



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Newsletter

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

Pastor's Note

Happy February! Today, February 1st, is my oldest son's 44th birthday. I wrote him a letter last night remembering back on his arrival into my life, and the costly yet wonderful gift his birth mother gave me by lovingly deciding adoption was the way to go for him and for her. For the past seven years, he and Ed and I have enjoyed getting to know his maternal grandparents and becoming family to each other in ways beyond genetics. One of the paradoxes of life is how connected times of loss and times of gain are in the bigger picture. As we think about entering into Lent, we all get to revisit and reclaim our own spiritual adoption stories – how we came into being followers of Christ and members of the church. I pray this upcoming Lent will be a time of reflection, reconnection and meaning for us all.

Special Worship Services in February

Sunday, February 11th, we will have our card burning ritual at the conclusion of the service. These cards represent a private confession or a release of something that might impede your personal experience of Lent. They will be placed anonymously in a bag and burned, creating the ashes we will use on Ash Wednesday to make the mark of the cross on our foreheads.

Ash Wednesday Service - Our Ash Wednesday Service will be held on **Wednesday, February 14th at 11:30 am**. This will be a brief yet meaningful service as we begin our Lenten journey.

Lenten Study - Pastor Irene will be offering a four or five session Lenten study called "For This Season". The study will look at our habits and how they shape our lives for good and for bad. It will also look at habits of Jesus as a guide. She can offer it virtually on Zoom, or in person in the Fellowship Hall. She wants to offer it based on when it works best with people interested in participating. The study would begin the week of February 19th and conclude in time for Holy Week beginning March 24th. Please let her know by **Sunday, February 11th** if you are interested.

Happy Birthday Eliza! Birthdays are important days, worth celebrating no matter what day of the week they fall, but when they fall on a Sunday it makes celebrating with church family even more special. San Riley wants to invite the congregation to join in celebrating Eliza Cave's birthday after church on **Sunday, February 18th** for a short gathering of cake and fellowship.

Elder's Meeting All Elders are asked to meet after church on **Sunday, February 25th**. We will be resuming regular meetings and will use this first meeting to reconvene and set a meeting schedule. Elder Emeritus members are also invited!

Bible Readers for February

February 4 - Judee Mitchell

February 11 - Brian Myers

February 14, Ash Wednesday - Robin Brooks- 11:30 am
Lynn Malone

February 18 - San Cave-Riley

February 25 - Lynn Malone

***sign- up sheet for March and April are in the Fellowship Hall

“GIFTS TO LIVE ON”

WEEK OF COMPASSION SPECIAL OFFERING

Week of Compassion is celebrating 80 years of helping to alleviate suffering throughout the world. It is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (DOC) in the United States and Canada, working with partners. “Then and now, Disciples have been clear: When needs arise, we need to respond...we need to be moved, we need to be generous, we need to be faithful, we need to be transformed.”

Blessing boxes have been given out for the purpose that when you, your family, friends or total strangers receive a blessing in any form, you can recognize God's love at work in your life by making a donation to your blessing box. We will be collecting these boxes during the Worship Service on **Sunday, February 18, 2024**. Thank you for remembering to be aware of small and large blessings that occur in your life and the lives of others.

DWF News - next Trash to Treasure - February 17 - 9am to 1pm

Coming March 16, 2024

Greetings Ladies!!!

Our Annual Spring Workshop will be held Saturday March 16, 2024, at First Christian Church Charleston. We will begin with registration and breakfast at 9:00am. The workshop will start at 10:00am. We are asking that **your registration be postmarked on or before March 9TH 2024, to ensure we have the adequate amount of food and souvenirs. You may register after March 9th or at the door however, you will not receive a souvenir. A copy of the application and registration will be available in the Fellowship Hall.**



***DWM Spring Workshop Registration Form
March 16, 2024***



***First Christian Church Charleston
1293 Orange Grove Road
Charleston, SC 29407***

Workshop Theme: “Transform, Educate, Apply!”

Romans 12:2 New International Version (NIV)

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Registration \$30.00

**Onsite registration is available, but
You will not receive a souvenir**

The registration fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip** _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

Congregation: _____

Registration Amount Enclosed \$ _____
(Registration fees are non-refundable)

****Make all checks payable to: Disciples Women’s Ministry or “DWM”**

Mail:

*The Christian Church in South Carolina
Attention: Barbara Williams (843-852-4537)
1293 Orange Grove Road
Charleston, SC 29407*

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 February: Canned vegetables

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:

Ida Bassi - February 3

Joey Albritton - February 9

Eliza Husser-Cave - February 18

Robin Brooks - February 24

PRAYER REQUESTS: *Kathy Campbell, Sue Williams, the Family of Alfreda Sanders, Vicki Rishel, Charlotte Chatto, Mike Stetson, Althea King and daughter, Alex Steller, Ed Albritton 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, Bonnie Carson, Brenda Wilson Bushell, Laurie Greene, Liz Unzicker, Justin Malone, 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, Connie Moomjy, Robin Brooks, Sabrina, Eliza Husser Cave, Dr. Walter Allen, Elsie Smith, Connie Santee, Austin and Sharon Moede, Murray & Piza Steller, Tatyana Yatsenko, Ella Shakibatabar our Regional Church, those in public service, military service and for our Country.*

CONTACT US:

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