



The Chalice

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Sheila Hunter, Minister

Our journey continues through the season of Lent. Each step of each day brings us closer to the day we celebrate as Easter – a day of resurrection and new beginning in the life of a Christian. The ‘hallelujahs’ sing out loudest and with the most joy after the experience of Lent - darkness before the brightest of Light.

We are on a journey. One Sunday, we hear Jesus talk about who he encounters along the way to Jerusalem. Jesus encounters the tempting voice of darkness, isolation and ultimate hunger. We learn that Jesus digs deep within his own heart to resist and turn a different way. Our steps take us through similar passages where we may experience the stress of choosing; the isolation of maturing; and our own hungering for meaning and purpose and direction. We, too, dig deep and make daily choices to engage in the path that leads to light.

We are on a journey. On another Sunday, our scripture story shows how Jesus longs to comfort and care for God’s people like a ‘mother hen who gathers her chicks.’ Jesus grieved over God’s people who resisted the love. Yet, at the same time, Jesus experiences the challenge of loving even those who would choose other, who are different than himself and his ways. Our steps take us through the tensions of choosing to stay

open and loving to all of God’s children, even though we appear to be on different paths. We take the steps that lead to acceptance of other and respect of differences.

We are on a journey. Another Sunday, we hear Jesus talk about the fig tree which bears no figs. A reprieve from destruction is granted. The expectation is that with care, figs will be produced. Jesus brings second chances for healing and wholeness. Our steps show us that our world, our community, ourselves become less than fruitful, drying up and withering away. We take the steps that lead to care and healing. When the warmth of spring comes, we are able blossom and become God’s nourishment in the world.

We are on a journey, like the disciples, shared with Jesus. We are making our way to Jerusalem as we ponder who we are as God’s people. We practice our faith disciplines of prayer and meditation, of Bible study and reflection, of seeking to perceive God’s presence in the world.

With each Lenten step, we realize that Jesus is always calling us to see others as family. Jesus demonstrates for us how to be mindful of the other. Jesus asks us to come out of our self-absorption and be intimately connected with him in connecting with all of God’s children in the world. The journey continues. It is a life-changing experience – from the shadows to the bright Light.

Come and join in the Lenten journey. Together, we discover the healing that comes with each step of the journey toward Jerusalem.

I look forward to each step with you and to singing the ‘hallelujahs’ of Easter!
Peace for today, Sheila

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

March 6 – Baptism Service during 11:00 am Worship

March 13 – features a Mission Moment with a focus on the Disciples' Easter offering

March 20 – Palm Sunday with the Youth Hand bell Choir in procession of the Palms. After worship is lunch and a celebration of Easter Eggs hosted by our Youth Group. All are welcome!

March 24 – Maundy Thursday Service and Tenebrae Service – 7:00 pm

March 27 - 7:00 am– Community Sunrise Service hosted at Ashford Manor, organized by FCC-W with biscuits, sausage, coffee and juice at our Fellowship Hall.

11:00 am – Easter Worship service featuring special music and beautiful flowers “in Memory” or “in Honor” of loved ones. (watch bulletin or call office to purchase one)

SPECIAL SERVICE IN APRIL

The Reverend Denise Bell, Regional Minister, will preach on Sunday, April 10 at the 11:00 am Service while Sheila and family are on vacation. Rev. Bell, known for her passionate and intellectual style, will share God's word.

CMF Donations for 2015

\$200: Camp Christian
\$200: Cindy Pritchard's son
\$200: Celeste Brown family
\$300: OCRC, Food for Kids
\$500: DFACS
\$1,000: Secret Santa
\$1,500: OCRC, Food for Kids
\$300: Sammy Hansford family
\$1,200: ACTS
\$200: Patterson family
\$3,000: Benevolence
\$8,600: Total distribution

A huge thank you for everyone's help with the Chicken Mull (preparation, cooking, chicken-picking, serving and clean-up).

Disciple Women

16 women were present at the January DW meeting and we would love for more of our ladies to join us. We have good fellowship, refreshments, wonderful projects and spiritual time. Next meeting will be February 29th in fellowship hall at 7:00.

Senior Box Project

This project is something we did last year and the entire church participated with great success. We will be working with ACTION and adding to boxes made up for seniors in Oconee County who are not clients of ACTS but do need a little help making it to end of month. These boxes are made up at ACTS and given out the third week of every month. Besides the food, the seniors love to get paper products & etc. Here is a list of the items we are asking members to donate and bring to fellowship hall by March 21:

toilet paper
paper towel
Kleenex
dish washing liquid
laundry detergent
bath soap



We plan to do this project each quarter of 2016, and if you know of a Senior that would qualify feel free to contact Pam Crawford.

