

THE DISCIPLE



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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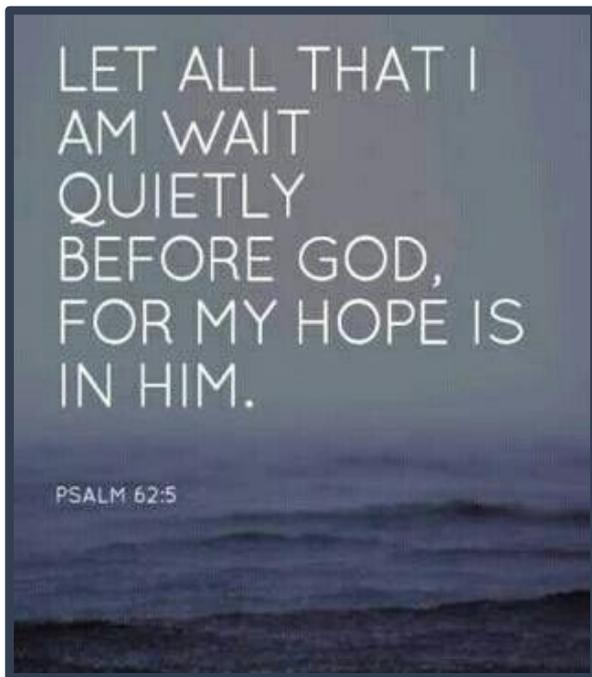
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March 2026

Rev. Daphne Gascot Arias, Minister

Carol Clifford, Editor

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



I know I often emphasize the importance of taking care of each other, being kind and intentional about upholding each other. To that point, I have a testimony!

On February 24, I joined a Zoom call with 3 of my professors, who asked me all kinds of questions about the 70ish pages that made up my qualifying exams. About 2 hours into it, I was struggling to keep my thoughts straight. Long story short, as you may already know, I passed my exams. It has been an uphill battle for sure.

As I look back, I recognize I had stopped imagining myself on the other side of the finish line. I know that at times, my beloved husband's faith in me and the grace of God were my only motivation. I remember many church things I was late on, things I forgot, but I also remember your grace with me with every mistake. Other times, my friends offered me safe spaces to complain, resist the pressure, and think through this process. They reminded me of my past successes, of who I am and who I'm becoming; their faith sustained me when I had no more fight left in me. My parents would tell me, "You can do that and more," like there was no doubt in their minds that I would make it through. Because I'm a mom myself, I understood their lack of concern as total confidence in me.

I believe this is what it means for God's mercies to be new every morning (Lamentations 3.22-23). God's faithful love (v22) is visible in many ways, such as your smiles and words of affirmation, your grace with me when I forget meetings or am just too spent to be coherent, and for the space you give me to lose myself in my study of the Bible. Even when you had to follow up with me, your reminders are always gentle and compassionate.

How can I not see God in your care? How can I miss God's mercy in the kindness of my faith family? How else could we have the ability to sustain each other, if not because God sustains us first? And this is why I'll be preaching about our

need for community until they "mute my microphone" for the last time.

So, to my amazing village, my chosen family, life-friends and church-friends, beloved husband and family of origin, I see God in you. Thank you for being the presence of God in my life. God bless you all.

In Christ,  
Rev. Daphne GA

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## **FROM AN ELDER'S HEART.**

Daphne Hayes



Well, how about that, February is gone. Summer begins June 21<sup>st</sup>; there are about 113 days until our 90 days of fun begin.

Rev. Jesse Jackson passed away on February 17, 2026. What a momentous occasion in the Black community and to all people around the world.

I've thought about how most of us lived during Rev. Jesse Jackson's life, but our children really don't understand how he paved the way for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Black History Month ended on February 28. I didn't share some history this year, to show how no information given will allow us to forget a People. With that, we must preserve Black History, so our youth will have something to teach.

Keep Hope Alive...

# *Karen's Korner*



As I write this, Dan and I are busy preparing to travel to Montana for skiing. A change from Utah this year. Busy time since we just returned from Florida to visit Dan's mom. Nice trip but somehow, I managed to lose my wallet, so I am also busy resolving that complication.

Well, here we are heading into March and hoping that Spring is on the way. Groundhogs were not agreeable this year, so who knows?

Lent is here and we are busy approaching an early Easter on April 5<sup>th</sup>! I hope you will use this time for prayerful growth in your spirituality! We are continuing Feed the Body and Soul on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm for a light supper with the lesson following at 6:30 pm. Rev Daphne is leading us in a bible study focused on Good News for Lent! Join us! There is a signup sheet in Fellowship Hall if you can provide dinner.

Adult Sunday school is also continuing Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. We are continuing our study of Men of the Bible. It is an interesting study with lively discussion! Join us!

During Lent, we also have a fellowship opportunity. On Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a Game Night. It will be a fun time with ping pong competitions, video games, board games, and good fellowship! There is a sign-up in Fellowship Hall so please indicate if you can join us and if you can bring snacks and/or games!

