



The Chalice

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Heart Shapes – December 2018 “The Shape of Light”

Rumi writes, “The wound is where the light enters.”

How difficult it is to remember that where there is light – a flicker, a star, the sun – there is no longer darkness. One flicker is enough. One flicker coming through to those who are looking, who are willing to search means possibility.

In Sacred Wounds by Teresa B. Pasquale, the author suggests that the connection between sacred life and the wounds of life are ultimately and intimately woven together. As Pasquale tell stories of her own life’s experiences of woundedness, she then recounts movement toward healing. Her recounting of her scared journey of healing is a story where flickers of light enter the dark, shadow places of woundedness.

Pasquale speaks of repeated trauma and brokenness that came through ‘trusted’ relationship found in the religious and the counseling communities. Her experiences led her to question her faith and beliefs. She uses the terminology of religious trauma and church hurt to name the experiences of woundedness. Her journey of healing began with the naming and claiming of the wounding experiences so that she might understand.

She writes, “As someone whose life has been peppered with wounds, I can say, definitively that hurt has been the birthplace of the greatest and

most transformative places of light entering my life. . . The cracks are where the light gets in.”

In the healing process from trauma, telling these stories creates the path for healing. Pasquale developed a path where healing can take place. The first step is to acknowledge the woundedness. In the relationship of spiritual direction, a space is held open and in potential trust to hear the story and give acceptance to the sharing the story. It is in acts of engagement where the darkness can be conquered with the flicker of light shared.

Story sharing includes the recognition of the pain that is carried from the woundedness. The characteristic of grief includes the need to tell the story, acknowledge the pain, experience the feelings of sadness and anger.

In this newsletter, we see photos of many activities and programs of our congregational life. We look at the people in the photos and we look ‘normal’ doing ‘normal’ things. We want to move on and we do. As we move on, we also share the roadway, listen to each other and engage/connect. In connection, we start to see the Light.

In the Japanese culture, fine porcelain, layered in cloisonné, is valued and held on. When a piece of the porcelain is broken, the Japanese do not throw away the broken pieces. They take the pieces and re-assemble to make it whole. They repair and hold together the broken pieces with gold. They drip the gold down into the broken places and bring the pieces back together to create the whole. The porcelain piece is restored.

The season of Advent gives us the time for gathering the pieces, sharing our stories like gold dripping down and allowing the Light to shine. Christmas brings the Light. Light is coming.

Peace for the journey,

Sheila

FCCW Family and Friends,

Thank you for the many ways you reach out to me as minister in care and support. I appreciate each of you. Your support and inclusion as we work together in ministry and mission in Christ's name makes a difference in me and makes a difference in our world. Thank you again.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

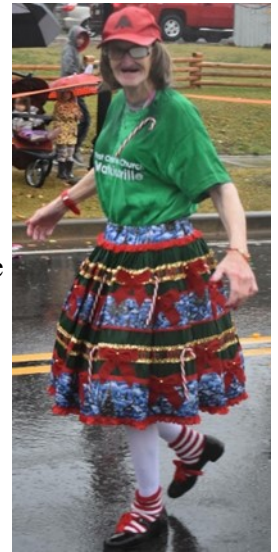
Peace, Sheila and family



Bill Hunt provided the special music on Nov. 25 with an entertaining version of "The Blood Medley" which is a mash-up of different hymns (he included elf bells on his foot). Anthem Lights does a really good a capella version.



Eddie Cobb clogged the entire Watkinsville Christmas Parade in the rain.



Chicken Mull 2018

The Men of the Mull – FCCW Disciple Men carry out the mission and ministry of financially supporting those in need with the annual fundraising charity event on the first Saturday in December. The 2018 Chicken Mull successfully completed with clearing almost \$7,000. Given to others.

The Disciples Men organizes and oversee all aspects of this all-church fundraiser. It takes many hands working and many hours of preparation and implementation. A big thank you to each and everyone who helped and who purchased a quart of our famous chicken mull.

"Cracker Crushing" day on Thursday with 10 men and the saltines! A dozen doughnuts sweeten the deal!



The **WWW Dinner Group** enjoys trying different restaurants and a variety of food! We meet once a month at 6:00 PM and everyone is welcome to join in the adventure in eating and friendship. Our next scheduled WWW Dinner Group is on Thursday, January 17. The place is yet to be determined - - - do you have an idea of where to go! Send us your ideas!



FCCW Cantata was Sunday morning, December 16 at 11:00 AM. Music Director, Patti Wagner led the choir in the Cantata, "Mary Did You Know?" Wendi O'Reilly-Stunzi was the accompanist and Jessica Brumbley had a solo. Patti was thanked for her diligent work and leadership with roses and a gift from the choir and the church.



The **Children and Youth Christmas Party** was Friday night, December 14 at the church. Ginger Bread House decorating ended in a competition with two winning partnerships: Kinsey Patrick and Lexie Pritchard tied with partnership Matthew Smith and Sheila Hunter. It was a great time of fun activities, good food and gift giving!



A.C.T.S. – All Churches Together Serving – is a mission and ministry to support Oconee families who are seeking assistance with food, clothing, and during the holidays, gifts for their children. This group of women work behind the scenes organizing the donated goods and providing toys for the holidays. Thank you to the FCCW Volunteers who work weekly and diligently!!



