

NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)
APRIL 1, 2018

PRAYER REQUESTS: Cindy Whaley, Anna Weekley, Diane Warren, Sandy Gullickson, Elizabeth Mathers, Mildred Ellis, Michael Jones, Maria Keitzas, Lisa Walmeier, JoAnn Clark & Family, Anna Moorer & Family, Richard O’Krosky, Allene W. Riley, Lynne, Eunice & Family, those seeking employment, our Church as we transition, our public safety services, military services and our country’s leaders.

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR: Linda & Ed Baria, Jewel Jones, Neal Mitchell, Wanda Doleshall, Kenneth & Joanna Chatto, Sabrina, Ray Cook, John Roth, Millie Clarke & Family, Connie Santee, Eliza Husser Cave, Bill Carroll, Debbie Jump, Chuck & Ida Bassi, Connie Moomjy, Clara Benfield, Sally Clayton.

From the Pastor

Worship last Sunday was special to me because of several things. First, while there were many of our own absent for a variety of reasons, we still had good attendance with some visitors present. Secondly, it was Palm Sunday and worship centered on the beginning of Holy Week and Jesus’ resolute march to the cross.

Then, Buzzy made the announcement that I will be taking a “sabbatical,” or leave of absence for three months to go to Boston to seek treatment for my pulmonary fibrosis that I have been fighting for more than three and a half years. I won’t bore you with the details, but the prognosis is always terminal at about five years of progression. I was prepared to leave permanently so the church could move on, but Buzzy suggested the sabbatical and I jumped at the idea. At any rate, I will be going to my daughter’s home to stay while I seek treatment at the Massachusetts General Hospital’s pulmonary lab. They have one of the best pulmonary departments in the world and I hope to find treatment that will delay the progression of the disorder for beyond the five years.

I feel the need to apologize for the service going near the hour and a half mark, but your response following the service was more than I could ask for. You are the kindest and most loving people I have the privilege of serving in all my ministry, I love our little church more than I have any other I have served, and I have served some really great churches.

Your prayers for me and my family have made a great difference in my life and have made me a better pastor. Thank you. We are, in every way, family.

I will be going back to see my sister next Monday. She has been put on hospice and is not taking anymore chemo and radiation. I project that I will be there for about a week or more, depending on how her cancer progresses.

The exact date of my departure for Boston will be sometime in May. I will coordinate it with the leadership of the church.

Please be present for the Good Friday service at 6:00, and then for the Easter Sunday celebration of our Lord's resurrection!

Pastor Keith

TRASH & TREASURES BOUTIQUE

Our March sale netted \$82.10. Our next sale will be Saturday, April 21st from 9am-2pm. We are in need of volunteers to help with the sale. Please see Susan or Judee Mitchell if you are interested in helping us. Donations are still being accepted in classroom 3. If you leave donations, please price them. There are price tags available in classroom 3.

EASTER CELEBRATION AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Please be aware of the following activities that will be occurring at our Church this year during the Holy Week of Easter.

We will begin our celebration on Palm Sunday, March 25th with our regular Sunday schedule of Sunday School and Worship Service. There will be a Good Friday Service on March 30th at 6 PM in our Sanctuary.

On Easter Sunday, April 1st, we will have our regular Sunday schedule of Sunday School and Worship Service. Please see the following two Newsletter items for additional information.

We hope you and your families will be able to join us during our Holy Week events. This is the most important time of the year for Christians as we remember and celebrate the sacrifice and joyful promise which Easter represents.

FLOWERS FOR THE CROSS ON EASTER SUNDAY

Following our Easter Sunday Worship Service, we will be decorating our outside cross with fresh flowers to celebrate Christ's resurrection. Everyone is asked to bring some fresh flowers which you can place on the cross. This has been an Easter tradition at FCC for several years. Containers with water will be located by each door where you can leave your flowers during the Worship Service. Some extra flowers will be on hand in case you forget yours. Thank you for your participation in this event. This is our way of sharing, for a brief time, our joy of the resurrection with the community.

EASTER OFFERING TO BE COLLECTED ON SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2018

During the Easter Worship Service, you will have the opportunity to give to the "Overflowing 2018 Easter Offering" of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This offering "is one of the many ways you share your response to God's generosity." This offering is used to support the ministries, whose work "overflows 'from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.'" These ministries include the following:

Disciples Women, Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries, National Benevolent Association, Council on Christian Unity, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Disciples Home Missions, Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation, Division of Overseas Ministries (Global Ministries), National Convocation and North American Pacific/Asian Disciples (NAPAD), Higher Education and Leadership Ministries and Communication Ministries. Specific information on any of these ministries can be found at: disciplesmissionfund.org on the 2018 Easter Offering page.

You can either use the special offering envelope that will be in your Easter bulletin or add extra to your regular check and designate in the Memo Section of the check the amount that is going to the special Easter Offering.

A VERY BIG “THANK YOU”

In case you have not noticed, the doors on the Classroom Building, the overhead garage door and adjoining door on the Disciple House have been recently painted. How wonderful everything looks as it was all really needed. The Congregation wants to thank the benefactors within our Congregation, who provided the financial support to have this project accomplished. THANK YOU!!

MAY CARRY IN – CHANGE OF DATE

The May Carry In will be held on the third Sunday of May, May 20th. This change is because Mother's Day falls on our regular second Sunday date. Please mark your calendars with this change.

OLDE ANTIOCH DAY – SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2018

The Annual Old Antioch Day will be held on Sunday, April 8th at 4 PM in Allendale, SC. Antioch Christian Church was organized in 1833 and was the second Christian Church (DOC) founded in South Carolina, with the first baptism taking place on February 24, 1838. Since the 1970's, a yearly special service has occurred at the site each year, on the Sunday following Easter. A dinner follows the service. If you are interest in more details, please contact Jim Mitchell.

DISCIPLE MENS' (DMF) DISTRICT 3 MEETING

The next District 3 DMF meeting will be April 19, 2018, at 7 PM at Central Christian Church, Augusta, GA. This meeting is a chance for the men of our Church to have an opportunity to meet other Disciple men from our area. Transportation is available through carpooling and a delicious meal is always enjoyed by those in attendance. Please contact Buzzy Cheadle for more information or to let him know you are planning to attend.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Easter Offering, Sunday April 1st
DWF Meeting, Thursday, April 5th at 10am in Fellowship Hall
Carry-In, Sunday, April 8th following the Worship Service
Olde Antioch Day, April 8th Allendale, SC at 4pm
Elders Meeting, Tuesday, April 10th at 5pm at the church
Board Meeting, April 10th at 6pm in Fellowship Hall
DMF Meeting, Saturday, April 14th at 8am in Fellowship Hall
DWF Tea, Saturday, April 14th 1-3 pm at the Mitchell's Home
DMF District 3 Meeting, Thursday April 19th at Central Christian Church in Augusta at 7pm
Trash & Treasures Boutique, Saturday, April 21st from 9am-2pm in Classroom 3
Crafting Group meets every Monday at 10am in Classroom 1
Choir Practice, Thursdays at 4 pm in Sanctuary
Tai Chi, Thursdays, beginners class 3pm and advanced class 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall

ACTS donation for the month of April is peanut butter.
Please leave your donations in the Church Office. Thank you for your support!