



# The Chalice

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

706-769-5966

<http://fccwatkinsville.org>

**Heart Matters**  
**February 2023**  
**Sheila Hunter, Minister**

## **Are we still capable of learning something new?**

FCCW enjoyed a wonderful Advent and Christmas season at the church. It was such a delight to gather together again and engage in community gathering, refreshed some sacred traditions, tried a few new options for church life, enjoyed singing, and helped with some service and missions beyond ourselves. At every act of planning, we found ourselves figuring out what was important and meaningful and how could we make this opportunity better, richer, more faithful to God's calling.



Our volunteers for our Outreach ministry with Family Promise week started Advent providing meals, time, and overnight stays so families would have a good holiday week.

**(Next volunteer week is April)**

An adventurous group piled in the church van and went to “Travel and See” the bright light displays at the UGA Botanical Gardens! What fun to be amazed together. The next adventure is coming! Got ideas!

CMF organized annual THE Chicken Mull with gracious volunteers and some new techniques of producing the best mull in the world! They revised their meeting time to evening and created a new opportunity! **(Next meeting is Feb. 5 at 6:30 PM)**



The Young Adults and youth enjoyed an annual holiday gathering in a new way – by supporting a local restaurant. They brought ‘white elephant’ gifts to exchange. They wore “head decorations” for a festive time.

The Wed Meal Ministry team provided a ‘holiday’ meal for pickup/take out and eat in around tables. The shared meal



brightens the week – especially for those who live alone. New volunteers have brought new meaning to the crew! The volunteer team was treated to special desserts in appreciation.



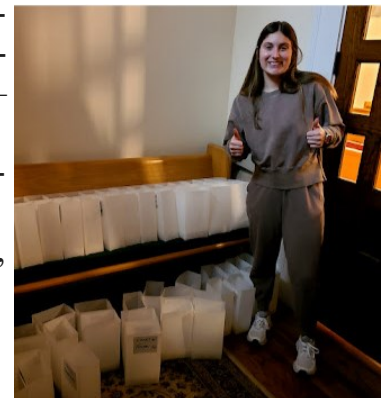
The FCCW Board shared over table a meal welcoming the 2023 members by the 2022 leadership. A tradition of sharing the leadership as they prepared for the change of leadership.

The Disciple Women Fellowship provided two service beyond self-projects with gifts for SOS participants and an all-church collection of cleaning products for Family Promise. The current participants welcomed new members to enjoy the holiday party hosted a member’s home. The church van was running that night to make it easier for

Our worship services, Sunday mornings and evening, were enhanced and encouraged by the attendance of ‘regulars’ and visitors. The sanctuary was decorated over 4 weeks of Advent – making each Sunday a day of interest to see what was new.

The congregation, the choir and the musicians sang with gusto seasonal songs to lift our spirits to God in praise!!

Candles were lit, words were spoken, the Chrismon tree decorated, poinsettias adorned, and luminaries shone on the pathway.





***“Many hands make light work.” But none of our activities were work!***  
It was all joy, amazement, creativity. . . with purpose - - - to honor and worship the Christ Child! Much like the angels, shepherds, and even the Magi – all acts, thoughts, feelings, talents, skills, gifts - were shared in praise of God who sent a little, child to bring the human family together in one place of welcome. Humble and simple – yet profound and life-changing.

After managing and navigating the demands of the last two plus years, our capacity to ‘be’ the church, is deeper, wider, and tested with good results. We have much, much, to be thankful! This new year, and especially this season of Epiphany, launches us strongly on the path of “Reclaiming Christ; Revisioning Church.”

We are in a great position as a church community to release any negative or doubtful thoughts about our community of faith. We can step through the acts of forgiveness for what has been and with trust, take steps now to be the church we are called into being.

The season of Epiphany (40 days between January 6 and Ash Wed) is the best time to see what we haven’t seen in the same way; to hear what we haven’t heard clearly; and to discover who we are called to be NOW.



The question before us may be: **Are we still capable of learning something new?**

Part of resilience is our capacity to adapt and grow? I think most people are familiar with “resilience” being about how we deal with the ups and downs in life but being resilient isn’t just about getting through tough days. It’s also about becoming the person, the community of faith we want to be. In 5 years, in 3 years, in 1 year – what is your vision for deepening your faith, for this church on the corner, for this community of faith and are you willing to adapt and grow with God’s calling to us?

It won’t be what it was or has been. The scriptures from II Corinthians 5: 14 – 21 may become our guiding star for this next season of faith deepening and community development:

“Therefore, ***if anyone be in Christ***, they are a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Together, we are stronger. Come and join the path of discovery as we find ways to reveal Christ’s love and grace to the world.

