



NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

April 1, 2019

PLEASE PRAY FOR: *The Wilsons, Judy Penzien, Shan and Christian Boening, Karen Farricker, Angelika Baxter, Arline and Lois Hale, Ralph and Nancy Hale, Keisha Bery Owens, Martha Albritton, Roy Walden, DeMorris Gbadebo, those impacted by flooding, Christchurch New Zealand, children and staff of Helping Hand and those affected by violence.*

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR:

Clara Benfield, Jewel Jones, Dan McElvoy, Sally Clayton, Hal Guyon, Linda Cheadle, Pastor Juan Rodriquez, our Regional Church, Francisco Catlan, Pastor Keith Weekley, Chuck & Ida Bassi, Eliza Husser Cave, Millie Clarke, Selma Devich, Dr. Walter Allen, Neal Mitchell, Pam Owen, Anna Weekley, Connie Santee, Wanda Doleshall, Kenneth & Joanna Chatto, Sabrina, Connie Moomjy, those in public service, military service and for our Country.



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR IRENE

I purposefully waited to write this for the April newsletter until after yesterday's Installation service and reception so that I could express my gratitude. My heart is so full! I foolishly had thought that since I've been here pretty much since last June, and had been interim since September, that not much would be different. I was so very wrong! The closer yesterday came, the more I realized how special it was for me, for my family, and for the church. And the service was perfect! Having our Interim Regional Minister here for the installation, and to preach for us, was very meaningful. Having Louie Crouch, Jr., son of our very first pastor, and a charter member himself, come be part of the service – at 93 years old, was a blessing. Having all of my immediate family here – my adult children, their significant others, Joey, and my four grandchildren, meant the world to me! Having everyone there, either in person or in spirit, was simply amazing! And having my husband, Ed, move his membership to this church (and back to the DOC) at the end of the service was the icing on the cake! As I said yesterday, I am delighted to be your called Pastor – and I look forward to continuing to walk together with you as we all continue to grow in being a Disciple of Christ – individually and as a congregation! Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

I hope your Lenten journey has been meaningful for you, and that you will be present for our special services as we end Lent and celebrate the resurrection. We will have a Good Friday service at 6:30 pm and then will be having a Garden Easter morning service at 8:00 am in the beautiful outdoor space outside of the fellowship hall. In case you haven't noticed lately, we are fortunate to have a wonderful yard – and what a perfect place to gather earlier than usual on Easter morn to celebrate the Risen Christ! (If it rains, we will move the garden service into the fellowship hall). We will also have our regular 11am service that day.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!



RAYMOND ALBERT COOK, SR.
June 1, 1921 – March 7, 2019

We are deeply saddened by the passing of our brother in Christ and friend Ray Cook. Anyone who has ever been associated with First Christian Church, knew Ray for the wonderful and influential life he lived. He touched so many people because of his strong faith and shining example as a gentleman. He will not only be missed by his family but also by all who had the privilege of knowing him. Our Church is grateful for all that Ray did for us for many years.

EASTER OFFERING
SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019

The Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, uses “a Common Funding System which enables congregations to channel resources through one system to be shared across the life of the Church.” The common fund is known as the Disciples Mission Fund. Disciples Mission Fund Special Day Offerings “allow Disciples to give with special intention 6 times during the year. Congregations or individuals provide these over-and-above gifts in support of designated ministries.” Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Special Mission Funds of Week of Compassion and Reconciliation Ministry are the six times during the year.

On Palm Sunday (April 14th), you will have the opportunity to contribute to the Easter Special Day Offering. This money is used to support the General Ministries of the Christian Church. Included are:

- *Center for Faith and Giving, *Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries, *Communication Ministries, *Council on Christian Unity,
- *Disciples of Christ Historical Society, *Disciples Home Missions,
- *Disciples Women, *Division of Overseas Ministries (Global Ministries),
- *Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, *Hope Partnership for

Missional Transformation, *National Benevolent Association,
*National Convocation, & *North American Pacific/Asian Disciples

Thank you for your consideration of participating in this offering.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2019

FLOWERS FOR OUR CROSS

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. Thank you for your participation in this event.

