



The Chalice

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

706-769-5966

<http://fccwatkinsville.org>

Heart Shapes March 2020

Is fear governing your life right now? If so, . it is okay. You are not alone. Even negative emotions have a purpose in this beautifully varied experience that is life. But it's one thing to consciously feel fear and let it run through you with total awareness of its effect on you. It's a far more destructive to have our fears move in the deep recesses of our mind, completely unaware of the ways it cripples us in body, mind and spirit

The circumstance that we find ourselves facing is certainly a good reason to experience all kinds of emotions, including fear. Each of us have had to make decisions for safety and health, resulting in unusual daily patterns of change. Our calendars are completely empty. The activities that gave structure to our daily lives have disappeared. No more church, no more volunteer activities, no more club meetings, no more shopping trips nor lunch with friends. The workday has been compromised.

We wash our hands more thoroughly. We are more careful regarding where we go, what we do and how we do it. Those of us who live alone are really alone. The telephone, computer, books, magazines and TV have become our companions. It is no wonder that some of our nights are restless at best. We question what lies ahead. And we hope that what we are doing now will bring good results and a return to our normal routine.

This 'different time' is both a time of great demand and great opportunity. How we use this time, what we learn, and how we apply our choices is left up to us.

As people of faith, we are called to remember our relationship with God. We have time and opportunity to reclaim and to develop our spiritual lives. We are not alone. God is with us. Immanuel, Immanuel. We are not alone. God is with us and renews a right spirit within us.

The Psalmist sings:

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's
(Ps 103:1-5).

As people of faith, we are called to renew relationship. This time of physical and social isolation is about safety and diminishing the spread of the Covid-19 virus. This time is not about emotional and spiritual isolation.

We are made to be in relationship with others. We can find new ways to connect with each one - those who are lonely, those who are family, those who are neighbor and friend. This time has presented new challenges and new opportunities to be in relationship with one another. And we have the opportunity of time – free from other obligations that can now be about connections with others.

May each of us find ways to grow into deep relationship with God and with each other. May we be expressions of love in the world.

Please call on me as you find need or request. I am available for each one of you.

Peace to you,
Sheila

Family Promise

I would like to thank everyone that participated in our time for Family Promise. The families that we hosted this time were very unique. Two of the families had Mom, Dad and children. Another had a Grand-Mother with her grand-daughter. I would like to share a moment with you that I witnessed on Thursday night. One family, as they were getting ready to eat supper (Sloppy Joes that they LOVED!) standing around the table, holding hands and prayed over their food and situation. After supper, the wife was talking about things to do in their new home. She demonstrated her faith in knowing that her family WOULD have a home.

I use this saying often," But for the grace of God, there go I." Anyone of us could be in the same situation that our families find themselves. I thank God daily for the blessings He has given me. One of them is the church family I have found at the "Church on the Corner".

A correction on Family Promise dates are: May24-May 31 and May 31 -June7th. The weeks are back-to-back so we will not have holidays to cover.

Thank you all,
Marsha Burgess

"Homelessness is not suspended during this crisis. Our services are still critically needed," explained Claas Ehlers, Family Promise CEO.

Volunteer and Hosting Opportunities

This week and next our guest families will remain housed in the hotel. Athens Church of Christ has offered for us to use their facility as a temporary "static site" beginning on April 5th. The current plan is to move the families after checkout from the hotel to ACOC. Steve and Rachele Gibson, the Volunteer Coordinators at ACOC, are mobilizing their network to cover many of the volunteer shifts; however, we will need to supplement their workers with other volunteers from the community. Steve and Rachele are putting together a SignUpGenius structure that can be used by all who wish to volunteer. Over 1100 individual volunteers worked in our network in 2019. There should be enough willing individuals that are not in the most at risk groups who are willing to assist hosting our guests.

Working with the staff at their church they have come up with some unique ways of keeping folks mostly separated within their facilities. We will be helping to supply plenty of sanitizing wipes and cleaners to keep surfaces germ free.

Even if your volunteers cannot help in person, we will need meals provided. Perhaps we can support local restaurants that might be struggling due to decreased business. Pick up food to go or have it delivered to ACOC. Again, we'll send more details when we know them.

Online Volunteer Training

National Family Promise has developed an online training platform. I'm pretty impressed with it so far. I have asked a few of our local volunteers, coordinators, and board members to try it out and give me feedback. It should be ready to roll out to everyone by the middle of April. I'll keep you posted.

Fundraising during this Crisis

Family Promise has moved our May fundraising event to this week. You might have already seen information about it on Facebook or via email. We will be using the GiveGab online platform March 25-April 1 to try to raise \$25,000.00 to both cover our increased costs during this crisis and to increase the possibility of matching funds through a variety of sources. Starting on March 25 folks can go the GiveGab site to donate directly. Here's the link: <https://www.fpgives.org/organizations/family-promise-of-athens>. Feel free to share it with folks who might be interested in donating!

