

First Christian Caller

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge

Vol. 82

January 9, 2020

No. 1



Elijah Pierce, *Three Wise Men*, ca. 1950. Smithsonian American Art Museum; Creative Commons Zero. <https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/three-wise-men-19737>

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◇ Caregivers Retreat Registration Closing Soon
- ◇ Christmas Un-Decorating this Saturday at 10 a.m.
- ◇ New Youth Series Begins this Sunday

GPS DETOUR



I shared this in my sermon this past Sunday — I hope something of this will stick with you this coming year.

Road trips are always an adventure, and this year's post-Christmas-great-American-2400-mile-family-expedition was one for the books. Fortunately, the weather cooperated with us this year; there was no skidding across icy overpasses. However, there was an interesting detour on our final day.

We set out the day after Christmas toward my hometown of Wichita, Kansas. From there, we headed southwest, picking up part of old get-your-kicks-on-Route-66 from Amarillo to Santa Rosa, then turning south again to Ruidoso, New Mexico. Having completed most of the trip with miles of smiles and touristy adventures, our return trip looked like it was going to be an uneventful journey. But on the last leg of the journey, from Dallas to Shreveport to Baton Rouge, that's where an unintended detour popped up.

In Dallas, following a short side trip for lunch and some quick shopping, we hopped back onto I-30, thinking it would merge with I-20 just like I-20 and I-30 merge on the west side of Ft. Worth. At that point, we turned off the GPS and started driving by intuition. It wasn't until we were almost to Texarkana that we realized that somewhere through Dallas, I-30 starts angling to the north toward Little Rock. We had traveled 70 miles in the wrong direction!

I don't know if something like this has ever happened to you, but it was a moment of decision for me. Do I get mad that our trip has taken an unexpected turn? Do I blame Kori for not watching GPS more closely? Do

I blame myself for driving past sign after sign indicating we were headed to Texarkana and not saying anything? What do you do when life throws you unexpected detours?

While I was in Wichita, I worshiped with my family at Hillside Christian Church. The minister's sermon offered us a nice little tool to gather our bearings when we're feeling a little lost. The acronym is GPS: Grow, Pray, Serve. God often uses detours and life interruptions to direct us toward new possibilities and unexpected blessings. Certainly, unexpected events can be hard to navigate, so when they happen, take out a paper or journal page and write down how God might be asking/calling you to **grow** through that event. With that growth, what is the **prayer** conversation you need to have with God — what do you need to express to God and for what direction do you need to listen? Finally, how do you think God wants you to put this into action in your life? How can you **serve** others and God as you navigate through this life detour?

Back on our road trip detour, once we realized we were on the wrong road, we quickly pulled out our smart-phone GPS and found the side roads we needed to take. And, because I decided I wasn't going to get rattled by it, I enjoyed the scenic highways through the hills and pines of east Texas. Sure, it took us an extra hour or so to get back on track, but it was worth every extra mile.

As we open this new year of 2020, whatever twists and turns life may take, my prayer is that you will find God a faithful traveling companion and guide to your life!

Christ's peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Chisham'.

Rev. Dr. David Chisham
Senior Minister

Courage for Caregivers

Half-day retreat for people giving care to family members at home or nearby settings, addressing the critical importance of self-care from a faith perspective

Based on the writings of
Henri J.M. Nouwen

Caregivers will be helped to identify both the challenges and the gifts of caregiving, while learning spiritual practices and techniques to sustain long-term self-care, led by Stephanie Gaudin, RN, Immaculate Conception Parish Nurse.

KEY THEMES

- Mutuality of dignity and care
- Care versus Cure
- Shared Vulnerability
- Self-Care
- Releasing Guilt
- Addressing Burnout and Compassion Fatigue
- Befriending Weakness and Death
- Dying Well



Saturday, January 18, 2020
8:30 a.m. 'til 12:30 p.m.

First Christian Church - Youth Building
8484 Old Hammond Highway, Baton Rouge

\$15 registration includes workbook & refreshments
Register by January 9 at fccbrla.org or 225-926-4175

Everything Henri Nouwen wrote about, preached or taught resonated with his care, his compassion, and his deep love for everyone with whom he crossed paths. Henri didn't shy away from suffering nor was he scandalized by the pain. He was very open about his own physical, emotional and spiritual anguish. Nor did he fail to embrace and nurture those who suffered.

