



# The Chalice

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

706-769-5966

<http://fccwatkinsville.org>

## What Is Our Guide?

Mark 1:21-28 (last Sunday of January), and Mark 1:29-39 (coming soon) are both miraculous healing stories from the beginning of Jesus' ministry. They are exciting, disorienting, even mind blowing. It is hard not to completely lose your mooring.

For some reason, I remember those years when our kids played community sports.

- There is the season I got roped into coaching a team, even though I knew I was not well suited to the task. I was right.
- I remember those other seasons of sitting in “the stands,” encouraging our children and our team.
- I remember the confused faces of the players when their parents’ instructions contradicted those of the coach. It would cause distraction and disrupt the team, at least a little. The kids would eventually respond to the coach. We are a team, and the coach is our guide. The kids got it, at least eventually.

It’s not a bad analogy for our relationship to Jesus. It’s not a bad analogy for our relationship to the church. But there is more to “coaching,” more to “learning the game,” than any one particular moment or play.

Coaching includes things like teaching and reinforcing the rules, developing a style or philosophy of game play that fits the skills and personality of the team, and setting priorities that extend beyond a single game or practice. Are we here to develop our skills? To have fun? To learn teamwork? To win? Well, all of them, but what is our overarching, guiding priority for gathering and playing together?

In theology, we call that overarching, guiding priority(s) a hermeneutic. I often find myself reaching in my back pocket for a hermeneutic in exciting moments like the one in today's scripture. That hermeneutic will help me keep my head in the game in those moments of excitement or distraction, whether positive or negative. You have heard my hermeneutic more than once. *Our God is a God of infinite love, healing grace and radical hospitality. That is the kind of people are called to be in God's world.*

Take a moment this week and think about your own hermeneutic.

Personally, what does it mean to be a Christian? What kind of person does your faith call you to be?

As a congregation, what does it mean to be Christian? What kind of community are we called to be? Regularly reflecting on these questions, will help us recognize and respond to the authority of Jesus, in moments exciting and mundane alike.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Alan

Rev. Alan Cloar  
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## February Calendar

### Thursday, February 1

5:00 PM – Pilot Club  
(Fellowship Hall)  
6:30 PM – Pam Crawford –  
A.C.T.S.

### Sunday, February 4

Sunday School – 10:00 am  
Worship – 11:00 am  
Elder: Cathy Moorehead

### Monday, February 5

10:30 am – Coffee Chat  
6:30 pm – CMF Meal &  
Mtg.

### Tuesday, February 6

9:00 am – 1:00 pm – A.C.T.S./  
Volunteers

### Wednesday, February 7

5:30 pm – Meal Ministry  
7:00 pm – Choir

### Sunday, February 11

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

### Monday, February 12

6:30 pm – Board Meeting

### Tuesday, February 13

5:00 pm – Fat Tuesday Pan  
cake Supper  
6:00 pm -- BINGO

### Wednesday, February 14

7:00 pm – Ash Wednesday  
Service

### Sunday, February 18

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

### Monday, February 19

10:30 am – Coffee Chat

### Wednesday, February 21

5:30 pm – Meal Ministry  
7:00 pm – Choir

### Sunday, February 25


10:00 am – Sunday School  
11:00 am – Worship  
Special Offering  
Elder: Bill Hunt

### Monday, February 26

6:30 pm Disciple Women

### Wednesday, February 28

5:30 pm – Meal Ministry  
7:00 pm - Choir



February 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|        |        |         |           | 1        | 2      | 3        |
| 4      | 5      | 6       | 7         | 8        | 9      | 10       |
| 11     | 12     | 13      | 14        | 15       | 16     | 17       |
| 18     | 19     | 20      | 21        | 22       | 23     | 24       |
| 25     | 26     | 27      | 28        | 29       |        |          |

## Christmas 2023



Blue Christmas Service

Cantata with UGA students in the choir and the string quartet



Sunday School Party at the Bakers'



Miss Grace's annual photo with the Chrismon Tree.



