



## **NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)**

**April 1, 2020**

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

*The Family of Greg Calhoun, The Family of Stephanie Hopper, The Family of Miriam Van Buren, Amy Whaley, Pia Infante, Maria, Natalie Irvy, Kenly McKoy, Ernie and Allison Sizemore, Barbara McKinght, Dawn Them, Paula Entwistle, Michael Green, Bora Bush, , Pia Ullmann, Ray Sanders, June Wilson, Jensen Boullé', Carol Kettel, Susan Kantor, Greg Calhoun, DeMorris, the President for God's wisdom to make good decisions, for the US, the world, and all victims of the coronavirus.*

### **CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR:**

*Sally Clayton, Chuck & Ida Bassi, Dan McElvoy, Wanda Doleshall, Eliza Husser Cave, Susan Poster Ullmann, Linda Cheadle, Selma Devich, Millie Clarke, Robin Brooks, Connie Moomjy, our Regional Church, Dr. Walter Allen, Neal Mitchell, Pam Owen, Connie Santee, Kenneth & Joanna Chatto, Sabrina, those in public service, military service and for our Country.*

### **MESSAGE FROM PASTOR IRENE**

Like you, I have never experienced so much change in the world as I knew it as I have experienced since our last Newsletter went out just a short, yet very long, month ago. We are all learning new ways of doing things, and I pray that each of you are staying safe and taking care of yourself. If you need assistance with getting supplies or food, please let me or one of the Elder's know. Also, please stay in touch with each other and with me, and join in the worship services as often as you can. Sunday School and Worship are both available via telephone conference call numbers (see below) and worship is also available in video form - either as a live feed or as a recorded video for later viewing. All instructions are included in this newsletter. If you have trouble connecting, please let me know. And remember, "God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1).

## **Directions for accessing worship opportunities:**

- For people with internet connection on their computer / tablet or phone, there are two different options: watching it ‘live’ as it happens or watching it later as a recorded video:
  - Live streaming of the 11am worship service:
    - If you use Facebook, please “like” our church facebook page and you will be notified when the live feed is about to begin.
    - If you do not use Facebook, please follow these step by step instructions:
      - Open your internet browser
      - Type in the following address in the search bar:  
<https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianChurchAiken/>
      - When that page comes up, click the “x” at the box that pops up asking you to log in or create an account. **NO** account or sign-in is necessary to access the church page.
      - Once you have closed the sign-in box, it will disappear and the regular Facebook page will be visible. The live video will show and at the appropriate time, click the arrow to begin watching/listening.
  - Later viewing of the worship service video
    - If you are unable to watch at 11, you can watch it later by following the same instructions under “ii” above, and click on ‘videos’.
    - Scott will also add a link to the recorded video in the usual “Recent Sermon” section of the church website ([www.firstchristian-aiken.org](http://www.firstchristian-aiken.org)) and you can click it to watch at your convenience.
- For people without internet – the worship service will be repeated at 12:15 via Conference Call. For those of you using the conference call approach for Sunday School, the only difference is the telephone number.
  - To access the conference call, dial 1-623-600-3766 at 12:15 Sunday. When prompted, enter the code 935647 to be joined with the conference call. (this should be a free call on most cell-phone plans – if the phone call is a long distance call for you, please let me know)
    - Please do not call in early for this call – I will begin the call promptly at 12:15 and will wait to begin the service until everyone has had a time to check in.



## **Communion Kit Refills**

We have gotten a good response from many of you about the Communion Kits. As you know, they only came filled with two week's worth. However now that the President has extended the social distancing restrictions to the end of April, we will be making up refill packets to include communion supplies for four weeks. If you do not want to receive a communion packet refill, please let me know by email ([pastorirenefcca@gmail.com](mailto:pastorirenefcca@gmail.com)) or by telephone (803-394-6282) by this Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**If you DO want refills, you have two options:**

1. Pick-up Service: Communion refill kits will be available this Sunday afternoon, April 5<sup>th</sup>, between 1pm – 3pm. I will be in the parking lot at the church for your convenience in driving by and picking up your packet. You will not need to get out of your vehicle. It will be good to see you at a safe distance and also get your worship supplies to you.
2. Delivery Service: If you cannot make it to the church during that time, please let me know by Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, and we can arrange porch delivery like we did the first time.

## **LENT STUDY SERIES**

The Lenten Bible series will conclude this Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm via a Zoom video conference group meeting. All attendees to the previous sessions will receive an email with the Zoom sign on information included as a link.



### **FLOWERS FOR OUR CROSS**

Normally after the Easter Worship Service, we decorate our outside cross with fresh flowers, to celebrate Christ's resurrection. This year we are limiting contact, so a flower display will be added to the cross for us.

### **DURING THIS TIME**

We are making some changes to how things are done during this time. Prayer requests may be emailed to the church at any time. Those received by Monday will be added to the Sunday bulletin, the rest will be added the following week, but may be mentioned during the service or via emailed bulletins. The extended delay is for those who receive the bulletin via mail.

Offerings may be sent directly to Caroline our financial secretary. That will save her a trip to the church office. Her address is in the directory.

Many services and some meetings will be available for those with computer access. We have a new facebook page where services are live streamed. Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter will all be live streamed at the times they were originally planned. The Carry In is canceled.

