



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Newsletter

Email: firstchristianaiken@atlanticbb.net
Website: www.firstchristian-aiken.org
Church Office: 803 648-4523

NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)
January 1, 2024

Pastor's Note

Happy New Year to each of you! One of my favorite new year's rituals is moving important dates over to a new calendar, while also reviewing the events of the year that just ended. Life is a mixture of things we can plan on and to some extent control, and the things that come unexpectedly and have a tendency to control us. As we begin this year -let us be reminded of the power of mystery in life, and let us all be guided by these words from Psalm 16: "Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge....I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices and my body rests secure." (Chapter 1: verses 7-9). With that as a guide, 2024 is ours to embrace!

Special Worship Services in January

January 7th- Epiphany Sunday - As we celebrate the Wise Men bringing their gifts to Jesus, we also have an opportunity to bring our gifts to share with ACTS and with Walking Tall Ministries. As the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense myrrh, we will bring gifts of 'sweetness'. Please bring a jar or two of jelly or of syrup, and after the service our gifts will be divided between ACTS and Walking Tall to add a special flavor to the meals or meal boxes served.

January 14th - Laity Sunday - Within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Laity Sunday is a special time when the lay people of the church often pause to consider their varied gifts for ministry, inside and outside

the walls of the church building. Come celebrate the special role YOU have in the work of our church and our community.

Thank you to Micah and the choir members for the beautiful music they provided for our 4th Sunday of Advent service!

Bible Readers for January

January 7 - Lynn Malone

January 14 - Paula Jones

January 21 - Laura Kraft

January 28 - Ed Albritton

CHRISTMAS OFFERING, 2023

A big "THANK YOU" to those who participated in our Special Day Christmas Offering. You gave a total of \$415.00 which will go directly to our South Carolina Region, to support the mission of the Christian Churches (DOC) in our state. Thank you again!

DWF News - next Trash to Treasure - January 20, 2024 9am to 1pm

DWF Update from 2023: DWF finished up the year with a wonderful "Gift Away" program. It began with Shelvia's write-up in the local newspaper, thank you Shelvia Beard for keeping the local community updated. People were definitely in need this past year and for \$1 they could fill a giant "leaf" bag with goods that they needed or for other families in need. Those who felt blessed gave additional dollar amounts. The bicycle was donated to the Walking Tall Ministry, bicycles are needed there to provide transportation to get to jobs.

Over \$1300 dollars was donated to our missions this year. Thanks goes out to the people who donate items they no longer need. God bless our givers! It is our pleasure to donate our time to help those in need.

Update! Update! Update! Update! Update!

Susan Poster Ullmann, a member of our Congregation, has returned to Aiken to be close to her friends and Church Family. Somehow many of you have not gotten the word that Susan and her dog Sukie are residents at Hitchcock Square, 102 Crepe Myrtle Court, Room 110, Aiken, SC 29803. Her phone number is (843) 816-6886. She would love to receive phone calls and afternoon visits.

Hitchcock Square is the third building behind SRP on Silver Bluff Road.

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.

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 January: Canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.)

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



Happy Birthday to:

Janet Morris - January 2

Carol Kettel - January 4

Jesse (Buzzy) - January 17

Wes Henderson - January 17

Maxine Pemberton - January 22

Kathy Henderson - January 22

Woody Malone - January 23

Sanquinnett (San) Riley - January 26

New this Year

I have added a copy of (last page of Newsletter, it is removable from rest of Newsletter).

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN SOUTH CAROLINA

2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2024 Theme: "Together we are Stronger"! NIV

PRAYER REQUESTS: *Lisa's friend Jennifer, Mike Carson(remote worshipper and Linda Cheadle's brother), Joanna Davis, Mike Stetson, Althea King and daughter, Alex Steller, Ed Albritton, Liz Unzicker those impacted by gun violence, for the Ukraine, Israel & Palestine, Afghanistan, Iceland, those experiencing effects of natural disasters, USA, the world.*

