

Office Hours:

9am - 2 pm
Monday – Friday

Rev. Dr. Darwin Collins
Interim Pastor

Rev. Gena Sheller
Associate Pastor

Karen Thomas
Administrative Assistant

Tom Ulery
*Congregational
Moderator*

Brian Shaw
Financial Secretary

Jim Cope *Choir Director*

Audra Allen *Organist*

Jody Mullis *Pianist*

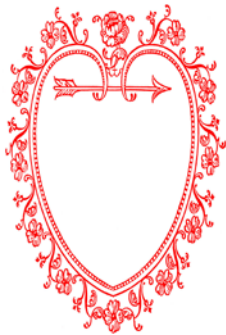
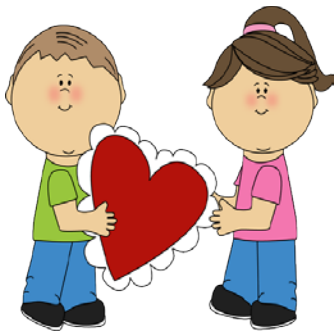
Wray Adams *Custodian*



February 2020

Manor Talk

A Publication of Fairhill Manor Christian Church

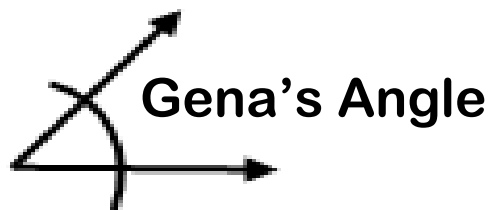


351 Montgomery Avenue
Washington, PA 15301
724-225-8610
fairhillmanor@yahoo.com



You're supposed to be on vacation, Pastor Darwin!!!

Visit us online at www.fairhillmanorchurch.org



Dear Fairhill Family,

Jesus said to them, “Come away to a desert place all by yourselves and rest a while” (Mark 6:31).

I will spend February 10-13 at the [Franciscan Renewal Center](#) in Scottsdale, Arizona (aah, warm weather...). This gathering is the second of three in-person meetings of ministry colleagues participating in the Excellence in Ministry program, designed by the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to help reduce financial pressures on pastors who are “young in ministry.”

While we will still be reflecting on both the theological (in light of who God is and how God works, what is my relationship with money?) and emotional aspects of money, the pace of this retreat will be much more relaxed than the first one in August 2019. We will worship together, “check-in” with our small groups, consider topics like “clergy taxes” and “negotiating compensation” in interest groups, eat well, and experience *23 hours of silence*.

I wonder what your relationship with money looks like, how it feels, how it has changed over time? I wonder where you go to be all by yourself and rest a while? I wonder if you have ever experienced a silent retreat?

Thank you for supporting my participation in this program. My hope is that in confronting my anxiety and shame surrounding money and debt, I will grow as a pastor; that in learning financial strategies and new ways to think about money, I will become a better steward.

The Pension Fund recently launched its annual giving season for the Excellence in Ministry program. While EIM is funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., the grant stipulates that the Pension Fund raise \$75,000 in matching funds for the program. If you would like to learn more about this program and those it has helped, visit <https://pensionfund.org/give/EIM>. If you would like to support this program, which is truly changing the lives of pastors young in their call (your associate pastor included), you can make an online financial gift through the link above as well.

So grateful to be on the journey with you,

Pastor Gena



**A letter from the Office of the General Minister and
President of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada**

Dear Disciples-

A new decade dawns and new possibilities are shooting up all over the Church. Like the stump of Jesse in Isaiah 11:1-9, we are seeing new energy as Disciples find ways to show up in the world.

This passage from the Christmas lectionary is a model for our “movement for wholeness”¹. The Spirit of the Lord is the driver, teaching us not to judge by appearances but rather to live in righteousness. Natural enemies of all stripes will live together. This is not accomplished by human means, but by the Spirit of the Lord.

The idea of showing up in and for the world has been on my mind and heart lately. This past fall I had the opportunity to be in two locations where we Disciples are showing up. The first was Venezuela, where our Global Ministries partners are outward facing. These ecumenical partners were not raising money for church buildings, but instead uniting for justice in housing and jobs. Their people are being negatively impacted by changes in trade embargos since much of their social safety net is funded by oil revenue. These Christians were not silent. Their willingness to speak up and speak out was inspiring.

