



# The Chalice

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

706-769-5966

<http://fccwatkinsville.org>

## Heart Shapes May 2020

A camp song was sung back when I was a camper. It goes something like the following: “here we stand like birds in the wilderness . . . waiting to be fed” Campers who were of the older elementary age would sing this song spontaneously as they stood in line, waiting for the doors of the screened dining hall to open. As soon as the door opened, they would file in to pick up trays of homemade goodness – real biscuits, real eggs and bacon with some delicious hot grits. Their silly song allowed them to ‘wait’ more patiently than just standing in single file until the doors opened. In addition, there was no social distancing, no masks and no worries that someone might be asymptomatic with some type of virus. Oh, for the simple, carefree days of summer!

Today, we find ourselves in the posture of ‘waiting’ – not like the campers with a naiveté that the doors will open with nourishment on the other side. Moreover, not like Advent where we wait with a predicted time of four weeks and with anticipation for the reward of Christmas morn to dawn.

Today, we wait. While we wait, we busy ourselves with ‘doing.’ Perhaps projects around the house or in the yard are accomplished. One by one, the projects checked off the list. We keep ‘doing.’

It may be that what we are doing is distracting ourselves from the important opportunity to grow spiritually. For while we wait to see what the next season of our lives will be, we have opportunity to dig deep internally and to listen to that still small Divine Voice that calls to us.

It is in this period of waiting that we search for something. We cannot see what is there because we are limited by what we have experienced. We only know what we know because of our past. This is a different time. A new circumstance. So, what are we supposed to do?

We wait. We trust. “For everything there is a time under God’s heaven.” All happens in perfect time and harmony. We trust and we make the best of decisions that will allow God is light to shine through us into the world.

We wait. We trust. We pray with openness to the new calling, to the different circumstances, to the possibility of now... While we live into the next days.

So, wait with assurance that God’s presence is waiting with us. Those doors of new opportunity are getting ready to open with nourishment just on the other side.

Peace to you,  
Sheila



## Chair's Chat

Greetings to All.

I hope this finds each of you well.

Just wanted to catch y'all up on a few things the Church Board has been doing. We are having ZOOM meetings; learning new ways to do things.

As you may have seen in an email notice or bulletin, we will be keeping the Church "closed" for worship and meetings until the middle of June. We have a committee working on how we will handle re-opening when it is safe to do so.

The personnel committee and the Board are happy to report that Carrie Norris has joined our Church Staff as Interim Youth Director. This position started May 1. We're excited to have Carrie working with the Youth. Welcome Carrie!

FCC-W has applied and received a CARES ACT -Payroll Protection Loan. We researched the amount we were authorized for on such a loan. This was done this week and approval was just received. Guidelines (what the funds are to be used for and timeline for use) will be followed and documented.

For a while, there has been discussion about on-line giving. The Stewardship & Finance Committee and the Board have decided on what procedure we will use to offer for on-line giving. It is one that is primarily for Churches. This will not only benefit our congregation but will also allow others wanting to make a donation to the Church. We will be sending out the information with all the "HOW-TO'S" in the near future.

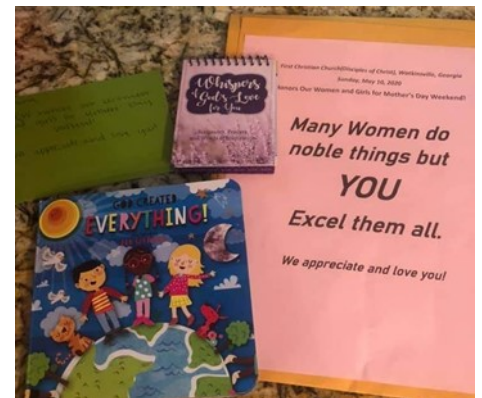
Lastly, but should have been first - I want to say thanks to our Staff, board members, church members who are carrying on the jobs of the Church - six feet apart when possible. with the love and compassion of God, with food, with music, with Mother's Day gifts, with flowers, with ACTS support, with a phone call, with a note, keeping the "lights on at the Church", ZOOMing with the Youth, ZOOM Bible Studying, ZOOM Disciple Women Meeting, and everything else you are doing! God Bless You All.

Please Stay Safe.  
Larry

## FCCW is the Church Beyond the Walls !

### *FCCW Honors Women and Girls for Mother's Day!*

The Worship Committee partnered with the members of the Monday Study Group to deliver special gifts from FCCW to the women and girls of our congregation.



