

# THE DISCIPLE



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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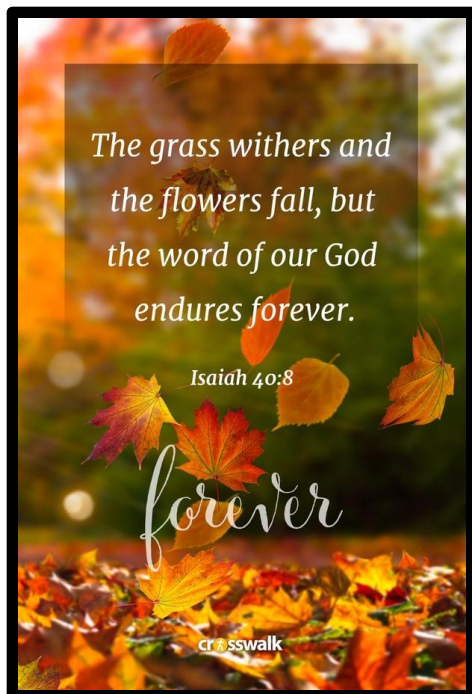
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## October, 2025

*Rev. Daphne Gascot Arias, Minister*

*Carol Clifford, Editor*

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



I have a full life: a supportive spouse, active children, meaningful work, and an almost-PhD. This is to say, I am always doing something, and when my body is still, my mind dances between worry, plans, and dreams. As a woman, a woman of color, and a woman of color in male-dominated field, I am used to things being difficult. I am no longer surprised when someone dismisses me due to my gender, appearance, or my accent. I'm no stranger to the cold dismissal of some male colleagues nor the passive aggression of those who can't get past my Latinidad [a shared sense of cultural identity and belonging among people of Latin American heritage, shaped by history, language, and lived experience].

When I chose to live in in this country, I knew it would be an uphill walk. I knew that functioning mostly in my second language would be an ongoing battle. I knew I would always be playing catch up in pop culture matters. But what I didn't expect was the fear now taking residence in my heart. I didn't expect to hesitate to stand up for what's right, regardless of the consequences, for fear that said consequences will affect my children. In other words, I didn't expect my life away from my birthplace to be a walk in the park, but I definitely never imagined that I would witness the decline of society, firsthand.

Overwhelmed with disappointment, fear, and anxiety, I turned to my husband José Morales Torres (the philosopher-theologian) and asked, "Why should we bother trying?" How can I focus on an academic paper when people are being kidnapped from the streets, from their jobs, from their homes... from their kids! How can I plan a birthday celebration when the well-being of our children is threatened by political ploys, and their health and safety are mere playthings for the rich and powerful?

As usual, José quoted a philosopher, one of his favorites, Miguel de Unamuno, who said, "At times to be silent is to lie." In other words, to do nothing is to be complicit. As it's been often said, you can't be neutral on a moving train. Also, as usual (and annoyingly so), he got all abstract, quoting Unamuno again, "If it is nothingness that awaits us, let us make an injustice of it; let us fight against destiny, even though without hope of victory." Or to

put it in regular words, if the devils want to run the show, then let's give them hell. If we are stuck in this train moving toward chaos and tyranny, then let's do everything we can to derail it or at least make it the most unpleasant, agonizing train ride for those pulling the engine into treacherous terrains.

This reminds me of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, whom we've been learning about during our Feeding the Body and Soul on Wednesday nights. He said that a Christian is someone who asks herself, every day, this question: "What is Christ's will for us today?" It is important to note the "ongoing-ness" of this question. We are to ask it every day and for each day.

What then is the will of God for FCC in this moment? What is God requiring from us today? Micah 6 comes to mind: act justly, love mercy, walk humbly. As Bonhoeffer said, "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act." (Unamuno: "to be silent is to lie.") In Micah 6, the Lord does not require some abstract or passive personality trait. The call is not to be just, to be merciful, to be humble. We are required to act justly, to love mercy and walk humbly. All verbs! All actions! As Church we have a moral obligation to act on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. As Bonhoeffer said, "The church is the church only when it exists for others."

This is what we are called to do, as church, together! The train has already left the station. Time for action! Let's go! Let's go knowing that when we work "to lose the bonds of injustice" and "to let the oppressed go free," God "will go before you; and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard." (Isaiah 58) Amen and amen!

Rev. Daphne

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**ATTENTION...** There has been an email sent to church people wanting gift cards from Target for women battling cancer. Rev. Daphne's name is on the email. **IGNORE, BLOCK, REPORT, OR DELETE...IT IS A SCAM.**



As I write this, Dan's mom is well settled in her new independent living facility, and our long drive is in the past! The only casualty was a cracked windshield that was easily taken care of. We are also looking forward to another family fall campout in early October. We are praying the good weather continues.

October is here and I hope everyone was able to attend our joint service with the Korean Fellowship Church on World Communion Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. It was a blessed service, and we look forward to more shared times ahead.

Feed the Body and Soul is continuing Wednesdays at 6:00 pm for a light supper and fellowship followed by a lesson at 6:30 pm. Rev. Daphne is continuing to lead a discussion on our role in these times in preparation for a Disciples activist friend of hers, who will be presenting several lessons. Her friend will share her life as an activist and lead us in discussions on our reactions to today's challenges. I hope everyone can join us. There is a sign-up in Fellowship Hall, if you can provide dinner.

