

THE DISCIPLE



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

801 63rd St., Downers Grove, IL 60516

630-968-7818 Fax: 630-968-6384

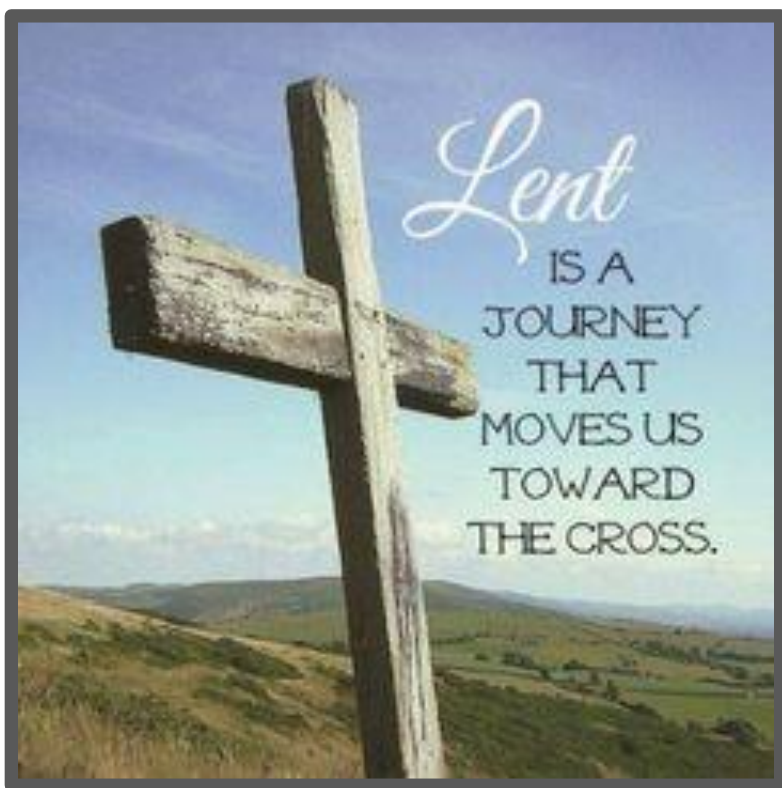
Email: firstccdg@gmail.com Web: fccdg.org

March 2020

Rev. Rick Hamilton, Minister

Carol Clifford, Editor

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



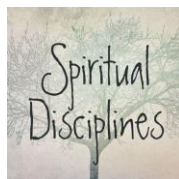
One of my practices as I sit down to write my monthly newsletter article is to look back at the same month from previous years. It's a little like a Facebook memory popping up to see where we are. Two years ago, we made the mutual decision to remove the "transitional" tag off of my title and the congregation and I agreed I would simply be pastor of First Christian Church. Rereading that newsletter article reminded me of something important. I told you these words back then:

First Christian Church is a good church. I regard it as an honor to serve here. The problem is good makes us so comfortable that we forget to strive for great. God calls us to our greatest efforts at growing the reign of God and this particular expression and part of the body of Christ. I fear we are falling short in our sense of urgency in achieving that goal.

I still mean all of those words. I find myself wishing we would plan with a little more intentionality and ask ourselves some of the hard questions which come with looking to the future. I wish we would be intentional about naming an outreach team and make service and connection an even stronger part of the church. I wish God would make us a little bit uncomfortable because I believe that discomfort would create a stronger urgency for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This Lent we will be doing a special study at Feed the Body and Soul focused on Spiritual Disciplines. We will still have our Maundy Thursday Agape meal followed by a special service. Of course we will wave palms, hunt Easter Eggs, and Celebrate Easter Brunch. As the days lengthen and the light gives the earth new life, it is my prayer that God will make us a little uncomfortable as God grants new life to First Christian Church.

I'll see you around the Lord's Table,  
Rick



# REFLECTIONS AND IDEAS



March is a time of many changes in our weather. We often say that the month comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. It is so nice to have the warmer days and to see the buds come out and then some of the early flowers bloom. In church we will move from 'ordinary time' to Lent and the coming of Easter.

God created wonderful seasons in our area with some gradual changes and some very dramatic. In church there will be changes in our sanctuary and in our fellowship hall. Sue Huizinga has again made beautiful table centerpieces and Martha Anderson has coordinated the color scheme with pretty table covers. In the sanctuary Becky Daigle is in charge of changing our banners. Take a moment to thank them for their dedication to keeping our church home very inviting. And do consider inviting your family, friends and neighbors to join us on Sunday morning or Wednesday evening. They may find that our church program would add a great deal to their lives.