## ***Crosses Across Oconee!***

FCCW Youth were challenged to set up a cross with lights shining for Easter! And they did - - - adding to the cross in front of our church. Our Music Director, Wendi, also added to the Good News with a floral cross. It is fun to see the actions of sharing and proclaiming coming from our church family and friends. Our FCCW cross will remain to Pentecost on May 31. Prayers are still being accepted and sent out with hope and healing through the Spirit.



## ***FCCW Flower Power Patrol Makes a Difference!***

What do you do with available cut flowers? Answer: You Share – time, resources and bouquets of flowers!

Pam Gunter and Carol Bennett saw an opportunity to connect with family and friends who might need a little ‘happiness on the doorstep!’ Over 35 individual households have been blessed by their initiative to share. One recipient was a birthday ‘girl’ who also received some balloons too~!

Many of our church members are reaching out to others with phone call check ins, meal delivery, cards and always with prayers!!

Thank you for sharing with others!! Together, we are stronger!





## FCCW OUTREACH MINISTRY

*A New Way for A New Time – Reach Out Beyond the Walls!*

### Family Promise

FCCW Volunteers for the **Family Promise** Partnership weeks are coming up at the end of this month and first of next month. Our partner congregations – Union Christian and Ashford Methodist are gearing up with us to support this ministry of care and security for three families who are working the Family Promise program. Each family is working to achieve home security and job security for the benefit of their children and themselves. Through Family Promise, FCCW and our partners have committed to be a part of the solution with volunteering a few times a year with our kind and respectful support.

**As you know – the ‘old normal’ is NOW the ‘NEW NORMAL!’** Family Promise has set safety standards based on CDC recommendations so that ALL practice safety choices and habits. The three families are now practicing sheltering-in –place, social distancing and sanitary habits with hand washing, cleaning with antiseptic and wearing masks.

**There are some different expectations for Volunteers during this time** of the pandemic. We have two weeks starting May 24 – June 6.

Please read on and then prayerfully consider signing up to volunteer.

Please use good judgement in deciding if you are in a low risk category (no compromising health conditions, age bracket, practicing your own safety habits). We do need volunteers to collaborate with others. We do encourage everyone to choose wisely. Your prayers and/or designated monetary donations are valuable ways to share and support this ministry of outreach. Thank you to all!

**Location of Housing:** Athens Church of Christ, address 3720 Mars Hill Road, Athens, GA.

**Orientation to building and practice,** go to: <https://youtu.be/BljutMY8wu>

Family Promise is calling this our Static Site and our families will be there until the COVID-19 Pandemic is over. Each family has their own space, own rest room space, and table space. They do not associate with each other nor with the volunteers.

***Appreciation to Athens Church of Christ!*** Prior to this offering of space, Family Promise was housing the families in a motel at a great expense.

**Schedule to Volunteer:** FCCW “normal” days are:  
30May2020; 4June2020 and 6June2020.

Thursday, 28May2020;

**HOWEVER,** the “new” normal/need is to have **one** volunteer at all times, with the exception of overnight hosts.

Two volunteers are still required for overnight, in case of an emergency. The days are May 24 – June 6. (Two of our four weeks per year.)

**To sign up you to volunteer:**

Go to the **sign-up genius web site:** <http://bit.ly/FPMay> OR

Tell Sheila or Marsha Burgess your preferred times, days, we will sign you up.

***This is different!*** Volunteers will not have contact with families.

One volunteer per hour is needed. It is quiet. You can bring a laptop for work, study or bring a book to read, knitting to do, or maybe even bible study!

Two volunteers per overnight is needed. There are three churches working together.

**If you have never volunteered before and want to:** online volunteer training site is - <https://familypromise.org/volunteer-training-videos/>

**Volunteer Van Drivers are not needed.** The families remain on site or have other means of transportation.

**Meals:** Meals are divided into 3 meals, one for each family.

(No family style serving). There is a table just inside the door for drop off.

The evening host will take each meal to each family’s table for their pick up.

Please respond, as you are able and willing. Any questions, please contact Marsha Burgess or Sheila. Thank you for your prayers and support.

(cont. on page 5)

### **Change for Change – OARC – Food for Kids**

**Sunday, May 31 is Fifth Sundays collection of ‘change.’** *FCCW continues in a new way* - by sending in your donations to FCCW – designated ‘change for change’ to support OARC’s efforts to provide food for Oconee’s schoolchildren and families. During this time of pandemic, OARC has stepped up and FCCW support makes a difference!

