

# First Christian Caller

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge

Vol. 82

October 20, 2020

No. 21



"And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

## *IN THIS ISSUE*

- ◇ Sitting Shiva
- ◇ Hurricane Relief Trip Photos
- ◇ Reach Out This Week to ...
- ◇ Ministry Assignments

## SITTING SHIVA



I've shared the story widely, but it's worth sharing again if for no other reason than for my own sake. Just before we left town for a short vacation, right as Hurricane Delta was about to hit, I received a door-hanger card that Entergy was sending a work crew to do some tree trimming in my backyard. When I looked at the long row of old-growth trees which parallel the neighborhood's electric lines, I saw one tree whose branches had grown within the 10-foot zone of the energized cables. As we left town, my expectation was that those branches would be trimmed back, and that was all, because the other trees were otherwise healthy.

Returning from our getaway four days later my jaw dropped when I saw a massive pile of logs in my front yard, spilling over into my neighbor's yard; not only did they trim the branches, they took almost every one of those massive, 40 to 70-year-old, sweetgum trees down to a low stump. I left for vacation with a backyard shaded by nine old-growth trees; I returned to just two trees left standing in the far corner of the yard.

One of the attractions of our home was all the shade the backyard received from those trees. And though the large gumball seeds were more than a nuisance, over the past couple of years I learned to tolerate them the same way I learned to tolerate the small crack in the corner of my windshield — it annoys me but it would be too expensive to do anything about so I'll just leave it be. The upside to all this is that the sweetgum balls will only need to be raked up one more time, and I didn't have to pay upwards of \$30,000 to have all those trees removed. Additionally, Kori's anxiety about one of the branches or trees coming down on the house in a big storm is gone, too. The downside is that I really liked those big trees. My neighbors commented that the backyard felt like a big public park; now it feels like a new construction subdivision that was cleared of all its old-growth character.

Added to this, a neighborhood family with whom we've been close, and whose children

my daughter has played with for countless hours, moved out of the neighborhood. This was their first home purchase and we're joyful for them, but in a matter of a few days many of the things that drew us to our home and neighborhood were pulled away from us.

I didn't see this coming, but Saturday night after the tree crews left and my backyard was finally quiet from the sound of chainsaws, and very empty of trees, and the neighborhood felt empty because our neighbors were spending the first night in their new home, and I was sitting with my family in our home, in the pit of my stomach I felt like a friend had died, and I was going through the soulful and emotional process of grieving; letting go to move on. I talked with Kori about what I was feeling, and I have to admit, the heaviness of the moment seemed to lift in just talking about it.

In Jewish tradition this is called "sitting shiva." Shiva is the week after a burial of a close family member, and during those seven days the family processes their grief, spending long hours sitting together in the same room. Those days of grieving are very sacred, indeed they are a commandment, and many rules and instructions go along with its observance. It reminded me of the importance of recognizing and speaking to our grief, even in the things we consider of lesser importance.

For all of us, this has been a season of letting go of some familiar things that lift us with

bursts of joy. Several church members have expressed the grief they feel over not being able to attend worship services routinely. I've missed our regular date-nights of sitting in a restaurant for a couple of hours and passing time with Kori. You may have some smaller or larger things that you miss that have left you with a feeling of loss. And if you find you are having those feelings, rather than stuff those feelings down or write them off as meaningless, it is important to express them. Express those feelings to a spouse, a relative, a friend or confidant; and express those feelings to God as well.

In the book of 2 Samuel 12, while watching over his dying infant son, David wept and prayed and refused to eat. Once his son passed, the servants of the house worried that David would take the news hard and try to harm himself. But David rose up, washed, changed his clothes and went to the Lord's house for worship. When asked why his behavior changed after his son died, David said that now that his son was gone, it was time to move forward, the time for fasting and grieving had passed too. Through that terrible time, David openly communicated what he was feeling to his God and those surrounding him, and it seems that he was ready to move on to the next season of life.

Through this season, I hope you take some time to grieve, in a healthy way, for the losses

you feel. We realize there are some things that won't go back the same way after all this is over. But the promise of Psalm 46 is eternal:

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth  
should change,

though the mountains shake in the  
heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with  
its tumult.

