



The Chalice

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
4 N. Main Street
Watkinsville, GA 30677

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Heart Shapes – February, 2017

The Shape of Purple – Lent – a season of reconciliation

In my freshman year of college, I attended a small, liberal arts school called Newberry College, Newberry, SC. It was a Lutheran supported school, known for its specialty in music and the arts. As a student, my work study assignments included both working in the library and singing in the chapel choir. Choir meant every Sunday morning attending the 10:00 AM service of worship. It also meant, NOT staying out too late on Saturday nights!

It was in the college chapel, I was first introduced to liturgical banners and colors which marked the changing of the seasons for the church year. In my early church life, I had never been introduced to the changing of the six seasons moving from Advent to Christmas to Epiphany, then Lent to Easter, followed by Pentecost Sunday and the many days of Ordinary time. I had never participated in the ‘punctuation’ days of Transfiguration Sunday, Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday with Tenebrae nor Trinity Sunday. Christmas was not a season of 12 days to savor, but only one day bursting open.

As I “worked” at attending worship, I developed an appreciation for the liturgical seasons. The ebb and flow of seasonal changes replicated the ebb and flow of a person’s individual faith life and a congregation’s community faith journey.

The church seasons where we have been enriches us individually but also our community of faith in the following ways:

The purple recently changed to blue hues of Advent helps us to anticipate and to prepare for the experience of New Beginnings. With each flicker of a candle flame, our hearts prepare for the hope, peace, joy, love that would come down at Christmas. Darkness is no more.

The white purity of Christmas gives way to rooting our belief in Christ, as we are challenged to face and release our fears of the past and celebrate in appreciation a new way of being.

Epiphany springs up as green for growing in Christ. With each bible story about Jesus, we claim and re-claim with new understanding the mission and ministry of Christ in the world. Our faith re-news and reflects who we are called to be – God’s people.

In a very few days, we will enter the next season of the church year – the Lenten season.

Lent – with the purple of passion and commitment, we find an invitation to be about listening and being as we respond in one voice to God's tenderness. This is the season for the community of the church people to begin forty days of intention.

On "Fat Tuesday" February 28, (5:30 – 7:00 PM Pancake Supper) we will feast on Pancakes, sweet syrup and sides while bringing our financial donations for Relay for Life Cancer Event. This night of feasting and giving helps us to release and open for the next days of Lent.

Ash Wednesday (March 1, 6:30 PM Service) starts the journey of Lent. When ashes are marked in the shape of a cross, we begin the humble, courageous journey of "being" God's people and not just "doing" good deeds. We are encouraged to model our participation during Lent as Jesus modeled for us: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These participatory tools are meant to give renewed vitality to our personal acceptance of God and our communal reconciliation with God's people, all of God's people. On this part of the seasonal journey, we are not to give in to our fears and anxieties. We are to be humble and open in trust that God will expand our experiences of love, internally and externally. The things of the past; that which we hold fast to as security; the things that hinder our next steps forward; that which builds up walls of judgement without mercy; anything that keeps us separated from each other – can be released to make room for healing and for God.

The path is set before us for a new journey. The shape of purple is Lent. And Lent is reconciliation.

Peace for today,
Sheila



Lectionary for Sunday Worship

Feb. 19, 2017

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

Psalm 119:33-40

1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

Feb. 26, 2017

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

March 5, 2017

Genesis 2:15-27, 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11



March 12, 2017

Genesis 12:1-4

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

March 19, 2017

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

March 26, 2017

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

Stewardship and Finance

2016 total offerings and tithes were \$164,962
2016 total expenditures were \$158,030

As of January 31, 2017: Savings and General Funds balance is \$115,000

The Weekly need for 2017 is \$3,387

Thank you for your support and commitment.

We need each other to continue to make a difference in the world.

Evangelism & Membership

Please sign up for Photos for our new church directory. The Photos will be taken March 3rd & 4th. Please be on time for your photo session.

The average attendance for the Wednesday night suppers and Bible study is 30-35.

The next Envagelism & Membership meeting will be February 27 at 5:30 pm.



Christian Education

Lenten books will be distributed on Sunday February 19. Each family will receive a book.

The Christian Education committee will meet on February 21 at 6:30 pm.



Outreach

“Souper” Bowl of Caring was held on January 29 after the worship service. Thank you to everyone that attended and doanted items for ACTS.