### **Disciples Special Pentecost Offering:**

**May 31 and June 7 – celebrate the birthday of the church!! Good News!**

The Pentecost offering supports new Disciple congregations in our Region of Georgia. The Warner Robbins FCC closed the door on the old and with Regional support started a new congregational ministry with leadership from Rev. Bethany Applequist. The Region of Georgia received the property of Snellville Shiloh CC with the expectation of a congregational ministry. Under the leadership of Rev. Orlando Scott, a new congregational ministry is in process. The Pentecost offerings support these new beginnings! Our FCCW goal is \$500.



## **More than moodiness:**

### **Recognizing and Responding to Mental Health Challenges in Middle and High School Youth -virtual workshop-**

#### **Description:**

Adolescence is a challenging time. If you’ve ever worked with middle schoolers or high schoolers, you may have noticed that they can be moody, frustrated, sad, or confused. But how can you tell if these are signs of typical adolescent development or more serious mental health challenges. This workshop will highlight common signs of mental health challenges in 12 – 18-year-olds, and will share ideas that adults can use to help teenagers cope.

#### **Presenter:**

Rev. Dr. Diane Bales is the campus minister for Disciples on Campus in Georgia and a member of the regional mental health initiative. She is an associate professor of child development and an instructor for Youth Mental Health First Aid.

**May 30th, 2020  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

"To register for the More than Moodiness virtual workshop, visit:  
<http://www.gadisciples.org/georgia-mental-health-initiative>."

## *FCCW Take Out Plates with Love!*

FCCW is known for the gathering around the table for physical, emotional and spiritual nourishment! We continue our Wednesday night tradition of home cooked meals made with love! The idea is to share good food and a momentarily connection of care for any who would want a takeout meal. We are practicing all safety choices as we provide meals.

Pick up from our parking lot or delivery to the front door is made possible by a small number of volunteers. We appreciate the willingness of Lexi and Cindy Pritchard, Elaine McTyre and Marsha Lee who have provided desserts; May Lillie and Ray Watson, David Conine and Kathy Reising who have delivered meals; Maria Turnbull and Wanda Moody who have assisted in meal preparation. Currently we provide 35 meals. Donations are accepted. The beauty of this mission and ministry is care that is shared! Please call the church office or Sheila for more information.



There is no more “normally.”

I find myself, time and again, beginning sentences with “normally,”, but there is no “normally” now.

Normally is gone...replaced by a different word. Now.

Now, I have a different routine. Now, I have no job. Now, I get dressed later in the day than normally. Now, I sit, trying not to cry. Key word, “trying.”

When will I come back to normally? When will my normally come back to me? My normally will have changed when it *does* come back. What will it look like? What will it sound like? Normally, come back! I miss you!

You will be different, so will I. But, it will be good to have you back... although we will have both changed.

Normally...

Soon, I pray. Only God knows when.

CMT'20

# Financial Report March 2020

By Kathy Reising for David Conine, Treasurer

MARCH CONTRIBUTIONS	2020 CONTRIBUTIONS	2020 BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS
\$ 35,713	\$58,311	\$49,303

MARCH EXPENSES	2020 EXPENSES	2020 BUDGETED EXPENSES
\$13,323	\$42,444	\$48,935

2020 CONTRIBUTIONS VS BUDGET	\$ 9,008
2020 EXPENSES VS BUDGET	\$ 6,491
2020 CONTRIBUTIONS MINUS EXPENSES	\$ 15,867

	MAR 31	YTD MAR 31
AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS BUDGET	\$ 3,793	\$3,793
AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS ACTUAL	\$ 7,143	\$4,485
AVERAGE WEEKLY OVERAGE	\$ 3,350	\$ 692

	MAR 31, 2020	JAN 1, 2020	CHANGE IN ACCOUNT
GENERAL FUNDS	\$ 37,833	\$ 17,811	\$ 20,022
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$ 40,062	\$ 40,062	\$ 0.00

MARCH STATEMENTS, AS OF 03/31/20	JAN 1, 2020	
SAVINGS GENERAL FUNDS \$132,398	\$167,315	\$ (34,918) – 20.9%
ENDOWMENT FUNDS \$114,536	\$134,658	\$ (20,122) -14.9%

## ITEMS OF NOTE:

- 1) YTD MARCH 2020 GIVING INCREASED \$8,827 OR 17.8% VERSUS MAR 2019
- 2) YTD MARCH 2020 BUDGET SPENDING INCREASED \$263 OR .6% VERSUS MAR 2019
- 3) ENDOWMENT AND SAVINGS FUNDS UNREALIZED LOSS/DECREASE OF \$56,840 FOR 1ST QTR MARCH HAS

OFFSET OUR 2019 UNREALIZED EARNINGS OR INCREASE OF \$56,415.

