



The Chalice

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

706-769-5966

<http://fccwatkinsville.org>

“Heart Matters” March, 2023 Sheila Hunter, Minister

Epiphany revealed Christ to the world through the sharing of the story. Lent prepares us to deepen our understandings of our identity as Christians, Lent starts with Ash Wednesday and goes to Holy Saturday. For the Christian community, this is the most involved season of opportunities for intentional actions of discovery and decisions of commitment. The 40 or so days of Lent opens a pathway of practicing the ‘tools’ of our faith. The scriptures on Sundays, not only tell us of Jesus’s journey to the cross, but beckons to us to take on learning about the simple, yet demanding identity of following Christ.

Lent invites us to get involved in our own faith lives; to participate in practices that will help us to mature from our childhood faith into a deeper understanding of what it means to be “Christian.” Lent leads us to explore our commitments in daily living and to know ourselves better. Lent prepares us to arrive at the cross and to receive without hesitancy, God’s love.

“For God so loved the world, that God gave. . . “Are we willing, open, humble to receive God’s love? Are we willing, open, humble enough to be changed by God’s love?

And are we willing, open, humble enough to show the world that God changed us?

If we take this Lenten journey with intention, Easter morning becomes a true celebration of ‘new life in Christ!’”

**In a world of noise, confusion, and conflict,
it is necessary that there be places of silence.**



Thomas Merton

FCCW started “Fat Tuesday” on Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper with volunteers who prepared a place of welcome and a delicious meal of tradition. The celebration of table gathering continued with a reflective service of gathering around table with communion in the Ash Wednesday Service.

A word of thanks to each and all who helped to decorate, cook, serve, clean up and prepare the sanctuary. FCCW is blessed with many dedicated volunteers who open the doors for worship, service to others and gratitude for our blessings! Thank you.



Lent invites us to grow quieter and more still with practices of prayerful meditation, intentional study, and service to help others. We can allow the ‘clutter’ of our minds, the wounds of our hearts and the demands of our schedules to be set to the side for times with God and for God.

Lent invites us to be intentional with making moments for God to speak, for God to heal us, for our anxieties to be lessened and our security in God to grow deeper.

Who are we now as followers of Christ? Who are we now as a community of faith? Who are we now in our choices, thinking, decisions? These questions may linger for a while without clear responses. On this journey of intentional assessment, we may grow weary or bored or resistant or complacent as we engage in the struggle to listen to God’s voice instead of our own.

But together with God, our journey to Easter morning will be blessed. We need not be weary nor bored nor resistant nor become complacent as we evolve into Christians who celebrate Easter morning with hallelujahs!

Who are we now – we are God’s beloved. Let us take the path through Lent to Easter with the assurance of love.

Peace to you,
Sheila

Lenten journey with FCCW opportunities to deepen our spiritual lives. Please join us:

Prayer and Reflection – will your Lenten journey allow you to listen to God?

Wednesdays starting March 8 – April 5- noon to 2:00 PM, in the sanctuary - a “prayer corner” with candle, devotional and weekly scriptural readings is available for individual prayer and reflection time. Come as you choose..

Service to Others – will your Lenten journey lead you to volunteer to help others?

March Wednesday Meal Ministry 3:00 PM – volunteers to prepare. 5:30 – volunteers to deliver or pick up or eat in available.

(Taking a break on April 5 and 12. Start back on April 19)

ACTS volunteers on April 4 – 8:45 – 1:15 .

Family Promise volunteers needed – week of April 9 – 16.

Study and Discovery – will your Lenten journey open new ideas and understandings?

Devotionals books available for each family. The Education Committee and the Elders provide the books for your home use of reflection and prayer. Please contact the office to request.

Monday Bible Study – March 13,27 – 10:30 AM – 12:00 noon. – the book “Freeing Jesus”. Please contact the office to request a book. All are welcome.

Sundays – Sunday School classes – 10:00 AM – Study books available. All are welcome to join!

Guidance and Community – will your Lenten journey include community participation?

Membership and Baptism Orientation Times Offered

Sundays, March 19, March 26. 12:15(ish!) – 2:00 PM – lunch provided

Tuesdays, March 14, March 21. 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – supper provided

Thursday, March 23, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – supper provided.

