



NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

June 1, 2020

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Jess Williams, Melissa Reardon, Ray Sanders, Virginia Padgett, Royce Starks, Dr. Dara Cobb-Lewis our new Regional Minister, Louie Crouch, Char Elkins, George Goggans, Robin Brooks, Michael Green, Kathy Campbell, Rev Sotello and Dee Long, Kathy Campbell, Amy and Cindy Whaley, Ernie and Allison Sizemore, Carol Kettel,, for those impacted by the fires in Florida, for healthcare workers, for daily service workers, for those facing financial hardship for our political leaders, for the US, the world, and all victims of the corona virus.

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR:

Connie Moomjy, Selma Devich, Joann Caldwell, Sally Clayton, Chuck & Ida Bassi, Dan McElvoy, Wanda Doleshall, Eliza Husser Cave, Susan Poster Ullmann, Linda Cheadle, Millie Clarke, Robin Brooks, 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

As I mentioned in yesterday's services, we have worshiped "physically separate and spiritually connected" for ten weeks (11 if you count March 22, our first week using Facebook live). I have missed you more than I can express! Knowing how much church attendance means to each of you, I have also been very proud of you for staying home to help curb the spread of the Covid 19 virus. While the virus is still very active, we have taken steps to make our return to the sanctuary as safe as possible - provided everyone does their part! As we safely plan on resuming in-church worship next Sunday, I want to use my Newsletter space to give thanks to the ones who helped make these past ten weeks possible. As with any public thank you, there is always the risk that someone or something will be overlooked. If I have left something or someone out, please let me know.

I also want to thank each of you for participating in the various worship options and continuing to support the church financially - without you, there would be no church!!

With much gratitude, I offer special thanks:

For church maintenance:

Caroline Hale and Don Pruitt for changing the cloths on the cross, keeping it up to date through the changing stages of the Easter season

Elsie Smith and June Wilson for keeping the gardens and entry way beautiful

Buzzy Cheadle and Don Pruitt for their continued routine maintenance of the building

For on-site help with the weekly 11am Facebook live services:

Natalie Lawrence - for providing the beautiful music each week

Ed Albritton - for being the weekly Scripture reader

Buzzy Cheadle - for handling all microphones and sound equipment and for doing the Elder prayers for the table

Lisa Wahlmeier - for monitoring the streaming during the service and relaying prayer requests

Judee Mitchell - for her 5th Sunday liturgical dance on 5/31

For help with the weekly 12:15 teleconference worship services:

Eliza Husser-Cave and Jim Mitchell for doing the Elder prayers for the table

Pat Wilson, Millie Clarke, San Cave-Riley, Elsie Smith, Judee Mitchell, Caroline Hale and Ed Albritton - for reading the Scripture

For off-site help with all services:

Frances Finfrock - for keeping the bulletins and attachments (words to the hymns and Scripture) up to date and distributed in a timely manner and for helping maintain the church Facebook page

Caroline Hale - for collecting all offerings via mail or drop off and keeping them deposited in a timely manner

Scott Finfrock - for reposting the Facebook live video to the church website each week

April Virge - for keeping the communion bread supply well stocked

PENTACOST SUNDAY OFFERING, JUNE 7 2020

DISCIPLES MISSION FUND SPECIAL OFFERING

“Planting churches can help change the world”

Planting a church can make a huge and lasting impression in the community “by empowering the oppressed, praying for the disenfranchised, caring for the poor and promoting hope in a fragmented world, the church can literally help change the world.”

On Sunday June 7th, you will have the opportunity to give to the Pentacost Offering. Each year, half of the Pentecost Offering is designated to the local Christian Disciples Region/Area in an effort to start and sustain new churches. The other half is used by Hope Partnership to support the recruitment, assessment, training and coaching of new church leaders at events like Leadership Academy.

“Our church planters remain committed to answer God's call...to serve their neighbors, spread the gospel, and make more disciples.”

Your help is needed for the new church movement to continue to “take root, bear fruit...and grow more Disciples everyday.”



OUTDOOR VESPER SERVICE

We will be holding an outdoor Vesper service on the last Thursday of the month. Start time is 6:00 pm. Please bring your own chair, and face mask if you have them. If not they will be provided.

OPEN SERVICES

The church will be open for attendance beginning on June 7th. We ask that those who attend sanitize their hands on entry, wear a mask, and practice social distancing.

Communion and offering plates will not be passed. A basket for offerings will be at the entry. Communion kits will be provided.

COMMUNION KIT REFILLS

Communion Refill kits are available from 1-2 on the last Sunday of the month. They will also be available during the Vesper services at 6:00 pm on the last Thursday of the month.

ACTS IS STILL ACTIVE

Currently ACTS is providing **Food, Medical and Utility Assistance** Monday through Friday between the hours of 11 am to 3 pm. Anyone in need may call our Client Services line at 803-642-5919 for assistance.

