

# THE MESSENGER

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge, LA

**VOL. 88**

**MARCH 2026**

**NO. 3**



◇ [\*We Want to Celebrate You!\*](#)

◇ [\*Sunday Assignments\*](#)

◇ [\*Upcoming Events\*](#)

# 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, Jody Chrisope, Rev. Tom & Lucy Cody, Martha Denova, Frank Dickinson, Family of George Gullett, Ruth Horn, Rev. Frank & Jane Johnson, Carmen Jones, Marie Ladner, Kim Lax, BJ McRae, Helen Mitchener, Jerry Moses, Scott Murrell, Laurie Oncale, Helen Rankin, Linda Sanders, Kelly & Gladys Runnels.

## ***Friends and Family of Members in our prayers:***

Elaine Altazan, Bennett Basil, Family of Lindsey Bihm, Milani Cagle, Marie Cannatella, Kim Domangue, Kyle Franklin, Carol Henderson, Jamie Herring, Carl & Patty Hubeny, Dave Hughes, James Jablonski, Allison Lampo, Louis LaSalle, Jimmy Maddalone, Family of Beverly Pacas, Paul Miguez, Ruth Payne, Tommy Poirrier, Randall Priester, Valentin Rhangelov, Debbie Riddle, Chase Roche, Sandy Scallan, Steve Scallan, Travis Valenti

## Sisters in Christ

The next meeting will be **THURSDAY, March 19th** at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



## Daylight Savings Time Begins March 8 @ 2:00 am



Don't forget to set your clocks ***AHEAD*** 1 hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, March 7th -- that way you'll be on time for church on March 8th!!!

# WE WANT TO CELEBRATE YOU!

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Phyllis Willis	02
Meredith Taliaferro	08
Brenda Hilgendorf	10
Gloria Giammanco	12
Cora Cody	13
Ann Landry	13
Stephen Sanders	16
Helen Rankin	19
Flo Rink	20
Judy Lester	21
Charles Riddle	24
Ann Achord	25
Judy Albin	25
Sherry McInnis	27
Ernie Buhler	29

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Bobby Johnson & Hall Holloway	07
Dak & Sherry McInnis	09



## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 01	11:00 am	Education Committee Mtg (Fellowship Hall)
	4:00 pm	Disciples Heritage Class #2 (Sanctuary)
March 08	2:00 am	Daylight Savings Time Begins
	11:00 am	Youth Group Lunch & Trip to Blue Zoo
	4:00 pm	Disciples Heritage Class #3 (Sanctuary)
March 14	11:00 am	George Gullett Memorial Service (Sanctuary)
March 15	11:00 am	Outreach Committee Mtg (Fellowship Hall)
	1:00 p.m.	Jonah Interest Mtg (Sanctuary)
	4:00 pm	Disciples Heritage Class #4 (Sanctuary)
March 19	6:00 pm	Sisters In Christ (Fellowship Hall)
March 22	4:00 pm	Disciples Heritage Class #5 (Sanctuary)
March 26	9:30 am	Disciples Women (Youth Bldg.)
March 29	10:00 am	Palm Sunday Cantata
	11:00 am	Palm Sunday Fellowship Luncheon
	4:00 pm	Disciples Heritage Class #6 (Sanctuary)

# OUTREACH

JUDY LESTER, CHAIR



**March 2026 Outreach**



The weather may vary, but we're steady!



## SOUTHEAST MINISTRIES

Our "pantry focus items" for March are: canned meat and jelly. Food items delivered to SEM last month totaled 130, thank you!! Please place donated food items in the shopping cart (located either in the narthex or chancel area).



## Week of Compassion

Thank you to everyone who donated to our recent Week of Compassion campaign. We raised \$1,012 so far.



## Calling All Youth: Disaster Response Work Trip

Have you ever wanted to participate in a Mission Trip? We're planning to join others from the Great River Region to help with tornado recovery work in Rolling Fork, MS the week of May 31st-June 5th. If you're interested, "save the dates" and be on the lookout for more information and registration details to follow -- bring a friend and join us!



**COMING SOON**



**Get ready to roll up your sleeve, the blood mobile's coming!!**

# CHURCH GROWTH

*DR. CAROL MADERE, CHAIR*

## **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.***

# DISCIPLES HERITAGE CLASS

*Presented by Rev. Stephen Sanders*

Did you ever wonder who those dudes are that keep coming up when we talk about the formation of the Disciples of Christ denomination? Who were Barton Stone and Alexander Campbell? And what part did they play in forming the Disciples of Christ denomination? One of them was responsible for our name -- Disciples of Christ.

Well, do we have a class for you!! Rev. Stephen Sanders is leading a discussion class that will answer all those questions for you! We've met a couple of times already, but don't let that deter you from joining the class! There's so much more to share and discuss.

**Come join us Sunday afternoons, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm in the sanctuary.**

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**Dr. Carol Madere, Chair**



**Upcoming Youth Group Activities**

**March 8      Blue Zoo**

**April 4      Easter Egg Hunt**

**May 3      Highland Park Picnic**

# Walking with Jesus in the Wilderness During Lent



Check out the Lent bowls on the narthex credenzas. The bowls and explanation below were prepared by Kim Lax, Worship Chair.