Have a happy spring and remember one of our Bible verses so appropriate for this time of year:

Psalm 118:24: This is the day the Lord has made.  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

See you in church!  
Joy Claffey, Chairman



## DIRECTORY CORRECTION...



Alice Dornan's email should read - amdornan1@gmail.com

**IF YOU HAVEN'T PICKED UP YOUR NEW DIRECTORY AND  
WANT ONE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

## Current Fund Balances --by date - As of 2/29/2020



| Account                                  | 2/29/2020<br>Balance |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Bank Accounts</b>                     |                      |
| General Fund - (Operating Budget)        | -3,486.77            |
| Hope For The Future - Savings Fund       | 43,899.88            |
| In-As-Much Fund                          | 782.40               |
| Ladies Annual Tea                        | 0.00                 |
| Memorials                                | 1,610.00             |
| Pass Thru Funds                          | 0.00                 |
| Property Reserve                         | 1,366.14             |
| SPECIAL Disciples Mission Outreach Funds | 900.00               |
| SPECIAL Music & Worship Fund             | 7.45                 |
| The Back To School Fair Fund             | 4,415.16             |
| Youth Fund                               | 1,330.77             |
| <b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>               | <b>50,825.03</b>     |
| <b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>                     | <b>50,825.03</b>     |

## Did you know...?

By: Bobbie Dean



### Interesting facts about Ireland:

- \*Ireland ranks 6<sup>th</sup> worldwide in the average consumption of beer per person
- \*Ireland has the 4<sup>th</sup> largest stadium in Europe.
- \*More Guinness is sold in Nigeria than in Ireland.
- \*Ireland's Patron Saint St. Patrick is not Irish! (from mainland Britain)
- \*The submarine was invented in Ireland.
- \*Halloween was derived from an Irish festival called Samhain,
- \*The longest place name in Ireland is Muckanaghederdauhlia.
- \*More people speak Polish at home than Gaelic.
- \*10 million pints of Guinness are produced in Dublin every day!
- \*St. Valentine is buried in a Dublin church.
- \*The national symbol isn't a shamrock it's a harp "The Coat of Arms."
- \*Only 9% of the Irish population are natural redheads.
- \*The White House was created by an Irishman.
- \*Irish traditional sports – Hurling and Gaelic Football have developed over 3000 years.
- \*Ireland is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest tea drinking nation

Budget  
1/1/2020 through 2/29/2020 Using Budget 2020 Annual

| Category                       | 1/1/2020<br>Actual | -<br>Budget      | 2/29/2020<br>Difference |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                  | <b>16,119.48</b>   | <b>22,400.00</b> | <b>-6,280.52</b>        |
| 100_income                     | 16,119.48          | 22,400.00        | -6,280.52               |
| 120-Identifiable Giving        | 15,759.60          | 22,052.00        | -6,292.40               |
| 130-Loose offering             | 36.60              | 58.00            | -21.40                  |
| 140-Space Use Donations        | 0.00               | 24.00            | -24.00                  |
| 150_Fundraising                | 0.00               | 16.00            | -16.00                  |
| 160-Other Income               | 323.28             | 250.00           | 73.28                   |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                | <b>19,606.25</b>   | <b>22,937.00</b> | <b>3,330.75</b>         |
| 200-Ministry                   | 664.90             | 498.00           | -166.90                 |
| 210-Worship                    | 0.00               | 100.00           | 100.00                  |
| 220-Evangelism                 | 0.00               | 16.00            | 16.00                   |
| 230-Disciples Mission Fund     | 350.00             | 350.00           | 0.00                    |
| 250-Stewardship                | 259.93             | 16.00            | -243.93                 |
| 260-Christian Development      | 54.97              | 16.00            | -38.97                  |
| 300-Property                   | 2,277.89           | 4,500.00         | 2,222.11                |
| 310-Maintenance & Repair       | 150.00             | 700.00           | 550.00                  |
| 320-Equipment                  | 0.00               | 0.00             | 0.00                    |
| 330-Grounds                    | 750.00             | 1,500.00         | 750.00                  |
| 340-Utilities                  | 1,377.89           | 1,300.00         | -77.89                  |
| 350-Improvements               | 0.00               | 1,000.00         | 1,000.00                |
| 400-Office Administration      | 1,263.90           | 2,357.00         | 1,093.10                |
| 410-Insurance & Bonding        | 0.00               | 1,625.00         | 1,625.00                |
| 420- Office Expense            | 1,050.85           | 600.00           | -450.85                 |
| 430-Payroll Service            | 213.05             | 132.00           | -81.05                  |
| 500-Personnel                  | 15,399.56          | 15,582.00        | 182.44                  |
| 520-Sr. Min. Housing Allowance | 6,666.00           | 6,666.00         | 0.00                    |
| 530-Sr. Min.Pension            | 1,000.00           | 1,000.00         | 0.00                    |
| 540-Sr. Min. Prof. Expenses    | 0.00               | 166.00           | 166.00                  |
| 550-Office Manager Salary      | 3,660.00           | 3,660.00         | 0.00                    |
| 560-Pianist Salary             | 2,202.00           | 2,202.00         | 0.00                    |
| 570-Choir Director             | 0.00               | 0.00             | 0.00                    |
| 580-Custodian Salary           | 1,322.00           | 1,322.00         | 0.00                    |
| 590-Staff FICA                 | 549.56             | 566.00           | 16.44                   |
| <b>Net Difference:</b>         | <b>-3,486.77</b>   | <b>-537.00</b>   | <b>-2,949.77</b>        |

## MARCH LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch bunch will meet following worship on Sun.,  
March 15<sup>th</sup> at:

Harvest Pancake House and Grill  
339 West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Westmont



Please join us to celebrate time together. Look for the sign-up  
sheet in Fellowship Hall. See you there!