The December **Parents' Night Out** event (hosted by the **FCC Watkinsville Young Adult** group) was a lot of fun for both children and the adults. A meal was shared, the fellowship hall was decorated for Christmas, the Ping-Pong table was enjoyed, and much more.



The group decorated the Christmas tree, tables, and even the windows.



Jessica assists Dawson and Brooklyn as they add ornaments to the tree.



Dawson places ornaments on the tree.



Zach and Elizabeth challenge each other to a game of Ping-Pong.



Elizabeth and Ella helped us create our own Pin-the-Nose-on-Rudolph game!



This is our elementary, middle, and high children gathering during Sunday School to plan Jesus' Birthday Party.



We Saw the Lights!! A group of us went to see the holiday lights with making sure we went to see Eddie Cobb's beautiful display at his home. We were not disappointed! We had fun on the church bus driven by Cindy Pritchard. Nancy Watkins, Patsy Barrow, two friends of Grace's Carole and Helga. Miss Grace Gillroy, Eddie Cobb and Cindy Pritchard – we all went to the Varsity and enjoyed the tradition of hot dogs, onion rings and milk shakes! Oh, and the red haps are a must!!

The December Church Board meeting with the incoming 2019 and outgoing 2018 board members sharing a meal.



The Disciple Women met at Pam Crawford's home with 21 present. No business: all food, fellowship and fun!

Thank you to the CMF group for our donation of \$1500 for helping with the mull. This money helps us to fund many yearly projects such as the four seniors adopted for Christmas with SOS! Save our Seniors program with ACTION.



Pam turned the president job over to new 2019 president, Ann Smith and to new president elect Jenny Thompson.

Our 93-year-old wonder woman! She had a great time and had a small gift for each person present!



Church Calendar

Sunday, December 30

10:00 am - Sunday School
11:00 am - Worship (Change for Change)

Monday, December 31

Office Closed
New Year's Eve

Tuesday, January 1

Office Closed
New Year's Day

Thursday, January 3

Sheila will return

Sunday, January 6

10:00 am - Sunday School
11:00 am - Worship

Monday, January 7

2:00 pm - Bible Study
5:00 pm - TOPS

Tuesday, January 8

5:00 pm - Property Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 9

7:00 pm - Choir

Friday, January 11

4:30 - 7:00 pm - Friends Forever

Sunday, January 13

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

Monday, January 14

2:00 pm - Bible Study
:00 pm - TOPS

Tuesday, January 15

5:00 pm - Pilot Club

Wednesday, January 16

7:00 pm - Choir

Thursday, January 17

6:00 pm - WWW Dinner Group

Saturday, January 19

Regional Board Meeting in Macon

Sunday, January 20

10:00 am - Sunday School
11:00 am - Worship
5:30 pm - Youth

Monday, January 21

Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Office Closed
Pilot Club 5K

Wednesday, January 23

5:45 pm - Wednesday Night Program
7:00 pm - Choir

Saturday, January 26

Regional Workshop - Mental Health

Sunday, January 27

8:30 am - Elder's Meeting
10:00 am - Sunday School
11:00 am - Worship
5:30 pm - Youth

Monday, January 28

2:00 pm - Bible Study
5:00 pm - TOPS
6:30 pm - Disciple Women's Meeting

Wednesday, January 30

5:45 pm - Wednesday Night Program
7:00 pm - Choir



Miss Grace attended the annual Senior Center Christmas Program. Check out the pajamas!!

Jesus' Birthday Party.



Santa greeted the children, young and old.



Bill Hunt led the carols.



Lexi brought her lamb.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Lucy Hunt served through the ministry and mission with her ability to organize two closets!! She used some of her Thanksgiving break time to help out. Take a look at the closets now! Sooooo much better! Thank you, Lucy!



Tyler Smith plays on a winning football team! Tyler also serves in ministry and mission at FCCW as an Acolyte for worship. He is one of four Acolytes for Sunday worship.

Acolytes are in grade 3rd and older. Acolytes' mission and ministry is to be the keeper of the Light, symbolically bringing in the Light of God into the sanctuary and taking the Light of Christ into the world. We appreciate the dedication of Tyler, Matthew, Connor and Max.

If you are interested in service as an Acolyte for worship, please contact the church office.



Financial Report October 2018

By Kathy Reising for David Conine, Treasurer

OCTOBER CONTRIBUTIONS	YTD CONTRIBUTIONS	YTD BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS
\$ 10,924	\$127,496	\$152,779

OCTOBER EXPENSES	YTD EXPENSES	YTD BUDGETED EXPENSES
\$13,468	\$135,690	\$155,102

YTD CONTRIBUTIONS VS BUDGET	\$ (25,283)
YTD EXPENSES VS BUDGET	\$ (19,412)
YTD CONTRIBUTIONS MINUS EXPENSES	\$ (8,194)

GENERAL FUNDS	\$ 18,673
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$ 43,789
SAVINGS GENERAL FUNDS	\$149,194
ENDOWMENT FUNDS	\$116,020