Choose one or all to attend if you and family are interested in:

Learning more about Baptism and membership

Learning more about Church membership by transfer of faith

Learning more about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination

Learning more about the FCCW community of faith

Appropriate for ages 6th graders and older. Please call office or speak with Sheila to register for the dates you want to attend.

Holy Week to Easter Morning:

Sunday – April 2 – Palm Sunday worship

Thursday – April 6 – 7:00 PM – Maundy Thursday Service

Sunday – April 9 – 7:30 AM - Easter Sunday Sunrise and 11:00 AM - Traditional Service

March Calendar

Wednesday, March 8

3:00 PM – Outreach Comm. Mtg.
5:30 PM - Meal Ministry
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 9

6:30 PM – Elder's Meeting

Sunday, March 12

Daylight Saving Time Begins

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

Monday, March 13

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

Wednesday, March 15

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

Saturday, March 18

12:00 Noon – Celebration of Life
for Betsy Hunt, Meal after service

Sunday, March 19

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

Monday, March 20

10:30 AM – Coffee Chat
6:30 PM – Personnel Committee

Wednesday, March 22

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

Sunday, March 26

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

Monday, March 27

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

Wednesday, March 29

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

Scriptures for Sunday

March 12

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

March 19

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

March 26

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

April 2

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29
Matthew 21:1-11

WFCC Board Meeting – January 8, 2023

Members Present: Ann Smith, Rosa Hall, Ray Watson, Pam Crawford, Mary Lillie Watson, Wayne McTyre, Steve Hansford, Michelle Greenwall, Tommy Branch, Kathy Reising, Joan Taylor, Gina Hansford, and Rev. Sheila Hunter.

Marsha and Russell Lee were also present.

Call to Order: Chair Ann Smith called the meeting to order.

Devotion and Communion: Mary Lillie Watson provided a devotion, followed by Communion.

Minutes: Minutes of the December 2023 meeting were approved as submitted.

Prayer Concerns: Prayers concerns were shared and uplifted in prayer.

Minister's Report: Rev. Sheila Hunter presented her monthly reports for November and December 2022. She has been providing leadership to the choir; working with the pianist as an accompanist; and looking towards staffing (i.e., choir director, etc.).

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Reising presented the December 31, 2022 Financial Report. On motion by Rosa Hall and second by Wayne McTyre, the report was approved as submitted.

Committee Reports:

PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE – Wayne McTyre reported 3 gallons of water had come in to the church during the last rain storm, the heating at the annex has been repaired, and the Girl Scouts will be using the front parking lot February 10 – March 5 to sell cookies.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE: Kathy Reising said the December Vanguard statements show all funds have increased for the 4th quarter.

WORSHIP – Mary Lillie Watson reported Lent is February 26th and a committee has been formed.

DEACONS – Michelle Greenwall said the Deacons are meeting on January 22nd.

Old Business: Ann Smith said she will talk to J.R. at Union Christian Church about a church owned recording devise.

New Business: Marsha Lee requested a regular report be made by the minister on who she has visited at home. She noted that committees need to know when budgeted funds are moved and asked that a pulpit committee be formed when time is near for Rev. Hunter to retire.

Rosa Hall requested information for the Chalice be turned in by the end of the week.

Adjournment: Reverend Sheila Hunter delivered a Closing Prayer. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Gina L. Hansford, Board Secretary

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
Approximat 25 calls 35 Texts	5/worship chair mtg 5/10/26 staff-Elaine 7/24/ staff-Wendi 25/Outreach chair	9/23 coffee chat 23/DW 5/Young Adult	21/Lunch M. Turnbull	10/grief mtg 14/funeral/visitation 8/grief visit 12/grief visi 20/grief counseling	13/hospit alMooreh ead 17/home visit-Hunt 20/Wang 26/Manor Lake	7/14 – Monday Bible Study. 9/16/supper & study

