



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
September Newsletter

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

Pastor's Note

Carrying On?

A common theme among churches is how to carry on now that the pandemic is behind us. This includes knowing that Covid, like the flu and common cold, will remain as forces to be dealt with in the living of church life. Is it back to business as usual, whatever usual used to be, or is it an opportunity to reassess traditions and revamp them, rename them, or say goodbye to them and carry on?

One of our traditions that is both beloved by many and dreaded by others is that of “*carry in*”, the sharing of a meal on the second Sunday of the month. I have always loved carry-in, and yet it also involves a lot of work – and many of our major worker-bees of carry in have either moved or are no longer able to help. And yet, as Jesus knew and modeled for us, the act of eating together is important for the community of faith just as it is for families, teams and other groups wanting to stay connected. So, what do we do? What do **YOU** want to do with carry-in? And, if you are one of the ones who would like to see it continue, what would **YOU** be willing to do to make it a reality?

The old way won't work – so if we do reestablish a regular sharing of a meal back into our church life, what would it look like? How often? What would we call it? Who would manage it? Who would be willing to take a plate to our home-bound members? In the past, the work of carry-in fell to the Deacons and Elders, but that eliminates people who working on a meal together might be their gift of time and talent without requiring them to be a Deacon or an Elder. Please call me, text me, email me or tell me in person what your thoughts are about having a regular time to share a meal together. If we have enough interest, we will form a dining committee to determine how to carry on.

Bible Readers for September

September 3 - Lynn Malone

September 10 - Paula Jones

September 17 - Laura Kraft

September 24 - Judee Mitchell

Save these dates in September:

Tuesday, September 12 - Board Meeting - 6pm

Saturday, September 16 - DWF Trash to Treasure - 9:00am to 1:00pm

Sunday, September 24 - Reconciliation Sunday (a special offering - see below)

Thursday, September 28 - The 20th South Carolina Regional Conference of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - 1pm (See the schedule at a glance)

RECONCILIATION MINISTRY SPECIAL MISSION FUND OFFERING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

The Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, have four (yearly), Disciple Mission Fund Special Day Offerings; these include Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving and Christmas Offerings. They also have two Special Mission Fund Offerings which are for the Week of Compassion and Reconciliation Ministry.

We will have the opportunity to participate in this years' Reconciliation Ministry Offering on September 24th. The theme is as follows: "Sound the Trumpets: Unmuted Ministry: Uncommon Love; United Service "(Numbers 10:4-7).

Your giving promotes programs that provide anti-racism and pro-reconciliation education and resources that fund the Church's efforts to promote healing, relationship and restoration in the whole family of God. We recognize that in spite of our differences, as believers of God, our beliefs in God unify us. He is present in all of us.

The 20th South Carolina Regional Conference of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Hosted by Rev. Dr. Ricky Syndab and the Antioch Christian Church (DOC)

Schedule at Glance

The Theme “Lord Make Us One”! John 17:21

The opening session will convene on Thursday Afternoon September 28 @ 1:00 pm with a ticketed NFL Sports Theme

Luncheon guest Preacher Rev Aaron Smith, Area Director, Pension Fund of the Christian Church sponsored by the

Disciples Men and Women Ministry @ 1:00 p.m. \$15.00

Thursday Night Service begins @ 7:00 p.m. with Rev. Dr. Ricky Syndab Preaching.

Friday Morning Services September 29th, @ 9:00am

*******Please bring your Church Banner*******

Rev Terri Hord Owen, General Minister and President of The Christian Church DOC in the United States and Canada will officiate the Installation of our Regional Minister Rev. Dr. Freddie Lawton Sr.

All Workshops will be held on Friday except for Youth.

Friday Evening Banquet Celebrating the 20th Annual Regional Conference, the Guest Preacher will be Dr. Delesslyn A. Kennebrew, Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation and Associate General Minister of the CC (DOC).

