

First Christian Caller

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge

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HURRICANE LAURA RELIEF



It probably goes without saying, but this whole COVID thing has really thrown a wrench in the planning process. The book of James reminds us:

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money." Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

We are now entering the sixth month of restrictions related to slowing the spread of COVID, and looking back, I affirm that plans have been according to timing that was not my own, and I've had to learn humility through it all.

Personally, one of the big frustrations has been how we can reach out beyond our congregation to share and be good news for others. We've focused a lot on developing online resources for our congregation over these months, but for the most part have been limited to grocery donations for our outreach programming. In recent weeks, however, I hope we've all seen a change.

For about a month we've been talking about the offering for Week of Compassion's COVID relief program, and that the bloodmobile will be on campus this Sunday, September 13. Almost two weeks ago, Hurricane Laura roared ashore doing extensive damage to our friends and neighbors in the western part of Louisiana, and immediately we saw an opportunity to reach out and offer assistance. I am so thankful for the donations that have been coming in, and the time and effort our group made this past Saturday in Sulphur.

It is tempting to remain sheltered at home, keeping our attention on ourselves and our immediate family. However, the needs continue to grow and, as we are able, we hear God's call that we must answer. I pray that the humility we've all had to learn through this will continue to turn our hearts to follow the Lord's will in our lives.

I've never toured a disaster area immediately following a hurricane, so I was taken aback at what I saw last Saturday.

I remembered how eerie it was, in 2016, to drive through neighborhoods after the flood, and while the exteriors of the homes all seemed fine, I could only assume that inside there was incredible damage. Driving through Lake Charles and Sulphur there was no

mistaking where the damage was. The image of a massive roadside billboard and its massive steel support column laid over on top of a house will not leave my mind for a long time.

I know that working on the ground in areas affected by Hurricane Laura isn't for everyone, but my hope is that we can continue to send groups, perhaps monthly, to the affected areas.

This will take financial support along with the support of individuals willing and able to work. As you are able, I ask that you make that a priority to reach out in compassion. If you hear God calling you to minister to this need, please reach out to me or Judy Lester, our outreach coordinator, so that we can be in contact with you.

Christ's peace,



Rev. Dr. David Chisham
Senior Minister



Our September Hurricane Laura Relief Team: (front L to R) David Chisham, Judy Lester, Amy Lester, Anderson Krupala; (back, L to R) Dave Hughes, Frank Dickinson, Charlie Bremer, Edwin Honore, James & Vicki Krupala.



Left: Dr. James Krupala skillfully takes a pole saw to some downed limbs. The groups' focus for this trip was exterior cleanup and mitigation. Below: The group is protecting the home from further damage by installing a tarp.



Right: Taking a well-deserved break from the work and heat.

Please join us, in person or in support, as we plan an October trip to the area. Contact Judy Lester or Rev. David for further information.



Children Worship & Wonder begins this Sunday, Sept. 13!

Our acclaimed Sunday program for children **three-years-old through second grade** begins the fall semester this Sunday, September 13. Our leaders have been hard at work preparing the area and materials for the children, following the latest guidance to avoid any contamination or infection. Each child in the program will have their own set of materials to work.

We look forward to seeing your children, this Sunday!

So What Exactly is CW&W?

CW&W is faith formation worship centered approach with storytelling, ritual, and fellowship that is used with children in churches to help them deepen their relationship with God.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Wednesdays Bible Study with Rev. David - 1:00 p.m. via Zoom and in the church library. Each week, we'll study the coming Sunday's lectionary texts, available at Vanderbilt Divinity Library: lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/ R.s.v.p. for Zoom link and in-person planning by calling us at 225-926-4175 or email churchoffice@fccbrla.org.

Saturday, September 19, 2020 - Disciples Women Virtual Retreat - 8:30 a.m. 'til 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. If you're interested in gathering with a *small* group of DWF members to attend via Zoom from the church, please let us know: 225-926-4175.

Saturday, October 17, 2020 - Workshop Sessions of the 2020 Region Assembly including sessions with children and youth leaders, and being the church during shutdown. Read more, [here](#), or contact us for a printed brochure.

Friday, November 6, 2020 - KEEPING THE MAIN THING...THE MAIN THING! the 2020 Region Assembly of the Great River Region, will also be held virtually, for worship, education, and annual business. First Christian Church is allowed **five voting delegates**; all members are allowed and encouraged to attend.



The special September collection for Week of Compassion was focused on the response to needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, and designated gifts to this effort are still welcomed.

However, your attention to Hurricane Laura relief is also needed.

First Christian Church in Sulphur, Louisiana reports that their breezeway was lost, leaving a small hole in their church roof, but no water intrusion was suffered. Some soffit damage was sustained which must be mitigated. The hurricane deductible for their property is \$40,000. While they are soliciting monetary donations, Week of Compassion offers solidarity grants for damage to church buildings, as well as households connected to the congregation sustaining damage to their homes. Learn more, [here: https://grrdisciples.org/hurricane-laura/](https://grrdisciples.org/hurricane-laura/)

To donate, text WOC to 71777, go online to weekofcompassion.org/donate, or send a check to First Christian Church, being sure to mark "WOC" in the memo line, and we'll forward it together with others to Week of Compassion. Thank you.

