



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

THE BRIDGE NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 18, 2019

SUNDAYS: Christian Education for all ages: 9:30 am | Coffee & Conversation: 10:30 am | Worship: 11 am

**SEEKING GOD’S WHOLENESS. EXPANDING THE TABLE. NURTURING JUSTICE.**

### SERVANTS IN WORSHIP

Worship Leader..... Rona Gary  
Red Book Pickup..... Emily Auten / Diane Givens  
Deacons Coordinator..... Judy Duncan  
Ushers..... Bill Spurgeon, Patti Obert,  
Shawn Fulgham, Susan Spurgeon  
Servers ..... Patti Obert, Vicki Hill  
Elders at the Table  
Pulpit Side (Prayer of Consecration) ..... Alan Voss  
Pulpit Side (Pastoral Listener)..... Fielding Atchley  
Lectern Side (Prayer of Thanksgiving)..... Lorraine Hipp  
Lectern Side (Pastoral Listener) ..... Connie Smithson  
Scripture..... Luke 12: 49-56  
Proclamation ..... Rev. Brandon

*"Jesus Economics: Loss"*



*Staying cool – Church in the Round*

### A day away in a quiet place

Maya Angelou said, "Each person deserves a day away in which no problems are confronted, no solutions searched for. Each of us needs to withdraw from the cares which will not withdraw from us." Similarly, when Jesus' disciples were consumed with ministry, he urged them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest" (Mark 6:31, NIV).

The late days of summer might be just the time to seek "a day away" not only from problems but even from ministry. While serving God and others can be energizing, we must balance work with rest. God set that example, resting after creating the world; Jesus set that example, calling his disciples away – not just alone, but with him – to be refreshed.

Spend a relaxing day at a lake. Go on a scrapbooking retreat or a leisurely hike with a friend. Find a monastery that welcomes guests, and experience 48 hours of prayer and silence there. Invite Jesus into that time and space. And remember another message he shared: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28, NIV).



Jeff Lofgren, Scott Kramer & Betty Franklin (Friends of Susan Spurgeon); Lorraine Hipp's grandson, Cameron; John Little (relative of Angie Cass); Joy Wagner; Joy Parsons (friend of Betty Proctor); Bill, Ann & June Chambers & Louisa Kaplan & The Kaplan Family (friends of the Pennybakery); Vickie Hill's mother; Jack Wallace (Kate's brother and Janet's son); Alan Derthick; Bea Lyons; Rick Butz & Betty Howerton; Raymond Howerton (Betty's father); Peggy Brannen; Jerry Wimberly (relative of Angie Cass); Jim & Marcia Fletcher; Bert Blackburn (Bea's sister); Bill Dowell; Edward Everett (Gayle Mingledorff's cousin); Phyllis Bishop (Scot Crosslin's mother); Chuck Martin; Jack Barker; Jim & Barbara Northcut; Catherine Shutters; Amanda Mealer-McArtor & Sophie McArtor; Mai "Mike" Nary; Lyndsay Wells (Bill Allen's Step-Sister); Rona Gary; Mary Gifford (Mary Davis' sister-in-law); Erick Griggs; John Black (Barbara Voss's brother); Leroy Lewis (Bob Lewis' brother).

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

## IMPORTANT NOTES

**Ladies Prayer Circle** will NOT meet during Aug. or Sept. Meetings will resume beginning October 2019. Call **Debby Demos** with any requests to be called through the prayer chain.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Sunday, August 18

- 9:30 am Door Greeters; Covenant Group 2 (S Baldwin, P Shoun)
- 9:30 am Choir Practice
- 9:30 am Christian Education for all ages
- 10:30 am Coffee & Conversation; Crane Lounge
- 11:00 am Worship
- 12:00 pm Sanctuary Clean Up; Covenant Group 2

### Monday, August 19

- 11:00 am Staff Meeting; Conference Room
- 5:00 pm Chattanooga Sports Hall of Fame Mtg.; Fellowship Hall
- 5:30 pm Elders Meeting; Conference Room
- 8:00 pm NA Meeting; Fellowship Hall

