



The Chalice

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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“Heart Matters” September 2022 Sheila Hunter, Minister

“Are We Called Out of Darkness?”

The 125th Homecoming weekend was a powerful experience of light and joy! So many of FCCW friends and family participated in both the preparation and the celebration of our congregation’s 125 years of mission and ministry

This beautiful day was a positive, joyous experience of God’s people. It was exciting as many people prepared to receive those who would come to our church building. From advertising to invite people, to hanging the banner, to decorating the fellowship hall and receiving the wonderful food, to setting out the photo albums, to offering lemonade on the porch and extending the right hand of friendship, we were reminded of where we came from.

Some memories were happy, and some were bittersweet. The unique day helped us celebrate and praise God with voice, song, hearts overflowing in gratitude for seeds of faith planted and growing. Whatever darkness, dimness, resistance, we have experienced, it is in the past. The next steps are still to be discovered!

One of my favorite writers Reverend Doctor Barbara Brown Taylor reminds us from her book, Learning to Walk in the Dark, the following:

“...new life starts in the dark. Whether it is a seed in the ground, a baby in the womb, or Jesus in the tomb, it starts in the dark.”

If new life starts in darkness, are we called out of darkness to new practices, new relationships, new purpose with actions and love in the world? Reverend Patrick Chandler preached a word, calling us to respond to the Light. Are we to be ignited with passion! Or will we ‘be gone,’ remain in the dark, not trusting that God is shining light on our path?

Scripture reminds us from I Peter 2:9:

“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of God who called you out of darkness into God’s wonderful light.”

Homecoming 2022 presents an opportunity to move from the past and set a direction for the future. May we discover ways to renew our activities of mission and ministries for the next 125 years.

Peace to you,
Sheila

September 2022 Calendar

Sunday, September 11

8:00 AM - CMF Breakfast & Meeting
10:00 AM – Sunday School
11:00 AM – Worship
Elder: Mary Lillie Watson

Monday, September 12

10:30 AM – Coffee Chat
6:30 PM – Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 14

3:00 – 5:30 PM – Meal Ministry
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 18

10:00 AM – Sunday School
11:00 AM – Worship
Elder:

Wednesday, September 21

3:00 – 5:30 PM – Meal Ministry
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 23-25

Region of GA. – Women’s Retreat

Sunday, September 25

10:00 AM – Sunday School
11:00 AM – Worship
Elder: Ann Smith



Homecoming 2022 – 125 Years

The day started off with refreshments on the front porch provided by the Education Committee (Rosa Hall and Cathy Moorehead). Many great conversations were enjoyed. Miss Grace was there and chatted with current and former members.



“Coffee Chat’ sharing the history of family and places

Coffee Chat participants made historical scrapbooks and documents available during Homecoming.

The group is comprised of folks interested in the story telling and discovery of Oconee families, houses, businesses. Everyone is invited to designated Mondays at 10:30 – 12:00. It is fun to connect with others who search out the genealogy of family trees as we get to know each other. Invite your friends to come with you and enjoy the shared time. The next date is: Monday September 26 at 10:30 !



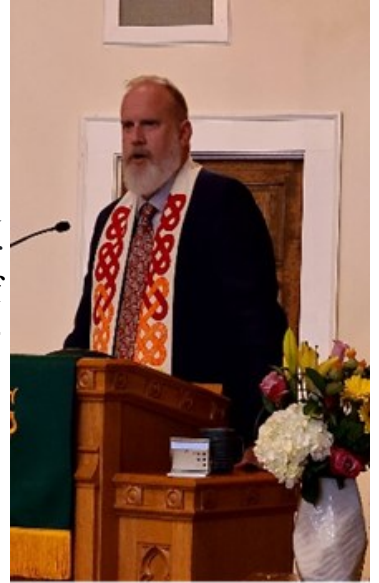
Celebrations in Music

At 10:45 Wendi Stunzi began the celebration with her piano selections. Bill Hunt led us in several cherished hymn selections. The choir presented the Special music.



