



# The Chalice

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

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<http://fccwatkinsville.org>

*“Heart Matters” December, 2022*  
*Sheila Hunter, Minister*

Advent is upon us – starting on the last Sunday in November seemed too early. We have barely eaten the foods of Thanksgiving before this new season of preparation and expectation is upon us! Taking our time to walk a path of reclaiming Christ and renewing our spirits is almost impossible to imagine. We hit the ground running toward the day of Christmas to come!

Perhaps our experience of preparation and expectation is much like the story Luke describes of Mary, Joseph and the Christ Child. The first steps started a journey of unknowns.

When the angel visited Mary and shared the news that she was chosen by God to carry a child that would be Jesus, she first responded in disbelief and resistance. The impossible was now her responsibility and possibility and she accepted willingly.

When Joseph first heard the news that Mary was pregnant with child that he would raise as his own, he first retreated to the tradition of rejection and protection of

his betrothed. The difficulty and shameful was now his calling to continue to love and protect his Mary and the child she carried. And he willingly embrace the opportunity.

When they traveled as a couple to Bethlehem to follow the law of the land, they discovered the journey was the beginning of many twists and turns of unpredictable situations. They slept in a barn like cave because there was no room for them, only a manger of hay for their child. And they welcomed visitors from around the world to their humble room to worship and adore their child.

Each part of the story of Christ’s birth tells the unexpected and the unplanned to become a moment of possibility and responsibility. They followed the still small yet encouraging voice of God. What was hoped for and imagined was re-shaped by real life and unrealized purpose. And God was there all along the way making space for something wonderful to happen.

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During Advent, I am looking for something wonderful to happen. This time of fullness and waiting is growing opportunities. When God is here making space for something wonderful, it will happen.

In the meantime . . . focus on the Light of Love that is and the things on earth will grow strangely dim in God's glory and grace.

Enjoy the journey.

Peace for today,  
Sheila

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## CALENDAR – DECEMBER 2022

### Thursday, December 1

9:00 AM – CMF – Cracker Crushing  
5:00 PM - Botanical Gardens

### Friday, December 2

9:00 AM – CMF – Set up for Mull

### Saturday, December 3

5:00 AM – Fire UP! – Chicken Mull  
9:00 AM – Chicken Picking

### Sunday, December 4

10:00 AM – Sunday School  
10:40 AM – Choir Rehearsal  
11:00 AM – Worship 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent-Peace  
12:00 PM – Advent - all church lunch  
4:00 PM – Watkinsville Parade  
Elder: Ann Smith  
Advent Wreath: Larry Weatherford  
Jimmy Christopher  
Elaine Neal

### Monday, December 5

7:00 PM – CMF Meeting/Meal

### Wednesday, December 7

5:30 PM – Meal Ministry  
6:00 PM – Supper & Study  
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, December 8

6:00 PM – Blue Christmas Service

### Sunday, December 11

10:00 AM – Sunday School  
11:00 AM – Worship 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. Advent  
Elder: Cathy Moorehead  
Advent Wreath:

### Monday, December 12

10:30 AM – Coffee Chat  
6:00 PM – 2022/2023 Board dinner/  
meeting

### Wednesday, December 14

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

### Sunday, December 18

Poinsettias in Sanctuary  
10:00 AM – Sunday School  
11:00 AM – Worship-4<sup>th</sup> Sun. Advent  
Elder: Bill Hunt  
Advent Wreath – Reising Family

### Monday, December 19

10:30 AM- Home Communion Delivered  
6:30 PM – DW meeting

### Wednesday, December 21

7:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal

### Saturday, December 24

11:00 PM – Christmas Eve Service  
Elder: Bill Hunt  
Advent Wreath: Patrick Family

### Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day

11:00 AM – Worship  
Elder: Mary Lillie Watson  
Advent Wreath: Watson family

### Sunday, January 1

11:00 AM – Worship  
Elder: Rosa Hall

# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Chicken Mull Watkinsville First Christian Church 1972-2022

In 1972 Chicken Mull started behind the Watkinsville First Christian Church as a fundraiser for the church. It was such a big hit, that (the Christian Men's Fellowship) by a few men decided to do it again the next year. To name a few of the men that wanted to do this was: Hot Thomas, Ed Harris, Leroy Marshall, Albert Smith, Jim Booth, and Homer Hansford.

