



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

THE BRIDGE NEWSLETTER | MARCH 15, 2020

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

Red Book Pickup Emily Auten / Diane Givens
Ushers & Servers Susan Spurgeon, Zach Atchley,
Janet Johnson, Sandy Reynolds

Elders at the Table

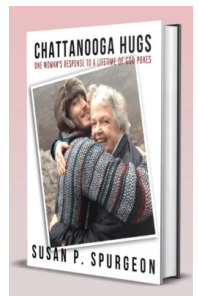
Pulpit Side (Prayer of Consecration) Wanda Jones
Pulpit Side (Pastoral Listener) Betty Floyd
Lectern Side (Prayer of Thanksgiving) David Floyd
Lectern Side (Pastoral Listener) Hank Bramblet
Scripture John 4:5-42
Proclamation Rev. Joannathan
God’s Story. Our Stories: Strangers



Guests enjoy post-worship fellowship.

Chattanooga Hugs

Susan Spurgeon is setting up a table and banner for Chattanooga Hugs in the FCC lobby entrance. She will have **FREE Chattanooga Hugs** books for anyone from the church or from the House or other visitors who would like one.



The table also will be stocked and restocked with Chattanooga Hugs cards. She has a new message for 2020 because, “We need a lot of love across the city to overcome the hate we are hearing from too many places,” shares Susan.

Susan shares any money that she receives for the books between her three favorite charities: First Christian Church, Community Kitchen, and Metropolitan Ministries.

Pick up your **FREE** copy next Sunday!

Minimalism

Saturday – March 28 / 7:00 p.m.

Film Length: 1:20

Examine the many flavors of minimalism, a movement away from excessive consumerism.



THE HYDE OUT



We are so close to spring. We have already 'sprung' forward with our clocks, the weather is calling for lots of rain, and in a few weeks the spring solstice will be here.

Spring always brings new growth and such is the case with FCC too. One of the areas of growth that some may not be aware of is within our children's ministry.

We have a very active nursery and many of those children are ready to move up to a Pre-K class.

Starting the Sunday after Easter we will have two children's worship services. One is for grades 1-6, and the other is for Pre-K to age 3.

We currently have a full volunteer group for grades 1-6, but still need some volunteers with our younger members. Please let me know if you would be willing to teach one Sunday of each month.

Blessings, Rev Jonathan Hyde

Covenant 2 Group News

Saturday, March 14, Covenant Group 2 will have a taco supper at the home of Alan and Barbara Voss beginning at 6 pm. If you have not signed up to bring something, contact Sherry Baldwin or Susan Haymes. A member of the Open and Affirming team will come for a discussion and feed back.

On Sunday, March 29, after church, Covenant Group 2 will work with Covenant Group 4 to clean up one of the Sunday School Rooms. Lunch will be provided. Check with Sherry or Susan to see if help is still needed. At a future date, CG2 will work to clean up a different Sunday School Room.

Thank you to all the people that helped with greeting at the doors and clean-up for the month of February.

Sherry Baldwin & Susan Haymes

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, March 15

- 9:30 am Door Greeters; Covenant Group 3
- 9:30 am Choir Practice; Sanctuary
- 9:30 am Christian Education for all ages
- 10:30 am Coffee & Conversation; Crane Lounge
- 11:00 am Worship; Sanctuary
- 12:15 pm Communications Committee Meeting
- 1:00 pm Chattanooga Music Club, Annual Scholarship Auditions; Sanctuary
- 7:00 pm HUSH Meditative Service; Faith Collective Room

Monday, March 16

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting; Conference Room
- 8:00 pm NA Meeting; Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, March 17

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

Wednesday, March 18

- 5:00 pm MOMentum Meeting
- 5:30 pm Elders Meeting; Conference Room

Thursday, March 19

- 7:00 am Men's Group; Bluegrass Grill
- 6:30 pm Toastmasters Meeting; Koinonia Room

Friday, March 20

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

Saturday, March 21

No Activities Scheduled

Sunday, March 22

- 9:30 am Door Greeters; Covenant Group 3
- 9:30 am Choir Practice; Sanctuary
- 9:30 am Christian Education for all ages
- 10:15 am Children's Choir Practice; Bridal Room
- 10:30 am Coffee & Conversation; Crane Lounge
- 11:00 am Worship; Sanctuary
- 12:00 pm Covenant Group 5 Luncheon
- 4:00 pm Coffee & Conversation; Faith Collect. Rm.

Dear Church Family,

Included in Rev. Gilvin's letter of call to serve as Senior Minister is a period of Renewal Leave (or Sabbatical) scheduled for every five years. October 2020 marks that date. Given the number of issues we are discerning as a community and decisions that we will be making in 2020, First Christian's board decided at our January meeting to postpone Rev. Gilvin's Four Month Renewal Leave until late 2021.

Pastors serve a variety of roles in their privileged position at the center of congregational life: preacher, teacher, spiritual guide, pastoral visitor, friend, confidant. The responsibilities are continual, and the pace and demands of parish life can be relentless, often leaving even the most dedicated pastors recognizing the need to replenish their own spiritual reservoirs to regain energy and strength for their ministry. Because of this, periods of Renewal Leave are becoming standard in congregational letters of call to pastors.

However, Renewal Leave is not only about the life, health, and spiritual growth of a minister, but that of the congregation s/he serves, as well. To that end, First Christian is currently applying for a grant through the Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program. Such grants are up to \$50,000, and can include up to \$15,000 for congregational programming related to the period of renewal.

A small advisory team and the Elders have been partnering with Rev. Gilvin to write a proposal and application for this grant. The proposal, entitled Sacred Space, Sacred Time, Sacred Story proposes a number of things for Rev. Gilvin and his family to explore in his time

away, as well as a number of activities for our congregation that will parallel the things the Hale Gilvins are exploring.

As we finalize the grant application, we would like to invite you to spend some time in conversation with Rev. Gilvin, hear your input on the proposal, and answer any questions you might have about the grant or the period of renewal itself.

You are invited to join Rev. Gilvin for coffee and conversation on these dates:

- 4 pm in the Faith Collective Room on Sunday, March 22
- 10 am on Wednesday, March 25 at the Hixson Starbucks (5638 TN-153), or
- 7:30 am on Thursday, March 26 during the Men's Breakfast at Bluegrass Grill (55 East Main St).

For More information about the Lilly Renewal Program, please visit their website (LINK: <http://www.cpx.cts.edu/renewal/apply/national-program>).

Please join us for a conversation about this exciting opportunity for our congregation.

Katie Wylie
Congregational President

Bob Sauser
Congregational Vice-President

Barbara Voss
Chair of The Elders





MARCH

- 14 Mark Calvert-Rosenberger, Will Wylie
- 15 Harriet Sutton
- 16 Louise Russell
- 17 Kai Wiisanen
- 19 Kent Smithson
- 21 Marcia Fletcher, Elizabeth Hodges
- 22 Ashlee Hubbard-Heitz
- 25 David Cass, Bill Dowell, David Fleury,
- 26 Thomas Auten, Noah Coleman
- 27 Sue Renfro

Birthday Not Listed?

Email Betty Proctor at baproctor@epbfj.com

CONNECT WITH FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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- Phone Number 423-267-4506
- Office Hours..... Monday-Thursday 10 am-2 pm
- Bridge Newsletter Deadline Monday, 3 pm



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