

THE MESSENGER

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge, LA

VOL. 88

January, 2026

NO. 1



◇ *We Want to Celebrate You!*

◇ *Sunday Assignments*

◇ *Upcoming Events*

HOSPITALITY

VICKI KRUPALA, CHAIR

CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP MEAL - A special note of thanks goes out to those who assisted with set-up, decorations, kitchen duties and clean-up for our Christmas Fellowship Meal on Sunday, December 14th: **Nancy Fatta, Charles Riddle, Tony Babin, Jeff Judice, and Carl & Alicia Cotten!!!** The fellowship hall was beautifully decorated as our congregation came together after the Cantata to celebrate the holiday season with a delicious meal. Thanks to members of our congregation for sharing their favorite dishes and lending a hand with clean up afterwards. We are so very blessed to have such a talented, generous and caring church!

Have a VERY Merry Christmas and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

CONGREGATIONAL PICTURE - DECEMBER 2025



BIBLE TRIVIA



- Easy: Who did God tell to build an ark?
Medium: In what language was most of the Old Testament given?
Hard: What were Daniel's three friends (Babylonian names)?

(Answers on page 9)

WE WANT TO CELEBRATE YOU!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Frank Dickinson	January 6th
Madison Rankin	January 6th
Lisa Fennell	January 7th
Bobby Johnson	January 7th
Tanner Wilson	January 14th
Jim Giammanco	January 18th
Joshua Dotts	January 18th
Toni Wilson	January 19th
Cathi Pourciau	January 20th
Rhonda Culp	January 21st
Teagan Dickey	January 21st
Terri Cochran	January 24th



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 1st		New Year's Day (office closed)
January 4th	11:00 am	Prayer Circle (Library)
January 4th	11:15 am	Deacon's Organizational Meeting
January 11th	11:00 am	Elder's Organizational Meeting
January 11th	11:15 am	FCC Book Club (Jason's Deli)
January 18th	11:00 am	Sacraments Organizational Meeting
January 20th	6:30 pm	Board Meeting (Youth Building)
January 22nd	9:30 am	Disciples Women (Youth Building)
January 22nd	6:00 pm	Sisters in Christ (Fellowship Hall)
January 31st	12:00 noon	Youth Group (Fellowship Hall)

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



FCC YOUTH COOKIE DECORATIONS

OUTREACH

JUDY LESTER, CHAIR



2025 was a banner year for FCCBR Outreach. Thanks to YOUR generosity we supported Southeast Ministries with over 1,000 food items, donated blood, gave 388 school supplies and a few gently used musical instruments to needy children in our area, provided 37 hoodies to homeless veterans, gave over \$1,000 to global relief, and reached out to 30 of our seniors and shut-ins at Christmas. WOW, YOU GUYS ROCK!!'d like to thank everyone on the Outreach Committee for their hard work and enthusiasm: **Nancy Fatta, Carol Madere, Cathi Pourciau, and Michael Rankin.** We are doing God's work and making a difference! Let's keep it up this new year! -- Gratefully yours, Judy

ADVENT SHUT-IN COOKIE DRIVE - Thanks to everyone who assisted in reaching out to our seniors and shut-ins this year, we delivered to 30 households!



BAKERS - Jervais Averette, Presley Hutchinson, Ruth Riddle, Cathi Pourciau, Mollie Choate, Carol Madere, David Simon, Dave Hughes, Donna Embree, Brynleigh Comeaux, Phyllis Willis, Nancy Fatta, and Sherry McInnis

DRIVERS - Harold Choate, Jerry & Brenda Hilgendorf, Nico Morgan & Debbie Poche', Callie Cody, Kendall & Julie Theunissen, Presley Hutchinson & Ray Acardo, Chris Culp, Judy Lester, Tony & Nancy Fatta, Ashley Bourgeois, Kristin & Leo Morgan



SOUTHEAST MINISTRIES - Our "**pantry focus items**" for January includes: **macaroni and cheese, canned tuna, jelly** (small containers-no glass), Please place donated food items in the shopping cart (located either in the Narthex or Chancel areas).