The mull was small at first but grew from 5 black pots to 36 later. They would sell a quart for \$5.00 and give the money after expenses to the community for people in need.

When the Mull got so big (the Christian Women's Fellowship) would help to pick the meat off the bones.

We need to thank all the Christian Men's Fellowship and Christian Women's Fellowship for all of their work over the years, that made this project such a wonderful reality. This has been a long running 50 years. So, watch for this year's Mull and thank all who will work again on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Maybe we can do it for 50 more years.

Susan Hansford





## FCCW Disciple Women December Service Projects and Activities

DW is an active women's fellowship and service group that meets at the church on the fourth Monday of each month. All women and their friends are invited to attend this friendly, active group. This month there are two service projects with focus on community non-profit organizations – Family Promise and Support Our Seniors (SOS).



## FCCW Wed Meal Ministry Serving!

Volunteers are the best! Most Wednesdays there is a group of positive thinking, hardworking volunteers who share the opportunity to prepare and serve some good food. Since April, 2020, the Wed. night group has served. Recently, they prepared 17 meals for pick-up/delivery and 25 meals for eat in – all in the name of 'Thanksgiving – Around the Table' The schedule will go through December 14 and then take a few weeks break. We will resume on January 11, 2023. We are thankful for our current volunteers who include: Mary Lillie Watson, Ray Watson, Steve Hansford, Gina Hansford, Roseanne Smith, Joan Mann, Maria Turnbull, Barb Powell, Eddie Anderson, Linda Culp. Thank you to all who have donated and participated!





## 125<sup>th</sup> GA Regional Assembly Well Attended by FCCW!

FCCW was well represented at the various opportunities presented at the 125<sup>th</sup> GA Regional Assembly held at FCC, Athens, GA. The two- and half-day event included something for all ages and informative programs and preachers who inspired the local congregations. Options included two times of worship with communion and preaching by Rev. Dr. Amy Butler, interim minister at National City Christian Church, Washington, DC. She spoke powerfully on the theme of the Assembly “Re-Church: Re-Cast Your Net!” based on John 21.

Cathy Moorehead joined in the All-Assembly Choir. The Evangelism Workshop was attended by FCCW Mary Lillie Watson and Joan Mann. The other FCCW members attending the Assembly were Pam Gunter who serves on Regional Board and Elaine Neal who provided the outside banner. Dave Durden graciously volunteered to hang and remove the outside banner. Rev Betty Brewer-Calvert was honored and thanked for her 19 years of service to the Region as the Director of Women Ministries. And the clergy had a dinner with leadership from Rev. Troy Tatum. Chandler Bays who serves on the Youth Advisory Council (YAC), attended the Youth Lock-In. The ‘hit’ of the evening was the Friday night ‘tailgate’ with Diane Rittenberry with a fried fish meal and the infamous Varsity food truck.





## FCCW Has Fun!

If you go out in the parking lot with candy – they will come! The annual ‘Trunk ‘ n Treat’ community event took place on October 31. The Watkinsville Welcome Center sponsored this fun, imagination station event. FCCW had three decorated vehicles and welcomed Brightstone and the Watkinsville Police sharing the front parking lot as a place of welcome. 14 church members joined the fun and handed out candy to all who paraded by the vehicles. It was a fun night of imagination and sharing with the community of parents, grandparents and their kids. Plan on attending next year and bringing a decorative ‘trunk.’



BOARD MEETING - October 10, 2022 - First Christian Church, Watkinsville, GA

Present: Ann Smith                      Larry Gunter                      Pam Gunter                      Rosa Hall  
Tracy Henson                      Cathy Moorehead                      Melba Baker                      Bill Hunt  
Kathy Reising                      Leo Baker                      Michelle Greenwall (Diac)  
Pam Crawford                      Sheila Hunter  
Constitution Revision Committee members: Ray Watson, Cathy Milligan, B. C. Wong

Chair Ann Smith called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. She turned meeting over to Ray Watson, Chair, of the Constitution Revision Committee. Ray gave a brief history of the Committee. The committee had minor changes to the draft that was presented in September.

