

THE MESSENGER

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge, LA

VOL. 87

December 2025

NO. 12



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HOSPITALITY

VICKI KRUPALA, CHAIR

THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP MEAL - On behalf of the Hospitality Committee, I truly give thanks for the MANY hard-working and talented souls who helped coordinate our amazing Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal on Sunday, November 16th!

EXTENDING GRATITUDE FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Eight delicious turkeys - prepared by the FCC Men's Group *Harold Choate, Daniel Dickey, Trey Earle, Charles Riddle, and Greg Taliaferro*
- Two juicy hams - prepared by the FCC Men's Group - *Jeff Cody and Tony Fatta*
- Fellowship Hall Decorations - created by - *Nancy Fatta and Beverly Weselak*
- Fellowship Hall Set-Up - *Nancy & Tony Fatta, Cathi Pourciau, Beverly Weselak, and Charles Riddle*
- Kitchen Meal Preparation & Service - *Jeff Judice, Greg & Amy Taliaferro, Trey Earle, Charles Riddle, and Nancy & Tony Fatta*
- Kitchen Clean-Up Crew - *Cathi Pourciau, Carl Cotten, Alicia Levell, Greg & Amy Taliaferro, Donna Embree, and Charles Riddle*

LAST BUT NOT LEAST - **THANK YOU** - To members of the FCC Congregation for creating inviting atmosphere for those who attended the meal, and for lending a hand to clean-up the Fellowship Hall afterwards.



WE WANT TO CELEBRATE YOU!

December Birthdays

Earl Poole	December 4th
Joann Taliaferro	December 7th
Shelly Cody	December 10th
Leonardo Morgan	December 11th
Brandon Wilson	December 12th
Nicolas Morgan	December 13th
David Fennell	December 16th
Jeffrey Judice	December 19th
Carl Cotten	December 20th
David Landry	December 23rd
Carol Madere	December 26th
Kayla Mercil	December 26th
Callie Cody	December 28th
Debbie Poche'	December 30th

December Anniversaries

Frank and Jane Johnson	December 30th
James and Kristin Morgan	December 31st



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2nd	7:00 pm	Service of Remembrance
December 7th	11:15 am	Congregational Photo
December 7th	11:30 am	Congregational Meeting
December 7th	12:00 pm	Book Club (Jason's Deli)
December 13th	4:00 pm	Youth Christmas Party (Youth Building)
December 14th	10:00 am	Christmas Cantata
December 14th	11:00 am	Christmas Luncheon
December 18th	9:30 am	Disciples Women
December 18th	6:00 pm	Sisters in Christ
December 24th		Christmas Eve
December 24th	9:00 pm	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
December 25th		Christmas Day (office closed)
December 31st		New Year's Eve
January 1st		New Year's Day (office closed)

Chancel Choir meets on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm;
Silver Angeles meet on Thursdays at 9:30 am

OUTREACH

JUDY LESTER, CHAIR



SOUTHEAST MINISTRIES - Our "pantry focus items" for December include: Potatoes & yams (boxed, canned, or fresh), cranberry sauce, pasta & canned spaghetti sauce, and dried red beans. Please place donated food items in the shopping cart that is located in the Narthex or Chancel areas.

Thank you to all our donors for your **GENEROUS** support of our Thanksgiving food drive! We estimated that we had 250+ items donated to the food pantry in November. *"For I was hungry and you gave me food." Matthew 25:35*



HOODIE DRIVE FOR VETERANS - Our congregation generously donated 37 hoodies for disabled Veterans in our area. They were delivered to the Vets Center on Sherwood Forest Blvd. for distribution. Your Outreach Committee thanks all who participated in this project



ADVENT SHUT-IN COOKIE DRIVE - We will again be delivering gift bags to FCC's shut-ins in December. Sign-up sheets and instructions are in the Narthex. •

BAKERS NEEDED:

- o Volunteer sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. Please indicate the type of cookie you're making and select a unique type, so recipients will receive a variety.
- o Bakers should plan on baking 3-4 dozen cookies. The cookies should be divided into small food storage bags, 2 per bag.
- o Zipock bags need not be labeled, but your transport box should be marked with your name and delivered to the church office (9am to 3pm Monday through Thursday) by Thursday, December 11th.