### Tuesday, August 20

- 7:00 pm NA Meeting; Fellowship Hall

### Wednesday, August 21

No Scheduled Activities

### Thursday, August 22

- 7:00 am Men's Group; Bluegrass Grill

### Friday, August 23

- 3:00 pm Community Kitchen Volunteering
- 8:00 pm NA Meeting; Fellowship Hall

### Saturday, August 24

No Scheduled Activities

### Sunday, August 25

- 9:30 am Door Greeters; Covenant Group 2 (S Baldwin, P Shoun)
- 9:30 am Choir Practice
- 9:30 am Christian Education for all ages
- 10:15 am Children's Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Coffee & Conversation; Crane Lounge
- 11:00 am Worship
- 12:00 pm Sanctuary Clean Up; Covenant Group 2

Note: Some room assignments have been changed to keep members & guests cool as we address HVAC system repairs.

## FROM THE TABLE



**Q: Use The Following Word in a Sentence.**

Loss

/lōs, lās/

noun

noun: loss; plural noun: losses

1. the fact or process of losing something or someone.  
*"avoiding loss of time"*
2. an amount of money lost by a business or organization.  
*"insurance can protect you against financial loss"*
3. the state or feeling of grief when deprived of someone or something of value *"I feel a terrible sense of loss"*

**A: We lost the use of our HVAC system before worship this Sunday.**

I'm just kidding. Sorta.

Last Sunday was a challenge. But those of you who gathered for worship were great sports. You showed just how adaptable you are, and our terrific volunteers, from our Hospitality team to our Worship team, showed how nimble they are. Of course, our choir and music staff—as always—reminded us of the depth of their talent. Despite the lack of cool air, Sunday was a marvelous time for worship. After experiencing "worship in the round" in the fellowship hall, several of you even suggested that we worship this way again—perhaps quarterly!

So we lost our cool air on the hottest Sunday of the year, but we discovered joy nonetheless.

As we continue our examination of "Jesus Economics" in the Gospel of Luke, we're going to be looking at a different type of loss—the loss of unity—in one's family, one's social circle, one's whole world of relationships, that Jesus says comes with following him. As Disciples, we like to claim that "Unity is our polar star," but are there things that we tragically lose when we claim the wrong types of unity?

And when we lose the things we thought united us, do we—like a group of folks flocking around a plastic table in a church fellowship hall—discover what we were missing all along?

Come and see.

*Grateful to be in ministry with you, Rev. B*



Hello, First Christian Church! My name is **Stephen Underwood** (he, him, his) and I am absolutely thrilled to learn with, and from you, in the coming few months. I'm excited to get to know you as I serve in the role of Ministerial Intern for the second year of my MDiv at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Please feel free to say hi whenever you see me, and tell me the best places to get coffee in Chattanooga!

My journey toward theological education and ministering to God's church started when I was just a baby, growing up in the Disciples of Christ's cousin church, the Independent Christian Church. It was there that I found a love for the study of Scripture and the rhythms of faith. I received my Bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies from Cincinnati Christian University, and as my faith evolved, grew and broadened, I discovered the Disciples and fell in love with the Spirit of unity and welcome that I found there. The Table represents the heartbeat of my faith and spirituality; our weekly encounter with Christ renewing our drive for wholeness in a world fragmented by white supremacy, patriarchy, and oppression.

In my free time, I like filling my phone with pictures of my cat, making tasty food, and laughing with my friends. Looking forward to meeting all of you soon!

**-Stephen**



**AUGUST**

- 15 Jim Davis, Jan Webster
- 16 Rusty Russell
- 18 Matthew King
- 23 Shawn Fulgham
- 25 Gail Dobbs, Gail Holcombe
- 27 Tina Chadwick, Matthew Petree
- 28 Nancy Dobbs, Meredith Lambert,  
Patrick Kirby, Buz Smithers
- 29 Heather Droke, Sally D. Hunt
- 30 Ike Summerlin, Kimberly Wynn
- 31 Maxwell King, Brad Northcut

## CONNECT WITH FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Bridge Newsletter Deadline ..... Monday, NOON

