

THE CHARLEROI CHRISTIAN

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

December 2020

61 Walnut Ridge Road
Charleroi, PA 15022
Rev. Charles Cochran, Senior Pastor

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The Pennsylvania All-Saints Fund

'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us...' – **Hebrews 12:1**

It is good that we should remember the saints who've gone on before us.

Every generation during the 130-year life of our congregation, dedicated leaders have emerged who've touched others' lives in loving, compassionate, and life-changing ways. If you know First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Charleroi, then you know people who've taken the time to prayerfully discern God's will for themselves and for the Church – and then to pour themselves into the hard work of making it all happen.

Such folks deserve to be recognized. That's one of the ideas behind the Pennsylvania All Saints Fund, which supports the ministries of the Region of Pennsylvania. Through donations that celebrate the life of a person, or of a ministry, or even a congregation, you remember lives that have touched your own.



Pastor Charlie

At the same time, you support the long-term ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Pennsylvania.

The Christian Church Foundation manages how the funds are invested. Every year, the regional board decides how distributions from the funds will be used for regional ministry.

An All Saints permanent fund was established several years ago in the name of the Rev. Jim Linn, who faithfully served as our church's pastor for many years.

If you're reading this, odds are very good that you knew and loved the Rev. Linn. He touched your life – and loved you. Then, he was taken away way too soon.

One way you can remember the Rev. Linn is by making a contribution to the All Saints Fund in his name.

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To learn more about how the fund is used and how to contribute, contact our regional minister, the Rev. Thad Allen, at (304) 428-1681, or send him an email at thaddaeus1969@gmail.com.

– **Pastor Charlie**

***As a reminder, the Hanging of the Greens worship service will be on Sunday, November 29th at 10:45 a.m.**

December Calendar Highlights

- 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, Girl Scouts meeting.
- 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, monthly board meeting for First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In 2021, our board meetings will be on the 2nd Thursday of each month.
- 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec.3, I.O.O.F. Men's Gathering
- 1 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, Social Hall, Girl Scout's Snowball party
- 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, Second Sunday in Advent
- 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, Empty Chair Service, in the First Christian Church sanctuary
- 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, Girl Scouts meeting
- Noon – 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, Bridal Shower, fellowship hall
- 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, Third Sunday in Advent
- 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15, Girl Scouts meeting
- 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec.17, I.O.O.F. Men's Gathering
- 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, Fourth Sunday in Advent
- 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 22, Girl Scouts meeting
- **5 p.m.**, Thursday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve service and also a **7 p.m.** Christmas Eve service here at First Christian Church (DOC) Charleroi Please call the church office to let us know which service you will be attending.

Angel Tree Information – Kristin Blair

Charleroi Area School District has provided FCC with 15 names for the Angel Tree. The Angel Tree will be put up by November 29th. Sign-up so will be sure that all requests are covered. All gifts must be returned by Sunday, December 13th. Please place them in gift bag and give to Kristin Blair. Thank you.

CAMA Update

St. AfterSchool, the after-school tutoring program for elementary school-aged students sponsored by the Charleroi Area Ministerial Association (CAMA), began another year on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

Due to social distancing, this year we will serve up to 12 students spread throughout three classrooms.

St. AfterSchool urgently needs volunteers to help the students with homework and Bible lessons. The program is also seeking a cook, who would be asked to make simple dinners.

This year, St. AfterSchool meets 3-6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Charleroi Presbyterian Church located on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Fifth Street in Charleroi. Use the entrance just below the parking. There is a doorbell marked for CAMA. If you can only commit to volunteer for part of that time or if you can only join us on certain Wednesdays, that is perfectly fine.

Any help would be very greatly appreciated and needed.

Donations of snacks and dinners are welcome. CAMA is also accepting monetary donations to provide what the students need in order for the program to succeed.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Heather Gross, St. After School director, at (412) 527-2257.

Empty Chair Service on Monday, Dec. 7

We are tentatively scheduling this year's Empty Chair Service for 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 7, in the First Christian Church sanctuary.

The service is intended to remember friends and family members who've passed away, and whom we're missing.

A final decision on whether the service happens will depend on how things go with the pandemic, but we're hoping to be able to proceed with this year's service. We'll keep you posted as we work out the details.

