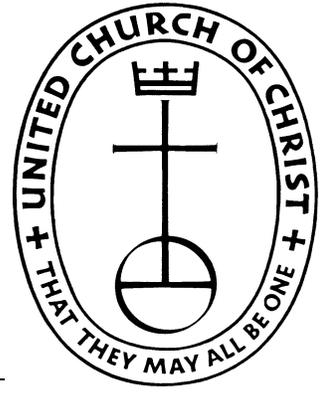


First Christian United Church of Christ Newsletter June - July 2019



Join us for our Annual Bingo Night on June 5th. It's a night filled with fun and fellowship as well as great prizes...

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PASTOR'S COLUMN

I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me. Philippians 4:13. (TEV)

I have a cartoon of an overweight, haggard person holding a cookie and saying, "Listen Honey - I know about being stressed,... it's desserts spelled backwards."

For some of us who are attempting to lose weight, stress is found in trying to resist various desserts! Stress can be caused by those things that bring us joys and opportunities, as well as by worries, difficulties and hardships.

Joy and peace can be pushed out of our lives by eustress - or good stress, as well as by distress - or bad stress. Either kind of stress can cause us anxiety and worry, and can bring emotional pain, and so we discover our lives are not content, for we are disturbed.

An understanding I have learned about life is that there will continually be changes throughout our lives, and so there will continue to be stress in our lives. Each age and stage of life has its own eustressors and distressors. Both can bring worry and uncertainty into our lives, and these push joy and peace out of our lives.

I think one reason many people resist change is because whether the change is good or bad, we will have to deal with uncertainty, and that takes away some of our security, peace, and joy. Better to stay the same than have to face the stress of change!

The Apostle Paul went through a great deal of stress during the approximately 25 years he was an evangelist for Jesus Christ. Following his call by Jesus, he changed from being one who persecuted the early Christians to becoming a Christian, and discovering himself being persecuted because of his faith!

Paul was physically tortured and mentally worried by those who opposed him and the message about Jesus he sought to proclaim. While in prison near the end of his life, he wrote to the Christians at Philippi and told them, "I am content, whether I am full or hungry, whether I have too much or too little. I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me." (Philippians 4:12b-13)

Because of the uncertainty that change brings, I have come to realize that in many cases people resist change. Unfortunately, we may miss out on many good things for our lives, because we did not wish to change. Also I realize that many changes come, and although we may resist them, they come none-the-less. We age, our physical abilities change, we have to accept new responsibilities, children grow through stages, job situations change, friends move away, new neighbors move in, children are born, loved ones die. The changes that come bring uncertainty, worry, and possibly pain, and therefore we do not like to face them.

Unless we face the changes, and look for the good that may be connected with them, we will find that the stress caused by our changes will take joy, peace and value out of our lives. We may discover ourselves thinking that this life is not really worth living.

The help available for us in our journey is the realization that there is a power that is offered to us which is from beyond ourselves. Finding peace, and being able to appreciate the good in life so that we know of joy, comes as we realize that we can have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ offers us.

Most of us can say, "Listen Honey - I know all about being stressed!" Hopefully we are growing in our faith and trust in God's work for our good so that we are also able to say, at least on occasion, I

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have found the strength to face my stresses by the power that Christ gives me."

Change comes, but as a wise statement reminds us, "When one door closes, God

opens another door for us." Do we have the faith to enter that door so that we may be renewed in peace, joy and purpose?

Jamie Fonville, Supply Pastor

GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY PLANNED

Graduate Recognition Sunday will be Sunday, June 2nd. We will be congratulating Logan Reed upon his graduation from high school and Rebecca Knight upon her graduation from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. We wish both of them the best as they move forward into new areas of life.

FIFTH SUNDAY SPECIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENT – SUNDAY, JUNE 30 AT 9:30 am.

Matt Rice will give a special organ presentation about how our organ works and its special capabilities. The organ screen will be removed so you can better see the pedals, stops and keys. Plan to take advantage of this interesting and informative Christian Education event! Music is an important part of our worship!

A WORD OF THANKS

With the Spaghetti Supper behind us, a word of thanks must be said to all who worked so hard to make that event a success, especially Mike Smith who spearheaded the effort. This joint project of the Board of Deacons and Alamance Council for the Blind raised approximately **\$1942** to be divided between the two.

And if you enjoyed the meal, it's not too late to enjoy it again. Quarts of the sauce are available for \$9 while supplies last. Look in the freezer in the church kitchen and the money may be paid to a deacon, or by check made to the Board of Deacons.

PASTOR TO BE AWAY...

Jamie Fonville will be on vacation Monday, June 24 – Sunday, June 30. Rev. Hugh Knapp lead the worship service on Sunday, June 30. If a pastoral emergency should arise during this time, please contact the Chairman of the Board of Deacons, Elsie Bolick at 336-584-0129.

SUMMER SYMPOSIUM JUNE 16-18, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Our summer Christian Education event, "Summer Symposium" will be held Tuesday, July 16, Wednesday, July 17, and Thursday, July 18 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm each night.

- Tuesday, July 16 - Peggy Johnson will speak on the History of First Christian Church.
- Wednesday, July 17 - Carol Fonville's presentation is "Inspirational Music".
- Thursday, July 18 - Mack Painter's topic is "What Has Happened to the Gospel?"