Those without computer access can receive Communion by phone using the conference call system. See the article above.

The Sunday Service conference call takes place at 12:15, the facebook worship services are at the regularly scheduled times.

Sunday School is being offered via conference call. The number may change, contact the church office via email if you would like to be added.

## **FACEBOOK**

Pastor Irene's second live stream was only viewed by 10 people during the broadcast, however by Monday afternoon more than 100 had viewed it, and more than 190 received the post.



### **Holy Week Worship**

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday Service

Facebook 11:00 am

Conference call 12:15 pm

Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday Communion Service Facebook 6:00 pm

Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday Noon Service

Conference call 12:15 pm

Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – Easter Garden Service

Facebook 8:00 am

Easter Service

Facebook 11:00 am

Conference call 12:15 pm

## **OLD FASHIONED SUNDAY SCHOOL VIA MODERN TECHNOLOGY:**

### **H. Bryan Riley, Ph.D.**

Given Plato stated, "Necessity Is Literally the Mother of Invention" and Alexander Graham Bell is credited with inventing the first practical telephone in 1876, we blended these two concepts on Sunday, March 22nd. The result was a successful and virtual implementation of our First Christian Church Sunday School class. Specifically, we were able to provide a toll-free number and an access code that allowed multiple participants to join a moderated conference call. By 9:40 A.M. the conference call was underway, and it allowed for verbal interactions and exchanges in a seamless manner. As others was successful to join the conference call and we followed the normal format of an opening prayer, praise reports, prayer requests and then discussion of the lesson per the guidebook.

Turns out the Sunday School lesson was entitled "God Shepherds Us" and was based on Psalm 23 scriptures. Given what is normal for our class, we had a wonderful Sunday School discussion where several persons were sitting apart in the fellowship hall and others voiced their interpretation and personalization of Psalm 23 over telephone speaker. Collectively as a church family we did not allow any hinderances to the reading, studying, and sharing the bread of life (i.e., Gods Word) Thus, as Matthew 4:4 states, "But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God".

For me personally, this Sunday School lesson is an amazing testimony as to how God provided us with exactly what we need and when we need it. Psalm 23 is very appropriate to provide comfort and affirmation that God is our protector and provider even in these turbulent times of COVID19. The conference call which allowed for our Sunday morning discussions and sharing can only be characterized as a blessing. For that we are thankful and give thanks to Our Lord and Savior.

Note: Please excuse/forgive us for any oversights in not getting the dial-in number and access code to you on this past Sunday morning. We can only improve after this 1st experience and going forward.

## **WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING**

Because of your generous support for our Week of Compassion Offering, we collected \$467.76. I hope this represents many blessings you received prior to turning in your blessing boxes. THANK YOU and may you continue to receive many of God's blessings in your life.

## **DIRECTORY UPDATES**

Sally Clayton has a new room number;

**SPECIAL DAY OFFERING OF DISCIPLES MISSION FUND**  
**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2020**

“Special days in the life of the church often allow us to focus our worship, celebrations and fellowship around moments that are central to our faith. Disciples Mission Fund Special Day Offerings provide an opportunity to highlight specific ministries as part of our faith celebrations. ... The Easter Offering supports General Ministries of the Church. General ministries serve across the United States and Canada, and around the world. General Ministries also partner in ministry with a variety of far reaching and unique organizations.” The General Ministries of the Christian Church (DOC) include the following:

Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries  
Christian Board of Publication/Chalice Press  
Christian Church Foundation  
Council on Christian Unity(dba) Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry  
Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF)  
Disciples Home Missions  
Disciples Women  
Disciples of Christ Historical Society  
Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries  
Higher Education and Leadership Ministries  
National Benevolent Association  
National Convocation  
North American Pacific/Asian Disciples  
Pension Fund

Please prayerfully consider your donation to this Easter Offering.

**WORD OF THANKS**

Judee and Pat for bringing the BBQ from Camp Christian  
April for making communion bread  
Paul for planning our events  
Bryan for setting up the Sunday School conference calls  
Scott for installing the new router and setting up the wifi booster

**ACTS DONATION** for the month of April is Canned Tuna or Salmon  
Please leave your donations in the Church Office. Thank you for your support!

**THIS MONTH IN SERVICE**

Our Deacons this month are Earnestine Goggins and San Cave Riley  
Our Elders are Jim Mitchell and Buzzy Cheadle

**Cancellations: until further notice**

Monday Crafting  
Thursday Choir  
DWF main meeting

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

April 4 canceled: DWF 10:00 am  
April 5 Palm Sunday: Facebook Live 11:00 pm  
Conference Call 12:15pm  
Lenten Study ZOOM 3:30 pm  
April 9 Maundy Thursday Service Facebook Live 6:00 pm  
April 10 Good Friday Service Conference call 12:00 pm  
April 11 canceled DMF 8:00 am  
April 12 Easter Garden Service Facebook Live 8:00 am  
Easter Morning Service: Facebook Live 11:00 am  
Communion by phone 12:15 pm  
canceled Carry-In  
April 14 pending: Board Meeting 6:00 pm  
April 18 pending: Trash & Treasures Sale 9:00 am Room 3  
May 2 pending: DWF 10:00 am

**CONTACT US:**

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**Church Office:** 803 648-4523