



The Chalice

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

706-769-5966

<http://fccwatkinsville.org>

August Calendar

Tuesday, August 1

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – A.C.T.S

Wednesday, August 2

7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, August 6

10:00 AM – Sunday School

11:00 AM – Worship – Rev. Alan Cloar

Elder: Mary Lillie Watson

Monday, August 7

6:30 PM – CMF Meal and Meeting

Wednesday, August 9

7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, August 13 – Homecoming

10:00 AM – Sunday School

11:00 AM – Worship – Rev. Alan Cloar

Elder: Cathy Moorehead

12:00 Noon – Covered Dish Meal

Monday, August 14

10:30 AM – Coffee Chat

6:30 PM – Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 16

5:30 PM – Meal Ministry

7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, August 20

10:00 AM – Sunday School

11:00 AM – Worship – Rev. Alan Cloar

Elder: Ann Smith

Wednesday, August 23

5:30 PM – Meal Ministry

7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, August 27

10:00 AM – Sunday School

11:00 AM – Worship – Rev. Alan Cloar

Elder: Rosa Hall

Monday, August 28

10:30 AM – Coffee Chat

6:30 PM – Disciple Women's Meeting

Wednesday, August 30

5:30 PM – Meal Ministry

7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

God's Holy Future

I grew up on a family farm with about 1,000 arable acres. We are currently in talks to lease that land, now owned by my father and uncle, to establish a Solar Farm. We were reminded last week that this is actually intended to be a 50 plus year investment, meaning a lease that could outlast my father, and me; until my children are my parents' age.



It is quite a risk to consider, quite a leap of faith to take. Truth be told, farming that bit of land, stewarding that pin prick of God's creation has always been everything to my dad. I know he mourns that I have walked a different path, seeking to steward a different abundance. Even so, he took me to church just like he took me out to dig in the dirt, drive tractors, chase cattle and throw hay bales, or "to farm".

We have talked about the unlikelihood of me returning to Paris, TN in the next decade or more. We have talked about my children's lives and careers, that also don't lead through Paris. He has grieved that reality always, and I grieve it a bit more with each passing year. My father remembers being there with his grandparents, and I remember being there with mine. A part of us wants things to stay the way they were then. But of course, his childhood memories and mine are very different times.

Things were never the same at AJC Farms from one year to the next. For example, my dad was born there, but grew up in Munfordville, KY, where my grandparents had "paying jobs." I was born there, but spent my preschool years in Alcoa, TN and Ocala, FL (word scramble!).

Then we moved back, and my sister was born there. I remember the first crop of alfalfa that was planted as I approached junior high, and the last alfalfa crop planted before I graduated. I was not a champion hay thrower, so that doesn't really make sense. So be it. A few years later, unbeknownst to me, sheep appeared. The first time I saw or heard about them was the first time Cheryl came to see this strange world I had grown up in. Sheep are nothing like cattle, or corn, or beans. Another time I went home to discover a new 40x100 equipment shed appear out of nowhere. First time we ever kept anything out of the weather. Now, my uncle lives in my grandparent's home. Crop land is rented out to someone who farms full time with equipment we could never have purchased. Cotton is growing again in Henry County on the Kentucky border.



I can still visit the 5-acre field with the white oak tree in the middle of it (literal heaven for my literal mind), for now. But I think everything else has changed, and as I look back, I am reminded that it has always been changing. Things were never the same at AJC Farms from one year to the next.

My dad continues to imagine the future, with both a bit of grief (sometimes more) and a lot of hope (always a lot). He continues to imagine what might be, all the while open eyed about past changes and coming changes.



Son, he asks, what do you think about Solar Farming? *I'm rather excited, as he suspects.* It is a radically new way of “farming” there. It doesn't involve tractors or hay bales or cattle or cotton. It could be a good investment. It could help heal our hurting world. It could all fall apart somewhere in the middle, leaving us with a mess despite the tightest legal promises possible.

