

THE DISCIPLE



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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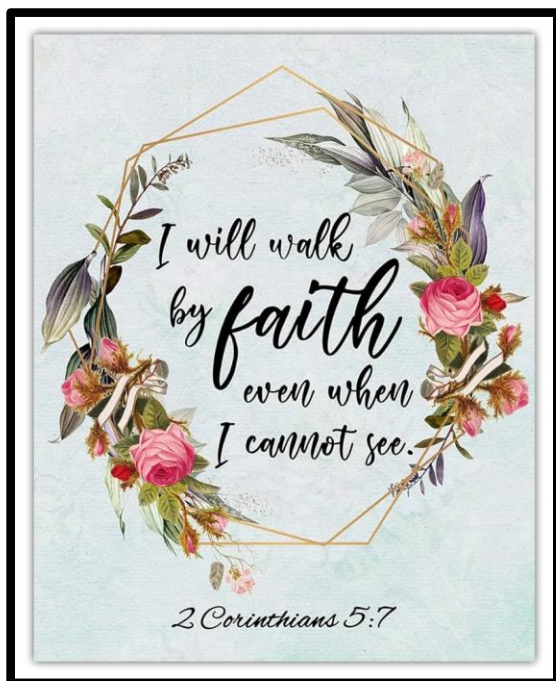
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April 2024

Rev. Daphne Gascot Arias, Minister

Carol Clifford, Editor



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

Karen's Korner



April is upon us, and Dan and I should be finishing up our home renovation project – it will be nice to return to a more normal and peaceful state!

I hope everyone was able to join us for our uplifting Easter celebrations! Since Easter fell on our fifth Sunday, we moved our service Sunday to April 7. Please join us as we assemble blessing bags with hygiene products that Rev. Daphne will deliver to the homeless shelter and/or refugee shelter in Chicago! There is also still time to donate for the bags. Visit our website at <https://fccdg.org/fccdg-this-week> for a list of the needed supplies.

April brings anticipation of our Women's Tea, May 11th at noon. We are now collecting donations for door prizes and there is a sign-up for food in Fellowship Hall. Our own Rick Sladek will be the entertainment as he performs Broadway music favorites. See Alice for tickets and to volunteer to help!

Our Feed the Body and Soul series is continuing strong. We will be wrapping up the popular Lenten study on Mark based on a video series by Amy-Jill Levine. This will be followed by another new study led by Rev. Daphne. Join us Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. for a light dinner with the lesson following at 6:30 p.m. We are continuing to meet in Fellowship Hall, although Zoom continues to be available. Also, please sign up if you can provide dinner!

In Adult Sunday school, we are enjoying a study on women in the Bible. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.!

Faithfully yours.
Karen

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

IT'S GETTING CLOSER!

WOMEN'S ANNUAL TEA SATURDAY MAY 11 AT NOON



Tea Tickets go on sale (\$15) on Sunday, April 7th.

If you would like to donate items for the basket raffle, empty baskets are available in Fellowship Hall. Filled baskets must be returned no later than Sunday, April 21st.

Invite family and friends to join in an afternoon of delightful Broadway music as performed by Richard Sladek.

Did you know...? By: Bobbie Dean



In the Czech Republic for much of the twentieth century, the selection of a spouse has rested with the young couple. Before World War II, socioeconomic standing and education were of considerable importance in the selection of a husband or wife. Middle-class men usually did not marry until they were launched in their careers typically in their late twenties or early thirties; women usually married in their early or middle twenties. More recently, men have begun to marry earlier. There are no restrictions on who can marry except for marriages between close relatives. Czech newlyweds prefer to live separately from their families, but because of housing shortages in the larger cities, that goal is not easy to attain. Both spouses usually work unless a very young child keeps a mother temporarily at home.

“A Pastor’s Message”

Sent in by Bobbie Dean



A pastor transformed himself into a homeless person and went to the church that he was to be introduced as the head pastor at that morning. He walked around his soon to be church for 30 minutes while it was filling with people for service. Only 3 people said hello to him, most looked the other way. He asked people for change to buy food because he was hungry. Not one gave him anything.

