

# First Christian *Caller*

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge

---

Vol. 85

August 2023

No. 8

---



## *IN THIS ISSUE*

- ◇ [About Our Members](#)
- ◇ [FCC Book Club](#)
- ◇ [Sunday Assignments](#)
- ◇ [Prayer List](#)
- ◇ [Outreach and Fellowship](#)

## Lectionary Readings: August 1-31, 2023

*Tuesday, August 1, 2023:* Psalm 65:8-13; Genesis 30:37-43; Ephesians 6:10-18

*Wednesday, August 2, 2023:* Psalm 65:8-13; Genesis 46:2-47:12; Mark 4:30-34

*Thursday, August 3, 2023:* Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 14:1-2; Philippians 4:10-15

*Friday, August 4, 2023:* Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 41:8-10; Romans 9:6-13

*Saturday, August 5, 2023:* Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Genesis 31:1-21; Matthew 7:7-11

*Sunday, August 6, 2023:* Proper 13 (18)

*Monday, August 7, 2023:* Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Genesis 31:22-42; Romans 1:8-15

*Tuesday, August 8, 2023:* Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Genesis 32:3-21; Acts 2:37-47

*Wednesday, August 9, 2023:* Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 43:1-7; Matthew 15:32-39

*Thursday, August 10, 2023:* Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Genesis 35:22b-29; Acts 17:10-15

*Friday, August 11, 2023:* Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Genesis 36:1-8; Acts 18:24-28

*Saturday, August 12, 2023:* Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Genesis 37:5-11; Matthew 16:1-4

*Sunday, August 13, 2023:* Proper 14 (19)

*Monday, August 14, 2023:* Psalm 28; Genesis 37:29-36; 2 Peter 2:4-10

*Tuesday, August 15, 2023:* Psalm 28; Genesis 39:1-23; Romans 9:14-29

*Wednesday, August 16, 2023:* Psalm 28; Genesis 40:1-23; Matthew 8:23-27

*Thursday, August 17, 2023:* Psalm 133; Genesis 41:14-36; Revelation 15:1-4

*Friday, August 18, 2023:* Psalm 133; Genesis 41:37-57; Acts 14:19-28

*Saturday, August 19, 2023:* Psalm 133; Genesis 42:1-28; Matthew 14:34-36

*Sunday, August 20, 2023:* Proper 15 (20)

*Monday, August 21, 2023:* Psalm 130; Genesis 43:1-34; Acts 15:1-21

*Tuesday, August 22, 2023:* Psalm 130; Genesis 44:1-34; Romans 11:13-29

*Wednesday, August 23, 2023:* Psalm 130; Genesis 45:16-28; Matthew 8:1-13

*Thursday, August 24, 2023:* Psalm 124; Genesis 49:1-33; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

*Friday, August 25, 2023:* Psalm 124; Genesis 49:29-50:14; 2 Corinthians 10:12-18

*Saturday, August 26, 2023:* Psalm 124; Genesis 50:15-26; Matthew 16:5-12

*Sunday, August 27, 2023:* Proper 16 (21)

*Monday, August 28, 2023:* Psalm 8; Exodus 1:1-7; Romans 2:1-11

*Tuesday, August 29, 2023:* Psalm 8; Exodus 2:11-15a; Romans 11:33-36

*Wednesday, August 30, 2023:* Psalm 8; Exodus 2:15b-22; Matthew 26:6-13

*Thursday, August 31, 2023:* Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Exodus 2:23-24; Ephesians 5:1-6



## Blessing the Backpacks

We will be Blessing all FCC children's backpacks on **Sunday, August 6th**. All kids are encouraged to bring their backpacks to service this day for their backpacks to be prayed over for this school year.



## PACK THE PACK - CASA

As a result of the cancellation of our 7/16/23 worship service, and the extension of our donation deadline by CASA... the backpack/school supplies collection has been extended until **August 13th**. Please leave donations (loose or packed) in the Narthex or deliver them to the church office during office hours. CASA kids thank you!