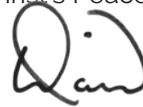
There is a river whose streams make  
glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city;  
it shall not be moved;

God will help it when the morning dawns.  
The nations are in an uproar,  
the kingdoms totter;

God utters his voice, the earth melts.  
The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Christ's Peace,



Rev. Dr. David Chisham  
Senior Minister

## **We offer our sympathy to the Vickers family**

*Barbara Ann (Rich) Vickers, 87, wife of former Senior Minister at First Christian Church, Baton Rouge John W. Vickers, passed away October 18, 2020. She is survived by her husband, and their four children, Suzanne, Paul and Alison all of Cape Coral, Florida and David of Seattle, Washington, as well as four grandchildren and a great grandson. A Memorial/Worship Service for Barbara Ann is scheduled to be held at a date to be determined at the Fort Myers Christian Church, 5916 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, Florida to be led by her pastor, Rev. Zach Seitz. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be sent to the Fort Myers Christian Church in her name.*

## Mission Trip to DeRidder: October 17, 2020



*Access to home cut off by trees felled during the hurricanes.*



***Mission Complete!*** Our crew included (from the lunch photo on cover, left to right): Amy Lester, Frank Dickinson, Edwin Honoré, Charlie Bremer, Bill Trotter, Randy Yellott, David Chisham, Sheila (property resident), Judy Lester, Bobbie Yellott, and Dave Hughes (photographer).

## CALENDAR REMINDERS

**Wednesdays Bible Study with Rev. David - 1:00 p.m. via Zoom** and in the church library. R.s.v.p. for Zoom link and in-person planning by calling us at 225-926-4175 or email [churchoffice@fccbrla.org](mailto:churchoffice@fccbrla.org).

**Anytime! Regional Assembly Workshops** were held online last Saturday, October 17. The recorded workshops are now available for viewing on the Great River Region website, [here: https://grrdisciples.org/regional-assembly-2/](https://grrdisciples.org/regional-assembly-2/)



**Friday, October 30, 2020 - The Great River Regional Assembly** is being held virtually, so, of course, there will be a Virtual Choir! If you'd like to participate by submitting your video by the October 30 deadline date, contact the [church office](mailto:churchoffice@fccbrla.org) (225-926-4175) for the pertinent music and video links — all musically inclined are welcome!

**Friday, November 6, 2020 - KEEPING THE MAIN THING...THE MAIN THING!** the 2020 [Regional Assembly of the Great River Region](https://grrdisciples.org/regional-assembly-2/), will also be held virtually, for worship, education, and annual business. All members are allowed and encouraged to attend.

---

### **Reach Out This Week to ...**

Several members of our community remain largely or entirely isolating, so we'll share a few names with each newsletter, and ask that you **take just a moment to share a note, a card, or phone call with one or more of those listed:**

- ◇ Jerry Moses, 2345 E Contour Dr., Baton Rouge LA 70809; 225-926-6152
  - ◇ Angela & Scott Murrell; 9222 Kimberly Way, Baton Rouge LA 70814; 225-229-1108
  - ◇ Sandy Naylor; 1250 Colonial Dr., Baton Rouge LA 70806; 225-229-3757
  - ◇ Jennifer & Bob Netterville; 6022 Hope Estate Dr. Baton Rouge LA 70820; 225-413-6871
- 

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

... Meghan Fennell Case and Trevor Case, along with big sister, Olivia Faye, on the arrival of **Hudson Thomas Case**, who was born on Thursday, October 15, 2020, weighing seven pounds, and measuring 19½ inches long. Delighted grandparents are Lisa and David Fennell, and proud aunts are Rebecca and Michaela Fennell

... **Trey Earle** who has successfully defended his doctoral dissertation at LSU (in the area of educational research and statistics, if you dare!). All the best, Dr. Earle!

## SERVING SCHEDULE

**October 25, 2020**

### 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

<i>Church Opening</i>	Marion Denova
<i>Sacraments</i>	Pam Comeaux
<i>Greeter</i>	Joann Taliaferro
<i>Liturgist</i>	Carmen Jones
<i>Youth Reader</i>	Leonardo Morgan
<i>Children's Sermon</i>	Rev. Dr. David Chisham
<i>CW&amp;W Greeter</i>	Judy Lester
<i>CW&amp;W Storyteller</i>	Beverly Tipton
<i>Elder</i>	Donna Embree
<i>Video Tech</i>	Nicolas Morgan
<i>Sound Tech</i>	Greg Taliaferro
<i>Livestream</i>	Ted Baldwin/Sue Grigg
<i>Church Closing</i>	Jeff Cody

## SERVING SCHEDULE

**November 1, 2020**

<i>Church Opening</i>	Pam Jones
<i>Sacraments</i>	Melanie Cobb
<i>Greeter</i>	Sherry & Dak McInnis
<i>Liturgist</i>	Tip Tipton
<i>Youth Reader</i>	Anderson Krupala
<i>CW&amp;W Greeter</i>	Shelly Cody
<i>CW&amp;W Storyteller</i>	Carol Madere
<i>Elder</i>	Frank Johnson
<i>Video Tech</i>	Callie Cody
<i>Sound Tech</i>	Joshua Dotts
<i>Livestream</i>	Ted Baldwin/Sue Grigg
<i>Church Closing</i>	Nancy Fatta
<i>Program Builder</i>	Carol Madere

