

First Christian Caller

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge

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No. 11



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IN THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS



The title of this article, as well as the title of my latest sermon series, draws some inspiration from the Declaration of Independence, but I don't want us to be taken too far down that road. Rather, as a general observation of the unfolding of human experience, the Scriptures are replete with stories of people encountering God in everyday ways, in the course of human events...

There's a mysterious cycle to God's interaction with humanity. In the book of Genesis, we sometimes see God in a very active mode, creating and calling individuals by name and moving in powerful ways. Then, there are seasons when God seems to step back and let events unfold. While the stories of Isaac and Jacob and Joseph do not completely remove God as an actor, much of the plot unfolds within ordinary human struggles for survival. God never steps completely out of the picture and abandons humanity to its own devices (heaven forbid!), but the Scriptures are honest that sometimes it's hard to find God's word.

In your life, you might experience these cycles as well. Often in times of great change, such as graduation or marriage or the birth of children, a change of job or retirement, or a big move to a new place, we feel God's hand near us. We sense God's guidance and the hand of providence opening doors for us. And other times, when life is just going along in its own direction, perhaps even going a little sideways, we may wonder if God is still there because we don't feel those dramatic movements.

The book of Samuel is an interesting study in the unfolding of God's story in the midst of a very human story. It's a book full of imperfect individuals thrust into situations for which they aren't prepared. Hannah had to calm her anxieties before she could conceive a child.

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Samuel is called to be God's priest and prophet while just a little boy. David was the least likely to be named the future king of Israel. It's a book that honestly recounts the awkward dance between the nation of Israel and the Lord. It's a book that reminds us of the everyday struggles of infertility, answering God's call, and learning to be faithful to God even in the lull times of life.

I invite you to join in worship each Sunday as we explore this book of 1 Samuel, and as we do so I hope you'll explore your own story as well. How has God answered your simplest prayers? How is God calling you to be a faithful witness? How does God bring you peace in the anxieties of your day-to-day world? You may not feel prepared, but the book of 1 Samuel reminds us that most people do not feel prepared, either. We hear the call, we follow in faith, and we trust that God is at work whatever the circumstances. Let us awaken to what God is doing for and through us!

Christ's peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Chisham'.

Rev. Dr. David Chisham
Senior Minister

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Wednesdays - in the church

- Women's Chorus at 6 p.m.
- Chancel Choir at 7:00 p.m.

All interested singers invited!

Farewell Brunch for the Thompsons - Next 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.

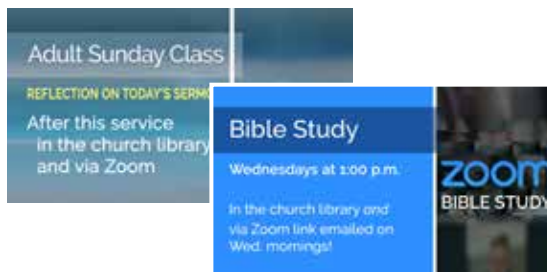
If you'd like to help out with food or logistics, Carol Madere is coordinating this event; you can email her, [here](#), or phone/text her at 225-931-4413.

Everyone who is not the Thompsons: Please go by the parlor, this Sunday, and help us with our thank-you gift. Look on the coffee table, and you'll know exactly what to do!

Weekly Study Opportunities

Adult studies are offered two times, weekly:

Sundays, immediately following the service (about 11:15 a.m.); and, on **Wednesdays**, at 1:15 p.m., in the church library and via ZOOM. The links to the Zoom connection go out on Wednesday mornings and Saturday mornings (for the Sunday class). Give one or both a try!



Storm Season Officially Begins

Store at least one emergency contact under the name “In Case of Emergency” or “ICE” on all mobile phones and devices so your emergency contact can be identified if needed. Be sure your emergency contact is aware of any medical issues or other requirements you may have.

“Ana” has already made her appearance, and disappearance in the Atlantic, but it's still early enough in the season to make sure your storm season plans are caught up, updated, and shared with those who need to know. Here are a few quick ideas to get your communication plan in place.

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION — Write down phone numbers and email addresses for those in your household or those whom you may need to contact in case you don't have your mobile device with you, or the battery has run down.

SCHOOL, CAREGIVER, WORKPLACE PLANS — Discuss plans with those in your household about how messages will be shared, who might be picked up in an emergency, who will follow alerts and warnings, and how those will be shared with the household.

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT: Who outside of your immediate community or state will act as a central point of contact? During a disaster, it might be easier to make a long-distance call than one across town.

EMERGENCY MEETING PLACES - Decide on safe, familiar places where your family can meet to reunite or for protection. If you have pets, make sure they are animal-friendly. Make sure everyone in your household knows these places, and how to get there.

