


First Christian **Caller**

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge

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No. 22



Keep awake therefore, for you know
neither the day nor the hour.

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GOD JUST LEFT THE ROOM



When I was in seminary, I had a part-time job working “security” for a senior-living apartment building across the street from Abilene Christian University. I put the word “security”

in quotations because there was no gun or badge or uniform, not even a Maglite, issued to us. We did have a walkie-talkie, but that was only connected to the intercom at the front door. In an emergency we called 911, like everyone else.

My work hours covered the time that the office was closed — evenings, nights, weekends, and the occasional holiday. To be honest there was very little to do, mostly keeping an eye on the front door from my perch behind a desk, and it gave me plenty of time to read and study while I listened for the phone and watched for after-hours visitors.

And we were asked, once an hour, to make a round through the three floors of the apartment building just to make sure everything was secure, doors tight, and that no one had “fallen and can’t get up”.

The biggest excitement was Sunday morning when large church vans came, picked up residents, and took them to worship across town. Breaking the monastic silence of the hallways, residents, mostly women, chattering like

cheerful song birds, exited the apartment building as a group through the main door. And as the automatic front door slid open, a gust of west Texas wind would push a great, pungent cloud of mixed perfumes back into the building where it would hang for a quarter of an hour or more. If I happened to be on rounds, away from the front desk when the vans came, I could still tell that they had come and gone by the aroma near the front doors. The scent of that perfume cloud still wafts about my mind 25 years later.

Recently I stumbled across an insightful saying, attributed to St. Athanasius: “Our experience of God is the experience of walking into a room that God just left. The air is enlivened. We catch an impression.” It reminded me of my experience as a seminarian — though I might not have seen the residents passing, I knew that they had come through. It reminds me of many experiences of God — I’ve arrived just seconds after God exited, but I could tell that the Lord was there before me. I didn’t see God, but there was no doubt that the Lord came through. It makes me pause and think of what my expectation of God is right here and now.

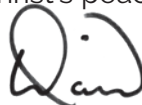
In the rising tension of our times, it’s tempting to pray, as Moses did, “Lord, show me your glory!” Let’s get a head-on look at You, so that all doubts will melt away. But that’s not how the Lord is with us, and good thing, as Moses wouldn’t

have survived it and neither would we. With prayer and reflection, we learn to sniff out God; we suss out what was there, now isn't, yet what remains. When we enter a new season, we must learn to stop and listen for the low rumble and feel of the hair rise on the back of our neck from the atmospheric static and ozone from a distant, discharged lightning bolt. Moses only beheld God's passing glory, and if we're awake and aware, God deigns to do so for us as well.

With all that is happening around us, COVID, political posturing, natural

disasters, civil unrest, racial strife, are you feeling God has abandoned us? Are you waiting for God's glory to burst in and blast everything into eternity? If we're only waiting around for the final glorious appearance of Christ, we'll miss that God is always just on the other side of the next door we open, leading the way.

Christ's peace,



Rev. Dr. David Chisham
Senior Minister

Prayer Following an Election

God of all nations,

Father of the human family,

*we give you thanks for the freedom we exercise
and the many blessings of democracy we enjoy
in these United States of America.*

We ask for your protection and guidance

*for all who devote themselves to the common good,
working for justice and peace at home and around the world.*

We lift up all our duly elected leaders and public servants,

*those who will serve us as president, as legislators and judges,
those in the military and law enforcement.*

Heal us from our differences and unite us, O Lord,

*with a common purpose, dedication, and commitment to achieve liberty and justice
in the years ahead for all people,
and especially those who are most vulnerable in our midst.*

Amen.

from Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers

... and love your neighbor as yourself



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

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First Christian Church
8484 Old Hammond Hwy
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Dear Brother and Sisters in Baton Rouge,

On August 28, 2020, Lake Charles, Louisiana was hit by Hurricane Laura with winds of up to 150 miles per hour. The destruction was incomprehensible. It was amazing just how many trees, light poles, electrical poles, bill boards and house shingles covered the yards and roads in Lake Charles after the hurricane. Most houses in Lake Charles (95% of all structures in the parish, in fact) suffered damage from the wind and water Laura brought.

