

THE CHARLEROI CHRISTIAN

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

September 2020



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

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After the Pandemic, What's Next?



Every now and then, friends from other parts of the country ask me, "How are you all handling 'doing church' during this pandemic?"

And I truthfully tell them, "With God's help, we're doing OK. We've held things together, and we're starting to focus our prayer and creative energies on what comes next."

Then, I add: "The good Lord knows what that might be, although we've undertaken to find out."

Pastor Charlie

I tell 'em how we've been intentional here on the Lord's Hilltop about keeping folks' options open on Sunday mornings. How after 12 Sundays with the physical doors closed, about 25 or so hardy souls might actually join us in the sanctuary for Sunday worship, with another half-dozen or so gathering out under the pavilion. Add to that another 15-20 on Facebook Live and an additional half-dozen or so on the conference call.

Add up all those numbers, and we end up with Sunday morning worship attendance somewhere north of 50.

That's about what it was before the pandemic. And so, we have held (and are holding) things together during a time in which some churches have closed their doors forever.

Now, we're turning our attention to what's next.

A group of 10 friends of yours – members of our church – have come together to form a Visioning Team with the goal of figuring that out. They held their first meeting with the Rev. Steven Smith, a well-regarded church revitalization consultant, via Zoom on Thursday evening, Aug. 20.

Going forward, they'll continue to meet with the Rev. Smith once a month. I'll also be meeting with the Rev. Smith once a month to talk things over.

Our Visioning Team is asking – and seeking to come up with solid answers for – a lot of hard questions. Generally speaking, they're asking what works well in our church – and what doesn't work as well as we might hope. In the long-term, the group will do the hard work of making changes to our church's culture with the goal of ensuring that we continue to thrive and to do God's work in a serious, loving, meaningful way for at least another 130 years.

You'll be hearing a lot more about this group's work during the coming months.

In the meanwhile, if you have suggestions or input, seek one of them out. The Visioning Team includes Diane Rusak, Paula Barndollar, Tom Griffith, Malcolm Callery, Debbie Colvin, Mary Valla, Laurie Cochran, Joe Valla, Joe McCurdy, and Jennifer Snipes.

Or touch base with me. Any one of us would love to talk with you as we ponder our next steps together as a faithful community of God's people.

**Blessings,
Pastor Charlie**

From the CHURCH SECRETARY'S DESK

This pandemic has created chaos for working parents with childcare needs. Needless to say, my son Brian called and said, "Mom I need you." When your family calls you must respond. I will be in Ohio during the month of September and possibly October. I will try to stay connected with you by cellphone or computer.

My cellphone is 724-884-6016 and my email is j-dcaldwell49@comcast.net.

However, don't call after 9 p.m.; they have an early bedtime.

I will miss being your church secretary during those months. I have reached out to a few of you for Friday phone coverage. If any of you could help out, let Pastor Charlie know the dates you're available. God bless - Debbie



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

SEPT 1	Cheryl Blair
SEPT 2	Laverne Giordanengo
SEPT 4	Nathan Miller II
	Sherry Ballentyne
SEPT 5	Kent Downer
SEPT 8	Jeremy Snipes
SEPT 9	Brian Reinhardt
	Gary Gray
	Rosemarie Bird
SEPT 10	Breanna Hartman
	Jacob McCurdy
	Linda Waggoner
	Margie D'Antonio
SEPT 12	Jenna Hermann
	Laura Hermann
SEPT 18	Bill Latour
	Grace Vandernette #90
	Linda Arnold
	Sydney Cole
SEPT 26	Anna Guappone
	Tom Griffith
SEPT 28	Katelyn Valla



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

SEPT 7	Joe & Mary Valla
SEPT 15	Dawn & Leonard Billy
SEPT 20	Sean, Sr. & Denise Cole
SEPT 22	Doug & Debbie Colvin
SEPT 23	Wil & Kelly Weaver
SEPT 27	Pastor Charlie & Laurie Cochran
SEPT 30	Barney & Trudy Bly



Our lovely, sweet Grace Vandernitte will be 90 years young on Friday, Sept. 18.

Her daughter, Betty Jo, says that Grace loves cards. If you'd like to enclose a dollar, the money will go to our church's Outreach Fund.

Send those cards and letters to: Grace Vandernitte, 804 Fourth Street, North Charleroi, PA 15022.



IT'S TIME TO COLLECT BLESSING BOXES!

Blessing Boxes are a ministry of Disciples Women, although men are invited to participate, too.

