



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

**May 3, 2022**

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

*Pastor Irene, Family of Cliff Byrd, Family of Joanne Altimas Cadotte, City of Cayce and the Family of Officer Drew Barr, Family of Senator Orrin Hatch, Paula Jones, Ida Bassi, Elsie Smith, Kimberly, Bonnie, Janet Morris, Piza and Murray Steller, Joyce, Matt Chane, Dorothea Moyd, Ella Shakibatabar, Chuck Spearman, Alyssa McDonal, Louann McDonal Austin and Sharon Moede, Karen Porter, the City of Augusta, the City of Aiken and for the Ukraine.*

### **CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR:**

*Wanda Doleshall, Elsie Smith, Millie Clarke, Paul & Pam Owen, Sue Ellis, Eliza Husser Cave, Dan McAvoy, Kenneth Chatto, Linda Cheadle, Susan Poster Ullmann, Martha Albritton, Carol Kettel, Connie Moomjy, Robin Brooks, Sabrina, Dr. Walter Allen, Connie Santee, our Regional Church, those in public service, military service for our Country and all victims of the corona virus.*

### **A Letter from Pastor Irene: “Miracle Dependent Leukemia”**

When I was diagnosed with leukemia in December, I was told it was called “treatment resistant leukemia” due to the severity and progression of my type of cancer. My medical crisis also became a faith crisis as I faced death in ways I had never done before. After much prayer and Bible study and reflective thought as I walked the halls of the hospital during Christmas week taking in purple chemo that I named “Advent Chemo”, I changed the name and told my doctor and others that I preferred the more accurate term of “miracle dependent leukemia.” At that point, rather than focusing on what would be difficult or even unlikely to happen medically, I started focusing on what would be possible when miracles were prayed for, expected and experienced. I was joined in this journey with a praying, believing church, family and friends whose support has never wavered. And we have seen and experienced the miracles, one after the other. I made it through the 30 day “induction” treatment phase with minimal side effects and was able to stay connected with you through phone, email and Facebook. I was also able to return to worship sooner than expected – and reach remission that allowed me to stay active and serving as your pastor with such joy and gratitude. The miracles continue as I have been accepted as a candidate for a bone marrow transplant (also known as stem cell transplant) through Hollings Cancer Center at MUSC in Charleston. We had originally targeted early June as the goal, but God’s timing is different as another miracle occurred when I had four 10/10 matches in the national/international donor registry. (OVER)

The Transplant team, led by Dr. Kimberly Greene and my transplant coordinator, Melinda Cone, worked with the potential donors to find a 16/16 match in the US! He is a healthy 32 year old man and is scheduled to donate his cells on May 23. I am scheduled to enter the hospital on May 18<sup>th</sup> for a week of “conditioning” chemo and radiation to prepare my body for the transplant, and then scheduled to receive the transplant of fresh cells (more miracles) on May 25<sup>th</sup>. They call the day of the transplant “Day Zero”, and is considered the patients “rebirth” day. Even though I had hoped to be with you in person until the end of May, this will just mean I can come back sooner! The transplant and recovery is a critical and long process, and I will need to stay in Charleston for the first 100 days after transplant. Another miracle is that we have found an apartment four blocks from the hospital – so when I get discharged later in June, I will have a welcoming place to continue my recovery and healing. The miracles are all around me in this journey, and I am so grateful for each of you and your prayers, your support and your love!! I truly believe that I would not be as calm, peaceful and hopeful about this process if you were not on this journey with me. Please never underestimate the power you have in the lives of all you pray for, and who you support through your many acts of kindness. I am also appreciative for the Board for granting me a leave of absence that allows me to go into this path with the solid hope and expectation of returning to you in person and in service as soon as medically possible.

I mention Dr. Greene and Melinda by name so that you can also pray for them by name. Last Friday afternoon when I talked with Dr. Greene by phone expressing to her what a miracle it was to be in remission and talking to her about transplant with such an excellently matched donor, she said “I am so glad you understand that! I don’t get to have this conversation with very many of my patients with your disease.” Thanks be to God for bringing us this far, and with prayers for the transplant team and the God-given talents and knowledge they have acquired, prayers of gratitude and health for the donor, and prayers with the expectation that “miracle dependent” body will receive the transplant, engraft his cells into my bone marrow and experience more sustaining remission and/or even cure, it will be a great day when I come back to worship with you in person!!

A thank you to Natalie: Serving as your pastor with Natalie as the “co-pastor” is such a joy and her personality, musical talent, compassion, and spiritual depth spill over onto me and make me better as what I do. We have been so blessed to have her ministry over these years – she is one of a kind! My heart is broken as I think of missing her music and her looks of support during the service, and I also pray for her as she follows God’s direction in her own life – even though it takes her away from us.

A thank you to Natalie, San, Lisa, Frances and Judee; the music during Lent was so powerful and enriched our services so much! Thank you for your commitment, your times of rehearsal and for leading us in worship through your gifts of music!



**DISCIPLE MISSION FUND EASTER OFFERING  
AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Our Easter Offering in April, totaled \$404.00. To all those who participated in this offering, we thank you and want you to know it was greatly appreciated.

**DWF**

April- Boys and Girl's Club

May- Annual Ladies Tea, May 7<sup>th</sup> 2 to 4 pm and Christ Central

June- Fathers' Day gifts and Dessert Auction

(\$ from Auction goes to Habitat for Humanity)

**VIDEOS**

For those of you with computer access Cheryl Ruggles of the North Augusta Service Network sent out these links on hurricane preparedness created by another church. They are surprisingly good.

Week 1: Hurricane Prep - <https://youtu.be/rOn5qikO2dY>

Week 2: Grab and Go – [https://youtu.be/gG\\_2Lmx4Psk](https://youtu.be/gG_2Lmx4Psk)

Week 3: 72 Hour kits – <https://youtu.be/ZWM5QTqe18c>

Week 4: Water Storage – <https://youtu.be/rhUdGwEKt2o>

Week 5: Surviving without Power - <https://youtu.be/Cz9Edbe1UIE>

## **WORD OF THANKS**

To Don and Caroline for putting up the cross fabric for Easter and Black Friday.  
To the Worship Committee for Decorating the Sanctuary  
To all those who brought flowers for the Cross

**OUR ACTS DONATION FOR May is:** Canned Vegetables

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

May 7	DWF	11:00 am Fellowship
	DWF Tea	2:00 pm Fellowship
May 10	Board Meeting	6:00 pm Fellowship
May 21	Trash and Treasure	9:00 am Classroom 3
May 22	Carry In	12:00 Fellowship
May 29	Graduate Bible Presentation	11:00 am Sanctuary

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