

THE DISCIPLE



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

P.O. Box 568, Downers Grove, IL 60515

801 63rd St., Downers Grove, IL 60516

630-968-7818

Email: firstccdgc@gmail.com Web: fccdg.org

April, 2025

Rev. Daphne Gascot Arias, Minister

Carol Clifford, Editor



*“Called to be the presence of
Christ in our community”*

Karen's Korner



Wow! April and the month of Easter are here! Hoping by the time you read this, the weather has figured out that it's Spring. As I write this, we are looking forward to a fifth Sunday, where our mission is to support a struggling young family through FISH. I hope everyone was able to join us!

We do have lots of opportunities for Lenten celebrations in April. Thursday, April 17th we will celebrate our Maundy Thursday Dinner at 6:30 pm. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall – so let us know if you are coming and what you can bring! On Easter Sunday we will have an Easter Breakfast at 8:45 followed by worship. And bring the kids for an Easter Egg Hunt. Also bring the kids to Sunday school where they are working on an Easter treat mission!

For those of you who knew Jeff and Dixie Franklin, their memorial service will be 11:00 am on Saturday April 26th with a lunch following. Please try to join us in honoring the lives of these special people!

Feed the Body and Soul is going strong and is very well attended. We are enjoying a Lenten study with Rev. Daphne's friend, Rev. Larry Morris III, hosting. Please join us either in Fellowship Hall or by Zoom. We are continuing to offer a light dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by the lesson at 6:30 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you can provide dinner.

Adult Sunday school continues at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings. We are enjoying our fascinating study of Women in the Bible. Join us!

I hope everyone is enjoying the rebirth of a light coffee hour after worship. The Elders and Board members have restarted the tradition but please sign up if you also would like to treat one Sunday. We are only looking at a light coffee hour of one or two items to encourage folks to stay and socialize after service!

Faithfully yours, Karen



Join Us for Monday Intercessory Prayer (MIP)!

Prayers are being answered! Please join us for MIP Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. from the comforts of your own home! Spending an hour with God feeling his support and love is always a blessing. Prayer is so needed to keep us in peace and trust during this difficult time!

We not only ask for God's help with our concerns, but we also spend time offering praise for all God is doing in our world. Recent praises were for:

- Subway co-founder Peter Buck donated his \$5B share of the company before he died, to Peter & Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation, which supports causes like education, healthcare, & land conservation.
- A teacher, Lucas Salas Aldi, created a special harness for a specially-abled girl Agostina that allowed him to attach her legs to his own enabling her to dance. With his support she confidently performed alongside her classmates, earning her a standing ovation.
- After an earthquake & tsunami in Takoku, Hideaki Akaiwa found his neighborhood under 10 ft. of water. He donned a wetsuit & swam 200 meters, to reach his house. He found his wife and brought her to safety, went back for his mother and continued to search for survivors.

God is active and working throughout our world. Hallelujah! Join in our praise!

The **conference-calling** feature makes it easy to join from anywhere you are. Dial in to join us for the entire session or just to ask for your own prayer concerns. We welcome all prayer concerns! We document our prayer concerns each week and if you provide us with your email, we can send a copy to you each week.

Join us for a spiritually enriching hour with God! You are free to join in silently or add prayers as you like!

Our Monday night sessions include:

- A brief gathering of any additional prayers and prayer priorities
- A prayer devotion
- Prayers for our joys and concerns: personal, church, community, country, and world
- A brief closing prayer

To Join by Conference Call:

1. Call (607) 374-1123
2. Enter the access code: 390193

For more information email Karen Johns: johns.karen@gmail.com

BELARUS



Twenty years ago, we were asked to help bring children to the US from Belarus. Our clean air and clean food would help children from that area effected by Chernobyl where 70% f the radiation fell. Some of you will remember them being here in church with us. We soon were involved with the Moglief Baby Orphanage and later with the Isle of Hope Children's Camp.

Dick and I went there and worked in the orphanage; later Dick returned to work in the camp. We have seen the need and it is still there. The good thing is that every dollar you give goes to Belarus, no admin costs, no third-party charges. Ast year you sent \$7,200. What will you send our children in 2025?

Dick and Martha

Easter Week

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Sunday, April 13 | Palm Sunday |
| Thursday, April 17 | Maundy Thursday Agape Service 6:30pm |
| Friday, April 18 | Good Friday |
| Sunday, April 20 | Easter Sunday Breakfast 8:45am - Worship 10:30 am |



It's Teatime



Our annual Women's Tea will be held on Saturday, May 17th from noon to 3 pm.

Leslie Goddard will be presenting Lucille Ball best known for "I Love Lucy". It's a program you won't want to miss.

