



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Newsletter

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Church Office: 803 648-4523

February 2025

Pastor's Note: Today, Ed and I returned from an 18 day road trip to south west Texas, including six days in Ed's "bucket list" location of Big Bend National Park. It was the first long road trip we've taken since 2019, and the first one we started out without Joey on board. Joey had his own 18 day adventure of being home alone, being "the man of the house" as he explained tonight over dinner. As we talked, I marveled inside at how grown up he sounded, and I pondered how important being left on his own was for his development. He made it through the snow storm, the frigid temps, remembered garbage and recycling days, kept the mail sorted, got his school work done and basically took care of his self. I missed him, and yet I didn't worry about him. That was a good feeling. As I reflect on this part of my relationship with Joey, and his growing independence as he prepares to go off to college, I am mindful of God's relationship with each of us. I suspect there are times when God intentionally sets us free to figure things out, to learn what we are capable of handling, and to grow in our ability to be more fully who God has created us to be, accepting the risks involved. There is a difference between being abandoned and being left purposefully on our own when we are ready for new steps in our development. As I ponder the confidence I had in Joey being not only ok, but growing in ways he couldn't grow if I was so present, I also reflect on times when I have felt God trust me to handle things that I hadn't handled alone before. May God continue to bless each of you with times of closeness and also times of trust as you grow spiritually in this gift called "life".

Scripture Readers for February

February 2nd – Robin Brooks-Myer

February 9th – Laura Kraft

February 16th – Ed Albritton

February 23rd – Paula Jones

February Dates to Remember

Tuesday, February 11 – Board Meeting – 6pm Fellowship Hall

Friday, February 14 – Celebrate the Church Birthday** (see below for details) - 6pm

Saturday February 15 – Trash & Treasure - 9am to 2pm

Saturday, February 15 – DWF Meeting – 11am to 1pm, Room 1

Saturday February 22 – Game Day with Susan – 1:30 pm

Sunday, February 23 – **Week of Compassion Special Offering (see article)

Sunday, February 23 – Elder’s Meeting - after Worship

**Celebrate the Church Birthday bring a gift (at least \$15, appropriate for a man or woman) as we will pass them around also bring a snack to share.

****WEEK OF COMPASSION SPECIAL OFFERING** **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025**

The theme for this year’s Week of Compassion is “HEARD AND SEEN”. It is from Philippians 4:9. The scripture reads; “Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you”. This scripture is thoughtful and applicable for our current times.

For 80 years, Week of Compassion has evolved to meet new challenges, and Disciples have continued to respond to needs around the world, in Canada and here at home in the USA. The work consists of hearing, seeing, showing up by acting in places and spaces overwhelmed by crisis and suffering.

This year, we are aware of suffering by wars, displacements of people, tornadoes, floods, fires and other natural disasters. The need is great!

On Sunday February 2nd, you will receive a small blessing box. Its’ purpose is to remind you that we will be collecting offerings from the Congregation, on Sunday February 23rd. When you receive a blessing or have a desire to help your fellow man at a time of their heartache, please contribute to your blessing box.

SALVATION ARMY DONATION

A big thank you to all who donated coats, blankets, sleeping bags, gloves, mittens, etc. to the Salvation Army for the inclement weather we had in January. June had two SUV's loaded to the brim with the donations. Unfortunately, I was not able to post the pictures she took of the donations. It was much appreciated by the recipients.

Say hello to our FCC Angel. She was keeping me company as I typed the bulletin for Sunday. She loves being called "pretty girl". She is sociable and talkative but still doesn't get too close to people however she will roll onto her back if she is comfortable with you. She anxiously awaits Caroline, Judee, Don and me to feed her or just say hi. She knows the sounds of our cars. She is a grandmother. She has been spayed as part of the capture and release program with the FOTAS. She spends her time here and behind Mitchell Plaza.



ACTs donation for February: Canned vegetables.

Walking Tall donation February: 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 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



Happy Birthday to:

Ida Bassi - February 3rd

Joey Albritton - February 9th

Eliza Husser-Cave - February 18th

Robin Brooks Myer - February 24th

New / Immediate Prayer Requests: MaryAnne Hill (P Jones)**On-Going Prayer Requests:** *Church members:* Donna Rader; Ed Albritton; Pastor Irene; Ida Bassi; Shelvia Beard; Robin Brooks; Eliza Husser Cave; Linda Cheadle; 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; Bryan Malone (W. Malone); Austin Moede (C. Hale); Connie Moomjy (J. Mitchell); Sabrina (E. Smith); 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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