

THE DISCIPLE



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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July 2026

Rev. Daphne Gascot Arias, Minister

Carol Clifford, Editor

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When you can't  
put your prayer into  
words, God hears  
your heart.

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

# *Karen's Korner*



As I write this, we are heading into summer with July coming fast. July is busy for our family! We will be ringing in July in Idaho on a white-water rafting trip and then will be following that up with an RV trip with Laura and family in Colorado. Lots of outdoor fun; please pray for our safety in these adventures!

We are moving forward on our Green Chalice initiative! The Green Chalice team met this week. We are pursuing a water filter and new faucet for the kitchen, looking at composting the waste from our meal activity and moving to the option for plates in place of paper plates. We are also looking at compostable plates and offering free-trade items for coffee and other items! We will be kicking off much of this, this Fall!

Dan and I had the Conservation Foundation look at our property. We have many invasive plants, one of which is choking out a beautiful native plant. There were also many ideas to beautify our property with more native plants. Property will be looking at this feedback to come up with ideas. But if you would like to help, contact us!

July also brings the online General Assembly on July 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. We hope to be a hosting site. Please mark your calendars and try to attend. Registration is only \$30 and there is no travel or lodging required. It is a great opportunity to attend!

Also, this month, we have our popular get together, the Church Barbecue and Sing-Along on Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We may also include some gaming as well. Mark your calendars! There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for what you can bring.

As we are enjoying a break for summer from Adult Sunday school and Feed the Body and Soul. We will resume both in the Fall.

Monday Intercessory Prayer (MIP) will meet only on the last Mondays in July. July 6, July 13 and July 20 there will be no MIP due to my travels. We have a faithful group and many answered prayers! Please join us on Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> when we resume. We meet 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

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## PROPERTY REPORT



During the month of June, Cintas Fire Safety did a safety check of our fire extinguishers and emergency lights. Everything checked out well.

Dan and Sue did a great job of planting around the church. It is growing well with all the rain. They really add beauty to the property. Thank you, Dan and Sue.

As some of you are aware, the benches by the walkway are in need of repair/replacement. They are broken and should not be sat on. Joe will be doing the repairs to the benches so they will be usable.

J&R Herra will be checking the mini-splits, the controls used to turn on the cooling systems. Joe, thank you for keeping our church looking good.

Have a good summer,

Barb and Dan  
Property Co-Chairs

The Pantry was very grateful for the generous donation we made of 290 pounds of cleaning supplies, collected on the 5th Sunday in May. Thank you very much.



This month, requests are for:

Pasta Sauce  
Canned Fruit  
Pudding Mix and/or Jello Mix

Thank you for any donation you make. The Pantry appreciates it and so will its clients. Just put it in the blue container in Fellowship Hall and I will make sure it is delivered.

We are blessed.  
Thank you,  
Barb Bates

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## Directory Update...

Please change your directory to reflect Joy Claffey's new address.



200 Village Drive, apt. 414, Downers Grove 60516

# 2026 Women's Tea

## Tea Proceeds:

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Tea Ticket Sales    | \$1,186        |
| Raffle Ticket Sales | \$ 724         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>\$1,500</b> |



Proceeds will benefit FCC's Outreach Ministry Programs.

Thanks and high praise to our Waiters: Troy Flores, Marve Huizinga, Dan Johns Tom McClelland and Bob Reese. A job well done Gentlemen!

Much appreciation to the ladies who created the beautiful tearoom atmosphere in our Fellowship Hall. Our annual teas would never be successful without all the food goodies generously donated. Round of applause!!

If you have not already done so, browse the church web site to see the marvelous photos Angela Reese takes during our event. Try to find yourself or your friends enjoying the afternoon.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Saturday, May 1, 2027, our favorite entertainer, Leslie Goddard, will recreate Gilda Radner right before our eyes!

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## Help A Hero



Donate old phones! If you have a cell phone you don't need, send it to Cell Phones for Soldiers. The nonprofit organization will recycle or repurpose it to fund programs providing communication tools to the military. Mail phones and chargers to Cell Phones for Soldiers, 11801 Stonehollow Drive, Suite 100, Austin, TX 78758.