Elder's Reflection and Prayer



By Laurie Cochran

"Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most." – Ruth Carter Stapleton

I expect that when one reads this quote, they think of the many ways that they can tangibly give to those in need at Christmas. Shopping for the children whose names appear on the angels dangling from the branches of our angel tree, writing cards for or making visits to those in our congregation who are homebound or missing a loved one, or delivering meals to folks who are sad and hungry are just a few of the things that pop into my mind that I know our church family does willingly and happily.

I saw that too when I read it and vowed to do more for others this year! But the words "light of love" caught my attention and reminded me of a Christmas Eve service I attended many years ago.

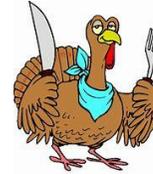
When living in Augusta, Georgia where Charlie and I were friends, but still attending different churches, due to offset service times I was able to go to both of our Christmas Eve services. I slipped into Charlie's church and sat in the last pew. The First Christian Church in downtown Augusta is old and beautiful, and at night during the lighting of the candles it was magnificent! I waited patiently at the back to have the light of Christ passed on to me, and I saw a smiling Charlie who had recognized me there coming down the aisle with his candle to light mine. And then, an elder reached over and used an electric lighter to light it instead. Of course, it was still the light of love, but I was disappointed that it didn't really come from the Christ candle as Charlie's light did.

All of this is to say, give the **light of love** to everyone you meet this Christmastime. Let's spread His light far and wide!

Dear God, please send your light out all over the world to those who need it most; the hungry, the poor, the downtrodden, but also, to the helpers, to the people who lift others up, to all of your children. In his holy name,
Amen.

FCC Hosts Community Thanksgiving Meal

First Christian Church will host this year's community Thanksgiving meal, sponsored by the Charleroi Area Ministerial Association (CAMA).



Orders are pick-up or delivery only from noon to 2 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Please let Pastor Charlie know if you'd like to receive a meal – or if you're available as a volunteer.

Our Prayer Letter Ministry Continues

Margie D'Antonio sent out 8 prayer letters in November. The prayer letters are very up-lifting and so enjoyable to get. If you know of anyone in need of a prayer letter, contact **Margie at 724-239-2560**. She will gladly get one sent out.

WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS - *Kristin Blair*

With winter approaching and temperatures dropping, the chance of inclement weather is increasing. This year, we are going to take advantage of the technology available to us. In case of bad weather, please check WTAE, FCC Facebook page, or the First Christian Church webpage to see if our church service has been changed to online rather than an in-person service. Pastor Charlie will conduct service from his home, and you can join using either Facebook Live or via conference call.

Due to the restrictions placed upon us by COVID, we will be doing the Christmas Eve service a little differently this year. We will be offering two services – one at 5:00 p.m. and one at 7:00 p.m. Also, because of limited seating, you will need to make a reservation. Please call the office at 724-489-9014 to let us know what service you would like to attend and how many are in your party. There will also be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. As always, if you prefer, you can participate via Facebook Live and/or the conference call.



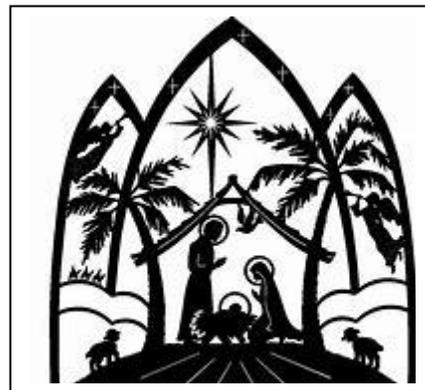
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

DEC. 3	KELLY WEAVER
DEC. 4	LAURIE ASH COCHRAN
DEC. 6	TARYN GRANT
DEC. 7	JENNIFER SNIPES
DEC. 9	BILL KRUTZ & RICHARD EVANS
DEC. 12	DARCI WILSON
DEC. 13	KRISTIN COLVIN-DELVAL
DEC. 17	DECLAN BLAIR
DEC. 20	MAKENDRA PENDLETON
DEC. 22	BARNEY BLY
DEC. 23	KARIN BRIGHTWELL & NATHAN MILLER, SR.
DEC. 29	TRACEY HERMANN
DEC. 30	NANCY LESSMAN & RYAN WAGGONER & CRYSTAL STRYKER
DEC. 31	DARLA WHITE & KRISTY GUAPPONE

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY

DEC. 23

LARRY & PAT LINCOSKI



**Christ our Savior is
born – Dec. 25th**

Rejoice, Rejoice!!!

