



FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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 Organist/Pianist/Choir Director
 Tom Casey
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 Church Secretary Wanda McCullen

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



Weekly Conference Call Times
Wednesdays at 6:45 PM.

Here is all you do:
Dial 712-770-5505 and then wait
for instructions to enter access
code, which is 300904#

A Word from Pastor Tom

This morning I found myself humming over and over again that beautiful tune “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me,” which Penny and Laura and Tom brought to our service on Sunday, January 31st. Many of you may know that this is a traditional African American spiritual, and humming the tune brought to mind other spirituals, such as “Go Down Moses” and “He Never Said a Mumblin’ Word.” What incredible courage, insight, and artistry there are in these songs. Slave masters tried to teach African Americans a religion that would make them accept their lot in life, a kind of anti-Christ Christianity. Instead, Jesus spoke through these enslaved peoples to proclaim a liberation of the captives, right in the midst of the songs they sang while doing forced labor on plantations. As theologian M. Shawn Copeland says, “Rooted in the experience of oppression

and suffering, this highly charged symbolic language is most fundamentally a language of joy and mysticism in the midst of survival and resistance.” In the worst of circumstances, God showed up, precisely in the faith of those who had every right to despair. All I can do is be lost in wonder, love, and praise because of these brothers and sisters who continue to speak and sing to us today. As your February begins, pray a prayer of thanksgiving with me.



OUTSIDE GATHERING AT CHURCH CONTINUES THROUGH FEBRUARY (POSSIBLY!)

We were blessed to have wonderful indoor-outdoor hybrid services throughout the month of December. We continue to have beautiful piano music from Tom Casey (and also chimes!). Brantley Watkins, Bunkie Parker, George Thigpen, and Penny Ziemer, and Laura Ziemer Millay, have all lent us the enjoyment of their wonderful voices during our times of special music. We plan to continue having these outdoor gatherings for the month of January, beginning at **10:30 AM. HOWEVER:** if it is too cold we will have the service indoors with a **Facebook live** and **radio broadcast (100.1 FM)**. If we meet outdoors, we will be wearing masks and practicing physical distancing. **The final Sunday of the month, we will have a conference call after the service, at 11:30 AM.** Online services and other conference calls will continue, with the Wednesday conference call at 6:45 PM.



Online Services

During the month of November, First Christian Goldsboro reached **1,784 people** through our online ministries.

The most watched video was The Pastor's Library Vol. 14 on **Makoto Fujimara's** book *Art+Faith* with **406** views. This is because Makoto watched the video and shared it on his Twitter account. Thanks be to God!

JANUARY GIVING

Jan. 3	\$ 5,215.00
Jan. 10	\$ 2,895.00
Jan. 17	\$ 1,947.00
Jan. 24	\$11,743.95
Protestant Preschool	\$ 125.00



Special Offerings

'Thank you, thank you!' We are grateful to everyone who donated to our January special offering for **Protestant Preschool & Kindergarten**. We rejoice that so many of you decided to support the education of these precious children. **Results** of the special offering can be found above.

Special Mission Offerings through January 24

Protestant Preschool	\$397.00
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$216.58
Week of Compassion	\$664.00
United Church Ministries	\$470.00
Easter Special Day	\$480.00
Pentecost	\$120.00
CWS Hygiene Kits	\$295.00
United Church Ministries	\$1,215.00
Reconciliation	\$85.00
Blanket Sunday	\$480.00
Thanksgiving	\$365.00
Christmas	\$840.00
Total through January 24	\$5,627.58



February Week of Compassion Special Offering

Isaiah 49:8-12 shares a vision of a world of justice and equity where everyone has enough and lives in safety and abundance. The theme this year for Week of Compassion is "Let Love Flow." For over 75 years, Week of Compassion has been working to create a better world for all by providing aid in times of war, famine, economic difficulties, and natural disasters.

Whether it is flood recovery aid in Pamlico County, a new water well in Kenya or food aid, Week of Compassion works to bring the vision of Isaiah closer to reality. When water comes to a village, everything changes. Having clean water close by means people don't have to spend all day walking to the nearest source. Instead, they can spend more time taking care of other needs and being together. Clean water nearby also improves sanitation and slows the spread of disease.

