

First Christian Caller

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge

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No. 8



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Out of the Depths, I Cry ...



The ebb and flow of congregational life are always dynamic. Where we would wish that everything would stay on an even keel, life has a way of surprising us, sometimes with bad news, and we struggle to keep everything in context.

As we celebrated Easter, I was excited by the renewed sense of energy I found in worship as many of our family, some of whom I hadn't seen since COVID closures, were present with us in-person. It felt good to be together in that way after such a long drought.

But even in that Easter worship, there was a looming sense that a pillar of our congregation was "slipping the surly bonds of earth," and two days later the call came that Harvey Pryor had passed away. In this newsletter, you'll find more news that will be received with sadness. Our sister Barb Knight suddenly passed away, and you will find a letter from the Thompson family sharing their plans to move from Baton Rouge to be closer to their family in Atlanta.

Our personal hopes of eternal sunshine and happiness are tempered by our lived experience. We struggle with how to process what has happened, and how we move forward in faith. So let us turn to the scriptures for strength.

Sometimes our scripture reading habits tend to stick to the "happy" verses — those that lift our spirits and make us feel joyful; they keep us feeling as if everything is on an upward trajectory. But the writers of scripture, especially writers of the psalms, understood that the ebb and flow of life varies from season to season. For that reason, mixed in with the psalms beginning with life-giving energy lines such as, "Praise the Lord!" and, "Make a joyful noise," are the psalms plumbing the emotional depths of our experience — the psalms of lament.

Out of the depths
I cry to you,
O Lord

Psalm 130 begins, "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord." A psalm of lamentation, the singer of the psalm prays that God would hear his/her request for relief. This psalm also belongs to the Psalms of Ascent: a collection of songs sung by pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem. Even in joyful procession to the Temple in Jerusalem, the pilgrims are still connected to the suffering they've experienced in life.

I find, in a parallel way, even as we celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection in the

Easter season, we are again reminded that we've not completely escaped the gravity of this life. But let us not give up on our hope that God will lead us to a new and bright day.

The Psalms of Lament have one thing in common: They consistently end on a note of hope. Psalm 130 calls upon God's people to renew their confidence. "O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem."

**O Israel,
hope in
the Lord!**

In times of difficulty and struggle, offer your questions and your pain to God. You don't have to hide behind a false front of happiness. But hear the call that, even in our struggle, our hope is eternally in the work of redemption as it continues to shape us by our belief in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Christ's peace,



Rev. Dr. David Chisham
Senior Minister

Blood Banks continue to report urgent needs

Blood banks in the area continue to fight shortages, begun with virus concerns and continued through ice storms and power losses.

If you are eligible, please consider donating through

- **OLOL Blood Bank** on the first floor of the hospital near Elevator D. Phone **225-765-8843** to confirm hours or for more information. **OR**
- **LifeShare** at one of their mobile drives near you: Walmart in Praireville until 7 p.m. this evening, April 6, 2021; or Wal Mart in Central on Wednesday, April 7, between 2 and 6 p.m. Phone 225-383-7728 for more information.

Elder Zoom Gathering

We had a strong and enthusiastic gathering of Elders via Zoom last month, and will continue to meet this way at this time, considering the benefits of convenience and safety for so many. Here are the particulars for the scheduled gathering on **Monday, April 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

<https://zoom.us/j/94071519937?pwd=aUhwMXpFTWY1R2ZoSUEzSFRTbndSUTog>

If you cannot join through the Zoom app, you may join via phone using one of these links (the meeting ID: 940 7151 9937 and passcode: 816212 are already included):

[+16465588656..94071519937#....*816212#](tel:+16465588656..94071519937#....*816212#) US (New York)

[+13017158592..94071519937#....*816212#](tel:+13017158592..94071519937#....*816212#) US (Washington DC)

[+12362487799..94071519937#....*816212#](tel:+12362487799..94071519937#....*816212#) US (Houston)

Sunday Adult Class



Dak McInnis facilitates our Sunday class for adults, immediately following the 10:00 service each Sunday. We gather in the church library, **and via Zoom** (link sent out in each Saturday's reminder email). We will reflect on and discuss the day's sermon as we prepare to live out the Gospel during our week.

Church Family News

Dear Church Family,

Paul and I would like to share some news — Paul is retiring at the end of April after more than 40 years in the investment business. Along with that change, we have decided to move to Georgia to be closer to our family. We feel that now is the time to make this transition since we don't appear to be getting any younger. Those of you who know us will understand that leaving Baton Rouge, and especially this church, will be difficult for us, but we are looking forward to being a bigger part of our children's and grandchildren's lives. We ask for your prayers as we embark on this new adventure, and we will keep FCC BR and each of you in our prayers as well.

With love,

Mary and Paul Thompson

With sadness, yet hope in the Resurrection, we share that

Barbara Ballentine Knight

died on Monday, April 19, 2021.

