

The Messenger

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge, LA

VOL. 88

JUNE 2026

NO. 6



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OUTREACH COMMITTEE

JUDY LESTER, Chair



June *Have a fun summer, but do not take a vacation from giving!*



SOUTHEAST MINISTRIES

Our "pantry focus items" for June are: ramen noodles, cookies, and canned meat. Please place donated food items in the shopping cart located in the narthex. 126 food items were delivered to SEM in May,



IRIS HOUSE (Domestic Violence Center)

Thank you to everyone who donated items to support Iris House. What a wonderful way to share God's love with those who have experienced recent trauma.

DISASTER RESPONSE WORK

Our FCCBR volunteers will be in Rolling Fork, MS from May 31st-June 5th. Please keep them in your prayers as they, along with others from the Great River Region, assist with tornado recovery work there. Keep an eye out for our trip photos!!



SCHOOL TOOLS

We will begin collecting school supplies for children-in-need starting with the help of our VBS kids (6/29-7/3), and continuing through the month of July. A collection box will be placed in the Narthex beginning on June 21st.

School Supply List:

Backpack (mesh or clear plastic)	Wide-ruled notebooks and loose-leaf paper	Blue / black pens
24-count box of crayons	Composition notebooks	Rulers
No 2 pencils	Lysol	Pencil sharpeners
Pink eraser	1-gallon and 1-quart Ziploc bags	3 x 5 index cards
Washable markers (8-count)	Playdoh	Post-it notes
Glue sticks	Yellow highlighters	Scientific calculator
Bottle of glue	Expo dry-erase markers	Disinfecting wipes
Box of tissues	1-inch binders	Dividers for binders
Hand sanitizer	Colored pencils	Correction fluid/whiteout
Blunt tip scissors	Band-Aids	Red pens
Fabric pencil bags	Paper towels	Graph paper
Folders (paper and plastic)	Ream of printer (blank) paper	

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DR. CAROL MADERE, VBS Coordinator

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 29th -July 3rd - 9am - 12pm in the Youth Building



This year VBS will take our younger explorers on an island journey filled with music, crafts, games, and most importantly a message they need to hear. Rooted in Luke 19:10 - "The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost". each day of Tropical Trek tells kids the truth about who

God is and how God sees them: not as forgotten, not as failures, but as found. Whether a child is wrestling with loneliness, self-doubt, or simply the ordinary confusion of growing up, this week has something to say to them.

Our older kids will not be left out. They will be diving into Church Lab, our own homegrown program designed to help them think more deeply about faith, community, and what it means to be the church and follow Jesus in the real world. Two tracks, one incredible week, all under one roof. The older kids (ages 8-12) will explore service, leadership, creative arts, worship, and stewardship of God's world.

We Need a Crew!

Every great voyage needs the right people on deck — and Tropical Trek is no exception. We are looking for adults willing to help make this week come alive for the children. Good news: you do not have to be a teacher, a crafting expert, or available all five days.



There is a role for everyone. We need the following volunteers:



Snack station helper - keep the explorers fueled;

Game assistant - bring the energy to outdoor activities;

Craft prep volunteer - help behind the scenes before or after sessions;

Greeter and check-in - the first friendly face kids and parents see;

Storyteller - share the message each day; and

Floater - show up when you can; every day of help counts.

Bring Your Kids — And Your Neighbors' Kids Too

VBS is one of the most community-friendly activities a church does all year. VBS is a week of fun that is free and open to all. You do not have to be a member, you do not have to have grown up in a church, and you do not have to have it all figured out. You just have to show up.

There will be an organizational meeting on Sunday, June 7th right after church to learn more about this year's VBS.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

SHERRY McINNIS, Chair

Remembering the power of the Holy Spirit displayed on Pentecost in the Upper Room, we too experienced the glow of the Spirit on Pentecost Sunday in our own Fellowship Hall. What a day of celebration we had with the essence of Pentecost not only created in the beauty of the setting, but generating a lively, loving and joyful Spirit. It was a memorable day which we celebrated and acknowledged the birth of the church which still lives and whose King still reigns with power and continually moves by his Holy Spirit.

