

Here is a word from our Moderator:

Dear Church Family,  
On behalf of the Board and First Christian, I pray you are doing well. As we face challenges we have not known, we hope you will know your church family is present in their prayers, love, and support. We will do things differently in the weeks ahead. Penny has worked out some ways to share a weekly message in print, email and a weekly video sermon on Facebook, which includes options for celebrating communion at home and the opportunity to read your Lenten devotional online at our website.

We want everyone to stay connected, safe and informed. Please remember the church weekly by mailing in your offerings and financial support. These will be very important going forward.

Be blessed and may God keep us safe and strong.

In Faith,  
Gary O. Bartlett  
Moderator



**Easter Offering**

The theme for this year’s special Easter Offering is “Rejoice.” Psalm 118:24 reads “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” This Easter, we rejoice together as one Church, as the One Body of Christ. We rejoice in all that we accomplish together, and the work God accomplishes through us. We rejoice that the Easter offering, through Disciples Mission Fund, makes ministry possible. Through the general ministries of our Church, lives are changed, and our world is transformed. Will you rejoice with us and give to this special day offering? This Easter **season** let us rejoice in all the ways our wider Church embodies the Spirit of Resurrection, through life-giving ministry. Please give generously to this year’s Easter Offering. If you mail in an offering, designate “Easter Offering” in the memo.



**UNITED CHURCH MINISTRIES**

Number of contacts	53
Number of new applicants	27
Rent payments	\$ 495.50
Electric payments	\$2,034.16
Heating fuel	\$ 67.72
Total amount of vouchers	\$2,597.38
Total number helped by vouchers	39
Number of food bags	17
Number helped by food bags	30
Total number of persons helped	66
UCM Money accounts: Regular	
checking account balance	\$19,221.19
MRS (savings)	16,288.95
Benevolence	1,905.30
Mary Thompson, Representative	

**MARCH GIVING**

March 1	\$2,616.00
March 8	\$4,652.00
March 15	\$3,924.60
March 22	\$1,781.00
UCM	\$ 445.00
Wk. of Compassion	\$ 350.00

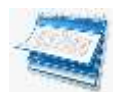
**OUR NEW MINISTER COMING IN JUNE**

Our Congregation voted on March 15 to call Rev. Dr. Tom Millay to be our next Minister and he has accepted our call. We expect Rev. Millay to begin his ministry with us around the middle of June. We are excited to have such a well-qualified young man to be our next Minister. We look forward to welcoming Tom, Laura, and Margaret into our church family as he begins his ministry with us.

Ronnie Thompson, Chair, Minister Search Task Group

**Temporary Address:**

Joe Ben Sauls is doing rehab in Kinston:  
Room H 206  
2150 Hull Road  
Kinston, NC 28504



**NO APRIL CALENDAR**

**Making Protective Masks** Sharon Jones shares this website with instructions on how to make protective masks. [www.deaconess.com/How-to-Make-A-Face-Mask](http://www.deaconess.com/How-to-Make-A-Face-Mask). Joann’s Fabric may also be offering material for masks.



#### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Jane Selzer Mendez – 1  
 Frances Allen – 7  
 Bill Smith – 9  
 Laura Ziemer Millay – 9  
 Margie Savage – 13  
 Norma Griffin -23  
 Jennifer King – 24  
 Willie Rogers – 26  
 Johnnie Kleinert – 29



#### STAYING CONNECTED TO CARE

Many have asked how they might help even if we are keeping our social distance during this time. Here are a few ideas:

1. Mail cards regularly to those who are shut in or facing health challenges during this time.
- 2.
3. Call to check on people. Be sure to ask for current emails if they use email since this is one of the ways we are staying connected. If you learn of an email, pass it along to Penny.
4. **We are offering three conference calls a week for updates and prayers:**  
 Tuesday at 8:00 PM; Thursday at 2:00 PM and Sunday at 10:00 AM. Dial 712-770-5505 and then pause; type in the access code 300904#. Announce yourself to the group and then mute your phone to prevent background interference. Unmute to speak.
5. If you are out getting groceries, call someone shut in and ask if you might pick up a few things. Phone them when you have placed at door.
6. Here is a link from the Chamber of Commerce of restaurants that deliver. They include Chik-fil-A, Zaxby's, and Lantern Inn, as well as many others. This might help you or others:

<https://www.waynecountychamber.com/wc-chamber-members-whose-businesses-are-offering-drive-thru-takeout-and-delivery-services/>

7. Resist the temptation to “just go in a minute and check on people.” The greatest care we can give is sharing from a distance.
8. Do what you can do while keeping yourself, rested, safe and well.
9. In order to help the school age children with their meals, we have already donated through Benevolence to the School Lunch Program run out of Rebuilding Broken Places.



#### STAYING CONNECTED TO WORSHIP

1. If you have provided current emails, check weekly on Saturday for the weekly sermon, communion prayers and prayer updates.
2. Look on our website for weekly sermon video posted at 9:00 AM on Sunday and linked to Facebook
3. If you did not receive a printed copy of Lenten Devotional, *Bound to Love if the Son Sets Us Free*, you may pick up a copy from church or read it online at our website.
4. Remember to use the conference call listed earlier to call in for prayer.

## 5. Lenten Prayer Chain

Select one of the following time slots and set aside at least 10 minutes a day for devotion and prayer. Use the Lenten devotional, lectionary readings or other materials. Remember our prayer list and others in our community, state, nation and world.

