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First Christian Church

The Word

March



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(Disciples of Christ)
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MICHAEL'S MUSINGS

The ripples of Covid are not over. Across all denominations worship attendance has been hit hard. Stepping back to get a view of the timeline of which we are all traveling, we can see a trend. Many congregations show a pattern over time that is much like a pendulum swinging, attendance has increased and decreased time and time again. Since the pandemic that pendulum seems to have swung so far away. All that means is that we have our work cut out for us. One consistent question that needs to be addressed is why should a person attend worship or be a part of a church.

The soldier's first article of faith is summed up nowhere more eloquently than in an 1865 letter from William Tecumseh Sherman to U.S. Grant: "I knew wherever I was that you thought of me, and if I got in a tight place you would come--if alive."--source unknown

In my opinion that is one of the greatest arguments for being a part of a community of faith. We are there to find support when we are in a tight place. We are there to be lifted up when we are down. We are there to learn more and be challenged in a way that we can not alone. And we are there to be that support, lifting force, that educator and challenger for all the others too. Most of all we want to be the very best we can for the sake of God. Can we do that alone, yes. Can we do that even better surrounded by our sisters and brothers, even stronger YES.



Servers for March 2023

Worship Leader: Carolyn Spradlin

Elders and Deacons

3/05 Carolyn Spradlin	Bob Witt
Doug Sanders	Claudia McClaran
Marc Harkins	Jeffrey Daniels
3/12 Virginia Ramsey	Carolyn Wittenbach
Erin Guyton	Samantha Guyton
Chris Wittenbach	Jacquie Buser
3/19 Reta Bush	Luellen Wittenbach
Dwight Smith	Pam Witt
Shane Wyatt	Jon Molder
3/26 Conrad Duprez	Debra Hood
Cheryl Sehon	Darla Oberlender
Doug Sanders	Claudia McClaran

Agape Ministry Schedule

3/05 Bob Witt
3/12 Larry Brown
3/19 Diana Brown
3/26 Debra Hood



We have a great way to make your donations. Simply go to our website at www.fccchick.org, click the link, set up your profile and chose the amount you want to give and where you want it to go.

Would you like to find out what's going on in the church faster? Do you have/use a cellular telephone? Then all you need to do is text @mroberlen to 81010 to receive updates and texts to your phone when news or events happen! Remember text @mroberle to 81010!



Our Church Directories are now online. If you would like to view your information, need an address or phone number for a member, please go to www.fccchick.org, click on members at the top of the page. Click on the Red Chalice in the middle of the page and enter the password **redchalice**. Happy hunting!



First Christian Church in Social Media (Like us on Facebook)

Darla Oberlender updates on a regular basis our Facebook page, take a look at it often. She has also updated our webpage. You can find a link to our Facebook page on the welcome page of our website by going to www.fccchick.org. Thank you Darla for your hard work.



One of the joys of being a parent is watching your children getting along and discovering that bond they have. I truly believe that is the same for God as we pull together as a family. There are plenty out there that need to be a part of this family. Maybe all they need is some to ask them to come. We do have our job cut out for us. But we are up for the challenge. We got this!

See ya Sunday,

Michael

Our Youth have a fantastic time every Wednesday evening learning about the love of God & playing games that help the lesson hit home!





Blessing Bags

There are so many opportunities in the world with our 'friends in need' that it was agreed to have this as an ongoing outreach project. Next time you're at the store, please pick up any of the following items and bring them to (currently) the downstairs Sunday School

Classroom.

On the first Sunday of each month, we will put together as many Blessing Bags as we can supply for distribution individually or through 'helping' organizations.

THANK YOU for adding blessings to our Blessing Bags!

Items Needed

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Gallon Ziploc Bags | Toothbrushes |
| Toothpaste | Soap |
| Toothbrush containers | Bottles of water |
| Flavor packets for water | Shampoo (small) |
| Granola bars | Small canned food items |
| Can openers | Wash cloths |
| Socks | Combs |
| Chapstick | Wet wipes |

The Adult Sunday School Class packs the "Kits for Needy Friends" the first Sunday of each month. The kits are to be distributed to our members to give away when encountering a 'friend in need'.

WISHING LAURA A HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

We at First Christian Church are wishing Laura DeHart an AMAZING Birthday as she turns 95 on March 11th. Please send your cards and wishes to her to help make her day even more special than it already is. We know all thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated as well.