I also visited the U.S./Mexico border near San Diego where local Disciples on both sides of the line have been caring for those caught in immigration nightmares for many years. Disciples from the National Benevolent Association’s activist peer group, a group of regional ministers, and Disciples from Obra Hispana and from Global Ministries showed up to give support to those doing the work. We learned about both the humanitarian crisis there, but also the root causes of migration such as drought and violence.

These experiences and many others over the past two and a half years have shown me the importance of turning our eyes to mission for the sake of the world. Showing up FOR the world means we are WITH the world and doing the work, building a movement, not just our own institutions.

In revisiting the history of the Design and Merger Agreement, it is clear that we must return to a deep theological understanding of the covenant, and of the ways in which we are church together. The work of being church together is spiritual work, not just organizational work.

In Isaiah 11, we read about how natural enemies will live in peace the Spirit of the Lord will bring often interpreted as prophecy of the coming of Christ. If we can truly embrace the

spiritual disciplines of prayer and Bible study so that the Spirit can have her way, we will be able to see that differences are not deficiencies. We are called to both the tasks (and tension) of unity and freedom together, walking together when we disagree as only truly spiritual people can.

Disciples, I call you to a season of prayer for our church. The presidents and leaders of the general ministries are in prayer for you. You can be in prayer for our regions and our general ministries as all three of our expressions of “church” work together to show up in God’s world to fulfill our vision “to be a faithful and growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice.”²

Thank you for the way you make a difference in your communities. Thank you for showing up for God’s children. I am looking forward to another year of ministry with you as we pray our way through 2020.

In Christ’s Service –

Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens

¹ Identity statement of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

² Vision statement of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Elder Shepherds:		Families Served:
Tammie Wallace	(412) 217-2898	A-B
Connie Sheller	(724) 494-3318	C-Da
Linda Reese	(724) 228-3643	De-Go
Rita Puskarich	(724) 344-2052	Gr-H
Kevin Puskarich	(724) 344-8432	I-Mc
Gene Sheller	(724) 344-8137	Me-P
J.C. Leasure	(724) 263-9183	R
Cara Hritz	(724) 809-3250	S
Gary Ford	(724) 344-2193	T-Z

Weekly Attendance & Giving

Jan	5	91	\$5,789.43
Jan	12	91	\$5,410.00
Jan	19	83	\$2,580.00
Jan	26	82	\$7,395.52



out of office

Pastor Gena will be attending the “Excellence in Ministry” Conference in Arizona, February 10-13 and on vacation from February 14-16. She will be back in her office on Tuesday, February 17. Let us remember to pray for her safe travel.

Worship Assignments, February

ELDERS:

Feb 2 Gene Sheller*, Tammie Wallace
 Feb 9 Gary Ford*, Linda Reese
 Feb 16 J.C. Leasure*, Cara Hritz
 Feb 23 Kevin Puskarich*, Rita Purskarich

GREETERS:

Feb 2 Kathy Moninger-Ford, Lela Davidson
 Feb 9 Joe & Deb Rydzak
 Feb 16 Doug & Maggie Graff
 Feb 23 Charles & Patty McConnell

USHERS:

Feb 2 Terry & Janet Houston
 Feb 9 Rick & Darla Lewis
 Feb 16 Carol & Dave Davis
 Feb 23 J.C. Leasure, Daniel Leasure

DEACONS:

Feb 2 Sam Caldwell, Amy Caldwell*, Jeff Caldwell, Becca Caldwell
 Feb 9 Sharl Burk, Joyce Brandtonies*, Julie Meier, Colby Meier
 Feb 16 Rick Couch*, Dawn Couch, Matt Shetler, Katey Gardiner
 Feb 23 Janet Houston, Betty Jo Puskarich*, Jerry Puskarich, Candy Wasalasky

Fairhill Manor Christian Church Board Meeting
Secretary Report
January 8, 2020

We assemble in God's name

Moderator Tom Ulery called the meeting to order at 7PM. The lighting of the Christ Candle was done by Tom Ulery. Pastor Gena Sheller provided devotions and opening prayer.