## **Brown Bowl - Earth, Humility, and Emptiness:**

*The bowl symbolizes the vessel of the human soul.*

**Ecclesiastes 12:6-7:** "Remember him - before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken...and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it."

**Isaiah 64:8:** "But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand."

## **Dirt - Mortality and Repentance**

*Dirt and dust are Lenten symbols of our origin and our eventual return to the earth.*

**Genesis 3:19:** "For dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

**Ecclesiastes 3:20:** "I'll go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return."

**Job 42:6:** "Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

## **Rocks - Hardness and Testing**

*Represents the "stony hearts" or shallow spiritual ground.*

**Ezekiel 11:19:** "I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh."

**Luke 8:13:** "Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy... but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away."

**Luke 19:40:** "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

## **Branches - Pruning and Dependency**

*Dead branches show the necessity to staying connected to the source of life to avoid being "deadwood." Also represents the "New Life."*

**John 15:5-6:** "I am the vine; you are the branches...If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are gathered up, thrown into the fire, and burned."

**John 15:2:** "He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."

# LECTIONARY READINGS: March 1 - 31, 2026

- **Sunday, March 01:** Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
- **Monday, March 02:** Psalm 128; Numbers 21:4-9; Hebrews 3:1-6;
- **Tuesday, March 03:** Psalm 128; Isaiah 65:17-25; Romans 4:6-13;
- **Wed., March 04:** Psalm 128; Ezekiel 36:22-32; John 7:53-8:11;
- **Thursday, March 05:** Psalm 95; Exodus 16:1-8; Colossians 1:15-23;
- **Friday, March 06:** Psalm 95; Exodus 16:9-21; Ephesians 2:11-22;
- **Saturday, March 07:** Psalm 95; Exodus 16:27-35; John 4:1-6;
- **Sunday, March 08:** Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42
- **Monday, March 09:** Psalm 81; Genesis 24:1-27; 2 John 1:1-13;
- **Tuesday, March 10:** Psalm 81; Genesis 29:1-14; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4;
- **Wed., March 11:** Psalm 81; Jeremiah 2:4-13; John 7:14-31, 37-39;
- **Thursday, March 12:** Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:10-21; Ephesians 4:25-32;
- **Friday, March 13:** Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:22-31; Ephesians 5:1-9;
- **Saturday, March 14:** Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:32-34; John 1:1-9;
- **Sunday, March 15:** Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41
- **Monday, March 16:** Psalm 146; Isaiah 59:9-19; Acts 9:1-20;
- **Tuesday, March 17:** Psalm 146; Isaiah 42:14-21; Colossians 1:9-14;
- **Wed., March 18:** Psalm 146; Isaiah 60:17-22; Matthew 9:27-34;
- **Thursday, March 19:** Psalm 130; Ezekiel 1:1-3, 2:8-3:3; Revelation 10:1-11;
- **Friday, March 20:** Psalm 130; Ezekiel 33:10-16; Revelation 11:15-19;
- **Saturday, March 21:** Psalm 130; Ezekiel 36:8-15; Luke 24:44-53;
- **Sunday, March 22:** Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45
- **Monday, March 23:** Psalm 143; 1 Kings 17:17-24; Acts 20:7-12;
- **Tuesday, March 24:** Psalm 143; 2 Kings 4:18-37; Ephesians 2:1-10;
- **Wed., March 25:** Psalm 143; Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41; Matthew 22:23-33;
- **Thursday, March 26:** Psalm 31:9-16; 1 Samuel 16:11-13; Philippians 1:1-11;
- **Friday, March 27:** Psalm 31:9-16; Job 13:13-19; Philippians 1:21-30;
- **Saturday, March 28:** Psalm 31:9-16; Lamentations 3:55-66; Mark 10:32-34;
- **Sunday, March 29:** Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:60
- **Monday, March 30:** Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11



# THE STUDY

led by Rev. Dak McInnis

**9:00 am, Every Sunday in the Youth Building  
with continental breakfast at 8:45am**

**Everyone is Welcome!**

**The Study** is an opportunity to grow in knowledge and understanding of the Bible, God's Word.

**The Study** is an engaging exchange of encouragement, varied points of view, and testimonies. It is *not* a "sit and get" classroom experience of information only.