## SOUTHEAST MINISTRIES!!

Summer is a busy time, full of trips and special activities... but hunger doesn't take a vacation! SE Ministries is grateful year-around, but especially during the summer months, for any and all donations! The requested food items list is posted in the Narthex. Will you snap a photo of it to take with you on your next grocery run and pick up a few supplies to donate to this ministry? Thanks, you are appreciated!



## Time for Fellowship:

**August 20th...** Picnic & Ice Cream Social. Y'all come join in on an end-of-summer picnic and icecream social, immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall. We hope it will be a fun celebration of this great summer and the start of a new school year with our church family. Congregants are asked to bring a "picnic" side dish, and/or ICE

CREAM!!! (We love to taste your favorite home-made recipes!!) The church will provide meat and ice cream toppings! Volunteers are needed for setup (8/19/23 10:00-noon) and cleanup. Please sign the signup sheets in the Narthex if you're able to help.

## August Meetings

- **LOLL** (Lots of Living Left) will meet **Wednesday, August 2nd at 10:00am** in the Youth Building.
- **TABS** (Thursday Afternoon Bible Study) will resume meeting on **Thursday, August 3rd, at 1:00 p.m.** in the Youth Building. The study is open to everyone and is led by Rev. Tom Cody and occurs weekly.
- **Children Worship and Wonder** will meet on **Sunday, August 6th**, during the worship service. All kids, ages 3-11, are invited to participate in this worship experience for youth.
- **Disciples Women** will meet on **Thursday, August 24th, at 9:30 a.m.** in the Youth Building. All women of the church are invited to attend.
- **Elders** are scheduled to meet in the sanctuary immediately following worship service on **Sunday, August 27th.**
- **Chancel Choir** rehearsals resume on **August 9th at 6:30pm** in the Sanctuary and occur every Wednesday at 6:30pm. Anyone who is interested in joining the choir is invited to join them- you do not need to know how to read music. Contact Aaron if you have any questions at [aturnipseed85@gmail.com](mailto:aturnipseed85@gmail.com).
- **The Governance Committee** will meet on **August 8th at 6:30** in the Fellowship Hall Sunday School room to discuss possible updates to the bylaws. Committee members include Tony and Nancy Fatta, Lucy Cody, Cathi Porcieau, and Carol Madere.

## The Study on Sunday Mornings

"The Study" meets in the Fellowship Hall classroom **each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.**, and is led by Dak McInnis. Join in anytime! Currently, the class is winding up their tour of Proverbs and will begin a fresh study in the Old Testament book, The Song of Solomon, a lyric drama, which is also known as, "The Song of Songs". It is a beautiful love poem of God's love for us on many levels.

## FCC Book Club

FCC Book Club will begin on **Sunday, August 20th at 5:30pm** in Fellowship Hall. We will meet in the Study Classroom in the back of the building. This group will read and discuss both Christian fiction and non-fiction, and book club members can take turns suggesting the next book. The book for discussion on August 20th will be "The Water Keeper" by Charles Martin. Light snacks will be provided. Read the book in its entirety before the meeting. Contact Carol Madere for additional information and to RSVP at 225-941-4413 or [cmmadere@gmail.com](mailto:cmmadere@gmail.com).

# About Our Members

## New Baby Announcement

The FCC Family is thrilled to announce the arrival of a new baby! Welcome home Olivia LinJean Lee, daughter of Frank and Elise Lee of Mandeville, granddaughter of Carol and Pete Madere. She was 6 lbs. 10 oz and 18 3/4 inches. She was born July 10 at 8:19 pm. She is welcomed home by big brother Wyatt and big sister Allie.



## The Secret of Change

Socrates once said, "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new."