The purpose of this *"morning away,"* is to offer both practical and spiritual encouragement to professional caregivers and to all those who find themselves faced with the unchosen vocation of caring for a sick, aging, or incapacitated loved one at home.

These caregivers can be transformed by Henri's unique perspective on caregiving — helping people integrate their spirituality with their practice in order to help them discover a new life-giving way of looking at care and the human journey — a journey that can be at times more transformative for the caregiver than the one being cared for.

REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT by (1) phoning 225-926-4175, and leave your name and contact information; or, (2) online at <https://tinyurl.com/Jan2019-FCCRetreat>; or, by email to churchoffice@fccbrla.org. There is a \$15 fee to cover the workbook and refreshments throughout the event. Please pay by check, with "Caregiver Retreat" in the memo line, or cash, at the door.

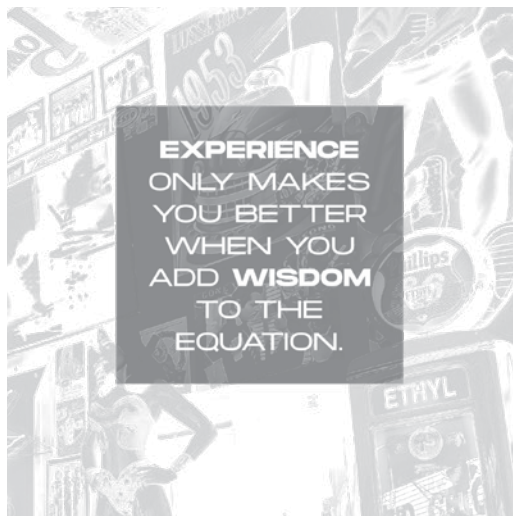
NEW YOUTH SERIES BEGINS THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

Kori Chisham and Pam Comeaux will lead *Wise Choices*, another compelling series from Switch, starting **this Sunday, January 12 at 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Building**. We will be exploring what it takes to get from where we are today to where we want to be in the future. On this journey, we will discover together that the life we want tomorrow is built on the choices we make today. And wisdom is what we need to make those good choices.

January 12: Experience vs Wisdom

January 19: Knowledge vs Wisdom

January 26: Defining Moments



TOM MOORE: SPECIAL EVENT AT ST JAMES PLACE

It's been seventy-five years since Oskar Schindler gave a farewell speech to the Jewish employees gathered on his factory floor. Celina Karp Biniaz was among them. She will share her story Wednesday, January 15, starting at 10:00 a.m., at St. James Place.

After the liberation and moving around Europe for a bit, an uncle from Iowa met the family in New York and drove them to Des Moines, where Biniaz was placed in the twelfth grade (and, where she was a classmate of **Tom Moore's**). She had no formal education after second grade, she said. Instead, she had bartered her family's rations — coffee, cigarettes, soap and chocolate — for tutoring.

Biniaz accepted a scholarship to Grinnell College in Iowa and would become a schoolteacher. She eventually married and had two children, but she rarely spoke about her experience during World War II until after Schindler's story was popularized in 1993 by Steven Spielberg's Academy Award-winning movie.

Biniaz, who lives in Camarillo, California and will be joining the conversation via videoconferencing, said the movie gave her a voice. Before it was released, people could not fathom what she had been through.

Hear her **Wednesday, January 15 at 10:00 a.m., at St. James Place, 333 Lee Drive.**

Contributions from Kimber Laux, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.



INTERFAITH FEDERATION EVENTS IN JANUARY

Melting Away Interfaith Misunderstanding and Cultivating Peace is the theme for events during January sponsored by the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge.