SERVING SCHEDULE

September 13, 2020

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

<i>Church Opening</i>	Charles Riddle
<i>Sacraments</i>	Felicia Still
<i>Usher</i>	TBD
<i>Liturgist</i>	Lorraine Trotter
<i>Youth Reader</i>	Joshua Dotts
<i>Children's Sermon</i>	Ashley Bourgeois
<i>CW&W Greeter</i>	Shelly Cody
<i>CW&W Storyteller</i>	Lucy Cody
<i>Elder</i>	Kori Chisham
<i>Video Tech</i>	Jeff Cody
<i>Sound Tech</i>	Tony Fatta
<i>Livestream</i>	Ted Baldwin
<i>Church Closing</i>	Joshua Dotts
<i>Program Builder</i>	Yvonne Taylor

SERVING SCHEDULE

September 20, 2020

<i>Church Opening</i>	Marion Denova
<i>Sacraments</i>	Amy Taliaferro
<i>Ushers</i>	Trey Earle
<i>Liturgist</i>	TBD
<i>Youth Reader</i>	Callie Cody
<i>Children's Sermon</i>	Chris Culp
<i>CW&W Greeter</i>	Melanie Cobb
<i>CW&W Storyteller</i>	Mary Thompson
<i>Elder</i>	Lucy Cody
<i>Video Tech</i>	Anderson Krupala
<i>Sound Tech</i>	Joshua Dotts
<i>Livestream</i>	Ted Baldwin
<i>Church Closing</i>	Jeff Cody

Our assignments may be fluid while we adjust to the latest news.

Please help keep track of your assignments, and let us know as soon as possible about potential conflicts, [HERE](#) or at churchoffice@fccbrla.org



Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. —John 6:11

FCCBR Food Drive - Donations left at church are delivered weekly to Southeast Ministries:

Suggested donations: *Jelly, instant potatoes, Jiffy cornbread mix, mac & cheese, crackers, bags of apples, oranges, onions, or potatoes, rubbing alcohol or other anti-viral cleaning agents.*

EMPTY EGG CARTONS ARE CURRENTLY NEEDED, TOO!

Southeast Ministries - Checks can be made out directly to Southeast Ministries and brought to the church during food drop-off times, or mailed to 476 Sharp Road, Baton Rouge LA 70815. *Be sure to mark the memo line with "First Christian Church."*

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 in our prayers:

JD Albin, Ann Baskin, Rita Brian, Dora & Ron Blackburn, Linda Burns-Sanders, Lois Burt, Norma Carr, Jody Chrisope, Pam Culp, Marion Denova, Lorrinda Dickinson, the Grigg family, Rich Griswold, George Gullett, Lee Gullett, Dawn & Craig Harvey, Ruth Horn, Barbara Knight, Marie Ladner, Allen Lax, Nick, Jess & Zona Madere, Dak McInnis, Helen Mitchener, Jerry Moses, Bob & Jennifer Netterville, Helen Rankin, Ruth Riddle, Gladys & Kelly Runnels, Yvonne Taylor, Bill Trotter, Mary Jon Turner, Wally Weselak, Toni Wilson

Friends & Family of Members in our prayers

Greg Anderson, Rev. Dwight Bailey, Donna & Don Bohlcke, Angela Maria Avansi Casarotti, Roger Clites, Patricia Cornelius, Jimmie E. Dugas, Frances Durham, Johnny Durham, Paul Foster, J.W. Green, Reynaud Henton, Sarah Hill, Jamone Hodge, Ray Hutchinson, Mike Keene, Lee Lambert, Melody, Scott, Jr Larsen, Stephen Major, Wendy Malcolm, the family of Bill May, Terri McIlwain, Robert McKinnis family, Chelsey Miguez, the family of Clint Mock, Cheryl Nasab, Judy Olson, the family of Louise Perkins, Bobby Phillips, David & Kimber Pittman, Tallu Schuyler Quinn, Cherry Quin, Jeanie Reed, Debbie Riddle, Lani Smith, Dayna Coupel Simoneaux, Dad to Aaron Turnipseed, Leta Turnipseed, Pam Vicknair & family, Claudia Wagner, Jim Williams

Members in Active Military Service:

PVT Gage Goodspeed

CONTACT INFORMATION AND ONLINE LINKS:

Church Office Phone: 225-926-4175 Email: churchoffice@fccbrla.org

Rev. David Chisham: 703-220-6011 Email: david@fccbrla.org

Website: fccbrla.org

YouTube Video Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/FCCBRLA/featured>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/fccbrla>

Facebook Worship at Home: <https://facebook.com/fccbrlaworshipathome>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/fccbrla>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/fccbrla>



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

8484 Old Hammond Hwy.
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225-926-4175 | fccbrla.org

SERVICE AT 10:00 AM EACH SUNDAY - IN PERSON OR LIVESTREAM

JOIN US ONLINE FOR WORSHIP, PRAYER AND DEVOTIONALS: fccbrla.org

Together We Give

DONATE BLOOD

LifeShare Blood Center Bus

will be at First Christian Church

Sunday, Sept 13 ~ 9 am 'til 1 pm

Free COVID antibody testing for all donors

CLICK HERE TO SCHEDULE YOUR DONATION TIME!