



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
February Newsletter

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**NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)**  
**February 1, 2023**

*Pastor's Note*

To be our shortest month in the calendar, the month is filled with many events. In my family, we celebrate two birthdays - Eric on the 1<sup>st</sup> and Joey on the 9<sup>th</sup>. In our church family, we have more birthdays! Add that to Super Bowl Sunday, Valentine' Day, Week of Compassion Blessing box and offering, Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent, and the yet unplanned church social, and you have a busy month! I pray that your busyness brings you a sense of peace and happiness with living life connected to Christ and to a church family who cares about you!

*Special Services for February*

**Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.** This is the beginning of the season of Lent. Please join us for our Ash Wednesday service at 11:30 am - and invite a friend or neighbor to join you. Lent is a wonderful time to reach out to others and invite them to worship with us.

In preparation for the Ash Wednesday service, we will have our annual card-burning service on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> where we create our ashes to be used on Ash Wednesday. This spiritual exercise invites us to prepare our hearts for Lent by naming confidentially on a card to be burned something that separates us from God at this point in our faith journey.

**Moving forward? (Responses requested)**

During the Covid shut downs, we made many changes to our worship time and protocols. One change was to email the bulletin out each week. We are re-evaluating that, and other than sending them to the Facebook part of our congregation, wondered if it was still helpful

to email it weekly to the congregation as a whole. **Please let Lynn know of your preference by responding to this email by 2/11, saying either Yes (meaning I'd like to continue receiving the bulletin) or No (receiving the bulletin is no longer necessary).**

We are also updating our emergency profile information. We are asking you to update and complete this form which will be kept in the Church Office. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Irene. Thank you. **(See the attached separate document to fill out).**

## Also in February 2023



### February 19<sup>th</sup> – Week of Compassion.

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. For nearly 80 years, Week of Compassion has pursued its mission, working with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, toward the vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope. Blessing Boxes were handed out during Worship service. When you receive a Blessing, make a donation to your Blessing Box. The money collected will be our Church donation for the Week of Compassion.

### Church Social

Be on the lookout for information about our February church social. Paul Wilson does an excellent job getting us together – hope you can attend what he plans for February. All ideas are welcome.

### DWF

February 18th – Trash to Treasure

### Choir Practice Returns

You are invited to join the choir! If interested, please join Isaac and other singers for rehearsal Sunday after church in the Sanctuary.

### Missions Opportunity

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.

**ACTs donation for February: canned vegetables**

**Walking Tall donation for February: Peanut butter and jelly** (they also have a continuous need for 39 gallon trash bags)

## Creation of New Church Directory

We will begin working on a new Church Directory in January 2023. This new directory will be in digital form but will still be available for those who do not access to a computer. The company we have worked with in the past is no longer doing church directories.

We will be setting up appointments for you to come to the Church to have your picture taken, or if you have a favorite photo of yourself, it can be submitted and a picture of the picture can be used for the new directory.

It will also be necessary to confirm your information, such as name, address, phone numbers, birthday and anniversary dates in order to have current and correct information for use in the new directory, (please print enclosed sheet and return to the Church).

We hope everyone will be available to help with this as it is an important tool that we use to stay in touch with each other. **(See the attached document for you to fill out).**



**Happy Birthday to:**

Ida Bassi - February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Joey Albritton - February 9<sup>th</sup>

Eliza Husser Cave - February 18<sup>th</sup>

Robin Brooks - February 24<sup>th</sup>

[Prepare now - Coming in July 2023](#)



**General Assembly 2023: Save the Date Social Media Copy**

Edited: May 25, 2022 Theme: Kindom of God: Within Us, Among Us Scripture(s): Genesis 11:1-9; Luke 17:20-21; Peter 1:3

## **Campaign Summary**

The theme for the General Assembly of the Christian Church for July 2023 is based on Luke 17:20-21, Genesis 11:1-9 and 2 Peter 1:3. The focus of the theme is “Kindom of God within us, among us.” This theme is a call for Disciples to strengthen their relationship to God in both individual and communal ways through an expansive in person and digital gathering of the church in Louisville.

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

*The family of Karen Porter, Char Elkins Family, The Fisher Family, Christian Boening (Shan’s husband), Caroline Hale, Chuck Johnston, Elaine Johnston, Laura Kraft, Vicki Benfield Rishell, General Minister Teri Hord Owens, Regional Moderator, Freddie Lawton and SC DOC Region, and those impacted by gun violence, for the Ukraine, those experiencing effects winter storms and other natural disasters.*

### **CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR:**

*Austin and Sharon Moede, Bryan Malone, Tatyana Yatsenko, Ella Shakibatabar, Paul & Pam Owen, Wanda & Jerry Doleshall, Elsie Smith, Eliza Husser Cave, Millie Clark, Pastor Irene, Kenneth Chatto, Linda Cheadle, Susan Poster Ullmann, Martha Albritton, Carol Kettel, Tom & Connie Moomjy, Robin Brooks, Sabrina, Dr. Walter Allen, Connie Santee, our Regional Church, those in public & military service, for our Country and all victims of natural disasters.*

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