Tickets for this year's Tea go on sale Sunday, April 6. Price remains at \$15. Proceeds from the Tea will benefit the Church's Outreach Ministry and also our new outreach project, Dixie's Cafe.

We will again have a gift basket raffle. Empty baskets as well as a list of suggested gift items are available in Fellowship Hall. Filled baskets must be returned no later than Sunday, May 4th.

Volunteers are the secret to all our many years of success. This year we need helpers to set up the tea tables in Fellowship Hall on the afternoon of May 15 (time to be determined later). We also need a Coordinator for the Tea Food Donations as well as the food set-up the morning of the Tea and we need several of our all-important waiters. Please let Sue or Alice know how or where you want to help.

It's never too early to invite family and friends to join us as we will be entertained by a beloved comedy icon. We can guarantee that lots of laughter and fond memories will warm all our hearts.



Did you know...? By: Bobbie Dean



Social interaction in **Ukraine** is regulated by etiquette similar to the rest of Europe. Some local idiosyncrasies are a personal space of less than an arm's length in business conversations and the habit of drinking alcohol at business meetings, a relic of Soviet times.

Ancient beliefs regarding child rearing still exist in contemporary Ukraine: a baby's hair is not cut until the first birthday; baptism is seen as a safeguard, and safety pins inside a child's clothing ward off evil spells. Children attend school from age six. Education is compulsory and universal through nine grades. Students may graduate after the ninth grade at age sixteen and may work with special permission or enter vocational and technical schools. Since the number of specializations in these schools has decreased, most students finish the full eleven grades. A curricular revision is introducing new courses and programs for gifted children. In post-secondary education undergraduate degrees are granted directly by universities. Candidates and doctor of sciences or arts degrees are granted by the Highest Attestation Commission of the Ministry of Education in a bureaucratically complicated system. Every major field of learning is covered in major universities. Every large and medium-sized urban center has at least one institution of higher learning.



Help a Hero!

Support overseas troops...



Aid displaced animals!

Support the efforts of the Pasadena Humane animal shelter. The nonprofit organization has been tirelessly working to treat and provide shelter for animals that were injured or displaced by the Los Angeles fires. Visit the shelter's website at PasadenaHumane.org and click on "Give" to donate.

Church Chuckles

By Bobbie Dean



A taxi driver and a pastor arrive at the Pearly Gates at the same time, and St. Peter greets the taxi driver warmly. A stretch limo pulls up to the gate. The driver steps out, places a beautiful silken robe on the taxi driver, holds the door while he gets in the back, then drives him to a mansion. The pastor is excited. If a taxi driver gets all that, he can only imagine what his reward for a life of service to the Lord will be.

But the next car he sees is a Ford Pinto. A driver steps out of the car, tosses a terry cloth robe and keys to the pastor, and walks back through the gates.

“There must be some mistake,” the pastor exclaims. “I served the Lord faithfully for over 40 years. That was a taxi driver. Are you sure there wasn’t a mix-up?”

“Oh no,” St. Peter replies. “You see, while you worked, people slept. While the taxi driver worked, people prayed.”



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



| | |
|---------|----------------|
| Apr. 2 | Joy Claffey |
| Apr. 9 | Torin John |
| Apr. 26 | Richard Sladek |
| Apr. 26 | Ethel Hayes |

SERVING SCHEDULE



ELDERS

Lectern

Table

| | | |
|---------|--------------|--------------|
| Apr. 6 | Bob Reese | Bill Cook |
| Apr. 13 | Sue Huizinga | Don Peterson |
| Apr. 20 | Barb Bates | Daphne Hayes |
| Apr. 27 | Bill Cook | Becky Daigle |

DEACONS

Prep and Serve

Serve

| | | |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|
| Apr. 6 | Jeff Igel | Larry Carley |
| Apr. 13 | David Kijowski | Galilee Flores |
| Apr. 20 | Lisa Johnson | Jeff Igel |
| Apr. 27 | Kristi Kijowski | David Kijowski |



PHILIP'S EGG



As Easter time approaches, let me share with you the tender story of an eleven-year-old boy named Philip, a Down's syndrome child who was in a Sunday School class with eight other children.

Easter Sunday the teacher brought an empty plastic egg for each child. They were instructed to go out of the church building onto the grounds and put into the egg something that would remind them of the meaning of Easter.

All returned joyfully. As each egg was opened there were exclamations of delight at a butterfly, a twig, a flower, a blade of grass. Then the last egg was opened. It was Philip's, and it was empty!

Some of the children made fun of Philip. "But, teacher," he said, "teacher, the tomb was empty."

A newspaper article announcing Philip's death a few months later noted that at the conclusion of the funeral eight children marched forward and put a large empty egg on the small casket. On it was a banner that said, "The tomb was empty."