



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Newsletter

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May 2024

Pastor's Note: Taking Refuge

I like to plan things. And when I plan things, I like it when those plans take place! For the past six months or more, I worked diligently planning an 18 day RV road trip to Texas. I knew where we would be staying each night, and had a good general idea of what we'd be doing during the days. Ed was going to get to finally see his longed for Big Bend National Park, and I was going to meet Cody, my brave bone marrow donor. We hadn't taken a long road trip since 2019, and planning this trip seemed like a dream come true. Until all of a sudden, less than 24 hours from when we were due to leave on our trip, I was in the hospital undergoing emergency surgery, waking up sort of in an ICU with four tubes draining fluids being pumped out of my chest cavity. And now as I write this, the fluid around the lungs is back and I'm facing another outpatient procedure Friday morning to remove more fluid. I haven't been able to come to church in three weeks, and everything around me feels new and uncertain. We all know the experience of having the unexpected happen in our lives - and crises never happen when convenient nor when we are ready for them. They happen to you like they happen to me - when we have life planned out the way we want it to go. I like to turn to scripture when it seems I have lost my rudder, and always God provides the words I need as reminders of God's love for me. This time, it was in a Psalm I wasn't that familiar with - but one that has helped me find my footing in the midst of this storm that came without warning. It is the beginning of Psalm 57 "*Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.*" I'm ready for this storm to pass, and yet I am comforted to know that until it does, I have a place of refuge in the shadow of God's wings. I pray that each of you have your places of refuge in the wings of God's unfailing love. See you soon!

Elder's Meetings - The Elders have resumed their monthly meetings, and are meeting after church on the 4th Sunday of each month. The May meeting will be **May 26th**, Meeting dates for the remainder of 2024 are: 5/26; 6/23; 7/28; 8/25; 9/22; 10/27; 11/24 and 12/22.

Deacon's Meetings - The Deacons will have a meeting on Sunday, **May 5th**, after church in the Fellowship Hall. At this meeting, we will discuss meeting frequency (quarterly or bi-monthly) and content.

Bible Readers for May

May 5 - Ed Albritton

May 12 - Lynn Malone

May 19 - Brian Myers

May 26 - Judee Mitchell

Coming in May

May 5th - Deacon's Meeting, immediately after Worship - Fellowship Hall

May 10th - ACTS 16th Annual Fan Drive - Lowe's Home Improvement

May 11th - ACTS 16th Annual Fan Drive - Lowe's Home Improvement

May 11th - Mother & Daughter Tea - 3 to 5pm - First Christian Church of Belvedere (see the invitation in the Fellowship Hall)

May 14th - Board Meeting - 6 pm - Fellowship Hall

May 17th - Family Fun Picnic - 6pm - hamburgers & hotdogs dish to pass

May 18th - Trash & Treasure - DWF - 9am to 1pm

May 25th - Game Day with Susan Poster Ullmann at Hitchcock Place 1:30 pm (this will occur monthly on the 4th Saturday)

DISCIPLE MISSION FUND SPECIAL DAY PENTECOST OFFERING SUNDAY MAY 12, 2024

The theme for this years' Pentecost Offering is "Restore and Rewind". It is based upon Acts 2:44-45. In these verses it tells of the believers meeting together and sharing everything they had. "They joined with other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord's Supper and in prayer."

Today the Church is viewed by some in a negative light. Some believe that the Church is judgmental, hypocritical and its' members think they are "better than everyone else." The Pentecost Offering donations are used by the New Church Ministry of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, to foster new

church development at the national and regional level, in an attempt to counter the negative light that is held by some. Please prayerfully consider your donation to this Pentecost Offering on May 12th. Thank you.

UPDATE... UPDATE... UPDATE... UPDATE... UPDATE

**OKLAHOMA TORNADO DAMAGES
as it relates to
THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING**

In Oklahoma, the towns of Sulphur and Morris both received extensive damages. The First Christian Church Sulphur and the First Christian Church Morris were both damaged. Pastor Irene found on Facebook an entry regarding contact between these churches and the Week of Compassion Ministry, for the purpose of beginning to offer help and support as needed.

We wanted to share this information with you as our Congregation has been a strong supporter of the Week of Compassion through our yearly donations. This is an example of how this ministry works when help is needed.

The Facebook entry ended with; “Remember, pray, stay and give. Disciples, you are a blessing.”

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.



16th  Annual

“Be an ACTS Fan”

FAN DRIVE

ACTS will host our 16th annual Fan Drive at Lowe's on May 10th and May 11th from 10 am to 6 pm. We have volunteer opportunities during the two day event and invite you to join us in helping collect donated fans to be distributed to individuals and families who live in homes with inadequate cooling.

We are in need of the following two hour shifts during Friday and Saturday.

12 pm to 2pm

2 pm to 4 pm

4 pm to 6 pm

Volunteers will man the entrances and help collect fans and monetary donations.

Let us know what time slot would be best for you!

You can volunteer by sending an email to Elana@actsofaiken.org or by calling 803-649-3800.

Thank you for your support of our mission!

ACTs donation for May: Soup

Walking Tall donation for April: 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.



Happy Birthday to:

Pastor Irene Albritton - May 9th

Vicki Benfield Rishel - May 13th

Sue Williams - May 28th

Coming in July

Below you will find the link to register for the National Convocation in Greensboro, NC. July 11-14, 2024. **You must register for the convocation to get the link for the hotel @ Sheraton Greensboro at Four Season**

Note: ** you will not be able to book a room for the National Convocation without registering for the event**

www.nationalconvocation.org/biennialsession

PRAYER REQUESTS: *The Family of Bertha Johnson (San's cousin), Ray Walden, Jennifer Chatto-McCoskey, (Charlotte's sister), Liz Unzicker, The Bowes Family, Gabriel Watkins, Lee Randnatural disasters, USA and the world.*

CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR: *Mike Seymour, Jerry Doleshall, Bonnie Carson & family, Kay Malone, Laurie Greene, Justin Malone, Steve Wahler, Sandy Lenihan, Jesse Vega, Paul Wilson, Ida Bassi, Ken Chatto, Pam Owen, Tyler De Los Santos, Bryan Malone, Susan Poster Ullmann, Chuck & Elaine Johnston, Pastor Irene, Millie Clarke, Martha Albritton, Carol Kettel, Linda Cheadle, Connie Moomjy, Robin Brooks, Sabrina, Eliza Husser Cave, Dr. Walter Allen, Elsie Smith, Austin Moede, Murray & Pitza Steller, Tatyana Yatsenko, Ella Shakibatabar our Regional Church, those in public service, military service and for our Country.*

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