Baton Rouge Jewish Film Festival is **January 15-19** at the **Manship Theater** at the Shaw Center for the Arts, 100 Lafayette St, and will feature films such as *The Museum*, *The Unorthodox*, *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles*, and *Redemption*. Tickets and more information is available at brjff.com

January 18-25 marks the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, and the theme is *They showed us unusual kindness*. "It does not simply mean that I pray for you and you pray for me to become akin to who we are, but that we pray together for the building up of a new community made up of old and new faces. In that, we celebrate our diversity but truly bcomes strangers no more." Opportunities to pray with others this week include:

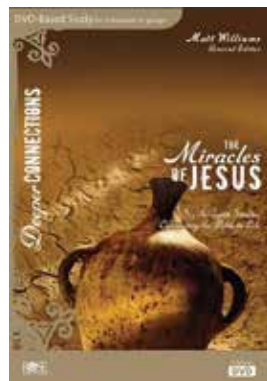
- **Monday, January 20:** MLKjr Day service at 8:00 a.m. at Mt. Zion First Baptist Church, 356 T.J. Jemison Blvd.
- **Tuesday, January 21:** *Centering Prayer* at First United Methodist Church Spiritual Formation Center, 930 North Blvd., 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, January 22:** Bible Study at Greater New Guide Baptist Church, 3445 Fairfields Avenue, 6:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, January 23:** Roman Catholic morning service at St. Jude Catholic Church, 9150 Highland Rd., 8:15 a.m.
- **Friday, January 24:** Walk the Labyrinth at City Park (BREC) near the club house and art gallery. Instruction offered 2:00-4:00 p.m.

The **Peace Network** meets **Saturday, January 25, 3:00-4:30 p.m.** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2021 Tara Blvd., facilitated by Rev. Charles deGravelles and Rev. Robin McCullough-Bade, to connect with others who wage peace in their daily lives. R.s.v.p. at ifedgbr.com or 225-267-5600.

ADULT SUNDAY SERIES begins a new topic this **Sunday, January 12, at 9:45 a.m.**, with **Mary Thompson** facilitating.

The Miracles of Jesus (Matt Williams, General Editor) shows how each miracle reveals God's character, the kingdom of God, and God's love for you.

This group meets in the room to the left (west) of the sanctuary, and all are welcome!



SERVING SCHEDULE

January 12, 2020

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

<i>Church Opening</i>	David Fennell
<i>Sacraments</i>	Lorrinda Dickinson
<i>Accompanist</i>	Aaron Turnipseed
<i>Liturgist</i>	Pam Jones
<i>Adapted Lesson</i>	Aaron Turniseed
<i>Elder</i>	Scott Murrell
<i>Video Tech</i>	Nicolas Morgan
<i>Coffee Fellowship</i>	Lucy Cody

<i>Adult Class Leader</i>	Mary Thompson
<i>Children's Leaders</i>	Shelly & Jeff Cody
<i>Youth Leaders</i>	Kori Chisham & Pam Comeaux

10:50 a.m. Worship Service

<i>Sacraments</i>	Ashley Bourgeois
<i>Accompanist</i>	Vera Zholondz
<i>Visitor Host</i>	Ed Atkins
<i>Liturgist</i>	Jerry Moses
<i>Acolyte</i>	Kinzie McCoy
<i>Children's Sermon</i>	Rev. David Chisham
<i>Youth Reader</i>	Anderson Krupala
<i>Offertory Elder</i>	Charlene Landry?
<i>Communion Elder</i>	Chris Culp
<i>Deacons</i>	Jeff Cody, Shelly Cody, Rhonda Culp, Nancy Fatta, Brent Lax, Kim Lax, Steve Gibson
<i>Video Tech</i>	Greg Taliaferro
<i>Sound Tech</i>	Callie Cody
<i>CW&W Greeter</i>	Melanie Cobb
<i>CW&W Storyteller</i>	Mary Thompson
<i>Attendance Sheets</i>	Lorry Trotter
<i>Program Builder</i>	Carol Madere
<i>Church Closing</i>	Nancy Fatta

SERVING SCHEDULE

January 19, 2020

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

<i>Church Opening</i>	George Cochran
<i>Sacraments</i>	Lorrinda Dickinson
<i>Accompanist</i>	Laurel Dennis
<i>Liturgist</i>	Lois Burt
<i>Adapted Lesson</i>	Nicolas Morgan
<i>Elder</i>	Mike Wilson
<i>Video Tech</i>	Carol Madere
<i>Coffee Fellowship</i>	Wanda Lax, Joanne Taliaferro

