



The Chalice

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

706-769-5966

<http://fccwatkinsville.org>

Stepping in the Parade!

The holiday spirit was in full force in Watkinsville with an afternoon parade down Main Street on December 15.

FCCW front porch and steps offered a welcoming place for parade watchers to enjoy the parade and the hospitality of our church! Our parking lot included some special parade watchers and the Lions Club sold hot chocolate and coffee, a tradition of many years to support community projects.

Our own Eddie Cobb stepped up as "Edna the Clogger" in full holiday spirit!

And our youth handed out special treats with a warm welcome to all in Jesus' Name!



A New Member at FCCW

A beautiful day at FCCW included Haakon Brekke joining the church by transfer of membership on December 15. Haakon came forward at the invitation hymn saying, "I'm ready!" . . . A beautiful testimony to his willingness to follow Christ by joining a community of faith at FCCW. Haakon worshipped with his mom, Sarah. Haakon is a high school student and introduced to our church through his friends in our Youth Group. We welcome Haakon into membership here at FCCW!



CMF Service Project

First Christian Church, Watkinsville's men's group, Christian Men's Fellowship (CMF), invited Dr. Jason Branch, superintendent of the Oconee County Schools, to be their speaker over a year ago. Dr. Branch discussed needs of the school system. One need was unpaid lunch bills. The CMF group decided to investigate this need.

The group assigned a committee to discuss this issue with Rebecca Thorpe, the school nutritionist, and Saranna Charping, the school finance officer. The group learned that this was a real need for families that couldn't afford to pay the bill but did not qualify for free/reduced lunches for their children.

The CMF was able to donate funds to cover the cost of delinquent bills for August, 2018—May, 2019. The CMF was able to donate this amount because of the annual Chicken Mull they put on each December. The Chicken Mull is a total church endeavor and at the first CMF meeting following the Mull all the money is dispersed back to the community.

This initiative on the part of the CMF has ignited interest in the School Lunch Program of the Oconee County Schools. If you would like more information on this project please contact the Oconee County School Administration.



Elders Meet at LaCabana

FCCW Elders, their spouses and the minister gathered around table at LaCabana's for an end of year meal in December. It was a time to say thank you to Pam Gunter, chair of the Elders ministry for two years. We welcomed Rosa Hall as new chair of Elders ministry for 2020. The Elders meet most months on the fourth Sunday at 8:30 AM for prayers, inspiration and sharing. The role of Elder in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is one of servant leadership, acting as 'shepherds' to the congregational family and friends and being supportive to the minister.

As prayerful leaders, Elders extend care and encouragement as they share wisdom and discernment in the ministries of the church with the minister. They are most visible when serving at the Communion table. Their servant leadership extends beyond the Communion table as each brings individual gifts of time, talents and treasure to the whole body of Christ. Once chosen, the role of Elder is continuous in the life of the church family. As aging comes forth, an Elder may become "inactive" or may be awarded "Elder Emeritus." We are appreciative of all the women and men who accept and serve as FCCW Elders, both present and past. Your servant leadership shapes our congregational ♥ heart!

Our Elders for 2020 are: Doug Baxter, David, Conine, Rosa Hall, Bill Hunt, Larry Gunter, Pam Gunter, Cathy Moorehead, Ann Smith, and Mary Lillie Watson.



Worship Through Music at Christmas

Sunday morning worship comes alive with sharing in the pew and the music of the season. FCCW Adult Choir and music director, Wendi O'Reilly-Stunzi, led worship with the cantata, The First Noel, on Sunday, December 22. It was a joyous rendering of the heart and lots of preparation. Soloist included: Max Patrick, Rita Shadden, Amy Baxter, Jack Patrick, Connie Peterman with narrator, Russ Henson. Our Sound Team members of Adam Riley and Bill Hunt enabled the musicians to be heard loud and clear. The poinsettias, given by congregational members, enhanced the beauty of the sanctuary. Thank you to all for a special day of worship.