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WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CIRCLES

The Margaret Lightbourne and Centennial Circles will not meet in June or July. The next meeting will be the Joint Women's Fellowship Meeting on Monday, August 5th.

BINGO NIGHT – JUNE 5TH

First Christian's Bingo night is planned for Wednesday, June 5 at 7:00 pm. Mark your calendar to be present for this fun event! Everyone wins and we have a good time. It will not get dark until 8:30 pm, so you have time to share in this joyful event and still can get home without driving in the dark.

NOTE CHANGES IN ROUTINE SCHEDULE

- Board of Christian Education will meet after worship on Sunday, June 2 in Bray Fellowship Hall.
- The Official Board Meeting time for June 9th will be at 9 am due to NO Sunday School in July.

DOTTI DAVIS IS PLANNING TO GO ON A MISSION TRIP BACK TO UGANDA!

"After prayer and consideration Dotti is going back to Uganda! She left some unfinished business and is wanting to continue what they started last year." The cost for the trip is \$3,200. By signing up late, she doesn't have much time to raise the money for the trip, for the money is due by June 16. Dotti will leave for Uganda on June 29 and return July 14. If you feel led to help her take this mission trip, please make checks to First Christian UCC and on the memo line put – Dotti Davis or Uganda trip.

"Many thanks for your help!" Dotti Davis

THE ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Annual Gathering of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ will be held at Canterbury School in Greensboro, NC on Thursday – Saturday, June 13, 14, and 15. Carol Fonville was elected delegate to this meeting and Jamie Fonville will be attending as Supply Pastor.

STRENGTHEN YOUR CHURCH OFFERING – JUNE 9TH

The United Church of Christ **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING** will be received on Pentecost Sunday, June 9. Money donated is used to help support and expand the ministries of local UCC congregations. A portion is also used for Youth and Young Adult Leadership Development. A flyer and offering envelope will be in June worship bulletins.

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WOMEN'S SUMMER CONFERENCE

June 12-13, 2019 - Church Women of the Southern Conference (CWSC) Summer Conference is being hosted by the ENC Church Women at Peace UCC 2714 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC. The theme for this year's gathering is "**We Shall Not Lose The Power of Praise**". Deadline for registration is June 1st. On Thursday evening our closing Worship service will be held at the Canterbury School in Greensboro which will be a joint service with the Southern Conference Annual Meeting being held Thursday, June 13 through Saturday June 15, 2019. For more information please contact Rev. Tanya Best at tlcbest459@aol.com, or see the Southern Conference website.

ALSO...

October 18-20, 2019 - The 2019 biennial UCC Southern Region Women's Retreat (SRWR) will be hosted by the Church Women of the Southern Conference (CWSC) at Blowing Rock Conference Center (BRCC) in Blowing Rock, NC. This retreat is open to lay and clergy women from the following UCC Conferences: Southern, Florida, South Central and Southeast. Please mark your calendars now.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Family of Pat Sellars, Faye Strickland, Millie Fraser, Frances Morgan, Selma Simpson, Jeanne Williams, Mary Jane Pettigrew, Harvey Sharpe, Donna Freeman, Anna Gerow.
Friends: Nancy Toney, Connie Papadis, Daughter of Evelyn Rey—Carol Mitchell, Family of Barbara Smith, Jeanette Hudson—mother of Connie Collins, Family of Dolly Watson, Sarah Wilson—Niece of Mike Smith.

Please remember the families as well as the person listed.

FOOD DONATIONS – FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

In many places in the Scripture we find the instructions to share with others... to care for our fellow man. Isaiah 58:1-10 speaks of the ways of fasting and giving to others. Matthew 25:34-40 tells us that as we are feeding others, we are feeding Christ. Luke 3:11 instructs us to share with others, and Proverbs 19:17 and 22:9a speak to the idea of 'blessed to be a blessing'.

We are collecting non-perishable food donations on the first Sunday of each month. Items may be placed in the barrels located in the Bray Fellowship Hall at any time. The food items collected will be donated to the Salvation Army Food Ministry when the barrels reach capacity... and thank you for your donation!

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FREE WORKSHOP – JUNE 13TH

FREE WORKSHOP FOR LAITY ABOUT THE HISTORY AND POLITY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST! This will be held as part of the Annual Gathering of the Southern Conference of the UCC on Thursday, June 13 from 10 am to 2:30 pm at the Canterbury School in Greensboro, NC. Registration is required. Forms can be printed from the Southern Conference website or can be gotten from Jamie Fonville.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Year to Date through 04-30-19

	Actual	Budget
Income:	\$87,544.79	\$68,966.00
<u>Expense</u>	<u>\$56,610.72</u>	<u>\$68,984.97</u>
Net Balance:	\$30,934.07	<\$18.97>
Balance in Checking 04-30-19		\$25,363.42

Everyone's continued support is greatly appreciated to carry on the ministry of the church. Please send in your giving today.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Little and Connie Collins
Treasurer and Accounting Manager

OUR MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM

Office Hours:

Tuesday–Thursday 9 am–Noon & 12:30–3:30pm

Monday & Friday, closed

Ministers—All the People of the Church

Rev. Jamie Fonville—Supply Pastor

Matt Rice—Organist/Choirmaster

Cheyenne Collins—Childcare Provider

Joan Paschal —Office Support

Connie Collins—Financial Support

Rodney Paul—Custodian