He went into the sanctuary to sit down in the front of the church and was told by the ushers that he would need to get up and go sit in the back of the church. He said hello to people as they walked in but was greeted with cold stares and dirty looks from people looking down on him and judging him.

He sat in the back of the church and listened to the church announcements for the week. He listened as new visitors were welcomed into the church that morning, but no one acknowledged that he was new. He watched people around him continue to look his way with stares that said you are not welcome here.

Then the elders of the church went to the podium to make the announcement. They said they were excited to introduce the new pastor of the church to the congregation. "We would like to introduce you to our new Pastor." The congregation stood up and looked around clapping with joy and anticipation. The homeless man sitting in the back stood up and started walking down the aisle.

That's when all the clapping stopped, and the church was silent. With all eyes on him.... he walked up to the altar and reached for the microphone. He stood there for a moment and then recited so elegantly, a verse from the bible.....

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’” “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’”

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me.’”

After he recited this, he introduced himself as their new pastor and told the congregation what he had experienced that morning. Many began to cry and bow their heads in shame. "Today I see a gathering of people here, but I do not see a church of Jesus. The world has enough people that look the other way. What the world needs is disciples of Jesus that can follow these teachings and live as He did. When will YOU decide to become disciples?"

He then dismissed service until the following Sunday as his sermon had been given. Amen



Church Chuckles

By *Bobbie Dean*



Church Notes: The Ladies Society will be selling its new cookbook at the church supper this Wednesday night. The proceeds will help purchase a stomach pump for our community hospital.



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 a blessing at all times! Please note there will be no MIP on Monday April 29th due to Karen's trip to Ohio, but join us the other Mondays in April!

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:

- Cook Co. jail's "Tails of Redemption" pgm. helped 167 unwanted pooches become suitable pets & taught the detainees who train them about compassion, patience, and discipline.
- An MA resident & his family found a collection of valuable Asian art while cleaning out their deceased grandfather's attic. Contacting the FBI, they found the objects were looted art from the Battle of Okinawa. Now in the Smithsonian in D.C., they will be returned to their native country.
- A recently discovered coral reef deep in the waters off Canada's west coast, in a narrow channel surrounded by fjords "shouldn't exist." The northernmost Pacific reef offers a new glimpse into the resilience and unpredictability of the deep-sea ecosystems.

God's 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

CHURCH DIRECTORY



The church directory is getting a much-needed update.

Please check your current listing in the 2023 directory and notify the office as soon as possible of any of the following...

- Change in address
- Change in phone number (remove old phone number, remove land line, or add a cell number)
- Addition of new members or visitors
- Changes to email address
- Any birthday changes or additions
- Corrections to any of your information

Questions? Email the office. Thank you!

CHAIR YOGA



If anyone is interested in joining a chair yoga class, please consider coming to St. Paul's Church 5739 Dunham Rd. in Downers Grove. The class meets on Monday mornings at 10:15 and is taught by a certified instructor. The cost is only \$! per session. All are welcome.

If you have any questions, contact Carol for more information.

"Flowers don't worry about how they're going to bloom. They just open up and turn toward the light and that makes them beautiful."

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Apr. 2	Joy Claffey
Apr. 26	Richard Sladek
Apr. 26	Ethel Hayes

SERVING SCHEDULE



ELDERS

Lectern

Table

Apr. 7	Sue Huizinga	Becky Daigle
Apr. 14	Daphne Hayes	Joy Claffey
Apr. 21	Martha Anderson	Barb Bates
Apr. 28	Bill Cook	Bob Reese

DEACONS

Prep and Serve

Serve

Apr. 7	Don Peterson	Galilee Flores
Apr. 14	Jim Claffey	Gail Reese
Apr. 21	Galilee Flores	Jeff Igel
Apr. 28	Larry Carley	Don Peterson



April 22



April 26