

THE MESSENGER

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge, LA

VOL. 88

APRIL 2026

NO. 4



SPRING



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OUTREACH

JUDY LESTER, CHAIR



April

Spring is here and we are ready to plant a caring garden!

SOUTHEAST MINISTRIES



Our "pantry focus items" for April are: *cereal, peanut butter, jelly, packages of jello or pudding mix, and Jiffy cornbread mix.* Please place donated food items in the shopping cart (located either in the narthex or chancel area). Food items delivered to SEM last month totaled 50. Thank You!!

WEEK OF COMPASSION

Thank you to everyone who donated to our recent Week of Compassion campaign. We raised \$2,518.13 for disaster relief in Maryland. Doesn't it feel GREAT to be one of the "helpers"?



BLOOD DRIVE



Blood is needed every day by people in our own community. Be a HERO and help save a life by giving blood! It couldn't be easier: the blood mobile will be on campus outside the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 26th from 9:00am – 12:00pm. Let's roll up our sleeves and give a pint!

DISASTER RESPONSE WORK TRIP

Have you ever wanted to participate in a Mission Trip? We're planing 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. There are a limited number of spaces available for this trip. If you're interested, "save the dates" and look for more information and "interest cards" beginning in April.

This is a great opportunity for youth and "helpers" of all ages. Bring a friend and join us.



CHURCH GROWTH

DR. CAROL MADERE, CHAIR

Pentecost - Sunday, May 24th

What if Pentecost isn't just a story from long ago, but something that still happens whenever Disciples gather, share a meal, and open their hearts to one another? On May 24th, we'll celebrate with a Bring-a-Friend Sunday, followed by a fellowship luncheon and a birthday cake marking the church's beginning. It's a day to remember who we are—and who we're becoming together. Start thinking about with whom you want to share the day and your church. And don't forget to wear **RED** that day!

Upcoming Youth Group Events



Easter Egg Hunt

April 4th 2-4 pm (Fellowship Hall)

2:00 - 4:00 pm

Spring is in full bloom, and we can't wait to celebrate together at our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4th from 2-4 PM! This joyful afternoon is the perfect opportunity for families, friends, and neighbors to gather for fun, fellowship, and a reminder of the hope Easter brings. We'll start in the Fellowship Hall before heading outside to find eggs. Then, we'll come in for snacks and crafts. And of course, one of the biggest highlights returns this year — our outdoor petting zoo! Kids can meet gentle animals and enjoy a hands-on experience that always brings big smiles. Whether you're a longtime member or visiting for the first time, we'd love to share this celebration with you. Bring a friend, bring the whole family, and join us for a beautiful afternoon of joy, community, and Easter cheer.



HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

SHERRY MCINNIS, CHAIR

The Celebration of Life for George Gullet
was held on Saturday, March 14, 2026,
in the Sanctuary with Rev. Dr. Pastor Dedrick Minor officiating.

Thank you to Mollie Choate for planning and organizing such a lovely meal.
Thank you to the following who provided food: *Julie Theunissen, Jean & Sarah Zeringue, Brenda & Jerry Hilgendorf, Lorry Trotter, Judy Lester, Carol Madere, Cathi Pourciau, and Charles Riddle.* Thank you to those who graciously donated their time and effort by setting up and cleaning up: *Tony Babin, Vicki Krupala, and Charles Riddle.* And thank you to *Brenda & Jerry Hilgendorf* for generously donating the pretty centerpieces.

Palm Sunday Celebration Luncheon

It was a delightful gathering of the congregation on Palm Sunday for the Fellowship Luncheon. The menu composed of outstanding entrees, sides and desserts provided by the congregation for this delicious feast which was heartily appreciated by all.

Spring with Easter on its heels was produced by the lovely table decor provided by:
Hal Holloway and Bobby Johnson.

A huge thank you with much appreciation to our set up crew, serving and kitchen helpers : *Vicki Krupala, Charles Riddle, Bonnie Hutchinson, Cathi Pourciau, Tony Babin, and Jeff Judice.*

Plus a thank you to congregational clean-up assistance that helped lighten the load. I so appreciate your willingness to serve, no better way to be blessed or to be a blessing! *Grateful, Sherry*



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

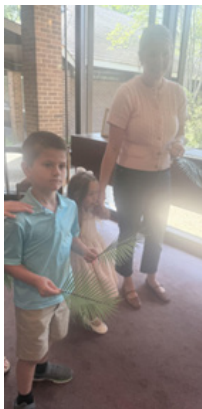
KIM LAX, CHAIR

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



Palm Sunday uses palm branches to commemorate the Biblical account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, where crowds welcomed him by laying down palm leaves. This act honored Jesus as the King.

