

First Christian **Caller**

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge

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IN THIS ISSUE

- ◇ A Note from David
- ◇ Ministry Assignments & Prayer Lists
- ◇ Aaron's School Fundraiser this Saturday
- ◇ Snoasis *and* Week of Compassion Offering this Sunday

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A WEEK MAKES



So, we started Lent last week with an invitation to get outside and get some fresh air. "This Lent," I proclaim, "we're on pilgrimage!"

And, it just so happened that the very day I was trying to send everyone outside for a walkabout, we were reeling from sub-freezing temperatures. So much for planning, but I think we're used to changing plans given everything that has happened over the last year.

I was thankful for the warming temperatures that moved in over the weekend, so I was finally able to get outside and take advantage of meditative movement. My preferred mode of movement is, not surprisingly, by bike. And, over the weekend, I discovered a new route: now that the brand new Rouzan development off of Perkins connects Southdowns to the Pollard-Woodchase area, I have a whole new section of the city open for exploration!

And then, I flatted a tire. Rolling over a little-used section of sidewalk along Perkins, I suddenly heard the dreaded hiss of air escaping from my front tire. In less than 15 seconds I was rolling on the rim. Glass, thorn, sharp rock — I have no idea what it was that punctured the tube through my extra-tough "Gatorskin" tires (seriously, that's what they're called), but I have to admit, sitting on a grassy side of the road, in full, warm sunlight, changing my tire wasn't nearly as aggravating as you think it would be. As it was, in 10 minutes time, I changed the tube, mounted the tire, aired up the wheel and was off to finish my ride, no worse for the wear. In contrast, had it been a car tire to change, I'm sure I would have been a hot-mess for the rest of the day.

After a year of being told to stay in and stay home, it's nice to feel movement and motion, even if it's liable to some irregularity like a flat tire. And in contrast to my drives around town, which always have a particular destination and purpose, it's nice to go and not be concerned with arrival times and delays. This is part of the essence of pilgrimage; as we sing in the hymn *Lead On, O Cloud of Presence*, "...the journey is our home."

Reflecting on Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar's journey from Haran to Canaan, we would need more than 10 fingers and 10 toes to count all the "flats" they encountered. Hagar suffered at the whim of Sarah's jealousies: sent away twice from a place of safety, a single mother who learned to trust in the "God who sees" her predicament. Sarah, herself, sometimes seems dragged along, enduring Abraham's religious experience second hand and feeling forced to make questionable compromises. And Abraham,

whose character waffles between humble trust and fearful control-freak, had to deal with encounters with hostile peoples, a fear that the Pharaoh would murder him for his wife, a nephew who wasn't afraid of taking the choicest piece of land, and, of course, the delay of God's promise to give him a son. Time after time, the story of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar finds them sitting on the side of a desert road, wondering how to get their life's course back on the road. And time after time, when there seems to be no way through, the story leads them to a deeper trust that God is faithful to open a way.

Think about it — the Bible is full of "begats." The author of Genesis could have just said, "Abraham moved to the land of Canaan and begat Isaac," and left it at that. But the author gives us chapters of stories of the ups and downs of their life path. As much as their story is about the "destination" of God delivering on his promise with Isaac, their story is also about their winding life journey, with many examples for us to learn from as we probe the mystery of what our life's journey is about.

We know that Holy Week and Easter will be the destination of our Lenten pilgrimage. But we have some weeks to go. Meantime, as much as we are able, let us learn to enjoy the ride. God is our destination, and God is a life-long companion.

Christ's peace,



Rev. Dr. David Chisham
Senior Minister



Ascent to the Lord

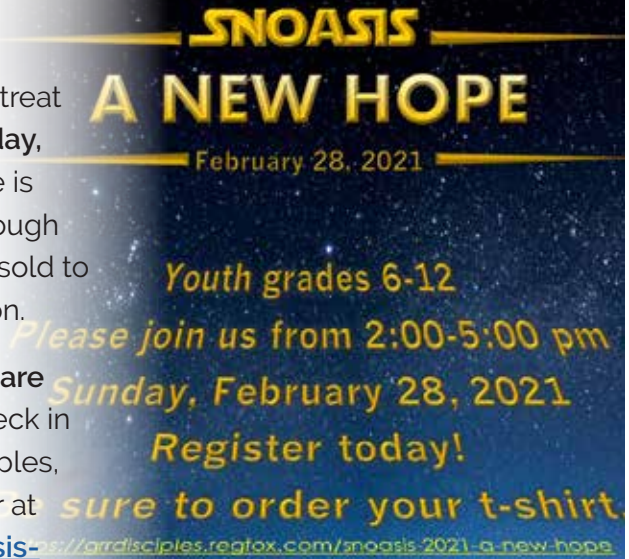
The Way of Lent

Read and/or subscribe at fccbrla.org/lent

SNOASIS: A virtual retreat for sixth-twelfth graders

The annual Great River Region youth retreat will be held virtually this year, **this Sunday, February 28, from 2:00-5:00 p.m.** There is no cost associated with the event, although *Snoasis: A New Hope* t-shirts are being sold to help support youth ministry in the region.

