



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Newsletter

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NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)
April 2024

Pastor's Note

If you visited Walmart anytime during the month of March, you were greeted with rows and rows of Easter basket related items - stuffed animals, Peeps, candy, Easter baskets, etc. My last pre-Easter visit was the Saturday before Easter and I was surprised by how much was still there. Walmart was one of the few stores open on Easter. I needed some containers to organize the small pantry in our camper. I was so shocked to walk in to the same store, maybe 24 hours later than the pre-Easter trip, and saw that ALL of the Easter merchandise was gone. Not only was it gone, but those same shelves had been intentionally restocked with summer items - coolers, beach towels, etc. I was reminded again how different the church calendar is from the secular calendar. Easter Sunday is the beginning of the Easter season - not the end of it! We used Lent well to get us to Easter - let's stay awhile and not restock our shelves with other distractions. This year, there are actually seven Sundays of Easter - all Sundays leading up to Pentecost. So as you come to church throughout the month of April, remember we are celebrating Easter for a while. Christ is risen, Christ is risen indeed!

Other info:

Texas, Here we Come! Ed and I will be taking a long awaited road trip to Texas for several weeks in April. This trip is a "dream come true" for us in several ways. It is our first out of state road trip since 2019. We will be visiting Big Bend National Park in west Texas, which has been on Ed's bucket list for a long time. After that, we will make a stop-over in Waco to meet Cody, the young man who was my bone marrow donor for my transplant. Being able to meet him in person is a "dream come true" for me! Chaplain Karen Diefendorf will be leading worship on two Sundays, April 14th and April 21st. There will be a birthday reception for her after church on the 21st to celebrate her birthday which is on April 18th.

Aiken Chamber of Commerce Membership and Ribbon Cutting – In March, the Board voted to join the Aiken Chamber of Commerce. This allows us to show our support and sense of belonging to the Aiken community while also getting our name out there as a spiritual resource within the community. On Sunday, April 28th, Jim Tunison, Chamber President, and his family will join us for worship and then lead us in a ribbon cutting ceremony at the end of the service to recognize First Christian as a new member of the Chamber. Please plan to be present on 4/28 for this special event.

Elder's Meetings - The Elders have resumed their monthly meetings, and are meeting after church on the 4th Sunday of each month. The April meeting will be **April 28th**, immediately following the Chamber Ribbon cutting ceremony. Meeting dates for the remainder of 2024 are: 4/28; 5/26; 6/23; 7/28; 8/25; 9/22; 10/27; 11/24 and 12/22.

Deacon's Meetings - The Deacons will have a meeting on Sunday, **May 5th**, after church in the Fellowship Hall. At this meeting, we will discuss meeting frequency (quarterly or bi-monthly) and content.

Bible Readers for April

April 7 – Robin Brooks-Myers

April 14 – Laura Kraft

April 21 – Judee Mitchell

April 28 – Laura Kraft

Coming in April

April 9th - Board Meeting – Fellowship Hall - 6pm

April 20th – DWF Trash and Treasure Sale – 9 am – 1pm

April 28th – Ribbon Cutting after Worship Service

April 28th – Elder Meeting after Ribbon Cutting

EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING DISCIPLES MISSION FUND

March 31, 2024

The Easter Offering supports many of the ministries that work to serve as a representation of the limitless love of God that overcomes death. This offering totaled \$443.00. Thank you to those who participated. It is gratefully appreciated.

WOW!

NEW RAMP CONSTRUCTION TO FELLOWSHIP HALL

If you have not seen the new ramp, please take time to view this replacement of our previous ramp. For the first several months, we have been told that the Trex material has a coating, which will disappear, but may be slippery when the Trex boards are wet. So, please hold onto the handrail if wet conditions are present.

The Pressure Treated lumber, which forms the frame of the ramp, will need to “season” (be exposed to the weather conditions) for 6 months before painting of the lumber can occur. This allows any moisture to leave the wood which may cause splitting of the wood. So, we are planning on painting this wood in the fall this year.

A bench has been purchased, which will appear at the top of the ramp to replace the one we had been using.

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 April: Canned Beans

Walking Tall donation for April: There is a donation jar for bread and water in the Fellowship Hall and narthex. Vienna Sausages and an on-going need for 39 gallon trash bags, anything you can add to a bag lunch i.e. small bag of chips.



Happy Birthday to:

Laura Kraft - April 8

Elaine Johnston - April 14

Chaplain Karen Diefendorf - April 18

Caroline Hale - April 29

PRAYER REQUESTS: *Brian Myers father David, The Family of Sharon Moede, Jennifer Chatto-McCoskey, (Charlotte's sister), The Family of Minister Virginia Brown Peace, Kathy Campbell, Jimmy Bagwell, natural disasters, USA, and the world.*

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR: *Mike Seymour, Vince Gregory, Virgie Lawton, Evy (Pam Owen) difficult pregnancy & UTI, Jerry Doleshall, Bonnie Carson & family, 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 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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