We celebrate our past

The FMCC Board reviewed the submitted reports for the Interim Pastor, Associate Pastor, Board Secretary, Treasurer (from the Financial Secretary), and Church Clerk. A motion to accept these reports was made by Gary Ford and seconded by Rita Puskarich. The motion carried.

We present our offerings

The FMCC Board reviewed the submitted Ministry Reports. Reports submitted were from Trustees, Disciples Women's Ministry, Christian Men's Fellowship, Stewardship/Finance, Outreach/Evangelism, and FMCC Croppers.

An error in the Croppers Financial Report Available Balance was noted and corrected. Sam Caldwell made a motion to accept these reports, which was seconded by Jerry Puskarich. The motion carried.

Concerns of the Past

There were no concerns of the past.

Issues of the Future

The Personnel Committee and Interim Pastor Rev Darwin Collins have met and discussed the ability of FMCC to continue to hold the Administrative Assistant open for Shirley Sanders' return. Kathy Moninger-Ford and Jerry Puskarich presented highlights of the committee meeting. It has been decided that FMCC needs to move forward and hire a permanent replacement. A drafted letter of thanks and a gift card will be sent to Shirley. Jerry Puskarich made the motion that we move forward with thanking Shirley for her years of service and present her with a \$500 gift card. The motion was seconded by Gary Ford. The motion carried.

Jerry Puskarich talked about reviewing, updating, and bringing clarity to the Building and Use Policy. A motion was made by Connie Sheller to review the Building and Use Policy, to make corrections to the policy, to possibly increase income revenue for the church, and to present the findings to the Board. The motion was seconded by Kathy Moninger-Ford. The motion carried.

Stewardship/Finance Ministry Leader, Jerry Puskarich indicated that there are designated Escrow Funds available for use. He suggested moving the Library Fund, the Nursery Fund, and the Memorial Brick Fund into the Property Fund. Tammie Wallace made a motion to move the Library, Nursery and Memorial Brick funds in Escrow to the Property Fund. The motion was seconded by Carmen Oliverio. The motion carried.

The 2019 Fairhill Manor Christian Annual Report was presented to the Board. A correction was noted in the Disciples Women's Ministry 2019 Financial Report. There will be a Congregational Meeting to approve the Annual Report on Sunday, January 19, 2020.

Leaving in God's name

A motion to adjourn this meeting was made at 8:05 PM by Carmen Oliverio and seconded by Sam Caldwell. The motion carried. Moderator Tom Ulery led us in closing prayer. The next meeting of the FMCC Board is on March 11, 2020 at 7 PM.

In Attendance

Tom Ulery (Moderator), John Anderson, Sharl Burk, Amy Caldwell, Becca Caldwell, Sam Caldwell, Gary Ford, Kathy Moninger-Ford, Terry Houston, Von Lacock, JC Leasure, Carmen Oliverio, Peggy Oliverio*, Ed Palfreyman, Jerry Puskarich, Rita Puskarich, Linda Reese, Brian Shaw*, Connie Sheller, Pastor Gena Sheller*, Gene Sheller, Sandy Todaro, Tammie Wallace.



February



- 2 Noah Allen
Doug Graff
- 3 Ruth Cox
Nathan Dallatore
Ellodi Keene
- 4 Sam Caldwell
Shyla Rash
Jaedan Shetler
Julia Vanatta
- 5 Lisa Gardiner
- 8 Megan Houston
Erika Vanatta
- 9 Daniel Riffle
- 10 Grant Weber
- 14 Rick Lewis
- 15 Diane Cope
Yvonne Jones
Nancy McCann
- 22 Jack Nelson
- 25 Bob Gregg
- 26 Gage McDonough
Avalon Vanatta