Change for Change will be collected on the five 5th Sundays ion 2017. \$169.78 was collected in January to support Food for Kids in Oconee Co.

The 3rd Annual **MAIN STREET JAM** will be held on May 21 to support Food for Kids—Summer Program.

Relay for Life—Oconee County is April 28 beginning at 6:30 pm. The first fundraiser will be the Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 28. The goal for this year is \$1200.00.

The church will once again participate in First Fridays on Main: April –October (minus July).

The next committee meeting is March 6.



Property Committee

The Annex Garage's siding has been completed. The committee is waiting on quotes for a garage door to complete the task.

Closets are being cleaned out and items to be donated are downstairs on the tables. If it belongs to your committee, please claim it.

The oil was changed in the bus prior to the Youth trip to Epworth. Remember to log all trips.



Disciple Women

The DW Spring Conference is planned for First Christian Church, Winder on March 25. Our group will provide breakfast items. If you would like to attend, Please contact Pam Crawford or Susan Hansford.

DW helped SOS (Support our Seniors) during February. The group collected shampoo, kleenex, lotion, and paper items.



Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has been busy planning for Lent, Easter, and Mother's Day activities.

Ashford Memorial will no longer participate in the Easter Sunrise service. The Committee felt this was a wonderful community service and our church will continue with this program. Our church will also provide the breakfast after the sunrise service.

Youth

Our Youth (6th-12th grade) and leaders had a wonderful experience at Epworth-by-the-Sea February 3-5. The weekend was filled with worship, workshops, fellowship and fun.



Dear Friends and Members of FCCW:

Thank you, Thank you! Your leadership in generosity contributes to the longstanding success of our community of faith in being faithful witnesses for Jesus Christ. We are grateful for your deep commitment to the ministries of Good News through our congregation's work.

Jesus challenges his followers to be partners in the process of transformation to bring wholeness to a fragmented world that needs healing and joy. First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Watkinsville, strives to hear Jesus's call and meet the challenge of love to neighbor, as to self and by loving God first.

Because of your financial pledges, tithes, gifts, FCCW provided programs of learning, service to others, worship and fellowship for both inside the church building walls and outside in the local and global communities.

Here are **some** stories of care and love for FCCW members and friends:

Our Diaconate coordinated and provided meals for church members and friends families who had lost loved ones. They supplied meals, snack baskets, gift cards to those struggling with illness and surgery. They served at the table in remembrance of Christ and service to others.

Our children and teens found their spiritual creativity by working on prize-winning floats, learning about kindness and trust at youth groups, singing as a choir and playing handbells. The church supported their experience of faith and connection to others through the camps and Youth Assembly. Baptism following Pastor class was a special time of celebrating their journey of faith and their commitment to continue the journey.

Here are **some** stories of sharing and love for community members, local and global:

Week of Compassion offerings were sent through the Disciples of Christ denomination to places of disaster through flood and hurricane in the USA, bringing aid and support immediately to those who lost their homes and livelihood.

First Friday, a commitment of funds and volunteers, spreads the ministry of hospitality to the many children and families in our Oconee county community – seven times per year right here in our back yard in relationship with the business community. Each person who uses the playground experiences fun, safety and welcome provided by the church.

Both the Christian Men Fellowship and the Disciple Women groups give financially to organizations that change lives for the better.

These are just **a few of the ways** our congregation shared financial resources and gave of our time and talents. The Good News of Christ lives on through your faithful commitment to share willingly in love. You make a difference!! Thank you for being a partner in the ministry and mission of First Christian Church(DOC), Watkinsville!

May you and yours be blessed with health, safety and hope for the coming year as we listen to the call of Christ in our lives. Peace be with you.

Stewardship & Finance Committee.



Teresa Guthrie, Bill Hunt (author), Sam Hunt

You Shine on Me
by Bill Hunt

When darkness falls, like a blanket
Any cloaks my eyes that I no longer see
My Lord He comes, and rips the veil
And shows me all the plans He has for me

And when the shadows fall around me and there is
no light to see
You shine on me
And when the path is dark and my road crumbles
at my feet
You shine on me

When darkness falls, like snow in winter
And buries all my hopes in frozen tears
My Lord He comes like the rising Sun
And melts away the ice that holds my fears

And when the shadows fall around me and there is
no light to see
You shine on me
And when the path is dark and my road crumbles
at my feet
You shine on me

When darkness grows like vines before me
And covers up the window of my soul
My Lord He comes like the harvest moon
His love shines through and mercy takes control

And when the shadows fall around me and there is
no light to see
You shine on me
And when the path is dark and my road crumbles
at my feet
You shine on me

**Camp Christian Conference Center
Gala and Auction!**



When: Saturday, Mar.4, 2017 Registration
10:00am

Where: Camp Christian Conference Center
10:45AM Appetizers & Silent Auction
12:30PM Dinner and Live Auction

How Can You Be Involved?