The Dogwood Tree and Easter

-by Bryan Riley

Each spring I am fascinated the beauty and association of the Dogwood tree with Easter. As I reviewed the formal description and meaning of the "Dogwood" tree, the author of the on-line article elected to associate the words "*legend has it*" with this tree. I prefer to associate the word "*symbolic*" with the dogwood tree. Given my upbringing and vantage point, the symbolic meaning of a dogwood tree is inherently linked to Christianity. At an early age, my family shared that the wood of the dogwood tree is an extremely hardwood and thus it was selected to be cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified. As we actively and attentively look and listen, God is constantly speaking and showing his love, power, and majesty to us through all he has made (i.e., nature). Additionally, it was pointed out to me as a youth, if you examine the edges of the dogwood flowers, nature shows us (i.e., symbolizes) the nail prints and blood stains of Jesus Christ having been nailed to the cross. A dogwood flower is shown in Figure 1. As Christians, we celebrate Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, three days after he was executed by crucifixion where dogwood tree wood was used. As we drive onto the grounds of First Christian Church Aiken, we are blessed to have this 5 five dogwood trees on the grounds. Now that is symbolism!



Figure 1. A Dogwood Flower

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

The Riley's zip code should be 29804

Longer and Chain's street name should be Albion Loop, North

If there are any other corrections please let the office know.

OFFICE HOURS

The office hours for the church have recently changed. There is someone in the office on Monday from 8:00 AM to Noon, and on Thursday from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Board Packets are sent the Thursday prior to the meeting, new agenda items should be emailed or in the office by Thursday morning.

The Newsletter is sent on nearest working day to the first of the month. Items may be submitted at any time prior to that day. Photos and event information are welcomed.

A WORD OF THANKS

It is always a joy to notice that something new or something repaired has appeared at First Christian Church. Such was the case when new visitor and handicap signs appeared at the front of the Church. Also, new flower plantings were found at the front of the Church also. Someone was observed cleaning the Sanctuary Carpet following the Lenten Service. The Nursery was cleaned, a closet in the Disciple House was also straightened and the kitchen pantry became more spacious. There may be more things which have not been noticed but for all of those mentioned and those not noticed, a very large THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, ENERGY AND WILLINGNESS.

Thank you to Paul Wilson and all those who help make the St. Patricks day festivities happen.

Thank you to Frances Finfrock, Lisa Wahlmeier, Buzzy Cheadle, Millie Clarke, Caroline Hale and all those who helped with the reception and clean up following the Service of Installation.

Thank you to Paul Owen and Buzzy Cheadle for keeping the church functioning and in good order.

OLDE ANTIOCH DAYS

Olde Antioch Days has been canceled this year.

ACTS DONATION for the month of April is Canned Vegetables.

Please leave your donations in the Church Office. Thank you for your support!

THIS MONTH IN SERVICE

Deacons are Dr. Robin Brooks and Paul Owen

Elders are Ida Bassi and Buzzy Cheadle

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 4 DWF 10:00 AM Fellowship Hall

April 9 Board Meeting 6:00 PM Fellowship Hall

April 13 DMF 8:00 AM Fellowship Hall

April 14 Palm Sunday

Carry-In, following Worship Service

Easter Offering for General Ministries

April 16 Trash & Treasures Sale, 9:00 AM Classroom 3

April 19 Good Friday Service 6:30 PM

April 21 Easter Sunday

Special Early Morning Service 8:00 AM in the garden

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Mondays: Crafting, 12:30 to 1:30 in the Library

Thursday: Tai Chi Beginning 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Choir Practice 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Sunday: Sunday School 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Worship Service: 11:00 in the Sanctuary

CONTACT US:

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