In Case You Missed Them: Links to Past Sermons

If you're reading this on your computer or smart phone, click on one of these links to catch up on Pastor Charlie's sermons for the past month or so.

Oct. 18, 2020

Matthew 22:15-22, Giving Back to God

<https://youtu.be/Akmuk9flwgs>

Oct. 25, 2020

Matthew 22:34-46, Walking in Mingo Park

<https://youtu.be/ISdmitH2YEU>

Nov. 1, 2020

Joshua 1:1-7, 3:7-17, Crossing the Jordan

<https://youtu.be/WIk5yYomKKg>

Nov. 8, 2020

Joshua 24:1-25, Who Do You Stand For?

<https://youtu.be/1Metu-UuABY>

Please Join Us for Worship

We have **FOUR options** for you to participate in worship on Sunday mornings. Please take advantage of one of them:

1. In-Person Worship in our Sanctuary

Join us for Sunday morning Worship in our Sanctuary! Please enter at our Main Entrance where we will be waiting to greet you! Masks are required, and we ask that you continue to social distance.

2. Virtual Worship on Facebook LIVE

Join us for Worship from the comfort of your home via Facebook. Log onto the church's Facebook page and click on our LIVE Worship at 10:45 am. People with vulnerable health conditions are strongly encouraged to join us online (or via conference call.)

3. Tele-Worship Conference Call

Join us by telephone conference call on Sunday mornings at 10:45 am by calling 724-203-9348. PIN: 920457#

Pastor will include you in our Worship Service.

4. Outdoor Worship in our Pavilion (Summer – October)

Outdoor Worship allows for folks to enjoy Worship in the beautiful outdoors. Seating is setup in the pavilion for folks to social distance with or without masks. Outdoor Worship will be available through the month of October, weather permitting. In

inclement weather, the Fellowship Hall will be open for those who cannot wear a mask. We ask that you please enter the Fellowship Hall entrance, and follow social distancing.



Tithes and offerings

A STEWARDSHIP REMINDER

PLEASE REMEMBER: JUST BECAUSE YOU MAY NOT BE AT CHURCH ON A GIVEN SUNDAY, THE LIGHTS ARE STILL ON, THE FURNACE AND AIR CONDITIONERS ARE STILL IN USE, THE CUSTODIAN HAS CLEANED THE CHURCH, AND THE BILLS STILL NEED TO BE PAID. SO, IF YOU HAPPEN TO MISS A SUNDAY (OR THREE OR FOUR SUNDAYS) **PLEASE MAKE UP YOUR PLEDGE/OFFERING.** THANK YOU!

Our Joys and Our Concerns

At First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Charleroi, we are a community of faith rooted in our relationships with God and with each other. Here are some of the folks we're talking to God about right now:

* **Rose Bird**, recovering from cataract surgery. Her second cataract surgery was on Wednesday, Nov. 18th.

* **Cathy Pattera** (Tom Griffith's sister), hip surgery on Thursday, Dec. 3.

Requested by: Tom

* Traveling mercies for **Tom and Sharon Griffith** and other family members for a 10-day trip to the Outer Banks. Requested by: Tom

* **Darla White**, receiving shots in each knee on Monday, Nov. 16, for relief of pain.

* **Kasey Curtis**, severe gallbladder problems, facing prospect of surgery.

Requested by: Sherry Erdely

* **Michelle Michener** (Sherry Ballentyne's cousin) has been diagnosed with a form of ovarian cancer. Surgery went well. She faces 6 weeks of radiation every day and has qualified for an experimental drug program. Requested by: Sherry Ballentyne

* **Rebecca** (Mary Lou Lachman's granddaughter who lives in Washington, D.C.) tested positive for Covid-19. Requested by: Mary Lou

* **Rich D'Antonio**, scheduled for a heart cath procedure on Friday, Nov. 20.

Prayers for Rich, Margie, and the medical team. Requested by: Margie

* Family and friends of **Wilda Baxter** (Sherry Erdely's aunt), who passed away.

