



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Newsletter

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

Pastor's Note

I know Daylight Savings time is a controversial subject. Like most controversial subjects, people either love it or hate it. What I love is the “fall back” day when we get an extra hour to spend any way we want to! I used to just set my clock back when I went to bed, but then I realized I was cheating myself of enjoying a free hour. So now, I pick an hour on Saturday and let that be my gift hour! It doesn't matter when you move your clocks, as long as they are fixed in time to get to church Sunday morning! I hope you will consider this extra hour as a mini-Sabbath, using it for your pleasure and in a way that connects you with our Creator – the giver of all of our hours!

Special Worship Themes for November

November 5th – All Saints Day

November 12th – Veteran's Recognition

November 19th –Thanksgiving Worship

November 26th – Rev. Dr. Karen Diefendorf leading in worship

Thanksgiving Carry-in

The response to our carry-in survey was overwhelmingly positive about continuing it! And it was also overwhelmingly preferred to share each other's cooking rather than have catered meals. It is fun to share our cooking and to share in the enjoyment of a meal together. Thanksgiving is a great time to eat together as a church family. To help spread out the timing of our various Thanksgiving meals, we will be having our Thanksgiving carry-in a week early –

Sunday, November 12th. This way, we can enjoy a shared feast that day without having to worry about saving room for another feast in the same week. The church will provide the turkey and ham, and you are invited to share your favorite Thanksgiving side dish or dessert or both. A sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.

Advent is Coming!

This year, Advent begins on December 3rd, a week later than we are used to, because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. We will have two services on that day - at 11:00 am we will have our 4th Sunday of Advent worship service which will focus more on the music of Christmas, and then at 5:30 that evening, we will gather again for our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Please use Advent as a great time to invite friends, neighbors and family to worship with us.

Advent/Christmas decorating & breakfast

We will gather Saturday morning, December 2nd to decorate the church for the season. The men's group will provide breakfast, the worship committee and DWF will provide the decorations, and we will all provide the labor! Breakfast will begin at 8:30 and decorating will begin by 9. Please join us for the time together as we prepare our church home for the season.

Christmas Choir sign-up

Last year, our Advent/Christmas worship was enhanced by a choir ensemble they provided special music at one of our Advent worship services. This year, Micah would like to have a similar service during the 11am Advent service on Sunday, December 24th. Choir rehearsals will be held Sunday afternoons at 4pm. Please sign up to participate in this special form of worship. The commitment is short-lived and yet it will benefit you and the congregation. The ensemble last year was wonderful, and Micah would like to see it grow this year in number and in gender. (That means we need some men!!)

Bible Readers for November

November 5, All Saints Day - Laura Kraft

November 12, Veterans Recognition - Lynn Malone

November 19 - San Cave-Riley

November 26 - Laura Kraft

December 3 - 1st Sunday of Advent - Robin Brooks-Myer

Save these dates in November

Sunday, November 5 - All Saints Day and Election of Officers

Sunday, November 12 - Veteran Recognition & Thanksgiving Carry-in

Tuesday, November 14 - Board Meeting - 6pm

Saturday, November 18 - DWF - Trash to Treasure 9am to 1pm

Sunday, November 19 - Special Thanksgiving Offering (see below)

Saturday, December 2 - Breakfast and Decorating the Sanctuary

THANKSGIVING MISSION FUND OFFERING CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) Sunday, November 19, 2023

“Since its’ beginning, the Christian Church (DOC), has pledged its dedication to the support of higher education. For 129 years Higher Education & Leadership Ministries (HELM), has held the distinct privilege of providing support, nurture and funding in the denomination’s realm of higher education. HELM, currently partners with 15 colleges and universities, and 7 seminaries and divinity houses, all of which are associated with the Christian Church (DOC). In addition to these established partnerships, HELM is looking to expand its’ relationship with other schools and institutions to better serve the educational needs of all our Disciples.”

On Sunday, November 19th, during our Worship Service, you will have the opportunity to participate in our Thanksgiving Offering. Thank you for considering you support of our General Ministries of the Christian Church (DOC).

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 – November 18, 9am to 1pm.

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



Happy Birthday to:

Donna Shane - November 8
Paul Wilson - November 17
Jerry Doleshall - November 26
Susan Poster Ullmann - November 28

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Jerry Doleshall and family of Wanda Doleshall; Jeffrey Scotten, Shirley & Steve Wahler, Vicki Rishel, Bill Bates, Liz Unzicker, Laurie Green, Sharon Finn, Tim Hale, Mary Albritton, Lu Koy, those impacted by gun violence, for the Ukraine, Israel & Palestine, Afghanistan, those experiencing effects of tornadoes, storms and other natural disasters, USA, the world.

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR: *Jesse Vega, Paul Wilson, Ida Bassi, Ken Chatto, Pam Owen, Sharon Nicodemus, Kelley Jones, Tyler De Los Santos, Bryan Malone, Susan Poster Ullmann, Chuck & Elaine Johnston, Pastor Irene, Millie Clarke, Mickie Fink, Martha Albritton, Carol Kettel, Linda Cheadle, Tom & Connie Moomjy, 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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