

THE DISCIPLE



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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January 2021

Rev. Rick Hamilton, Minister

Carol Clifford, Editor



A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen

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

2021

Happy New Year! We made it to 2021, which I know gives us all hope. That said, we know that turning the page of the calendar is not going to change much right away. Even in January we will still be wearing masks, social distancing, taking care to protect ourselves and others, and for now meeting in virtual formats for Worship and Education. None of this is easy, but the burning of an old calendar and the hanging of a new one is not an excuse to let down our guard.



There is much to be hopeful for in terms of vaccines and treatment progress. We have continued thus far to feel blessed as a congregation as we have not yet been directly affected. For that I applaud each of you for taking care, making good choices, and doing your best to protect others. That said, it's pretty much inevitable that someone from FCC will get COVID. And we will love that person the best we know how. We know that no one wakes up and says "I think I will try and get COVID today." It just happens. We do not why some get it and some don't. We just know it is.

If there is a blessing in all of this, I think it might be this: People are thinking differently about matters of life and death, of faith and of eternity. Believe it or not, our attendance online is up, and there are subscribers to our YouTube channel that I have never met. That says to me that people are seeking a renewal of faith in the midst of tragedy, which has often been the way.

So maybe, just maybe, we will be able to get back together in person this year. And yet, I am confident we will keep our online presence for worship from now on. Some will never embrace brick and mortar church, but might embrace Jesus Christ nevertheless.

So yes, there is blessing, even in the midst of a pandemic. On another note, I write this today from a hotel room in Texas as we anticipate my mother's final breath in this life. Soon (most likely before you read this) we will commend her spirit to God, and lay to rest her physical body. She was never touched by COVID. Yet I know she was touched by the Holy Spirit through her faith in Jesus Christ. So I know she will receive the

gift of everlasting life. I do not yet know what this will do to my schedule as we kick off our new year in worship. There's a decent chance you will start without me. Rest assured, I will catch up, and look forward to being with you soon.
Grace and Peace,

Rick

P.S. Wear Your Mask, Keep Your Distance, Wash Your Hands!
I love you.



REFLECTIONS AND IDEAS



The New Year has approached very quickly and I need to thank everyone in the church for being with us this year in spirit if not in person. I never believed in March that we would still be wearing masks and be socially distancing at the end of 2020. We do appreciate the hard work our staff and devoted volunteers have done to maintain our level of worship. I hope you have all been able to keep in touch and feel you are still a part of our church family.

We are hopeful now that 2021 will be a better year for everyone. We want to return to our normal activities and will do so as we can and still be safe and meet the healthy guidelines. The new vaccines should enable us to do that.

During the quiet moments of the past year I have thought about the many things that are important to me. I have really never made a list of New Year's Resolutions but have thought about changes that I could make. I did like this thought:

The beginning of a new year is a good time for reflection of the year past but also it is a good time to think about the future, your dreams, your goals, and the things that make a difference in your life.

Stay safe and well and remember that you are all part of a caring church family.

Joy Claffey, Chairman

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! We are continuing to meet social distancing or not. Spending an hour with God feeling his support and love is a blessing at all times!

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
 - World
- A brief closing prayer

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Christian Ed continues to look forward to a time when we can return to our time together, but we are thankful for the ways we can connect. We hope everyone enjoyed our advent offerings and also the joyous Christmas Eve service!

In January we are again picking up with Children Bulletins. We will email both younger and older children bulletins for use each Sunday. We hope these are helping the children connect with the Sunday worships.

Adult Sunday school remains on hiatus. We hope once things open up to pick up with our God of Surprises video series.

Enrich the Soul will start again Wednesday January 13th by Zoom. We will continue with our study of Acts and the Letters of Paul. The Zoom sessions on Wednesdays start at 6:00 pm for fellowship and shared eating as desired. We ask that the fellowship and eating end by 6:30 p.m., which is when the lesson starts.

We know these are challenging times, but we hope you will take advantage of these offerings. As always we are always open to comments and suggestions.

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



“Let us sing even when we do not feel like it, for in this way we give wings to heavy feet and turn weariness into strength.”