Every time you sense that God is blessing your life, toss a coin into the box. Each year, the proceeds are collected in late August or September, benefiting women's ministries.

A blessing box offering represents a gift of love, of appreciation, of thanks to God. It is a coin offering. The amount may be a dime, quarter, or more. We seek primarily to increase our awareness of God's love as we recount our blessings with an offering of thanks. – Darla White



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 Prayer Letter Ministry Continues

Margie D'Antonio sent out 28 prayer letters in August. 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.

Thank you for the stamps. God bless your kindness.

"But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry." 2 Timothy 4:5

REGIONAL NEWS: The Envelope Event - Laurelview

Everyone wants to be able to safely return to Camp Laurelview. While we await that happy day, the camp continues to have fixed expenses and maintenance costs with no camper income. Rental income won't cover it and we need to keep our camp safe and viable for the future.

And so...as we wait to get back to camp, we're embarking upon a new fundraiser! We are having a virtual fundraiser where you are to imagine that you are looking a wall filled with 250 envelopes. How to participate:

- 1) First, crank up your web browser and go to The Envelope Event at evfr.Laurelview.org to access the project. Please feel free to share and invite your friends!
- 2) Choose the envelope (or multiple envelopes) you want. Each envelope contains a number 1 to 250, with each number representing that specific dollar amount. For example, 7 represents \$7, 29 represents \$29, 142 represents \$142 and so on. Then make a comment on the page indicating which envelope(s) you chose so that others know when they are no longer available.
- 3) Follow the instructions to enter your contact information and make your donation. You may claim several envelopes and make a single donation for all of them.

Thank you so much for your support in helping us keep Laurelview financially viable so that it can continue to provide ministry for years to come.

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:

- * Continuing prayers for Jodele Vandernitte, recovering at home following a difficult surgery and a diagnosis of late-stage cancer this past Monday, Aug. 10.
- * Continued prayers for Patty Strychalski, also at home following a diagnosis of cancer.
- * Dennis Shiflet (next-door neighbor of Sherry and Ken Balentyne), undergoing medical tests. Requested by: Sherry
- * Missi Pendleton, underwent an epidural block on her back to relieve pain on Monday, Aug. 24. Surgery on Friday, Aug. 28, at St. Clair hospital for a heel spur removal and Achilles repair. Missi expects to be out commission for another 6-8 weeks following the surgery.
- * Family of Brian Jennion (Bill Latour's cousin), who passed away on Sunday, Aug. 9. His wife, Brenda (a cousin of Connie Tabory's) died on Friday, July 31. By all reports, they were a sweet couple who'll be missed greatly. We lift in prayer this morning those who knew them, and who remember.
- * Family and friends of Karen Hartman's uncle Pete, who passed away suddenly. Pete was 80 years old – Karen's uncle in Arizona (her mother's brother).
- * Prayers for Brian Stillwagon (Cora Russel's youngest nephew), who had a stroke on Saturday, Aug. 15.
- * Jane Odroneic (Mike Erdely's mom) made it safely from Atlanta by way of medical transport on Thursday (Aug. 13). Prayers for the family during this time of transition.
- * Doug Colvin. Possible rupture of tibial tendon in left foot (that was his good foot!) MRI scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 19. So, both Colvin men are down! Requested by: the Colvin women
- * Bill Smouse (friend of the Colvin family), scheduled for open heart surgery on Tuesday, Aug. 18. Requested by: Debbie and Doug Colvin
- * Karin Brightwell's continuing journey as a cancer survivor. We celebrate a recent article in the local newspapers. Requested by: Bob Grant
- * Family of Jack Jones, who passed away Tuesday, Aug. 4. Jack was a long-time member; graveside service were held Aug. 8 at Mon Valley Memorial Park.
- * Marilyn Whitson (sister of Margie D'Antonio). She is scheduled for surgery to have a port put in so that she may begin chemo for breast cancer.
- * Dani (daughter of Steve & Nancy Giordanengo) has aggressive blood cancer and is undergoing chemo. She is 45 years old and a classmate of Chris Caldwell's. Requested by Sherry Caldwell
- * Ed Pettersen (friend of Jim and Debbie Caldwell's). His wife, Nancy, asks your prayer for ongoing health concerns.
- * Malinda bought a house, and we celebrate this new milestone in her life! Req. by: Tom Griffith
- * Mary (Andrew's mom's co-worker), hospitalized with health concerns. Requested by: Andrew DeBroeck
- * Prayers for the family and friends of Dave Granato, age 54, who passed away following a heart attack.
- * A joy: Diane Barndollar, the sister of Paula Barndollar and Mary Valla, has closed on the sale of her house in Tennessee, and she expects to close on the purchase of a house in Lock 4 in late August. Requested by: Paula
- * Prayers for school administrators, teachers, and students at the start of this challenging school year. Requested by: Taryn Grant
- * Dan Ballentyne (son of Ken and Sherry Ballentyne), is recovering at home following sinus surgery on July 30. The surgery went well. Requested by: Sherry

* Prayers for Mike Shingleton (Cheryl Blair's son-in-law), had a below-the-knee amputation of his left leg. Also, Mike continues to experience weakness related to a stroke. Will need much rehab.