Welcome to Homecoming 2022 Sanctuary Moments

Rev. Sheila Hunter welcomed the many members and guests and welcomed Rev. Patrick Chandler as our guest speaker. He served our congregation from 1998-2003. His sermon captured the memories of the church and the prophetic calling to 'ignite' in our mission and ministries for our future!



After the sermon, a blessing was given for the Homecoming meal in the Fellowship Hall. The tables were completely full of delicious food. Many thanks to all who brought food and helped with the setup and cleaning after. It was a wonderful day to share together. Take home plates were shared with homebound or recovering from surgery.



NEXT YEAR HOMECOMING IS AUGUST 13, 2023! Mark your calendar and volunteer to help plan the event!

‘TRAVEL AND SEE’ Adventure Event on the Road Again!

Community Bingo! We were invited and We went with enthusiasm! The community women bible study group hosted at the Thomas’ Gin event center was a fun evening with 15 of our FCCW members and friends attending the evening event. And the FIRST Bingo winner was our own Ms Grace Guillory. She was also the oldest player attending! Thank you ‘Gin’ Bible Study group for your outreach and invitation!



WHAT IS OUR NEXT ‘TRAVEL AND SEE’ ADVENTURE?

Botanical Gardens? UGA Museum? Harris Shoals Picnic in the Park? Lunch at an Italian or Thai restaurant? Where to and when? If you have an idea, come in and let’s organize and invite!!

Disciple Women

Disciple Women met on August 29th with eleven members present. After refreshments and fellowship time we had prayer concerns and several reports.

The group voted rather than pay half of our only member attending Fall Retreat at Epworth that we would pay full registration and room for Cathy Moorehead. We appreciate Cathy representing our group! This is first retreat in several years.

All women of church are always welcome to attend!

Our August service project was providing a bookbag and needed school supplies. Marsha Lee graciously took on this project and purchased the needed supplies and delivered them to the counselor at CFES.



ACTS **(Area Churches Together Serving)**

Client numbers have picked up with approximately 20 families per open days of Tuesday and Friday.

Items needed at this time are:

Towels, blankets and bedspreads!

Kitchen items, anything you use to cook or serve food.

Small electric appliances such as toasters, coffee makers, electric skillet.

You may leave these in Fellowship Hall and mark Acts or drop off on Tuesday or Friday 9-1.

Regional Assembly – Save the Date



The Christian Church in Georgia is happy to announce a return to an in-person Regional Assembly on Nov. 10-12, 2022. Hosted by First Christian Church, Athens, the 170th Georgia Regional Assembly theme is “Re-Church: Re-cast Your Net” from John 21. Here are schedule highlights:

- Thursday afternoon, Nov. 10 and Friday morning, Nov. 11 – Clergy are invited to relax, reconnect, and reflect in a conversation led by Rev. Troy Tatum, a native Georgian who has served congregations around the Southeast
- Friday, Nov. 11 – Lay leaders are invited to a conversation about evangelism, “A Ministry of Invitation,” led by Rev. Dr. Winston Worrell, General Evangelist, World Methodist Evangelism, and Minister Michelle Tepper, of Alpha USA
- Friday afternoon, Nov. 11 – Clergy will join the conversation about evangelism, “A Ministry of Invitation”
- Friday evening, Nov. 11 – Dinner and reconnecting will be tailgate style
- Friday evening Nov. 11 – Rev. Dr. Amy Butler, Interim Pastor of National City Christian Church, Washington, D.C., is opening worship speaker
- Saturday morning, Nov. 12 – Rev. Dr. Nathan Brown, Senior Pastor of Sandy Springs Christian Church, is Saturday Bible study speaker
- Saturday lunches, Nov. 12 – Rev. Sylvia Story, Church Administrator of Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church, Atlanta, is speaker for Disciples Women, while Rev. Tom Edmonson, Senior Pastor of First Christian Church of Atlanta, is speaker for Disciples Men