John Henry Jowett

Current Fund Balances --by date - As of 12/31/2020

Account	12/31/2020 Balance
Bank Accounts	
General Fund - (Operating Budget)	0.00
Hope For The Future - Savings Fund	55,919.88
In-As-Much Fund	702.40
Ladies Annual Tea	0.00
Memorials	445.79
Pass Thru Funds	0.00
Property Reserve	1,366.14
SPECIAL Disciples Mission Outreach ...	345.00
SPECIAL Music & Worship Fund	7.45
The Back To School Fair Fund	4,257.37
Youth Fund	1,330.77
TOTAL Bank Accounts	64,374.80
OVERALL TOTAL	64,374.80



PROPERTY REPORT

ComEd for November 2020

2020 10/21 to 11/19 \$147.27

2019 10/21 to 11/19 \$193.06



Property has been busy this last month. We addressed the damage done during the bad storm, removing fallen tree limbs from the Annex and Church property and addressing the front stoop entrance to the Annex. The entry slab was hit by the tree limb causing a significant slant making it dangerous. Options are being looked at to fix it. Heat pump #2, servicing Fellowship Hall, was replaced and is now working as it should.

We hope that all had a safe, healthy and blessed Christmas and New Year.

Barb and Dan.

Budget - 2020

1/1/2020 through 12/31/2020 Using Budget 2020 Annual

Category	Actual	2020 Budget	Difference
INCOME	124,717.63	134,417.00	-9,699.37
100_income	124,717.63	134,417.00	-9,699.37
120-Identifiable Giving	122,964.23	132,317.00	-9,352.77
130-Loose offering	46.60	350.00	-303.40
140-Space Use Donations	350.00	150.00	200.00
150_Fundraising	0.00	100.00	-100.00
160-Other Income	1,356.80	1,500.00	-143.20
EXPENSES	124,717.63	134,417.00	9,699.37
200-Ministry	3,008.70	3,000.00	-8.70
210-Worship	311.69	600.00	288.31
220-Evangelism	0.00	100.00	100.00
230-Disciples Mission Fund	2,100.00	2,100.00	0.00
250-Stewardship	464.36	100.00	-364.36
260-Christian Development	132.65	100.00	-32.65
300-Property	16,315.71	27,000.00	10,684.29
310-Maintenance & Repair	2,107.95	4,200.00	2,092.05
320-Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00
330-Grounds	8,210.00	9,000.00	790.00
340-Utilities	5,997.76	7,800.00	1,802.24
350-Improvements	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
400-Office Administration	11,901.35	10,900.00	-1,001.35
410-Insurance & Bonding	6,397.83	6,500.00	102.17
420- Office Expense	4,494.43	3,600.00	-894.43
430-Payroll Service	1,009.09	800.00	-209.09
500-Personnel	93,491.87	93,517.00	25.13
520-Sr. Min. Housing Allowance	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00
530-Sr. Min.Pension	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00
540-Sr. Min. Prof. Expenses	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
550-Office Manager Salary	21,965.00	21,965.00	0.00
560-Pianist Salary	14,215.00	13,215.00	-1,000.00
570-Choir Director	0.00	0.00	0.00
580-Custodian Salary	7,937.00	7,937.00	0.00
590-Staff FICA	3,374.87	3,400.00	25.13
Net Difference:	0.00	0.00	0.00



"A Christian should be an alleluia from his head
down to his feet." -St. Augustine-

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Jan. 1	Marve Huizinga
Jan. 3	Sue Huizinga
Jan. 3	Don Peterson
Jan. 7	Dixie Franklin
Jan. 9	Kathy Payne
Jan. 22	Alexis Darling
Jan. 24	Becky Daigle
Jan. 25	Angela Reese
Jan. 25	Tammy Reese
Jan. 28	Katie Ritchie



Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!

Your staff, Rick, Carol, Rick, and Bill, would like to take this opportunity to thank all of for the very thoughtful and generous Christmas gifts you gave us this year.



During a year that brought so much sadness and uncertainty these gifts were greatly appreciated.

Happy New Year and thank you again,

Rick, Carol, Rick and Bill.

Church Chuckles

By Bobbie Dean



*Play It Again!

