



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Newsletter

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Church Office: 803 648-4523

March 2025

Pastor's Note: Let's Grow! Church attendance seems to be going through a slump - it could be post-holiday travel, sickness, family obligations, etc. But the lower numbers give us a chance to think about how we could increase the numbers of worshippers. Study after study supports the fact that people tend to visit a new church because someone in the church invited them (other members more so than the pastor, too). A few years ago I read about a Dept. of Natural Resources program called "take on, make one" inviting adults who enjoy fishing or hunting to take a child with them to teach them the love of fishing or hunting. Jesus used the example of teaching his disciples to be "fishermen for humans" when he was growing the Kingdom. I invite each of you to a March challenge of committing to invite at least one person to a church service or to our monthly social. Who has God placed in your life that might be searching spiritually, or looking for a new church family? Invite them during March!

Let's Sing! (Hymns)

While learning new hymns stretches us out of our comfort zone, it also gives us new words for expressing our faith. However, to balance the "tried and true" familiar hymns that give us comfort (as well as ease in singing), we are going to have a "favorite hymn" survey during March. Each week, we will add a "favorite hymn" request sheet as a bulletin insert. Please write your favorite hymn or hymns and place it either in the offering plate or in the "hymn" basket in the Fellowship Hall. Micah and Irene will use the requested hymns in the worship - and even recognize the ones who voted for that particular hymn as favorite. Please participate!

Let's Sing - (choir)

Micah is forming an Easter choir. If you are interested in singing for this special, time-limited choir, please come to the brief meeting after church this Sunday, March 2nd. He will be able to see how many people are interested and also begin planning the rehearsal schedule. He would love to have a few men join because one of the specials he has in mind works better with some male voices. All you need is a willing attitude - Micah can take it from there!

Let's Worship:

Ash Wednesday service, Wednesday, March 5th 11:30 am (cards for ashes will be burned on Sunday, March 2nd)

March 9th we will have a guest preacher. Chaplain Pam Parris, a Staff Chaplain at the VA Hospital in Augusta, will be preaching. Pam is a Baptist minister/chaplain who moved to Augusta from Atlanta in 2021. She has visited our church several times over the past few years as she is exploring more about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Pam enjoys traveling, fine dining and listening to people talk. Please join me in welcoming Pam as she leads us in worship on March 9th.

Lenten Series: During the Sundays in Lent, I will be moving away from the Lectionary and do a series called "Lenten Reflections on Sin". As the season of Lent invites us to reflect on our own sinfulness, we will look at Biblical examples of how Jesus addressed sin in some familiar Bible stories. The March readings are below for your personal study in preparation for the series.

March 16th - The Sin of Staying Stuck John 5:1-9, 14-15

March 23rd: The Sin of Judging Others John 8:2-12

March 30th - The Sin of Failing to be a Neighbor Luke 10:25-37

Let's Play

Puzzles and Pies - church social - March 21st 6pm, bring your favorite pie. Pizza pies will be furnished.

Let's Celebrate

Emma Grace Maroni is studying abroad in Prague this semester. Congratulations to EG and Charlotte.

Joey Albritton was awarded the Coaches' Award at the Irmo HS Football Banquet in February. Joey was also named to the second team all Regional for Tight End. He received nine passes during the season and scored seven touchdowns; however his tight end accolades came from his excellent blocking skills.

Micah McNamee and Seth McNamee both were named to the Dean's list at their respective schools for the fall semester.

Micah McNamee was one of nine musicians who performed in the Newberry College's Spring Honor's Recital Tuesday, February 25th at the Newberry Opera House. Students auditioned to be selected to be in the recital. See picture of Micah in concert below.



Scripture Readers for March

March 2nd - Eliza Husser Cave
March 5th - Lynn Malone (Ash Wednesday)
March 9th - Lynn Malone
March 16th - Jerry Doleshall
March 23rd - June Wilson
March 30th - Judee Mitchell

March Dates to Remember

Wednesday, March 5th - Ash Wednesday Service - 11:30 am
Sunday, March 9th - 2am SPRING FORWARD 1 hour
Tuesday, March 11th - Board Meeting - 6 pm
Saturday, March 15th - Trash and Treasure 9am to 1 pm
Friday, March 21st - Puzzles and Pies - 6pm - Fellowship Hall**
Saturday, March 22nd - Game Day with Susan

**Pizza will be furnished you bring your favorite pie to share. Puzzles (all kinds) will also be furnished.

Don't forget to **SPRING FORWARD** on March 9th. Set your clocks ahead 1 hour.



ACTs donation for March: Peanut butter and jelly.

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:

Mike Wilson - March 12

June Wilson - March 21

Paula Jones - March 31

New / Immediate Prayer Requests: Kerry Craig (P. Jones) **On-Going Prayer Requests:** *Church members:* Laura Kraft, Maxine Pemberton; 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:** Magdalene, Allendale, Office of the General Minister & President, and Indiana Region

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