As cleanup for Laura was taking place, Hurricane Delta hit. Delta removed most of the roofing tarps and caused more water damage. It also brought flood waters into homes and moved around much of the trash and debris that had started being collected on curbsides during Laura clean up.

Lake Charles is slowly but surely making its way back to life, but it seems to have a long way to go. Most stores and restaurants are still closed. Some roads are still blocked and some houses still do not have electricity. On top of the physical damage to structures, many people are dealing with additional financial strains, including utility fees to help pay for clean up and storm damage, high insurance deductibles, and increased material costs.

In the face of all of this, the Christian community has responded with love and a desire to follow Christ in His serving attitude. We thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1200.00. We are prayerfully assessing the best ways to ensure that all money given is being distributed to those who have been impacted by the storm and need assistance most. Your financial donation allows for us to bless so many in our community in the name of Christ. Thank you for being a part of His mission in us.

In Him,

Vince Endris
Pastor, First Christian Church Lake Charles



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

October 29, 2020

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the hurricane relief fund of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Sulphur. We really appreciate your willingness to help our congregation and our community.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Billie Yellott

These thank you notes were recently received in the church office from our DOC churches in Lake Charles and Sulphur for your response to their needs following Hurricanes Laura and Delta.

October 27, 2020

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for volunteering to help with hurricane cleanup at the home of Albert and Shalea Swanson on October 17. Your work and your compassion have made a huge difference in their lives - you have blessed them and our whole church with your gift of love.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Billie Yellott

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.

THIS SATURDAY, November 7, 2020 -

KEEPING THE MAIN THING...THE MAIN THING!

the 2020 [Regional Assembly of the Great](#)

[River Region](#), being held virtually, for worship,

education, and annual business. All members are allowed and encouraged to attend. An exciting array of speakers is available to you with free registration at grrdisciples.org:

- **8:45-noon** - Worship and Business Session
- **2:00-3:00 p.m.** - General Networking - Zoom with other Assembly guests **or** Adults working with youth **or** Youth Hangout & Discussion **or** Children Worship & Wonder
- **6:00 p.m.** - Youth Online Escape Room! (Grades 6-12) **or** Disciples Women Fellowship **or** Disciples Men Fellowship, **or** Regional Elders Fellowship!

Regional Assembly Workshops were held previously. 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/)



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:**

◇ *Ruth Riddle, 25917 Charleston Ave., Denham Springs LA 70726; 225-931-1707*

◇ *Esther & Gene Schilf, 12820 Deerpath Way, Baton Rouge LA 70816; (E) 225-572-3268; (G) 225-252-0730*

◇ *Tracy & Doug Shaffer, 518 Louisiana Ave., Baton Rouge LA 70802; 225-388-9891*

◇ *Felicia & Leatus Still, 33772 Nature's Way, Walker, LA 70785; (F) 225-247-3935; (L) 225-247-3934*

SERVING SCHEDULE

November 8, 2020

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

<i>Church Opening</i>	David Fennell
<i>Sacraments</i>	Rhonda & Chris Culp
<i>Greeter</i>	Chris Culp
<i>Liturgist</i>	Rev. Dr. J.R. "Tip" Tipton
<i>Youth Reader</i>	Layne Chisham
<i>Children's Sermon</i>	Pam Comeaux
<i>CW&W Greeter</i>	Kori Chisham
<i>CW&W Storyteller</i>	Lucy Cody
<i>Elder</i>	Yvonne Taylor
<i>Video Tech</i>	Carol Madere
<i>Sound Tech</i>	Jeff Cody
<i>Livestream</i>	Ted Baldwin/Sue Grigg
<i>Church Closing</i>	Chris Culp
<i>Program Builder</i>	Jeff Cody