Sign up to come-only \$30 per person!
Donate an item for the auction!
Be a sponsor-\$200+ receives special
recognition

Suggestions for items to donate: Original artwork,
jewelry, Theme Baskets, unique ornaments, wood
work items, electronics, sports equipment, arts and
crafts, event tickets or be creative

Donation and Registration forms will be available
soon at www.gadisciples.org or contact Marilyn
Parks (marilynparksbm@gmail.com 770 533
0574) or Pam Van Dusen(bugsnana1@aol.com)

Camp Christian Conference Center is a year-round facility on 323 acres that is open to all groups. Our focus is summer camps for children and youth. One of the camps we sponsor in addition to the camps for our youth and children is Camp OASIS-A Safe Place to Make Friends and Share Gifts. This benefit camp is for elementary age children living in Wilkinson County, Georgia, who would not have the opportunity to attend a camp otherwise.

For further information and ways you can help,
please contact Kristne Bays. She is our church's
contact person for the Gala.

Church Calendar

Feb. 19th

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship (Week of Compassion)

5:30 pm - Youth Choir

6:00 pm - Handbells

Feb. 20th

President's Day - Office Closed

Feb. 21st

5:30 pm - Youth Committee Meeting

Feb. 22nd

5:45 pm - Community Supper (Baked Spaghetti)

6:10 pm - Children/Youth - Bible Study

7:00 pm - Choir

Feb. 26th

8:00 am- CMF Breakfast & Meeting????

8:30 am - Elders

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship (Week of Compassion)

Feb. 27th

2:00 pm - Bible Study

5:30 pm - Evangelism and Membership Meeting

6:30 pm - Disciple Women

Feb. 28th

5:30 pm - "Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper" sponsored by Outreach.

March 1st

6:30 pm - Ash Wednesday Service in Sanctuary

March 3rd

1:00 - 9:00 pm - Directory Photos (Downstairs)

March 4th

10:00 am - 6:00 pm - Directory Photos (Downstairs)

10:00 am - Camp Christian Conference Center Gala and Auction

March 5th

10:00 am - Pastor's Class
Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship

5:30 pm - Youth Choir

6:00 pm - Handbells

March 6th

2:00 pm - Bible Study

7:00 pm - Outreach Committee Meeting

March 7th

5:00 - 9:00 pm - Pilot Club

7:00 pm - Property

March 8th

5:45 pm - Community Supper

6:10 pm - Bible Study and Youth Groups

7:00 pm - Choir

March 12th

10:00 am - Pastor's Class
Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship

5:30 pm - Youth Choir

6:00 pm - Handbells

7:00 pm - Board Meeting

March 13th

2:00 pm - Bible Study

March 15th

Newsletter Info due to Rosa

5:30 pm - Personnel Committee Meeting

5:45 pm - Community Supper

6:10 pm - Bible Study & Youth Groups

7:00 pm - Choir

March 16th

12:00 pm - Community Luncheon

March 17th

6:30 pm - Joie Baker Sunday School Class Party

March 18th

Sheila - Regional Leadership Training

March 19th

8:00 am - CMF Breakfast and Meeting

10:00 am - Pastor's Class

Sunday School

11:00 am - "Youth Sunday"

5:30 pm - Youth Choir

6:00 pm - Handbells

March 20th

2:00 pm - Bible Study

7:00 pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

March 21st

5:30 pm - Youth Committee

March 22nd

10:00 am - ACTS Board Meeting - Rays

5:45 pm - Community Supper

6:10 pm - Bible Study & Youth Group

7:00 pm - Choir

March 23rd

12:00 pm - Sheila at Interfaith Clergy, Athens

March 25th

9:00 am - DW Spring Conference, Winder 1st

March 26th

8:30 am - Elders Meeting

10:00 am - Pastor's Class

Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship

5:30 pm - Youth Choir

6:00 pm - Handbells