*Our assignments may be fluid while we adjust to the latest reports and recommendations. Please help keep track of your assignments on our [ministry web page](#), and let us know as soon as possible about potential conflicts, [HERE](#) or at [churchoffice@fccbrla.org](mailto:churchoffice@fccbrla.org)*

## Daily Lectionary: October 21, 2020 - November 3, 2020

**Wednesday, October 21, 2020:** Psalm 63:1-8; Numbers 13:1-2, 17-14:9; Matthew 17:22-27

**Thursday, October 22, 2020:** Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Deuteronomy 31:14-22; Titus 1:5-16

**Friday, October 23, 2020:** Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Deuteronomy 32:1-14, 18; Titus 2:7-8, 11-15

**Saturday, October 24, 2020:** Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Deuteronomy 32:44-47; John 5:39-47

**Monday, October 26, 2020:** Psalm 119:41-48 ; Numbers 33:38-39; James 2:8-13

**Tuesday, October 27, 2020:** Psalm 119:41-48; Exodus 34:29-35; James 2:14-26

**Wednesday, October 28, 2020:** Psalm 119:41-48; Deuteronomy 26:16-27:7 ; Matthew 19:16-22

**Thursday, October 29, 2020:** Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Joshua 1:1-11; Romans 2:17-29

**Friday, October 30, 2020:** Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Joshua 2:1-14; 2 Peter 2:1-3

**Saturday, October 31, 2020:** Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Joshua 2:15-24; Matthew 23:13-28

**Monday, November 2, 2020:** Psalm 128; Joshua 4:1-24; 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

**Tuesday, November 3, 2020:** Psalm 128; Joshua 6:1-16, 20; Acts 13:1-12

# 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](mailto: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, Nancy Chapaneri, Jody Chrisope, Lorrinda Dickinson, the Grigg family, Rich Griswold, Dawn & Craig Harvey, Ruth Horn, Barbara Knight, Marie Ladner, Allen Lax, Kim Lax, Dak McInnis, Helen Mitchener, Jerry Moses, Bob & Jennifer Netterville, Helen Rankin, Ruth Riddle, Gladys & Kelly Runnels, Esther & Gene Schilf, Yvonne Taylor, Bill Trotter, Mary Jon Turner, Nolan Valenti, Wally and Bev Weselak, Toni Wilson, Beverly Wolfe

## Friends & Family of Members in our prayers

Greg Anderson, Donna & Don Bohlcke, Michael Carson, Angela Maria Avansi Casarotti, Patricia Cornelius, Mark Discher, Mary Jo Dobroski, Jimmie E. Dugas, Frances Durham, Johnny Durham, Dean Fife, Paul Foster, J.W. Green, Reynaud Henton, the family of Remi Hidalgo, Sarah Hill, Jamone Hodge, Ray Hutchinson, Mike Keene, Lee Lambert, Melody, Scott, Jr Larsen, Terri McIlwain, Robert McKinnis family, Chelsey Miguez, the family of Clint Mock, Cheryl Nasab, Judy Olson, Bobby Phillips, David & Kimber Pittman, the family of Alvin Pounds, Tallu Schuyler Quinn, Cherry Quin, Jeanie Reed, Debbie Riddle, Hollie Sevitts, Lani Smith, Dayna Coupel Simoneaux, Pam Vicknair & family, Claudia Wagner, Ardelle & Danny Wallace, 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](mailto:churchoffice@fccbrla.org)

Rev. David Chisham: 703-220-6011 Email: [david@fccbrla.org](mailto:david@fccbrla.org)

Website: [fccbrla.org](http://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>

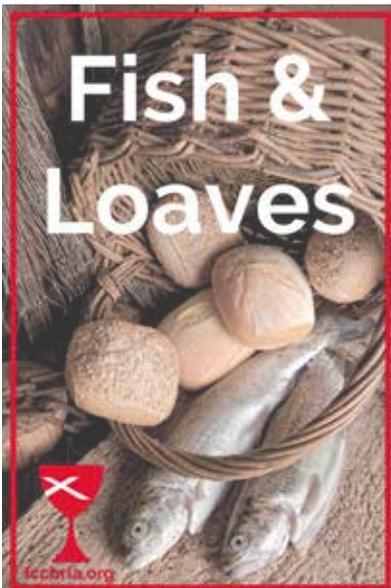


**First Christian Church**

*Disciples of Christ*

8484 Old Hammond Hwy.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809-1317  
225-926-4175 | [fccbrla.org](http://fccbrla.org)

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



*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."*