The same is true for this holy endeavor we call church, or more specifically “FCC Watkinsville.” It has changed and evolved every



year since that first meeting back before there was a sanctuary, or a preacher, or even a name for this congregation. Every step we take is a risk. We take each step with a bit of grief (some, maybe more) and a lot of hope (always a lot). Each step we take, we remember that God walks with us today, and has since the first FCC church meeting, has since Adam and Eve were in the Garden. We remember God will walk with us always, in the familiar and the unknown. Or maybe we need to remember that WE are called to walk with GOD. We are called to steward the present. Acknowledging past changes and changes to come, even those we would not necessarily choose, we are called to continue to imagine a holy future for

FCC with God. We don't own tomorrow any more than we own today. Both belong to God. May we imagine holy futures with holy eyes. May we lay the best foundation we can imagine for God's holy future. May we steward today and tomorrow well, for God's sake, and continue stepping forward in faith.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Alan



Watkinsville
First Christian
Church

Lectionary

August 6

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

August 13

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

August 20

Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2, 29-32
Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28

August 27

Exodus 1:8—2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

Joshua will be here mid-August to assume his Minister of Music responsibilities at FCCW.



Joshua Wagner, from Alexandria, Kentucky, enjoys a versatile and collaborative musical career, having a background as a vocalist, pianist, educator, and conductor.

Joshua received the Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from Eastern Kentucky University and is pursuing a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting at the University of Georgia.

Additionally, Joshua manages a private piano and voice studio and was previously the Director of Music at Anchor Baptist Church in Richmond, Kentucky.

Members Present: Ann Smith, Rosa Hall, Pam Crawford, Roger Smith, Joan Mann, Wayne McTyre, Steve Hansford, Tommy Branch, Cathy Moorehead, Joan Taylor, Ray Watson, and Gina Hansford.

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

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

Opening Prayer: Ann Smith provided an opening prayer.

Devotion and Communion: Ann Smith provided a devotion and Communion.

Minutes: By consensus, Minutes of the May 8, 2023 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Roger Smith presented the May 31, 2023 Financial Report. By consensus, the report was approved.

Committee Reports:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Cathy Moorehead said special gifts have been prepared for Father's Day.

OUTREACH – Pam Crawford reported the Pentecost offering totaled \$473 and the 60 for 60 Camp Christian Benefit has totaled \$2,220 to date. ACTS volunteers continue to work in the closets and transporting foods from Trader Joe's. Our next host week for Family Promise is July 16 -23.

PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE – Wayne McTyre said the part for the broken stove has not yet come in. A quote of \$775 was received for pressure washing around the Church. Discussion was held regarding defibrillators for the Church and the offering of CPR classes.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE – Roger Smith presented the recommendations from the Stewardship and Finance committee's May 31, 2023 meeting.

On motion by Wayne McTyre and second by Steve Hansford, the Board unanimously approved the final pay for Rev. Sheila Hunter in the amount of \$4,735.

On motion by Gina Hansford and second by Rosa Hall the Board unanimously approved moving Memorial Funds to certain designated funds as requested and confirmed by the families.

On motion by Rosa Hall and second by Pam Crawford the Board unanimously approved allocating the \$2,500 received on May 31, 2017 for camp scholarships to the 60 for 60 Camp Christian Benefit.

On motion by Rosa Hall and second by Cathy Moorehead the Board unanimously approved the Memorial Fund Policy.

The Board also discussed the pay for an Interim Minister.

DIACONATE – Joan Mann, reporting for Michelle Greenwall, expressed appreciation for all that was done for Rev. Sheila Hunter's retirement reception.

DISCIPLE WOMEN – Joan Taylor reported the Disciple Women met on May 22nd. Their May project was to collect supplies for Camp Christian and those were taken to the camp by Ann Smith. A thank-you note was received for the \$100 donation to Relay for Life. A special cake and a monetary gift were presented to Rev. Sheila Hunter in honor of her retirement.

CMF – Steve Hansford said the CMF met on June 5th. Cindy Pritchard reported on the Keep Oconee Beautiful Program. There will not be a meeting in July.

