



## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Newsletter

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### November 2024

**Pastor's Note:** The Thanksgiving holiday later this month invites having a focus of gratitude. I had an experience recently that reminded me that expressing gratitude has no statute of limitations. I went to lunch with a friend I don't see often so we could catch up with each other. We had a delightful time sharing stories back and forth as we ate. When we got ready to leave, my friend said "before we go, there are two things I want to thank you for." She proceeded to tell me two specific things that she was grateful for that had occurred between us in the past. Both were several years ago. The second and most recent one involved gratitude for our church. She is a very active member of her Methodist church in Columbia and has never been to our church in person. In March 2020, in addition to the suddenness of adjusting to the changes imposed by the pandemic, she was also dealing with facing a divorce she never expected. Unable to attend her church in person during the shut-down, she also began watching our service on Facebook to fill some of the extra time on her hands and offer a point of connection in the spiritual search that strengthened her through that period in her life. She thanked me for the way I had offered communion so personally to her and others watching, knowing that our sanctuary was as empty as her church was. Her church usually had communion once a month, but they suspended it during the pandemic. She shared how comforting it was to know she could gather each week, whenever she was ready, in front of her computer with her own home prepared communion elements and share in the sacred experience of communion being led by someone she knew and trusted in the context of a church, even though she and everyone was worshipping from home. As she talked with words, her face also spoke quite clearly of how meaningful those memories were in helping her through a very difficult time. So much has happened in my life since that time that I had forgotten about the period when there was no one in the sanctuary except me, Natalie, Ed and Buzzy. Her memories wrapped themselves around my own, and we both enjoyed the power of shared gratitude. As you reflect this month on what you are thankful for, and the people involved in those memories, I invite you to not worry about how long ago something happened. Sharing a story of gratitude with another will be a Thanksgiving gift for you and for them! As for me, I am very grateful to serve as your pastor and thank you for trusting me with that responsibility and privilege. Happy Thanksgiving.

**All Saints Day Remembrance – Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>** All Saints Day is officially November 1<sup>st</sup>, the day after Halloween. Our church celebrates it the first Sunday in November, which this year is Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will remember by name persons dear to us who have died during the period November 1, 2023 – October 31, 2024. If you have a name that has not been submitted, please let Irene know before Sunday morning so she can prepare accordingly and be able to include them.

**Veteran’s Recognition – Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>** we will recognize the military veterans in our congregation on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. If you are a military veteran, please join us that day so that you can participate in the recognition. This includes in-person and Facebook worshippers.

**Deacon-led clean-up day – Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup>** sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall. Buzzy and the Men’s group are providing breakfast.

**November Carry-in - Sunday November 17<sup>th</sup>** the church will provide the turkey and ham; sign-up sheets will be available starting 11/3. Come have an early Thanksgiving meal with your church family – and bring someone with you who would enjoy the meal.

### **Bible Readers for November**

November 3 – Ed Albritton  
November 10 – Lynn Malone  
November 17 – Judee Mitchell  
November 24 – Laura Kraft

### **COMING UP IN November Dates to Remember**

**Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> – All Saints Day**

**Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> – Time Change – Fall back**

**Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 am Election Day Prayer Service**

**Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> – Veterans Day recognition**

**Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting at 6pm**

**Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> – Deacon led Clean-up day – DWM to provide breakfast**

**Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> – 9am to 2 Trash to Treasure Sale**

**Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> – 11am – 1 pm Room #1 DWF meeting**

**Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> – Special Thanksgiving Offering – see article**

**Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Carry-in, sign- up sheets in Fellowship Hall**

**Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> – Game Day with Susan 1:30 pm**

**Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> – Decoration of the Church for Advent and Christmas – more to follow**

**A Prayer for a Public Election (adapted from Chalice Worship Guide #421**

*All-knowing God, I pray for your guidance as it approaches the time to elect those who will serve our community and our nation in public office. Enlighten my mind with understanding and perception that I may continue to discover your truth. Endow my will with the strength to strive for justice. Fill my heart with love for the peace You alone give, that I may be at peace with those around me. May I live my life in a way that promotes the good of all the people of my community and this land, and beyond its shores. I ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **DISCIPLE MISION FUND SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

**RECONCILIATION (OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup>)**

**THANKSGIVING (NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>)**

*Thank you to those who participated in our Reconciliation Offering this year. We collected \$165.00.*

*On Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, you will have the opportunity to donate to our Christian Church (DOC) Thanksgiving Offering. This offering supports the educational institutions affiliated with the Christian Church (DOC), which include 15 Colleges/Universities and 7 Seminaries/Divinity Houses. For more information please visit [helmdisciples.org](http://helmdisciples.org). Thank you for considering supporting this special offering.*

## BLESSING

We were recently blessed with an endowment from which the Church will be tithing. We need your suggestions for a charitable donation. It is a substantial sum and we may give to more than one non-profit charitable organization. Any suggestions that you may have please, put in the communion plate. All suggestions will be considered and voted on by the Board, an announcement will be made.