Prayers & Concerns



Cancer:

- Paula Wilson**, Friend of Bob & Pam Witt, Cancer
- Twana**, Claudia's cousin cervical cancer
- Jill Clark**, Crystal Wyatt's mother, cancer
- David McClaran**, Prostate Cancer
- Scott Preston**, Witt's friend, Leukemia

Medical:

- Eddie Pruitt**, Claudia McClaran's brother, medical concerns
- Connie Pruitt**, Claudia McClaran's niece, medical concerns
- Bill Clark**, Crystal Wyatt's father, Medical Concerns
- Ann McCalla**, Medical Concern
- Avery Ramsey**, Lupus

Immediate:

- Perry**, Garry & Sarah Drake's grandson, Ear Reconstruction Surgery
- Mox Jarnagin**, Jason & Kristy's grandson, Medical concerns
- Makenzie Park**, Craven's neighbor's daughter, Medical concerns
- Debbie Moody**, Severe Medical Concerns
- Jerry Rich**, CPD Communications Officer, home recovering
- Patti Rogstad**, pacemaker
- T J Taber**, Carolyn Spradlin's great great nephew, blood clot
- Larry Brown**, recovering from knee surgery
- Janice Blasingame**, recovering from knee surgery
- Michele DeHart**, Medical concerns

Please keep all that are affected by loss of family members, Covid 19, the Hurricanes, Earthquakes, Wild Fires, Volcanos & Weather in your prayers.

Continue to pray for all **Homebound**: Cora Jenkins, Laura DeHart & Maxine Dyer
Nursing: Fern Coster; Our military, Our Missionary of the week and others with special needs.

Meet our Staff

MINISTER

Rev. Michael A. Oberlender

SECRETARY

Tammy White

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sharlene Morgan &
Steffanie Morgan

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Crystal Wyatt

PIANIST/ORGANIST

Dr. Jan Hanson

CUSTODIAN

Sharlene Morgan



Anniversaries:

Dwain & Cheryl Sehon March 15
Jeff & Catherine Willoughby March 16

Birthdays:

Rachyl Carlson March 1
Stephanie Varela March 1
Renee Travis March 4
Marc Harkins March 10
Laura DeHart March 11
LeeAnn Carlson March 16
Dwight Smith March 20
Phillip Wint March 22
Larry Brown March 29



FCC Volunteers at the Chickasha Soup Kitchen in February & some of those who enjoy a great meal every time they can.



MISSION STATEMENT

As Disciples of Christ, we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Our mission, as His disciples, is to lift up our prayers to God; study His word, bring and welcome others into His Church; and promote spiritual growth through a compassionate and caring ministry to one another.



Scan. Pay. Go.

We have an awesome way to make your donations. Simply scan the QR code to the left with your phone and make your weekly, monthly, quarterly, annual or special contributions. If you do not already have an account, setting one up is easy and convenient. Then all you need to do is choose the amount you want to give

and where you want it to go.



Graduation is coming soon. If you have or know of anyone who is graduating this spring please let the office know as soon as possible so we can recognize their accomplishments in a later spring newsletter.



You are invited to attend the Lenten Lunch series presented by our community churches starting Feb. 22, 2023. Each Wednesday during lent local congregations will be offering lunch at 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm (The time was changed to accommodate working schedules) with a brief worship. The following is a list of the locations and who will be preaching.

Mar. 1 LOC: New Life Christian Church (1828 S.13th Street)
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Michael Butler (First Baptist Church)

Mar. 8 LOC: Epworth Methodist Church (320 S 4th Street)
Preacher: Father Bill Carlin (St. Luke's Episcopal Church)

Mar. 15 LOC: St. Luke's Episcopal Church
(124 S 6th Street) (Spring Break)
Preacher: Rev. Kyle Clark (Epworth United Methodist Church)

Mar. 22 LOC: Holy Name Catholic Church (210 S 7th Street)
Preacher: Rev. Michael Oberlender (First Christian Church)

Mar. 29 LOC: Chickasha First Assembly (3340 S 16th St)
Preacher: Father Michael Wheelahan (Holy Name Catholic Church)

Apr. 5 LOC: First Baptist Church (324 W. Colorado)
Preacher:



Don't forget to turn your clocks forward on Sunday March 12th. We want to see everyone at church.



The FCC ladies prepared the 1st Lenten Lunch of the season at FCC. There was lots of great food as well as a great turn out (95) to be fed not only food but also the word by Pastor Chad Allred from Chickasha First Assembly of God.