- 2 Jim & Judy Wheeler
- 17 James & Barbara Roupe

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 SS 9:00 am Worship 10:15am Souper Bowl Luncheon/ 2-person Cornhole Tournament After Worship	3 Home School 8:30-3:30 Prayer Shawl 11am Literacy 4-7 pm NA 7 pm	4 Literacy 11-2 Scouts 6:30-9 Dartball 7pm @ Home	5 Literacy 9-3 Literacy Board 4:15-6:15 NA- Hope 6-8 It Takes a Village (coupon grp) 6:30-7:30pm	6 Literacy 9-12 & 1-3 Choir 6:30 NA 7:30	7 Literacy 9-12 noon	8 Large Hall Reserved Shetler Noon-8pm
9 SS 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am	10 Home School 8:30-3:30 Literacy 4-7 NA 7 pm	11 Literacy 11-2 DWM noon Dartball 7 pm @ Holy Trinity	12 Literacy 9-3 NA – Hope 6-8pm Scouts 7-9pm	13 Literacy 9-12 & 1-3 Elders 5:30pm Choir 6:30 NA 7:30 pm	14 Literacy 9-12 noon Croppers 6pm	15 Food Pantry 8:30-10 @ 4 th Pres. Church Croppers 10am
16 SS 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Large Hall Reserved Oliverio 1-8pm	17 Office Closed Home School 8:30-3:30 Prayer Shawl 11am Literacy 4-7pm CMF – 6:30pm NA 7 pm	18 Literacy 11-2 Disciples Read 6pm Dartball 7pm @ Home	19 Literacy 9-3 NA- Hope 6-8 Coupon Grp 6:30-7:30pm Newsletter to office	20 Literacy 9-12 & 1-3 Choir 6:30 NA 7:30 pm	21 Literacy 9-12 noon	22
23 SS 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am	24 Home School 8:30-3:30 Literacy 4-7pm NA 7 pm	25 Literacy 11-2 Disciples Read 6pm Dartball 7pm @ Home	26 Literacy 9-3 NA- Hope 6-8 Ash Wednesday Service 7pm	27 Literacy 9-12 & 1-3 Choir 6:30 NA 7:30 pm	28 Literacy 9-12 noon	29



Week of Compassion – A special offering for disaster relief and long-term development will be received on February 16 and February 23. Building, planting, watering...and trusting that God gives growth to all good gifts shared in faith.

Ash Wednesday Service - February 26 at 7pm

Please pick up a copy of “From Suffering to Salvation,” a Lenten devotional for you and your family. Available February 16 in the Narthex.

Disciples History- Where Did We Come From?

Are you new to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)? Have you been around for a while but would like to know more about our roots, our development and who we are today? During the six weeks in Lent, you can join with others from Fairhill Manor on a journey through the history of our denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and learn of the other events of history that influenced our growth and development. The class will begin on Monday, March 2 from 6:30-7:30pm and continue through April 6. No knowledge of our history is necessary, but do bring an inquisitive mind! Please call the Church Office or sign up in the Narthex.

Membership Class

If you are interested in learning about becoming a Christian and a member of Fairhill Manor Christian Church, Rev. Collins is planning a Membership Class on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour (9-10 am). This class will begin on Sunday, March 8 and continue through March 29. For those who are interested, a service of baptism is planned for Palm Sunday, April 5. The Membership Class is required for all those wishing to be baptized. Please let either Rev. Collins or Pastor Gena know of your interest in participating.

Palm Sunday – April 5

Easter Sunday – April 12

“Ways to Give”

Givelify

Tap. Give. Done.



Fairhill Manor has entered a new era: the age of anytime, anywhere giving. We are now signed up with **Givelify**, the mobile giving app for places of worship and charities.

Givelify gives you a beautiful, easy giving experience using your smartphone. There are no frustrating web forms to fill out, and recurring gifts are easy to set up and modify. Even better, it's free to download and use. It's safe and secure and gives you access to your complete giving record.

Want to see how it works? [Watch the demonstration video](#) that shows you all about how to make and track donations.

Ready to get started? [Download](#) the Givelify app for Android or iPhone.



The Fairhill Manor Croppers meet each month on the 2nd Friday at 6pm and the 2nd Saturday at 10:30 am. We do scrapbooking, card making or any craft that you love to do. We invite everyone to craft, relax and fellowship with us. We ask for a freewill donation for Friday night and a \$10 donation for Saturday (donations go to FMCC). On Saturday, we usually order out for lunch or you may bring your lunch. Please bring a snack for all to enjoy.

We have two fundraisers a year. All money is given to various groups or individuals in need of help. We have crops scheduled for April 3-4 and November 6-7. For more information call Peggy Oliverio at 724- 225-5772 or 412- 997-4257. To stay up to date on all activities, e-mail the Croppers at fairhillcroppers@gmail.com.