Worship and Music Committee with chair, Marsha Burgess invites interested volunteers to join the committee and the work of providing experiences of worship and spiritual development for our church.



A Beautiful Tradition with a Twist!

FCCW friends and family enjoyed a special birthday party in December. Christian Education invited young and old to "Jesus Birthday Party - 2019!". Birthday cake, party hats, a photo booth, live music and friends started the day of December 22. What wonderful way to honor the baby Jesus! Thank you to Elizabeth and Jack Patrick and Carrie Norris for organizing the day.

The Christian Education Committee with Kristen Bays, chair, invites you to join in developing opportunities for learning and developing in your faith journey.





First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

4 North Main Street
706-769-5966

P.O. Box 287

Watkinsville, GA 30677
706-769-5904 fax

Dear FCCW Friends and Family:

January 2020

We begin a new year – a new decade – a new opportunity for being God's people in this world. The year of 2020 invites involvement to manifest hopes and dreams as we begin a new decade of living. We trust that God is leading us into a renewed vision for faithful living. We never know where God is leading until we look back and see where we have been and what we have accomplished.

As we look at 2019, we see that First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) influenced the lives of many individuals, near and far, as we have participated in a shared journey of faith. Thank you for the many ways you have shared your time, talents, treasures through the ministry of our congregation. We are grateful for your participation. It takes all of us to be the church on the corner as we reach out into the world.

Because of your spiritual practice of financial giving of tithes, offerings and special monetary gifts, FCCW ministries provided:

- **Service to others – locally and globally** – ACTS, Food for Kids, Benevolent support, Family Promise, Relay for Life, Disciple Special offerings, Week of Compassion, Meals on Wheels, Camp Christian support, school lunch support, sharing building space with community groups.
- **Inspired worship experiences and spiritual development** – Christmas Cantata, Ash Wednesday services, Homecoming celebration, Sound system to proclaim the good news, Advent and Lenten devotionals,
- **Opportunities for learning and fellowship** – Sunday School curriculum, Community VBS, Youth group, Camp experiences, Wednesday night Community Supper & Study,
- **Encouraged friendships that nurtured the soul and include community** – connections to the Disciples Korean church, Community Luncheon and Bingo, the Seniors Light Tour and Varsity, WWW Dinners, Friends Forever, Family Fun Nights, Chicken Mull,

All of these programs, outreach projects and fellowship groups help us to grow spiritually and emotionally, into a healthy, thriving community of people with purpose. **Without you, we are not able to thrive as God's people!**

Thank you for your contributions and participation in 2019! With your help and involvement, we anticipate 2020 as our best year for service to others as we are called as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to be a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

In 2020, may you be blessed with health, hope and purpose for the coming year as we listen to the call of Christ in our lives.

Peace be with you,

Sheila Hunter, Minister

FCCW 2019 Stewardship and Finance Committee: Ray Watson, Chair
David Conine, Treasurer; Kathy Reising, Assistant; Jimmy Christopher, Gina Hansford

"We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

As part of the one body of Christ we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us."

Financial Report December 2019

By Kathy Reising for David Conine, Treasurer

DECEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS	YTD CONTRIBUTIONS	YTD BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS
\$ 16,851	\$170,569	\$184,030