Cathy Moorhead had a brief devotion and lead the group in Communion.

The Revised Constitution with changes was presented for approval for vote. New constitution was approved by the Board.

Prayer concerns were presented. Sheila lifted them up in prayers.

Minutes of the September 12 meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Bill Hunt, second by Leo Baker, minutes were approved as presented.

The Financial Report for 2022 was presented by Kathy Reising.. She noted that we should be getting a credit on the insurance premium. YTD contributions are down. She will look at an Employee Retention Credit this year. Leo Baker motioned to approve Pam Crawford seconded. Report will be filed.

REPORTS presented:

MINISTER'S REPORT: Sheila Hunter presented report of Sept 2022.

OUTREACH: Tracy Henson - Reconciliation Offering this month. FCC-W worked ACTS this month. Family Promise is the week of November 20. Regional Assembly is November 11-12.

PROPERTY: Michelle Greenwall (for Bruce Greenwall) - Elevator has been repaired. Wood for mull has been split. Property will use funds from parking (back lot) during Fall Festival towards the recent copier purchase.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE: Kathy Reising - With good faith, S&F would like to cut the budget by 10%. Info is need for committees and groups by October 30. Diaconate budget should be separated from the E/M.

DIACONATE: Michelle Greenwall - Diaconate meet Sept 25. In October began passing the offering plate during Morning Worship. Provided Bill Shirey family a meal.

DISCIPLES WOMEN: Pam Crawford- Met on 9/26 with 10 members present. Project for OCTOBER is towels for ACTS. Officers for 2023 are: President Susan Hansford, Vice-President Joan Taylor, Secretary Rosa Hall, Treasurer Cathy Moorehead.

CMF: Leo Baker - Insurance has been handled. Renewed the lease with Athens Technical College.

BUSINESS:

- Ann Smith presented the following Nominating Committee Members:

Rosa Hall	Mary Lillie Watson	Cathy Moorehead	Wayne McTyre
Russell Lee	Cathy Milligan	Gina Hansford	Ann Smith

Pam Gunter motioned to approve this committee; Melba Baker seconded. Committee approved by board.

Larry Gunter, as a member of the Regional 4C Committee, gave a brief update on the recent improvements and happenings at Camp Christian.

Ann Smith adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Pam Gunter  
Secretary



**Month Report for October, 2022:**

Individuals Drop-in/calls/text Initiated by others.	FCC-W Meetings planned	Fellowship groups	Fellowship /meals invitation of others /Home visit	Pastoral phone call/email text	Hos/ Nursing Home Visits	FCC Education Prep/teach
Approximate – 30 calls	20/computer 21/computer	9/CMF 10/24 coffee chat 24/DW		14/grief visit 11/18 counseling 11/funeral preparation		

Service to others	Worship Services	Other preparation	Regional Events	Continuing Education
5/12/19/26Wed Meal Ministry Encouraged by volunteers stepping up to coordinate/cook.  DW service project – towels for ACTS.  31/Trunk n Treat	Coordinated worship services and leadership for 4 @ 5 services. 7/14/21/28 Choir  Graveside service – Al Brown 10/7  Funeral/ Bill Shirey 10/12	5 @ 5 Sunday Worship Bulletins  1 Board Report Weekly FB Events  Wedding 10/29 Wedding consulting 10/15  Funeral bulletin 10/7 Brown	10/17/ OMAT mtg  10/20 Executive meeting  10/22 Regional Board	31/1 hour counseling zoom  25/Grief Wkshop zoom

**Highlights**

**October, 2022**

**Fall Festival Parking – volunteers for front and back parking lots. Donations for Walk Thru Dark and fees for property budget.**

**2 Funerals for church related**

**1 wedding**

**1 car show with new volunteers to sell drinks**

Days off: 3 days of 8 available



# Financial Report October 2022

By Kathy Reising for Gina Hansford, Treasurer



OCT CONTRIBUTIONS	2022 CONTRIBUTIONS	2022 BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS
\$16,272	\$129,002	\$167,607

