



The Chalice

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

706-769-5966

<http://fccwatkinsville.org>

June 2018 						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Church Calendar

Wednesday, May 23

7:00 pm - Choir

Thursday, May 24

6:30 pm - Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting

Sunday, May 27

10:00 am - Sunday School
11:00 am - Worship (Pentecost Offering)

Monday, May 28

Office closed - Memorial Day

Wednesday, May 30

7:00 pm - Choir

Amy will be on vacation June 1 - 9

Friday, June 1

4:30 - 7:30 pm - Vacation Bible School

Saturday, June 2

10:00 am - 12:00 pm - First Saturday
9:00 am - 2:00 pm - Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 3

10:00 am - Sunday School
11:00 am - Worship (Bible School)

Monday, June 4

Junior Camp I - Chandler Bays, Max Patrick, Matthew Smith
2:00 - Bible Study
5:00 - 6:00 pm - TOPS

Tuesday, June 5

8:45 am - 1:15 pm - ACTS (Need six volunteers)
2:00 pm - Support Group
5:30 pm - Pilot Club

Wednesday, June 6

9:00 - 11:30 am - FCC Volunteers - Food for Kids
7:00 pm - Choir

Sunday, June 10

8:00 am CMF
10:00 am - Sunday School
11:00 am - Worship
6:00 pm Board Meeting

Monday, June 11 - Thursday, June 14 - Sheila on Vacation

Monday, June 11

CYF Camp - Sam Hunt, Charity Baxter, Natalie Dietz, Christen Wilson
No Bible Study
5:00 - 6:00 pm - TOPS

Church Calendar Continued.....

Tuesday, June 12

5:00 pm - Property Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 13

4:30 - 7:00 pm - Friends Forever (Amy)

7:00 pm - Choir

Sunday, June 17 - Father's Day

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship

Monday, June 18

Chi Rho Camp

2:00 pm - Bible Study

5:00 - 6:00 pm - TOPS

Tuesday, June 19

2:00 pm - Support Group

6:00 pm - Youth Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 20

5:45 pm - Youth Dinner and Movie

7:00 pm - Choir

Friday, June 22

6:00 pm - WWW Dinner Group - Cabin Creek

Saturday, June 23

Youth Car Wash ?

Sunday, June 24

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship

3:00 pm - Sheila leaves for Mid-High Camp

Monday, June 25

Mid-High Camp

5:00 - 6:00 pm TOPS

6:30 pm - Disciple Women's Meeting

Tuesday, June 26

6:00 - Outreach

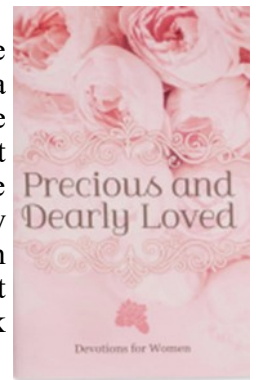
Wednesday, June 27

7:00 pm Choir



Reverend Craig McDonald was the guest speaker for Mother's Day.

The Worship committee gave each woman present a devotional booklet and the youth passed out flowers that they had made during the morning social sponsored by the Christian Education committee. If you have not received your devotional book they are still available.



Reverend Denise Bell, Regional Minister for Christian Church in Georgia, shared these words with Reverend Sheila:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership and your commitment to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. The generosity of First Christian Church Watkinsville Blessed the Christian Church in Georgia. We celebrate you as one of the top ten giving congregations in Georgia in 2017.

Youth Sunday 2018: "We are All Part of the Puzzle"



Youth Sunday, Continued.....



Harrison Bennett welcomed everyone to Youth Sunday 2018 with these inspiring words:

To WELCOME someone means that you are looking forward to making that person comfortable and wanted. It means that you freely greet the person and accept them. You make sure the person feels “at home” and comfortable. It means that you go out of your way to be nice to that person.