Old Business: Rosa Hall requested information for The Chalice.

New Business: Ann Smith reported the Personnel Committee met with the candidate for Music Minister, Joshua Wagner, and all were extremely pleased. He is coming to Athens in August to pursue a Master of Music in choral conducting at UGA. The Choir has requested to meet with him prior to his hiring.

Personnel Relations Committee: The Board reviewed and discussed current personnel.

Adjournment: Chair Ann Smith delivered a Closing Prayer. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Gina L. Hansford, Board Secretary



WFCC Board Called Meeting – June 22, 2023

Members Present, Ann Smith, Rosa Hall, Pam Crawford, Roger Smith, Michelle Greenwall, Wayne McTyre, Steve Hansford, Tommy Branch, Cathy Moorehead, Joan Taylor, Mary Lillie Watson, Ray Watson, and Gina Hansford.

Call to Order: Chair Ann Smith called the meeting to order and provided an opening prayer.

Transitional Minister: On motion by Roger Smith and second by Wayne McTyre, the Board unanimously approved the hiring of Rev. Alan Cloar as full-time Transitional Minister at an annual salary of \$72,900 (including pension and 2 weeks paid vacation), beginning July 1, 2023.

Music Minister: On motion by Joan Taylor and second by Bill Hunt, the Board unanimously approved the hiring of Joshua Wagner as Music Minister at an annual salary of \$15,500, beginning August 1, 2023, pending the Choir's approval once they have met.

Adjournment: Chair Ann Smith delivered a Closing Prayer. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Gina L. Hansford, Board Secretary

Financial Report June 2023

By Kathy Reising for Gina Hansford, Treasurer

JUNE CONTRIBUTIONS	2023 YTD CONTRIBUTIONS	2023 BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS
\$7,707	\$62,210	\$82,645

JUNE EXPENSES	2023 YTD EXPENSES	2023 BUDGETED EXPENSES
\$11,495	\$81,812	\$96,312

2023 YTD CONTRIBUTIONS MINUS EXPENSES \$ -19,602

2023 CONTRIBUTIONS VS BUDGET \$ -35,463 (UNDER)

2023 EXPENSES VS BUDGET \$ -14,499 (UNDER)



YEAR TO DATE (26 SUNDAYS)

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS BUDGET	\$3,757
AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS ACTUAL	<u>\$2,393</u>
AVERAGE WEEKLY SHORTAGE PER BUDGET	\$(1364)

	JUNE 30. 2023	DEC 31, 2022	CHANGE IN ACCOUNT
GENERAL FUNDS	\$8,626	\$30,680	\$ -22,054 (72%)
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$38,280	\$47,179	\$ - 8,900 (19%)

	DEC STATEMENTS, AS OF MAR 31, 2022	DEC 31, 2022	
SAVINGS GENERAL FUNDS	\$219,206	\$204,534	\$ 14,672 6%
ENDOWMENT FUNDS	\$174,431	\$174,431	\$ 10,125 7%

ITEMS OF NOTE:

SPECIAL OFFERINGS AND DONATIONS YEAR TO DATE 06-30-23

CAMP CHRISTIAN 60 FOR 60 \$4,880 (60 FROM DEC & \$2500 CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND TRANSFERRED)

RELAY FOR LIFE – ACS \$250.

- 1) DMF – CHRISTMAS OFFERING \$612 (555 FROM DEC)
- 2) DMF – WEEK OF COMPASSION \$5754 (\$5200 FROM DEC)
- 3) DMF – EASTER OFFERING \$376
- 4) DMF – PENTECOST \$473



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

4 North Main Street
706-769-5966

P.O. Box 287

Watkinsville, GA 30677
706-769-5904 fax

July 17, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for being a valued member of First Christian Church Watkinsville. Being a valued member shows your commitment to the Lord and our local community.

An important aspect of our faith is giving and generosity. When you give, you invite abundance and blessings into your life. As you have noticed from our bulletins, giving has been below budget since the Covid pandemic. Therefore, we appeal to you to consider making increased monthly contributions to the church.

Your regular donations ensure that the church can manage its staff, spread the gospel, guide disciples and help community members in need.

Thank you for being a valued and generous member of our church.

With appreciation,

Your Stewardship and Finance Committee

Roger Smith
Jimmy Christopher
Gina Hansford
Kathy Reising
Rev. Alan Cloar

Worship Committee

Please invite friends and former members to celebrate our 126th anniversary. We will have Sunday school at 10:00 and worship at 11:00. The covered dish meal will immediately follow our worship service. Hope to see lots of people attending.

HOME COMING

First Christian Church - Watkinsville

Sunday, Aug. 13, 2023

11:00 am service - meal at 12:15

FOR THE
message of the

CROSS

IS FOOLISHNESS

to those who are
perishing, but to us

*who are
being saved*

it is the

POWER OF GOD

1 Corinthians 1:18

**Bring friends and family.
Meat provided by church,
please bring a dish to share**



A Letter to the Georgia Disciples Women

Dear Friends,

We are so excited about our upcoming retreat: Dancing in the Rain! There will be a great program, lots of time to fellowship, and plenty of free time to spend either on the pier, the beach, downtown Saint Simons, or just enjoying the beauty of Epworth by the Sea.

The Georgia Disciples Women are going strong! Whether using the Disciples Women or Christian Women's Fellowship name for your group, our Region's Women have much in common with each other. Georgia Disciples Women love to be together. We love to learn in fellowship. We love to relax in fellowship. We love to be creative in fellowship. We love to support each other, pray and do good for others, in fellowship. And we also love to have some "me" time. Our Dancing in the Rain Retreat will provide all this and more!

We are excited that we already have over 25 women registered! If you have not already done so, please register early while we still have time to add a few rooms. If you have friends who live near Epworth and they want to register for the retreat but will not be staying on the Epworth property, they can call Trice Roberts at Epworth by the Sea (912.638.8688 x 1515, troberts@epworthbythesea.org) to purchase meals so they can dine with you.

We are incorporating suggestions from the Spring Conference Surveys so, thank you to all who came and to all who completed the survey! We did have one person who mentioned wanting to help with planning but she didn't include her name or contact info, so if you offered and you haven't heard from me in the next week, please reach out to me so you can be included in our planning.

Last year's auction was amazing in selection and support and it's back by popular demand! We are often asked "what kind of items sell best?" Well, this year we have an answer for you! At the end of this letter you can check out the brief summary of what made last year's auction so successful; we raised nearly \$3500 to support GA Disciples Women! The GA Disciples Women activities rely on the auction, along with your individual gifts and those your church sends throughout the year. So, we thank you!

This year, we will again be supporting the Glynn Community Crisis Center. For more information on their needs, check out their wish list under "Service Project" on the GA Disciples website <https://www.gadisciples.org/gadisciples-women-fall-retreat-2023>.

We are still tweaking our schedule and have a couple of new items on the agenda. From your suggestions we learned some missed the traditional workshops last year, and others really liked the discussion groups that further explored the messages of the retreat theme. So, this year, we will have a little of both! We are also adding a "focus group" discussion for those of you who would love to share your thoughts on "what's next for Disciples Women" and help to shape our future events and goals.

We are immensely excited about our Keynote Speaker, Reverend Heather Webb and our returning musician, Reverend Ann Edmondson! Together they will bring a message that is sure to touch your hearts, encourage you, and delight you.

We are very excited to share that this year's Saturday recreation time includes music and line dancing! We may toss in a dance or two of folk dances and you can enjoy as much or as little as you like by participating or cheering (and laughing) from the sideline. Who knows? There might be a prize tucked into the fun!

Remember, if you have friends from other churches who would like to join us, invite them!

