

THE MESSENGER

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge, LA

VOL. 88

MAY 2026

NO. 5



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OUTREACH

JUDY LESTER, CHAIR



MAY

May your blessings be enough to share!

SOUTHEAST MINISTRIES



Our "pantry focus items" for May are: cereal, peanut butter and jelly, cornbread mix, canned meat. Please place donated food items in the shopping cart (located either in the narthex or chancel area). Food items delivered to SEM last month totaled 178 items. Thank You!!

A great big "thank you" to all our HEROES who helped save lives by giving blood!



IRIS HOUSE (Domestic Violence Center) BLOOD DRIVE

Iris House saves lives through comprehensive support, prevention and education services for women and families in a safe, family centered environment. We will be collecting laundry and personal hygiene products for residents during the month of May. This drive will culminate on May 24th at our Pentecost Fellowship Luncheon.

DISASTER RESPONSE WORK TRIP

A group of FCCBR volunteers will be joining others from the Great River Region to help with tornado recovery work in Rolling Fork, MS the week of May 31st-June 5th. There will be a logistical meeting on **Sunday, May 17th** immediately after worship for those going on the trip. The Missionaries will be blessed and commissioned on Sunday, May 31st and departing afterwards. We are asking the congregation to pray for the safety of all those participating, for the successful achievement of the work goals, and for the guidance and presence of the Holy Spirit during this endeavor. Keep an eye out for our trip photos!

SCHOOL TOOLS

Wjft? School is not even out for summer yet!

We're not trying to infringe upon your summer vacation, but we will begin collecting school supplies for children in need starting with the help of our VBS kids (6/29-7/3), and continuing through the month of July. We will publish our school supplies list in next month's newsletter.

CHURCH GROWTH

DR. CAROL MADERE, CHAIR

PENTECOST INFORMATION

"The Spirit is here. The Spirit is with us". This is a traditional Pentecost greeting in Protestant churches. Let's use it when we greet church family and friends on Pentecost Bring-A-Friend Sunday on May 24th.

Remember to wear **RED** and bring a friend to enjoy a spirited service, a fellowship luncheon, and birthday cake. It is, after all, the birthday of the church!

Here are some low pressure ways to invite people to church:

1. The "I thought of you" invitation -- "We're doing something in church this Sunday that made me think of you -- would you like to come sit with me?"
2. The "Let's make a morning of it" invitation -- "I'm grabbing coffee at 8:30 and heading to church afterward. Want to join me for both?"
3. The "Would you help with something?" Invitation -- "We're doing something creative/meaningful this week, and I'd love your feedback on it."

Inviting someone to church works best when it feels like an extension of genuine friendship, rather than a sales pitch. Just make a connection. Open the door to a community of care.



UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

The Youth Group will meet for its final gathering, (before summer break) after church on Sunday, May 3rd. The kids are going to Highland Road Park for a picnic and splash pad fun, so be sure to send them with sunscreen, a towel, and dry clothes.

All kids of the church are welcome.



DISCIPLES HISTORY CLASS

The Education Committee would like to thank Rev. Stephen Sanders for the fascinating lectures he has been offering on the history of the Disciples of Christ. If you missed it, you can find the lectures in the Disciples History playlist on our YouTube channel.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

SHERRY McINNIS, CHAIR

PENTECOST LUNCHEON Bring a Friend

Another day of fabulous fellowship, fun, and food plus a birthday cake which will be served for dessert marking the beginning of the church is on the horizon. Please mark your calendar for this fellowship luncheon scheduled on **Sunday, May 24th**, following the worship service at 11:00 am, for a celebration of Pentecost and Bring a Friend Sunday.

Everyone is asked to bring an entree and / or side dish for the luncheon. Bread and beverages will be provided by the church.

Please call or text Sherry McInnis, Hospitality Chair at (225)367-7815 with any questions.



THANK YOU NOTE

April 17, 2026

Dear FCC Family,

Thank y'all so much for your outpouring of prayers on my behalf. I'm doing much better and expect to be all better in a few weeks. It's a wonderful feeling to be a part of such a loving church family.

With love and gratitude, Mary Thompson Miss y'all!



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

KIM LAX, CHAIR



- JESUS WAS BURIED IN A TOMB OWNED BY JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA.
- THE TOMB WAS SEALED WITH A LARGE STONE TO PREVENT TAMPERING.

- On the third day, women discovered the tomb was empty.