From 6:00 AM to 9 AM

From 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

From 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM

From 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

From 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

From 9:00 PM to Midnight



## REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina, scheduled for April 17-19 at Camp Caroline has been postponed. A one day Regional Assembly is being planned for the Fall of 2020.



1. Our Wednesday night Lenten Supper/Study has been cancelled in April.
2. Linda Thigpen, our CWF President, shares that our CWF/DWM April meetings have been cancelled. Call your Group Leader if you have any questions.
3. Our CMF supper meeting for April has been cancelled.
4. Our Last Saturday Supper for April will likely be cancelled.
5. Our Regional Youth Retreat scheduled at the Regional Assembly at Camp Caroline April 17-19 has been cancelled.

6. Unless notified otherwise, our youth events will be cancelled in April.

7. The Regional Assembly scheduled for April 17-19 at Camp Caroline has been cancelled.

8. All committee meetings have been cancelled. See Task Group Chairs if you have any questions.

9. Elders will not meet in person but will meet via our conference call number **every Thursday from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.**

10. *Going Deeper* Prayer Group will not meet in person, but we will have an opportunity for any to call in at 2:00 PM on our conference call on Thursdays for prayer and updates.

11. All over events not mentioned are likely cancelled. Check with Task Group leaders if you have any questions.

## APRIL BOARD BY CONFERENCE CALL

Our Board will meet via a conference call on **Tuesday, April 14, from 8:00 to 9:00 PM.**

## Virtual Palm Sunday

There is no reason we can't still lay down our branches before Jesus on April 5! Here is what I want to ask you to do this week. Ready? Go in your yard and break off some branches from your tree or shrub and lay them along the path going up to your front door.

Lay them any way you want. It just shows Jesus the way into your heart this Holy Week and then I want you to take a picture of it and email them or text them to Andrew Clarke and to me **by Thursday, April 2, 2020.** (Emails in Greeting). We want to upload them to our website!

This will be a part of our worship experience on April 5.



### WHAT ABOUT EASTER??

Will we be meeting by Easter? The truth is we don't know. We must make our plans closer to the time.

One suggestion is to have a modified outdoor service if it is not raining - similar to the sunrise service -but a bit later (Time TBA) At that, our youth could have a special part.

At this time, we cannot make definite plans, but as the time gets closer, we will let everyone know.

One thing is sure. Whether we can gather in person or not, *Easter itself will not be cancelled! God has seen to that!*



### OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Grace Price, John and Eloise Kleinert and family, Mary Ethel Lewis, Joe Ben Sauls, G. A. and Kathy Spain, June Anderson, Willie and Faye Rogers, Rick Rogers (Faye & Willie Rogers' son), John and Becky Selzer and family, Teenie Wilson, Rebecca Daniels, Mary Ellen Ham, 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), Bill Smith, Gary Bartlett, Jimmy Mayer (friend of Ray Price), Chuck Allen, Cathy Loch, Jodie Hudson, Eddie Stewart, Linda Hilburn, Lee Summerlin, and Charles Johnson.

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to Lee Summerlin in the death of his daughter, Donna.



Dear First Christian Family,  
I want to thank you for the warm hospitality you showed me when I visited a few weeks ago. My prayers are with you during this time when it's hard not to be together. I want you to know how thankful I am that you called me to be your next minister. Laura, Margaret and I look forward to being with you soon, and I am excited to join you as your minister. I thank God and you for this opportunity. May God keep you safe. Tom Millay

### APRIL ELDERS AND DEACONS

As you know, we will not be communing together at church during this time and when we do gather, we will likely commune in a different way. Our Administration voted to suspend Homebound Communion visits during this time. We are still listing our serving Elders and Deacons for April, however, since they will still be calling to check on our shut-ins.

This is a time to commune with God in a special way. Use whatever juice or bread you have at home. Or, you may pick up individual communion packs at the entry table at the parking lot entrance Mondays from 10 to 12 or Tuesdays from 10 to 12. You may also drop off your offerings at that time.

#### Elders:

April 5 Dennis/Gwen Horne  
April 12 Linda Cannon/Bunkie Parker  
April 19 Mary Bartlett/Dennis Isenhower  
April 26 Brantley Watkins/Gwen Horne  
**Deacons:** Dennis Loch/Jay Rose/John Selzer

#### Elders/Deacons Calling Shut-ins

Apr. 5 Dennis Horne  
Apr. 12 Linda Cannon/Dennis Loch  
Apr. 19 Mary Bartlett/Jay Rose  
Apr. 26 Brantley Watkins/John Selzer

### APRIL LECTIONARY

#### April 5 Palm Sunday

Old Testament Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29  
Epistle Philippians 2:5-11  
New Testament Matthew 21:1-11

#### April 12 Easter Sunday

Old Testament Jeremiah 31:1-6  
Epistle Colossians 3:1-4  
New Testament Matthew 27 11-54

#### April 19 Second Sunday After Easter

Old Testament Ps. 16  
Epistle I Peter 1:3-9  
New Testament John 20:19-31

#### April 26 Third Sunday After Easter

Old Testament Ps. 116:1-3, 10-17  
Epistle I Peter 1:17-23  
New Testament Luke 24:13-35

### MEMORIALS

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund by Ray Price in memory of Laura Price.