

First Christian Caller

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge

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No. 10



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Paint the Town (Holy Spirit) Red



Pentecost Sunday is finally upon us! The church which was born in a burst of wind and fire and baptismal waters is the church that lives and shares the good news that Jesus is Lord today! Remember to wear red this coming Sunday!

This raises an important question: How is the Holy Spirit at work in your life today? My perception is that it's a hot or cold approach that most Christians have about the Spirit in their lives. Some talk of the Christian life as *all about the Spirit-all the time*, while for others, Christian life sequesters the Holy Spirit to a forgotten corner, to be dragged out on Pentecost, then put back in her box until next year. I don't think either one of these approaches is helpful.

I once heard a statement that took me a while to wrap my head around: "If the Holy Spirit never came upon the church at Pentecost, 99% of what the church did afterward wouldn't have taken place. And, if the Holy Spirit was suddenly removed from the church today, 99% of what the church does wouldn't change." Ouch ... the "human side" of the church does have a tendency to get in a *lather-rinse-repeat* rut. We are always in need of a fresh encounter with the divine!

Throughout the book of Acts, beyond the gifts and miracles and inspiration the Holy Spirit brings, the drive of the Spirit is that followers of Christ should love in larger and larger circles. As the gospel burst forth from twelve, to the first 3000 converts, to spreading beyond the bounds of its birthplace and out to the ends of the earth, each new ring radiating outward is a new layer of love encircling the center that is Jesus Christ.

...the Spirit is an outward moving force, encouraging us to grow in love intentionally, reaching out beyond our circles of comfort.

How do you grow into greater circles of love? There are natural ways that love grows, such as new children and grandchildren, marriages, and people who organically enter

the inner rings of our lives. But the Spirit is an *outward* moving force, encouraging us to grow in love intentionally, reaching out beyond our circles of comfort.

The social distancing of this past year has certainly presented a challenge to our growth in love, but nothing can stop the power of love. I admired my sister-in-law and her fiancé who planned a public wedding well before group size restrictions were lifted, and it turns out their hopes and dreams were fulfilled as those restrictions were eased, just in time for our large family to gather and celebrate! It took a lot of courage to move forward, but their determination paid off.

It takes courage and intention for us to encounter someone who is a slight acquaintance, or a complete stranger, and approach them as someone you will grow to love as a brother or sister in Christ. We may feel as though we have enough love in our lives, but as a mother can always welcome another child with the same love she has for her other children, so God enables us to grow in larger circles of love.

As we celebrate our graduates, Mattie and Jason, we know that their lives are on the verge of spinning off in new and exciting directions, and we fully expect they will make new friends and likely find deeper loves as their lives unfold. I believe, by the power of the Spirit, God intends that we would continue this process of growing in love throughout our lives.

May you greet each new day with courage and intent to discover the growth of love in your life!

Christ's peace,



Rev. Dr. David Chisham
Senior Minister

WEAR RED THIS PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 23

Farewell Brunch for the Thompsons - Sunday, June 13

Join us as we celebrate **Mary & Paul Thompson** and their devoted service to First Christian Church before their move to Georgia, with a Fellowship Hall brunch following our service on **Sunday, June 13**.

We'll have breakfast casseroles, fruits & veggies, and a sweets table, each sponsored by a church leadership group, with buffet-style service. Coffee, water, juice, and milk will be provided by First Christian Church.

If you'd like to help out with food or logistics, Carol Madere is coordinating this event; you can email her, [here](#), or phone/text her at 225-931-4413.



Disciples Virtual Gathering

Save the Date! There will be a virtual gathering of Disciples across the life of the church on **Saturday, August 7, 2021**, an opportunity for Disciples to connect, learn, worship, and imagine new ways of gathering as church. The day's focus will be on the covenant we share as Disciples and the promise of Romans 8:38-39 that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

If you would like to be notified when more information is ready, [click here](#).



Disciples Women Summer Social Gathering



We will be gathering virtually for a time to visit and play some games on **Saturday, July 24, 2021, from 10 am 'til noon**. To register, please [click here](#).

Join us for this time of fellowship with Disciples Women around the Great River Region.

Our theme is **Hope Springs Eternal**, and scripture focus is Ephesians 1:17a, 18a - *I pray that with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance...*

Our 2021 Graduates



Mattie Griswold, the son of Michelle and Scott Griswold, has, after dedicating his high school years to classical piano performance at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, answered the call to serve his country. Over the past few months, he was accepted to West Point, the Merchant Marine Academy, and the US Coast Guard Academy. At NOCCA, Mattie was awarded the President Honors in classical instrumental music. He has signed on the dotted line to attend the Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut.



Jason Savage, the son of Rev. Laura DeMann of Bossier City, and Mr. Robert N. Savage of Baton Rouge, is graduating from Parkway High School in Bossier City. Jason has already earned several welding certifications and has a job waiting for him!