- Angels announced Jesus' resurrection to the women at the tomb.
- The empty tomb is a central symbol of Christian faith and hope.
- The resurrection is celebrated on Easter Sunday, affirming life after death.



A big thank you to everyone that decorated the Easter cross.

The cross was beautiful!

The flowers, from the cross, were converted into the wreaths hanging on the Sanctuary doors.



I would like to say a **BIG Thank You** to the folks that spent their Saturday helping me organize the craft room:

Joann Taliaferro, Cathi Pourciau, Sherry McInnis, Charles Riddle, Greg Taliaferro, Amy Taliaferro, Tony Babin, and Jeffrey Judice. /kim

PRAYER LIST

The following people represent some of the current concerns at First Christian Church. If you would like to have a name added, update a current prayer request, or remove someone from the prayer list, please fill out the prayer request section of our online check-in page, or contact us at churchoffice@fccbrla.org, or 225-926-4175. Names generally rotate off after 30 days.

MEMBERS IN OUR PRAYERS:

Judy Albin, JP Averette, Ann Baskin, Dora Blackburn, Jody Chrisope, Rev. Tom & Lucy Cody, Martha Denova, Frank Dickinson, Family of George Gullett, Jerry Hilgendorf, Ruth Horn, Rev. Frank & Jane Johnson, Marie Ladner, BJ McRae, Helen Mitchener, Jerry Moses, Helen Rankin, Kelly & Gladys Runnels, Linda Sanders, Mary Thompson

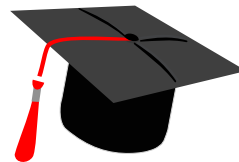
FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF MEMBERS IN OUR PRAYERS:

Elaine Altazan, Gerald & Annette Bowers, Marie Cannatella, Tre' Comeaux, Carl & Patty Hubeny, Dave Hughes, Christy Paola, Ruth Payne, Randall Priestler, Debbie Riddle, Sandy Scallan, Steve Scallan, Doris Swisher

CONGRATLATIONS GRADUATES!!

Recognition of the graduates will be Sunday, May 3rd.

Congratulations to:



Nicolas Morgan

Graduating from:
St. Michael High School
Attending:
University of Louisiana
in Lafayette



Logan Robertson

Graduating from:
Hammond High
Magnet School
Attending:
Southeastern
Louisiana University

WE WANT TO CELEBRATE YOU!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Pam Comeaux	1st
Amy Taliaferro	3rd
Ollie Morgan	4th
James Morgan	5th
Aaron Turnipseed	5th
Claire Sanders	9th
Daniel Dickey	10th
Scott Pitre	12th
Alicia Cotten	15th
Tony Babin	17th
James Krupala	20th
Dak McInnis	20th
Marie Ladner	29th
Tony Fatta	30th
Nathan Tipton	30th
Ron Blackburn	31st
Anderson Krupala	31st



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Trey & Brandi Earle	4th
Doug & Tracy Shaffer	15th
Ron & Dora Blackburn	24th



BIBLE TRIVIA

Easy: What did Jacob give Joseph that sparked jealousy from this siblings?
Medium: What was most likely the first of Paul's letters written?
Hard: True or False: Jesus said his true family was anyone who obeys God.

(Answers on page 10)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 3rd	10:00 am	Graduates Recognition
Sunday, May 3rd	11:00 am	Prayer Circle (Library)
Sunday, May 3rd	11:00 am	Youth Picnic at Highland Road Park
Tuesday, May 5th	6:30 pm	Board Meeting (Youth Building)
Sunday, May 17th	11:00 am	Mission Trip Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Thursday, May 21st	9:30 am	Disciples Women (Youth Building)
Thursday, May 21st	6:00 pm	Sisters in Christ (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, May 24th		Pentecost Sunday/Bring a Friend/Luncheon
Sunday, June 7th	11:00 am	VBS Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
		Chancel Choir meets on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm;
		Silver Angels meet on Thursdays at 9:30 am

Rehearsal Dates (The Belly of the Whale) Sunday, May 3rd - after church
Saturday, May 16th - TBD Sunday, May 17th - Performance