Office Project

The work on Sheila's office started shortly after the January Disciple Women meeting: The goal was to update our minister's office. A huge thank you to Larry Gunter for all the work on making the twelve cabinet doors and installing them, to Ronnie Gunter for helping Larry and for Sam & Larry Gunter for installing the bead board that really added to the look of the shelving unit.

The thanks continue with the work done by Peterman Painting who took down the wallpaper border, prepped and caulked all those shelves, primed and painted the entire room including the light boxes and the ceiling. Wow...another BIG job! There was a budget set of \$500 and another \$275 donated by others and we are a little under budget.

Another thank you goes to Sheila for putting up with lots of mess for a whole month! Thanks also to a group of ladies who swept, mopped, moved heavy furniture and put down a huge 10x13 area rug. There are still a few details to finish up but we

would appreciate everyone stopping by and seeing the almost finished room!

Property Committee

The committee met on Feb 8. Property will work with the Disciples Women on their renovation of the Pastor's office. Minor renovations are being done around the Church, as well as trying to schedule the use of equipment needed to assist in repair of the Church Steeple. Property decided to have the van driver for each Sunday make sure all doors are locked and lights turned off (probably good idea to check coffee pot in kitchen).

Next Meeting: March 9 at 7PM.

Outreach Committee

"REACH OUT" and touch, somebody's hand. Make this world a better place if you can" Sorry about that. Just could not help it when I got started!!! The OUTREACH Committee has been busy and we are still making plans.

First THANKS for your response to the CHANGE FOR CHANGE for Food for Kids on Jan 31. We collected \$211.06. We will do that again in May, July, and October.

OCONEE RELAY for LIFE is Friday, April 22 from 6-12 pm at OCHS - "RELAY ROCKSTARS" is the theme. We need YOU to CHAIR!! or maybe COORDINATE one of the many components of our team. The Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper collected \$300.00 for the team.

Outreach Committee will sponsor the April First Friday with Games and Goodies and also collect donations for Relay.

The Second Annual Main Street Faith Jam is on the Calendar for May 15. Bill Hunt is Chair for this. Please contact him if you would like to help.

First Fridays on Main - Outreach Committee will be handling April First Friday with Games and Goodies and also collecting donations for Relay. We would like to have other groups or Sunday School classes be in charge of this event each month. Stay tuned for a more information and schedule.

BTW: One of the verses of Diana Ross's song REACH OUT AND TOUCH goes like this - Take a little time out of your busy day to give

encouragement to someone who's lost the way (Just try) Or would I be talking to a stone If I asked you to share a problem that's not your own. We can change things if we start giving. Why don't you.

Next Meeting: 3/21/16 - 7 pm

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee is making plans for the Easter Season. The Youth Hand bells will play on Palm Sunday. Hydrangeas will be available for purchase again this year. Look for info in the Church Bulletin.

Pastor Sheila will speak at Easter Sunrise at Ashford Manor and we will provide the music. Breakfast will be here.

The committee is planning a monthly Children's Moment (by Pastor Sheila), and working with Youth on scheduling Youth Sunday.

Next meeting March 28 at 5:30.

Youth at Epworth



Loading up the bus for the trip to Epworth with the youth and youth leaders.

L-R: Bill Hunt, Lourdes Hernandez, Lucy Hunt, Emma Baxter, Emma Claire Thompson, Nick Harris, Gregory Bays, Noah Smith, Amy Baxter, Kristen Bays.



plan any of it. But if that was the only bad that happened, I guess we had a pretty awesome weekend." - **Sam Hunt**



"My favorite part of Epworth was gathering together and singing. We sang many songs that weekend. I also liked getting to see my friends from Camp Christian." - **Emma Baxter**

"I thought that the message was good and I also thought that it was a good, fun experience. I took a lot of positives away from it." - **Nick Harris**

"My favorite thing was praying with Mr. Bill, Ms. Katie and Mr. Bryant." - **Emma Claire Thompson**

"Liked worship and free time." - **Greg Bays**

"What I loved most about Epworth was when we got to pray with the adults on Saturday night and sit and talk with our youth group. I liked this so much because it really touched me." - **Lucy Hunt**

"As a member of the YAC, I know how things at Epworth were supposed to go down. Honestly though, everything went just about perfectly. Despite a few slip-ups here and there, everything went according to plan. That being said, Game Night didn't go so well. We didn't



Johnna Wang was presented this award by her Disciples church in PA. She worked in the community outreach store and was a founding member. Her work encompassed 25 years. She was presented this award in appreciation for her volunteering.