Peace to you,  
Sheila

## CALENDAR – FEBRUARY 2023

### Wednesday, February 1

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

### Sunday, February 5

*Special Disciples Offering*  
*Week of Compassion Month*  
10:00 AM – Sunday School  
11:00 AM – Worship  
Elder: Rosa Hall

### Monday, February 6

10:30 AM – Coffee Chat  
7:00 PM – CMF Breakfast & Mtg.  
Sheila & Doc – Cooks

### Tuesday, February 7

9:00 AM-1:00 PM ACTS Volunteers

### Wednesday, February 8

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

### Thursday, February 9

6:30 PM – Elder's Meeting

### Sunday, February 12

*Young Adult Week*  
10:00 AM – Sunday School  
11:00 AM – Worship  
4:00 PM – Young Adults meet  
Elder: Ann Smith

### Monday, February 13

10:30 AM – Monday Bible Study#2  
6:30 PM – Board Meeting

### Wednesday, February 15

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

### Sunday, February 19

*Week of Compassion Offering*  
10:00 AM – Sunday School  
11:00 AM – Worship  
Elder: Bill Hunt

### Monday, February 20

10:30 AM – Coffee Chat

### Tuesday, February 21

6:30 PM – Personnel Committee  
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

### Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday -start of Lent  
5:00- 6:30 PM-'Fat Tues'Pancake Supper  
7:00 PM –Ash Wednesday Worship

### Fri. Feb.24-Sun. Feb.26

Regional Youth Assembly

### Sunday, February 26

*Week of Compassion Offering*  
10:00 AM – Sunday School  
11:00 AM – Worship  
Elder: Cathy Morehead

### Monday, February 27

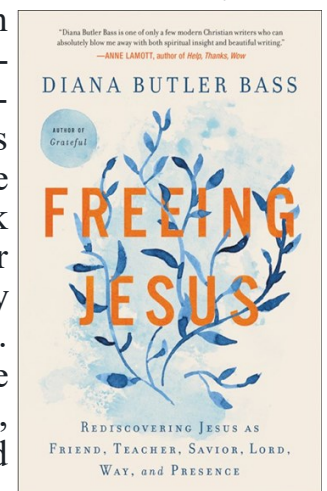
10:30 AM – Monday Bible Study#3  
6:30 PM – DW meeting

### Tuesday, February 28

11:00 AM – Family Promise fundraiser  
'LaTable'

## FCCW Daytime Bible/Book Study

FCCW will host a bible study using the book *Freeing Jesus* written by Diana Butler Bass. Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, The Way, and Presence helps us grow in our faith as we meet life's many challenges. This is an opportunity to rediscover the Jesus who walks with us along the way of our lives. Come and join in the 5-week study. Time is currently set for mornings – 10:30 AM on every other Monday, starting January 30. (alternating Mondays with "coffee chat" group) February 13, 27, March 13, 27. This study will lead us from Epiphany thru Lent! Contact the church office to reserve your book (\$10.00).



# Financial Report December 2022

By Kathy Reising for Gina Hansford, Treasurer

|                   |                    |                             |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| DEC CONTRIBUTIONS | 2022 CONTRIBUTIONS | 2022 BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS |
| \$16,535          | \$158,912          | \$198,082                   |

|              |               |                        |
|--------------|---------------|------------------------|
| DEC EXPENSES | 2022 EXPENSES | 2022 BUDGETED EXPENSES |
| \$16,643     | \$173,132     | \$198,082              |

2022 YTD CONTRIBUTIONS MINUS EXPENSES \$ -14,220

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2022 CONTRIBUTIONS VS BUDGET | \$ -47,074 UNDER)  |
| 2022 EXPENSES VS BUDGET      | \$ -24,950 (UNDER) |



|                                     | MONTH OF DEC   | 2022 ANNUAL    |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS BUDGET         | \$3,809        | \$3,809        |
| AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS ACTUAL | <u>\$4,134</u> | <u>\$3,056</u> |
| AVERAGE WEEKLY SHORTAGE             | \$ 325         | \$ (753)       |

|                  | DEC 31, 2022 | DEC 31, 2021 | CHANGE IN ACCOUNT |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| GENERAL FUNDS    | \$28,680     | \$36,655     | \$ -7,975         |
| DESIGNATED FUNDS | \$46,473     | \$36,171     | \$ 10,302         |

| DEC STATEMENTS, AS OF | DEC 31, 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) DECEMBER 2022 CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$16535 ARE \$1298 MORE THAN DEC BUDGET!!
- 2) YTD 2022 CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ONLY \$5078(3%) LESS THAN 2021
- 3) ENDOWMENT FUND & SAVINGS AT VANGUARD ARE UPDATED FOR 12/31/2022.  
**ALL FUNDS VALUE INCREASED IN Q4 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



BOARD MEETING - December 12, 2022 - First Christian Church, Watkinsville, GA

Present: 2022 Board Members - Ann Smith, Larry Gunter, Pam Gunter, Tracy Henson, Cathy Moorehead, Melba Baker, Bill Hunt, Kathy Reising, Bruce Greenwall, Leo Baker, Michelle Greenwall (for Diaconate), Pam Crawford, Russell Lee, Rosa Hall, Sheila Hunter.  
2023 New Board Members - Gina Hansford, Steve Hansford, Joan Taylor, Roger Smith, Wayne McType

Ann Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Bill Hunt opened with a devotion and lead in communion.