OCT EXPENSES	2022 EXPENSES	2022 BUDGETED EXPENSES
\$14,216	\$142,617	\$164,380

2022 YTD CONTRIBUTIONS MINUS EXPENSES \$ -13,615

2022 CONTRIBUTIONS VS BUDGET \$ -38,605 (UNDER)  
2022 EXPENSES VS BUDGET \$ -21,763 (UNDER)

	YTD OCT	MONTH OF OCT
AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS BUDGET	\$3,809	\$3,809
AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS ACTUAL	\$3,254	\$2,932
AVERAGE WEEKLY SHORTAGE	\$(555)	\$(877)

	OCTOBER 31, 2022	DEC 31, 2021	CHANGE IN ACCOUNT
GENERAL FUNDS	\$31,039	\$36,655	\$ -5,616
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$35,588	\$36,171	\$ -583

SEPT STATEMENTS, AS OF	SEPT 30, 2022	DEC 31, 2021	
SAVINGS GENERAL FUNDS	\$190,899	\$254,159	\$ -63,261 -25%
ENDOWMENT FUNDS	\$161,136	\$201,525	\$ -40,389 -20%

## ITEMS OF NOTE:

- 1) YTD OCTOBER 2022 GIVING DECREASED \$24,922 OR 16% VERSUS 2021
- 2) YTD OCTOBER 2022 BUDGET SPENDING DECREASED \$4,544 OR 3% VERSUS 2021.
- 3) ENDOWMENT FUND & SAVINGS AT VANGUARD ARE UPDATED FOR 09/30/2022.
- 4) FCCW RECEIVED EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT Q2-2021 OF \$ 5,503 - APRIL 22
- 5) FCCW RECEIVED EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT Q3-2021 OF \$ 6,904 - JUNE 22
- 6) ANNUAL CORPORATE REGISTRATION FILED 01-13-22

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS AND DONATIONS YEAR TO DATE

- 1) DMF - CHRISTMAS OFFERING \$50 (2021)
- 2) DMF - WEEK OF COMPASSION \$793
- 3) DMF - EASTER OFFERING \$708
- 4) DMF - PENTECOST \$532
- 5) DMF - RECONCILIATION
- 6) DMF - THANKSGIVING
- 7) CHANGE FOR CHANGE \$69.60 JAN + 7.58 MAY
- 8) MARCH FOR CAMP
- 9) DONATION FOR MAJOR MAINTENANCE \$ 2000 + \$1000
- 9) CMF DONATION FOR YOUTH \$ 1000
- 10) MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS \$ 2130
- 11) PANCAKE SUPPER TO OUT OF DARKNESS \$ 200
- 13) OUT OF DARKNESS
- 14) FALL FESTIVAL BACK PARKING
- 15) ANONYMOUS DONATION - 125 YEAR ANNIVERSARY BANNER AND OCONEE ENTERPRISE AD