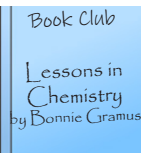
DRIVERS NEEDED: *(this is a great activity for students to achieve their school "community service hours"!)*

- o Volunteer sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex.
- o Gift bags will be given to volunteer drivers on Sunday, December 14th in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the Christmas Fellowship Luncheon.
- o Each driver will receive a list of recipients with addresses and phone numbers they are to deliver to. (The list size will depend upon the number of volunteer drivers we have. Typically, the lists are 3-4 stops each.)
- o Deliveries should be made on Dec 14th, but by Dec 19th at the absolute latest.
- o Drivers are asked to call recipients before coming by, and to stay and chat in the foyer or driveway for a few minutes – as the visit is the most important thing.

CHURCH GROWTH

DR. CAROL MADERE, CHAIR

BOOK CLUB will meet on Sunday, December 7th right after the Congregational Meeting and will meet at Jason's Deli. The book is "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. This story is about a female chemist in the 1960's who challenged societal norms. Any questions contact Carol Madere 225-9314413.



EXECUTIVE REGIONAL MINISTER CALLED BY GREAT RIVER REGION

- The board of the Great River Region voted to call Rev. Alison Robuck as its next Executive Regional Minister. Rev. Robuck has been serving as the Interim Executive Regional Minister for two years. Rev. Robuck is a life-long Disciple from Enid, Oklahoma. She earned her M.Div. from Christian Theological Seminary (Indianapolis, Indiana) in 1996 and was ordained at First Christian Church in Edmond, OK. Throughout Alison's 28 years in ministry, she has served congregations in Colorado, Missouri, Minnesota, Iowa, and Arkansas. Rev. Robuck has a passion for preaching, pastoral care, and strategic planning. She is committed to team building and celebrating all the gifts which gather around the Table of Christ. Her installation service will be held during the next Regional Assembly in Arkansas, November 2026.



CONGREGATIONAL PHOTO AND PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES - Pictorial directories will be available at the Congregational Meeting on December 7th. After the service, we will gather on the front steps of the church to take one photo as a congregation for the website. Michael Rankin has generously offered his drone to take the photo. Please be sure to stay for the meeting after the photo shoot and to pick up your copy of the pictorial directory on Dec. 7th. At this meeting we will elect our Officers, Elders, Deacons, and Sacraments team for 2026. We will also be voting on our 2026 General Fund Budget. All members of the church are encouraged to attend.

Dr. Carol Madere and Tony Fatta, Board Chair

DECEMBER YOUTH EVENT - FCC's Youth Group Christmas Party will be held Saturday, December 13th at 4 p.m. in the Youth Building. Following the Christmas Party, we will travel to see the Christmas lights at the Baton Rouge General Hospital on Bluebonnet. All youth of the church are welcome to attend. Call Carol Madere at (225-931-4413) for questions or concerns.



WORSHIP

NANCY FATTA, CHAIR

SISTERS IN CHRIST - Our next meeting will be **THURSDAY**, December 18th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



ALL SAINTS DAY - We held our **ALL SAINTS DAY** celebration on Sunday, November 2nd. The following members and friends of our congregation are the ones who passed away in 2025. FCC honored these friends:



J.D. Albin
Vincent Cannatella
Marjorie Clark
Lois Elmore
Margaret Moore
Melissa Stephenson

Dianne Buhler
Nancy Chapaneri
Charles Culp
Geneva Minton
Jennifer Netterville
Leatus Still

VETERAN'S DAY - Our annual Veteran's Day celebration was held on Sunday, November 9th. The following Veterans in our Congregation were honored:

Ed Atkins
Ashley Bourgeois
Harold Choate
Carl Cotten
George Gullet
James Morgan
Scott Murrell

J.P. Averette
Charlie Bremer
Matt Comeaux
Gage Goodspeed
Dak McInnis
Jerry Moses
Steve Sanders



We thank our dedicated members for their sacrifice and service.



