



# First Christian Church

A Church of Service, working for wholeness in a broken world

650 McCallie Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37403 • Phone 423-267-4506 • Hours: (M-Th) 10am-2pm

www.firstchristian-chat.com • www.facebook.com/FCC.Chattanooga

## DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

The Bridge Newsletter • October 29, 2017

### Servants in Worship



Worship Leader..... Rona Gary  
 Red Book Pickup ..... Bryce Wynn / Gail Dobbs  
 Deacons Coordinator ..... Darby Standefer  
 Ushers & Servers..... Sarah Flynn, Angie Cass,  
 Gail Rich, Katie Wylie  
 Other Servers..... David Cass, Susan Haymes  
 Elders at the Table  
 Pulpit Side (Prayer of Consecration)..... Rick Auten  
 Pulpit Side (Pastoral Listener) ..... Ardian Totten  
 Lectern Side (Prayer of Thanksgiving)..... Bob Gary  
 Lectern Side (Pastoral Listener) ..... Jennifer Atchley  
 Scripture..... Matthew 22:34-40  
 Proclamation ..... Journey to Generosity..... Rev. Brandon

### In Our Thoughts & Prayers...

William Poss (Lisa Hale Gilvin's dad); Jim & Mary Davis; Joy Bourroughs (friend of Dreema Adkins mother); Rowland W. Faust; Chuck Martin; Phil Summerlin; Tom Henderson; Scottie, Jake & Jack Summerlin; Mary Gifford (Mary Davis' sister-in-law); Jim Henry; Rona Gary; Lyndsay Wells (Bill Allen's Step-Sister); John Todd (friend of Ann Knauff); Tyler Rich and Family & Bret Lyness (friends of the Cass and Crosslin families); Jim & Barbara Northcut; Jill McPhail DeVore (Kate Gilliland's mother); Danny Dyer (Tricia Dyer's brother); Gary Wilkes; Ardian Totten; Shirley Walker (friend of Betty Proctor & Betty Jolly); Gary Goforth; Erick Griggs; Daniel Tomanelli; Don & Vicki Mielcarek (friends of Tricia Dyer); Sue Renfro; Brian Baldrige (cousin of David Cass); Judy Fitzgerald; Leroy Lewis (Bob Lewis' brother); Nick Dobbs; Edward Everett (Gayle Mingledorff's cousin); Maty & Jack Barker; Howard VanZant; John Black (Barbara Voss's brother); Bill Allen; Paul Shoun

Contact the church office to add or remove someone on the prayer list, 267-4506.

<b>October:</b>	7	Natalie Shipley	
31	Alan Voss, Bea Lyons	9	Angie Cass
<b>November</b>	10	Sam Edmondson	
<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	11	Diane Givens	
2	Missy McKenna	13	Lorraine Hipp, Hillary Allen
3	Barbara Voss	16	Hoke Petree
4	Scrappy Moore	17	Erick Griggs
5	Carol Sharpe	18	Gigi Bluford
6	Debby Demos	19	Jim Fletcher, Monica DeFriese

Church ..... church@firstchristian-chat.com  
 Reverend Brandon ..... brandon@firstchristian-chat.com  
 Reverend Jonathan ..... jonathan.h.hyde@gmail.com  
 Victoria Flores ..... victoria@firstchristian-chat.com  
 Beth Harris ..... beth@firstchristian-chat.com  
 Gary Wilkes ..... gwilkes428@gmail.com  
 Merry Lee Wilson ..... wmozart5@epbf.com  
 Carey Anderson ..... clf241@hotmail.com  
 BRIDGE Deadline ..... Monday, NOON  
 Website ..... www.firstchristian-chat.com  
 Facebook ..... www.facebook.com/FCC.Chattanooga



#### Interested in the Cookie Ministry?

Call Lorraine Hipp at 423-886-5183 or 423-504-1346 to volunteer!

### The Week Ahead

Don't forget Sparkle Day clean up on Oct. 28!

#### Sunday, October 29

9:30 am Christian Education Classes for All Ages  
 9:30 am Door Greeters: Covenant Group 5 (Allen/Duncan)  
 9:30 am Adult Choir Practice; Sanctuary  
 10:30 am Coffee & Conversation; Crane Lounge  
 11:00 am Worship; Sanctuary  
 12:00 pm Sanctuary Clean Up: Covenant Group 5  
 12:15 pm Consecration Sunday Luncheon; Fellowship Hall

#### Monday, October 30

1:00 pm Staff Meeting; Conference Room  
 2:30 pm PAWS  
 6:00 pm Town Hall Meeting; Collierville CC  
 7:30 pm NA Meeting; Fellowship Hall

#### Tuesday, October 31

7:00 pm NA Meeting; Fellowship Hall  
 8:00 pm House Worship; Sanctuary

#### Wednesday, November 1

9:00 am Food Bank Volunteering  
*Betty Woomer: bjwoomer@hotmail.com*  
 7:00 pm Town Hall Meeting; Memphis Central CC

#### Thursday, November 2

7:00 am Men's Group; Bluegrass Grill  
 2:30 pm PAWS

#### Friday, November 3

10:30 am Community Kitchen Volunteering  
 3:00 pm Community Kitchen Volunteering  
*Sherry Baldwin: sherrybaldwin60@gmail.com*  
 7:00 pm NA Meeting; Fellowship Hall

#### Saturday, November 4

No Scheduled Activities

#### Sunday, November 5

9:30 am Christian Education Classes for All Ages  
 9:30 am Door Greeters: Covenant Group 6 (Baldwin/Kenyon)  
 9:30 am Adult Choir Practice; Sanctuary  
 10:30 am Coffee & Conversation; Crane Lounge  
 11:00 am Worship; Sanctuary



T-shirt Drive for Community Kitchen, bring your gently used or new adult size t-shirts (long or short-sleeved, any design or color

12:00 pm Sanctuary Clean Up: Covenant Group 6  
 12:15 pm Operation Christmas Child Spud Luncheon & Packing Party; Fellowship Hall



#### Community Kitchen Volunteering Update

Lunch time has changed to 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, so our volunteers now work from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. We work every 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Friday mornings.