All youth in grades six through twelve are **invited** to attend this opportunity to check in with each other, meet new young Disciples, and help vision our New Hope. Register at <https://grrdisciples.regfox.com/snoasis-2021-a-new-hope> or click the image:

A promotional poster for the SNOASIS youth retreat. The background is a dark blue space-themed image with stars. At the top, the word "SNOASIS" is written in a stylized, metallic font. Below it, "A NEW HOPE" is written in large, bold, yellow capital letters. Underneath that, "February 28, 2021" is written in a smaller yellow font. Further down, "Youth grades 6-12" is written in yellow. Below that, "Please join us from 2:00-5:00 pm" is written in yellow. Then, "Sunday, February 28, 2021" is written in yellow. Below that, "Register today!" is written in yellow. At the bottom, "Be sure to order your t-shirt" is written in yellow. The URL "https://grrdisciples.regfox.com/snoasis-2021-a-new-hope" is written in a smaller yellow font at the very bottom.

Our continual prayers are offered for ...

James Morgan's great-nephew, Lane Holloman, who is (at the time of writing) hospitalized in Memphis with a severe spinal injury sustained in a motor vehicle collision. Lane's father, Shay, was also injured in the collision, but not so severely.

Five-year-old Lane has already had to undergo spinal surgeries, and faces a challenging and difficult prognosis. His family is attempting to get Lane moved to a specialist hospital, but is limited by insurance requirements. Please keep Lane, all those who love him, and his medical team, in your fervent prayers:



Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom: We commend to your loving care this child Lane. Relieve his pain, guard him from all danger, restore to him your gifts of gladness and strength, and raise him up to a life of service to you. Hear us, we pray, for you dear Name's sake. Amen.

Fundraiser for Istrouma Middle Magnet Music Department



Our Director of Music, Aaron Turnipseed, is helping support the music department where he teaches — Istrouma Middle Magnet School — by fundraising with his participation in the 5K Jog-for-Music **this Saturday, February 27**. Aaron will jog/walk **five kilometers** (about three miles) during this event. Donors may choose to support him with a flat amount donation, or with a per kilometer donation. His goal is to raise \$1,500.00, so all donations will be appreciated! Get in touch with [Aaron, here](#), or make your check payable to Aaron Turnipseed, with *Jog-for-Music* in the memo line.

2021 VOLUNTEER CALENDAR March 2021-Feb. 2022

We've begun compiling our 2021-2022 volunteer calendar, based on your input on our volunteer form, focusing on **March through August 2021**. *You can follow along and check your assignments and dates here:*

fccbrla.org/worship-assignments

Sharing our Sunday morning worship online has helped us keep in touch with church family who have been isolating, or undergone quarantine or illness; and, is a ministry we will be continuing — meeting ***all those within our reach*** as it is safe and convenient for them! There is still space for you to be involved, particularly in one of our tech positions. Read more, below!

Sound Board	Communion Elder	Deacons / Greeter (one needed)	Livestream	Video Tech
David Brian	Greg Comeaux**	Dak McInnis**	Beverly Weselak*	Ted Baldwin - as assigned
Judy Lester	Jeff Cody*	Sherry McInnis**	Nancy Fatta*	Ted Baldwin - as assigned
Lucy Cody	Ed Atkins*	Steve Gibson*	Ashley Bourgeois*	Ted Baldwin - as assigned
Trey Earle	Melanie Cobb*	David Landry*	Joanne Taliaferro*	Ted Baldwin - as assigned
Carol Madere	Chris Cobb	Joanne Taliaferro	Chris Cobb	

Attention Techies, or Techie-wannabes

We're looking for volunteers to help run parts of our in-person and livestream production — sound board, video board for graphic display, and/or the livestream production! You don't need to have specialized skills; just be able to follow the service and click a mouse or move a slider. With training, you'll learn how to create a livestream program from beginning to end. We'll be using an industry standard app, OBS, for production, so the skills you learn here will transfer to productions you might do in work, school or just for fun! Talk to David if you're interested.