CHURCH GROWTH

DR. CAROL MADERE, CHAIR

BOOK CLUB: The FCC Book Club will meet next on Sunday, January 11th at Jason's Deli. We are reading "A Well-Trained Wife" by Tia Levings.

(This applies to your humble leader as well.)

There's also an elders meeting after church that Sunday, so if you have to attend that meeting first, just get there when you can.

Any questions contact Carol Madere 225-931-4413.



First Christian Church Baton Rouge will celebrate its 180th anniversary in 2027.

The Church Growth Committee is planning a big celebration in October of 2027, but we're going to spend 2026 getting ready. We need the following to make this happen:

- Planners to help plan the event and create the historical exhibit.
- Photos and other historical memorabilia, such as old Bibles, hymnals, baptism certificates, board notes, Sunday School rosters or materials, youth group or camp materials, etc. for display in an historical exhibit during the celebration,
- People (specifically seniors) willing to sit for video interviews to capture their memories for an "FCC Documentary" to air during the celebration.

This will be a mountaintop experience in 2027, but we need to start getting ready for it this year.

JANUARY YOUTH GROUP - The Youth Group will meet on Saturday, January 31st at noon for lunch and some Mardi Gras mask decorating in the Fellowship Hall.

All kids ages 4-12 are welcome.



A poster for a "MISSION TRIP 2026". It features a purple background with various tools like hammers, wrenches, and pliers. Logos for "Great Rivers Region" and "Compassion" are visible. The text includes "SAVE THE DATE", "MAY 31-JUNE 6", "ROLLING FORK, MS", and "REGISTRATION \$50".

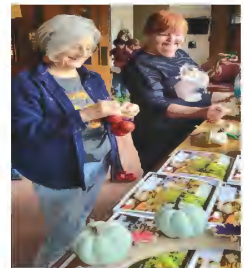
WORSHIP

NANCY FATTA, CHAIR

SISTERS IN CHRIST - Our next meeting will be **THURSDAY**, January 29th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



HANGING OF THE GREENS - A huge thank you to all who helped make our Sanctuary more beautiful for the Christmas Season: **Lucy, Jeff, Shelly, and Cora Cody, Cathi Pourciau, Beverly Weselak, Ashley Bourgeois, Charles, Riddle, Sherry McInnis, and Bonnie Hutchinson.** An extra thank you to **Cathi and Beverly** for decorating wreaths, making ribbons and bows, and fluffing beforehand, Also a thank you to **Ashley and Cathi** for brining snacks, and to **Charles** for following after us with the vacuum cleaner. There were needles and glitter everywhere!



HANGING OF THE GREENS - The Fellowship Hall is looking very festive for Christmas. Thank you so much to our "elves": **Beverly, Bonnie, Zahara, Sherry, Presley, Ray, Tony, Charles, Vicki, Julie, and Nancy.**



SOUTHEAST MINISTRIES

Thank you note from Southeast Ministries: I am writing to express our thanks for your generous food donation to Southeast Ministries. I really appreciate your support of our ministry. Here at Southeast Ministries, our goal is to alleviate hunger in southeast Baton Rouge. It always warms my heart when we receive donations from people with a heart for helping others. These donations are really helping due to the rising cost of food. Thank you for assisting us in making a real difference in the lives of the clients we serve.

With gratitude,
Joan AB Clause
Treasurer

CHURCH DEFINITIONS



BAPTISTRY: is a designated sacred space, either a separate building or a section within a church. Centered around a pool for administering the Christian sacrament of baptism.

CW&W CHRISTMAS WONDER!