The afternoon serving time is the same working from 3 to 4:30 pm. We serve every Friday.

If you'd like to help, a couple of volunteers are needed for the 2nd Friday shift. We have dedicated regulars on the other days.

Thanks, Sherry Baldwin



## From the Table

Commitment Sunday is almost here—the day when we bring our giving intentions to have them consecrated. This moment is more than an act of fundraising or making sure our congregation remains financially sustainable; it is a moment in which we participate in a sacred covenant with God. Our financial gifts are one way we commit to being part of God's work in the world, and so I hope you are prayerfully considering how you and your family would like to be part of that work.

By now, you should have received a copy of our narrative budget as well as a pledge card which you can bring to worship on October 29th. You will be invited to place your card in a basket



as you receive communion. We will also gather for a special Commitment Sunday Luncheon following worship. If you will be attending the luncheon, please let Victoria know by calling the church office or emailing church@firstchristian-chat.com by October 24th.

I am so proud of the ministry we have done together over the last year—the care we've shown one another and our wider community and world has been a gift to all those who have been touched by it. I join you in prayerful discernment as we consider how we might best make this journey to generosity together.



*As always, I'm grateful to be in ministry with you. Rev. Brandon*

October 20, 2017

Tennessee Regional Church Family,



I am sitting on the side of my desk praying, stewing and contemplating about what I shall write to the leadership, congregations, clergy and members of the Christian Church in Tennessee about

next week's anticipated happening in Shelbyville- Murfreesboro, TN. It seems that I have had writers block, since Tuesday around this subject because, in no way do I want to see nor hear about another "Charlottesville," especially taking place in Tennessee. Our country is still wrestling and swarming with the aftermath of that event, and the casualties behind it. Yet, with that in mind, staring me in the face is that 450-page dissertation I wrote on The Effects of Racism and Reconciliation in America and Church. Somehow, what was written more than a decade ago continues to come to life on the streets of our country, and now to Tennessee. How do I address a region, made up of congregations of multiple nationalities, colors and cultures on the ills of racism? Well, ladies and gentlemen, I think we just do it.

On October 28, persons who are part of the neo-Nazi, white nationalist and supremacist groups are slated to converge upon Shelbyville, and Murfreesboro, Tennessee. In addition, persons associated with countering their witness have arrived. Clergy, Law enforcement, and concerned Citizens from that area have been in conversation about what to do to ensure safety. Some of these Officials, and clergy from Shelbyville have concluded that it is safer to ask

everyone to stay home. Their advice has been: "Do not come to be part of the march."

My job as your Regional Minister and President of the Tennessee Christian Church is to live with my eyes and ears open to God, to Jesus, and to the Holy Spirit, who dwells among us. God woke me at 4 a.m. two days ago to a vision of handwriting on the wall. It said, "Humanity is waiting on Jesus to do something, and Jesus waits on us." Friends, Interim Pastor, Rev. Kyle Harris serving at First Christian Church in this current hot spot deserve my service and my voice on this matter. It is imperative that I speak to you and that I pledge the regional support to you. From my understanding, some from our Denomination, and members of the National Benevolent Association will be on hand in Shelbyville to stand against those who promote hate, unrest, discrimination and civil disrespect. How can we stand for God's love, and against those dissenting without engaging in violent behavior such as what happened in Charlottesville? These are heart-wrenching moments.

Regional Church family, we have been called by God and our Regional Board to be one body-one Region. We are one. Therefore, we denounce all forms of hatred, injustices, inequality and disrespect, dehumanization and racism. God calls us to stand with, speak up and lead out around those issues of injustice, disrespect and racism towards any person. We are called, to promote reconciliation and speak the truth in love as well as to "extend an open table of love and generosity where all can know and receive the unmistakable grace of God." Humanity is very broken, and we are waiting on Jesus to fix us. Friends, Jesus is waiting on us to fix that which is broken. We must be open to all of humanity as God is open to us and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

As Children of God, citizens of these United States, we must find within our own souls what it means to live with the love, energy, diversity, culture and profound Spirituality offered by those who may or may not look, sound, or think like us, understanding that together we make up these United States.

On October 28, people may feel compelled to take counter witness to behaviors of that which is being played out before us. I am asking that we counter these behaviors in Prayer, Peace, Love and Justice and Action. Surely, some are called to write, to march, to pray, to be called to serve on the front lines of what it means to promote reconciliation. I encourage you to listen for your call, for God knows your inner nature as well as the larger need. After receiving your calling, respond. Together, each of us has a role to play in the dismantling of racism; in the changing of that which is broken. Let us seek God's guidance as one body, maintaining many functions, that we might sustain a sacred life and build a holy future.

To Prepare for the days ahead:

- 1) Hold a Prayer Vigil in your church or in the home of a member. Include prayers for our Region and First Christian in Shelbyville, and Central Christian in Murfreesboro.
- 2) Open your sanctuaries to those who will need help during the hours of protesting. Become a safe space – where people can sit and rest, and use restroom facilities. Prepare your congregation for disaster relief training and organizing. Be alert and prepared.
- 3) Provide snacks, and drinks to help refresh those who will become weary.
- 4) Provide comfort and counsel, wherein it remains safe, and within your scope of skills.

**Remembering, "We are better together,"**  
**Rev. Dr. Christal L. Williams**