



APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER
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Visit us online at
www.firstchristiangoldsboro.org
this week for videos on sermon,
communion, music, and scripture.

A Word from Pastor Tom

“God’s in his heaven, all’s right with the world.” It’s certainly a bit of an exaggeration, but I couldn’t help hearing these words from Robert Browning ringing through my head on March 28, 2021 – Palm Sunday – our first service back in the sanctuary in over a year. There is still a lot that isn’t right with the world: not everyone is vaccinated, not everyone could be in the sanctuary with us, not everyone has lives which are peaceful or calm or healthy. Still, something had been made right: we got to share some measure of joy together, even if not a full measure. I felt a deep sense of thankfulness wash over me as I looked out at the members of our congregation sitting in the sanctuary we hold dear. The experience of the people of God, so often expressed in the Psalms, is beginning to be our experience, too: We have been through difficult times, God has been faithful, and we are starting to come out the other side. I pray God leads us there. As Brantley read out to us on that Sunday, “O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”



INDOOR GATHERING CONTINUES IN APRIL

We re-entered our sanctuary for Palm Sunday worship on March 28, 2021. This gathering was socially distanced, with masks and precautions such as no congregational singing. We will continue sanctuary worship in April, with services beginning at **10:30 AM**. We will continue our **parking lot radio broadcast** at 100.1 FM. We will also continue **livestreaming** our services on Facebook. Whatever way you gather with us, we are glad you are here!



Online Services

During the month of March, First Christian Goldsboro reached **819** people through our online ministries. Our most watched video was Tom Casey playing “O Sacred Head Now Wounded,” with 171 views.

MARCH GIVING

March 7	\$3,730.00
March 14	\$4,960.00
March 21	\$ 965.00
March 28	\$1,893.00
United Church Ministries	\$1,113.18



Special Offerings

‘Thank you, thank you!’ We are grateful to everyone who donated to our March special offering for **United Church Ministries**. Our congregation is a long-time supporter of UCM—from the very beginning—and we are glad to keep supporting their essential work. **Results** of the special offering can be found below.

Special Mission Offerings through March 28

Protestant Preschool \$145.00

Souper Bowl of Caring \$297.50

Week of Compassion \$480.00

United Church Ministries \$1,113.18

Total through March 28 \$2,035.68



April Special Offering: Easter Offering

The theme for this year’s special Easter Offering is “Imagine what God can do when we share our gifts.” Our special Easter offerings to Disciples Mission Fund support general ministries of our Church that reach deep and wide with the limitless power of the risen Christ. Reaching deep, we support leadership development programs for college and seminary students, bible studies that challenge and inspire, spiritual care for those in prison, resources for mental health and trauma care, and many more ministries. Reaching wide, we support global ministry partners, colleges, universities, theological institutions, disaster relief volunteers, new congregations, and ministries that feed the hungry.

Through these general ministries, lives are changed for the better. We will receive our special Easter offerings throughout the month of April. Let’s all be a part of these deep and wide ministries. Just imagine what God can do with your gift. Please give generously.



Mission Project: Church World Service Hygiene Kits

Last year we prepared and donated **54** Church World Service Hygiene Kits. Eight of these kits were prepared and donated by members of our congregation. Forty-six additional kits were prepared from materials purchased with funds donated by members who chose to donate instead of preparing a kit. Mary and Will Bartlett delivered these kits to the CWS Depot at Hillyer Memorial in Raleigh in early August.

CWS hygiene kits are distributed to people experiencing natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty. When people are forced to abruptly leave their homes because of emergencies, they may not have time to pack the things they use daily like toothbrushes or soap. But after a few days without these items, they miss them. Our donated hygiene kits offer a refreshing daily boost for someone when supplies are hard to come by. Hygiene kits can also mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.

CWS representative, Rev. David Mallory, reports that due to the winter storm in Texas and recent storms in the southeast, the supply of hygiene kits on hand is extremely low and new donations are needed. The Missions Task Force seeks your assistance in answering the call for additional kits. Our CWS Hygiene Kit campaign will run from April 11 through May16. You may purchase the kit contents listed below and assemble kits yourself. You may drop assembled kits in the box provided in the breezeway. If you prefer to donate in lieu of making a kit, please mark your donation as “CWS Hygiene Kits.” Each kit costs approximately \$10.00. Supplies needed for each kit are as follows:

- One hand towel, measuring approximately 15” x 28” to 16” x 32” (no fingertip, bath, dish towel, or micro-fiber)
- One washcloth

- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package (must be sturdy with at least 6” of teeth; no pocket combs or picks)
- One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package (either one is acceptable)
- One bath size bar of soap in the original package
- One toothbrush in the original package
- Ten standard size Band-Aids

All items should be placed inside a one-gallon Ziploc type bag. Remove excess air from the bag. Do not add any extra items or toothpaste. Toothpaste will be added by CWS just prior to distribution.