DECEMBER EXPENSES	YTD EXPENSES	YTD BUDGETED EXPENSES
\$ 14,428	\$169,684	\$184,030

2019 CONTRIBUTIONS VS BUDGET	\$ (13,461)
2019 EXPENSES VS BUDGET	\$ (14,346)
2019 CONTRIBUTIONS MINUS EXPENSES	\$ 885

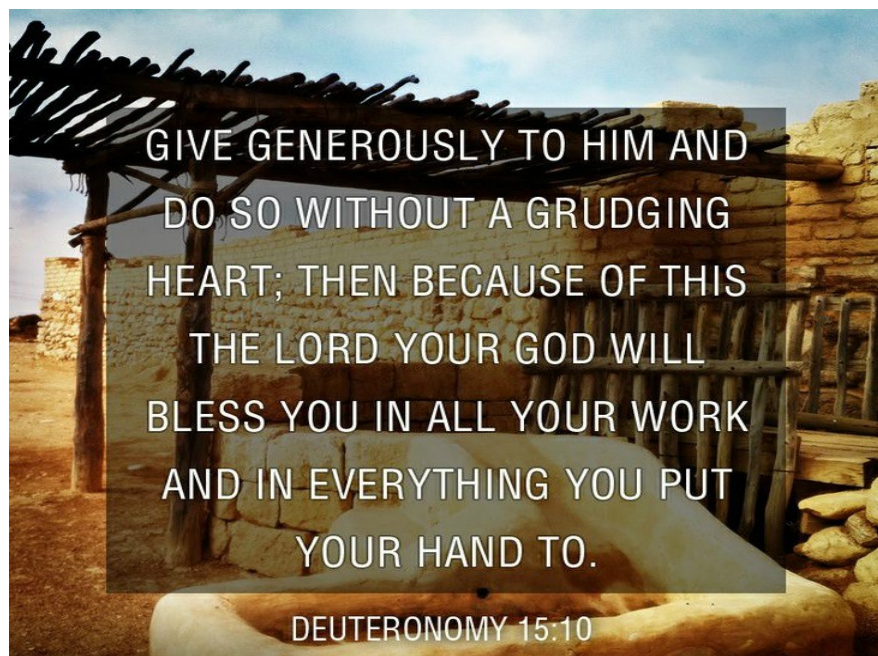
AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS BUDGET	\$3,539
AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS ACTUAL	\$ 3,280
AVERAGE WEEKLY SHORTAGE	\$ (259)



	DEC 31, 2019	JAN 1, 2019	CHANGE IN ACCOUNT
GENERAL FUNDS	\$ 17,811	\$ 18,564	\$ (753)
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$ 40,062	\$ 50,106	\$ (10,044)
SAVINGS GENERAL FUNDS	\$167,315	\$127,912	\$ 39,403 (31 %)
ENDOWMENT FUNDS	\$134,658	\$105,172	\$ 29,486 (28 %)

ITEMS OF NOTE:

2019 GIVING INCREASED \$14,288 OR 9.1% OVER 2018
 2019 BUDGET SPENDING INCREASED \$6,140 OR 3.8% OVER 2018



SERF Women's Retreat 2020

Mar 13-15, 2020
at Christmount
Black Mountain, NC

Featured speakers are
the Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale
and the Rev. Terri Hord Owens!

It will be a mountaintop experience to
remember!

What is the SERF 2020 Women's Event?

It is a gathering for women of the Southeastern Regional Fellowship of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which includes the Regions of Alabama/Northwest Florida, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

The Women's Event will include:

- Fellowship with Disciples Sisters
- Inspiring Keynote Speakers
- Informative Workshops
- Stories from International Sisters
- Dynamic Worship and Music
- Exhibits and Ten Thousand Villages Shopping
- Delicious Meals
- FUN! FUN! FUN!

Theme: "Shout from the Hills"

Sisters will come together for inspiration to proclaim with joy the goodness, mercy, and justice of God.

Schedule:

(Women are welcome to come a day early to enjoy the sights!)

Friday, March 13 –

3:00 Registration opens

4:00-5:00 Optional pre-event inspirational time

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Evening Session with Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale preaching

Saturday, March 14 –

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Morning session with Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale preaching

Exact times tba: Workshops/Panel with International Sisters

Evening Worship with Rev. Terri Hord Owens preaching

Sunday, March 15 –

Worship with Communion with Rev. Terri Hord Owens preaching

11:00 Safe Travels

REGISTER NOW

Cost and Deadline: \$75 Registration plus housing and meals (\$100 registration after Feb. 18).

Deadline: No refunds on registration after March 1.

Meet our Keynoters:

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale is the Founder and Senior Pastor of the Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, GA.