**ACTs donation for November:** Peanut butter and Jelly.

**Walking Tall donation November:** 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.

### Looking for additional ways to serve?

1. **The DWF** sponsored monthly Trash to Treasure sale is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.walkingtallministries.unaux.com).



### Happy Birthday to:

Donna Shane - November 8

Paul Wilson - November 17

Jerry Doleshall - November 26

Susan Poster Ullmann - November 28

**If you had storm damage from Helene go to this website on how to apply for assistance: [Disasterassistance.gov](http://Disasterassistance.gov) follow the instructions for an application.**

## Public Service Announcement for Storm Preparedness

Hurricane season actually began June 1<sup>st</sup> and goes until December 1<sup>st</sup>. I have included some important resources for you to have at your fingertips

### Important Hurricane Resources

#### South Carolina Emergency Management Division

[www.scemd.org](http://www.scemd.org)

#### South Carolina Hurricane Guide

<https://hurricane.sc> **Report a Power Outage**

Aiken County Office of Emergency Management	803-642-1623
Barnwell County Emergency Management Agency	803-541-1001
Lexington County Emergency Management Division	803-785-8359
Orangeburg County Office of Emergency Services	803-533-6265
Richland County Emergency Services	803-576-3400

### **REMEMBER T.I.P.S.**

- 1. Terms:** A “watch” is a notification for residents to be on alert of a potential storm, and a “warning” indicates that a hurricane is expected in your area. Review the South Carolina Hurricane Guide for more information.
- 2. Insurance and important information:** Review your insurance plans and have copies of important documents, such as driver’s licenses, medical information, and insurance cards.
- 3. Plan ahead:** Create a family plan in the event that an evacuation is necessary and keep emergency contact information handy. Don’t forget to consider your pets when planning for a possible evacuation.
- 4. Supplies:** Plan ahead by creating emergency kits filled with survival necessities such as bottled water, non-perishable snacks, medication, batteries, blankets, crank radios, personal hygiene items, and flashlights.

### **DURING A STORM do the following**

- 1. Listen:** Listen to local radio and television broadcasts for current conditions and recommended actions. You can also sign up to receive emergency alerts on your mobile device.
- 2. Evacuate:** When directed by local authorities, you may be required to evacuate. Know your designated evacuation route in advance.
- 3. Shelter:** If you are unable to evacuate, seek shelter in an interior room, closet, or hallway

on the lowest level.

**AFTER A STORM:**

- 1. Be aware of dangers:** Be cautious of potential dangers, such as downed power lines, contaminated water, or possible gas leaks.
- 2. Document damage:** If possible, take photos of the damage on your property or residence, in addition to making written notes.
- 3. Seek assistance:** Contact the South Carolina Emergency Management Division at (803) 737-8500 to see what relief or recovery programs may be available for your area.
- 4. Be cautious of scams:** Be alert to possible disaster-related scams such as fraudulent phone calls or price gouging. Do not give any personal information, including credit card and bank account information to unverified callers.

*New / Immediate Prayer Requests: The Family of George Evans, Michelle Mosely and Children, CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR: Church members: Ed Albritton; Pastor Irene; Ida Bassi; Shelvia Beard; Robin Brooks; Eliza Husser Cave; Linda Cheadle; Jerry Doleshall; Elaine Johnston; Carol Kettel; Pam Owen; Vicki Rishel; Connie Santee; Elsie Smith; Susan Poster Ullmann; Paul Wilson Friends and Family: Martha Albritton (E. Albritton); Dr. Walter Allen (E. Cave); Ken Chatto (C. Chatto); Jennifer Chatto-McCoskey (C. Chatto); Chuck Johnston (E. Johnston); Laurie Greene (J. Mitchell); Bryan Malone (W. Malone); Austin Moede (C. Hale); Connie Moomjy (J. Mitchell); Sabrina (E. Smith); Mike Seymour (J. Wilson); Eileen Snow (P. Jones); Murray & Pitza Stellar (C. Hale); Jesse Vega (P. Wilson); Our church; ACTs of Aiken; Walking Tall; USA and the world*

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