Martha and Alice

## **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!



To Join by Conference Call:

- 1.Call (712) 770-3743
- 2.Enter the access code: 390193

For more information email Karen Johns:

[johns.karen@gmail.com](mailto:johns.karen@gmail.com)



## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**



Christian Education is starting into our Lenten Study for OWLs (Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade). We will look at praying for Lent as well as the passion week activities and some fun Resurrection Eggs! The Middle School (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade) group is continuing to alternate weeks, studying Rick's sermons one week and then discussing them the following week. They may also join OWLS for a Seder dinner in honor of Lent.

Adult Sunday school is wrapping up The Pursuit of Paul and will then begin The Pursuit of Peter. Please join us – 9:00 am Sundays!

Feed the Body and Soul is continuing Wednesday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We are enjoying a light supper, fellowship and a lively study led by Rev. Rick Hamilton. For Lent, we are taking a break from the New Testament to view a new study by Adam Hamilton – The Walk. It is a good study focused on Five Essential Spiritual Practices of Christian Life. Join us! Please also sign up if you can provide a dinner.

We need volunteers for the Nursery! While the sanctuary has entertainment for the children, sometimes the nursery is a good option. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall, if you can help! Or if you see young ones on Sunday, please volunteer to help, if you are able!

Karen, Sue, Deb, Joy, Alice, Tammy and Angela

# THANKS TO THE MUSIC TEAM



I want to offer thanks to the many musicians who contribute to our worship experience. They include:

- Piano/Keyboard: Rick Sladek
- Percussion: Bob Reese
- Guitars: Suellen Cook, Bill Cook, and Dan Johns
- Vocals: Martha Anderson, Marve Huizinga, Mac Flores, Becky Daigle
- Choir: All of the above, as well as Karen Johns, Gail, Angela, and Tammy Reese, and Rick Hamilton
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Having this great participation enriches our worship and helps us all to make a joyful noise to the Lord.

Thank you all!



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

|         |                    |
|---------|--------------------|
| Mar. 3  | Scott Daigle       |
| Mar. 6  | Larry Carley       |
| Mar. 7  | Hanzel Flores      |
| Mar. 9  | Garrett Allen      |
| Mar. 9  | Bob Reese          |
| Mar. 11 | Jeff Franklin      |
| Mar. 18 | Nina Carley        |
| Mar. 26 | Rachel Chandler    |
| Mar. 26 | Alison Daigle      |
| Mar. 31 | Robert Phillips    |
| Mar. 31 | Chiy'enne Phillips |





# SERVING SCHEDULE



## ELDERS

Bread /Cup

|         |                 |                 |
|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mar. 1  | Barb Bate       | Martha Anderson |
| Mar. 8  | Daphne Hayes    | Bob Reese       |
| Mar. 15 | Martha Anderson | Becky Daigle    |
| Mar. 22 | Karen Johns     | Joy Claffey     |
| Mar. 29 | Bill Cook       | Daphne Hayes    |

## DEACONS

Prep and Serve

Serve

|         |                |                                        |
|---------|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| Mar. 1  | Dandy Allen    | Don Peterson                           |
| Mar. 8  | Galilee Flores | Dan Johns, Jeff Igel, Gail Reese       |
| Mar. 15 | Mac Flores     | Jim Claffey, Suellen Cook, Ron Smith   |
| Mar. 22 | Galilee Flores | Dan Johns, Sandy Allen, Jeff Igel      |
| Mar. 29 | Jim Claffey    | Mac Flores, Don Peterson, Suellen Cook |

## POWER POINT

|         |                |
|---------|----------------|
| Mar. 1  | Marve Huizinga |
| Mar. 8  | Barb Bates     |
| Mar. 15 | Larry Carley   |
| Mar. 22 | Don Peterson   |
| Mar. 29 | Joy Claffey    |

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

|         |                                           |
|---------|-------------------------------------------|
| Mar. 1  | Tammy Reese, Angela Reese, Karen Johns    |
| Mar. 8  | Tammy Reese, Angela Reese, Deb McClelland |
| Mar. 15 | Tammy Reese, Angela Reese, Sue Huizinga   |
| Mar. 22 | Tammy Reese, Angela Reese, Sue Huizinga   |
| Mar. 29 | Tammy Reese, Angela Reese, Beth Smith     |

## COUNTERS

|         |                                    |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| Mar. 1  | Marve Huizinga and Martha Anderson |
| Mar. 8  | Barb Bates and Sandy Allen         |
| Mar. 15 | Dick Anderson and Marve Huizinga   |
| Mar. 22 | Marve Huizinga and Don Peterson    |
| Mar. 29 | Bob Reese and Sandy Allen          |