



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

THE BRIDGE NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 22, 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.

A Brief note on COVID, Church, and our Community:

As you have likely noticed, we are in the middle of a surge in COVID-19 Infections, both nationally and in our immediate community. While there has been positive news concerning the development of a vaccine, we are far from that point. Nationwide, small private gatherings and a resumption of in-person worship in churches are among the events driving the surge, as we're learning from contact tracing reports.

Since March, First Christian has used the best health and science data available as our guide for making our decisions concerning worship and building use. We continue to rely on this information to make our decisions. Given the surge in infections and how highly contagious COVID-19 has proven to be, in-person worship adds a too dangerous level of risk to our lives, one that—if we are truly called to love one another—we should not take. We are making every effort to create virtual expressions of all of the elements of our life together as a community of faith until infection rates and the reality of transmission—change.

A Note About COVID

We're also heading into the traditional holiday seasons. As painful as it may be to not celebrate in the ways you have traditionally, it is my hope and prayer that you are being careful and cautious, as we are as a church family, as you plan for your Thanksgiving holiday. I highly suggest you read the

recommendations published by the CDC (available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>) before you decide to gather with anyone outside of your immediate household. With a highly contagious virus, our actions have a ripple effect that we may not immediately experience but regret later. It is my hope that we can all avoid that so that we might celebrate many more days of Thanksgiving in the years to come. Please choose Zoom or other virtual means for gathering beyond your immediate household.

I continue to keep all of you in prayer, and I especially lift up the health care workers, teachers, service industry workers, and others who take on additional risks for the sake of the rest of us.

Thanks be to God for you all—and Thanks be to God for all you do. Rev. Brandon

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, November 22

9:30 am: Sunday School with Rev. Jonathan

Adult Ed: "Growing your Garden: How to cultivate the fruits of the spirit in your life"

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://thehouseutc.zoom.us/j/2733845493>

Meeting ID: 273 384 5493

Dial by your location: +1 646 558 8656

One Tap Mobile:

+13017158592,,2733845493#

10:00 am: Children's Choir & Sunday School
with Dr. Harr

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://bit.ly/3hOWm7V>

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

Proclamation: Sheep, Goats, You, and Me

Rev. Brandon

Matthew 25:31-46

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



FROM THE TABLE



Stewardship Matters

It takes a lot to make a church work. Your generosity is one of those things.

This past Sunday, we consecrated the gifts that you have brought to the ministry of FCC in 2021. We are off to a great start! As of today, Monday, November 16, we have received 48 pledges for \$239,892—this will go far in helping the Church meet its ministry goals for the coming year and help us plan for how to best steward the resources with which we've been trusted. I hope that you'll join with me in investing in the many ways FCC makes a difference in our community. You can make a pledge at any time, and if your financial circumstances change, you can always change the amount of your pledge.

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly been a challenge to many things in our shared life as

a congregation—including our stewardship; we have worked hard to meet needs that have emerged in our community, and we have worked to be as careful and conservative as possible in this complicated season. Our Finance team has worked diligently to make sure that we have been able to meet ministry needs, keep all of our staff employed, and take care of unexpected issues as they emerge. One of the ways they did so was by applying for and receiving a Paycheck Protection Program Loan from the Federal government. This loan helped us cover payroll expenses for the church, ensuring that none of our employees would have to be laid off during the pandemic. This week we received news that the loan has been forgiven! Thanks be to God for the public servants, local financial institution, and congregational leadership, especially our treasurers, Alan Voss and Marcus Rafiee who made this happen.

Our generosity matters to a world filled with people who often feel that they do not matter. Thank you, First Christian, for being a community that shows your care in very real ways.

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



Stewardship REPORT

The graphic features five stylized green plants with orange flowers growing from a green base. The word "Stewardship" is written in orange above the plants, and "REPORT" is written in dark red below them.

2020 October Stewardship Report

	Income	Expenses	Profit/Loss	Budget YTD	% Loss
YTD	\$258,862	\$312,402	(\$53,540)	\$369,688	-21%
Oct.	\$22,995	\$27,602	(\$4,607)	\$36,969	-20%

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to see any financial reports.

Alan Voss, Treasurer



NOVEMBER

- 19 Monica DeFriese, Jim Fletcher
- 22 Allan Lehr
- 24 Renée King
- 26 Will Wandell
- 27 Jaxson Hyde, Bill Obert
- 28 Judy Fitzgerald
- 29 Otis Flynn
- 30 Elizabeth Hamilton

Birthday Not Listed?

Email Betty Proctor at baproctor@epbf.com

CONNECT WITH FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

- Senior Minister Rev. Brandon Gilvin
brandon@firstchristian-chat.com
- Associate Minister Rev. Jonathan Hyde
jonathan@firstchristian-chat.com
- Office Manager Victoria Flores
victoria@firstchristian-chat.com
- Financial Assistant Andrea McCurdy
finance@firstchristian-chat.com
- Music Director Ismael Sandoval
sandoval.ismael93@gmail.com
- Organist Sarah Harr
sarahharr@ymail.com
- General Church email church@firstchristian-chat.com
- Website www.firstchristian-chat.com
- Facebook www.facebook.com/FCC.Chattanooga
- Instagram www.instagram.com/firstchristianchatt/
- Twitter www.twitter.com/fcc_chattanooga
- Address 650 McCallie Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37403
- Phone Number 423-267-4506
- Office Hours Monday-Thursday 10 am-2 pm
- Bridge Newsletter Deadline Monday, 3 pm



650 McCallie Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37403