If you would like to receive weekly regional news (PA/WV) from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Contact:

Thaddaeus1969@gmail.com

Family Events & News

Prayer
Shawl Ministry



The Prayer Shawl
Group will meet in the
Parlor February 3 & 17.

Coffee
Hour



Signup in the
narthex to bring
danishes or
muffins for the
Coffee Hour.
Coffee & Tea
provided.

Disciples Read

The *Disciples Read* book club will resume on Tuesday February 18 at 6pm. The book is "God Came Near," by Max Lucado.



See Linda Reese for details.

The Disciples Women's Ministries will have a **soup luncheon** at noon on February 11 at their monthly meeting. Soup, crackers and dessert will be provided. All women of the congregation are invited.

The DWM survey is being evaluated with the possibility of creating a new monthly program involving crafts, bible study, outreach and other ideas.

FMCCCMF

Fairhill Manor Christian Church's Men's Fellowship, commonly known as CMF, is affiliated with the national men's group of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The national group is known as **Disciples Men** and is a Ministry of Disciples Home Missions (DHM). **Disciples Men** is a cooperative effort between the Office of Disciples Men (ODM) and the General Conference of Disciples Men (GCDM). The ODM consists of the Director, Greg Alexander, and the Associate Director, Alex Ruth. The directors are resourced by Ministry Associate Kelly Harris, who lends her considerable assistance to the work of Disciples Men (as well as several other ministries at DHM). The GCDM is comprised of the [Regional Men's President and Regional Men's Staff Member](#) of each of the 35 regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, and elected members of the Conference Executive Committee. Fairhill belongs to the region in which the states of Pennsylvania and West Virginia belong.

The ODM and GCDM work together ministering to the unique needs of men in the church. Their combined mission is to empower men to discover and fulfill their potential as servants of God. This, in turn, strengthens the witness of the total ministry of the church.

Information about the above units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) can be found on the web using your favorite search engine. A newsletter for Disciple's Men can be obtained by signing up at the DHM website.

The treasury of our CMF has been combined with the Fairhill treasury which is administered by our able Financial Secretary/Treasurer, Brian Shaw. The CMF funds are available to the CMF from two escrow funds named appropriately. One of those funds will be named "Notes of Thanks." Money from the Notes of Thanks concert is used to supply our pastors with gift cards for needy families.

I am proposing that we rename our men's group at FMCC "Disciple's Men" in keeping with our denomination.

Gene R. Sheller, CMF treasurer



Souper Bowl luncheon/Cornhole Tournament – February 2

Stay after worship to enjoy soup, chili and fellowship!!! Who will win the much anticipated 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament??

MONTHLY COLLECTIONS - Our January/February Collection will be **SOUPS, CHILI AND CRACKERS**. These will be collected in conjunction with the Annual Souper Bowl Campaign, in February, which brings awareness that there are people finding it difficult to put food on their tables. These items will be collected until Sunday, February 23rd and will go to local food pantries.

Christian Men’s Fellowship has coupon booklets for sale, \$5.

They make great tokens of appreciation for your mail carrier, garbage collector or newspaper carrier.

There may be a chill in the air and snow on the ground but it’s time to think Spring and Daffodils! The American Cancer Society Daffodil Days will be March 23-29.

Name: _____

American Cancer Society
Daffodil Sale

- _____ Bunch of Daffodils \$10
- _____ Mini Potted Daffodils \$15
- _____ Bunch of Tulips \$15
- _____ Yellow (white chocolate) Lollipop \$1
- _____ Chocolate Lollipop \$1
- _____ Gift of Hope \$25 (flowers donated to local cancer centers)



To order, please give this coupon to Peggy Oliverio or place in the Church Office mailbox. Orders must be prepaid and are due by February 16, 2020. Make checks payable to “American Cancer Society”.



