

APRIL 2026

First Christian Church of Kent  
(Disciples of Christ)

# OUR HEARTBEAT

## From the Pastor

- \* THE HEARTBEAT IS PUBLISHED EACH MONTH
- \* THE HEARTBEAT DEADLINE IS THE SAME DAY AS MONTHLY PROGRAM CABINET MEETING
- \* SUBMISSIONS FOR THE HEARTBEAT CAN BE SENT TO:
- \* [fcckent@Kentdisciples.org](mailto:fcckent@Kentdisciples.org) and [officeangel@Kentdisciples.org](mailto:officeangel@Kentdisciples.org)
- \* THE HEARTBEAT IS DISTRIBUTED VIA EMAIL ALONG WITH THE MONTHLY CALENDAR
- \* IF YOU'D LIKE THE HEARTBEAT MAILED DIRECTLY VIA FIRST-CLASS MAIL, THEN PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE (INVOLVES A POSTAGE FEE)

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JOIN US FOR WORSHIP VIA ZOOM OR IN PERSON

**SUNDAYS @ 10am**

Shuji Nakamura was 39 when he created the blue LED that literally changed the way we see the world. John Nash was 22 when he discovered the math that proved that the world is not just winners and losers. Marie Curie was 31 when she discovered that the physical world was not as it seemed. Picaso was 26 when he showed the world a different way to look at itself. Dali was 25 when he showed us that we take all of this too seriously.

I think a lot about the scriptures that we find difficult. There are a group of scriptures that keep coming up and I think of them as the, "later never comes, so do it now" series. The parable of the five women who brought enough oil, and the five that did not (Mt 25). The story about the man who wants to follow Jesus but first he must bury his father (Lk 9). Lazarus and the rich man (Lk 16). There are others as well. These make me think of the fact that the call to serve, to live out our faith, is now. It's not later. It's not passed us by. It is now.

If there is change in the world that needs to happen, it needs to happen now, not later. If there is work that we have been called to do, it needs to be done now, not later. The call of Christ is present and putting it off, does nothing but extend the faults that we have been called to heal.

I started this by listing off the ages of people of great accomplishment in engineering, science, math, and art. These are some of my favorite stories of perseverance and accomplishment. They all had reasons not to do their work. Some were explicitly told to stop by individuals of authority. But they didn't wait. They persisted, persevered, and were able to extend human knowledge and experience. Our call to serve may never win us awards, wealth, or lasting fame. But it is none the less vital to our lives and the lives of others. We do not know the number of our days, and we won't extend them by worrying about that fact. But what we can do is follow God through Christ today.



**SERVING & GIVING OPPORTUNITIES**



**Hygiene Basics are Needed**

- Laundry Detergent
- Shampoo & conditioner (Cantu brand or Shea Moisture)
- Toothpaste/toothbrush/floss (adult and children's)
- Deodorant
- Dishwashing liquid soap
- Tall kitchen trash bags (unscented)
- Feminine Hygiene items (pads or tampons)

**OUTREACH UPDATE**



Every year this church gives to Week of Compassion. This year we collected \$3,021.37. Here are some of the things that our donations helped.

One of Week of Compassion's ongoing sustainable development goals is to empower women and support women-led entrepreneurship in West Africa.

Helping to rebuild homes in Lahaina after the devastating fires.

FEDICE is a faith-based organization in Ecuador empowering indigenous rural communities, especially women, through microloans, agricultural training, and development projects to combat poverty and build self-sufficiency. The acronym stands for "faith says" ('fe dice' in Spanish) and focuses on justice, peace, and human dignity, partnering with churches across the globe for support.

The Operation Cacti Compassion Care Project was created in partnership between Obra Hispana (the Disciples' central pastoral office for Hispanic ministries) and Week of Compassion. This educational and biblical resource is designed for families, pastors, and churches that are directly affected by current immigration policies, and for those who seek to be in solidarity with them.

Because of our love for and through Jesus Christ, we have been allowed to share of our tithes in 2026 for those in need.