The youth group did a great job parading their palms.



*Thank you to the Chancel Choir for presenting the Cantata
"One Sacrifice, A Cantata for Holy Week"*

Thank you Aaron and the choir.



The Palm Sunday Lunch was a great success.
Thank you Sherry for putting this together.



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, Jerry Hilgendorf, Ruth Horn, Rev. Frank & Jane Johnson, Carmen Jones, Marie Ladner, Kim Lax, BJ McRae, Helen Mitchener, Jerry Moses, Scott Murrell, Laurie Oncale, Helen Rankin, Kelly & Gladys Runnels, Linda Sanders, Rev. Stephen Sanders, Mary Thompson

Friends and Family of Members in our prayers:

Elaine Altazan, 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

Spring Time

ARE YOU GRADUATING!!!!

Let the church office know if you are graduating in **May 2026**
or if you graduated in **December 2025**.

We will have a recognition service on **May 3rd** to honor all our graduates!

Please be sure to include:

- which school you are graduating from;
- your future plans;
- any honors that you received; and
- picture of yourself.



Please email to Kim Lax the above information at churchoffice@fccbrla.org.

WE WANT TO CELEBRATE YOU!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Mark Willis	6
Brynleigh Comeaux	7
Lorrinda Dickinson	13
Sue Grigg	27

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Michael and Kim Rankin	6
Harold and Mollie Choate	7
David and Lisa Fennell	21
Bo Weathers and Debbie Poche'	30



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, April 2nd	6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Saturday, April 4th	2:00 pm	Easter Egg Hunt/Party/ Animal Petting Zoo
Sunday, April 5th		EASTER
Sunday, April 5th	11:00 am	Prayer Circle (Library)
Thursday, April 23rd	9:30 am	Disciples Women (YB)
Thursday, April 23rd	6:00 pm	Sisters in Christ (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, April 26th	11:15 pm	Book Club (Jason's Deli)
Tuesday, April 28th	6:30 pm	Finance Committee Meeting (YB)
Tuesday, May 5th	6:30 pm	Board Meeting (YB)

Rehearsal Dates (The Belly of the Whale)

Sunday, April 19th	after church	Saturday, May 16th	TBD
Sunday, April 26th	after church	Sunday, May 17th	- Performance
Sunday, May 3rd	after church		

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

LECTIONARY READINGS: April 1 - 30, 2026

- Wednesday, April 01, 2026: Isaiah 5:4-9, Psalm 70
- Thursday, April 02, 2026: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
- Friday, April 03, 2026: Isaiah 52:13-53:1-12, Psalm
- Saturday, April 04, 2026: Job 14:1-14, Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24
- Sunday, April 05, 2026: Genesis 1:1-2:4, Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26
- Sunday, April 05, 2026: Acts 10:34-43, Jeremiah 31:1-6
- Sunday, April 05, 2026: Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 114
- Monday, April 06, 2026: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21
- Tuesday, April 07, 2026: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Exodus 15:1-18
- Wednesday, April 08, 2026: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Joshua 3:1-17
- Thursday, April 09, 2026: Psalm 16; Song of Solomon 2:8-15
- Friday, April 10, 2026: Psalm 16; Song of Solomon 5:9-6:3;
- Saturday, April 11, 2026: Psalm 16; Song of Solomon 8:6-7
- Sunday, April 12, 2026: Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16
- Monday, April 13, 2026: Psalm 114; Judges 6:36-40
- Tuesday, April 14, 2026: Psalm 114; Jonah 1:1-17
- Wednesday, April 15, 2026: Psalm 114; Jonah 2:1-10
- Thursday, April 16, 2026: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 25:1-5
- Friday, April 17, 2026: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 26:1-4
- Saturday, April 18, 2026: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Isaiah 25:6-9
- Sunday, April 19, 2026: Acts, 14a, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
- Monday, April 20, 2026: Psalm 134; Genesis 18:1-14
- Tuesday, April 21, 2026: Psalm 134; Proverbs 8:32-9:6
- Wednesday, April 22, 2026: Psalm 134; Exodus 24:1-11
- Thursday, April 23, 2026: Psalm 23; Exodus 2:15b-25
- Friday, April 24, 2026: Psalm 23; Exodus 3:16-22, 4:18-20
- Saturday, April 25, 2026: Psalm 23; Ezekiel 34:1-16
- Sunday, April 26, 2026: Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23
- Monday, April 27, 2026: Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:17-23
- Tuesday, April 28, 2026: Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:23-31
- Wednesday, April 29, 2026: Psalm 100; Jeremiah 23:1-8
- Thursday, April 30, 2026: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Genesis 12:1-3



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.



