



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

THE BRIDGE NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 1, 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.**



## **CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN WITH THE HALE-GILVINS**

If your family is trick or treating, we'd like to invite you to visit us at the Hale-Gilvin home for Socially Distanced Treats via our **Two Story Treat Tube!**

Make sure you put us on your Halloween route.

200 Peak St | Chattanooga, TN 37405

## **Stewardship Campaign Reveal is November 15**

We are looking forward to celebrating a special dedication of the gifts that you have brought to the ministry of First Christian Church on November 15th! If you haven't returned your Estimate of Giving Card, please do that as soon as possible. If you haven't received one or misplaced yours, please send one in at your earliest convenience.

Estimates of Giving help us design a budget that is realistic, relevant, and responsible. If you are able, please let us know what you plan to contribute in 2021!

*Thanks for all that you do.*



## THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, November 1



**9:30 am: NO Sunday School this Week**

**10:30 am: Virtual Coffee Hour - New Link!**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://bit.ly/33zIYki>

Meeting ID: 832 7540 8999

Passcode: 365538

Dial by Location: +1 929 205 6099

**11:00 am: Worship**

*Marks of the Saints—and of the Church.,*

*Rev. Brandon*

Matthew 5:1-12

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

## All Saints Day Historical Background

All Saints Day grew out of the early church's practice of remembering the martyrs of the church. Special days to recognize Saints developed over time. By the late 300s general observance of a day to honor all Saints was in place. In the 400s such a day was often held on the Sunday after Pentecost. By the mid 700s, All Saints Day became connected with November 1. In time All Souls Day was celebrated on November 2 in order to recognize the faithful who had died but did not have the distinctive title, "Saint."

With the coming of the Protestant Reformation, many reformers had grown uncomfortable, not so much with All Saints Day but with their perception of the way Saints were venerated. It seemed to many that the Saints were worshipped in place of God. Lutherans and Anglicans held on to the celebration of All Saints Day; seeking to refocus the worship toward God.

Early leaders of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) concerned with "restoring the New Testament Church" and with "Bible names for Bible things" would have found little justification for All Saints Day. Only in the past 30 years have Disciples found a place for All Saints Day in congregational life compelled by the opportunity to enhance the ministry of the church. Halloween and All Saints Day have a confused connection. Suffice it to say that the end of October was a special time in pre-Christian religious understanding. Halloween literally is The Evening before All Hollows Day or All Saints Day; the day on which all the Saints are hallowed. In some Christian traditions, a vigil of prayer is conducted on All Hollow's Eve to prepare for All Saints Day. Thus, the Christian who is focused on God can enjoy Halloween's fall fun as an occasion to celebrate that in Christ the "devil" is ultimately defeated.



## FROM THE TABLE



After much consideration, we have decided to cancel the Parking Lot service scheduled for November 1st. This past week, the current status of COVID-19 cases in Hamilton County has continued to exceed the 25 daily new cases per 100,000 threshold, surpassing what had been set for our service's cancellation criteria. Hamilton County is currently at COVID risk level RED: this level is an indicator of uncontrolled community spread. Further, contact tracing and testing efforts have been on a lower trajectory. For the sake of everyone's health, our COVID response team has recommended to leadership that we cancel, and we are taking their recommendation.

I know this is disappointing. All of us, as a staff and lay leadership, are disappointed. We will continue to plan for an online worship service for All Saints Day, November 1. If you would like to have the name of a person read in remembrance as part of our All Saints Litany, please email their name to [brandon@firstchristian-chat.com](mailto:brandon@firstchristian-chat.com) with the subject "All Saints Litany."

Please know how much you are missed. We will continue to work on ways that we can be community at First Christian Church and provide protocols to keep you safe.

Each of you is a precious gift of God, and we are so grateful for you.

*I am, as always—even as a distance—so glad to be in ministry with you,  
Rev. Brandon*

## Welcoming Statement Adopted

The final congregational vote on the Welcoming Statement has been tallied. This statement was drafted by our Welcoming Committee with the input you shared during covenant group listening sessions, unanimously affirmed by the Elders, adopted by the FCC Board, and in a congregational vote, 82.8% of ballots cast were in favor of adoption of the statement (77 votes in favor, 16 against). This is above the threshold of 80% needed for adoption, indicating a significant majority of the congregation approves of the welcoming statement.

As Disciples of Christ, First Christian Church welcomes all to the table. Even when we don't see eye to eye. Perhaps, especially at these times. Each of us has been welcomed to Christ's table because of who we are, not despite it. The goal of the welcoming statement is to make sure that all know that they can bring their whole selves to FCC. We hope you see the welcome you have received as a child of God reflected in this statement.

In the coming days, you'll receive a document and link to a video answering some Frequently Asked Questions about what adopting this statement means for the ministry of First Christian Church. If you have any other questions, please feel free to direct them to Congregational President Katie Wylie, Vice President Bob Sauser, Chair of the Welcoming Committee Brandon Hubbard-Heitz, or Senior Minister Rev. Brandon Gilvin

THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME



**OCTOBER**

31 Bea Lyons, Alan Voss

**NOVEMBER**

- 2 Missy McKenna
- 3 Barbara Voss
- 4 Scrappy Moore
- 5 Jennifer Grisham, Jonathan Hyde, Carol Sharpe
- 6 Debby Demos
- 7 Natalie Shipley
- 8 Joss Rafiee
- 9 Angie Cass
- 10 Sam Edmondson, Bill Spurgeon, Mack Fitzgerald

***Birthday Not Listed?***

Email Betty Proctor at [baproctor@epbf.com](mailto:baproctor@epbf.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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- Office Manager ..... Victoria Flores  
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- Music Director ..... Ismael Sandoval  
[sandoval.ismael93@gmail.com](mailto:sandoval.ismael93@gmail.com)
- Organist ..... Sarah Harr  
[sarahharr@ymail.com](mailto:sarahharr@ymail.com)
- General Church email ..... [church@firstchristian-chat.com](mailto:church@firstchristian-chat.com)
- 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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- Phone Number ..... 423-267-4506
- Office Hours ..... Monday-Thursday 10 am-2 pm
- Bridge Newsletter Deadline ..... Monday, 3 pm



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