LECTIONARY READINGS: JANUARY 1 - 31, 2026 (YEAR C)

- Thursday, January 01, 2026: Holy Name of Jesus
- Thursday, January 01, 2026: New Year's Day
- Friday, January 02, 2026: Psalm 20; Genesis 12:1-7; Hebrews 11:1-12;
- Saturday, January 03, 2026: Psalm 72; Genesis 28:10-22; Hebrews 11:13-22;
- Sunday, January 04, 2026: Second Sunday after Christmas Day
- Monday, January 05, 2026: Psalm 72; Joshua 1:1-9; Hebrews 11:32-12:2;
- Tuesday, January 06, 2026: Epiphany of the Lord
- Wednesday, January 07, 2026: Psalm 72; 1 Kings 10:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-21;
- Thursday, January 08, 2026: Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:1-9; Acts 9:1-9;
- Friday, January 09, 2026: Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:10-4:1a; Acts 9:10-19a;
- Saturday, January 10, 2026: Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 7:3-17; Acts 9:19b-31;
- Sunday, January 11, 2026: Baptism of the Lord
- Monday, January 12, 2026: Psalm 89:5-37; Genesis 35:1-15; Acts 10:44-48;
- Tuesday, January 13, 2026: Psalm 89:5-37; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 8:4-13;
- Wednesday, January 14, 2026: Psalm 89:5-37; Isaiah 51:1-16; Matthew 12:15-21;
- Thursday, January 15, 2026: Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 22:15-25; Galatians 1:6-12;
- Friday, January 16, 2026: Psalm 40:1-11; Genesis 27:30-38; Acts 1:1-5;
- Saturday, January 17, 2026: Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Kings 19:19-21; Luke 5:1-11;
- Sunday, January 18, 2026: Second Sunday after the Epiphany
- Monday, January 19, 2026: Psalm 40:6-17; Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28; Acts 8:26-40;
- Tuesday, January 20, 2026: Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 53:1-12; Hebrews 10:1-4;
- Wednesday, January 21, 2026: Psalm 40:6-17; Isaiah 48:12-21; Matthew 9:14-17;
- Thursday, January 22, 2026: Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 1:1-20; Galatians 1:11-24;
- Friday, January 23, 2026: Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8; Galatians 2:1-10;
- Saturday, January 24, 2026: Psalm 27:1-6; 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Luke 5:27-32;
- Sunday, January 25, 2026: Third Sunday after the Epiphany
- Monday, January 26, 2026: Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 6:11-24; Ephesians 5:6-14;
- Tuesday, January 27, 2026: Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 7:12-22; Philippians 2:12-18;
- Wednesday, January 28, 2026: Psalm 27:7-14; Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26;
- Thursday, January 29, 2026: Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 1 Peter 3:8-12;
- Friday, January 30, 2026: Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4;
- Saturday, January 31, 2026: Psalm 15; Micah 3:1-4; John 13:31-35.



OTHER INFORMATION FOR FCC

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

The Bible Hub offers this word study to fully understand what the verse above means:

“**Make every effort**”, calls for deliberate diligence, not casual interest;

“**to present yourself**”, shifts focus from activity to audience: we present ourselves before God;

“**approved unto God**”, “approved” signals having been tested and found genuine;

“**an unashamed workman**”, the image is of a laborer with nothing to hide when the foreman-inspects the job;

“**who accurately handles**”, good workers must rightly divide the word; and

“**the word of truth**”, scripture is not merely true; it is “the word of truth”, the final authority..

Come join us in a lively, Spirit led study of God's Word.



By Nancy Fatta



1	sweet onion, diced	¼	cup grated parmesan
3	cloves garlic, minced	½	tsp paprika
¼	cup flour	1 ½	cups shredded cheddar
½	tsp mustard powder	3	cups prepared jasmine rice
¼	tsp cayenne pepper	1	bag broccoli flowerets
3	cups whole milk	1	cup cubed Velveeta
8	oz cream cheese		Sea salt and pepper

BROCCOLI RICE CASSEROLE

Cook broccoli. Cook rice. Saute onion and garlic in butter. Add remaining ingredients except rice and broccoli. Cook and stir until thick. Add rice and broccoli. Pour into greased casserole dish. Bake at 350 for 30 minutes.