S A V E T H E D A T E

Vacation Bible School
June 29th - July 3rd
Ages 4-12.



Bible Trivia Answers
(from page 10)

Easy: A Rainbow - **Middle: John** - **Hard: True**

FCC DID YOU KNOW?

Animals in the Bible

Bears: Isaiah 11:7

7 Cows and bears will share the same pasture; their young will rest side by side. Lions and oxen will both eat straw.



Bees: Judges 14:8

Samson returned to Timnah for the weddinghe left the road to see what was left of the lion. He was surprised to see that bees were livingand that they had made some honey.



Behemoth: Job 40:15

I created both you and the hippopotamus. It eats only grass like an ox.

Some say it is a mythological, massive beast from the Biblical Book of Job, often representing primordial chaos or immense power, frequently interpreted as a hippo or elephant-like creature.



Bible Trivia

- Easy:** What was God's sign to Noah that he would never destroy the earth again?
- Medium:** What was most likely the last Gospel written?
- Hard:** True or False: At first, Jesus' family tried to stop his ministry and said he was crazy.

(Answers on page 9)

Did you know....

1. Jubal was the first to play a harp and flute. Did he invent these instruments?
Genesis 4:21. Jubal was the first to play harps and flutes.
2. There was a lady named Noah
Joshua 17:3. Hopher's son Zelophehadfive daughters:, Noah,
3. - Manasseh was the longest reigning king in the Bible; he ruled 55 years.
2 Kings 21:1. Manasseh was 12 years old when he became king of Judah, and he ruled 55 years from Jerusalem.
- Zimri was the shortest reigning king in the Bible at 7 days.
1 Kings 16:15. Zimri became king of Israel in Asa's twenty-seventh year as king of Judah, but he ruled only seven days from Tirzah.
- Joash was the youngest king in the Bible at 7 years old
2 Chronicles 24:1. Joash was only 7 years old when he became king of Judah, and he ruled 40 years from Jerusalem.

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.

April 5, 2026

Church Opening	David Fennell
Church Closing	Jeff Cody
Sacraments	Greg Taliaferro
Liturgist	Rev. Stephen Sanders
Children's Moment	Chris Culp
Youth Reader	Cora Cody
Elder	Pam Comeaux
Deacons	(Greeter) Ray Acardo Alicia Cotten Carl Cotten Presley Hutchinson
Livestream	Brenda Hilgendorf
Video Tech	Greg Taliaferro
Sound Tech	Pam Jones
Program Builder	Jill Brian
CW&W Greeter	Megan Jones
CW&W Storyteller	Kayla Mercile

April 12, 2026

Church Opening	Jerry Hilgendorf
Church Closing	Jerry Hilgendorf
Sacraments	Greg Taliaferro
Liturgist	Kristin Morgan
Children's Moment	Donna Embree
Youth Reader	Brynleigh Comeaux
Elder	Judy Lester
Deacons	(Greeter) James Morgan Calli Cody Kristin Morgan Cathi Pourciau
Livestream	Nicolas Morgan
Video Tech	Amy Taliaferro
Sound Tech	Greg Taliaferro
Program Builder	Michael Rankin
CW&W Greeter	Jervais Averette
CW&W Storyteller	Michael Rankin

April 19, 2026

Church Opening	Bonnie Hutchinson
Church Closing	Jeff Cody
Sacraments	Greg Taliaferro
Liturgist	Dr. Tracy Shaffer
Children's Moment	Pam Comeaux
Youth Reader	Cora Cody
Elder	Dr. Carol Madere
Deacons	(Greeter) Steven Gibson Tony Babin Shelly Cody Greg Taliaferro
Livestream	Pam Jones
Video Tech	Jeff Cody
Sound Tech	Kim Lax
Program Builder	Kim Lax
CW&W Greeter	Leonardo Morgan
CW&W Storyteller	Kristin Morgan

April 26, 2026

Church Opening	Michael Rankin
Church Closing	Michael Rankin
Sacraments	Greg Taliaferro
Liturgist	Ashley Bourgeois
Children's Moment	Michael Rankin
Youth Reader	Brynleigh Comeaux
Elder	Dr. Trey Earle
Deacons	(Greeter) Kendall Theunissen Kim Rankin Michael Rankin Julie Theunissen
Livestream	Charles Riddle
Video Tech	Jeff Cody
Sound Tech	Brenda Hilgendorf
Program Builder	Kim Lax
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

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

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

Instagram: instagram.com/fccbrrla

YouTube Video Channel: youtube.com/fccbrrla

Twitter: twitter.com/fccbrrla

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