SERVING SCHEDULE

November 15, 2020

<i>Church Opening</i>	George Cochran
<i>Sacraments</i>	Rhonda & Chris Culp
<i>Greeter</i>	Trey Earle
<i>Liturgist</i>	Trey Earle
<i>Youth Reader</i>	Callie Cody
<i>Children's Sermon</i>	Chris Culp
<i>CW&W Greeter</i>	Judy Lester
<i>CW&W Storyteller</i>	Mary Thompson
<i>Elder</i>	Mary Thompson
<i>Video Tech</i>	Anderson Krupala
<i>Sound Tech</i>	Tony Fatta
<i>Livestream</i>	Ted Baldwin/Sue Grigg
<i>Church Closing</i>	Ashley Bourgeois
<i>Program Builder</i>	Jill Brian

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

Daily Lectionary: November 4-17, 2020

Wednesday, November 4, 2020: Psalm 128; Joshua 10:12-14; Matthew 15:1-9

Thursday, November 5, 2020: Psalm 78:1-7; Joshua 5:10-12; Revelation 8:6-9:12

Friday, November 6, 2020: Psalm 78:1-7; Joshua 8:30-35; Revelation 9:13-21

Saturday, November 7, 2020: Psalm 78:1-7; Joshua 20:1-9; Matthew 24:1-14

Monday, November 9, 2020: Psalm 78; Joshua 24:25-33; 1 Corinthians 14:20-25

Tuesday, November 10, 2020: Psalm 78; Nehemiah 8:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Wednesday, November 11, 2020: Psalm 78; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 24:29-35

Thursday, November 12, 2020: Psalm 123; Judges 2:6-15; Revelation 16:1-7

Friday, November 13, 2020: Psalm 123; Judges 2:16-23; Revelation 16:8-21

Saturday, November 14, 2020: Psalm 123; Judges 5:1-12; Matthew 12:43-45

Monday, November 16, 2020: Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18; Judges 4:8-24; Romans 2:1-11

Tuesday, November 17, 2020: Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18; Exodus 2:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

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, Rita Brian, Dora & Ron Blackburn, Linda Burns-Sanders, Lois Burt, Norma Carr, Nancy Chapaneri, Jody Chrisope, Lorrinda Dickinson, Gloria Giammanco, Rich Griswold, Dawn & Craig Harvey, Ruth Horn, Barbara Knight, Marie Ladner, Allen Lax, Kim Lax, Dak McInnis, Helen Mitchener, Tom Moore, Jerry Moses, Bob & Jennifer Netterville, Helen Rankin, Ruth Riddle, Gladys & Kelly Runnels, Esther & Gene Schilf, Mary Jon Turner, Nolan Valenti, Wally and Bev Weselak, Beverly Wolfe

Friends & Family of Members in our prayers

Greg Anderson, Marcia Balcom, Bobbie Bass, Donna & Don Bohlcke, Michael Carson, Angela Maria Avansi Casarotti, Dan Chisham, Patricia Cornelius, Mark Discher, Mary Jo Dobroski, Jimmie E. Dugas, Frances Durham, Johnny Durham, Dean Fife, Paul Foster, J.W. Green, Reynaud Henton, Sarah Hill, Steve Hinton, Jamone Hodge, Ray Hutchinson, Gayle Joseph, Nancy Kettner, Lee Lambert, Melody, Scott, JR Larsen, Robert McKinnis family, Chelsey Miguez, Cheryl Nasab, Judy Olson, Bobby Phillips, David & Kimber Pittman, Tallu Schuyler Quinn, Cherry Quin, Rafael, Jeanie Reed, Debbie Riddle, Hollie Sevitts, Lani Smith, Dayna Coupel Simoneaux, the family of Barbara Vickers, 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

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.
Baton Rouge, LA 70809-1317
225-926-4175 | 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:

URGENT NEEDS: CANNED CARROTS, CANNED MIXED VEGETABLES

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."*