SO OUR INITIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND EARNINGS PRIOR TO 1/1/2019 ARE STILL INTACT!



# FCCW Youth, Children, & Families

## Upcoming Events

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| WEDNESDAY, MAY 20 @ 7:00 PM  | Virtual Youth Gathering via Zoom  |
| SUNDAY, MAY 24 @ 7:00 PM     | <b>End of School Bash:</b> Virtual Youth Gathering via Zoom hosted with Union Christian Church  |
| SUNDAY, MAY 31 AFTERNOON     | <b>Pentecost Parade:</b><br>Youth, Children, and Families will host a parade and invite our church family to celebrate the birthday of the Church |
| WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3 @ 7:30 PM  | Virtual Youth Gathering via Zoom  |
| SUNDAY, JUNE 7 @ 7:30 PM     | Virtual Youth Gathering via Zoom  |
| SUNDAY, JUNE 14 @ 7:30 PM    | Virtual Youth Gathering via Zoom  |
| WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 @ 7:30 PM | Virtual Youth Gathering via Zoom  |
| SUNDAY, JUNE 28 @ 7:30 PM    | Virtual Youth Gathering via Zoom  |

For the time being, our June events are planned to be virtual.



# FCCW Youth, Children, & Families

## *A Note from the Interim Youth Director*

I am grateful to be serving in the role of Interim Youth Director for Watkinsville First Christian Church and I am excited to continue to work with the youth, children, and families of our church. Since joining our church as a 5th grader, the youth program has brought me so much joy and I'm thrilled to be participating in our church's vibrant ministry in this new role.

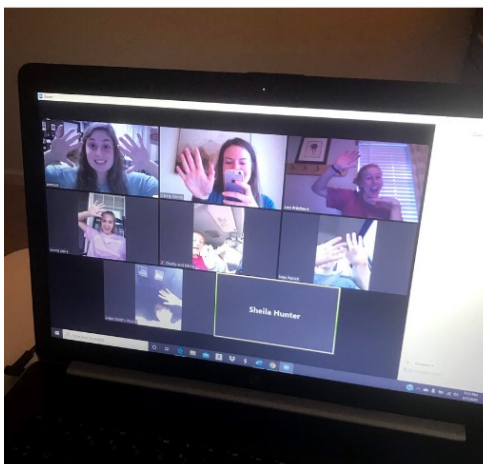
Previously, I volunteered as the Christian Education Committee Chair for FCCW and I currently serve as a Regional Youth Co-Director for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia. I earned a BS in Early Childhood Education from Georgia Southern University and I am currently working on my Master's in Library and Information Science through the University of Southern Mississippi. These roles, my education background, and my experience growing up as part of our thriving youth group have prepared me to lead our church in this new way. Feel free to contact me with ideas for how we can continue to strengthen our service to the youth, children, and families of our church.

*with appreciation,*



Carrie Norris  
706-540-8120  
carrieno@gmail.com

## WE'VE BEEN GATHERING VIRTUALLY!



Youth 'wave their palms' on a Palm Sunday virtual Youth gathering Zoom.



Emma B. and Nick D. helped the Regional Youth Activities Council (YAC) host the first-ever Virtual Youth Retreat.



Bill and Sam Hunt lead youth in a Zoom sing-a-long.