Grace Price, Cheryl Griffin, Eloise Kleinert and family, Mary Ethel Lewis, Joe Ben Sauls, G. A. and Kathy Spain, June Anderson, Faye Rogers, Rick Rogers (Faye Rogers' son), the family of Billie Ursano (Faye Rogers' sister), John and Becky Selzer and family, Rebecca Daniels, Lorraine Loch, Bradley King, Val Watkins (Brantley's sister-in-law), the Spain's great granddaughter Katie, Molly McEldowney (Sharon Jones' daughter) and her brother, David Reynolds, Robert Strader (June Anderson's son-in-law), Linda Hilburn, Chuck Saeger (husband of Patricia Nickens Saeger), Bill Smith, Gary Bartlett, Herbert Hill, Mary Anne Cowley, Ruby Santee, Anne Pittman, Jay & Kelley Pittman, Linda McCoy, Ken McCoy and family, Jana Blackman, Johnnie Kleinert, Judy Williford, Lyn Williford Jr., Lou & Jeff Rose, Ben Satterfield, Joyce Sauls, Faye Tatum (cousin of Marsha Hall) in the loss of her husband, Herbert Hill and family in the loss of Tommy, Dennis & Gwen Horne, June Anderson's grandson Justin Conner, Faye Rogers and family in the loss of Willie, and a praise for the recovery of Justin Pittman, and those suffering with and working with COVID19.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Jane Selzer Mendez – 1
 Frances Allen – 7
 Bill Smith – 9
 Laura Ziemer Millay – 9
 Margie Savage – 13
 Margaret Millay – 20
 Tom Millay – 21
 Norma Griffin – 23
 Jennifer King – 24
 Johnnie Kleinert - 29

Elders Presenting Scriptures **in April**

April 4 Dennis Isenhower

Isaiah 25:6–9; Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24
 1 Corinthians 15:1–11

April 11 Linda Cannon

Acts 4:32–35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1–2:2

April 18 Tim Creech

Acts 3:12–19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1–7

April 25 Bunkie Parker

Acts 4:5–12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16–24



April Elders

Since we are not serving homebound communion in April, our April elders are available for pastoral care:

April 4	Dennis Horne
April 11	Linda Cannon
April 18	Mary Bartlett
April 25	Brantley Watkins



April Lectionary 2021

April 4

Isaiah 25:6–9
 Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24
 1 Corinthians 15:1–11
 John 20:1–18

April 11

Acts 4:32–35
 Psalm 133
 1 John 1:1–2:2
 John 20:19–31

April 18

Acts 3:12–19
 Psalm 4
 1 John 3:1–7
 Luke 24:36–48

April 25

Acts 4:5–12
 Psalm 23
 1 John 3:16–24
 John 10:11–18



MEMORIALS

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Willie Rogers by Ms. Susan Harmuth.

A gift was given to Current Expense in memory of Willie Rogers by Charles Bateman.

A gift was given to the Renovation Fund in memory of Willie Rogers by Mr. & Mrs. Bill Smith.

A gift was given to Building Fund in memory of Willie Rogers by Mrs. Frances Allen.

A gift was given to Current Expense in honor of Mrs. Frances Allen by her son, Robert Allen.

A gift was given to the Church to honor Rev. Tom Millay for participation of Willie Roger's service by Tim Rogers.



SHARING HEARTS:

A big thank you to everyone who sent in their favorite scriptures for our Sharing Hearts program. It was an outpouring sufficient to provide fifty different scriptures, which is a good number for the upcoming season. Another word of thanks is due to the women of our church who put the boxes together. On Easter Sunday, each family will be able to pick up a Blessing Box of their own from a table in the sanctuary. It is our hope that you will read a scripture from the Blessing Box each day from Easter until Pentecost, reflecting on how it speaks to you as well, and pray for the person who submitted it.

Shalom to you during the coming season.

The Community/Evangelism Committee



LENTEN BOOK STUDY

Our final Lenten book study took place on Wednesday, March 31st. We benefitted greatly from the reflections of both Wendell Berry and Rev. Dr. Penny Ziemer: A big thank you to both of them, and to all who participated!



SCHEDULE: UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Board Meeting** on Tuesday, April 13th at 6:45 PM over conference call
- **Elders Meeting** on Tuesday, April 20th at 7:00 PM over Zoom



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