



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Newsletter

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June 2024

Pastor's Note: Over Memorial weekend, I had the honor of going to Stanford, KY with Ed and our oldest son, Eric, to join a family reunion of Eric's maternal grandfather's family. When we left Columbia, my eye infection was at an all-time high, so I rode in the back seat of Ed's truck, mostly with my eyes shut to block out the light and with cold compresses to block out the pain. I had never taken an 8 hour ride in the dark! It turned out to be one of the most peaceful drives I've ever taken. I enjoyed listening to the gentle banter between Ed and Eric as they drove together. Sometimes I'd join in the conversation, and other times I quietly savored the relationship these two men share. But what surprised me most was how familiar the route was, even with my eyes closed. I had been that route many, many times, and was pleased with how much I "saw" through my memory that I couldn't see with my eyes. The mountains are so beautiful on that route, and I could feel their presence surrounding me. I thought about how our relationship with God and with Scripture is like that - we have familiar experiences of being with God in the past that sustain us when we are unable to 'see' in the moment. Also holding Scripture in our hearts/memories allows us to recall helpful words of God's promises even when we are in our times of darkness.

Welcome to our Newest Member: Donna Rader moved her membership to First Christian on Sunday, June 2. Donna's parents were active in our church, and her father, Charlie Lowe, was a beloved Elder with a legend of his own. Donna attended First Christian as a teenager and young adult and is delighted to have returned to her church "home". Welcome, Donna!

Birthday party time!!

Lisa Wahlmeier is recognizing her mother, Linda Cheadle, with a "surprise" 75th birthday party on Saturday, June 15th at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall - and would like our church family to come join the fun! Please be there by 1:30 pm.

We ask that you only bring whatever fond memories you would like to share. If you are not able to come and would like to submit a video of a fond memory with Linda please send them to Lisa 803-439-6010 or you can send them on FB on instant messenger. These memories will be played as a sort of this was your life, and given to her so that she can watch them at her leisure.



A day of gratitude and recognition - Sunday, June 23rd

On Sunday, June 23rd, we will have two special guests joining us for worship. Cody Landers and his mom, AJ Landers, will be visiting with Pastor Irene and Ed from Waco, TX. Cody is the young man who donated his stem cells that were the perfect match for Irene's bone marrow transplant in 2022. After worship, please join us for cake in their honor.

June Elder's Meeting date change

In order to celebrate with Cody on 6/23, the June Elder's meeting has been moved to 6/30 after worship.

In Loving Memory - Millie Clarke

Millie Clarke passed away surrounded by family at her daughter's home in Florida on May 29, 2024. Millie was a faithful Deacon and one of the pillars of our church - and of carry-in - for many years. She had lived with Cathy since January 2022 due to declining health, however with the help of our Facebook worship option, Millie never lost her connection with us as her church family. And we stayed connected to her as well. Her family is coming to Aiken in July to join our church family as we honor and remember Millie together. The service will be on Saturday, July 27th. Exact time will be announced at a later time; but please save the date - in person or on Facebook.

Bible Readers for June

June 2 - Paula Jones
June 9 - San Cave-Riley
June 16 - Ed Albritton
June 23 - Lynn Malone
June 30 - Judee Mitchell

PENTECOST OFFERING DISCIPLE MISSION FUND OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

The Pentecost Offering we collected on Sunday, May 12th, resulted in donations totaling \$423.00. This amount will be divided between our South Carolina Regional Ministry and the efforts through the New Church Ministry of the Disciples of Christ, in establishing new congregations and providing resources as needed.

Your participation in this offering is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Coming in July

Let's picnic (inside!) - July Carry-in - July 7th!

Who doesn't like a good picnic!? Especially when we can eat it inside, with the air-conditioning in South Carolina July heat. Carry-in in July will celebrate 4th of July with an after-church picnic on Sunday, July 7th. Please be on the lookout for sign-up sheets to bring your favorite picnic food to share - things like fried chicken, potato salad, slaw, baked beans, bean salad, deviled eggs, watermelon - or whatever is your favorite! It is also a great day to bring a friend or family member to join with us.

SAVE ROOM in OCTOBER for: the 21st South Carolina Regional Conference of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Zion Pilgrim Christian Church will host the Regional Conference.

The opening session will convene on Thursday Afternoon October 3rd and the closing session will occur on Saturday afternoon, October 5th, 2024. As you return home, all churches of the Region are asked to continue in worship, making sure to focus on the conference theme. The conference will open with a Pre- Conference luncheon sponsored by The Disciples Women & Men Fellowship Ministry.

Accommodation is available at the **Cambria Hotel Summerville**, 405 Sigma Drive, Summerville, SC. 29486 When calling the hotel, please request the reduced rate for the **Christian Church in South Carolina, Group # SZ39D0** The number to call for reservations is **(854) 888 2800** Last date to register at this rate is **September 15, 2024**. Room rates are \$139.40 for double queen, or king bed. You may also use this Link to make your hotel lodging arrangement: <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/SZ39D0>

More info next month.

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.

ACTs donation for June: Pasta sauce (please no glass jars)

Walking Tall donation for June: 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:

Linda Cheadle - June 10

Emma Grace Maroni Chatto - June 27

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**

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS: *The Family of Millie Clarke, The Family of Sheila Green, Alison McCarthy (Carmine’s friend), Lisa Wahlmeier (on her job interviews), Jim Johnson, Roy Walden, Brenda (Paul & Pat Wilson’s daughter), Jennifer Chatto-McCoskey (Charlotte’s sister, on her recent surgery), Lee Rand, and Liz Unzicker, Curtis & Shelvia Beard, natural disasters, USA, the world.*

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

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