Thank you to **Bobby Johnson and Hal Holloway** for their creative ability, in not only the production of the lovely aesthetic setting, but the excitement imparted by it. Thank you to the faithful set-up team who diligently assisted with their time and effort: **Vicki Krupala, Bonnie Hutchinson, Cathi Pourciau, John Engelsman, Charles Riddle, Ray Acardo, Presley Hutchinson, and Dak McInnis**. A hearty appreciation is extended to those faithfully serving at the Pentecost Luncheon: **Tony Babin, Jeff Judice, Charles Riddle, and Vicki Krupala**. Thank you so much for those participating in clean up: **Presley Hutchinson, Ray Acardo, Charles Riddle, David Simon, Tony Babin, Jeff Judice, Vicki Krupala, Julie Theunissen, Kendall Theunissen, Cathi Pourciau, John Engelsman, and the many members of the congregation who pitched in with a willing and helpful hand.**

Thank you to the **Church Growth Committee** chaired by Carol Madere for providing the celebratory and delicious birthday cake which was appreciated and enjoyed by all.

Thank you to our home-grown chefs who brought dishes and they cannot be rivaled. We are truly blessed!

*Very Grateful,
Sherry McInnis*



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

KIM LAX, Chair



GOOD
LUCK
— AT —
COLLEGE



We would like to
thank Tracy Shaffer
for putting this
wonderful play
together.

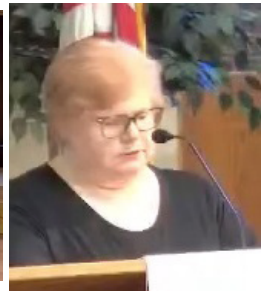
The Belly of the Whale



Tracy Shaffer



Harold Choate



Carol Mandere



Alicia Cotten



Charlene Landry



John Engelsman, Carl Cotten, Donna Embree

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@fccbrrla.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, Lee Gullett, Jerry Hilgendorf, Family of Ruth Horn, Family of Rev. Dr. Frank Johnson, Jane Johnson, Marie Ladner, BJ McRae, Helen Mitchener, Jerry Moses, Laurie Dickinson Oncale, Helen Rankin, Kim Rankin, Kelly & Gladys Runnels, Scott & Linda Sanders, Mary Thompson, Aaron Turnipseed & Family

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF MEMBERS IN OUR PRAYERS:

Elaine Altazan, Gerald & Annette Bowers, Marie Cannatella, Tre' Comeaux, Carl & Patty Hubeny, Valerie Marcin, Dorothy Minor, Christy Paola, Ruth Payne, Bretton Pierce, Randall Priestler, Debbie Riddle, Sandy Scallan, Steve Scallan, Doris Swisher

CHURCH GROWTH COMMITTEE

DR. CAROL MADERE, *Chair*

First Christian Church celebrated "A Day of Belonging" Pentecost service on May 24th followed by a fellowship luncheon complete with a cake to celebrate the birthday of the church. Thanks to Kim Lax, Charles Riddle, and the Hospitality Committee under the direction of Sherry McInnis for their help with the planning of the "Day of Belonging." If you brought a friend, the Church Growth Committee thanks you. Of course, bringing a friend to church is encouraged all year long, not just on Pentecost Sunday. If you'd really like to invite someone but you feel a little nervous about it, here are some tips:

1. Make it personal, not promotional. "I'd love for you to join me" lands better than "You should come." People respond to being wanted by someone they like and trust, rather than to a pitch
2. Normalize hearing "No". Fear of rejection keeps a lot of well-meaning. People from ever asking. A gracious "no" isn't a closed door forever. Responding with "Maybe another time" keeps the relationship warm and the invitation open.
3. Lower the stakes. Inviting someone to something happening at church can be less intimidating to some people than attending Sunday worship service. Start thinking about whom you want to invite to the Ice Cream Social/Gospel & Jazz Concert in September.
4. Follow up with gratitude, not pressure. If someone did come on Pentecost Sunday, a simple "I'm so glad you were there" makes them feel welcomed, not recruited. Pentecost is the birthday of the church, and every birthday is better with more friends around the table. The Spirit that filled that room is still at work, and it often moves through the simple act of one person saying, "Come with me!"

