



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

THE BRIDGE NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 9, 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.**



## Lunch & Learn Series

Church World Service (CWS) is hosting a series of Lunch and Learn webinars in August specifically geared towards volunteers and co-sponsorship communities.

Time: 12-12:45 pm, and the topics are as follows:

- August 10: Refugee mental health and resilience
- August 17: Trauma informed care
- August 24: Family reunification - process and stories
- August 31: Building and maintaining resilience as we serve others

This is a great learning opportunity!

Contact Stacey Clark and Christine Baer at [refugeewelcome@cwsglobal.org](mailto:refugeewelcome@cwsglobal.org) for registration information.

Hannah Mask  
Volunteer & Community Outreach Manager  
Bridge Refugee Services  
(423) 713-9477  
[volunteermanager@bridgerefugees.org](mailto:volunteermanager@bridgerefugees.org)



## Virtual TN 2020 Regional Assembly: October 9-10, 2020

The Regional Assembly will include dynamic speakers, meaningful worship, and purposeful business. It will have a different time

schedule and internet will be needed to participate.

Virtual workshops are continuing until September, covering topics like *Faithful Effective Coping*, *Creating Space for Sabbath*, *Racial Injustice-Impact on Our Nation & Church*, and *Making Room at the Table*.

The RA Planning Committee is looking forward to opportunities such as having more people attend or watch, enjoying all workshops because each has separate time, no travel, and less expense.

The Committee is also trying to anticipate and overcome the challenges, such as getting people excited, having Disciples register, keeping Disciples informed of dates & times, helping all Disciples have access to watch RA, and asking for donations to cover honorariums for speakers & workshop facilitators.

**For more information or to register, visit:**  
<http://tndisciples.org/regional-assembly-2020>

# THE WEEK AHEAD

**Sunday, August 9**

**9:30 am: Sunday School and Sermon Series**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://bit.ly/2Xvg8y3>

Meeting ID: 896 3334 2227

PW: 461631

+1 301 715 8592

Dial In: +1 929 205 6099

- What does it mean to interpret scripture?
- Are there things that we need to know about the context in which a scripture was written?
- Are there ways in which the meaning of a section of scripture has changed for the church over the generations?
- How important is the insight from scholars, and what insight do the lives we lead give us into the meaning of scripture?

**Alan Cates and Scot Crosslin** will be leading a Sunday School Series that will touch on these and other issues from August 9-August 30th. Rev. Gilvin's Sermon Series over this period of time will parallel their focus on these issues.

In order for you to be prepared for this class, Mr. Crosslin—as the consummate teacher—has a homework assignment for you: Please come to Sunday School this week with a scripture in mind that speaks to you differently today than it once did.

For a riveting conversation and opportunity to learn from one another, join us this Sunday at 9:30 am!

**10:30 am: Virtual Coffee Hour**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://bit.ly/37UEHbK>

Meeting ID: 839 5831 5129

+1 301 715 8592

**11:00 am: Worship - Rev. Brandon**

Proclamation: Interpretation: Write This Down

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 & Deuteronomy 16:5-9

<https://www.facebook.com/FCC.Chattanooga/>



## Open and Affirming Discernment Process Schedule

Covenant Group #6: 8/9 @ 11 am

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://bit.ly/2ZGuFaE>

**Meeting ID: 849 3201 6824**

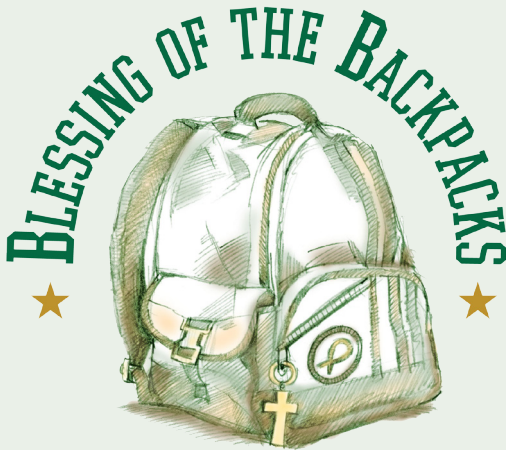
**Password: 699768**

**One tap mobile:**

+13126266799,,84932016824#,,,,0#,,699768# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,84932016824#,,,,0#,,699768# US (New York)

# BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS: The Socially-Distanced, No-Contact, Drive-Through Edition!



The 2020-21 School Year Will Be Like No Other. The students and educators of our congregation, in our community and beyond, have been in my prayers for weeks. I know that all of you are struggling with how to make the best decisions for your family, for your classrooms, and for the students you will serve.

Every year before the beginning of the school year, First Christian offers a special "Blessing of The Backpacks"— during worship, we ask students and educators to bring their backpacks to the front of the sanctuary, and we offer them a special time of hopeful prayer to begin the academic year.

COVID-19-related concerns about opening schools make this year's Blessing of the Backpacks feel even more important, but those same concerns require us to offer this blessing to our students and educators in the safest possible way. **Therefore, we will be offering a Socially-Distanced, No-Contact, Drive-Through Version of the Blessing of the Backpacks from 2-4 pm this Sunday, August 9th in the First Christian Parking Lot.**

**Here is what you need to know if you would like to have your backpack blessed:**

- Enter from the East Entrance of the parking lot (from Campus Drive), and drive to the Main Entrance.
- At the Main Entrance, from an appropriate distance, Rev. Gilvin or Rev. Hyde will offer a blessing for the school year. **Remain in your car.**
- Continue to the West Gate of the parking lot, where you will pick up a small gift to remind you that FCC will be praying for you throughout the school year.

**In order to make this a safe event for everyone involved, you must do the following to attend:**

- All participants must remain in their vehicles.
- All participants must wear masks.
- Only students, their families, and educators may participate (we will share photos from the event).
- You must RSVP to [church@firstchristian-chat.com](mailto:church@firstchristian-chat.com) so we know how many people to prepare for.

If you do not feel comfortable venturing out on Sunday afternoon, but would still like to receive a blessing, please indicate that in your RSVP, and we will make sure you receive a symbol of our prayer and care in the mail.

The story of the Gospel is the story of God-with-us. Our work as the church is to remind our children and teachers that God is with them throughout this unusual—and anxiety-producing—school year.



*I am, as always, grateful to be in ministry with you, Brandon*



## AUGUST

- 1 Leah Summerlin
- 2 Wanda Jones
- 3 Brandon Hubbard-Heitz
- 4 Abi Adkins, Delores Kenyon
- 5 Bill Rich
- 10 Lola Fulgham
- 15 Jim Davis, Jan Webster
- 16 Rusty Russell
- 18 Matthew King
- 23 Shawn Fulgham
- 25 Gail Dobbs, Gail Holcombe

### *Birthday Not Listed?*

Email Betty Proctor at [baproctor@epbfi.com](mailto:baproctor@epbfi.com)

## CONNECT WITH FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Senior Minister ..... Rev. Brandon Gilvin  
[brandon@firstchristian-chat.com](mailto:brandon@firstchristian-chat.com)

Associate Minister ..... Rev. Jonathan Hyde  
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Website ..... [www.firstchristian-chat.com](http://www.firstchristian-chat.com)

Facebook ..... [www.facebook.com/FCC.Chattanooga](http://www.facebook.com/FCC.Chattanooga)

Instagram ..... [www.instagram.com/firstchristianchatt/](http://www.instagram.com/firstchristianchatt/)

Twitter ..... [www.twitter.com/fcc\\_chattanooga](http://www.twitter.com/fcc_chattanooga)

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Office Hours ..... Monday-Thursday 10 am-2 pm

Bridge Newsletter Deadline ..... Monday, 3 pm



The Bridge

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