

THE DISCIPLE



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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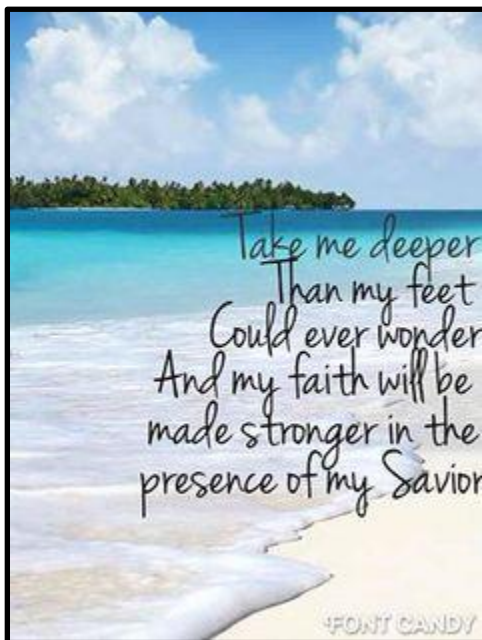
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July 2024

Rev. Daphne Gascot Arias, Minister

Carol Clifford, Editor



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

FROM
THE
PASTOR



Before anything else, I want to begin my reflection with a big THANK YOU! Thank you for electing me to be your settled pastor. I am humbled by your affirmation, emboldened by



your vote of confidence, and honoured to serve such an amazing congregation! I trust that the best for us is yet to come! From the bottom of my heart, thank you!

Now, although the “transitional” adjective has been dropped off of my title, I do not want us to lose sight of the fact that we are still in transition mode. Meaning, we are still—as a congregation—in the midst of transitions and transformations. We are still looking to the future evaluating current practices to see which we keep and which we drop, and discerning the new things we should explore. One of my ministerial mentors, Rev. Juan Rodriguez (who led our elders training), often says that a faithful congregation is a transforming congregation. Yes, I am happily your settled pastor, and we are still in transition, discerning the new that God is inviting us toward. I am hopeful for the future.

This is summer when we take a break from Sunday school and Wednesday evening study. But I hope we do not take a break from spirituality. What are we doing during this summer break to feed our spirits? Are we taking advantage of the nicer weather to take a nature walk and bask in the glory of God’s creation? Are we taking “holy pauses” during washing dishes or trimming the flower bushes to pray and meditate? Summer is a pause from our institutional activities, but it is not a break from our “spirit work.”

Remember, we grow closer to God as we get closer to each other. As we grow closer to God and each other, we are being woven into the body of Christ, so that we might be His healing presence in Downers Grove, Chicagoland, the Midwest, the country, and the world.

En Cristo,
Rev. Daphne Gascot Arias
Senior Pastor

Karen's Korner



Wow! Summer is with us, and we are heading into July – my birthday month! We will be traveling to the Finger Lakes with our two children and their families for a fun celebration of my new milestone! Looking forward to the time away and working hard to get our house back in order now that our construction is done!

Our big event for the month is our 60th Anniversary celebration! We are hosting a celebratory picnic after service on July 21st from noon until 2:00 pm. We will have food, games, a bouncy house and music. Our custodian, Joe's band will be providing the music. We plan on hot dogs, chips, and offerings of potluck from the congregation. We are inviting the public! For those at Church, please sign up so we know you are coming. Also, if you can provide any lawn games, please let us know. This should be a joyous celebration so please plan to join us. Come early to worship with us before the picnic!

As most of you know, our other big news is that the congregation has called Rev Daphne as our permanent minister, and she has accepted. We will be planning an installation service, so please stay tuned for the date and try to join us!

Of course, with summer our Feed the Body and Soul sessions and Adult Sunday school are both on a break. We are looking forward to starting both up again in the fall. Adult Sunday school will then continue our popular study of Women in the Bible. We are still working on the Feed the Body and Soul topic. If you have suggestions for Feed the Body and Soul, please talk to me or Rev. Daphne.

The Board meeting in July will again be held at the Southern Shore Yacht Club, of which Sandy Allen is a member. We will have a short meeting and then enjoy a wonderful steak, chicken or veggie dinner. It is a beautiful spot and a lot of fun. If you would like to join us, let Sandy or me know!

Faithfully yours.
Karen



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 July 29th due to Karen's birthday celebration out of town. Join us the other Mondays in July!

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:

- Project Mobility with St. Charles restaurants will host "Long Table Dinner," a multicourse al fresco dinner fundraiser. Project Mobility promotes better health, independence, & the freedom of mobility for those with disabilities through adaptive cycling.
- An Oregon man has his dog to thank for rescuing him after his pickup crashed into a ravine and the dog ran 4 miles for help.
- The world's biggest solar plant has come online, according to the Chinese media in the desert of northwest Xinjiang and is capable of powering a small country.

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

Property Report



You've probably noticed that new sinks and countertops have been installed in the two washrooms. It is really an improvement. Joe, as contractor, is painting both washrooms. He still has a little finishing up to do and that will be done by the end of June. It is a real improvement in both rooms.

Joe will be bringing the lighting in the hallway and kitchen up to date. Some of the fixtures will be replaced and the lighting itself will be brought up to code with LED lighting.

Dan has mentioned that he would check into the addition of new trees.

Have a great summer.
Barb and Dan



FISH Pantry



Thank you for the paper products that you contributed this month. It was gratefully received. Thank you in advance for anything you can contribute. Those we serve appreciate the help we provide.

Here are the items requested from the Pantry:
(from my experience, they love cookies, but the toilet paper and pasta are always requested)

Toilet Paper
Cookies
Pasta of any kind.

Blessings,

Barb

Church Chuckles

By Bobbie Dean



George was spending Friday night and all-day Saturday with his grandmother in the country, and it had snowed overnight. Grandma couldn't wait to bundle up George and take him walking in the beautiful, fresh snow.

"Isn't it wonderful, George? Doesn't it seem like our Lord has painted this gorgeous scenery, just for us to enjoy this morning?"

"Yes, Grandma! And do you want to know what makes it even better? God had to do this all with His left hand!"

Grandma didn't have any idea what George meant.

"Grandma," he explained patiently. "Don't you know that Jesus sits on the right hand of God?"

Did you know...? By: Bobbie Dean



Interesting facts about **Belgium**:

*The Big Bang Theory is considered to have originated in Belgium.

*After the Dutchmen, men from Belgium are the second tallest in the world.

*The practice of intentionally ending a life (Euthanasia) to relieve pain was made legal in 2002 and the next year in 2003, the country also legalized gay marriage.

*Belgium has the highest divorce rate in Western Europe.

*The word "spa" originated from the town of Spa in Belgium.

JULY BIRTHDAYS



July 7	Beth Smith
July 10	Bryan Johns
July 29	Karen Johns

SERVING SCHEDULE



ELDERS

Lectern

Table

July 7	Bil Cook	Becky Daigle
July 14	Martha Anderson	Daphne Haye
July 21	Bob Reese	Joy Claffey
July 28	Barb Bates	Sue Huizinga

DEACONS

Prep and Serve

Serve

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

GOD is still writing your story.

Stop trying to steal the pen!

Since 1776

