



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

THE BRIDGE NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 8, 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.

Welcome Statement

By now, you've received information about the results of our vote on the Welcome Statement. I hope you've been able to view the video concerning Frequently Asked Questions, available on YouTube:

https://youtu.be/53Xw4y6k_Lg

The Frequently Asked Questions include:

- *What does it mean to be Open and Affirming? How is the Welcome Statement related to that?*
- *I love First Christian Church, and I don't want to lose my church. Does this Change Who First Christian Church Is?*
- *Our denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a non-creedal tradition. Does a*

welcoming statement go against that? Given that, are welcome statements truly "Disciple" in nature?

- *Don't all these labels of people in the welcome statement divide us? Isn't it enough to say that all are welcome?*
- *My faith and theology differ from some of the things reflected in the welcome statement. Am I still welcome at First Christian Church?*

These FAQs are also available in print form in this downloadable document:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/177vMqFJR5TZIWN9IWfIS6ecmHZPtewL39s26y-bHBbU/edit?usp=sharing>

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, November 8

9:30 am: Sunday School with David Pleins

"God in the Time of COVID-19: A Look at the Book of Job." This session focuses on "The Power of Mystery."

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/99474003426>

Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll):
+13017158592,99474003426#
or +13126266799,99474003426#

Or Telephone:

Meeting ID: 994 7400 3426
+1 301 715 8592 (US Toll)
+1 312 626 6799 (US Toll)

**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: "To Be Determined"

Rev. Brandon

Amos 5:18-24

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



Stewardship Campaign Reveal is Next Sunday!

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.

faithful
hopeful
loving



FROM THE TABLE



It's a bit like writing into the future.

I usually submit my newsletter column on Monday evening. Betty Proctor, our terrific volunteer newsletter editor, puts it together, then several of us review and/or proofread on Tuesday, and usually it hits Social Media on Tuesday night, then your email inboxes on Wednesday, when it is also put into the mail. If you're one of our Postal Service newsletter subscribers, you receive it Thursday or Friday, and sometimes on Saturday.

So what I write on Monday isn't read until Wednesday—sometimes Friday. And usually that's not a big deal.

But this week, something's happening on Tuesday—in between the time I am writing this column and the time you'll see it.

You might have heard something about that. On the news. In an ad or two. From friends and family. Indeed—it's Election Day.

2020 has given us a long political season, and a tense one.

And while I'm writing into the future, I can't predict it...but there are a few things that I know (and of course, you know these things, too):

1. Most of us will simply be glad that the election is over. We are tired.
2. Some of us will be pleased with the results.
3. Some of us will not be pleased with the results.

And there are a few other things that I know:

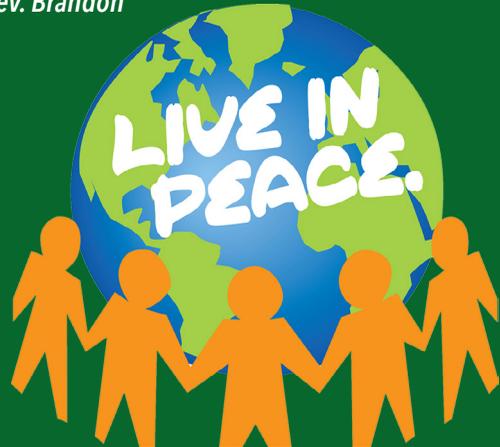
1. We are called, as Disciples, to be peacemakers, and such is not the work of only conservatives or only liberals. It's also not somebody else's work. It's our work.
2. Elections may always have sides, but Christ's table has no sides—and our call, ultimately, is to expand that table so there is room for all. All People are welcome.
3. The Love we experience in Christ is not the stuff of dominance and being "right," but the stuff of service and being "with"—with our community, with strangers, with those in need.

And of course, I know you know these things, too.

They're things that will last well beyond Tuesday, and frankly, they are the things that give us a closer glimpse into what the Kingdom of God is like.

May that be our campaign.

*Grateful, as always, to be in ministry with you,
Rev. Brandon*



THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME



NOVEMBER

- 4 Scrapy 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
- 11 Diane Givens
- 13 Hillary Allen, Lorraine Hipp
- 16 Hoke Petree
- 17 Erick Griggs

Birthday Not Listed?

Email Betty Proctor at baproctor@epbf.com

CONNECT WITH FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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- Instagram www.instagram.com/firstchristianchatt/
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- 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



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