

The Christian Visitor March 2021



We are called to share our Christian Faith and Christ's Love with all people.

Our Life Together in March

Food Pantry March 26th & 27th



First Christian Church is scheduled to provide volunteers at the food pantry on March 26th & 27th. Volunteers are needed Friday night for setup beginning at 6:30pm and Saturday morning for distribution from 8:30-10:30am.

Worship Leaders

We will be returning to using worship leaders over the next few weeks. Currently, worship leaders are needed for April 11th, 18th, and 25th. A sign up sheet is available online or by contacting the church office.

Easter Flowers



Easter flowers to be shared in memory or honor of loved ones or a special occasion for display on Easter Sunday may be ordered through the church. Specific details and deadline will be available soon.

Looking Ahead to Easter



Sunday, March 28th Palm Sunday
Sunday Morning worship at 10:15am

Friday, April 2nd Good Friday
Church Office Closed

Sunday, April 4th Easter Sunday
Easter morning breakfast and egg hunt
Easter Service at 10:15am



Small Groups

Bi-Weekly Fellowship Study

This small group meets every other Thursday at 6:00pm at Pastor Mat's house. Meeting dates for this month: March 11th & 25th

DWM

The Disciple Women's Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month. These brief gatherings provide a casual atmosphere for the women in the church to study and encourage each other in faith and family. Next meeting: March 16th at 7:00pm at the church.

Seekers

The Seekers Adult Sunday School class meets the first and third Sunday of each month at 9:15am. Meeting dates for this month: March 7th & 21st

Hustlers

Hustlers Group meets on the fourth Sunday of each month. Meeting date for this month: March 28th

Church Board

The Church Board will meet on Tuesday, March 9th at 6:30 pm at the church.

If you have any items to add to the agenda, please notify the church office.

Elders Meeting

The Elders will meet on Sunday, March 21st immediately following worship.

More in the Life and Witness of the First Christian Church

Lenten Devotional March 3, 2021

SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 3:6-18

6 The LORD said to me in the days of King Josiah: Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and played the whore there? 7 And I thought, "After she has done all this she will return to me"; but she did not return, and her false sister Judah saw it. 8 She saw that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I had sent her away with a decree of divorce; yet her false sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore. 9 Because she took her whoredom so lightly, she polluted the land, committing adultery with stone and tree. 10 Yet for all this her false sister Judah did not return to me with her whole heart, but only in pretense, says the LORD. 11 Then the LORD said to me: Faithless Israel has shown herself less guilty than false Judah. 12 Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say: Return, faithless Israel, says the LORD. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, says the LORD; I will not be angry for ever. 13 Only acknowledge your guilt, that you have rebelled against the LORD your God, and scattered your favors among strangers under every green tree, and have not obeyed my voice, says the LORD. 14 Return, O faithless children, says the LORD, for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. 15 I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. 16 And when you have multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, says the LORD, they shall no longer say, "The ark of the covenant of the LORD." It shall not come to mind, or be remembered, or missed; nor shall another one be made. 17 At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the LORD, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they shall no longer stubbornly follow their own evil will. 18 In those days the house of Judah shall join the house of Israel, and together they shall come from the land of the north to the land that I gave your ancestors for a heritage.

DEVOTIONAL

We live in a world that encourages us to be independent, self-reliant. With an attitude of entitlement, we work hard to pursue the world's view of happiness to meet our fleshly desires. No matter how hard we try, failure is inevitable, and disappointment follows. We question God when things don't turn out favorably for us. We even question God's existence, or we live wearing a mask pretending who we are not.

God knows our imperfection. God knows us more than we know ourselves. We are "faithless Israel . . . false Judah." We are sinners, but God still loves us unconditionally. God is calling us "return" to him no matter what. The desire of God's heart is to care for us, even though we are sinners, as long we truly repent. If we do so, his promise will be delivered as he has said: "I will give you shepherds after my own heart." In Isaiah 40 God says to his people, "I will save you. I have called you by name—you are mine"—a promise that today also holds true for us..

PRAYER

God of love, God of mercy, you know our weaknesses and our sinful nature more than we know ourselves. We run after our heart's desire instead of being obedient and following your will. We live our lives for this world and not for you. We ask you for your forgiveness. Thank you for your unfailing love. We pray that our souls will always be on fire as we run after your heart. In the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Throughout Lent, daily devotionals from Pastor Mat are emailed to our daily study email group and posted to our church FACEBOOK each day. If you would like to be added to this email list, please contact Pastor Mat or the office at (217) 784-5460

Office Hours:
 Mon—Fri: 9:00 am—1:00 pm
 Church Phone: 217-784-5460
 gcfcdoc@yahoo.com
 fcdocgc.com

March 2021

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 6:00 PM Rise Youth Group	4	5	6
7 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 5:00 PM High School Ministry		8	9 6:30 PM Church Board	10 6:00 PM Rise Youth Group	11 6:00 PM Fellowship Study	12	13
14 10:15 AM Worship 5:00 PM High School Ministry		15	16 7:00 PM DWM	17 6:00 PM Rise Youth Group	18	19	20
21 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 AM Elders Meeting 5:00 PM High School Ministry		22	23	24 6:00 PM Rise Youth Group	25 6:00 PM Fellowship Study	26	27 8:00 AM Food Pantry
28 Palm Sunday 10:15 AM Worship 5:00 PM High School Ministry 7:00 PM Hustlers		29	30	31 6:00 PM Rise Youth Group			

**LOCAL
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
March 2021**

- 4 Dennis Jordan
Mike Finis
John and Nancy Westfall '12
- 5 Irene Schaefer
- 7 Karen Long
- 9 Rick Rinehart
- 10 Nan Clements
Devin Back
- 11 John Westfall
- 14 Jacob Mott
- 15 Melanie Warfield
- 18 Pat Provin
Eleanor Baize
- 21 Will Provin
- 23 Eric Tjarks
- 29 Ida Wahls



High School Ministry

Our High School Ministry meets each Sunday at 5:00pm in the youth room with prepackaged snacks and social distancing.



Rise Youth Group



Our Rise Middle School Youth Group meets each Wednesday at 6:00pm in the youth room with prepackaged snacks and a short lesson.

Sunday School

Sunday school classes for K-8 and adults are available on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:15am. This month's meeting dates are March 7th & 21st.



Pastor - Mat Bowen
Administrative Assistant - Jennifer Hagan
Choir Director - Tim Ricks
Church Pianist - Joan Ricks
Custodians - Jeff and Cheryl Elder

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship Service
Church Phone 784-5460
Email address: gefcdoc@yahoo.com
Website: fcdocgc.com

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED