



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Newsletter

Email: firstchristianaiken@atlanticbb.net

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Church Office: 803 648-4523

December 2024

Pastor's Note: I like tradition. Except sometimes life does not cooperate with the plans we make. In 2019, Ed and I hosted a reception before the Christmas Eve service. It was well attended and well enjoyed. At the time, the plan was to have that become an annual tradition. Then in 2020, Covid had changed so much of what we all knew as “normal”, so we did not have it that year. Then in 2021, I was diagnosed with leukemia in December and instead of hosting a reception or leading in Christmas Eve worship, I was in the hospital beginning a new journey of faith and healing. I've kept the dream of having the reception in my heart – and this is now the year!! 2024 is a great time to have the reception again! Please come early to the Christmas Eve service and enjoy a time of food and fellowship that is mine and Ed's gift to the church we love and the people who make it loveable. The reception will begin at 4:30 and the Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service will begin at 5:30. As we did in 2019, Ed and I will provide the reception and all we want you to do is come enjoy it and have a special Christmas Eve “tradition” again.

Choir-led Advent Service of Song and Scripture: Sunday, December 22nd. Christmas music is such an important part of Advent and of Christmas. This special service is also a great time to invite a friend or neighbor to join us in worship for this special worship service.

Christmas Eve Reception and Worship Service: Reception at 4:30; Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 5:30

Zoom Advent “Chat” - - Pastor Irene will lead a three-session Advent “Chat” on Wednesday afternoons during Advent. These sessions will be at 2pm Wednesdays, December 4th, 11th and 18th. The Zoom format is a way to include and combine our Facebook worshippers with our in-person worshippers. The Zoom link will be emailed out on Wednesday mornings to any who have requested to participate. You do not have to do all three – but in order to plan, Irene needs to know by each Tuesday evening if you would like to participate. The sessions will last one hour, and will include readings, music and other ponderings on Advent.

Advent Worship Planning 2024

Date	Advent Candle Lighters	Scripture / Reader
12/1 Hope	Caroline Hale and Don Pruet	Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Luke 21: 25-36 Lynn Malone
12/8 Peace	Eliza Cave and San Cave Riley	Luke 3: 1-6; Philippians 1: 3-11
12/15 Joy	Curtis and Shelvia Beard	Zephaniah 3: 14-20; Luke 3: 7-18
12/22 Love	Lucy and Paula Jones	Choir Special including Scripture readings
12/24 Christmas Eve Christ Candle	June and Mike Wilson	Reader A: Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2: 11-14 Lynn Malone: Luke 2: 1-20
12/29 Christ Candle?		Isaiah 52: 7-10 John 1: 1-14
1/5 Epiphany		Matthew 2: 1-12

Sunday School Lesson readings:

12/1 - Psalm 25:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

12/8 - Luke 1: 68-79; 3:1-6

12/15 - Isaiah 12; Philippians 4: 1, 4-7

12/22 - Psalm 80: 1-7; Miah 5: 2-5a; Hebrews 10: 5-10

12/29 - 1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26; Luke 2: 41-52

Scripture Readers for December

December 1 First Sunday of Advent - Lynn Malone

December 8 Second Sunday of Advent -

December 15 Third Sunday of Advent - Laura Kraft

December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent - Choir Special including Scripture

December 24 - Christmas Eve Christ Candle

December Dates to Remember

Tuesday, December 10 - Board Meeting-6pm

Saturday, December 21 - DWF Trash and Treasure -9am to 1pm

Saturday, December 21 - Game Day with Susan - 1:30 pm

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Reception - 4:30 pm

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve service - 5:30 pm

“THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU AND THANK YOU”

To anyone who participated in anyway in our All Church Workday, sponsored by the Deacons, your time, energy and help were greatly appreciated! Areas in the kitchen, pantry, sanctuary, and outside were cleaned and/or straightened up.

Our Disciple Mission Fund Thanksgiving Offering, to support the higher education Institutions of the Christian Church (DOC), totaled \$275.00. Your donations will be put to good use in these times of higher cost which affect us all. Thank you.

ACTs donation for December: Pasta or Spaghetti noodles

Walking Tall donation December: 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.



ACTS Senior Holiday Gift Bags

Please drop off your donations at

340 Park Ave SW, Aiken, SC 29801,

by Monday, December 9th through the 13th to ensure we have enough time to prepare the bags for our Senior Food Distribution on December 21st.

Thank you for helping make this holiday season a little brighter for our seniors. 🤝❤️

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:

Lynn Malone - December 21
April Virge - December 23
Judee Mitchell - December 27
Matt Shane - December 31

New / Immediate Prayer Requests: Debby Hargis and Kim Dicks (E. Johnston), Tom Williams (remote worshipper), Luiza Samodi (J. Mitchell, Braxton & Malachi (L. Wahlmeier), Ron Parker (W. Malone) **On-Going Prayer Requests:** *Church members:* Ed Albritton; Pastor Irene; Ida Bassi; Shelvia Beard; Robin Brooks; Eliza Husser Cave; Linda Cheadle; Jerry Doleshall; Elaine Johnston; Carol Kettel; Pam Owen; Vicki Rishel; Connie Santee; Elsie Smith; Susan Poster Ullmann; Paul & Pat Wilson *Friends and Family:* Martha Albritton (E. Albritton); Dr. Walter Allen (E. Cave); Ken Chatto (C. Chatto); Jennifer Chatto-McCoskey (C. Chatto); Chuck Johnston (E. Johnston); Laurie Greene (J. Mitchell); Bryan Malone (W. Malone); Austin Moede (C. Hale); Connie Moomjy (J. Mitchell); Sabrina (E. Smith); Mike Seymour (J. Wilson); Eileen Snow (P. Jones); Janet Stearns (Woody Malone), Murray & Piza Stellar (C. Hale); Our church; ACTs of Aiken; Walking Tall; USA and the world,

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