



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
May Newsletter

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NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)
May 1, 2023

Pastor's Note

As humans, we are creatures of habit. We like things to be a certain way - usually whatever way makes us feel most comfortable! Because of that, it is a natural part of life to be resistant to change - especially at first. Yet, the world in which we live in is changing all around us, which requires churches to make changes in how they do things. Things that we've never done before, like lock doors! In order to protect the safety of the church, the Board has decided to lock the Fellowship Hall door when worship service begins. This prevents anyone from entering during the service without our knowledge. It also means if anyone comes after 11, they will need to enter by the front door, which will remain unlocked. Thank you for your understanding and support of this change as we all adjust to something that falls into the "we've never done it that way before" category. Thank you for being part of our church family!

Looking ahead for May: Save these dates

Tuesday, May 9th – Monthly Church Board Meeting / Fellowship Hall

May 12th & 13th - ACTS 15th Annual Fan Drive – ACTS needs your help with the 15th annual "Be an ACTS Fan" Fan Drive. The event is May 12th and 13th from 10 am to 6 pm.. The two-day event requires many volunteers, so please consider volunteering for a two-hour shift. We need at least ten volunteers per shift. Call Andrea Seigler at 803-649-3800 or email andrea@actsofaiken.org for more information and to sign-up.

Sunday, May 14th - Mother's Day

Friday, May 19th – Evening of Fellowship – begins at 6pm. Plan to have a fun evening with tasty food and fellowship. We will be playing Mexican Train. Carry-in sign-up sheet will be on the counter in the Fellowship Hall. See everyone at 6pm.

Saturday, May 20th – DWF Trash to Treasure

Sunday, May 21st – Pentecost Offering –explanation below**

WHY DO WE HAVE SIX DISCIPLE MISSION FUND OFFERINGS EACH YEAR?

You may have asked yourself this question. This is the explanation that is given by our domination, the Christian Church Disciples of Christ.

“Disciples Mission Fund Special Day Offerings provide an opportunity to highlight specific ministries as part of our faith celebrations. There are four Disciples Mission Fund Special Day Offerings received each year during Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, and Christmas seasons. Congregations can receive these offerings during worship or budget for a special gift, and individuals can always designate their gift to DMF for any of these offerings.”

“Two other Special Mission Fund Offerings are received each year to support specific ministries doing critical work.” These two offerings are for the Week of Compassion and Reconciliation Ministry.

In summary, we have a total of six Disciple Mission Fund Offerings per year. If you have any questions, please let Caroline Hale know. Thank you.

DISCIPLE MISSION FUND EASTER OFFERING 2023

This year’s Easter Offering for the Christian Church Disciple Mission Fund totaled \$472.00. Thank you to all who participated in this offering.

DISCIPLE MISSION FUND PENTECOST OFFERING **SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023**

“The Pentecost Offering supports Disciples new church development. Planning, nurturing and sustaining new congregation is part of the Disciples’ vision. This offering supports the specialized ministry of new church development through both regional and general programs. Gifts for this offering are divided equally between the region in which they’re given and the New Church Ministry.”

Thank you for your consideration in supporting this Pentecost Offering.

Looking for additional ways to serve?

1. **The DWF** sponsored monthly Trash to Treasure sale is held on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Volunteers are appreciated to help staff the sale and/or to help keep Room 3 clean and ready with new donations. Please check with Ida or Judee on ways you are able to help out. The monthly sale proceeds go directly to support various local charities whose missions we support.
2. **ACTS** relies on volunteers to help them bring their mission to action. A current listing of volunteer needs can be found on their website www.actsofaiken.org by clicking the “Volunteer” link or call 803-649-3800.
3. **Walking Tall Ministries** serves the homeless population in the Gloverville area. They rely on volunteers to prepare food and lunch packs as well as other tasks. Their number is 803-226-6579 and their website is www.walkingtallministries.unaux.com.
4. **Walking Tall** supplies about 280 sandwiches a week through their meal distribution program. These sandwiches are provided by volunteers. We would like to host a “sandwich making party” at the church for anyone who would like a good time making sandwiches. At this point we are soliciting interest – if you’d like to participate, please let Irene or June know. Once we have determined level of interest, we can schedule the date and organize the experience.

DWF News

May 20 – Trash to Treasure

Creation of New Church Directory

The Church directory is still a work in progress. Hopefully, we will have an update in the near future.

Choir Practice Returns

You are invited to join the choir! If interested, please join Isaac and other singers for rehearsal Sunday after church in the Sanctuary.

Missions Opportunity

To make it easier to donate to **ACTS** and **Walking Tall Ministries**, we will be placing a basket for each ministry in the Sanctuary. These baskets will also be gentle reminders of our on-going commitment and connection to these two local ministries.

ACTs donation for May: Soup

Walking Tall donation for May: Vienna Sausages; chips/snacks; also an on-going need for 39 gallon trash bags



Happy Birthday to:

Pastor Irene Albritton - May 9

Vicki Benfield Rishel - May 13

Judy Ledford - May 28

Sue Williams - May 28

[Prepare now - Coming in July 2023](#)

**KINDOM
OF GOD
WITHIN US
AMONG US**

GENESIS 11:1-9 • LUKE 17:20-21 • 2 PETER 1:3

July 29 - August 1, 2023 - Louisville

General Assembly 2023: Save the Date Social Media Copy

Edited: May 25, 2022 Theme: Kindom of God: Within Us, Among Us Scripture(s): Genesis 11:1-9; Luke 17:20-21; Peter 1:3

Campaign Summary

The theme for the General Assembly of the Christian Church for July 2023 is based on Luke 17:20-21, Genesis 11:1-9 and 2 Peter 1:3. The focus of the theme is “Kindom of God within us, among us.” This theme is a call for Disciples to strengthen their relationship to God in both individual and communal ways through an expansive in person and digital gathering of the church in Louisville.

Coming in September - Mark your Calendars

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We are eagerly preparing for the 20th South Carolina Regional Conference of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to be held at Antioch Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ) Varnville, South Carolina. It will be hosted by Pastor Ricky Syndab and the Congregation The theme for this occasion, taken from John 17:21, exclaims "Lord Make us One"!

The opening session will convene on Thursday September 28th the closing session will occur on Saturday afternoon, September 30th ,2023 As you return home, all churches of the Region are asked to continue in worship, making sure to focus on the conference theme.

We solicit your prayers and support for the success of the 20th South Carolina Regional Conference. Your presence, prayers, and participation will help make this conference a time of spiritual revival, renewal, and a blessed experience for God's people. We look forward to seeing you and fellowshiping with you, in His name.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Family of Julia Dyer, the Family of Julie Summers, Marilyn Blanchard, Pitza and Murray Stellar, our graduates Isaac McNamee, Carlie Beth Wilson and Lucy Jones, those impacted by gun violence, for the Ukraine, those experiencing effects of tornadoes, winter storms and other natural disasters.

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR: *Bryan Malone, Paul & Pam Owen, Susan Poster Ullmann, Pastor Irene, Millie Clarke, Martha Albritton, Carol Kettel, Linda Cheadle, Tom and Connie Moomjy, Wanda & Jerry Doleshall, Robin Brooks, Sabrina, Eliza Husser Cave, Dr. Walter Allen, Elsie Smith, Connie Santee, Austin and Sharon Moede, Tatyana Yatsenko, Ella Shakibatabar our Regional Church, those in public service, military service and for our Country.*

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