## Outreach Report

The Outreach committee had their first meeting on Jan. 26, 2024, Present were: Barbara Powell, Rosa Hall, Pam Crawford, Joan Mann and Becky Murray.

The agenda included subjects of interest including Change for Change, where it was decided our donations, this year would once again go to Suicide Prevention.

We also discussed the Pancake Supper, deliciously planned for Tuesday, Feb. 13th. New this year we will also have Bingo. So, plan for a fun few hour of yumminess and B I N G O! Festivities will begin at 5:00 pm

The Family Promise luncheon will be held on Feb. 6th; planning to attend are Mary Lilly Watson, Rosa Hall, Pam Crawford and Barbara Powell. We will find out more at that time about our involvement with this organization for 2024.

We also discussed needing volunteers to help serve meals at the UGA Presbyterian Center. The date is not set yet.

We will be collecting cooking oil for ACTS during February.  
The meeting was adjourned.

Barbara Powell, Chair

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## Worship Report

There will be an Ash Wednesday service on February 14 at 7:00 pm.

Palms will be ordered in February and Hydrangeas will be ordered in March for our special services. Flyers will be placed in the bulletin for the congregation to purchase hydrangeas in memory or in honor of a special person.

There will be a Maundy Thursday service as well as an Easter Sunrise service. Brass players will be hired for the Easter worship service.

Mary Lillie Watson, Chair

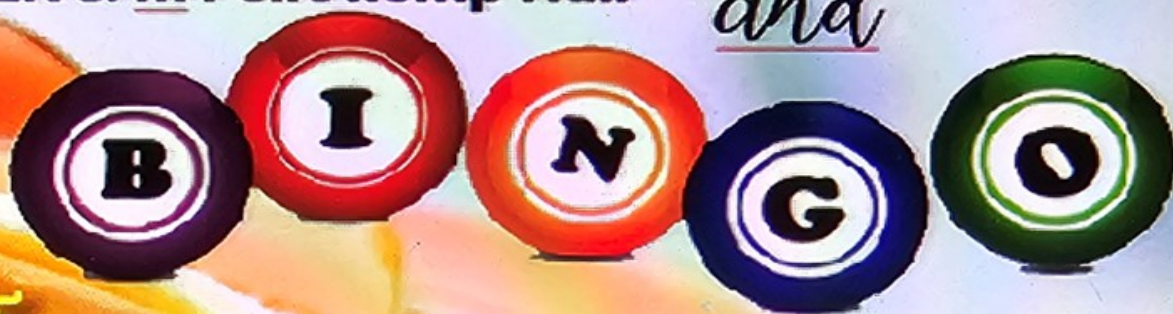




# FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Live! in Fellowship Hall

*and*



Tuesday, Feb. 13

5:00 pm Pancakes

6:00 pm Bingo

No need to worry about dinner on that night.

Come share hot-off-the-griddle pancakes,  
maple syrup, bacon, sausage and beverages  
with your church family.

**Bring your favorite  
pancake topping to  
share!**

**ALSO bring a BINGO gift  
and get a bingo card.**

**1 gift, 1 card -**

**2 gifts, 2 cards etc.**

Winners will shop at the FCCW Pantry Mart

**We will also have a few BONUS games too!**

## **Disciple Women 2024**

Pam Crawford, President  
Rosa Hall, Secretary  
Cathy Moorehead, Treasurer  
Cathy Milligan, Sunshine Chair

### **New Year, New Ideas, New Members attending, New Projects**

It's always the Monday night after the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in a month! Come join us and enjoy the sisterhood. Watch for meeting dates in the bulletin!

Ten members were present for the January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, and it was a good meeting. So glad to have Barbara Powell, Becky Murray, and Kelly Tyre attending.

Plus, this year includes increasing our presence in the church, increasing membership, including some members who cannot attend our meetings any longer, having fun and fellowship together, doing monthly projects, helping those in need and much more.

Members voted to purchase a bassinet for Carrie Norris. Carrie is expecting a baby girl in mid-March. The group also voted to have a Fundraiser on March 10<sup>th</sup>. It will be a Chili Supper and Silent Auction. Fun night with special plans for all the proceeds.