Service to others	Worship Services	Other preparation	Regional Events	Continuing Education
11/15/25Wed Meal Ministry Encouraged by volunteers stepping up to coordinate/cook. 23/Reunion comm-1973 DW service project – Books for Patti Family Promise Volunteers (4) recruited and 5/stayed overnight. 29/Change for Change Sunday	Coordinated worship services and leadership for 5 @ 5 services. Jan 1,8,15,22, 29 Sun 7/14/21 Choir practice	5 @ 5 ISunday Worship Bulletins 1 Board Report Weekly FB Event Newsletter submissions Events on FB (5) 31/Bible study prep Weekly sign preparation Weekly Meal ministry	21/ Executive Committee – zoom 23/OMAT mtg	19/1 hour counseling zoom 10/17/24 Grief Wkshop zoom 1hr 11/18/25/31Grief lab zoom 1 hr 26/upgrade Thursday – church visioning..

Vacation Days: 2 Days off: 1 @ 8 Sick: 0 Holiday: 2 –New year eve/day

Highlights

Meetings with chair of committees (Worship, Outreach, Property)
 Choir's Response to leadership

Financial Report January 2023

By Kathy Reising for Gina Hansford, Treasurer

JAN CONTRIBUTIONS	2023 CONTRIBUTIONS	2023 BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS
\$8,426	\$8,426	\$18780

JAN EXPENSES	2023 EXPENSES	2023 BUDGETED EXPENSES
\$12,432	\$12,432	\$17,064

2023 YTD CONTRIBUTIONS MINUS EXPENSES \$ -4006

2023 CONTRIBUTIONS VS BUDGET	\$ --10,354 UNDER)
2023 EXPENSES VS BUDGET	\$ -4,632(UNDER)



MONTH OF JAN (5) SUNDAYS

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS BUDGET	\$3,757
AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS ACTUAL	<u>\$1,685</u>
AVERAGE WEEKLY SHORTAGE	\$(2072)

	JAN 31, 2023	DEC 31, 2022	CHANGE IN ACCOUNT
GENERAL FUNDS	\$26,582	\$30,680	\$ -4,098
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$42,898	\$46,473	\$ -3,575

DEC STATEMENTS, AS OF	DEC 31, 2022	DEC 31, 2021	
SAVINGS GENERAL FUNDS	\$204,534	\$254,159	\$ -49,625 -20%
ENDOWMENT FUNDS	\$174,431	\$201,525	\$ -27,094 -13%

ITEMS OF NOTE:

SPECIAL OFFERINGS AND DONATIONS YEAR TO DATE

- 1) DMF – CHRISTMAS OFFERING \$555 (2022)
- 2) DMF – WEEK OF COMPASSION 2023 - \$5200

FCCW Christian Men's Fellowship
CMF Meets on Monday NIGHTS!

CMF meets on the first Monday night of the month at 6:30 AM. And 'breakfast' is served – cooked by the volunteers from the group!

CMF president, Steve Hansford, invites all men and their friends to attend the March 6 meeting.

We are blessed with two special guests and friends for the evening.

Cindy Pritchard, community volunteer and one of our own FCCW folks, will join us to share information regarding the school lunch balances and funding option donations. In June, Cindy will return as Executive Director of KOCB and will be our program speaker!

This month's program speaker is Brian Brodrick, Watkinsville mayor. Brian is a graduate of OCHS – 1993 and Berry College – 1997. He is a Partner at Jackson Spalding, a leading marketing communications agency. He is married to Susan and father of three children. He served on the City Council prior to being elected mayor of Watkinsville. Brian will share the vision for Watkinsville and the current projects that makes our town vibrant and thriving. FCCW is included in the town's vibrancy! By the way, Brian is also a close friend of our own, Bill Hunt!!



Please join in the March 6 meeting and save the date for Monday, April 3rd!

CMF Invitation to Donate to Lawn Maintenance

Thank you to those who responded and donated to continue covering the cost of the grounds/lawn maintenance.

The Christian Men's Fellowship is requesting a yearly donation of \$75.00. Please make your check payable to **FCCW CMF Maintenance Acct.** Donations can be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or mailed to:

FCCW
PO Box 287
Watkinsville, GA 30677

Disciples Women

The Disciples Women's meeting on February 26, 2023, was opened with the DW Prayer. Ten members were present. Refreshments were provided by Pam Crawford and Rosa Hall.

Prayer Concerns were noted, and Ann Smith prayed for all those mentioned.