I have been welcomed into Watkinsville First Christian Church twice. When I was in the 4th grade, my Mom and I started attending this church and made it our church home for 2 years. While we were learning your names and getting to know you, you welcomed us by inviting me to join the youth group, sing in the children’s choir and go to my first summer camp. You welcomed my mom by inviting her to attend Disciple Women’s group and by giving her a place to go for Sunday School.

When we moved to Oklahoma, I missed our church. You were very important to us when we were here and we missed you. Thankfully, Ms. Sheila and Ms. Amy welcomed me back both summers to let me go to Camp Christian. This let me remain a part of the Watkinsville Christian Church youth group even though I lived half way across the nation. When we came back to visit during Christmas or Spring Break and we always came back to church, y’all welcomed us like we had never left.



Emma Claire Thompson shared her thoughts on Faith:

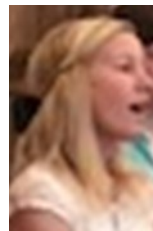
Faith is another great way to describe our church. “*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*” Hebrews 11:1. What faith means to me is to put your full trust in God even when things seem to go completely wrong. Believing that God has a solution no matter what or how tough the situation is.

When my niece, Hadelyn, was born with an extra chromosome and required open heart surgery, I definitely had a very hard time with my

faith. But, we never lost it and because of that Hadelyn has been doing amazing ever since. Not only that, but the amount of love and support we got from our church family was overwhelming, and we were (and still are) so thankful.

Another reason I chose faith was Ms. Teresa. Losing someone so close to your church family is so difficult and losing your trust in God becomes an easier thing to do. But as a church family, we kept our trust in God, and I know Ms. Teresa is smiling down on us right now.

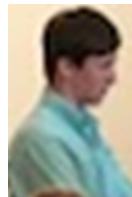
Faith is such an important part of me, and it is not always easy to have it. But when you have a church family as amazing as ours, and a preacher you can go to for anything, it is easy. Never lose your faith. God is up to something.



Lexi Pritchard shared her thoughts on Belonging:

Another important part of our church is belonging. Colossians 1:16 says, “*For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.*” This shows that God created all of these things to belong in our universe.

Another example of belonging is with my family. Since everyone at our church seems to be related, we could have been excluded, but the church made us feel like we belong. I have grown up in this church and I never once felt like we were outsiders to this church.



Gregory Bays shared his thoughts on Community:

The definition of community is: a untied body of individuals such as the people with common interests living in a particular area.

Community, to me, means not only the church, but also all of Watkinsville and Oconee County. I also think of the community as a family unit, not (cont. on page 5)

just a place. The people are what make up a community.

The church and community together are part of the circle of faith. One supports the other. The community comes together for the church just as the church actively serves the community. Our church is its own community inside our local community as a whole. A very few of the many ways our church serves our local community, as you know, are through ACTS, the chicken mull, Food for Kids, Community Luncheons, Disciple Women's projects, and CMF projects.

Without community we couldn't have our church family and the support of each other and our town. I am thankful for the strong community we live in.



Christen Wilson, Charity Baxter, Sam Hunt, and Natalie Dietz (not pictured) graduated from Oconee County High School. Reverend Sheila led the program: *A Day to Honor Our Graduates*.

Christen will attend the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega. She is the daughter of Rob Wilson and the granddaughter of Ray Wilson.

Charity will attend Georgia Southern University. She is the daughter of Doug and Amy Baxter.

Sam will attend Oglethorpe University and participate in the Cross Country and Track & Field program. He is the son of Bill and Ann Hunt.

Natalie will attend the University of Georgia. She is the daughter of Todd and Carole Harris.

Enchantment of Stories.....

I've always been fascinated by stories.... funny ones, odd ones, warm fuzzy ones and on and on and on. Stories capture the very essence of times gone by, of family memories not written but live only through word of mouth and of interesting happenings that are well worth remembering.