**The Study** is an anointed hour of fellowship, prayer and revelation.

**The Study** is where we love to be on Sunday mornings. Come join in the blessing. You will be glad that you did.

## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Sherry McInnis, Chair

### *Church Fellowship Event*

*Palm Sunday Easter Luncheon, Sunday, March 29, 2026, 11am*

*A luncheon will follow the worship service on Palm Sunday at 11am following the Easter Cantata.*

*Members of the congregation are asked to bring an entrée, side dish, and/or dessert. Bread and beverages will be provided by the church.*

*Please text/call Sherry McInnis at (225)367-7815 with any questions.*

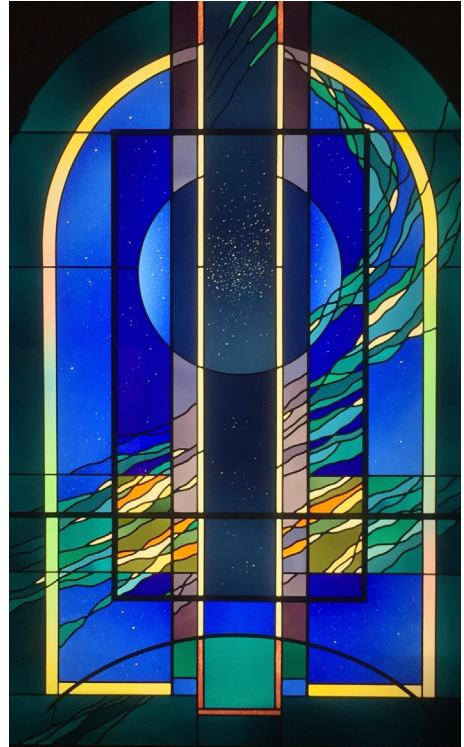
# FCC Information

## SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS

cont'd from page # 11  
Palm Sunday Cantata

**March 29, 2026**

Church Opening	Jerry Hilgendorf
Church Closing	Jeff Cody
Sacraments	Lisa Fennell
Liturgist	Sherry McInnis
Children's Moment	N/A
Youth Reader	N/A
Elder	Donna Embree
Greeter	Presley Hutchinson
Deacons	Ray Acardo
	Carl Cotten
	Alicia Cotten
	Presley Huthinson
Livestream	Michael Rankin
Video Tech	Brenda Hilgendorf
Sound Tech	Carmen Jones
Program Builder	Carol Madere
CW&W Greeter	Kayla Mercil
CW&W Storyteller	Genesis Bennie



**First Christian Church will have a  
Maundy Thursday Service on  
Thursday, April 2nd  
at 6:30 pm.**



# SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS continued on page 10

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.

## March 1, 2026

Church Opening	Bonnie Hutchinson
Church Closing	Jeff Cody
Sacraments	Lisa Fennell
Liturgist	Carmen Jones
Children's Moment	Chris Culp
Youth Reader	Cora Cody
Elder	Lorrinda Dickinson
Greeter	Carl Cotten
Deacons	Ray Acardo
	Alicia Cotten
	Carl Cotten
	Presley Hutchinson
Livestream	Pam Jones
Video Tech	Michael Rankin
Sound Tech	Jeff Cody
Program Builder	Michael Rankin
CW&W Greeter	Kayla Mercil
CW&W Storyteller	Genesis Bennie

## March 8, 2026

Church Opening	David Fennell
Church Closing	Jerry Hilgendorf
Sacraments	Lisa Fennell
Liturgist	Alicia Cotten
Children's Moment	Pam Comeaux
Youth Reader	Brynleigh Comeaux
Elder	Judy Lester
Greeter	Kristin Morgan
Deacons	Callie Cody
	James Morgan
	Kristin Morgan
	Cathi Pourciau
Livestream	Kim Lax
Video Tech	Greg Taliaferro
Sound Tech	Jeff Cody
Program Builder	Brenda Hilgendorf
CW&W Greeter	Jervais Averette
CW&W Storyteller	Michael Rankin

## March 15, 2026

Church Opening	Jerry Hilgendorf
Church Closing	Jerry Hilgendorf
Sacraments	Lisa Fennell
Liturgist	Vicki Krupala
Children's Moment	Ashley Bourgeois
Youth Reader	Leonardo Morgan
Elder	Carmen Jones
Greeter	Shelly Cody
Deacons	Tony Babin
	Shelly Cody
	Steven Gibson
	Greg Taliaferro
Livestream	Daniel Dickey
Video Tech	Kim Lax
Sound Tech	Brenda Hilgendorf
Program Builder	Kim Lax
CW&W Greeter	Leonardo Morgan
CW&W Storyteller	Kristin Morgan

## March 22, 2026

Church Opening	Michael Rankin
Church Closing	Michael Rankin
Sacraments	Lisa Fennell
Liturgist	Michael Rankin
Children's Moment	Donna Embree
Youth Reader	Cora Cody
Elder	Frank Dickinson
Greeter	Julie Theunissen
Deacons	Kim Rankin
	Michael Rankin
	Julie Theunissen
	Kendall Theunissen
Livestream	Nicolas Morgan
Video Tech	Amy Taliaferro
Sound Tech	Greg Taliaferro
Program Builder	Jeff Cody
CW&W Greeter	Callie Cody
CW&W Storyteller	Shelly Cody



## First Christian Church

*Disciples of Christ*

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

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/fccbrrla](https://facebook.com/fccbrrla)

**Instagram:** [instagram.com/fccbrrla](https://instagram.com/fccbrrla)

**YouTube Video Channel:** [youtube.com/fccbrrla](https://youtube.com/fccbrrla)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/fccbrrla](https://twitter.com/fccbrrla)

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