Mark your calendars as we look forward to Palm Sunday (March 29<sup>th</sup>), Maundy Thursday Agape Dinner (April 2<sup>nd</sup>) and Easter (April 5<sup>th</sup>) as we celebrate Christ is Risen!

Monday Intercessory Prayer (MIP) is meeting all Mondays in March except for Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. MIP is not meeting that day due to my vacation in Montana. We have a faithful group and many answered prayers! Please consider joining us on

Mondays from 6-7 pm by calling 607-374-1123 and entering code 390193 at the prompt. It is a peaceful time, during which we share our joys and concerns for personal needs, our church, our community, our nation, and the world. Also, please continue to share your prayer concerns.

Faithfully yours,  
Karen



## *Did you know...?* By: Bobbie Dean



Some interesting facts about **France**:

\***France** is sometimes known as “The Hexagon” due to the fact that it has six sides.

\*The French Army was the first to use camouflage. During WWI, artists painted vehicles and equipment to blend into their respective backgrounds.

\*Over half of the traffic roundabouts in the world are located in France.

\*In the Second World War, when Hitler visited the Eiffel Tower, the French cut all of the lift cables. This forced him to climb the stairs if he wanted to enjoy the view from the top.

\*King Louis XIX had the shortest reign in history: 20 minutes. His father had abdicated the throne, and Louis followed him in abdicating in favor of his nephew.

\*During the Second World War, the Mosque of Paris protected French Jews from the Nazis by supplying them with Muslim identification cards.

\*Keeping food fresh is easier thanks to the French. Nicolas Appert, a confectioner by trade, came up with the concept of canning foods, using sealed glass containers which were placed in boiling water. Pierre Durand came up with a practical way to preserve food in tin cans.

# PROPERTY REPORT



The property team has taken care of some minor items noticed by the Fire and Safety Inspector, but otherwise we have been given a good report. The normal maintenance of our heating/cooling systems will be starting for the upcoming spring and summer seasons. Joe has been doing a good job of keeping the building in good shape. Thank you, Joe.

Dan thought it might be a good time to start thinking about the planting season as spring is just around the corner. At least we think it will be. It would be nice to get some ideas as to what we might want to put in the planting beds. Any suggestions would be welcomed, as would volunteers to help when the time comes.

Thanks,  
Barb and Dan

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## FISH Pantry



The Pantry has been blessed with generous donations over the last two months, but they are running low on Cereal. If you would like to donate to the Pantry, they would appreciate all types of Cereal. One of the types of Cereal the clients like are sweetened cereal, any kind.

Any donation you make will be very much appreciated. Just put it in the blue container in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you,  
Barb Bates

# Women's Tea ...



HEADS UP! 2026 Women's Tea will be held on Sat. May 23 at Noon in our Fellowship Hall.

Due to Sue's busy travel schedule, she will be creating our lovely gift baskets in late March. She is asking items or completed baskets be brought to the church during March so she can work on them when she returns and before she embarks on another travel adventure.

Any questions, see Alice.

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## DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS



Please make the following changes to your new church directory.

Kijowski's phone number should be 1-217-246-7669 for Kristi.

Alice Dornan just remove her home number.

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## Church Chuckles

By Bobbie Dean



A preacher ended his temperance sermon by saying, "The world would be a better place if everyone poured their beer, wine, and whiskey into the river." Then he sat down. The song leader stood and announced with a smile, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn 365: 'Shall We Gather at the River.'"

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS



|         |                    |
|---------|--------------------|
| Mar. 3  | Scott Dingle       |
| Mar. 6  | Larry Carley       |
| Mar. 7  | Hanzel Flores      |
| Mar. 9  | Garrett Allen      |
| Mar. 9  | Bob Reese          |
| Mar. 18 | Nina Carley        |
| Mar. 21 | Tina Paulua        |
| Mar. 23 | Linus Erickson     |
| Mar. 25 | Rahl Chandler      |
| Mar. 26 | Alison Daigle      |
| Mar. 26 | Astrid Erickson    |
| Mar. 31 | Robert Phillips    |
| Mar. 31 | Chiy'enne Phillips |

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## SERVING SCHEDULE



### ELDERS

Lectern

Table

|         |              |              |
|---------|--------------|--------------|
| Mar. 1  | Barb Bates   | Sue Huizinga |
| Mar. 8  | Bill Cook    | Becky Daigle |
| Mar. 15 | Sue Hizinga  | Bob Reese    |
| Mar. 29 | Becky Daigle | Daphne Hayes |

### DEACONS

Prep and Serve

Serve

|         |                 |               |
|---------|-----------------|---------------|
| Mar. 1  | Galilee Flores  | Lisa Johnson  |
| Mar. 8  | Larry Carley    | Gail Reese    |
| Mar. 15 | Kristi Kijowski | Dave Kijowski |
| Mar. 29 | Galilee Flores  | Lisa Johnson  |