Indoor - Where is the safe place in your home in the event of a high-wind storm? Select a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of a sturdy building.

Neighborhood - Where would you meet if there is a fire or other emergency and you need to leave your home? This could be a big tree, a certain lamppost or mailbox, or a neighbor's house.

Broader Area- If a disaster happens while you're away, and you can't get back home, this is where your family would meet. It might be a library, **your church**, or a family friend's home.

Outside the Area - If your area is told to evacuate, or you are unable to get back to your neighborhood or meeting area, an out-of-town meeting place can help you reunite. Consider various routes and modes of transportation for getting there.

**TEXT
IS
BEST**

If you are using a mobile phone, a text message may get through when a phone call will not, due to its lower bandwidth requirements. Your text may also save and go automatically when capacity becomes available.

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS

June 6, 2021

June 13, 2021

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Church Opening Marion Denova
Sacraments Diane Sympson
Deacon/Greeter Dak McInnis
Liturgist Jody Chrisope
Youth Reader Layne Chisham
Children's Sermon Leatus Still
Elder Pam Comeaux
Video Tech Frank Dickinson
Sound Tech Jeff Cody
Livestream Ted Baldwin/Sue Grigg
Church Closing Chris Culp
Graphic Builder Jill Brian

Church Opening David Fennell
Sacraments Diane Sympson
Deacon/Greeter Sherry McInnis
Liturgist Bill Trotter
Youth Reader Anderson Krupala
Children's Sermon Chris Culp
Elder Paul Thompson
Video Tech Jeff Cody
Sound Tech Greg Taliaferro
Livestream Ted Baldwin/Sue Grigg
Church Closing Cathi Pourciau
Program Builder Jeff Cody

Daily Lectionary: June 2 - 15, 2021

Wednesday, June 2: Psalm 20; Numbers 6:22-27; Mark 4:21-25

Thursday, June 3, 2021: Psalm 138; 1 Samuel 4:1-22; 1 Peter 4:7-19

Friday, June 4, 2021: Psalm 138; 1 Samuel 5:1-12; 2 Corinthians 5:1-5

Saturday, June 5, 2021: Psalm 138; 1 Samuel 6:1-18; Luke 8:4-15

Sunday, June 6, 2021: Proper 5 — 1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20; Psalm 138; 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1; Mark 3:20-35

Monday, June 7, 2021: Psalm 108; 1 Samuel 7:3-15; Revelation 20:1-6

Tuesday, June 8, 2021: Psalm 108; 1 Samuel 8:1-22; Revelation 20:7-15

Wednesday, June 9, 2021: Psalm 108; 1 Samuel 9:1-14; Luke 11:14-28

Thursday, June 10, 2021: Psalm 20; 1 Samuel 9:15-27; Hebrews 2:5-9

Friday, June 11, 2021: Psalm 20; 1 Samuel 10:1-8; Hebrews 11:4-7

Saturday, June 12, 2021: Psalm 20; 1 Samuel 13:1-15a; Mark 4:1-20

Sunday, June 13, 2021: Proper 6 — 1 Samuel 15:34—16:13; Psalm 20; Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

Monday, June 14, 2021: Psalm 53; 1 Samuel 13:23-14:23; Galatians 6:11-18

Tuesday, June 15, 2021: Psalm 53; 1 Samuel 15:10-23; Revelation 21:22-22:5

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, Laurel Dennis, Martha Denova, Paul Foster, Rich Griswold, Lee & George Gullett, Ruth Horn, Jane Johnson, Carmen Jones, Marie Ladner, Tyler Lax, Helen Mitchener, Kristin Morgan, Bob & Jennifer Netterville, Gladys & Kelly Runnels, Joann Taliaferro, Glen Tetrick, Mary Jon Turner, Wally and Bev Weselak

Friends & Family of Members in our prayers

Patricia Cornelius, Johnny Durham, the family of Dorothy Ebi, Dean Fife, Paul Foster, Judy Heacock, Lane Holloman, Donita Hutchinson, friends of Matt Kelley, Lee Lambert, the family of Melody Larsen, Amber Lessard, Tammy Norton, Tallu Schuyler Quinn, Cherry Quin, Jeanie Reed, the family of Sue Pounds, Debbie Riddle, Rebekah Rimes, Jimmy Rudd, Alyssa Russell, Dayna Coupel Simoneaux, Beverly Tarver, Nick Tullier, Theresa Weeks, Amy Zietlow

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

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



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

Disciples Women Summer Social Gathering

Join us for this time of fellowship with Disciples Women around the Great River Region. for a time to visit and play some games on **Saturday, July 24, 2021, from 10 am 'til noon.** To register, please [click here](#).



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...*

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](#).

