

THE CHARLEROI CHRISTIAN

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

January 2021

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

Church Office (724) 489-9014
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Web Site: www.fccharleroi.com



Vision Team Update

The Vision Team has been meeting monthly and is actively engaged with the Rev. Steven Smith, our church revitalization consultant. He is helping us to develop plans to aid the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Charleroi to grow in love and compassion with God's help.

We would like to thank you all for all the candid responses on the recent survey. Your input is a vital part of determining how to proceed as we work to formulate better ways to show love and include everyone in our church. Please understand we will be looking for more input from you as we find our way through this process of revitalization.

One big thing we learned from the surveys is that our church sees communication as one of the challenges we need to work on. The Vision Team has come up with five ways to better communicate within our church. Those five ways include:

- 1) During announcements on Sunday mornings before the worship service
- 2) E-mail
- 3) Phone calls made by the elders and/or a phone tree
- 4) Our church web page (www.fccharleroi.com) and Facebook
- 5) The monthly newsletter

Communication is a two-way street, so please choose one or more of these delivery methods and be sure to listen to or read it regularly. We want to hear your thoughts and feelings, so please reach out to one or more of us on the Vision team as we work towards developing our Love in Christ and making his word a part of every day.

Thank you for helping us to shape our work in leading the church in the direction of thanksgiving and God's will.

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Vision Team Update (continued from previous page)

If you have any questions or comments about the Vision Team's work, feel free to talk to any of its members. The team includes:

Paula Barndollar
Malcolm Callery
Laurie Cochran
Debbie Colvin
Thomas Griffith
Joe McCurdy
Diane Rusak
Jennifer Snipes
Joe Valla
Mary Valla
Charlie Cochran – Pastor

Elder's Reflection and Prayer

By Kristin Blair



So, 2020 has finally come to an end, and what a year it has been! We have added many new words to our daily vocabulary, such as coronavirus, shelter-in-place, and quarantine. Most of us have experienced a loss of some kind – death of a loved one, loss of a job, just loss of normalcy. Like most of the DOC churches, we have decided to do church virtually through most of the pandemic in order to keep everyone safe and healthy.

The most important thing we have learned through this is that church is NOT the building. The church is the people that you have fellowship with, either through the phone or the computer. As the pandemic continues, we need God more than ever, and we need each other!

As we look toward the new year, we pray for guidance as we attempt to grow the church. This has proven difficult in the past, and it's even harder to do it during a pandemic. We pray for life to return to normal as soon as possible. Until then, let us go forward with a new attitude for the new year. Let us turn to God in prayer for our relationships with each other, our pastor, and our church. Amen.

“You know you’re getting old when the candles cost more than the cake.”

– Bob Hope

“After 30, a body has a mind of its own.” – Bette Midler
“The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age.” – Lucille Ball



“Live your life and forget your age.” – Norman Vincent Peale

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

JAN. 2	SARAH MCCURDY
JAN. 5	HANNAH MCCURDY PATRICK RICE
JAN. 7	MARLA GOULD
JAN. 13	KEN SHETTERLY
JAN. 18	BETH HUGHES
JAN. 20	RAENELLE FRANKLIN
JAN. 23	KASSIDY BRIGHTWELL

There aren't any January anniversaries.

You Have Options for Worship

Although the building is closed, we're still worshipping God – and we hope you will join us on Sunday mornings from the comfort of your home.

Right now, you have **TWO options** for you to participate in worship on Sunday mornings. Please take advantage of one of them:

1. Virtual Worship on Facebook LIVE

Join us for Worship via Facebook. Log onto First Christian Church's Facebook page and click on our LIVE Worship at 10:45 am.

2. 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.

From Deb's Desk

Good day everyone! It has been the craziest 2020 that I have ever experienced and I'm sure it was yours too. I have missed everyone's glowing faces, special hugs and kisses that we would exchange at church. All you see is masks, masks everywhere. They are for our protection to not spread this awful disease. I will be super happy when we won't have to wear these any more.

I recently read something that Howard Thurman said about speaking to our "inner authority," a place in our hearts where we find the strength and purpose to live the lives we were called to live and, by doing so, possibly be able to make a difference in the world. We have seen this many times as the nurses, doctors, paramedics, firemen, school teachers, bus drivers, aides and many others have stepped forward to battle this COVID 19 virus.

Remember – Jesus spent quiet time with God to renew His strength and gain clarity. We need to do this too! In our quietness we need to pray for God's grace to protect us and to give us strength to endure what's coming in 2021. Pray for the small businesses that are seeing very trying times. Pray for the non-Christians that they find the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ and seek Him in 2021. Ask God in your quiet time to rebuke Satan and his slick ways he causes us to sin. Remember God is all powerful and He hears our prayers. Sometimes we have to wait awhile to get the answer, but He is always there to comfort us. Remember, the light of Christ shining out in a dark world. Let His light shine!