In Need of Prayer

Avery Allen
Bill Behrens
Carolyn Blackhurst
Gary Blackhurst
Mark & Susan Britko
Jim Chase
Emily Cope Robinson
Sue Donaldson
Phyllis Doria
Fred Engle
Bonnie Gregg
Judy Hanning
Rita Hritz
Sharon Ingram
Kim Johnson
Jim Kozusnik
Tom Lane
Ed Palfreyman
Joe Palfreyman
Jeannie Riffle
Lori Riffle
Betty Jo Riggie
Barb Roupe
Shirley Sanders
Beth Teagarden
Melissa Teagarden
Shirley Teagarden
Nikki Wells
Tom Williams
Chuck and Mary Wiseman

In the Military

Emily Chase
Lance Dague
Shawn Dallatore
Andrew Gregg
Zachary Keene
Brandon Lipscomb
Sarah Lipscomb
Terrell McClain
Travis Ringer
Daniel Robinson

In Care Centers:

Southmont-Presby Med
Bill Behrens Room 437
Rev. Marge Frank

Homebound Members

Phyllis Cimino
Strabane Trails # 325
Mary Lou McDonough
949 Bruce Street

Pastoral Search Committee

- Becca Caldwell
- J.C. Leasure,
chairperson
- Jackie Nelson
- Diane
Palfreyman
- Rolinda
Sprowls
- Mike Sweeney



*Fairhill Manor
Christian Church
extends its
deepest sympathy
to the families of
Eleanor
McConnell who
passed away
December 20 and
Della Adams who
passed away
December 21.*





On February 2 1887, Groundhog Day, featuring a rodent meteorologist, was celebrated for the first time at Gobbler’s Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. According to tradition, if a groundhog comes out of its hole on this day and sees its shadow, it gets scared and runs back into its burrow, predicting six more weeks of winter weather; no shadow means an early spring.

Groundhog Day has its roots in the ancient Christian tradition of Candlemas, when clergy would bless and distribute candles needed for winter. The candles represented how long and cold the winter would be. Germans expanded on this concept by selecting an animal—the hedgehog—as a means of predicting weather. Once they came to America, German settlers in Pennsylvania continued the tradition, although they switched from hedgehogs to groundhogs, which were plentiful in the Keystone State.



**2020
Customer
Choice**

WF WASHINGTON FINANCIAL
CF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

YOU VOTE, WE LISTEN

At Washington Financial Bank, we understand the importance of listening to needs—those of our customers and our communities. Our Customer Choice Campaign is a perfect example of this.

Each year, we award grants to local charities based solely on your votes. Since the inception of Customer Choice, local charities have received hundreds of thousands of dollars in support. To vote, simply fill out the reverse side or visit us at mywashingtonfinancial.com.

Are you a Washington Financial Bank customer? If so, it’s time to vote for a local charity to receive a grant through the Customer Choice Campaign.

Vote online at mywashingtonfinancial.com through March 27. This is a great way to support non-profits like the Literacy Council of Southwestern PA.

Name/Address of Charity _____

Your name _____

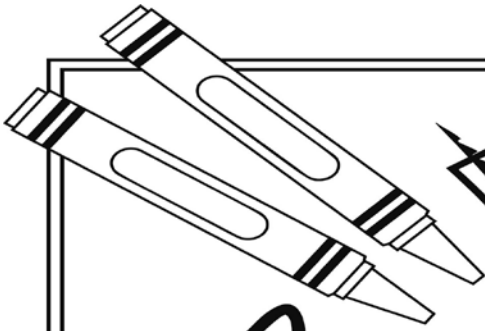
Brief description of charity _____

You may drop your ballot off at any of our convenient locations or mail it to Washington Financial Bank, 190 North Main Street, Washington, PA 15301.

WF WASHINGTON FINANCIAL
CF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

mywashingtonfinancial.com

To be considered for funding, charities must have 501(c)(3) non-profit status, and should receive at least 25 votes. In the event that an agency receives less than the required minimum of votes, the eligibility of said agency will be at the discretion of the Washington Financial Charitable Foundation (WFCF). Only Washington Financial Bank customers are eligible to vote for Customer Choice. One vote per customer. Ballots must be submitted by March 27, 2020. Nominations of a charity does not guarantee funding. All funding decisions are at the discretion of the Board of Trustees of the WFCF.



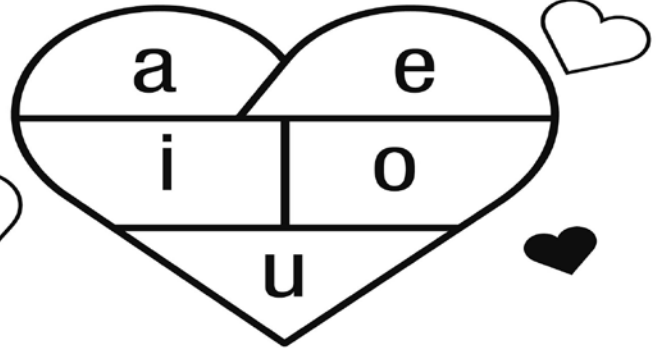
PUZZLE

A friend in Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.