Visitation will be in the sanctuary at First Christian Church on

Saturday, April 24, 2021 beginning at 1:00 p.m.

until the Memorial Service at 2:00 p.m.



Congratulations to ...

Rebecca Fennell Kirkland and Alex Kirkland on the birth of their first child, ***Evelyn Joy***, on Friday, April 16, 2021 at 3:31 p.m., weighing 7 lbs., 6 oz., and measuring 19" long.

Elated are Evelyn's grandparents at FCC, Lisa and David Fennell, and her Fennell aunts, Meghan Case and Michaela Fennell.

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS

April 25, 2021

May 2, 2021

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Church Opening George Cochran
Sacraments Melanie Cobb
Deacon/Greeter Joanne Taliaferro
Liturgist Kristin Morgan
Youth Reader Layne Chisham
Children's Sermon Leatus Still
Elder Kori Chisham
Video Tech Jeff Cody
Sound Tech Chris Culp
Livestream Ted Baldwin/Sue Grigg
Program Builder Church Office
Church Closing Chris Culp

Church Opening Marion Denova
Sacraments Pam Comeaux
Deacon/Greeter Dak McInnis
Liturgist Charlene Landry
Youth Reader Leonardo Morgan
Children's Sermon *Baby Dedication*
Elder Vicki Krupala
Video Tech Callie Cody
Sound Tech Tony Fatta
Livestream Ted Baldwin/Sue Grigg
Church Closing Cathi Pourciau
Program Builder Jill Brian

Daily Lectionary: April 21 - May 4, 2021

Wednesday, April 21, 2021: Psalm 150; Proverbs 9:1-6; Mark 16:9-18

Thursday, April 22, 2021: Psalm 23; Genesis 30:25-43; Acts 3:17-26

Friday, April 23, 2021: Psalm 23; Genesis 46:28-47:6; Acts 4:1-4

Saturday, April 24, 2021: Psalm 23; Genesis 48:8-19; Mark 6:30-34

Sunday, April 25, 2021: *Fourth Sunday of Easter* - Acts 4:5-12 • Psalm 23 • 1 John 3:16-24 • John 10:11-18

Monday, April 26, 2021: Psalm 95; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 1 Peter 5:1-5

Tuesday, April 27, 2021: Psalm 95; 1 Chronicles 11:1-9; Revelation 7:13-17

Wednesday, April 28, 2021: Psalm 95; Micah 7:8-20; Mark 14:26-31

Thursday, April 29, 2021: Psalm 22:25-31; Amos 8:1-7; Acts 8:1b-8

Friday, April 30, 2021: Psalm 22:25-31; Amos 8:11-13; Acts 8:9-25

Saturday, May 1, 2021: Psalm 22:25-31; Amos 9:7-15; Mark 4:30-32

Sunday, May 2, 2021: *Fifth Sunday of Easter* - Acts 8:26-40 • Psalm 22:25-31 • 1 John 4:7-21 • John 15:1-8

Monday, May 3, 2021: Psalm 80; Isaiah 5:1-7; Galatians 5:16-26

Tuesday, May 4, 2021: Psalm 80; Isaiah 32:9-20; James 3:17-18

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 generally rotate off after 30/60/90 days without an update, depending on the original request.

Members in our prayers:

JD Albin, Dora & Ron Blackburn, Norma Carr, Anthony Casarotti, Jody Chrisope, Callie Cody, Martha Denova, Paul Foster, Lucy Cody, Rich Griswold, Lee & George Gullett, Ruth Horn, Carmen Jones, Barbara Knight, Vicki Krupala, Marie Ladner, Allen Lax, Sherry McInnis, Helen Mitchener, Leo Morgan, Jerry Moses, Bob & Jennifer Netterville, loved ones of Harvey Pryor, Helen Rankin, Gladys & Kelly Runnels, Glen Tetrick, Mary Jon Turner, Wally and Bev Weselak

Friends & Family of Members in our prayers

The family of Benji Beck, Donna & Don Bohlcke, Brittany Stevenson Booth, Jimmy Braswell, Angelica Brown, Angela Marie Avansi Casarotti, Patricia Cornelius, Johnny Durham, Dean Fife, Mabel Foster, Paul Foster, Lane Holloman, friend of Matt Kelley, Lee Lambert, Melody, Scott, JR Larsen, Jimmy Mack, Owen Prejean, Tallu Schuyler Quinn, Cherry Quin, Jeanie Reed, Debbie Riddle, Jimmy Rudd, Alyssa Russell, Dayna Coupel Simoneaux, Nick Tullier, Jim Williams

Members in Active Military Service:

PVT Gage Goodspeed

Thanksgiving for

The safe delivery of Evelyn Joy Kirkland

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

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



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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Baton Rouge, LA 70809-1317

225-926-4175 | fccbrla.org

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

Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

In the church library *and*
via Zoom link emailed on
Wed. mornings!



zoom
BIBLE STUDY