




FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

THE BRIDGE NEWSLETTER MARCH 19, 2023

SUNDAYS: Adult & Children Christian Education: 9:30-10:30 am | Worship: 11 am

SEEKING GOD'S WHOLENESS. EXPANDING THE TABLE. NURTURING JUSTICE.



Join us in-person or virtually!

Sunday, March 19

Adult & Children Christian Education:
9:30-10:30 am

Worship Leader:
Hank Bramblet

Deacons & Greeters:
Barbara Kirby, Marcia Stevens &
Gayle Mingledorf CG5

Red Book Pickup:
Sally D. Hunt & Marcia Stevens

Worship @ 11 am
Scripture: John 9:1-41

PROCLAMATION:

"A 40 Day Wait: Old Enough To Speak"

Rev. Brandon Gilvin, Senior Minister

Elders Prayers:
Sally D. Hunt & Scot Crosslin

Upcoming Dates...

March 17, 31:

FCC volunteers to serve lunch and dinner at the Chatt Foundation (**Community Kitchen**). The time commitment: Lunch: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm and Dinner: 2:30 - 4:30 pm. Cookies also needed! Call Lorraine Hipp at 423-504-1346 to volunteer.

March 26 in "The House," 4-6 pm:

Please join Lisa and Rev. Brandon as they share some of the learnings and experiences from their sabbatical experience. Enjoy snacks and some fun conversation about so many of the things that made this time of renewal so meaningful.

Throughout March:

We will be collecting toilet tissue and pop-top cans of Chef Boyardee pasta for the Regional Outreach Cooperative.

Sign up
for
Church
Camp



CAMP BETHANY HILLS DATES

Discovery (K-2nd grade).... May 30-June 2
 Juniors (3rd-5th grade)..... May 30-June 3
 CYF (9th-12th grade)..... June 5-10
 Chi Rho (6th-8th grade)..... July 10-15
 Eighters June 11-17
(with Kentucky Christian Church Region - Camp Wakon' Da-Ho)
 Post High Weekend..... TBD



Apply for Scholarships:

• <https://bit.ly/3kBTmn0>

Children & Youth NEWS

WAY TO GO!

Congratulations to **Ray Standefer** for receiving the “**Bucket Filler**” award. Ray received a CSAS Patriot Pride certificate that states “*Ray is truthful, honest, and trustworthy by his actions and deeds - demonstrating his*”



Thanks to everyone who trained to be a Community Assistance Team member with Bridge Refugee Services! It's not too late to get on board if you are interested in helping refugees settle into our community. Please contact the church office or **Donna Graham** at dgraham@catt.com if you are interested.

Bible Quiz

In the Gospels, Jesus raised several people from death. Which of the following was **not** one of them?

- A. Tabitha
- B. Jairus's daughter
- C. A widow's son
- D. Lazarus

Answer: A (See Acts 9, Mark 5, Luke 7, John 11.)

FROM THE TABLE

Friends, if you joined us for worship this Sunday or have had a chance to read a letter that has been sent out by post and email, then you have heard the latest news about First Christian Church's Building and Grounds.

This fall, our Board of Directors commissioned an engineering study to review our building and property's structural and mechanical components. The study addresses maintenance items only--Not improvements, just the kind of wear and tear that occurs over time for a seventy-year-old building that has seen a lot of activity over the years.

The initial report was received in February and contained a list of essential maintenance and projected the capital expenditures required in each of the next forty years.

A summary was presented to the Board at their meeting on February 26th with these key points:

- Funding the most immediate needs for 2023 will cost more than \$250,000.
- Deferred and essential maintenance over the next five years will cost nearly \$1 million.

In response, the Board voted to embark on a period of 40 days of discernment beginning on March 15th, to urgently seek the guidance of the congregation in prayerfully discerning our next steps.

We need you in order to make this happen, so you are being invited:

To PRAY

Wednesday, March 15th, the sanctuary will be open from noon to 7 pm for individual prayer and meditation. You may also participate at home or wherever you are. Devotional materials will be provided at the church. Please drop in as you feel called.

To GATHER

Facilitated conversations will be held the following week to present information, and to listen to one another as we share our thoughts and concerns.

RSVP to the church office by emailing church@firstchristian-chat.com or calling 423-267-4506 for one of the following education sessions:

- March 19 (SUN) – Immediately following worship downstairs in the Faith Collective
- March 22 (WED) – 5 PM in the Faith Collective
- March 24 (FRI) – 12 noon – remote via ZOOM (link will be published later)

To LEARN:

During Eastertide, Adult Education Classes will be reading *Breakthrough: Trusting God for Big Change in Your Church* by Disciples Pastor Rev. Dr. Dawn Darwin Weaks.

You can order the book directly from ChalicePress.com, or from Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble.

Covenant Groups are also encouraged during this time to hold listening sessions with members of the leadership team who are heading this discernment period to ask questions and share ideas.

To DECIDE:

We will then gather for a light lunch following worship on April 23rd and a congregational meeting will be held to prayerfully choose the next step in our discernment process.

I'm sure that we, as a congregation, will have feelings that run the gamut—grief, fear, excitement, surprise. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Rev. Allison or Me, to members of our board, to an elder, with questions, concerns, or if you just need someone to spend some time in prayer with you. Much possibility and potential is ahead. I'm grateful that I get to be on the journey to the next phase of First Christian's ministry with you.

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

THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

Birthdays

March

- 15 Harriet Sutton
- 17 Kai Wiisanen
- 19 Kent Smithson
- 21 Marcia Fletcher, Elizabeth Hodges
- 22 Ashlee Hubbard-Heitz
- 25 David Cass, David Fleury
- 26 Thomas Auten, Noah Coleman
- 30 Larry Kirby

April

- 2 Don Reynolds
- 4 Anne Sauser
- 5 Courtney Fulgham
- 7 Robert Read, Ardian Totten
- 8 Trip Brannen III
- 12 Belle Grisham, Clark Williams

Birthday Not Listed? Contact Us!

CONNECT WITH FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Senior Minister.....	Rev. Brandon Gilvin brandon@firstchristian-chat.com
Associate Minister	Rev. Allison Bright allison@firstchristian-chat.com
Childcare Supervisor	Morgan Ellis morgan@firstchristian-chat.com
Office Manager.....	Victoria Flores victoria@firstchristian-chat.com
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Music Director.....	Ismael Sandoval ismael@firstchristian-chat.com
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Instagram.....	www.instagram.com/firstchristianchatt/
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Office Hours.....	Monday-Thursday 10 am-2 pm
Bridge Newsletter Deadline	Monday, 7 pm



The Bridge

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(Disciples of Christ)

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