She was 95, and would have turned 96 in December. Requested by: Sherry

* **Kenny Mosco** (lung cancer) and **Michelle Palo** (leukemia), Rose Bird's cousins.

Both are resuming chemotherapy. Requested by: Rose

* **Dennis and Sherry Caldwell** had to put down their sweet dog, Casey.

Requested by: Debbie Caldwell

* **Peggy** (high school classmate of Debbie Caldwell's), health issues related to adverse reaction to a flu shot. Requested by: Debbie

* A joy: we have a full set of night-time utility lights on the church grounds, thanks to the work of **Bill Latour, Ryan Latour, and Perry Williams**. The nighttime

parking lot is looking bright!

* **Sandy Baxter** (Sherry Erdely's sister-in-law), fell and hurt herself badly while hiking. Requested by: Sherry

* **Jim Caldwell**, health issues. Requested by: Debbie Caldwell

* A joy: we appreciate the musicians who have provided recorded worship music during the pandemic. The group includes praise team members **Delia McCurdy, Hannah McCurdy, and Toni DeMarco; choir members Sherry Erdely and Candy Callery**; organist and praise team leader **Andrew DeBroeck**, and musical director **Rick Carson**.

* **Mikey Rusak** has landed a new full-time job with salary and good benefits! We celebrate with him as he begins a new adventure.

* **Patty Strychalski**, recovering at home following a surgical procedure. Long-term, Patty is receiving treatment related to a diagnosis of cancer.

* Family and friends of **Roy "Denny" Johnson**, who passed away on Monday, Oct. 12. Denny was a co-worker of Diane Rusak's. Requested by: Diane

* **Robert Cowden** (Debbie Colvin's cousin), hospitalized with colitis. Requested by: Debbie

* **Kevin Abels** (husband of one of Mary Valla's co-workers), scheduled for eye surgery. Prayers that the procedure and recovery go well. Requested by: Mary

Under Long-Term Prayer Care

Our Leaders *	Marlene Celaschi *	Jarrod Williams*
Our Troops *	Ellis & Darla White *	Betty Jo Matesich *
Richard Evans *	Bill & Garnet Krutz *	Nancy Lessman*
Rose Bird *	Rocky Renk *	Sherry Ballentyne *
Grace Vandernitte *	Father Bob Hanna *	Kristin Delval *
Karin Brightwell *	Missy Pendleton *	Armand Lorenzi *
Justin Sutch *	Young Bruce Pendleton *	Grace Godles *
Jane Odroneic*	Alicia Hruby *	Sarah Matay*
Bertha Zollars *	Ruth LoNigro *	Doug Colvin
Lois Buberniak *	Hannah Simpson*	Cindy Buckley *
Michael Erdely *	Gage Peters*	Dave & Chrissy Zoltun*
Rich & Margie D'Antonio *	Jack & Debe McKita*	Mike Shingleton*
Jessica Beimel*	Terri Brownfield*	Mary Jabbin *
Small Businesses *	Laverne Giordanengo*	Yvonne Orsatti *
Joe & Sarah McCurdy & family	Patty Strychalski*	

'For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16)

LUMINARARIA SERVICE

Our "Light Up the Darkness that is Cancer" Luminaria Service sent prayers of hope and healing and remembrance of loved ones heavenward. Lining the main aisle and all around the Communion table, each Luminaria represented a person struck by Cancer, a family member, a loved one, a friend.

God Bless all that helped us realize a total of \$905.00, By donating your time, talents, and monetary gifts our donation will go to helping the American Cancer Society. Keeping on praying that they will find a cure in our lifetime!!!

Please visit our church's site to see pictures of this event and all Luminary names. A great big thank you to the Charleroi businesses who donated to this success!!! GOD BLESS YOU!!!!

Thank you,
RELAY FOR LIFE Team
Walking for the Cure!!!!

THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,

Bless you all for the beautiful cards, wishes, and donations to Outreach that I received for my 90th Birthday!!! Your cards filled one of my kitchen walls and my heart!!! God has truly blessed me with such loving and giving friends!!!

Love,
Grace
90 and remaining strong in the LORD!

'Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.'

Isaiah 7:14 (American Standard Version)

'For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' Isaiah 9:6 (American Standard Version)

'And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule the nations with a rod of iron, and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.' Revelation 12:5