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR: *Jerry Doleshall, Steve Wahler, Sandy Lenihan, Jesse Vega, Paul Wilson, Ida Bassi, Ken Chatto, Pam Owen, Tyler De Los Santos, Bryan Malone, Susan Poster Ullmann, Chuck & Elaine Johnston, Pastor Irene, Millie Clarke, 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, Murray & Pitza Steller, Tatyana Yatsenko, Ella Shakibatabar our Regional Church, those in public service, military service and for our Country.*

CONTACT US:

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Aiken, SC 29803-5394

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Pastor's Cell Phone: 803 394-6282

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2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2024 Theme: "Together we are Stronger"! NIV

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| January 1: New Year's Day (Office Closed) | March 10: Daylight Saving Time Begins
(Clocks "Spring" Forward) |
| January 6: – Epiphany | March 12-14: Black Ministers Retreat @ St. Louis, MO |
| January 11: Human Trafficking Awareness Day | March 15: Yearbook reporting deadline |
| January 14-20: Week of Laity | March 16: Disciples Women Spring Fellowship
Day @ First Christian Church, Charleston |
| January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day | March 24: Psalm Sunday & Special Easter Offering |
| February 10: Disciples Women Ministry President
Day @ New Beginning CC | March 28: Maundy Thursday |
| February 14: Ash Wednesday | March 29: Good Friday (Office Closed) |
| January 18-25 Week of prayer for Christian Unity | March 31: Easter Sunday & Special Day Offering |
| February 1-29: African American History Month | March 31: District Fellowships 5th Sunday |
| February 3: Regional Leadership Board
Meeting @ Camp Christian, Hampton | April 13: Minister Wives & Husband Annual Tea @
10:00am Liberty Hill Christian Church |
| February 4: Boy Scout Sunday | April 13: CAAM Training 12:30-5:30pm |
| February 10: CAAM Training 12:30-5:30pm | April 20: CAAM Training 12:30-5:30pm |
| February 11-18: Young Adult Week | April 24: Administrative Professionals' Day |
| February 14: Ash Wednesday | May 4: Regional Leadership Board
Meeting @ St. Phillip Christian CC,
Reeseville |
| February 14-March 30: Lent | May 6: Friendship Day |
| February 17: CAAM Training 12:30-5:30pm | May 12: Mother's Day & Pentecost Special Offering |
| February 18: Week of Compassion Special Offering | May 19: Pentecost Sunday & Pentecost Special
Offering |
| February 19: Presidents Day | May 27: Memorial Day Office Closed |
| February 24: Camp Christian Barbeque | June 3-6: CAAM Training on SITE |
| February 25: Week of Compassion Special Offering | |
| March 3: Girl Scout Sunday | |
| March 4: World Day of Prayer | |

June 9: Children's Day	November 24: Thanksgiving Special Day Offering
June 16: Father's Day	November 28: Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)
June 19: Juneteenth Holiday	November 29: Day after Thanksgiving (Office Closed)
June 31: District Fellowships 5th Sunday	December 1-24: Advent to Christmas
July 4: Independence Day Observed (Office Closed)	December 1: Peace Sunday
July 11-14: National Convocation, Greensboro North Carolina	December 15: Christmas Special Day Offering
August 10: Regional Leadership Board Meeting @ first Christian, Charleston	December 22: Christmas Special Day Offering
August 21: Senior Citizens Day	December 24: Christmas Eve (Office Closed)
September 2: Labor Day (Office Closed)	December 25: Christmas Day (Office Closed)
September 8: Grandparents Day	December 26-Jan 1: Kwanzaa
September 29: Reconciliation Special Mission Offering	December 29- District Fellowships 5th Sunday
September 29: District Fellowships 5th Sunday	December 31: New Year's Eve (Office Closed)
October 3-5: 21 st SC Regional Conference @ First Christian Church, Charleston	
October 6: Reconciliation Special Mission Offering	
October 6: World Communion Sunday	
October 14: Columbus Day	
October 18-19: Disciples Women Fall Retreat @ TBA	
October 20-27: Youth Week	
November 02: Regional Leadership/Board Meeting @ Faithful CC Beaufort	
November 3: Daylight Saving Time Ends (Clocks "Fall" backwards)	
November 11: Veterans Day	
November 17: Thanksgiving Special Day Offering	