Secretary and Treasurer's reports were given and accepted. Good projects were mentioned for the group to possibly consider (i.e., cleaning supplies for Camp Christian, meals for Disciples on Campus and Lydia's Place, another donation of new or "good" used towels for ACTS. Amber Davis may be able to donate some towels that were from a store where her father worked.).

Rosa provided our Program from one of Former President Jimmy Carter's books.

The meeting was closed with the DW Benediction. The next DW meeting will be March 27, 2023, at 6:30 PM. All women are invited to join us.

Regional Disciples Women Announce 2023 Events

Disciples Women in Georgia are invited to mark their calendars for upcoming events. Women will gather for spring events around the theme "Celebrating Women" on April 22 at St. Andrew Church, Macon, GA, and May 20, at New Hope Christian Church, Lawrenceville, GA. The Georgia Disciples Women Fall Retreat returns to *Epworth by the Sea* September 22-24, 2023. More information to follow on all these events.

ACTS

Area Churches Together Serving will hold our annual board meeting on March 6th. New clients are being added each!

We are now switching over to Spring and Summer clothing and are in need of towels, washcloths, sheet sets, bedspreads, and light blankets. Small appliances, anything for kitchen or to decorate your home are also welcomed! If you have these items, please bring to ACTS on Tuesday or Fridays from 9-1.

If you cannot take your donations to Bogart, please get in touch with me or Joan Taylor and we will see that donations get there!

Grace Grows Here

The grace grows here team has been busy this past month. We have added 2 large black urns, that were donated, at the entrance to the sanctuary. Parsley and pansies have been planted in them.

All 5 new oak trees survived the cold winter.





2023 Camp Work Days

All Hands-on Deck

9:30am-3:30pm

March 18th, Saturday

April 3,4,5(Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)

April 22nd , Saturday

April 29th, Saturday

May 6th, Saturday

May 20th, Saturday

Bring your lunch, snacks, etc. If you need to spend the night, it can be arranged. Let us know.
Contact Oscar Hugley if you want to arrange another date. campteamhugley@gmail.com

For more information, contact Oscar Hugley

478-233-0692





2023 SUMMER CAMP (DOC)

(Ages on applications are State of Georgia school ages for each grade and Grades completed at end of your school system 2022-2023 year. These will be noted on the on-line registration forms.)

June 11th (Directors/Counselors) 12th-16th **CHI RHO CAMP**/Campers \$295
Campers who have completed grades 6th, 7th, 8th by June 2023

June 18th (Directors/Counselors) 19th-23rd **JUNIOR CAMP**/CAMPERS \$295
Campers who have completed grades 3rd, 4th, 5th by June 2023

June 18th (Directors/Counselors) 19th-21st **CHRYSLIS CAMP**/CAMPERS \$200
Campers who have completed grades 1st or 2nd by June 2023

June 23rd -25th **GENESIS CAMP** \$260 - (cost for both parent and 1 child)
Campers who have completed Kindergarten by June 2023 and accompanied by an adult
Please fill out a separate registration for child one for the adult

June 25th (Directors/Counselors) 26th-July 1st **CYF CONFERENCE**/Conferees \$330
Campers/Conferees who have completed grades 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th by June 2023

July 16th -July 21st **OASIS** Directors/CIT's (\$215) July 17th -July 20th (**OASIS Day Camp**)
Counselors in Training must have completed grades 10th, 11th, or 12th by June 2023

Registration will be available on-line on or before March 15, 2023.

Counselors for each camp will be needed (CYF-at least 24 years old, Chi Rho at least 21 years old and Junior & Chrysalis at least 19 years old (one year out of high school). More counselors will be needed this summer to ensure quality time for all attending. Counselors in Training for Oasis, Junior and Chrysalis should have completed grades 10th, 11th, or 12th. CIT's are limited to 2 for Junior Camp and 2 for Chrysalis.

Region of Ga. Youth Assembly

The 2023 Region of Ga. Youth Assembly was this weekend February 24-25-26, at Epworth by the Sea! It was a beautiful time of faith, friendship, and fun!

Teen members of our FCCW congregation connected in so many ways with the theme of "Breakthrough – What's Hold You Back?"