A disturbing change in the 21st century is the closure of churches and the general movement of people away from church membership. About 4,500 Protestant churches closed in 2019, the last year data is available, according to Lifeway Research. Here in Louisiana, Disciples churches which have closed include Broadmoor Christian Church in Shreveport, St. Charles Avenue Christian Church in New Orleans and the Disciples church in Metairie. The pandemic accelerated this trend, and Protestant pastors have reported that church attendance is only at 85% of pre-pandemic levels. Another factor in declining church membership, especially for younger generations, is churches becoming too political and judgmental. About a quarter of the young adults who dropped out of church said in the Lifeway survey that they disagreed with their church's stance on political and social issues. I believe the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and particularly FCC-Baton Rouge, has much to offer people who want a politics-free church home, but I think we need to be much more intentional about telling our community what we offer. To that end, I am forming an evangelism committee which will be unlike any evangelism committee the church has ever had before. We're not going to knock on doors or adopt an evangelism program in a box from the denomination's office. This committee is going to look both inward and outward. We're going to think about who we are, whom we want to serve, and how we want to serve. Then, we'll consider how best to invite the community into our fellowship. This committee will probably be making the most important decisions this church has made since deciding to move to Old Hammond Highway in the 1950s, because it will be trying to ensure the church's continued existence, despite the headwinds of demographic changes. I need people with both vision and vitality for this committee, and I do not care how old you are. If you care about this church and want it to not just survive but grow, this committee needs you. Please call Carol Madere at 225-931-4413 to volunteer. We will start meeting in August. This committee will also need the congregation to support growth ideas and activities. It will take a whole of church effort to be effective. Can we count on you?

Carol Madere

Board Chair

## SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS

Please check your worship assignments in advance and arrange for a sub in the case of a scheduling conflict. We appreciate that very much! You can check assignments [online, here](#), or contact Brenda in the church office at 225-926-4175.

### August 6, 2023

*Church Opening* Jerry Hilgendorf  
*Sacraments* Lisa Fennell  
*Liturgist* Lucy Cody  
*Children's Moment* Judy Lester  
*Youth Reader* Cora Cody  
*Elder* Judy Lester  
*Greeter* Ashley Bourgeois  
*Deacons* Ed Atkins, Ashley Bourgeois, David Fennell, Lisa Fennell  
*Livestream* Pam Jones  
*Video Tech* Frank Dickinson  
*Sound Tech* Joshua Dotts  
*Church Closing* Judy Lester  
*Program Builder* Brenda Hilgendorf

### August 20, 2023

*Church Opening* David Fennell  
*Sacraments* Lisa Fennell  
*Liturgist* Ashley Bourgeois  
*Children's Moment* Rev. Dr. Tip Tipton  
*Youth Reader* Leonardo Morgan  
*Elder* Rev. Tom Cody  
*Greeter* Anderson Krupala  
*Deacons* Steve Gibson, Anderson Krupala, Bill Trotter, Lorry Trotter  
*Livestream* Nicolas Morgan  
*Video Tech* Jeff Cody  
*Sound Tech* Brenda Hilgendorf  
*Church Closing* Jeff Cody  
*Program Builder* Dr. Carol Madere

### August 13, 2023

*Church Opening* Charles Riddle  
*Sacraments* Lisa Fennell  
*Liturgist* Pam Comeaux  
*Children's Moment* Jerry Moses  
*Youth Reader* Brynleigh Comeaux  
*Elder* Carmen Jones  
*Greeter* Jeff Cody  
*Deacons* Callie Cody, Jeff Cody, Shelly Cody, Bill Egger  
*Livestream* Anderson Krupala  
*Video Tech* Greg Taliaferro  
*Sound Tech* Tony Fatta  
*Church Closing* Jerry Hilgendorf  
*Program Builder* Jeff Cody

### August 27, 2023

*Church Opening* James Morgan  
*Sacraments* Lisa Fennell  
*Liturgist* Tracy Shaffer  
*Children's Moment* Dr. Carol Madere  
*Youth Reader* Anderson Krupala  
*Elder* Nancy Chapaneri  
*Greeter* Doug Shaffer  
*Deacons* Nicolas Morgan, Doug Shaffer, Tracy Shaffer, Joann Taliaferro  
*Livestream* Rev. Tom Cody  
*Video Tech* Carmen Jones  
*Sound Tech* Jeff Cody  
*Church Closing* Cathi Pourciau  
*Program Builder* Jill Brian

# 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](mailto:churchoffice@fccbrla.org), or 225-926-4175. Names generally rotate off after 30, 60, or 90 days without an update, depending on the nature of the original request.

