



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Newsletter

Email: [firstchristianaiken@atlanticbb.net](mailto:firstchristianaiken@atlanticbb.net)

Website: [www.firstchristian-aiken.org](http://www.firstchristian-aiken.org)

Church Office: 803 648-4523

**January 2025**

**Pastor's Note:** Giving presents is not as simple as it seems. Even when we have good ideas of what we think someone might want giving and receiving are actually two different acts. This year, I learned that first hand in buying Christmas presents for two members in my extended family. In both situations, the gifts were things they people said they wanted. But then when the gifts were exchanged, they realized the gifts weren't what they wanted. So I also learned about returning gifts! Thankfully, Amazon and Best Buy are two of the easiest companies to work with in returning unwanted gifts! But when a gift is given AND received, it is a great thing. That is how I felt this year again about the Christmas Eve reception! I was so excited to "give" that gift of food and fellowship with no work needed by the church members who usually work hard when we get together, and to see it so happily attended and enjoyed did my heart good! Thank you for allowing me to serve as your pastor, and to also serve as your "host" for the Christmas Eve reception.

**Thank you:** Thank you to Micah, Seth and those serving in the choir for our December 22<sup>nd</sup> Advent service, and again on Christmas Eve. This year's choir was comprised of Lucy Jones, Paula Jones, Lisa Wahlmeier, San Cave-Riley, Rongshan Ai, Judee Mitchell, Robin Brooks-Myers, and Irene Albritton. A special thanks to Lucy for serving as our soloist! Also thanks to Micah for putting together such a meaningful "service of song and scripture" for our 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent.

**Laity Sunday:** Each January, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) celebrates the gifts of the Laity (non-ordained) leaders within each congregation. Our denomination is very Laity-focused and sees all members as able to serve in a variety of capacities within church life. This year, Lisa Wahlmeier will be our Laity speaker for the day. Come support Lisa - and all the church laity - on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Scripture Readers for January

January 5 - Lynn Malone  
January 12 - Lynn Malone  
January 19 - Laura Kraft  
January 26 - Laura Kraft

## January Dates to Remember

Sunday, January 5 - Installation of Officers  
Tuesday, January 7 - Board Meeting - 6pm  
Sunday, January - Laity Sunday  
Saturday, January 18 - Trash and Treasure - 9am to 1 pm  
Saturday, January 25 - Game Day with Susan

## “THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU AND THANK YOU”

The Disciple Women's Fellowship would like to send out a special thank you for the wonderful donations provided by our generous congregation. The year is complete and we have been a blessing to a lot of people in need. A list of our donations this year is posted on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. An additional contribution this year went to Christmount, Black Mountain, North Carolina. Due to the hurricanes this year they find the retreat in need of help. Warm coats, blankets, and clothes were given to the Walking Tall mission in addition to the church's ongoing support. Thank you everyone for sharing God's Love.

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## Disciple Mission Fund Donations Thanksgiving and Christmas Offerings

An update on the total donations for the Thanksgiving offering is \$400.00.  
The Christmas offering totaled \$340.00.

The giving nature of our Congregation, in regard to these Special Day Offerings, shows a strong caring nature for others in our society and our support of the Disciples of Christ missions through our larger church family. Thank you for being there in whatever support you can give.  
Caroline Hale

**ACTs donation for January:** Canned meat i.e. tuna, chicken, corned beef, etc.

**Walking Tall donation January:** 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:

Carol Kettel - January 4  
Buzzy Cheadle - January 17  
Wes Henderson - January 17  
Kathy Henderson - January 22  
Maxine Pemberton - January 22  
Woody Malone - January 23  
San Cave-Riley - January 26

**New / Immediate Prayer Requests:** The Family of Ali Flanders (daughter of Don and Sue Boyer (C Hale),  
**On-Going Prayer Requests:** *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 & Pat Wilson *Friends and Family:* Kim Dicks (E. Johnston), Luiza Samodi (J. Mitchell), The Krenta family (J Mitchell); 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); Janet Stearns (Woody Malone), Murray & Pitza Stellar (C. Hale); Our church; ACTs of Aiken; Walking Tall; USA and the world,  
**Denominational Support Prayers:** Our General Minister and President Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens, our Regional Minister, Rev. Dr. Freddie Lawton, Sr. and South Carolina Region.

**CONTACT US:**

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900 Kerr Drive SW

Aiken, SC 29803-5394

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**Church Office:** 803 648-4523

**Pastor's Cell Phone:** 803 394-6282