The Outreach team prayerfully shared our generous gifts out as follows:

- \$1000 to Vine Maple Place (1/2 for care closet and 1/2 to the greatest need).
- \$3,000 to World Central Kitchen (to provide meals for those in need . See their page at: [wck.org](http://wck.org)).
- \$2,000 to the Kent Food Bank (food bank & emergency services).
- \$500 to Monday Night Supper in Kent.
- \$1500 to Week of Compassion (1/2 for tornado relief & 1/2 for the greatest global need).

*Thank you!*

**THANK YOU IS NOT ENOUGH**

On January 21, things changed for me. A fall made it impossible for me to do anything for myself. I couldn't even scratch my nose, if it itched. Two broken shoulders made life difficult. It didn't take long for prayers, flowers, notes, calls, visits, and food for my family to start coming. Larry, Jason, and I can't tell all of you how much you mean to us, and how you helped us during those first few weeks. The hospital and rehab stays were helped along by the prayers, visits, and knowing my family was in good hands. I could focus on getting better, because I knew my family was being cared for and given the support they needed. As I continue to heal, I know that you are there, if needed. We cherish each and everyone of you. God bless you all.

Betty

## Important Dates

### **EVERY SUNDAY**

Worship ~ 10:00 am  
Coffee Hour & Sunday School ~ 11:00 am

### **EVERY TUESDAY**

Mary/Martha Group ~ 10:30 am

### **EVERY WEDNESDAY**

Bible Study ~ 10:00 am (zoom)  
ALL IN Worship ~ 6:00 pm

### **EVERY THURSDAY**

Bible Study ~ 7:00 pm (Zoom)

### **SATURDAY APRIL 4TH**

Early Birds @ Maggie's ~ 9:00 am  
Easter Egg Hunt ~ 1:00 pm  
Hand & Foot ~ 6:00 pm

### **SUNDAY APRIL 5TH**

EASTER SUNDAY

### **SATURDAY APRIL 11TH**

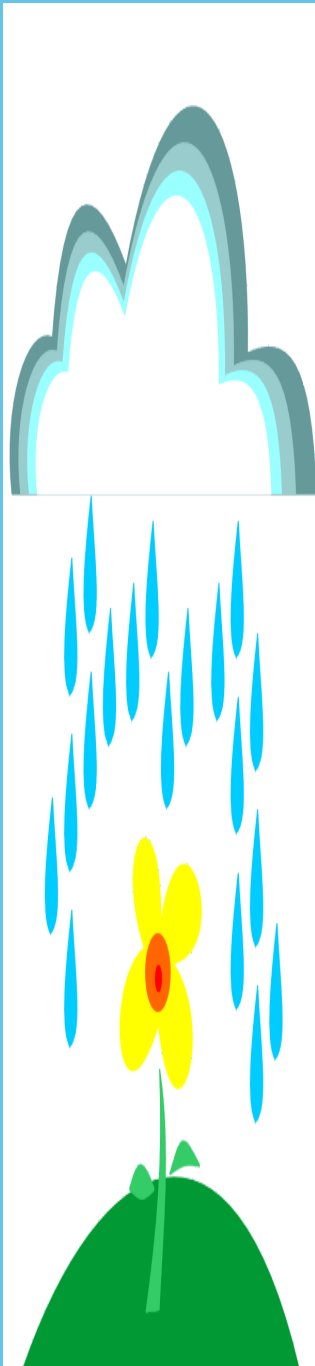
Elders Meeting ~ 9:00 am

### **TUESDAY APRIL 14TH**

Program Cabinet Meeting ~ 7:00 pm (Zoom)  
Heartbeat Submission Deadline

### **SATURDAY APRIL 18TH**

Disciple Women's Breakfast @ Maggie's ~ 9:00 am  
Pinochle ~ 6:00 pm



## Continuing to Worship Together

As we worship together, we invite you to participate via zoom or In Person. We continue to care for our church family in the best ways possible.

For anyone that would like to join us via ZOOM, We are happy to help you set this up. Please email Pastor at [Colin@kentdisciples.org](mailto:Colin@kentdisciples.org) or Brenda at [officeangel@kentdisciples.org](mailto:officeangel@kentdisciples.org) for more information. Blessings & safety to all!