WE WANT TO CELEBRATE YOU!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Diane Sympson	3rd
Lucy Cody	4th
Pam Jones	15th
Peggy Bourgeois	19th
George Cochran	20th
Michael Elmore	21st
Jerry Hilgendorf	21st
Tom Cody	23rd
Jill Brian	26th
Bruce Weselak	29th
Harmony Murrell	30th
Samuel Gibson	30th



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Brandon & Laurie Wilson	1st
Kelly & Gladys Runnels	9th
Mark & GayLynn Willis	11th
James & Vicki Krupala	14th
Chris & Rhonda Culp	24th
Ray Acardo & Presley Hutchinson	25th
John Englesman & Cathi Pourciau	26th
Paul Foster & Nathan Tipton	26th
Jerry & Brenda Hilgendorf	26th
Charlie & Sally Bremer	29th



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 7th	11:00 am	Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting
Sunday, June 14th	11:00 am	Outreach Meeting (FH)
Thursday, June 18th	9:30 am	Disciples Women (YB)
Sunday, June 21st		Father's Day
Tuesday, June 23rd	6:00 pm	Sisters in Christ (FH)
Sunday, June 29th - July 3rd		Vacation Bible School (YB)

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

LECTIONARY READINGS: JUNE 1 - 30, 2026

Monday, June 01, 2026: Psalm 29; Job 38:39-39:12; 1 Corinthians 12:1-3;
Tuesday, June 02, 2026: Psalm 29; Job 39:13-25; 1 Corinthians 12:4-13;
Wednesday, June 03, 2026: Psalm 29; Job 39:26-40:5; John 14:25-26;
Thursday, June 04, 2026: Psalm 33:1-12; Genesis 13:1-18; 2 Peter 2:17-22;
Friday, June 05, 2026: Psalm 33:1-12; Genesis 14:17-24; Acts 28:1-10;
Saturday, June 06, 2026: Psalm 33:1-12; Genesis 15:1-20; Matthew 9:27-34;
Sunday, June 07, 2026: Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12; Hosea 5:15-6:6
Monday, June 08, 2026: Psalm 119:41-48; Genesis 16:1-15; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:2;
Tuesday, June 09, 2026: Psalm 119:41-48; Genesis 17:1-27; Hebrews 13:1-16;
Wednesday, June 10, 2026: Psalm 119:41-48; Genesis 18:16-33; Matthew 12:1-8;
Thursday, June 11, 2026: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Genesis 21:1-7; Hebrews 3:1-6;
Friday, June 12, 2026: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Genesis 24:1-9; Acts 7:35-43;
Saturday, June 13, 2026: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Genesis 24:10-52; Mark 7:1-13;
Sunday, June 14, 2026: Genesis 18:1-5; Psalm 116:1-21, 12-19; Exodus 19:2-8
Monday, June 15, 2026: Psalm 126; Genesis 23:1-19; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5;
Tuesday, June 16, 2026: Psalm 126; Genesis 25:7-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5;
Wednesday, June 17, 2026: Psalm 126; Nehemiah 9:1-8; Luke 6:12-19;
Thursday, June 18, 2026: Psalm 86:1-10; Exodus 12:43-49; Hebrews 2:5-9;
Friday, June 19, 2026: Psalm 86:1-10; Genesis 35:1-4; Acts 5:17-26;
Saturday, June 20, 2026: Psalm 86:1-10; Ezekiel 29:3-7; Luke 11:53-12:3;
Sunday, June 21, 2026: Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10; 16-17
Monday, June 22, 2026: Psalm 86:11-17; Genesis 16:1-15; Revelation 2:1-7;
Tuesday, June 23, 2026: Psalm 86:11-17; Genesis 25:12-18; Revelation 2:8-11;
Wednesday, June 24, 2026: Psalm 86:11-17; Jeremiah 42:18-22; Matthew 10:5-23;
Thursday, June 25, 2026: Psalm 13; Micah 7:18-20; Galatians 5:2-6;
Friday, June 26, 2026: Psalm 13; 2 Chronicles 20:5-12; Galatians 5:7-12;
Saturday, June 27, 2026: Psalm 13; Genesis 26:23-25; Luke 17:1-4;
Sunday, June 28, 2026: Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Jeremiah 28:5-9
Monday, June 29, 2026: Psalm 47; Genesis 22:15-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12;
Tuesday, June 30, 2026: Psalm 47; 1 Kings 18:36-39; 1 John 4:1-6;



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 will continue to draw understanding and personal revelation from the life of Joseph as we read in the book of Genesis in June.