When we give to Week of Compassion, we give life in the form of water and so much more to people in need around the world. But we aren't just sharing water, we share what God has given us. We "let love flow." That love brings us closer to our brothers and sisters around the world. When we "let love flow," lives are not just saved, they are transformed with hope for a better world. Please give generously to help bring the vision in Isaiah closer to reality.



Souper Bowl of Caring

We are collecting loose change and small bills throughout the month of February to donate to our Community Soup Kitchen, which tacklehunger.org has designated as our local organization for fighting hunger. For more information, [watch](#) Andrew Clarke's video on our Facebook!



Grace Price, Cheryl Griffin, 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), 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, and those suffering with and working with COVID19.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Zach Loch – 1
Lindsey Thompson – 11
Gwen Horne – 13
Stephen Hall – 14
Jeff Rose – 18
Valerie Melvin – 19
Joyce Sauls – 19
James Ussary – 20
Mary Jane Rose – 21
Mary Thompson – 24
Jeffrey Bell – 26

Elders Presenting Scriptures in February

In January, we will continue videotaping our elders reading Scripture at our live service.

February 7 Linda Cannon
Isaiah 40:21–31; Psalm 147:1–11, 20;
1 Corinthians 9:16–23

February 14 Bunkie Parker
2 Kings 2:1–12; Psalm 50:1–6;
2 Corinthians 4:3–6

February 21 Sharon Jones
Genesis 9:8–17; Psalm 25:1–10;
1 Peter 3:18–22

February 28 Andrew Clarke
Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16; Psalm 22:23–31
Romans 4:13–25



February Elders

Since we are not meeting in our sanctuary or serving homebound communion in February, our February elders are available for pastoral care:

February 7	Brantley Watkins
February 14	Cheryl Griffin
February 21	Sharon Jones
February 28	Gwen Horne



February Lectionary 2021

February 7

Isaiah 40:21–31
Psalm 147:1–11, 20
1 Corinthians 9:16–23
Mark 1:29–39

February 14

2 Kings 2:1–12
Psalm 50:1–6
2 Corinthians 4:3–6
Mark 9:2–9

February 21

Genesis 9:8–17
Psalm 25:1–10
1 Peter 3:18–22
Mark 1:9–15

February 28

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16
Psalm 22:23–31
Romans 4:13–25
Mark 8:31–38

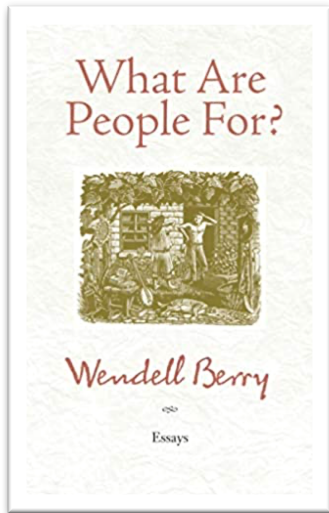


MEMORIALS

A gift was given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Tom Hill by Mr. & Mrs. Walter Cannon.

A gift was given to the Renovation Fund in memory of Tom Hill by Mr. & Mrs. John Selzer.

A gift was given to the Spiritual Life Endowment Fund by Alfred Griffin.



LENTEN BOOK STUDY

After our successful Elders Zoom call last month, we will now be having our Lenten book study over Zoom. It will be great to see each others faces! We are looking forward to reading Rev. Dr. Penny B. Ziemer's Lenten meditations, which this year will take up themes of farming and flourishing.

As a kind of companion to Penny's meditations, we will be reading the farmer, author and poet Wendell Berry book of essays, *What Are People For?* Berry has farmed the same land in central Kentucky for over 50 years and has acquired a good bit of wisdom over that time. A reading schedule will be sent out the first week of February. I am excited to read, reflect and discuss together!



SCHEDULE: UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Board** on Tuesday, February 9th at 6:45 PM over conference call
- **Elders** on Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00 PM over Zoom

- **Book Study** on Wednesday, February 17th at 7:00 PM over Zoom
- **Book Study** on Wednesday, February 24th at 7:00 PM over Zoom



You may need this address:

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