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



## Puerto Rico - Traditions, Customs, and Beliefs

The traditions and beliefs of Puerto Rican islanders are heavily influenced by Puerto Rico's Afro-Spanish history. Many Puerto Rican customs and superstitions blend the Catholic religious traditions of Spaniards and the pagan religious beliefs of the West African slaves who were brought to the island beginning in the sixteenth century. Though most Puerto Ricans are strict Catholics, local custom have given a Caribbean flavor to some standard Catholic ceremonies. Among these are weddings, baptisms, and funerals. And like other Caribbean islanders and Latin Americans, Puerto Ricans traditionally believe in *espiritismo*, the notion that the world is populated by spirits who can communicate with the living through dreams. In addition to the holy days observed by the Catholic church.

Puerto Ricans celebrate several other days that hold particular significance for them as a people. For instance, *El Día de las Candelarias*, or "candlemas," is observed annually on the evening of February 2; people build a massive bonfire around which they drink and dance and chant "Viva las candelarias!" or "Long live the flames!". And each December 27 is *El Día de los Inocentes* or the Day of the Children." On that day Puerto Rican men dress as women and women dress as men; the community then celebrates as one large group. Many Puerto Rican customs revolve around the ritual significance of food and drink. As in other Latino cultures, it is considered an insult to turn down a drink offered by a friend or stranger. It is also customary for Puerto Ricans to offer food to any guest, whether invited or not, who might enter the household; failure to do so is said to bring hunger upon one's own children. Puerto Ricans traditionally warn against eating in the presence of a pregnant woman without offering her food, for fear she might miscarry.

Many Puerto Ricans also believe that marrying or starting a journey on a Tuesday is bad luck, and that dreams of water or tears are a sign of impending heartache or tragedy. Common centuries-old remedies include the avoidance of acidic food during menstruation and the consumption of *asopao*, or chicken stew, for minor ailments

# *The Stars and Stripes over 250 years*



According to popular legend, Betsy Ross sewed the first American flag following a sketch General George Washington brought to her shop in Philadelphia in June 1776. The design called for 13 stars and 13 red and white stripes representing the number of colonies forming the new nation.

Historians believe the story of Ross' first flag is mostly fictionalized — it was first told by her grandson William Canby a century later. But the Philadelphia seamstress' legend endures in the hearts of Americans. (Ross would go on to sew many American flags during the Revolutionary War and the years that followed.)

The first official record of the stars and stripes design appears in a June 14, 1777, congressional resolution. While patterns have changed — 27 variations of the flag have flown over 250 years — the stars-and-stripes motif has remained. A new star is added each time a state joins the union, most recently on July 4, 1960, after Hawaii became the 50th state in 195

Americans honor Old Glory every June 14, known as Flag Day. They fly the Stars and Stripes and attend town parades — one of the longest running is in Appleton, Wisconsin. Students send essays on the flag's meaning to a contest in tiny Waubeka, Wisconsin (population 500), known as the "birthplace of Flag Day."

President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation calling for a national Flag Day observance in 1916, and President Harry Truman signed the tradition into law in 1949.

# Church Chuckles

By Bobbie Dean



One beautiful Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation: "Friends, I have here in my hands three sermons...a \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a \$10 sermon that lasts a full hour. Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."

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## JULY BIRTHDAYS



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

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## SERVING SCHEDULE



### ELDERS

#### Lectern

#### Table

|         |              |              |
|---------|--------------|--------------|
| July 5  | Barb Bates   | Daphne Hayes |
| July 12 | Sue Huizinga | Bob Reese    |
| July 19 | Becky Daigle | Daphne Hayes |
| July 26 | Bill Cook    | Sue Huizinga |

### DEACONS

#### Prep and Serve

#### Serve

|         |                |                 |
|---------|----------------|-----------------|
| July 5  | Larry Carley   | Eli Sanchez     |
| July 12 | Galilee Flores | Gail Reese      |
| July 19 | Lisa Johnson   | Jeff Igel       |
| July 26 | Dave Kijowski  | Kristi Kijowski |