Thurs, Dec. 8 – 6:00 PM  
 “Blue Christmas” Service

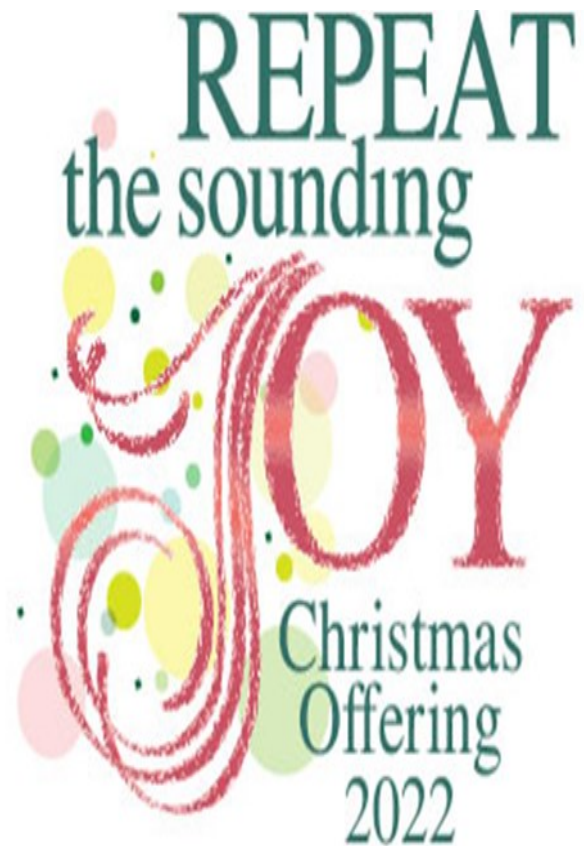
*A Service of Healing and Hope*

In this service, we light a candle and share a moment in community with those who may find themselves in a place of sadness among moments of happiness. Holidays are woven together with memories of the past with people we love. In support of those who experience grief, we gather around the ‘blue’ Christmas tree in acknowledgement of memories and love. “Grief is really just love with no place to go”

This is a short, outdoor service of reflection. Please bring a chair and a blanket. Afterwards, join in for cookies and hot chocolate and singing carols on the front porch as an act of release and remembrance.

*“Blessed be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ - - - who comfort us in all our affliction, so that we might be able to comfort those who are in any affliction.”*

*II Cor 1: 3 – 4*



FCCW Collects Disciple  
 Christmas Offering

“Repeat the Sounding Joy” calls to us during the month of December. The Christmas Offering remains in the Region of Ga. and support ministries and programs that impact congregations.

Our FCCW goal is \$1000. May we be generous in our giving!



## "60 YEARS OF CAMP FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN"

Dear Friends of Camp Christian, (churches, church groups and individuals)

We are excited that 2023 will be the 60<sup>th</sup> year of camps, programming and activities at Camp Christian and we would like to honor this milestone. Some of you may have been at the camp when it was first called "The State Camp", "Camp Gordon", or "Camp Christian" and now named "Camp Christian Conference Center" located in Gordon, Georgia.

### Please support the Fundraising Campaign, "Celebrating 60 Years of Camp"

Would you Consider a one-time gift, a gift each month Nov./Dec. 2022- August 2023 (10 months) or your own choice?

We want to honor the Vision of camp for the fundraiser.

Donate:

60 pennies (\$.01) = \$.60

60 nickels (\$.05) = \$3.60

60 dimes (\$.10) = \$9.60

60 quarters (\$.25) = \$15.00

60 dollars (\$1.00) = \$60.00

60 Five dollars (\$5.00) = (\$300.00)

60 Ten dollars (\$10.00) = \$600.00

60 Fifteen dollars (\$15.00) = (\$900.00)

60 Twenty dollars (\$20.00) = \$1200.00

60 Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) = \$1500.00

Continue this pattern by increasing \$5.00 increments to 60 @\$100.00= (\$6000.00). There are 25 increments from 1 penny to \$100.00. Choose an increment or make your own.

Adding the increments together could raise \$63, 084.60 with one person donating at each increment. The amount would change with more donors at each increment and that would be a blessing.

We will receive donations from now until August 2023 and we will celebrate in September of 2023.

Please use the card and envelope enclosed and mail to the address on the envelope or if you are at Regional Assembly and wish to complete it at that event, please give it to Marilyn Parks.

Thank you for your support in this fundraiser as we work together honoring this milestone and move forward at "The Place to Be in the Heart of Georgia".

Blessings,

**The Rev. Dr. Denise Bell,**  
Regional Minister CCinGA

**Rev. Will Johnson,**  
Chair of Camp 4C

**Marilyn Parks and Pam Van Dusen**  
Regional Co Directors of Camp  
Programming and Ministries

*Rec'd  
11-11-2022*

Yes! I will support the Fundraising Campaign,  
"Celebrating 60 Years of Camp 2023".

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City/state/zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is enclosed: A onetime gift of \_\_\_\_\_

Or I will give monthly for 10 months (beginning  
November 2022 through August 2023) in the amount of  
\_\_\_\_\_ totaling \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks to CCinGA and put in the memo line  
(60 for 60 Camp)