## Thank You for Serving!

### SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READERS

04/05 Tom Medhurst  
 04/12 Dorothy Gifford  
 04/19 Russ Gifford  
 04/26 Sandy Reeley

If you would like to read scripture please contact Elaine Patrick or Amie Jacot

**DIACONATE:** Ezra Lee  
 Nicole Lee

**SACRISTY:** Margaret Luke

### SUNDAY WORSHIP ELDERS:

04/05 Elaine Patrick  
 04/12 Nicole McRaney  
 04/19 Elaine Patrick  
 04/26 Rosalie Sterner

**ELDERS Meeting** is on the 2nd Saturday of each month, but be sure to reach out to your Elder if you need assistance.

## Birthdays

Doris Olson	04/02
Linda Elliott	04/02
Irene Paquin	04/05
Roberta Richardson	04/06
Dean Jacot	04/07
Chris McMeen	04/07
Mark Lopez	04/12
Debbie Pozzi	04/12
Phyllis Simpson	04/13
Lois Nelson	04/16
JoAnn Winfrey	04/20
Margaret Luke	04/24
Theresa Lee	04/25
Colin McRaney	04/30

## Anniversaries

Mick & Portia McGuire	04/06
Bill & Theresa Lee	04/15



### Zoom Links for regular services, studies and groups

**Bible Study**      **Wednesday @ 10am & Thursday @ 7pm**      **On Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/7067571886>

Meeting ID: 706 757 1886

+1 253 215 8782 US

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/7067571886>

**FCC Kent Worship Sunday @ 10am**

**Worshipping together in person & on Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/659719477>

Meeting ID: 659 719 477

+1 253 215 8782 US

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/659719477>

\*\*Links for meetings are sent to the team members each month before they happen.

**UPDATED September 30, 2025**

## OUR MISSION

1. *To invite people into a loving relationship with God through Jesus Christ;*
2. *To care for each other as children of God;*
3. *To build believers into disciples of Jesus Christ;*

## OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Colin McRaney  
Pastor  
Office Hours:  
Monday-Thursday  
9:30 am—3:00 pm

Penney Young  
Office Administrator  
Office Hours:  
Tuesday—Thursday  
9:00 am—3:00 pm

Kaelee Bolme  
Director of Music Ministry

Brenda Barnes  
Office Volunteer

Dan Lenhart  
Custodian

## AND WE KEEP IN OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS:

Members At Home — All that are staying in their homes to worship remotely. Praying we all stay safe & healthy.

Those Serving Our Country — Jorge & Celestine Burgos-Erazo  
And Our First Responders.

And Don't Forget—Our Church Leaders, Our Community, and Our Friends.

## Stewardship Giving Information

Thank you for your continued support of our shared ministry here at First Christian Church of Kent. Your gifts go out into the world, but also work here at home. But that's not all that your gifts do, they feed the hungry, house the homeless, and clothe the naked. These are the things that Christ called us to do.

In these times of uncertainty, the needs that this congregation serves, have not disappeared. They are growing. Together we are able to do the work that God has called us to, the work that Christ taught us to do. You can mail offering directly to the church at:

First Christian Church  
PO Box 5009  
Kent, WA 98064

or contact Larry for online options. Which are either your bank bill payer or the FCC website using Stewardship Technology

If you would like your giving statement mailed out, let Larry know.

[253-656-9856](tel:253-656-9856) or [lshepard46@hotmail.com](mailto:lshepard46@hotmail.com)

## Our Invitation to You

The invitation of God's love is perfect and unconditional. Our invitation to you is unconditional as well. Regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, political stance, age, or ability, ALL are welcome. Period.

We are not perfect, but our invitation is heartfelt, and it is faithful.

We welcome all of God's creation to worship, serve, and participate with us in any capacity.

Christ's example of God's love guides our worship, our work, and our welcome, and it dwells at the center of our commitment to be an intentionally creative, inclusive, nurturing, and inter-generational church.

## First Christian Church of Kent

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