PRAYER CIRCLE WILL BE CANCELED IN DECEMBER - Since the Congregational Meeting is being held after worship service on the first Sunday in December, we have cancelled the Prayer Circle for this month.

ADDITIONAL FCC NEWS



Christmas Craft Workshop - The Church Growth Committee thanks all those who participated in the Christmas Craft Workshop on November 15th. A special thank you to Nancy Fatta and Beverly Weselak, who demonstrated their crafts. Also, a thank you to Kim Lax, Brenda Hilgendorf, and Charles Riddle.

*Don't worry if you missed it.
There's talk of a spring workshop next year.*

Christmas Spirit Has Arrived for CW&W

- The members of Children Worship and Wonder had fun decorating the Christmas tree in their building on Sunday, November 23rd. The nursery workers joined in the fun and supervised the decorating and placing of the presents under the tree.



CHURCH DEFINITIONS



SANCTUARY - This is the primary worship space where the congregation gathers. It is often a communal, stage-like area rather than a high-liturgical one, reflecting the Disciples' emphasis on a shared, open Communion table. FCC's Sanctuary was dedicated in 1984. In the office there are pictures and information highlighting the progress of the sanctuary as it was being constructed.

OTHER INFORMATION FOR FCC

Man does not live by bread alone, but by the word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 8:3

THE STUDY - 8:45 – 9:45 am, Sunday (Youth Building)

Come join us in a lively, Spirit lead study of God's Word and answers to the question, "WHY?"

"WHY, LORD, WHY?"

Perhaps Deuteronomy 8:3b may be the answer: that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.

Jesus said this: the Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you - they are full of the Spirit and life.

Lemon Pineapple Salad



- 1 8 ounce package of cream cheese (softened)
- 1 15 1/4 ounce can of crushed pineapple (drained)
- 1 14 ounce can of Eagle Brand Condensed Milk
- 1 21 ounce can of lemon pie filling
- 1 8 ounce carton of cool whip



By Silver Angels
Phyllis Willis

Cream Eagle Brand Condensed milk and softened cream cheese until smooth. Blend in the lemon pie filling and pineapple. Fold in the cool whip. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Interesting Strange Bible Facts

1. The shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35, which states: **"Jesus wept."**
2. The shortest book in the Bible is Psalm 117, which has two verses.
1 All of you nations, come praise the Lord! Let everyone praise him.
2 God's love for us is wonderful; his faithfulness never ends. Shout praises to the Lord!
3. The longest book in the Bible is Psalm 119. There are **176 verses**.
4. The longest verse in the Bible is Esther 8:9. There are **53 words**.



Bible Trivia

- Easy: Where did Adam and Eve live at the beginning of the world?
Medium: Which New Testament book has Jesus' Sermon on the Mount?
Hard: Who was the last king Daniel served under in the Bible?

(Answers on page 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 days.

Members in our prayers:

Judy Albin, JP Averette, Ann Baskin, Dora Blackburn, Family of Dianne Buhler, Jody Chrisope, Family of Marjorie Clark, Rev. Tom & Lucy Cody, Martha Denova, George & Lee Gullett, Ruth Horn, Rev. Frank & Jane Johnson, Marie Ladner, Allen Lax, BJ McRae, William Miguez, Helen Mitchener, Family of Margaret Moore, Jerry Moses, Helen Rankin, Kelly & Gladys Runnels..

Friends & Family of Members in our prayers:

Elaine Altazan, Milani Cagle, Kim Domangue, Kyle Franklin, Patty Hubeny, Family of Geneva Minton, James Jablonski, Rev. Michael Karunas, Louis LaSalle, Jimmy Maddalone, John Miller, Donna Miller, Beverly Pacas, Tommy Poirrier, Ruth Payne, Randall Priester, Valentin Rhangelov, Debbie Riddle, Chase Roche, Family of Cary Saurage, Sandy Scallan, and Travis Valenti.