LECTIONARY READINGS: May 1 - 30, 2026

Friday, May 01, 2026: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Exodus 3:1-12; Acts 7:1-16;
Saturday, May 02, 2026: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Jeremiah 26:20-24; John 8:48-59;
Sunday, May 03, 2026: Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Monday, May 04, 2026: Psalm 102:1-17; Exodus 13:17-22; Acts 7:17-40;
Tuesday, May 05, 2026: Psalm 102:1-17; Proverbs 3:5-12; Acts 7:44-56;
Wednesday, May 06, 2026: Psalm 102:1-17; Proverbs 3:13-18; John 8:31-38;
Thursday, May 07, 2026: Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 6:5-22; Acts 27:1-12;
Friday, May 08, 2026: Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 7:1-24; Acts 27:13-38;
Saturday, May 09, 2026: Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 8:13-19; John 14:27-29;
Sunday, May 10, 2026: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20
Monday, May 11, 2026: Psalm 93; Genesis 9:8-17; Acts 27:39-44;
Tuesday, May 12, 2026: Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 5:22-33; 1 Peter 3:8-12;
Wednesday, May 13, 2026: Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 31:1-13; John 16:16-24;
Thursday, May 14, 2026: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47
Friday, May 15, 2026: Psalm 93; 2 Kings 2:1-12; Ephesians 2:1-7;
Saturday, May 16, 2026: Psalm 93; 2 Kings 2:13-15; John 8:21-30;
Sunday, May 17, 2026: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10; 32-35
Monday, May 18, 2026: Psalm 99; Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24; 1 Peter 4:1-6;
Tuesday, May 19, 2026: Psalm 99; Numbers 16:41-50; 1 Peter 4:7-11;
Wednesday, May 20, 2026: Psalm 99; 1 Kings 8:54-65; John 3:31-36;
Thursday, May 21, 2026: Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 19:1-9a; Acts 2:1-11;
Friday, May 22, 2026: Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 19:16-25; Romans 8:14-17;
Saturday, May 23, 2026: Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 20:1-21; Matthew 5:1-12;
Sunday, May 24, 2026: Acts 2:1-21; Numbers 11:24-30
Monday, May 25, 2026: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Joel 2:18-29; Romans 8:18-24;
Tuesday, May 26, 2026: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Ezekiel 39:7-8, 21-29;
Wednesday, May 27, 2026: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Numbers 11:24-30; John 7:37-39;
Thursday, May 28, 2026: Psalm 8; Job 38:1-11; 2 Timothy 1:8-12a;
Friday, May 29, 2026: Psalm 8; Job 38:12-21; 2 Timothy 1:12b-14;
Saturday, May 30, 2026: Psalm 8; Job 38:22-38; John 14:15-17;
Sunday, May 31, 2026: 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Psalm 113
Sunday, May 31, 2026: Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13



THE STUDY led by Rev. Dak McInnis

9:00 am, Every Sunday in the Youth Building
with continental breakfast at 8:45am

Everyone is Welcome!

The Study is an opportunity to grow in knowledge and understanding of the Bible, God's Word.

The Study is an engaging exchange of encouragement, varied points of view, and testimonies. It is **not** a "sit and get" classroom experience of information only.

The Study is an anointed hour of fellowship, prayer and revelation.

The Study is where we love to be on Sunday mornings. Come join in the blessing. You will be glad that you did.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL June 29th -July 3rd

Ages 4-12

Meet in the Youth Building from
9:00 - 11:45 am

We'll be taking a tropical trek where we will learn how Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).



SAVE THE DATE



We're also going to do something a little different this year for the older kids (ages 9-12). It's called the "Church In Action Lab." Each day there will be a different focus, such as a service day, a creative arts day, a worship day, a caring-for-God's world day, and a community celebration day.

This will only be possible with the dedicated work of volunteers, so if you have the time and interest, please consider attending the Volunteer Meeting on Sunday, June 7th right after church in the Fellowship Hall.

FCC DID YOU KNOW?

ANIMALS IN THE BIBLE

Buzzard: *Isaiah 34:1*

Owls will nest there to raise their young among its shadows, while families of vultures circle around.

Camel: *Genesis 24:10*

Soon after that, the servant loaded ten of Abraham's camels with valuable gifts

Chameleon: *Leviticus 11:30*

Moles, rats, mice, and all kinds of lizards are unclean.



BIBLE TRAVIA ANSWERS

(from page 7)

Easy: A coat of many colors.