Under long-term prayer care

Our Leaders *	Marlene Celaschi *	Jarrold Williams*
Our Troops *	Ellis & Darla White *	Betty Jo Matesich *
Karen Hartman*	Bill & Garnet Krutz *	Nancy Lessman*
Rose Bird *	Rocky Renk *	Sherry Ballentyne *
Grace Vandernitte *	Father Bob Hanna *	Kristin Delval *
Karin Brightwell *	Missy Pendleton *	Armand Lorenzi *
Jodele Vandernitte *	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 *
Richard Evans *	Laverne Giordanengo*	Yvonne Orsatti *
Justin Sutch *	Joe & Sarah McCurdy & family	Small Businesses *

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.

* Aug. 23, 2020, Romans 12:1-8. One Body in Christ.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQKMPZc8C3E>

* Aug. 16, 2020, Genesis 45:1-15. Getting Family Right.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dn0ZUF8v9Fs>

* Aug. 9, 2020, Matthew 14:22-33. Believe AND Confess.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rr-7JttdRwk>

* Aug. 2, 2020, Matthew 14:13-21. On Jesus' Generosity.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XNAHqmgaxk>

‘LIGHT UP THE DARKNESS’ FCC LUMINARIA CEREMONY ON OCT. 4th

Come! Join us on Sunday, October 4th at 6:00 p.m., in person or on Facebook Live, for our Tele-A-Friend “Relay for Life” Luminaria Ceremony Honoring our Survivors!!! Help us to Light Up The Darkness that is CANCER!!! Purchase one Luminaria or more (\$5.00 each) for the “Line and Shine” at the Church’s Parking Lot!!!

Show your Support for our Survivors! You are a survivor if you had cancer and beat it! If you cannot be with us, please send your picture to the church or text it to Pastor Charlie at 724-880-9569. If you are going to be in Church on Sunday, September 13th or 20th, please don your Relay attire and Diane or Pastor Charlie will be glad to snap your picture.

If you are planning to attend the Luminaria Ceremony, you can sign-up at the Relay Luminaria table in the hallway. But if you are mailing the form, mark it on the return form that you are attending. Have a question contact us at 724-489-9014 Monday through Friday, 10 -1pm. **Social Distancing and a Mask are a Requirement!!!**

Be part of the “Finding the Cancer Cure” Team!!! Purchase a Luminaria not only in Honor of a Survivor, but in Memory of one who Battled and lost or in Support of someone who is now Fighting their Cancer Battle!!!!

Luminaria bags, forms and payment envelopes will be available on the Relay Luminaria Table. If you are able to “Design” your own, and would be willing to help with the design of the mail-in orders, we would greatly appreciate it!!! You will be supplied with bags and a list of names. **Please return completed bags before September 27th**. Anyone ordering a Luminaria must fill out a form in order for us to comprise a list for Pastor Charlie and the readers.

Ordering by MAIL, please print and mail the form on the next page along with a check made payable to the First Christian Church, at 61 Walnut Ridge, Charleroi, PA 15022, and put attention Kristen Blair. Mark on the check’s memo line “Luminaria”.

If you are able to help the day of the Ceremony please call Betty Jo at 724-483-8351.

Light Up the Darkness Luminaria Order Form

Name for Luminaria _____

Message to place on Luminaria _____

Check one: In Honor In Memory In Support

Name for Luminaria _____

Message to place on Luminaria _____

Check one: In Honor In Memory In Support

Name for Luminaria _____

Message to place on Luminaria _____

Check one: In Honor In Memory In Support

Name for Luminaria _____

Message to place on Luminaria _____

Check one: In Honor In Memory In Support

TOTAL # ORDERED _____ TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED \$5.00 X _____ =
\$ _____ .

PLEASE REMIT BEFORE SEPTEMBER 19TH

NAME OF PERSON ORDERING _____

_____ YES _____ # WILL BE ATTENDING