



The Chalice

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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<http://fccwatkinsville.org>

I fell in love with Madeleine L'Engle decades ago, reading "A Wrinkle In Time." I have always known she was a person of devout faith as well as spectacular imagination. I was not aware that her books were banned by some Christian traditions and congregations because of her belief in universal salvation, saying, "I cannot believe that God wants punishment to go on interminably any more than does a loving parent. The entire purpose of loving punishment is to teach, and it lasts only as long as is needed for the lesson. And the lesson is always love." I tend to agree with her.



I found the following poem excerpt on the Salt Project website. It speaks eloquently and viscerally to our need to embrace God's love and forgiveness of us, as well as God's love and forgiveness of those around us. That can be hard to remember, and sometimes even harder to articulate.

May this excerpt remind us of the need to embrace our brothers and sisters whose "sin" is all too clear to us. May we also be reminded to embrace our brothers and sisters we simply don't understand. May we be reminded of God's full, hardy embrace of us, warts and all. Rather than worry or fear, may we feel relief and joy in response.

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From "Lines Scribbled on an Envelope"

There is too much pain
I cannot understand
I cannot pray...
Here I am
and the ugly man with beery breath beside me reminds
me that it is not my prayers that waken your
concern, my Lord;
my prayers, my intercessions are not to ask for your love
for all your lost and lonely ones,
your sick and sinning souls,
but mine, my love, my acceptance of your love.
Your love for the woman sticking her umbrella and her
expensive
parcels into my ribs and snarling, "Why don't you watch
where you're going?"
Your love for the long-haired, gum-chewing boy who
shoves the old lady aside to grab a seat,
Your love for me, too, too tired to look with love,
too tired to look at Love, at you, in every person on the
bus.
Expand my love, Lord, so I can help to bear the pain,
help your love move my love into the tired prostitute with
false eyelashes and bunioned feet,
the corrupt policeman with his hand open for graft,
the addict, the derelict, the woman in the mink coat and
discontented mouth,
the high school girl with heavy books and frightened eyes.
Help me through these scandalous particulars
to understand
your love.
Help me to pray.
 Madeleine L'Engle

Homecoming August 11th

EVERGROWING VINES

10:00 Sunday School
10:30 Front Porch Welcome
11:00 Sanctuary Worship
12:00 Potluck Dinner



**Rev. Haley Lerner Preaching
The Table Campus Ministry**

Bring a favorite dish!

**As we Celebrate First Christian Church
and our Campus Ministry at UGA**

**One of our church's
EVERGROWING VINES**



First Christian Church
Watkinsville, Georgia

August 2024 Calendar

Sunday, August 11 - Homecoming

10:00 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Front Porch Welcome
11:00 am – Worship – Rev. Haley Lerner
Elder: Ann Smith
12:00 noon – Potluck Dinner

Monday, August 12

6:30 pm – Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 14

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

Sunday, August 18

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

Monday, August 19th

10:30 am – Coffee Chat

Wednesday, August 21

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

OCAF will be using the fellowship hall
August 21st – 23rd

Sunday, August 25

10:30 am – Sunday School
11:00 am – Worship
Elder: Cathy Moorehead

Monday, August 26

6:30 pm – Disciple Women's Meeting

Wednesday, August 28

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

Outreach Report

I wanted to send out a special thank you to Joan Mann, Joan Taylor, Linda Culp, Connie Wheeler and everyone else who helped and participated in the Bingo Night. Their help was greatly appreciated.

ALSO, Meal Ministry started back August 7th with spaghetti, salad, and pie.

Barbara



Financial Report July 2024

By Kathy Reising for Gina Hansford, Treasurer

JULY CONTRIBUTIONS	2024 YTD CONTRIBUTIONS	2024 BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS
\$8,482	\$84,076	\$112,002
JULY EXPENSES	2024 YTD EXPENSES	2024 BUDGETED EXPENSES
\$13,816	\$96,742	\$108,933

2024 YTD CONTRIBUTIONS MINUS EXPENSES \$ -12,667

2024 CONTRIBUTIONS VS BUDGET \$ -34,326 (UNDER) EXCLUDES CMF

2024 EXPENSES VS BUDGET \$ -12,191 (UNDER)



YEAR TO DATE (30 SUNDAYS)

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS BUDGET	\$3,733
AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS ACTUAL	<u>\$2,803</u>
AVERAGE WEEKLY SHORTAGE PER BUDGET	\$(930)

	JULY 31, 2024	DEC 31, 2023	CHANGE IN ACCOUNT
GENERAL FUNDS	\$34,546	\$42,796	\$ -8,250 (-19%)
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$32,821	\$34,412	\$ -1,591 (-5%)
STATEMENTS, AS OF	JUNE 30, 2024	DEC 31, 2023	
SAVINGS GENERAL FUNDS	\$230,664	\$203,861	\$26,803 13%
ENDOWMENT FUNDS	\$229,208	\$207,105	\$22,103 11%

ITEMS OF NOTE:

SPECIAL OFFERINGS AND DONATIONS YEAR TO DATE 7-31-24

CAMP CHRISTIAN 60 FOR 60

FAMILY PROMISE	\$375.00
1) DMF – CHRISTMAS OFFERING	
2) DMF – WEEK OF COMPASSION	\$542.50
3) DMF – EASTER OFFERING	\$305.00
4) DMF – PENTECOST	\$225.00
5) DMF – RECONCILIATION	
6) DMF – THANKSGIVING	
7) CHANGE FOR CHANGE	\$120