Lately I have been drawn to the silent stories of the garden. Being a Tour Guide for the State Botanical Garden, many of those stories have come to life for me. For instance, in 1918 Frank Meyer went to China to gather specimens to bring home to America. Now in Greene County



talk that would not be a specimen, but a little 'piece' of this or that. Mr. Meyer was on his way back, down the Yangtze River, with a lot of 'pieces' of plant material, including the Meyer Lemon Tree when he mysteriously disappeared – we are not sure if he fell over board or if he was murdered. Anyway, his plant material was not destroyed and the Meyer Lemon reached California and then on to Publix on Hog Mountain Road.

Also, did you know Berkman's Nursery was the first catalog nursery in Georgia? It was founded in Augusta, GA. we now know it as Augusta National Golf Course. What is currently the clubhouse was at one time the home of the Berkman family.

Now closer to home is the story of Lindsay Durham. Dr. Durham realized that many medicines/cures for ills of his day (mid 1700s) were from nature itself. He and his wife learned remedies from the American Indians, researched them and developed many medicines from such things as bark, seed etc. I have read some of his receipts (recipes) and was struck by the idea that many of them ended with the ingredient of whiskey. Oh well. The story goes that at any time one could find over 400 people waiting to see him. The interesting thing to me is that his descendants still live in Greene County. Actually, I grew up knowing my folks would call Dr. Durham when a cow was sick or a mule needed some attention. That story gives me warm fuzzy feelings of my childhood in the country.

(continued on page 6)

I want to share another story that is dear to my heart, not so much of years passed, but one that I reflect upon often these days. While working on my degree and focusing on garden design, I came to know and admire my friend, Penny McHenry. Penny's love was the hydrangea. She loved the French ones, the oakleaf ones, the Annabells, the climbing ones, and many more whose names have eluded me. Her love of the plant was realized later in her life but that was OK. Through her love

and curiosity, she developed other kinds of hydrangea and had them put into market. When at your favorite nursery and see a hydrangea named the 'Penny Mac', know it is truly one of Penny's creations. As a rule, botanists and other



plantsmen will patent any new variety of plant they get into the market therefore receiving 'royalties' from the sale of the plants. Not Penny! The hydrangea was her love. She named her home on Shallowford Road Hydrangea Heaven. When you visited her, you would first notice that the house was almost hidden behind hydrangeas; you could not see a speck of grass or soil on the property as it was totally covered with hydrangea. She was an artist and even painted murals of hydrangea on the walls of her garage. Penny was an amazing woman on a mission. Her mission culminated with her founding the American Hydrangea Society.

You may wonder just exactly what inspired Penny to become almost obsessed with that particular plant. Well, it is a touching story, but here goes. You see, Penny's daughter was murdered and of course she was blinded with grief. However, in the middle of all that pain, someone sent Penny a hydrangea. She, not being a gardener and not knowing exactly what to do with it, planted it in the back



yard. The next year when the little plant presented Penny with the most beautiful flower, Penny reached deep inside and, as she would say, let her soul bloom again. Penny joined her daughter in 2006, however she left us with an everlasting symbol of love ... the Hydrangea.

Happy gardening, Nancy Watkins



Camp letters to our kids

Summer Camp Season is upon us and what does every camper look forward to more than letters and care packages from home. We would like to encourage or church members to reach out to our campers this summer and send them letters of encouragement, love, and prayers. We hope to make this easy for everyone by providing a mailbox at the church to put your letters and care packages in and we will make sure they receive them during their week of camp.

Camp Season starts the first week in June and the mailbox will be available by May 27. It would be helpful if you could have your letters dropped off in the box the week before the camp of the camper you are sending it too. Listed below are the camps and the campers that will be attending. Thank you so much for your support of our kids at FCCW.

June 4-8 Junior 1

Max Patrick, Chandler Bays

June 11-16 CYF

Sam Hunt, Charity Baxter

June 25-29

Emma Baxter, Kinsey Patrick, Lexi Pritchard, Lucy Hunt, Annika Bonds, Garrett Clark, Payslee Bettis, Gregory Bays, Noah Smith, Harrison Bennett, Lourdes Hernandez

Heart Shapes

“The Heart and the Future”



We are in the season of celebrations. From the beginnings of spring to the edge of summer, we stand. This time of the year is marked with the activities of our children and teens. We started in April with Easter and then baptism, followed by Youth Sunday, Mother's Day, Graduation Sunday and ceremonies at all levels of school, athletic and academic award banquets, weddings, Father's Day and summer!