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS

February 28, 2021

March 7, 2021

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Church Opening George Cochran
Sacraments Felicia Still
Deacon/Greeter Joann Taliaferro
Liturgist Ashley Bourgeois
Youth Reader Callie Cody
Elder Donna Embree
Video Tech Jeff Cody
Sound Tech Jeff Cody/Chris Culp
Livestream Ted Baldwin
Church Closing Ashley Bourgeois
Program Builder TBD

Church Opening Marion Denova
Sacraments Jeff Cody
Deacon/Greeter Dak McInnis
Liturgist Jerry Moses
Youth Reader Leonardo Morgan
Elder David Brian
Video Tech Jeff Cody
Sound Tech Tony Fatta
Livestream Ted Baldwin
Church Closing Nancy Fatta
Program Builder Jill Brian

Worship Assignments are available at fccbrla.org/worship-assignments

Sign up for ministry positions at fccbrla.org -> Serve -> At First Christian Church

Daily Lectionary: February 24, 2021 - March 9, 2021

Wednesday, February 24, 2021: Psalm 77; Proverbs 30:1-9; Matthew 4:1-11

Thursday, February 25, 2021: Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18; Romans 3:21-31

Friday, February 26, 2021: Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 16:1-6; Romans 4:1-12

Saturday, February 27, 2021: Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 16:7-15; Mark 8:27-30

Sunday, February 28, 2021: Second Sunday in Lent: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; March 9:2-9

Monday, March 1, 2021: Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 21:1-7; Hebrews 1:8-12

Tuesday, March 2, 2021: Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 22:1-19; Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19

Wednesday, March 3, 2021: Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Jeremiah 30:12-22; John 12:36-43

Thursday, March 4, 2021: Psalm 19; Exodus 19:1-9a; 1 Peter 2:4-10

Friday, March 5, 2021: Psalm 19; Exodus 19:9b-15; Acts 7:30-40

Saturday, March 6, 2021: Psalm 19; Exodus 19:16-25; Mark 9:2-8

Sunday, March 7, 2021: Third Sunday in Lent: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Monday, March 8, 2021: Psalm 84; 1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22; 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Tuesday, March 9, 2021: Psalm 84; 2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19; Hebrews 9:23-28

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, Dora & Ron Blackburn, the family of Terry Brian, Lois Burt, Norma Carr, Jody Chrisope, Lucy Cody, Greg Comeaux, Pam Culp, Lorrinda & Frank Dickinson, Gloria Giammanco, Kaylan Grigg, Sue Grigg, Rich Griswold, Lee & George Gullett, Ruth Horn, Carmen Jones, Barbara Knight, Marie Ladner, Allen Lax, Helen Mitchener, Leo Morgan, Jerry Moses, Bob & Jennifer Netterville, Helen Rankin, Ruth Riddle, Gladys & Kelly Runnels, Beverly Tipton, Mary Jon Turner, Susan Valenti, Wally and Bev Weselak

Friends & Family of Members in our prayers

Greg Anderson, Mary & Tom Arceneaux, the family of Marcia Balcom, Donna & Don Bohlcke, Jimmy Braswell, Angela Marie Avansi Casarotti, Patricia Cornelius, Billy Cummings, Johnny Durham, Dean Fife, Paul Foster, Sadie Fox, the family of Carl Frisbee, Lori Fry, Sarah Hill, friend of Steve Gibson, Steve Hinton, Lane Holloman, Donita Hutchinson, Lee Lambert, Melody, Scott, JR Larsen, Cade Lucio, Mandy, family and friends of Dawn McKee, Chuck McMains, Chelsey Miguez, Bobby Phillips, David & Kimber Pittman, Owen Prejean, Tallu Schuyler Quinn, Cherry Quin, Jeanie Reed, Debbie Riddle, Lani Smith, Dayna Coupel Simoneaux, Beverly Tipton, Meredith & Adam Tipton, Dorie & Herb Tschudy, Pam Vicknair & family, Jim Williams, Mike Willis

Members in Active Military Service:

PVT Gage Goodspeed

Our Condolences go to the David Brian family, in the loss of Rita, who died on Saturday, February 20. A family graveside service was held Tuesday, February 23.

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>

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

Twitter: <https://twitter.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

WEEK OF COMPASSION - THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

2021 will bring many of the same challenges as 2020 — as well as some new ones. Disasters will continue to occur. Displaced populations remain vulnerable. And hundreds of millions of people around the world struggle under the weight of poverty. But thanks to your support, Week of Compassion will continue to respond. Events of the past year have shown us that, even in times when we cannot be physically together in one place, your offerings to support Week of Compassion continue to strengthen our church's presence all over the world: providing water to the thirsty, food for the hungry, and hope for the weary.

- **Give online at fccbrla.org/giving - note "WOC" in memo box**
- **Give online at weekofcompassion.org**

*When you share
your gifts to Week
of Compassion,
you "Let Love Flow."
Your generosity
ensures that, even
in the midst of
uncertainty, the
transforming power
of compassion
continues to change
the world.*