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.

BIBLE TRIVIA



Easy: What did Joseph tell his brothers about his dreams that upset them?

Medium: Who was Noah's three sons?

Hard: What was Matthew's job before he started following Jesus?

(Answers on page 10)

Do you like Baseball?

Have you heard of the **Baton Rouge Rougarou's**?

They are a minor league baseball team in Baton Rouge.

They play their games at Pete Goldsby Field in

Baton Rouge (address: 1502 Foss Street).

The team is owned by Ronnie Rantz (a LSU pitcher 1990 - 1994).



They have invited FCC to come and watch a game on **Friday, June 12th** at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in attending the baseball game, please email your name and how many tickets you would like to churchoffice@fccbrla.org. Everyone will meet at the field at 6:45 pm and they will have our tickets.

IN SYMPATHYY ...

*Peace be with the following families in a comforting presence of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Please know that our church family is keeping you and your loved ones in our
constant prayers during this time of loss.*

Aaron Turnipseed's father, **Raymond Cotten, Jr.**, passed away in May and the service was held on May 30, 2026 in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Please keep Aaron's family in your prayers.

Rev Dr. Frank Johnson passed away in May. His services have not been completed yet. Once we have the information we will let everyone know.

Please keep Rev. Dr. Johnson's family in your prayers.

Ms. Ruth Horn passed away in May. A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, June 2nd, at Broadmoor Methodist church.

Please keep Ms. Ruth's family in your prayers.



BIBLE TRIVIA ANSWERS

(from page 9)



Easy: The dreams said he would become greater and rule over them.

Middle: Shem, Ham, and Japheth

Hard: A tax collector.

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.

JUNE 7, 2026

Church Opening	Jerry Hilgendorf
Church Closing	Jerry Hilgendorf
Sacraments	Julie Theunissen
Liturgist	Chris Culp
Children's Moment	Ashley Bourgeois
Youth Reader	Cora Cody
Elder	Frank Dickinson
Deacons	(Greeter) Presley Hutchinson
	Ray Acardo
	Alicia Cotten
	Carl Cotten
Livestream	Charles Riddle
Video Tech	Jeff Cody
Sound Tech	Brenda Hilgendorf
Program Builder	Kim Lax
CW&W Greeter	N/A
CW&W Storyteller	N/A

JUNE 14, 2026

Church Opening	Charles Riddle
Church Closing	Jeff Cody
Sacraments	Julie Theunissen
Liturgist	Dr. Trey Earle
Children's Moment	Rev. Stephen Sanders
Youth Reader	Brynleigh Comeaux
Elder	Donna Embree
Deacons	(Greeter) Kristin Morgan
	Callie Cody
	James Morgan
	Cathi Pourciau
Livestream	Nicolas Morgan
Video Tech	Michael Rankin
Sound Tech	Jeff Cody
Program Builder	Jeff Cody
CW&W Greeter	N/A
CW&W Storyteller	N/A

JUNE 21 2026

(Father's Day)

Church Opening	David Fennell
Church Closing	Jerry Hilgendorf
Sacraments	Julie Theunissen
Liturgist	Carmen Jones
Children's Moment	Pam Comeaux
Youth Reader	Leonardo Morgan
Elder	Vicki Krupala
Deacons	(Greeter) Shelly Cody
	Tony Babin
	Steven Gibson
	Greg Taliaferro
Livestream	Daniel Dickey
Video Tech	Amy Taliaferro
Sound Tech	Greg Taliaferro
Program Builder	Dr. Carol Madere
CW&W Greeter	N/A
CW&W Storyteller	N/A

JUNE 28, 2026

Church Opening	Michael Rankin
Church Closing	Michael Rankin
Sacraments	Julie Theunissen
Liturgist	Vicki Krupala
Children's Moment	Chris Culp
Youth Reader	Cora Cody
Elder	Pam Comeaux
Deacons	(Greeter) Michael Rankin
	Kim Rankin
	Julie Theunissen
	Kendall Theunissen
Livestream	Brenda Hilgendorf
Video Tech	Greg Taliaferro
Sound Tech	Carmen Jones
Program Builder	Jill Brian
CW&W Greeter	N/A
CW&W Storyteller	N/A



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*

Emily McDowell, *Guitarist*

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 A](#)