Saturday, September 30, 2023 - We will close out this year’s Conference in (Casual Attire) with a morning worship service (Pastor Irene will be preaching), Youth Program presentation, Memorial Service, announcing Disciples of Year, and a Cookout on the Grounds @ Antioch CC, Varnville SC

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 – next Trash to Treasure – September 16, 9am to 1pm.

Since the beginning of 2023, the DWF has made contributions to the following missions:

Southeastern Children’s Home - \$85.00

Week of Compassion - \$90.00

Senior Life Center - \$50.00

Easter Special Offering - \$75.00

Pentecost Offering - \$75.00

Walking Tall Ministry - \$85.00

We would like to thank the congregation for their contributions to the Trash & Treasure Sales

Creation of New Church Directory

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

Missions Opportunity

New information regarding ACTS can be found in the Fellowship Hall, including volunteer applications take a minute to look.

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. We also have Walking Tall donation jar in the Fellowship Hall for weekly bread and bottled water.

ACTs donation for September: Mac and Cheese

Walking Tall donation for September: Donation jar for bread and water, Vienna Sausages; also an on-going need for 39 gallon trash bags



Happy Birthday to:

Brian Myers - September 1

Shelvia Beard - September 2

Ed Albritton - September 8

H Bryan Riley - September 9

Charlotte Chatto - September 17

Millie Clark - September 21

Connie Santee - September 22

Ling - September 26

Public Service Announcement for Storm Preparedness

Hurricane season actually began June 1st and goes until November 1st. I have included some important resources for you to have at your fingertips

Important Hurricane Resources

South Carolina Emergency Management Division

www.scemd.org

South Carolina Hurricane Guide

<https://hurricane.sc>

Report a Power Outage

www.scemd.org/stay-informed/report-power-outages/

County Government Resources

Aiken County Office of Emergency Management	803-642-1623
Barnwell County Emergency Management Agency	803-541-1001
Lexington County Emergency Management Division	803-785-8359
Orangeburg County Office of Emergency Services	803-533-6265
Richland County Emergency Services	803-576-3400

REMEMBER THESE T.I.P.S.

- 1. Terms:** A “watch” is a notification for residents to be on alert of a potential storm, and a “warning” indicates that a hurricane is expected in your area. Review the South Carolina Hurricane Guide for more information.
- 2. Insurance and important information:** Review your insurance plans and have copies of important documents, such as driver’s licenses, medical information, and insurance cards.
- 3. Plan ahead:** Create a family plan in the event that an evacuation is necessary and keep emergency contact information handy. Don’t forget to consider your pets when planning for a possible evacuation.
- 4. Supplies:** Plan ahead by creating emergency kits filled with survival necessities such as bottled water, non-perishable snacks, medication, batteries, blankets, crank radios, personal hygiene items, and flashlights.

DURING A STORM

- 1. Listen:** Listen to local radio and television broadcasts for current conditions and recommended actions. You can also sign up to receive emergency alerts on your mobile device.
- 2. Evacuate:** When directed by local authorities, you may be required to evacuate. Know your designated evacuation route in advance.
- 3. Shelter:** If you are unable to evacuate, seek shelter in an interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level.

AFTER A STORM

- 1. Be aware of dangers:** Be cautious of potential dangers, such as downed power lines, contaminated water, or possible gas leaks.
- 2. Document damage:** If possible, take photos of the damage on your property or residence, in addition to making written notes.
- 3. Seek assistance:** Contact the South Carolina Emergency Management Division at (803) 737-8500 to see what relief or recovery programs may be available for your area.
- 4. Be cautious of scams:** Be alert to possible disaster-related scams such as fraudulent phone calls or price gouging. Do not give any personal information, including credit card and bank account information to unverified callers.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Arlinda Albritton, Sharon Finn, Ida Bassi, Brenda Wilson, Paul and Pat Wilson, Marilyn Blanchard, Pita and Murray Stellar, Laurie Green, Kelley Jones, those impacted by fires, weather, gun violence, for the Ukraine, those experiencing effects of tornadoes, winter storms and other natural disasters.

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR: *Mickie Fink, Laurie Green, Denise Peters, Liz Unzicker, Kelley Jones, Bryan Malone, 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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