



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
August Newsletter

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NEWS FROM FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)
August 1, 2023

Pastor's Note

July was an exciting month in our church – we had our long awaited carry-in on July 16th, commissioned our two delegates, San and Eliza, to represent us at the General Assembly on July 23, and we welcomed two new church members – Brian Myers on July 23 and Elaine Johnston on July 30th. Our sermon series on the parables in Matthew 13 invited us to look at what it means to be disciples and also what it means to be a church. I am so glad to be your pastor and to be with you as we come back to life renewed after all the changes from the pandemic. As we think about our future as a hybrid congregation of both in-person and virtual worshippers, we need to include ways to invite others to worship with us. The biggest factor in growing a church are the existing members – both in inviting people and in making them feel welcomed and have a place to serve. Here are some statistics from churchgrowth.org that I found interesting:

How Do People Start Attending Church?

A friend invited me	86%
Organized Visitation	6%
Invited by the Pastor	6%
Advertising	2%

As you meet new people, or as you listen to your current friends and realize they might be seeking a church home, may God lead you to extend the invitation to them to join you – and us – in worship this month.

This Sunday, August 6th, Pastor Karen Diefendorf will be back with you to lead in worship. She is looking forward to worshipping with you. Ed and I are taking a weekend off for R& R and NOT for anything medical! Thanks be to God!

Thank you: Thank you for your support and prayers during my recent unexpected hospitalization earlier in July. Also a special thanks to Mike and June Wilson for filling in for me in worship on a very, very short notice.

Bible Readers for August

August 6 - San Riley

August 13 - Laura Kraft

August 20 - Eliza Husser Cave

August 27 - Laura Kraft

Please take a moment to sign up for September and October in the Fellowship Hall

Save these dates in August:

Tuesday, August 8th - Board Meeting - 6pm

Saturday, August 19th - DWF Trash to Treasure - 9:00am to 1:00pm

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.

4. **Walking Tall** supplies about 280 sandwiches a week through their meal distribution program. These sandwiches are provided by volunteers. We would like to host a “sandwich making party” at the church for anyone who would like a good time making sandwiches. At this point we are soliciting interest – if you’d like to participate, please let Irene or June know. Once we have determined level of interest, we can schedule the date and organize the experience.

DWF News – next Trash to Treasure – August 19, 9am to 1pm.

Since the beginning of 2023, the DWF has made contributions to the following missions:

Southeastern Children’s Home - \$85.00

Week of Compassion - \$90.00

Senior Life Center - \$50.00

Easter Special Offering - \$75.00

Pentecost Offering - \$75.00

Walking Tall Ministry - \$85.00

We would like to thank the congregation for their contributions to the Trash & Treasure Sales

Creation of New Church Directory

The Church directory is still a work in progress. Hopefully, we will have an update in the near future.

Missions Opportunity

New information regarding ACTS can be found in the Fellowship Hall, including volunteer applications take a minute to look.

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. We also have Walking Tall donation jar in the Fellowship Hall for weekly bread and bottled water.

ACTs donation for August: Canned fruit

Walking Tall donation for August: Donation jar for bread and water, Vienna Sausages; also an on-going need for 39 gallon trash bags



Happy Birthday to:
Curtis Beard - August 1
Don Pruett - August 10

Public Service Announcement for Storm Preparedness

Hurricane season actually began June 1st and goes until November 1st. I have included some important resources for you to have at your fingertips

Important Hurricane Resources

South Carolina Emergency Management Division

www.scemd.org

South Carolina Hurricane Guide

<https://hurricane.sc>

Report a Power Outage

www.scemd.org/stay-informed/report-power-outages/

County Government Resources

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 THESE 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

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.

Coming in September - Mark your Calendars

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We are eagerly preparing for the 20th South Carolina Regional Conference of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to be held at Antioch Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ) Varnville, South Carolina. It will be hosted by Pastor Ricky Syndab and the Congregation. The theme for this occasion, taken from John 17:21, exclaims "Lord Make us One"!

The opening session will convene on Thursday September 28th the closing session will occur on Saturday afternoon, September 30th, 2023. As you return home, all churches of the Region are asked to continue in worship, making sure to focus on the conference theme.

We solicit your prayers and support for the success of the 20th South Carolina Regional Conference. Your presence, prayers, and participation will help make this conference a time of spiritual revival, renewal, and a blessed experience for God's people. We look forward to seeing you and fellowshiping with you, in His name.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Families of Lee Hal and Carolyn Jones (Woody's cousins), Ida Bassi, Paul and Pat Wilson, Denise Peters, Sharon Johnson, Marilyn Blanchard, Piza and Murray Stellar, Laurie Green, Kelley Jones, those impacted by gun violence, for the Ukraine, those experiencing effects of tornadoes, winter storms and other natural disasters.

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR: *Bryan Malone, Susan Poster Ullmann, Pastor Irene, Millie Clarke, Martha Albritton, Carol Kettel, Linda Cheadle, Tom and Connie Moomjy, Wanda & Jerry Doleshall, Robin Brooks, Sabrina, Eliza Husser Cave, Dr. Walter Allen, Elsie Smith, Connie Santee, Austin and Sharon Moede, Tatyana Yatsenko, Ella Shakibatabar our Regional Church, those in public service, military service and for our Country.*

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