FCCW Graduation Sunday, we honored our own High school graduates: Charity Baxter, Sam Hunt, Christin Wilson, Natalie Dietz. We have connected in some way to each of these young people who started out as children in our community of faith. We are proud of them! In some ways, they remind us of the times we too stood on the edge of innocence and decisions as we faced the world before us.

Each time an adult member of our congregation has re-counted their individual faith decisions and participation in the church, they include the name of someone in their past who influenced, invited or invested in them. “I became an Elder of this church because of Mr. _____ or Mrs. _____.

“ OR “My Sunday School teacher, Mrs. _____ encouraged me to be of service to others.” OR “If it had not been for Mr. _____ and his belief in me, I don't know where I would be now.”

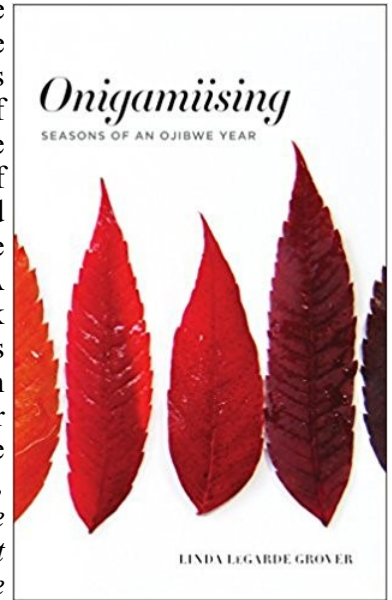
Story after story of relationship, kindness and love made the difference in a young person's life and helped them to grow into a person of faith. Generation to generation, we share with each other in our celebrations and in our struggles. Our investment when we volunteer with our time, talents and treasure is really our faithful witness to the healing hope of God in our world.

FCCW is blessed with families with children and teens who participate in the life of our congregation. Some children have come to us as infants and some children have joined in the activities because of the invitation and support of friends. All who participate in any way – weekly or annually – all are connected to the life and inspiration of our congregational community of faith. They are part of the Body of Christ at this very moment.

When I visited at home in MN with family, I discovered a newly published book entitled, Onigamiising: Seasons of an Ojibwe Year. This book recounted little stories about the different observations about the rhythm of life for the Native American nation of the Anishinaabeg and the tribe of the Ojibwe people. A quote from the book rings true for this time of celebration and launching of our children. It is the following: “ *We, Ojibwe tend to be sentimental about our children, who are the heart and future*

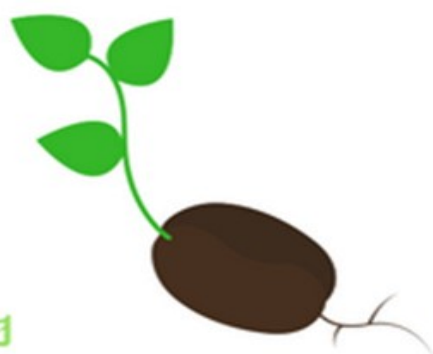
of the people. Greatly loved as they are, their existence has such importance to not only their families but all Anishinaabeg that they will not know until they are adults themselves just how much they mean to us and the many reasons why.”

This is the task of families and churches, that is, to greatly love the children and teens, as they are. Their existence has such importance to not only their families but also to the world. We celebrate special times. And we love them always - - - always.



Mark your calendars for
First Christian Church Watkinsville's

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



for children ages 5- 11

Friday, June 1

4:30-7:30 PM

'Sowing Seeds of Kindness'

Saturday, June 2

9:30 AM-2:30 PM

'Growing God's Garden of Grace'

Sunday, June 3

10:00 AM-12:30 PM

'Celebrating in the Son'

Interested in volunteering?

Contact Carrie Norris (706) 540-8120 carrieno@gmail.com