One Saturday, the church treasurer confronted the pastor with a \$5,000 budget shortfall. Distressed, the minister spent a sleepless night thinking about the best way to motivate his tight-fisted congregation to increase their offerings. He was preoccupied with the subject on Sunday morning when the organist called to tell him she had the flu, but had arranged for a substitute.

The substitute arrived shortly before the service was to start. The pastor handed her the order of service, and then said, "I have a special announcement to make after the service, so please think of something to play when I'm done."

When announcement time came, the pastor stood before the congregation and said, "Brothers and sisters, due to unexpected repairs and cost increases, our church is in debt. Therefore, I'm asking each family to prayerfully consider a gift of \$100 or more. If you can do this, please stand up."

At that moment, the organist launched into "The Star-Spangled Banner."

That Sunday, the budget was balanced!



All in the family

Bill Keane, creator of the *Family Circus* cartoon strip, tells of a time when he was penciling in one of his cartoons, and his son Jeffy asked, "Daddy, how do you know what to draw?" Keane replied, "God tells me." Jeffy said, "Then why do you keep erasing part of it?"

Did you know...?

By: Bobbie Dean



As Muslims, Saudi Arabians participate in a community (ummah) in which issues of race, ethnicity, and national origin should be of no significance and never form the basis for social action, political behavior, and economic organization. The identity of Muslim transcends the borders of states and ideally takes precedence over all other identities.

Socially, however, the concept of origin (*asl*) is strong among many Saudi Arabians. Some people, mainly in Hijaz, are recognized descendants of Muhammad and are known as *Ashraf*. Many others throughout the kingdom assert patrilineal descent from eponymous ancestors from ancient Arab tribes. Still others stress Arabian origins but without tribal connections. However, Saudi citizenship embraces people with historical origins outside the Arabian Peninsula.

Considerations of origin are important markers and influence social interaction, including marriage, but do not translate directly into economic or power differentials in the national society. Moreover, the social significance of such considerations is waning, especially among younger people.



Christmas Cards



Since you haven't been able to be in the church building to see what is on the bulletin boards, I want to share with you that we received Christmas cards from the following...

Sam and Danielle, The Cox Bateman Family

Kathy Payne

Matt, Alison, Linus, and Baby #2 (due in the spring), The Erickson Family

LOVE Christian Clearinghouse...

Excerpts from a Christmas letter received from LOVE.



Something good happened in 2020: Love, celebrated 35 years of service to churches and the community. Over the years Love, INC. and you have helped thousands of people in our communities overcome a temporary crisis.

With your help, Love wants to have an even larger impact on families in need by helping churches help people escape poverty rather than simply manage it. Churches communities will walk alongside people as they acquire new life-skills to achieve lasting change and transformation in their lives.

We call this new ministry...MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER.

The Moving Forward Together ministry is an opportunity for community members to attend free classes, hosted at a centrally located church, to address the needs of the whole person –spiritual, emotional, relational and their physical and financial needs. The ministry is relational, providing church members the opportunity to help others and interact with participants each week in a variety of roles. Form greeters to instructors, from childcare providers to clean-up crews – there is a volunteer position for everyone and a multitude of volunteers will be needed.

This effort to bring about transformational change in the lives of members of our community will take all of us working together; some of us will continue to listen to callers in the Clearinghouse call-center and others will feel called to support the Moving Forward Together weekly classes, administering the program or providing oversight.

A Multitude are needed to continue to financially support the Clearinghouse call center and the new Moving Forward Together program. I hope you will be among the hosts who give a hand-up to our neighbors who need a boost.

Anne Marie Schuster,
Executive Director, Love INC.



SERVING SCHEDULE

ELDERS

Lectern

Table

Jan. 3	Martha Anderson	Karen Johns
Jan. 10	Becky Daigle	Bob Reese
Jan. 17	Joy Claffey	Daphne Hayes
Jan. 24	Barb Bates	Becky Daigle
Jan. 31	Karen Johns	Martha Anderson

DEACONS

Prep and Serve

Serve

Jan. 3		
Jan. 10		
Jan. 17		
Jan. 24		
Jan. 31		

POWER POINT

Jan.	No power point at this time
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SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Jan.	No Sunday School teachers needed at this time
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COUNTERS

Jan. 3- 31	Marve Huizinga
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