- A week's worth of supplemental food is provided to families based on the number of family members in the household.
- Individuals who have prescription or other medical needs, may qualify for **ACTS medical Assistance.**
- Individuals who need help paying for their utilities may qualify for the **ACTS Utility Assistance Program.**

ACTS Senior Food Program

If you know someone who is 60 years of age or older, lives in Aiken County and could benefit from a week's worth of supplemental food, please refer them to the ACTS Senior Food Program. Call the ACTS Client Services line at 803-642-5919 for assistance or come to the ACTS Senior Food Program held at 340 Park Avenue SW, Aiken the 3rd Saturday of each month to enroll.

Anyone interested in participating will need to bring a South Carolina photo ID and complete some paperwork.

It is hard to grasp the long-term effects of COVID-19, but ACTS remains dedicated to serving our community during these difficult times.

Please continue to pray for our clients, volunteers and staff and thank you for your willingness to serve those less fortunate.

Suzanne K. Jackson
Executive Director ACTS

WORD OF THANKS

On behalf of the Congregation of First Christian Church, a **BIG THANK YOU** is extended to Pastor Irene and Frances Finfrock. During our “stay at home” time, both have worked diligently to help us maintain a strong connection

to our worship experience. With the help of some of our members, we have been able to continue weekly Sunday School and worship services. To both ladies, please know how much your efforts have been appreciate.

PS: Buzzy Cheadle and Lisa Wahlmeier also deserve a **BIG THANK YOU** for their help in making sure the Facebook broadcast were successful. Their efforts and knowledge are also greatly appreciated.

PSS: And a **BIG THANK YOU** for Natalie's beautiful music.

ACTS DONATION for the month of June is Rice.

CANCELLATIONS:

Until further notice the following are canceled:

Monday Crafting
Thursday Choir
DMF main meeting
Carry In

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 6	DWF 11:00 am
June 7	canceled: Elder meeting
June 9	Board Meeting 6:00 pm phone conference
June 13	pending DMF 8:00 am
June 14	canceled: Carry In
June 20	pending Trash & Treasures Sale 9:00 am Room 3
June 25	Vesper Service 6:00 PM Garden

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Meet Our New Regional Pastor

Rev. Dr. Dara Cobb Lewis



Rev. Dr. Dara Cobb Lewis is the daughter of Revs. Joseph and Susie Cobb. At age 15, she moved to Columbia, SC when her parents answered a call from God to begin a church in Columbia, SC. That same year, Rev. Dr. Cobb Lewis received a call from God to ministry. During this time, she served as president of the Christian Youth Fellowship of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina. She later served as co-advisor for the Christian Youth Fellowship. She graduated from the University of South Carolina where she received a Bachelor's of Arts degree in History. Five years after college while working as a Bodily Injury Claims Adjuster for Allstate Insurance Company, she finally answered her call to ministry.

Rev. Dr. Cobb Lewis received a Master of Divinity Degree from Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky, where she served as president of the Pan-African Caucus. She also served on The Council of Theological Students of the Common Global Ministries Board. She served as a police chaplain intern for the New Orleans Police Department in New Orleans, Louisiana. She was selected to do a Special Project through Reconciliation Ministries of the Disciples of Christ. Through this Special Project, she served as Assistant Minister of University Christian Church in Hyattsville, Maryland working to help the multiracial congregation deal with issues around racial unity.

Rev. Dr. Cobb Lewis was ordained in June 2003. At that time she was commissioned a missionary to Botswana in Southern Africa. In addition, she has participated in short-term mission trips to South Africa, Haiti, Kenya, and Jamaica. She has also led mission trips to several different states in the U. S.

By God's grace, Rev. Cobb Lewis has pastored or served as associate pastor at several congregations in North Carolina and Missouri. In addition to leading worship, she also created, organized, and led opportunities for children, youth and adults to grow in their understanding of the Christian faith; identified and organized mission and outreach opportunities to help meet the needs of our community; led retreats; and found creative ways to attract people to the Christian faith and congregational life.

Rev. Dr. Cobb Lewis has served on many community and religious boards over the last 15 years. Currently she serves on the Global Ministry board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ where she helps decide on global personnel to serve overseas. She also serves on the board of Christmount in Black Mountain, NC helping to envision and plan for transformative ministry for the camp, conference and retreat center. Rev. Dr. Cobb Lewis also serves on the leadership team of Bethany Fellows, an organization which helps young clergy persons learn best practices for their spiritual and ministerial well-being.

Currently Rev. Dr. Dara Cobb Lewis, who received her Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling degree from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, serves as a pastoral counselor and spiritual director based in Mt. Holly, NC. Through her ministry, The Devoted Life, she finds great joy in helping others find shalom (the peace and wholeness that God has in store for each of us). As a North Carolina Certified Practicing Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Dr. Cobb Lewis serves clients by taking an integrative approach using the behavioral sciences combined with spirituality, theology and the person's religious experience to work towards health and wholeness. Also through serving as a spiritual director, she participates in an ancient practice of accompanying another on his or her quest to a deeper relationship with God. This involves holy listening, often quietness, sometimes laughter, other times tears and an opportunity to grow and deepen one's spiritual life and attunement to God.

Rev. Dr. Cobb Lewis is married to Michael Lewis. Together they have 5 children.