Middle: 1 Thessalonians

Hard: True

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS

MAY 31, 2026

Church Opening	Michael Rankin		
Church Closing	Michael Rankin		
Sacraments	Kendall Theunissen		
Liturgist	Pam Comeaux		
Children's Moment	Donna Embree	Livestream	Pam Jones
Youth Reader	Brynleigh Comeaux	Video Tech	Brenda Hilgendorf
Elder	Carmen Jones	Sound Tech	Kim Lax
Deacons	(Greeter) James Morgan	Program Builder	Brenda Hilgendorf
	Callie Cody	CW&W Greeter	Callie Cody
	Kristin Morgan	CW&W Storyteller	Shelly Cody
	Cathi Pourciau		

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS

Please check your worship assignments in advance and arrange for a sub in the case of a scheduling conflict. We appreciate that very much! You can check assignments [online here](#), or contact the church office at 225-926-4175.

MAY 3, 2026

(Graduation Recognition)

Church Opening	Jeff Cody
Church Closing	Jeff Cody
Sacraments	Kendall Theunissen
Liturgist	Dr. Tracy Shaffer
Children's Moment	Ashley Bourgeois
Youth Reader	Cora Cody
Elder	Sherry McInnis
Deacons	(Greeter) Carl Cotten
	Ray Acardo
	Alicia Cotten
	Presley Hutchinson
Livestream	Daniel Dickey
Video Tech	Michael Rankin
Sound Tech	Jeff Cody
Program Builder	Jeff Cody
CW&W Greeter	Kayla Mercil
CW&W Storyteller	Genesis Bennie

MAY 10, 2026

(Mother's Day)

Church Opening	Charles Riddle
Church Closing	Jeff Cody
Sacraments	Kendall Theunissen
Liturgist	Mike Wilson
Children's Moment	Pam Comeaux
Youth Reader	Brynleigh Comeaux
Elder	Ashley Bourgeois
Deacons	(Greeter) Callie Cody
	James Morgan
	Kristin Morgan
	Cathi Pourciau
	Pam Jones
Livestream	
Video Tech	Greg Taliaferro
Sound Tech	Kim Lax
Program Builder	Dr. Carol Madere
CW&W Greeter	Nursery Worker(s)
CW&W Storyteller	Michael Rankin

MAY 17, 2026

(Performance - Belly of the Whale)

Church Opening	David Fennell
Church Closing	Jeff Cody
Sacraments	Kendall Theunissen
Liturgist	Ashley Bourgeois
Children's Moment	Chris Culp
Youth Reader	Leonardo Morgan
Elder	Lorrinda Dickinson
Deacons	(Greeter) Tony Babin
	Shelly Cody
	Steven Gibson
	Greg Taliaferro
Livestream	Michael Rankin
Video Tech	Brenda Hilgendorf
Sound Tech	Kim Lax / Greg Taliaferro
Program Builder	Jill Brian
CW&W Greeter	Leonardo Morgan
CW&W Storyteller	Kristin Morgan

MAY 24, 2026

(Pentecost)

Church Opening	Michael Rankin
Church Closing	Michael Rankin
Sacraments	Kendall Theunissen
Liturgist	Harold Choate
Children's Moment	Michael Rankin
Youth Reader	Cora Cody
Elder	Judy Lester
Deacons	(Greeter) Kim Rankin
	Michael Rankin
	Julie Theunissen
	Kendall Theunissen
Livestream	Brenda Hilgendorf
Video Tech	Amy Taliaferro
Sound Tech	Greg Taliaferro
Program Builder	Michael Rankin
CW&W Greeter	Kayla Mercil
CW&W Storyteller	Genesis Bennie



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

8484 Old Hammond Hwy.
Baton Rouge, LA 70809-1317
225-926-4175 | fccbrla.org

SERVICE AT 10:00 AM EACH SUNDAY - IN PERSON and ONLINE

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION AND ONLINE LINKS:

The Rev. Dr. Dedrick Minor, *Senior Minister*

Minister's Office Hours: by appointment

Church Office Phone: 225-926-4175

Church Office Email: churchoffice@fccbrla.org

Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9am - 3 pm

Aaron Turnipseed, M.M.P., *Director of Music*

Earl Poole, *Music Worship Leader*

Brenda Hilgendorf, *Bookkeeper / Human Resources*

Charles Riddle, *Facilities*

Kimberly Lax, *Administrative Assistant*

Website: fccbrla

Facebook: facebook.com/fccbrla

Instagram: instagram.com/fccbrla

YouTube Video Channel: youtube.com/fccbrla

Twitter: twitter.com/fccbrla

DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS: [Vanderbilt Divinity Library - Year A](#)