Grace and Peace,

Lainie Jenkins

Rev. Lainie Jenkins, Interim Director of Women's Ministries

Georgia Disciples Women Commission

Sharon Cline, Dottie Gill, Carol Steiner, Dolores Trimiew, Rita Youngblood

Disciple Women's Service Projects for July

The July project is to collect bath towels, hand towels and wash cloths for A.C.T.S. These can be new or "in-good condition" used ones. Monetary donations can be made to FCCW Disciple Women to purchase towels and put in the offering plate on Sunday or in the DW mailbox in the Choir Room. Your support of this project is appreciated.



A huge thank you goes to all the ladies that met and cleaned out closets. Many hands do indeed make light work. All the white tablecloths are cleaned and put into the DW box in the closet. If you need to use the tablecloths, please ask Joan Taylor-DW President.

Property Report

The front doors were refinished. Sean Mayes of Academy Lock and Key provided this service to our church.



The oven knob on the gas range has been repaired at the cost of \$350. To use the range, all the nob's must be pressed inward and then turned. If you need a tutorial on how to use the range, Wayne McTyre will be happy to help you.

60 Celebrating years

We are excited that 2023 will be the 60th 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.

OF CAMP



CAMP CHRISTIAN

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

Would you Consider a one-time gift, a gift each month January 2023- August 2023 (8 months) or your own choice?

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



*Celebration will
be in Sept. 2023*

Donate:

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

60 nickels (\$.05)= \$3.00

60 dimes (\$.10)= \$6.00

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

60 dollars (\$1.00)= \$60.00

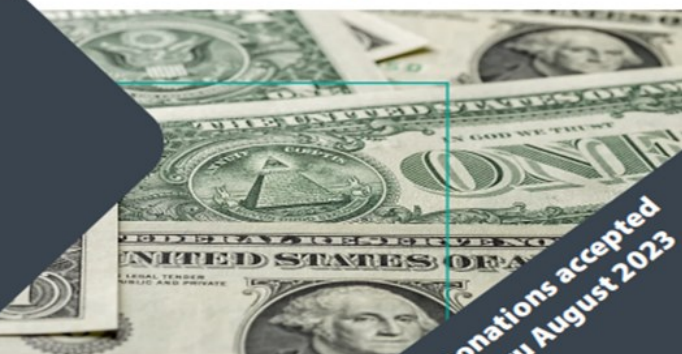
60 Five dollars (\$5.00)= (\$300.00)

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



**Donations accepted
thru August 2023**

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

✉ If you have questions, contact Pam and Marilyn at campoffice@gadisciples.org
Please make checks to CCin Ga and memo line(60 for 60-Camp)

I will support the Fundraising Campaign, "Celebrating 60 Years of Camp"

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Email/phone number _____

A one-Time gift of _____ or I will give monthly for 8 months(beginning January 2023- August 2023) in the amount of _____ to total _____.

Other _____

Outreach Report

The Outreach Committee met on July 12th and was pleased to have Rev Alan join us!

We discussed the Camp Christian 60 for 60 Fundraiser and are pleased with donations of almost \$5000! Our goal for our church is \$6000 and we have until the end of August!

Plans were made for providing a meal and snacks for Family Promise and delivering and for providing a host for overnight one evening! Volunteers stepped up from committee to fill these needs!



**American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**

We had a nice thank you note from American Foundation for Suicide Prevention for our donation of \$1060 earlier this year! We will get in touch with this organization to see what other needs they have! Rev. Alan's wife is very involved with this!

ACTS still has needs and at this time they would be anything you use in your kitchen! Also, sheets, bedspreads, comforters, and blankets. Home decor items are welcomed too!

We also plan to make up a basket for the homeless consisting of personal care items and wash cloths to keep at church!



Change for Change will be July 30th with proceeds to go to Food for Kids.

Pam Crawford
Outreach Chair

Pulpit Committee

The Pulpit Committee is waiting for information from the Regional Office to begin their important work. For a list of their duties, please refer to pages 22-23 in our Church's Constitution.

The committee members are Bob Bargfrede, Tracy Henson, Leroy Moorehead, Kelly Tyre, Mary Lillie Watson.

A huge thank you goes to these members willing to serve on this important committee.