OTHER INFORMATION FOR FCC

Bible Trivia Answers

(from page 9)

Easy: Garden of Eden

Medium: Matthew

Hard: King Nebuchadnezzar

This is a reminder to not enter the buildings (Fellowship Hall, Youth Building, and Baker Building) during the time slots that outside groups are meeting. Opening the doors and walking around disturbs the group meetings.

Thank you.

AMAZING BIBLE FACTS

Did you know that there are 94 animals mentioned in the Bible?

Addax - a antelope native to the Saharan Desert. **Deuteronomy 14:5**



Antelope - a hoofed mammal native to Africa and Asia.

Deuteronomy 14:5, Isaiah 51:20



Ant - social insect that live in organized colonies.

Proverbs 6:6 and 30:25.



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 the church office at 225-926-4175.

December 7, 2025 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

Church Opening	David Fennell
Sacraments	Sally Bremer
Liturgist	Carmen Jones
Children's Moment	Ashley Bourgeois
Youth Reader	Cora Cody
Elder	Dr. Carol Madere'
Greeter	Gene Schilf
Deacons	Gene and Esther Schilf
	Carl Cotten
	Alicia Levell
Livestream	Charles Riddle
Video Tech	Brenda Hilgendorf
Sound Tech	Tony Fatta
CW&W Greeter	Kayla Mercil
CS&W Storyteller	Genesis Bennie
Church Closing	Michael Rankin
Program Builder	Jill Brian

December 21, 2025 (4th Sunday of Advent)

Church Opening	James Morgan
Sacraments	Sally Bremer
Liturgist	Ashley Bourgeois
Children's Moment	Nancy Fatta
Youth Reader	Brynleigh Comeaux
Elder	Dr. Trey Earle
Greeter	Steven Gibson
Deacons	Steven Gibson
	Ed Atkins
	Tony Babin
	Greg Taliaferro
Livestream	Daniel Dickey
Video Tech	Frank Dickinson
Sound Tech	Pam Jones
CW&W Greeter	Leonardo Morgan
CS&W Storyteller	Kristin Morgan
Church Closing	James Morgan
Program Builder	Brenda Hilgendorf

December 14, 2025 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

Church Opening	Michael Rankin
Sacraments	Sally Bremer
Liturgist	Lorrinda Dickinson
Children's Moment	Judy Lester
Youth Reader	Leonardo Morgan
Elder	Debbie Poche'
Greeter	Cathi Pourciau
Deacons	Cathi Pourciau
	Jeff Cody
	James and Kristin Morgan
Livestream	Charles Riddle
Video Tech	Brenda Hilgendorf
Sound Tech	Tony Fatta
CW&W Greeter	Kayla Mercil
CS&W Storyteller	Genesis Bennie
Church Closing	Charles Riddle
Program Builder	Michael Rankin

December 28, 2025

Church Opening	Jerry Hilgendorf
Sacraments	Sally Bremer
Liturgist	Alicia Levell
Children's Moment	Pam Comeaux
Youth Reader	Cora Cody
Elder	Ashley Bourgeois
Greeter	Tracy Shaffer
Deacons	Doug and Tracy Shaffer
	Michael and Kim Rankin
Livestream	Michael Rankin
Video Tech	Jeff Cody
Sound Tech	Greg Taliaferro
CW&W Greeter	Kayla Mercil
CS&W Storyteller	Genesis Bennie
Church Closing	Jeff Cody
Program Builder	Jeff Cody



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

8484 Old Hammond Hwy.
Baton Rouge, LA 70809-1317
225-926-4175 | fccbrla.org

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

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION AND ONLINE LINKS:

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

Minister's Office Hours: by appointment

Church Office Phone: 225-926-4175

Church Office Email: churchoffice@fccbrla.org

Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday
9am - 3 pm

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

Earl Poole, *Music Worship Leader*

Brenda Hilgendorf, *Bookkeeper / Human Resources*

Charles Riddle, *Facilities*

Kimberly Lax, *Administrative Assistant*

Website: fccbrla

Facebook: facebook.com/fccbrla

Instagram: instagram.com/fccbrla

YouTube Video Channel: youtube.com/fccbrla

Twitter: twitter.com/fccbrla

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