They "broke through many barriers" with the inspiration of the keynote leader, Rev. Katie Bonds, Peachtree Christian Church. Katie brought thoughtful questions to engage our youth and chaperones from Philippians 3:12- 14. The singing lifted up all with leadership from Stephen Westbrook.

Small groups engaged in discussing our personal struggles that separate us from each other, from God's calling and from sharing the good news of Christ.

Recreation, a dance, singing, and the beautiful weather fill in all the needed places. Our lights of Christ's love shine brightly!

We appreciate the YAC leaders - both volunteer adults and youth who planned and implemented the youth weekend.

FCCW is thankful for our own Chandler Bays who serves on YAC and Matthew Smith who attended! Watch for their leadership in worship soon to come!

We are appreciative of our church's support of our youth who help us to "break through" our struggles and show us the love as Christians! 2023 Region of Ga.

The next time we meet will be at summer camp at Camp Christian and Conference Center!



Youth Assembly teens and adults received a bright blue tee shirt with the theme: "Breakthrough: What is Holding You Back?" based on the scripture from Paul in Philippians 3: 12-14 (*¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*).



Regional Youth Assembly and adult chaperones



Youth Activities Council (YAC) teen volunteers in leadership at the Regional Youth Assembly



La Table luncheon Project for Family Promise was held February 28, 2023, at the Athens Country Club. It was organized by Patti Clark and Kelly Hansford. Mary Lillie and her friend, Cindy Haygood decorated our lovely table.

The Outreach Committee voted to donate \$150 to the event plus pay Pam's registration dinner fee of \$65.

It was a beautiful well-planned event. A cake was donated by Marsha Lee for the silent auction and a cake was also donated by Marsha Burgess' daughter Julia.

Mary Lillie Watson had a table she had reserved and paid for. All the tables were different and beautifully decorated. This was the 15th year for the Benefit, and I can't wait to hear how much was raised for Family Promise.



Huge crowd and 34 tables were set up and all decorated by the ones who purchased the table.

Results Report from Patti Clark:

Silent Cake Auction: 48 cakes brought in \$4,025!

Monies collected on site: \$17,000

Prior monies collected: \$28,000

Goal for event: \$50,000



Marry Me Chicken



¼ cup all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
2 lbs. chicken breast cutlets
2 tablespoons canola oil
1 tablespoon butter
3 cloves garlic, minced
¾ cup chicken stock
1/3 cup sun-dried tomatoes, sliced into thin strips
½ teaspoon red pepper flakes
¼ teaspoon oregano
¼ teaspoon thyme
¾ cup heavy cream, warmed
1—1 ½ cups fresh baby spinach, washed and dried
1 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese, plus more for garnish
Chopped fresh basil for garnish

Step 1: Coat the chicken.

Whisk together the flour, salt and pepper in a large, shallow dish. Dredge the chicken cutlets one at a time, coating both sides of each cutlet completely in flour.

Step 2: Cook the chicken.

Heat a large, nonstick skillet over medium-high heat and add in the oil. Add 2-3 cutlets to the pan (don't crowd them) and cook for 3-4 minutes on each side, until they are lightly browned and cooked through. Move the chicken to a plate. Continue cooking the rest of the cutlets. Hold the cooked chicken aside.

Step 3: Begin the sauce.

Reduce the heat under the skillet to medium and add the tablespoon of butter to the pan. When it's melted, add the minced garlic and sauté for 30 seconds to a minute until fragrant but not burned. Pour in the chicken stock, and stir in the sliced sun-dried tomatoes, red pepper flakes, oregano, and thyme. Simmer the mixture for a minute.

Step 4: Add cream, spinach, and cheese.

Pour the warmed heavy cream into the pan. Simmer the sauce for about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add in the baby spinach and grated Parmesan. Stir the sauce gently for another minute or so until the spinach wilts.

Step 5: Return chicken to pan.

Slide the cooked chicken cutlets into the sauce, and let them simmer for 3-4 minutes, spooning sauce over them, until they are warmed through.

Step 6: Serve

Place the chicken cutlets on plates and spoon sauce over them. Sprinkle grated Parmesan and chopped basil over the tops and serve immediately.