Prayer concerns were shared and Ann Smith lifted these up in prayer.

Minutes of the November meetings were reviewed:

November 14 Board meeting - Pam Crawford motion to approve; Bill Hunt seconded. Approved.

November 22 Congregational meeting - Bill Hunt motion to approve; Pam Crawford second. Approved.

Financial Report for November Received. It was noted that our November contributions exceed expenses; however our YTD expenses exceed our YTD contributions. We have received 2023 Week of Compassion Offering amount of \$5200.00. Pam Crawford motioned to accept Financial Report; Rosa Hall seconded. Motion carried. Report will be filled.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: CMoorehead - We will not have a Jesus's Birthday Party. No Sunday school on December 25; but will have Sunday school on January 1. Advent Books were distributed with help of Elders.

EVANGELISM & MEMBERSHIP: MBaker - No report.

OUTREACH: THenson - Christmas Offering being collected this month. Work continued with ACTS.

PROPERTY: BGreenwall - Supplies purchased.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE: KReising - Staff Appreciation Gifts should be given out this Sunday (\$2000 total). She has the 2023 budgets for all the new committees and group tonight.

WORSHIP: BHunt met with J.R Beckwith about how to enhance Sound in the Sanctuary during Worship Service.

ELDERS: Met in November- no report. Pam Gunter advised the Board that she has asked for a Leave of Absence from the Elders.

DIACONATE: MGreenwall - will try to develop a schedule for duties and coordinate the best process for Diaconate Sunday morning duties.

DISCIPLES WOMEN: PCrawford, DW met on 11/28 with 9 members present. Susan Hansford has resigned as incoming 2023 DW President. Joan Taylor has stepped up to President and Pam Crawford will be Vice-President. December Project will continue to be Family Promise and add SUPPORT OUR SENIORS. \$300.00 (100.00 X 3 seniors) will be spent for items on 3 lists. Next meeting will be December 19 at Pam Crawford's House, which will include Gift Swap and sharing of refreshments by everyone.

CMF: RLee - Thanked everyone for the help at the mull. There was approx. \$11,500.00 take in mull. They are considering the disbursement over the next several weeks(including DW and FCCW contingency fund). CMF will not meet in January.

TRUSTEES: Ann Smith and Cathy Moorehead found the deed for the Church and lot that the Church building is on in Safe Deposit Box at Oconee State Bank. The deeds for the Annex lot and the lot adjoining the Church lot should be put in the Safe Deposit Box at OSB with this deed.

Ann Smith talked to Board about "committee", structure of the committees, their vital work and importance. Along with the importance of communication.

MINISTER'S REPORT: Sheila Hunter wished everyone a Merry Christmas. And wished the Advent Season to be one of preparing for something new.

Sheila Hunter closed the meeting with prayer, with special words of appreciation for those that were leaving the board.

Pam Gunter Secretary to the Board.

## ***Regional Youth Assembly 2023***

*The previous email incorrectly stated the event in the subject line. The correct event is the Regional YOUTH Assembly 2023. Everything else is correct in the email, and here it is again for your convenience.*



Registration is live and packets are ready for the 2023 Regional Youth Assembly (RYA), to be held February 24-26, 2023, at Epworth by the Sea, in St. Simons Island, GA. Youth and adult sponsors will gather around the theme of "Breakthrough." Registration packets will be mailed to churches this week, and you can also download the packet, and learn more and register here. *Register by January 1, 2023 for the best price, but no later than February 15, 2023. For more information, contact [yac@gadisciples.org](mailto:yac@gadisciples.org).*



## Disciple Women

Our DW and friends Christmas Party was held at President Pam's home with 18 attending. Church Bus brought many and great times with food, fellowship, and fun. Gift exchange was great too!



Thank you all who participated in the items donated in Nov.-Dec. to Family Promise. It was a great project with a great cause, and it was very much appreciated by Family Promise!



DW also did a Christmas Project for three of our Oconee County Seniors in SOS "Save our Seniors". Three members took \$100 each and bought items requested. Our group has done this project for several years!

Looking forward to a new year with Joan Taylor as our new President and many more great times and good projects!



Pam Crawford

## Worship Committee

Sunday January 22, we observed Laity and Commission Sunday. Thank you for being in attendance to support your new board.

There is a signup sheet for placing flowers in the sanctuary on Sundays. It is in the hallway across from the church office. Please consider signing up to honor or remember a special person or event for your family.

We are in the process of assembling the Worship committee. Please reach out to me if you wish to join our committee.

Mary Lillie Watson  
Worship Chair