 23rd anniversary as our Music Associate/Pianist on January 6th. Thank you, Bland, for your faithful dedication to FBC through the sharing of your musical talents with us.

The Week Ahead



Sunday, January 7, 2018

- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship
Communion & Deacon Ordination

Monday, January 8

- 2:00 pm Church Staff Meeting
- 5:45 pm Girl Scout Troop 1702

Tuesday, January 9

- 10:00 am Women on Mission, Group 2

Wednesday, January 10

- 3:00 pm CWJC Board Meeting
- 5:00 pm Children's Music & Missions
- 6:00 pm Bible Study, FH
- 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir
- 8:00 pm Vocal Ensemble

Thursday, January 11

- 12:00 n JOY Fellowship

Friday, January 12

- 9:00 am CWJC

Sunday, January 14

- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship
- 5:00 pm Chair Music Ensemble

Monday, January 15

- 2:00 pm Church Staff Meeting
- 5:45 pm Girl Scout Troop 1702
- 7:00 pm Building & Grounds Committee

Tuesday, January 16

- 7:00 pm Deacons' Meeting

Wednesday, January 17

- 12:00 n Ahoskie Woman's Club, FH
- 5:00 pm Children's Music & Missions
- 6:00 pm Bible Study, FH
- 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir
- 8:00 pm Vocal Ensemble

Friday, January 19

- 9:00 am CWJC

WCBA WMU Project Military Bible Stick Ministry

Donations for the Military Bible Stick Project are due January 15. The digital player, no larger than a pack of gum, is pre-loaded with the New Testament and Psalms, and can go with our Troops in the most difficult circumstances. It represents hope for our heroes! Donations should be sent to Myra Northcott, 153 Blowe Rd, Ahoskie.

Christian Women's Job Corps Has Need Of The Following

- Clothes: Casual & Dress
- Pocketbooks
- Shoes
- Sets of Dishes
- Flatware/Utensils
- Any Household Items



As you clean out closets, storage areas, etc., please remember that someone else is in need of your unwanted or unneeded items

Thanks for your help with this ministry. Contact Pat Byrd, CWJC Director, for more information.

Stewardship Statement

December 24 , 2017

Weekly Need	\$	8,778.00
Weekly Offering	\$	14,673.25
Difference	\$	5,895.25
YTD Needs	\$	456,456.00
YTD Offerings	\$	429,559.93
YTD Difference	\$	-26,896.07
YTD Global Missions Offering	\$	5,332.05

Thank you for your generous gifts!

Stewardship Statement

December 31 , 2017

Weekly Need	\$	8,778.00
Weekly Offering	\$	5,114.80
Difference	\$	-3,663.20
YTD Needs	\$	465,234.00
YTD Offerings	\$	434,674.73
YTD Difference	\$	-30,559.27
YTD Global Missions Offering	\$	5,432.05

Thank you for your generous gifts!

SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Week of January 7-13

Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam, 398-7321

Deacons on Call

Pat Byrd, 332-4122

Scott Outlaw, 287-6721

Sunday School at Creekside—January 7

Bess Leary

Extended Session—January 7

Birth-Age 2: Noreen Hannon, Brian and
Victoria Outlaw & Tiffany Warren

Ages 3-5: Landis Chamblee &
Elizabeth Davis

Ushers—January 7

Kay Byrd, Jane Marie Hollingsworth, Alan
Myers, Pate Pierce, Lane Slachta, Justice Zoch;
Balcony— Camille Pierce & Dawson Rose

Sound System —January 7

James Early

Floral Offering—January 7

Walt & Mary Page Pierce

Home Delivered Meals—January 9

Rosa & Edgar Swain

Food Pantry—January 12

St. John Baptist Church—Kathy Maxham,
Carolyn Harrell, Kay Edwards

Week of January 14-20

Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061

Deacons on Call

James Early, 395-2163

Lee Wilson, 332-4563

Extended Session—January 14

Birth-Age 2: Jean Parker, Debbie Rawls,
& Lou Riddick

Ages 3-5: Jessica Britton & Anna Dawson

Ushers—January 14

Lee Byrum, Debbie Greene, Bill Magette,
Fletcher Pierce, Chloe Rose, Reagan Zoch;
Balcony— Andy Woodard & Larry Freeman

Sound System —January 14

Henry Daniels

Floral Offering—January 14

Carroll & Anita Thompson

Home Delivered Meals—January 15

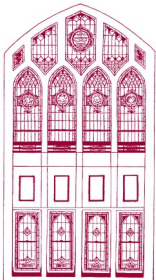
Closed—MLK Jr. Holiday

Food Pantry—January 19

Vicky Overman & Melanie Byrum

Thank You

. . . notes have been received from Wallace
McKeel, and Chowan University. They may be
viewed on the bulletin board outside the church
office.



The Window

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Main and West Streets
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Office Hours:

8:00 am -5:00 pm Monday-Thursday
Office Closed on Friday

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