Receipts for Food Pantry

KEEP YOUR RECEIPT

The Food Pantry would appreciate all those who shop at William's Grocery store to save your cash register receipts and turn them in to the office or place them in one of the baskets kept in the Narthex or in the Fellowship Hall/Kitchen or by mail. The Food Pantry can redeem all receipts turned in for cash to use toward items needed in the pantry. Thank you for your help, and as always it is greatly appreciated.

SUMMER CAMP 2023

Download the Camp Registration Guidebook at www.disciples.org

Summer Camp Registration is OPEN!

Chi Rho Camp - June 5-9

Oakridge Camp: \$325

Discovery Camp - June 23-25

Central Oklahoma Camp: \$205

Junior Camp - June 26-30

Camp Christian: \$210

CYF Conference - June 19-24

Central Oklahoma Camp: \$325

BINGO Night!!!

It's BINGO time again, and our next BIG Bingo Night will be Thursday, March 16th.

You're not gonna want to miss this action-packed fun event.

Dinner & desserts will begin @ 5:30 pm with Bingo to follow.

Bring a White Elephant gift to be used as a door prize. The more the merrier for fun & fellowship!



DWF News

Here is a schedule of our meetings for the remainder of this year:



March 9 - 1:30 - Nancy Smith hostess - 1158 County Rd, Chickasha - Or we can meet at the church to car pool to her country home.

April - We hope to have a retreat again at the Brown's lake home by Gainesville. That will depend on Larry's recovery from knee surgery. Dates to be announced.

May 11 - 1:30 - Becky Kruger's house in Blanchard. Again, meet at the church at 1:00 to caravan.

June 8- Judy Duprez's home - 11:00 - 801 S. 12th. This will be a salad luncheon.

No meetings in July or August

Sept. 14 - Virginia's - 11:00 - This will also be a salad luncheon to kick off our new year.

Boy Scout Sunday February 12th

Rev. Pam Holt was FCC's guest pastor for Boy Scout Sunday on February 12th. There were 6 guest scouts and their families in attendance that day as well to help FCC celebrate the Annual Scout Sunday.



Stitches of Love



Our FEBRUARY was a BUSY month. We made 400—yes, FOUR HUNDRED—crocheted Hearts in a myriad of colors and distributed—with the congregations help—325 affixed to cards that simply read: KINDNESS.....PASS IT ON from your friends at FIRST CHRISTIAN

CHURCH. The cards were distributed on February 5th and 12th. More hearts were given to our homebound and their care givers and mailed with a card to members we have missed in Worship and formers members we love and miss also. Other hearts were made available to two friends that are Home Health Nurses and they passed them out to their patients and colleagues. When the project was concluded—we had made and given out 417 hearts in total!!!! THANK YOU ALL FOR HELPING US OUT AND FOR ALLOWING US TO REPRESENT THE CHURCH. For 6 years or so—we have LOVED on area teachers by giving them our THANKS & APPRECIATION for all of their hard work with a token gesture of a knitted or crocheted SOAP SACKS. This year—we blessed the teachers, administrators and associates at DUNCAN MIDDLE SCHOOL. Sally Belle Spradlin Wheeler is a teacher there Sally distributed SEVENTY SOAP SACKS for us and the teachers and staff were very appreciative.

We have made and distributed 2 PRAYER SHAWLS this month. If you need or know anyone recovering from surgery, has lost a loved one or undergoing chemo or other medical Treatments—please, let us know and we will get one into your hands as soon as possible.

We are getting ready for EASTER!!! We have begun knitting squares that we will turn into Cute, soft BUNNIES for our home bound and friends at EASTER TIME.

As always—we invite you to join us on WEDNESDAYS at 9:30 am for COFFEE & DEVOTIONAL. We would love to see you and have coffee and a chat.

Thanks again for letting us use our talents God has given to us to minister to others.

Blessings

Carolyn

Fellowship Dinner



Our next fellowship dinner will be on Sunday, March 12th immediately following worship. Please make plans to bring your favorite dish, salad, or dessert to share with all and stay to enjoy the fellowship, great food and fun.

You are all appreciated.

Donna, Jacquie & Reta

Volunteers Needed!



Sign up sheets have been posted on the bulletin board in the sanctuary. We need volunteers for the following:

Monthly Worship Leaders for 2023,
Monthly Soup Kitchen Leaders for 2023,
Meals for the Youth group 2023 and
monthly Bingo leaders.

Please prayerfully consider filling one of these rolls in 2023. Thank you!