Food workers have made a difference by supplying food for doctors and nurses. Those that supplied Thanksgiving dinners were doing what God requires of us. Just to see the joy on someone's face for a good hot meal.

So what does God require of us? "To act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8) Remember that Christ Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. And as His birth happens every December it sets His destination in motion. Jesus most definitely is the reason for the season.

I wish all of you the love of Christ Jesus as we approach a new year in 2021. Keep the faith and ask God's protection each and every day.

In Christian Love,
Debbie



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:

* **A great joy:** On Tuesday (Dec. 22), Karin Brightwell will mark the 12th year since her last chemo treatment. She wants you to know that she gives thanks to God and to everyone everywhere who prayed from the scary start and are still praying for her. She wants you to know that prayer works!

Also, on Wednesday (Dec. 23) Karin turned 50. She says that although not many women are excited about turning 50, she most certainly is. When Karin turned 40, they had a huge party at a hall with a D.J. and family from each coast. Karin had that large party full of friends and family because she had not believed she would make it to 40. And now here she is 50! God is good!

Karin wants you to know that life is wonderful when you are with Jesus. And she thanks her Lord, who has walked with her every step along the journey!

* Marilyn Whitson, sister of Margie D'Antonio. Margie requests extra prayer related to Marilyn's medical tests.

* Leigh Coursin, niece of Rich and Margie D'Antonio, ongoing fight with cancer. Requested by: Margie

* Rich D'Antonio, dealing with the challenges of kidney dialysis. Rich's recovery from heart bypass surgery is going well. Rich is going through cardiac rehab – and enjoying being back in his own chair at home following a week in the hospital. Prayers for continued healing. Ongoing prayers, please, for Rich's medical issues. Requested by: Margie

* Laurie Cochran awoke with a persistent cough on Monday morning, Dec. 14. As a result, she and Pastor Charlie both quarantined themselves until they could get Laurie in to see a doctor on Thursday morning, Dec. 17. We thank the good Lord that he diagnosed Laurie with a sinus infection (and not Covid!). Laurie is completing a round of antibiotics, and she is feeling much better.

* A joy: Bill Krutz (along with others under the care of the VA) received a Covid-19 vaccination on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

* Dawn Lapinski asks for prayer following the death of a beloved cat, Sabrina.

* Prayers for Ruth Woncheck, diagnosed with Covid. Requested by: Sherry Erdely

* Prayers for the family and friends of the Rev. Ty Sabella, a retired Disciples pastor who served churches in this area for many years. The Rev. Sabella died Monday, Dec. 14 due to complications of Covid-19.

* Family and friend of the Rev. John W. Lyons, also a Disciples pastor who is well-remembered for serving God's people in this area. He died Tuesday, Dec. 15; he had been ill with Covid.

* Family and friends of William "Bill" Lee, who passed away due to complications from Covid. Requested by: Debbie Caldwell.

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Joys and Concerns (continued from previous page)

- * Debbie Colvin, scheduled for hip replacement surgery on Dec. 31 at Allegheny General Hospital.
- * Pat and Sissy Garrett (Garnet Krutz's brother and sister-in-law), both diagnosed with Covid. Requested by: Garnet
- * Valerie Arnold, health issues related to diabetes. Requested by: Garnet
- * Joyce Brophy was scheduled for eye surgery on Monday, Dec. 14. Requested by: her daughter, Eileen Scally
- * Paula Barndollar thanks you for your prayers on behalf of Kim Fine (niece Kara Barndollar's best friend). Kara had extensive surgery on Monday, Dec. 7. The recovery is going well.
- * Dan Truskey, released from Mon Valley Hospital after 15 days for treatment related to Covid-19. Thank you for your prayers! Requested by: Paula Barndollar
- * Prayers for an unnamed friend of Mary Valla's. Mary's friend is awaiting surgery as a result of a mammogram. Requested by: Mary
- * Dan Truskey (a friend of Paula Barndollar's). Dan was in Mon Valley Hospital with Covid. He was reported to be in decent shape - hopefully coming soon. Requested by: Paula
- * Family and friends of Doug Cahill (especially his wife, Teri Cahill, a friend of Betty Jo Matesich's). Doug passed away on Thursday, Oct. 29, only a week after being diagnosed with liver, kidney, and pancreatic cancer. Requested by: Betty Jo
- * Michael Mears (nephew of Sherry and Ken Ballentyne), diagnosed with Covid. Requested by: Sherry
- * Erica (Margie D'Antonio's niece), diagnosed with Covid. Requested by: Margie
- * Prayers for Bev & Wink Winkleblech (friends of Debbie Caldwell's), both of whom were hospitalized with heart issues. Requested by: Debbie Caldwell

Under Long-Term Prayer Care

Our Leaders *	Marlene Celaschi *	Jarrold 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*	Leigh Coursin *

'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

'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)