Looking ahead, our Congregational meeting to approve the new slate of officers and budget for 2026 will be Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 pm followed by our Thanksgiving Dinner. Of course, this means the Nominating Committee is at work so we hope your hearts will be open to serve.

Also mark your calendars for our Christmas Coffee House that is scheduled for Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Start thinking of what talent and/or goodies you can share. We look forward to the entertainment and yummy snacks!

Faithfully yours,  
Karen



"A fallen leaf is nothing more than  
a summer's wave goodbye."

Unknown



## **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:

- "The 9 Nanas" secretly met for 30 years, to anonymously pay bills & buy clothes for people in need with a homemade pound cake & a note that read, "Somebody loves you."
- At 23 weeks, TX Children's Hospital surgeons performed a rare fetal surgery, partially removing a baby from the womb to remove a tumor before placing her back. She was later born at nearly 36 weeks, healthy, and a thriving.
- Finland 's Housing First strategy gives people an apartment & support with no conditions. About 80% rebuild their lives, gaining stability, work, sobriety, and dignity.

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

# AN ELDER'S HEART.

Welcome to October/Fall



The other day, I was thinking about gratitude. I thought about my 2<sup>nd</sup> boss in my work career, Dr. Lorraine Broyles. I thought about how she gave me a chance when hiring me. It had been a struggle getting a job, fresh out of college. So, a friend of a friend recommended me to her and the company. I worked diligently for those 3 years, but the time had come for me to expand my wings. I waited to tell her at the office but couldn't make contact. I even went to her home, but she was not there to greet me. The next day, my supervisor called me into his office to let me know he had spoken with Dr. Broyles. She told him to give me whatever I wanted. I told him I wanted her to know how grateful I was to her and the agency, but as of today, I would be resigning from this job. I had spoken to her once, 30 years ago. I sent her a card the other day. I pray she enjoys hearing from me. I believe I have told this memory because sometimes it is nice to remember where we came from and how grateful we are to have walked that path. Thankful for God's grace and mercy.

Lisa and I made it through another season with the Chicago Sky. I tell you; I get used to it, then the season is over. I don't understand that part. And, to kick off the Fall season, we are back in water aerobics.

The Regional Assembly is in Tinley Park on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Our Regional Minister, Rick Hamilton, will be saying farewell to Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Our General Minister and President, Terri Hoard Owens, will be preaching for the worship service. I am excited to attend, as I could not go to the General Assembly this past Summer.

In my family, we will have our 2<sup>nd</sup> Centenarian. My 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin Erna McDowell will be 100 years old on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Pray for her.

Coming next month, the new believer's class will be baptized.

Gratefulness

# PROPERTY REPORT



We haven't been too busy this month. We replaced the Expansion Tank on the Boiler, replaced portions of a rusted water pipe and looked into changing the way the Women's stall doors open. In that regard, the stall doors will be changed in the near future to open out instead of in. Which will be more convenient. We are working with the Worship Committee to get the baptismal ready for baptisms to take place in November.

That's it for now. If you have anything you would like Dan and I to look into, let us know.

Barb and Dan  
Property Committee

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## FISH Pantry



Hi, all! It's good to be back and be able to participate in Church again. I'm also glad to be able to help the FISH Pantry again. Things have been running low in the pantry so here are some suggestions should you want to donate.

**Pasta** – Macaroni, Spaghetti, and any other type of pasta.

**Canned Vegetables** – Corn (regular and creamed), green beans, tomatoes, and others you think of.

**Canned Soup** – Just about any kind you can think of...various types of Progresso, Campbells, etc.

**Thank you** for anything you would like to donate. There is the container in Fellowship Hall for donations.

Barb

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## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



Starting Sunday, Oct. 26th, A9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School will begin a year-long study of "Men of the Bible".

If you are interested in learning more about the study, talk to Alice Dornan. The current group would love for you to join us.

# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



|         |                     |
|---------|---------------------|
| Oct. 3  | Jeff Igel           |
| Oct. 6  | Daphne Gascot Arias |
| Oct. 13 | Megan Barlow        |
| Oct. 14 | Gail Reese          |
| Oct. 15 | Lakessa Phillips    |
| Oct. 19 | Samatha Biro        |
| Oct. 31 | Carl Misek          |

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## SERVING SCHEDULE



### ELDERS

#### Lectern

#### Table

|         |              |              |
|---------|--------------|--------------|
| Oct. 5  | Bob Reese    | Sue Huizinga |
| Oct. 12 | Barb Bates   | Bill Cook    |
| Oct. 19 | Daphne Hayes | Becky Daigle |
| Oct. 26 | Karen Johns  | Daphne Hayes |

### DEACONS

#### Prep and Serve

#### Serve

|         |                 |                |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|
| Oct. 5  | Gail Reese      | Galilee Flores |
| Oct. 12 | Kristi Kijowski | Dave Kijowski  |
| Oct. 19 | Jeff Igel       | Lisa Johnson   |
| Oct. 26 | Galilee Flores  | Larry Carley   |

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## Church Chuckles

*By Bobbie Dean*



As the Sunday School teacher described how Lot's wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt, James interrupted: "My mommy looked back once while she was driving and turned into a telephone pole."