Bible Trivia Answers

(from page 2)

Easy: Noah

Medium: Hebrew

Hard: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

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, Family of George Gullett, Ruth Horn, Rev. Frank & Jane Johnson, Marie Ladner, Kaylan Lavigne, Family of Allen Lax, BJ McRae, William Miguez, Helen Mitchener, Jerry Moses, Helen Rankin, Kelly & Gladys Runnels..

Friends & Family of Members in our prayers:

Elaine Altazan, Milani Cagle, Marie Cannatella, Kishor Chapaneri, Kim Domangue, Family of James Duncan, Kyle Franklin, Carol Henderson, Patty Hubeny, James Jablonski, Rev. Michael Karunas, Allison Lampo, Louis LaSalle, Jimmy Maddalone, Family of John (Buzz) Miller, Beverly Pacas, Ruth Payne, Tommy Poirrier, Randall Priestler, Valentin Rhangelov, Debbie Riddle, Chase Roche, Family of Cary Saurage, Sandy Scallan, Steve Scallan, and Travis Valenti.

IN MEMORIAM - 2025

As we close out the year 2025, we remember those church members that passed away this year. They will be missed.

Nancy Chapaneri
Jennifer Netterville
JD Albin
Margaret Moore
Dianne Buhler

January 9th
March 5th
July 4th
September 14th
September 21st

Leatus Still
Marjorie Clark
Allen Lax
George Gullett

October 12th
October 25th
December 8th
December 17th



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.

January 4, 2026

Church Opening	Charles Riddle
Sacraments	Ashley Bourgeois
Liturgist	Michael Wilson
Children's Moment	Ashley Bourgeois
Youth Reader	Cora Cody
Elder	Frank Dickinson
Greeter	Alicia Levell
Deacons	Ray Acardo Carl Cotten Presley Hutchinson Alicia Levell
Livestream	Pam Jones
Video Tech	Michael Rankin
Sound Tech	Brenda Hilgendorf
CW&W Greeter	Kayla Mercil
CS&W Storyteller	Gensis Bennie
Church Closing	Charles Riddle
Program Building	Brenda Hilgendorf

January 18, 2026

Church Opening	Michael Rankin
Sacraments	Ashley Bourgeois
Liturgist	Pam Comeaux
Children's Moment	Rev. Stephen Sanders
Youth Reader	Leonardo Morgan
Elder	Nancy Fatta
Greeter	Tony Babin
Deacons	Tony Babin Shelly Cody Steven Gibson Greg Taliaferro
Livestream	Charles Riddle
Video Tech	Brenda Hilgendorf
Sound Tech	Tony Fatta
CW&W Greeter	Leonardo Morgan
CS&W Storyteller	Kristin Morgan
Church Closing	Jeff Cody
Program Builder	Dr. Carol Madere

January 11, 2026

Church Opening	David Fennell
Sacraments	Ashley Bourgeois
Liturgist	Dr. Trey Earle
Children's Moment	Chris Culp
Youth Reader	Brynleigh Comeaux
Elder	Donna Embree
Greeter	Cathi Pourciau
Deacons	Callie Cody James Morgan Kristin Morgan Cathi Pourciau
Livestream	Brenda Hilgendorf
Video Tech	Greg Taliaferro
Sound Tech	Carmen Jones
CW&W Greeter	Nursery Staff
CS&W Storyteller	Nursery Staff
Church Closing	Jerry Hilgendorf
Program Builder	Jeff Cody

January 25, 2026

Church Opening	Jerry Hilgendorf
Sacraments	Ashley Bourgeois
Liturgist	Nancy Fatta
Children's Moment	Michael Rankin
Youth Reader	Cora Cody
Elder	Tony Fatta
Greeter	Michael Rankin
Deacons	Kim Rankin Michael Rankin Julie Theunissen Kendall Theunissen
Livestream	Daniel Dickey
Video Tech	Brenda Hilgendorf
Sound Tech	Jeff Cody
CW&W Greeter	Callie Cody
CS&W Storyteller	Shelly Cody
Church Closing	Jerry Hilgendorf
Program Builder	Jill Brian



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](http://fccbrla.org)

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](#)