



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Newsletter

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NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC) **March 1, 2024**

Pastor's Note

One of the common questions in annual work reviews is “where do you see yourself in five years?” The question is designed to help employees and employers plan together to help both individuals and companies grow to their potential. There is something about the five year question, at least back then, that made sense; five years, especially when people are young and beginning their careers, is a manageable increment. It also gives the impression that time is in our control. As we age, we realize that increments of time are as much about how we respond to them as it is about how we anticipate planning for them. March 31 this year is Easter Sunday. We will celebrate the risen Christ, place flowers on the cross outside, and enjoy the day. This year, that day also has special significance for me. Five years ago on March 31, 2019, I was installed as your pastor after having served six months as your interim pastor. The church was full and our Interim Regional Minister led the church in a wonderful installation service. Looking back on five years, especially on those five years, provides an interesting view point on things we can't predict. Who knew we'd experience something like the pandemic and the shut-down and changes of 2020? Who knew we'd start streaming our worship services on Facebook live and expand our concept of church family to those beyond whom we can see in the pews? And when we were beginning to return to normal from dealing with the pandemic experience, who knew I'd be diagnosed with leukemia and be fortunate enough to go through a bone marrow transplant. Five years has passed very quickly in some ways, and has been life changing in many others. I know I am a better person and better pastor for all of the unplanned experiences of the last five years. As we complete our Lenten journey this year, and as we celebrate Easter, let's also celebrate our five year+ journey together as you have allowed me to serve as your pastor.

Special Worship Services in March

March 24 - Palm Sunday - 11 am

March 28 - Maundy Thursday - 6pm

March 29 - Good Friday - Noon

March 31 - Easter Sunday - 11 am

Bible Readers for March

March 3 - Eliza Husser Cave

March 10 - Laura Kraft

March 17 - Ed Albritton

March 24 Palm Sunday - Laura Kraft

March 28 Maundy Thursday - Judee Mitchell

March 29 Good Friday -

March 31 Easter Sunday - Lynn Malone

Fresh Flowers Needed

Following our Easter Sunday Worship Service, we will be decorating our outside cross with fresh flowers, to celebrate Christ's resurrection. Everyone is asked to bring some fresh flowers which you can place on the cross. This has been an Easter tradition at FCC for several years. Containers with water will be located by each entrance door so you can leave your flowers during the Worship Service. Thank you for your participation in this event as we demonstrate our joy to passing traffic and neighbors.



Don't Forget to Spring Forward one hour before bedtime on Saturday, March 9th



What's Happening in March?

March 10 - Claudette President will fill in for Pastor Irene

March 11 thru March 15 - Construction on the new ramp will begin. Please use front entrance.

March 12 - Board Meeting 6pm - Fellowship Hall

March 16 - DWF Trash and Treasure Sale - 9 am to 1pm

March 17 - Carry-in after Worship a Sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall

March 24 - The Elders will meet after Worship in the Fellowship Hall

DWF News - next Trash to Treasure - March 16, 2024

A Note from Ida - DWF News for January and February, 2024. The Trash and Treasure Sale for January netted \$50.00. The Week of Compassion was our first donation this year. We had reserves from 2023 which enabled us to make a \$100 donation for Week of Compassion. We are required by the bank to policy to retain a certain amount of money in the account. New deposit slips have been ordered. February's Trash and Treasure sale netted \$103.25 which I deposited on 2/20/2024. We will continue to make donations available for as long as possible. Thank you to the Congregation for your generous donations of gently used items. Thanks to Elaine Johnston for donating her time to assist Judee and myself again this month in the sale.

Coming in April

Quarterly Meetings with Deacons

WEEK OF COMPASSION RESULTS

Our offering last year, 2023, for Week of Compassion, totaled \$1202.00. We thought that was absolutely terrific. **But wait, this years' Week of Compassion Offering to date totals \$1484. How glorious!!**

We at First Christian Church have been blessed in so many ways. With the Week of Compassion Offering, we as a Congregation are showing our desire to help others in their time of need. THANK YOU to all who participated in this offering. Your donations will bring blessings to many in need.

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 March: Peanut Butter and Jelly

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



Happy Birthday to:

Mike Wilson - March 12

June Wilson - March 21

Paula Jones - March 31

PRAYER REQUESTS: *Charlotte Chatto's sister Jennifer, Virgie Lawton, Kathy Campbell, Sue Williams, Millie Clark, the Family of Tom Conigula, Vicki Rishel, June's cousin Mike Seymour, Mike's cousin Jacqueline Green, Woody's cousin Sandy Lenihan, Alex Steller, Ed Albritton, those experiencing effects of natural disasters, USA, the world.*

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR: *Evie (Pam Owen) difficult pregnancy & UTI, Jerry Doleshall, Bonnie Carson & family, Brenda Wilson Bushell, Kay Malone, Laurie Greene, 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 & Pitz Steller, Tatyana Yatsenko, Ella Shakibatabar our Regional Church, those in public service, military service and for our Country.*

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