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### **New Blessings for our Church Family**

Blessings to Andy Kate and Mitchell Hawk on the birth of their son, Flynt Cochran, born January 26th, weighing 6 lbs. 15 oz., 19 1/2 inches long. Proud great-grandparents are Melba and Leo Baker.

Blessings to Rachel and Braden Goodgame on the birth of their daughter, Emerson Claire, born January 24th, weighing 8 lbs. 2 oz. and 21 inches long. Proud grandparents are Michele and Bruce Greenwall.





## ACTS Report

Our church is down to work on February 6 from 8:45-1:15, or whatever time you can spare. You would be stocking shelves with canned goods, preparing grocery buggies for bags of food for clients and helping clients to their car to unload groceries.

Donations to our Clothing Closet can be anything from a good used pair of work boots to a beautiful evening gown or very dressy outfit! When the dressy items come in, they are put in a back corner of our storage room and once or twice a year they are taken to Dover Grace in downtown Watkinsville and donated.

The owner, Frances Gibson, has a big heart and many of these items are given for FREE to kids at ESP for the Big Hearts Pageant and for the dressy outfits to their moms! There were approximately 35 items.



Closet Coordinator, Pam Crawford, will be looking for her replacement in closet to attend board meetings and do the work of their position. Donations are really needed for kitchen items, blankets, bedspreads and currently NO clothing items are needed.

In 2023—91 new families were added, and some removed due to death or relocation. ACTS serves over 200 Oconee County families currently. In 2023 the total families served was 1804 and total family members served was 5630!

A Huge thank you to each board member for leadership to keep this facility going with all volunteers to do this work.

ACTS has one man that is a paid employee, and he cleans the facility each week. Thank you, Gary Whitehead.

# Financial Report December 2023

By Kathy Reising for Gina Hansford, Treasurer

|                        |                        |                             |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| DECEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS | 2023 YTD CONTRIBUTIONS | 2023 BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS |
| \$14,633               | \$140,656              | \$195,355                   |

|                   |                   |                        |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| DECEMBER EXPENSES | 2023 YTD EXPENSES | 2023 BUDGETED EXPENSES |
| \$16,199          | \$178,123         | \$195,355              |

2023 YTD CONTRIBUTIONS MINUS EXPENSES \$ -37,467

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2023 CONTRIBUTIONS VS BUDGET | \$ -54,699 (UNDER) |
| 2023 EXPENSES VS BUDGET      | \$ -17,231 (UNDER) |



## YEAR TO DATE (52 SUNDAYS)

|                                     |                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS BUDGET         | \$3,757        |
| AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS ACTUAL | <u>\$2,705</u> |
| AVERAGE WEEKLY SHORTAGE PER BUDGET  | \$(1,052)      |

|                       | DEC 31, 2023 | DEC 31, 2022 | CHANGE IN ACCOUNT  |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
| GENERAL FUNDS         | \$42,777     | \$30,680     | \$ 12,098 (39%)    |
| DESIGNATED FUNDS      | \$34,412     | \$47,179     | \$ - 12,767 (-27%) |
| STATEMENTS, AS OF     | DEC 31, 2023 | DEC 31, 2022 |                    |
| SAVINGS GENERAL FUNDS | \$203,861    | \$204,534    | \$ -673 0%         |
| ENDOWMENT FUNDS       | \$207,105    | \$174,431    | \$ 32,674 19%      |

## ITEMS OF NOTE:

### SPECIAL OFFERINGS AND DONATIONS YEAR TO DATE 12-31-23

CAMP CHRISTIAN 60 FOR 60 \$5,578 (60 FROM DEC & \$2500 CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND TRANSFERRED)

RELAY FOR LIFE – ACS \$250.

- 1) DMF – CHRISTMAS OFFERING \$360
- 2) DMF – WEEK OF COMPASSION \$5754 (\$5200 FROM DEC)
- 3) DMF – EASTER OFFERING \$376
- 4) DMF – PENTECOST \$493