Dr. Nathan C. Byrd, III, PhD
Assistant Director
Family Promise of Athens (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network)
Cell: 706-340-3649

Annual Fund-Raising Luncheon for Family Promise- Athens

Family Promise's annual fundraising luncheon was in February. Thank you to Union Christian Church who sponsored a table of 10 with the theme of 'bake sale with a twist.' Each seat was a donation of \$50.00. Approximately 30 tables were set with individual themes. Union Christian shone brightly with the most outstanding homemade cakes, brownies, cookies, candies – all available for an additional donation.

This annual event supports the year-round purpose of the organization. The teamwork of the many churches, organizations and individuals come together to achieve the vision of providing safe, supportive, opportunities for family success to gain stability and safety for housing and jobs.

FCCW, Ashford Methodist volunteer as support congregations with Union Christian Church as host. Four weeks per year, families are housed at the building of Union. Volunteers and donations support this outreach ministry of care and kindness for families who are homeless. Volunteers interested in taking a turn to serve during FCCW Volunteer times are invited to talk with Marsha Burgess, Morgan Riley or Sheila Hunter for details and orientation. Our next two days to volunteer are May 28 and 30.



Disciple Women

Disciples Women met on Monday evening, Feb. 24. At our meeting we came up with two projects we would like to sponsor - one long-term, one short-term.

(1). DW will sponsor a drive for the UGA "Franklin South Camp Refrigerator Program/Food Pantry Program. Information has been sent out to the congregation and posted on this project, initially we had planned to run this project through March 22 (at which time items would be picked up and taken to UGA). I would like to continue collecting these items in the grocery cart in the Fellowship Hall. We collect into the month of April - until we are back together and UGA is back on campus. New deadline will be posted. Thank you for your support of this project.



(2). After discussion in several groups, DW have formed a team to co-ordinate the HELPING HANDS of FCC-W. A group of 4, interested and excited people, have agreed to coordinate, plan, and put into motion the HELP needed for members in our congregation. I am calling this group of 4 the "Alignment Team" (A-Team) - they will assess the situation, put a plan together, seek out the necessary resources, and get it done. If you know of anyone needing assistance of any kind, please contact Sheila or myself. We are excited about this and ask for your prayers and support.

FCCW Youth Group in February!

A fundraising project called “Sweets for a Sweet Purpose” was successful in raising over \$400. For the scholarship support for the Regional Youth Assembly in February, 2020. FCCW Youth (6th-12th graders) responded to a need that the RYA had to financially assist 30 youth to attend the state-wide Youth Assembly. The RYA’s goal was \$5,000.00. Our contribution added to the success of this goal.

FCCW Youth Group with the help of a few adults decided to offer some homemade sweets to order for Valentine’s day. Their selection included: Chocolate dipped strawberries by Lucy, Ellie, Ernie, Ann; Red Velvet Mini Cakes by Max and Jack; Royal Icing Heart-shaped cookies by Elizabeth and Kinsey; Brownies by Emma and Amy; chocolate fudge by Jenny; rice crispy treats by Noah and David. FCCW congregation placed the orders and paid for the sweets! It was a ‘sweet’ project with a heartfelt purpose of supporting teens to go to the Youth Assembly. Thank you to all who contributed in any way!! Watch for next year’s opportunity!



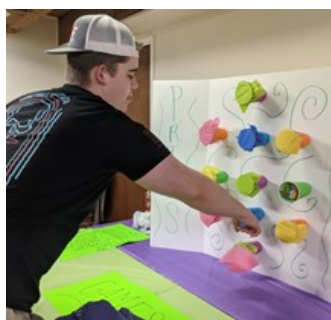
Regional Youth Assembly is one of the most significant experiences of faith, friends, and fun! This annual event planned by the Youth Activities Council (YAC) brings together youth (6th-12th graders) and their adult chaperones from all over the Region of GA. Needless to say, our FCCW group of young church members strengthened their friendships and deepened their identity as Christians. FCCW Youth contributed over \$400. Earned through their fundraiser, “Sweets for a Sweet Purpose. This contribution assisted with scholarship support for other youth. The first weekend following RYA, our youth shared their experiences in morning worship. At Youth Group, they cleaned the church bus!!



FCCW Youth Lock-In March

A great time was had by all at the spring lock-in for our FCCW Youth. We ate tacos and had a round table discussion on a difficult subject of human trafficking.