A woman of vision, Dr. Hale is revered for her leadership, integrity, and compassion. She is a recipient of numerous honors and recognitions and is a contributing writer to many books and publications. In 2010, Dr. Hale authored *I'm A Piece of Work: Sisters Shaped by God*.

Originally from Roanoke, VA, Dr. Hale received a B.A. in music from Hollins University; an M. Div. from Duke University; and a D. Min. from United Theological Seminary.



The Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens was elected as the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in July 2017. She is the first person of color and second woman to lead the denomination. A descendant of one of the oldest African-American free settlements in Indiana and a Disciple since young adulthood, Hord Owens was dean of students at the University of Chicago Divinity School and pastor of First Christian Church of Downers Grove, IL, prior to her election.

Hord Owens is widely sought after as a preacher, speaker and workshop facilitator. She has been married for over 30 years to Walter Owens, Jr. They are the proud parents of an adult son, W. Mitchell Owens, III.



WANTED: An Evangelism Committee

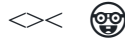
Just a few dedicated people who want to help me, your friendly neighborhood Evangelism Chair, to get some of the events and activities such as the Family Night suppers, and possibly a revival, going again. I have missed these activities, and would like to see them happen again.

We don't have to meet every month, but I would like to have meetings, possibly every couple of months. We could even have some email "meetings", if that's what it takes.

I'm looking for a variety of people who are willing to be a part of this group. It would be great to have some new members, and long time members, also some older, and some younger ones. Meetings would have to be after I get off work, but never on Tuesday or Wednesday. I now get off at 5:30pm. My email is: maizie4jc@aol.com. My cell number: 706/202-4560

I keep my phone on silent, but I do check it throughout the day. Thank you in advance for your help with this endeavor! I am certain that AD 2020 will be an amazing year!!! I look forward to hearing from all who are interested.

As always in Him who has this...
Maria Turnbull, Evangelism Chair



Disciple Women's : CHILI SUPPER AND SILENT AUCTION

Come and join us, Sunday evening, January 26, for the Disciples Women Chili Supper and Silent Auction. It will be an enjoyable evening as we share good food, fellowship, and maybe a little competitive spirit as Silent Auctions are viewed and bid on.

The Auction Items will be ready at 5:30 PM.
Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM (cost: donations).
Closing Time for the Auction will be posted that night.

Bring your neighbors, bring your family and come and join us.

See y'all then!!!

If you have any questions, please contact Disciples Women President, Pam Gunter.

DW December Service Project

The DW gifted 4 seniors with presents at the annual SOS program at the Bishop Community Center. This is a thank you note from Sheila Jackson:

Happy 2020! The SOS program ended the year on a high note! Our Christmas party was a wonderful event. Each senior received gifts, food baskets, grocery gift cards, note cards, goody bags, beautiful gift-filled stockings and live wreaths. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful potluck lunch provided by the seniors and our wonderful volunteers.



Chair's Chat



As chair of the Board this year, I plan to communicate board actions and news to the congregation in the newsletter. Our first Board Meeting/Retreat was held Sunday, January 12 2020. (The second Sunday of the month is our usual Board meeting day.). It was a time of learning, planning, renewing, relearning, and strategizing for 2020. Who we are? What is a Board? What do we do? How do we do it?

The committees are being formed and planning their initial meetings. Please be aware of this and make plans to join a committee. Become a part of the work of First Christian Church, Watkinsville.

Business conducted was the approval of the Personnel Committee. Members of that Committee are: Larry Gunter (Chair), Bill Hunt, Ray Watson, Kristen Bays, and Gina Hansford.

I appreciate the members of the Board and ask for your prayers as we go through the year.

Blessings.

Larry Gunter, Board Chair

FCCW Family Christmas Party

Our children, teens and their families enjoyed an afternoon progressive party on Sunday, December 22. We started with appetizers at the church basement following worship service. After a time of mingling, lunch was served and enjoyed. We sang a few carol's on the front porch of Patti Wagner and her dog, Dottie. Then traveled to the home of David and Noah Smith where we played games to exchange gifts for all ages, are dessert and relaxed around the tree. A great time of church family was enjoyed.