<i>Adult Class Leader</i>	Mary Thompson
<i>Children's Leaders</i>	Shelly & Jeff Cody
<i>Youth Leaders</i>	Kori Chisham & Pam Comeaux

10:50 a.m. Worship Service

<i>Sacraments</i>	Ashley Bourgeois
<i>Accompanist</i>	Dr. João Casarotti
<i>Visitor Host</i>	Mary Thompson
<i>Liturgist</i>	Tip Tipton
<i>Acolyte</i>	Sammy Gibson
<i>Children's Sermon</i>	Leatus Still
<i>Youth Reader</i>	Callie Cody
<i>Offertory Elder</i>	Vicki Krupala
<i>Communion Elder</i>	Cheryl Allain
<i>Deacons</i>	Carmen Jones, Lois Burt, Bill Burt, Pam Culp, Lilli Griffin, Ed Atkins, Ashley Bourgeois, Trey Earle
<i>Video Tech</i>	Jeff Cody
<i>Sound Tech</i>	Joshua Dotts
<i>CW&W Greeter</i>	Crystal Casarotti
<i>CW&W Storyteller</i>	Beverly Tipton
<i>Attendance Sheets</i>	Volunteer Needed
<i>Program Builder</i>	Yvonne Taylor
<i>Church Closing</i>	Chris Culp

CHECK OUT OUR MASTER ASSIGNMENTS SHEET, [HERE](#) or at fccbri.org

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 one of the prayer cards in the attendance books and put it in the offering plate, or contact us at churchoffice@fccbrla.org, or 225-926-4175. Names will rotate off after two months without an update.

Members:

Ann Baskin, Rita Brian, Dora & Ron Blackburn, Linda Burns, Norma Carr, Jody Chrisope, Melanie Cobb, Lucy Cody, the Dennis family, Nancy Fatta, the Grigg family, Rich Griswold, George Gullett, Lee Gullett, Ruth Horn, Pam Jones, Barbara Knight, Marie Ladner, Allen Lax, Helen Mitchener, Jerry Moses, Bob & Jennifer Netterville, Helen Rankin, Ruth Riddle, Andy Sobert, Ann Thompson, Bill Trotter, Mary Jon Turner

Friends & Family of Members:

Kenny Achord, Donna & Don Bohlcke, Jeff Day, the family of Bonnie Evans, Patty Hubeny, Ray Hutchinson, Grandma Frances Krupala, Lee Lambert, Chelsey Miguez, Bill Nash, the family of, and "Wick" Pierce, Debbie Riddle, Bill Stevenson, Claudia Wagner

Members in Active Military Service:

Gage Goodspeed



Our 10:50 service on Sunday, December 22, was joyous with the dedication of **Josephine Rose Thompson**. Her parents Laurie and Michael, grandparents Mary and Paul Thompson, extended family, as well as the First Christian Church congregation covenanted to love, support, and encourage Josephine so that she will come to see the love of Jesus Christ.

Pictured: Michael, Josephine, and Laurie Thompson, courtesy of Mary Thompson.

Our Church Staff

Senior Minister - [Rev. Dr. David Chisham](#)

<i>Director of Music</i>	Aaron Turnipseed	<i>Bookkeeper</i>	Brenda Hilgendorf
<i>Organist</i>	Dr. João Casarotti	<i>Administrative Ass't.</i>	Jo Craddock
<i>Custodian</i>	Charles Riddle	<i>Child Care</i>	Ajha Dortch

• fccbrla.org • churchoffice@fccbrla.org • 225-926-4175 •

• facebook.com/fccbrla • instagram.com/fccbrla • twitter.com/fccbrla •

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS FOR THE COMING YEAR

Please take home a copy of the 2020 **Welcome • Worship • Serve** insert in this Sunday's bulletin, and read about the many opportunities for your involvement at First Christian Church — on Sundays or during the week; in worship services, in the church community, and/or in the wider community. **Please mark the service areas you are interested in, add your contact information and any notes, and return the completed form by placing in the basket in the narthex, putting in the offering plate, or delivering to the church office!** We will begin the 2020 schedule on the first Sunday of Lent, March 1.



 **First Christian Church**
Disciples of Christ
8484 Old Hammond Hwy.
Baton Rouge, LA 70809-1317
225-926-4175 | fccbrla.org