Wendi O'Reilly-Stunzi brought ukuleles and everyone got to play a tune or two. David Smith built a camp fire and we roasted marshmallows for s'mores. Lucy Hunt planned some fun, unusual games for us all to play. We played outside and enjoyed plenty of snacks. We loaded up the church bus and went to the Waffle House for an 'early morning' breakfast! Our chaperones, Kristen Bays and Ann Hunt, were great to stay with us through the evening. Everyone settled down to watch a movie and some even went to sleep! Morning time brought clean up and sweet good byes until the next time we can share special time together.



Financial Report December 2019

By Kathy Reising for David Conine, Treasurer

DECEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS	2019 CONTRIBUTIONS	2019 BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS
\$ 16,851	\$170,569	\$184,030

DECEMBER EXPENSES	2019 EXPENSES	2019 BUDGETED EXPENSES
\$15,577	\$170,833	\$184.030

2019 CONTRIBUTIONS VS BUDGET	\$ (13,461)
2019 EXPENSES VS BUDGET	\$ (13,197)
2019 CONTRIBUTIONS MINUS EXPENSES	\$ (264)

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



Stewardship
a way of life

	DEC 31, 2019	JAN 1, 2019	CHANGE IN ACCOUNT
GENERAL FUNDS	\$ 17,811	\$ 18,564	\$ (753)
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$ 40,062	\$ 50,106	\$ (10,044)

PENDING DECEMBER STATEMENTS, AS OF 12-31-19

SAVINGS GENERAL FUNDS	\$167,315	\$127,912	\$ 39,403 (30.8 %)
ENDOWMENT FUNDS	\$134,658	\$105,172	\$ 29,486 (28 %)

ITEMS OF NOTE:

- 1) 2019 GIVING INCREASED \$14,288 OR 9.1% OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR 2018
- 2) 2019 BUDGET SPENDING INCREASED \$7,289 OR 4.5% OVER THE SAME PERIOD 2018

Financial Report January 2020

By Kathy Reising for David Conine, Treasurer

JANUARY CONTRIBUTIONS	2020 CONTRIBUTIONS	2020 BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS
\$ 12,451	\$12,451	\$15,170

JANUARY EXPENSES	2020 EXPENSES	2020 BUDGETED EXPENSES
\$16,126	\$16,126	\$19,139

2020 CONTRIBUTIONS VS BUDGET	\$ (2,719)
2020 EXPENSES VS BUDGET	\$ (3,013)
2020 CONTRIBUTIONS MINUS EXPENSES	\$ (3,675)

	JAN 31	YTD FEB 29
AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS BUDGET	\$ 3,793	\$3,793
AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS ACTUAL	\$ 3,113	\$2,825
AVERAGE WEEKLY SHORTAGE	\$ (780)	\$ (968)



Stewardship
a way of life

	JAN 31, 2020	JAN 1, 2020	CHANGE IN ACCOUNT
GENERAL FUNDS	\$ 15,487	\$ 17,811	\$ (2,324)
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$ 40,062	\$ 40,062	\$ 0.00

DECEMBER STATEMENTS, AS OF 12/31/2019	JAN 1, 2020	
SAVINGS GENERAL FUNDS \$167,315	\$167,315	\$ 0.00
ENDOWMENT FUNDS \$134,658	\$134,658	\$ 0.00

ITEMS OF NOTE:

- 1) JAN 2020 GIVING DECREASED \$4,457 OR 26.4% VERSUS JAN 2019
- 2) JAN 2020 BUDGET SPENDING DECREASED \$53 OR .3% VERSUS JAN 2019
- 3) FEBRUARY GIVING DECREASED \$ 5,724 OR 36.1% OVER FEB 2019

Being the Church Beyond the Building:

FCCW will not meet in groups in the church building based on the recommendations of the CDC with the purpose of diminishing the spread of the Covid-19 Virus. This decision affects scheduled worship services and any group gathering. This decision was implemented for March 15—31, 2020, with the agreement to decide the next 2 weeks based on recommendations from the CDC.

Here is how we are being the church beyond the building:

Worship:

Virtual worship was launched with the March 22, 2020 service.
Weekly bulletin sent via email and postal mail as needed.
Music Director preparing music and choir.
Music Director preparing to record some piano music for publishing on Facebook.
Lenten Devotionals were given out prior to Ash Wednesday.

Pastoral Care:

Minister is calling, texting, emailing individuals from church directory each day.
Minister has been in office every day since March 14. for phone calls, walk in, learning/using new modalities of technology to include Zoom for meetings.
Minister intentional contact with youth and parents via Group me, text, calls.
Wednesday night meals prepared for takeout for congregational members. Wednesday, March 18 prepared 12 meals delivered to 8 homes.
Secretary seek weekly Updates to include prayer requests and announcements.
Elders phoning/texting or sending cards to the folks on their shepherd's list.

Program Support:

Goal to learn Zoom to set up meetings for Youth Group, any committee meetings, Board or other meetings.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO BE CHURCH BEYOND THE BUILDING?