God of journeys, endings, and new beginnings, through the highs and lows, all the twists and turns this class has faced along the way, we have faith that your love has guided them all the days of their lives.

We give you thanks and praise for the goodness that shines in the relationships formed, knowledge learned, and memories they have already made.

We ask your blessing upon the body, mind, and soul of every graduate, that they may celebrate your glory in themselves and all creation, and use their education to build your kingdom of peace. All this we ask in Christ's Name. Amen.

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS

May 23, 2021

May 30, 2021

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Church Opening George Cochran
Sacraments Pam Comeaux
Deacon/Greeter Joanne Taliaferro
Liturgist Frank Dickinson
Youth Reader Anderson Krupala
Children's Sermon Chris Culp
Elder Lucy Cody
Video Tech Greg Taliaferro
Sound Tech Jeff Cody
Livestream Ted Baldwin/Sue Grigg
Church Closing Jeff Cody

Church Opening Marion Denova
Sacraments Pam Comeaux
Deacon/Greeter James Morgan
Liturgist Helen Rankin
Youth Reader Leonardo Morgan
Children's Sermon Crystal Casarotti
Elder Trey Earle
Video Tech Nicolas Morgan
Sound Tech Tony Fatta
Livestream Ted Baldwin/Sue Grigg
Church Closing Nancy Fatta
Program Builder Jeff Cody

Daily Lectionary: May 19 - June 1, 2021

Wednesday, May 5, 2021: Psalm 115; Ezra 9:5-15; John 16:16-24

Thursday, May 20, 2021: Psalm 33:12-22; Genesis 2:4b-7; 1 Corinthians 15:42b-49

Friday, May 21, 2021: Psalm 33:12-22; Job 37:1-13; 1 Corinthians 15:50-57

Saturday, May 22, 2021: Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 15:6-11; John 7:37-39

Sunday, May 23, 2021: *Day of Pentecost* - Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Monday, May 24, 2021: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Joel 2:18-29; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Tuesday, May 25, 2021: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Genesis 11:1-9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Wednesday, May 26, 2021: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 20:19-23

Thursday, May 27, 2021: Psalm 29; Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20; Romans 8:1-8

Friday, May 28, 2021: Psalm 29; Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 8:9-11

Saturday, May 29, 2021: Psalm 29; Isaiah 5:15-24; John 15:18-20, 26-27

Sunday, May 30, 2021: *Trinity Sunday* - Psalm 29 or Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

Monday, May 31, 2021: Psalm 20; Numbers 9:15-23; Revelation 4:1-8

Tuesday, June 1, 2021: Psalm 20; Exodus 25:1-22; 1 Corinthians 2:1-10

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 the prayer request section of our [online check-in page](#), 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 nature of the original request.

Members in our prayers:

JD Albin, Dora & Ron Blackburn, Norma Carr, Jody Chrisope, Martha Denova, Paul Foster, Rich Griswold, Lee & George Gullett, Ruth Horn, Jane Johnson, Carmen Jones, the family of Barbara Knight, Marie Ladner, Tyler Lax, Helen Mitchener, Bob & Jennifer Netterville, Gladys & Kelly Runnels, Glen Tetrick, Mary Jon Turner, Wally and Bev Weselak

Friends & Family of Members in our prayers

Donna & Don Bohlcke, Brittany Stevenson Booth, family and friends of Charlie Brown, Angela Marie Avansi Casarotti, Rhett Castleberry, Patricia Cornelius, Johnny Durham, the family of Dorothy Ebi, Dean Fife, Mabel Foster, Paul Foster, Lane Holloman, Donita Hutchinson, friend of Matt Kelley, Matt Kelley, Lee Lambert, the family of Melody Larsen, Jimmy Mack, Roger Minton, Tammy Norton, Owen Prejean, Tallu Schuyler Quinn, Cherry Quin, Jeanie Reed, Debbie Riddle, Rebekah Rimes, Jimmy Rudd, Alyssa Russell, Dayna Coupel Simoneaux, Beverly Tarver, Nick Tullier, Theresa Weeks

Members in Active Military Service:

PVT Gage Goodspeed

CONTACT INFORMATION AND ONLINE LINKS:

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

Pentecost Offering This Sunday, May 23

Disciples Mission Fund supports ministries in a variety of ways, and even in new and different responses during the pandemic. Each year, half of the Pentecost offerings given remain in our own Region to support local new church development. The other half goes to New Church Ministry, which trains, equips, assists, and multiplies new church leaders. By participating in the Pentecost Offering, you ensure the viability, vitality and sustainability of unique new church plants in your area and in states, provinces, and territories far away.

Let's all be the new church, together.

2021 PENTECOST OFFERING
BE THE NEW CHURCH



Sunday, May 23, 2021