*Andrew Thomas*



*Thomas Henson*

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL

*Graduates*



*Nicholas Dietz*



*Jonna Lynn Taylor*

# Financial Report April 2020

By Kathy Reising for David Conine, Treasurer

APRIL CONTRIBUTIONS \$ 15,795	2020 CONTRIBUTIONS \$74,106	2020 BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS \$64,473
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APRIL EXPENSES \$12,572	2020 EXPENSES \$55,324	2020 BUDGETED EXPENSES \$65,417
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2020 CONTRIBUTIONS VS BUDGET	\$ 9,634
2020 EXPENSES VS BUDGET	\$ 10,092
2020 CONTRIBUTIONS MINUS EXPENSES	\$ 18,782

	APRIL 30	YTD APRIL 30
AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS BUDGET	\$ 3,793	\$3,793
AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS ACTUAL	\$ 3,949	\$4,359
AVERAGE WEEKLY OVERAGE	\$ 156	\$ 566

	APRIL, 2020	JAN 1, 2020	CHANGE IN ACCOUNT
GENERAL FUNDS	\$ 42,588	\$ 17,811	\$ 24,777
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$ 40,062	\$ 40,062	\$ 0.00

MARCH STATEMENTS, AS OF 03/31/20	JAN 1, 2020	
SAVINGS GENERAL FUNDS	\$132,398	\$167,315
ENDOWMENT FUNDS	\$114,536	\$134,658
		\$ (34,918) – 20.9%
		\$ (20,122) -14.9%

## ITEMS OF NOTE:

- 1) YTD APRIL 2020 GIVING INCREASED \$14,421 OR 24.2% VERSUS APR 2019
- 2) YTD APRIL 2020 BUDGET SPENDING INCREASED \$446 OR .8% VERSUS APR 2019
- 3) ENDOWMENT AND SAVINGS FUNDS UNREALIZED LOSS/DECREASE OF \$56,840 FOR 1ST QTR MARCH HAS

OFFSET OUR 2019 UNREALIZED EARNINGS OR INCREASE OF \$56,415.  
SO OUR INITIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND EARNINGS PRIOR TO 1/1/2019 ARE STILL INTACT!





**First Christian Church of Watkinsville**  
**Operating Income & Expense - Actual vs Budget 2019**  
 April 2020

	<u>Apr 20</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over ...</u>	<u>Jan - A...</u>	<u>YTD Bu...</u>	<u>\$ Over ...</u>	<u>Annual ...</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense							
Income							
BUDGET INCOME	15,795	15,170	625	74,106	64,473	9,634	197,210
Total Income	15,795	15,170	625	74,106	64,473	9,634	197,210
Gross Profit	15,795	15,170	625	74,106	64,473	9,634	197,210
Expense							
BUDGET EXPENSES							
PROGRAM MINISTRIES							
EDUCATION	336	292	44	1,265	1,142	123	3,400
EVANGELISM & MEMBERSHIP	0	440	-440	162	610	-448	1,175
OUTREACH	950	1,093	-143	3,886	4,085	-199	11,970
WORSHIP & MUSIC	13	625	-612	636	1,650	-1,014	4,100
YOUTH	120	142	-22	3,265	3,517	-252	9,500
Total PROGRAM MINISTRIES	1,419	2,591	-1,172	9,214	11,003	-1,789	30,145
PAYROLL & PERSONNEL	8,888	10,353	-1,465	35,808	41,163	-5,356	124,240
General Expense							
General Church Supplies	424	317	107	1,756	1,267	490	3,800
General Office Expense	451	504	-53	2,156	2,017	140	6,050
Pastor's Ministry Expense	25	500	-475	474	2,000	-1,526	6,000
Utilities & Insurance	660	833	-173	3,126	3,333	-207	13,975
Total General Expense	1,560	2,154	-594	7,513	8,617	-1,104	29,825
PROPERTY	705	883	-178	2,790	3,633	-844	11,000
CONTINGENCY	0	500	-500	0	1,000	-1,000	2,000
Total BUDGET EXPENSES	12,572	16,482	-3,909	55,324	65,417	-10,092	197,210
Total Expense	12,572	16,482	-3,909	55,324	65,417	-10,092	197,210
Net Ordinary Income	3,223	-1,312	4,534	18,782	-944	19,726	0



## *FCCW Gardens and Yard – reaching out in peace and prayer*

On the corner is where FCCW sits proclaiming the Good News of Christ peace and welcome. Our gardens blossom, our yard invites, our building proclaims that there is hope and healing for all. The community has let us know how much they appreciate seeing the beauty of the flowers. The Prayer cross extended opportunity to connect with prayers of the heart. The CMF provides a way for our yard to look ready for the next time we can gather. The Property committee fulfill the task of new gravel in the parking lot. One of the neighbors came on Easter Sunday morning and took pictures in the ‘Growing in Grace’ garden. FCCW continues to welcome all!