Family Fun Night Skating into 2020!

It was a great gathering of folks wanting to have fun together on January 2 at the Athens Ice Skating arena! The Youth Committee sponsored a night of fun with 23 skaters of all ages meeting the challenge of something new; and 6 more adults to watch the fun!

The next Family Fun Night will be in February, watch for details!



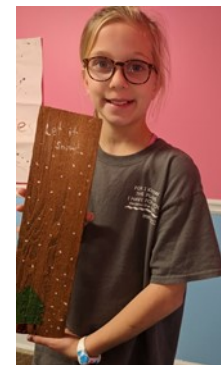
The Regional Youth Assembly is coming up on February 21 - 23 with 13 youth and 6 adults from FCCW attending!

The Youth Committee is chaired by Carol Bennett. Join the committee to help develop a great youth ministry at FCCW!



FCCW Friends Forever means Fun!

December Friends Forever hosted playground fun, some challenges on the monkey bars, food preparations in the kitchen and creative painting of holiday signs! Our own kids invited friends to share the afternoon at the church! Our next "friends" group will be in February!!



A Word of Thanks!

FCCW Family and Friends, we want to extend to each and everyone our thanks and appreciation for your support, kindness and love shown during our family's time of new beginnings. You have gifted our children, Micah and Anna, with expressions of kindness and good wishes for the future. We are thankful for the DW members for coordinating an all church "gift card shower" for the couple. Each of your gifts touched our hearts and surprised Micah and Anna with your generous blessing.

You embraced them and our extended family and celebrated with us at the family shower. Many thanks for your support of time away from the work of church to be present with Anna and Micah at their special times. All in all, we are thankful for you all and appreciative of our journey shared with respect and with kindness.

It was a beautiful wedding for some very wonderful people! And we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being a part of the journey with your gifts, your presence, your kindness and your prayers.

Peace for today,

Micah, Anna, and their parents

-Michael, Sheila, Steve, Julie



Saturday, February 1

Regional Board Meeting - Macon

Sunday, February 2

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship

4:00 - 6:00 pm - Youth Meeting

Monday, February 3

2:00 pm - Bible Study

Tuesday, February 4

8:45 am - 1:15 pm - A.C.T.S. Volunteers - If you can work only one hour, please come.

Help stock shelves with canned food, make up client baskets and work in clothes closet.

5:00 - 9:00 pm - Pilot Club

Wednesday, February 5

5:45 pm - Community Supper & Study

7:00 pm - Choir

Thursday, February 6

5:30 pm - Rotary Human Trafficking Prevention Event

Friday, February 7 - March 2

Girl Scouts will be selling cookies in the front parking lot

Saturday, February 8

12:00 pm - Sheila at class

Sunday, February 9

8:00 am - CMF Breakfast and Meeting

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship

4:00 - 6:00 pm - Youth Meeting

6:00 pm - Board Meeting

Monday, February 10

2:00 pm - Bible Study

Calendar

Wednesday, February 12

5:45 pm - Community Supper & Study

7:00 pm - Choir

Sunday, February 16

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship

4:00 - 6:00 pm - Youth Group

Monday, February 17 - Presidents' Day

Office Closed

Wednesday, February 19

5:45 pm - Community Supper & Study

7:00 pm - Choir

Thursday, February 20

Family Promise - FCCW Overnight

Friday, February 21 - Sunday, February 23

Youth Assembly at Epworth

Saturday, February 22

Family Promise - FCCW Overnight

Sunday, February 23

8:30 am - Elders Meeting

10:00 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship

Monday, February 24

2:00 pm - Bible Study

6:30 pm - Disciple Women's Meeting

Tuesday, February 25

5:45 pm - Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday, February 26

7:00 pm - Ash Wednesday Service