## Members in our prayers:

Dan Calvert, Robert Calvert, Norma Carr, Jody Chrisope, Marjorie Clark, Melanie Cobb, Rev. Tom Cody, Pam Culp, Martha Denova, Paul Foster, Sue Grigg, Lee Gullett, Ruth Horn, Presley Hutchinson, Rev. Frank & Jane Johnson, Jeff Judice, Lindsay Kelly, Marie Ladner, Wanda Lax, BJ McRae, Helen Mitchener, Jerry Moses, Bob & Jennifer Netterville, Helen Rankin, Kelly & Gladys Runnels, Bill & Lorry Trotter, Claudia Wagner

## Friends & Family of Members in our prayers:

Adam Alsobrook, Jason Barnett, Colette Blanchard, Don & Donna Bohlcke, Viola Bradshaw, Megan Elmore, Mary Ann Giacone, Trudy Graves, Bill Hebert, Kelly Hepburn Family, Patty Hubeny, Jake Huisingh, Drew Iacona, Ruth Jernigan, Cindy L, Sophie Leblanc, Paula Mack, Betty Marche, Dawn Minton, Aubrey Moran, Danny Morgan, Missy Perilloux, Charles Smith, Savannah Smith, Ramilla Soni, Willa Sowler, John Townsend, Ann Weeks

## Active Military Service:

SPC Gage Goodspeed

## August Calendar Notes

<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Description</i>
Wednesday, August 2	10:00 a.m.	LOLL - YB
Sunday, August 6	10:00 a.m.	Blessing of the Backpacks - Sanctuary
Sunday, August 6	10:30 a.m.	Children Worship & Wonder - CWW Room
Sunday, August 13	In Service.	Final Collection for School Supplies
Sunday, August 20	After Service	Fellowship Luncheon Church Picnic -FH
Sunday, August 20	5:30 p.m.	FCC Book Club- FH
Thursday, August 24	9:30 a.m.	Disciples Women - YB
Sunday, August 27	11:00 a.m.	Elders Meeting - Sanctuary
<i>Ongoing Meetings:</i>		
Sundays	9:00 a.m.	The Study - Adult Bible Study - FH
Wednesdays	6:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
Thursdays	9:30 a.m.	Silver Angels - YB
Thursdays	1:00 p.m.	Thursday Bible Study - YB



**First Christian Church**

*Disciples of Christ*

8484 Old Hammond Hwy.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809-1317  
225-926-4175 | [fccbrla.org](http://fccbrla.org)

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

## **CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION AND ONLINE LINKS:**

Church Office Phone: 225-926-4175

Email: [churchoffice@fccbrla.org](mailto:churchoffice@fccbrla.org)

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 am - 3 pm

The Rev. Dr. Dedrick Minor, *Senior Minister*

Email: [dedrick@fccbrla.org](mailto:dedrick@fccbrla.org)

Minister's Hours: Wed. 4-7 pm; Sat. 10:30 am-1:00 pm, and by appointment

Aaron Turnipseed, M.M.P., *Director of Music*

Earl Poole, *Music Worship Leader*

Brenda Hilgendorf, *Bookkeeper*

Alyson Coyle, *Admin. Ass't.*

Charles Riddle, *Facilities*

Website: [fccbrla.org](http://fccbrla.org) YouTube Video Channel: [youtube.com/fccbrla](https://youtube.com/fccbrla)

Facebook: [facebook.com/fccbrla](https://facebook.com/fccbrla) Twitter: [twitter.com/fccbrla](https://twitter.com/fccbrla)

Instagram: [instagram.com/fccbrla](https://instagram.com/fccbrla)

**DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS: [Vanderbilt Divinity Library - Year A](#)**