Directions: Use the heart key to fill in the missing vowels from John 15:14, 17, NIV.



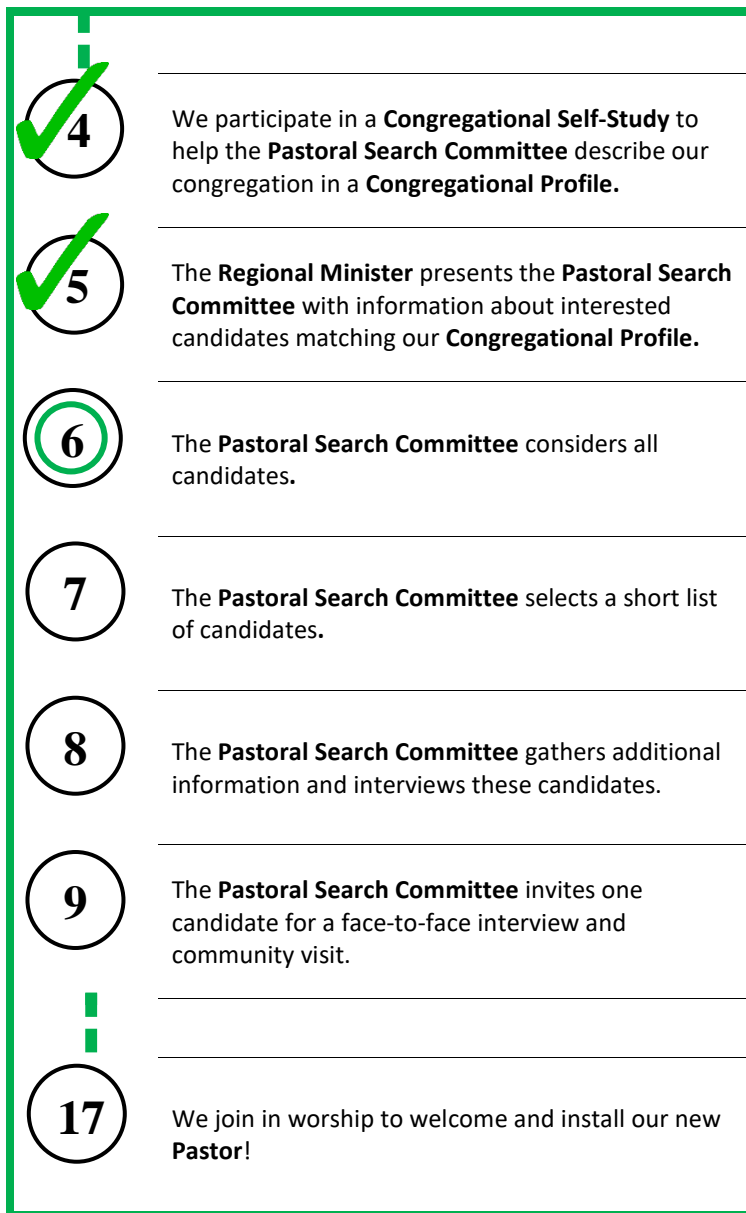
“Y _ _ r _ my fr _ _ nds _ f
y _ _ d _ wh _ t _ c _ mm _ nd. . . .

Th _ s _ s my c _ mm _ nd:

L _ v _ _ ch _ th _ r.”

JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV

Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command. . . . This is my command: Love each other.” John 15:14, 17, NIV



On average, it takes a congregation from 9 to 18 months to complete this Search and Call process.

I'm split into two sections but I'm not a game of soccer
 I can be read but I'm not a newspaper
 I contain verses but I'm not a song
 I contain books but I'm not a library
 I'm found in a church but I'm not a pastor
 What am I?

If you see anything in the newsletter that needs corrected, please contact the office.
 The answer to the riddle is:
 Bible
 Have a great day!
 Choose Happy 😊
 Happy Valentine's Day
 Karen