

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Elders on Call

Clarissa Harms
Darren Williamson

Serving Diaconate

Andrew Ford, Kimberly Jones, Jeff Jones, Mae Margaret Davis,
Barry Dillon, Jennifer Dillon, Lynn Eastman, Ardis Gillespie,
Cameron Gillespie, Susan Storer, Ashton Strachan

Communion Preparer

Sarah Ford

Acolyte

Victor Dillon

Sunday School Greeter

Bruce Moon

Worship Greeters

Marian Moon & Ann Langley (Door)
Donna Strickland (Sanctuary)

Children Worship & Wonder

The Parable of the Farmer & the Growing Seed
Tom Scales (storyteller)
Susan Scales, Jennifer Powell (greeters)

Nursery Volunteer

Kallie Blakemore

Rev. Troy Tatum
Senior Minister

Rev. Robin Blakemore
Associate Minister

Rev. John Allen Bankson
Music Director

David Brasher
Pianist/Organist

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Disciples  of Christ

"Where the Grace of God Awaits You"



April 22, 2018
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WELCOME

We're delighted you're here today, and we hope you'll find this to be a meaningful time of worship with a vibrant community of faith.

NEW HERE?

If today is your first time visiting at First Christian Church, please be sure to stop by the welcome table near the front doors so that we can give you a small gift to thank you for worshipping with us.

CONNECTION CARDS

We ask everyone to take a few moments during worship to fill out the Connection Card included in this bulletin. You may place your card in the offering when it is received.

WORSHIPPING WITH CHILDREN

Children age 3K through fourth grade are encouraged to participate in Worship and Wonder, a special worship and education experience designed just for them. Young people may leave the service for Worship and Wonder following "A Time for Children." Of course, children of all ages are welcome to participate in morning worship, and childcare for infants and toddlers is available in the church nursery for all or part of the service. Worship bags with activity sheets, crayons, and children's bulletins are available in the narthex.

WAYS TO GIVE

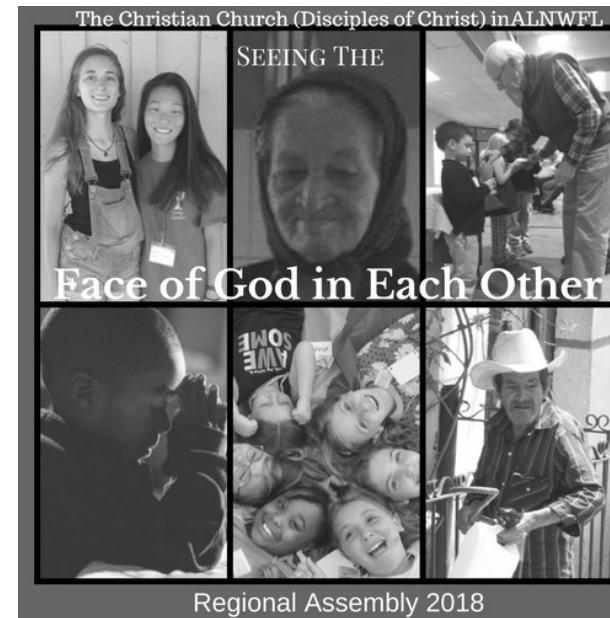
Thank you for investing your gifts in the mission and ministry of First Christian Church. Your act of worship through giving is appreciated. You can give in person by cash or check, or online by visiting www.fcc-bhm.org/give or by scanning the QR code to the right with your smart phone. You may also contact the church office to learn more about automated giving.



GET IN TOUCH

fcc-bhm.org | info@fcc-bhm.org

office: 205-991-5000 | clergy on call: 205-295-6708



The 2018 Regional Assembly for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama-Northwest Florida will be April 27 - 29 at Valley Christian Church in Birmingham. We are excited to hear a message from Rev. Terri Hord Owens, the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (DoC), during worship on Friday, April 27 at 7:30. There will be a reception to follow where you can meet Rev. Terri Hord Owens. We'd love to have you join us at Valley Christian Church for this meaningful worship gathering. For more information or to register for Saturday, April 9 go to: <http://www.alnwfldisciples.org/2018-regional-assembly>.



MEMBERSHIP CLASS OFFERED MAY 6

Are you new to First Christian? Would you like to know more? If you're just getting started, we suggest attending "New Beginnings" on May 6 from 11:30-1:30. We'll gather after church for lunch and conversation in a small group. Designed especially for visitors and new members of our congregation, "New Beginnings" will help you learn more about who we are and how you can connect in ministry and mission. Please, contact the church office (205-991-5000) to sign up or Robin Blakemore (robin@fcc-bhm.org) for more information.

THIS WEEK

Today, April 22

10:15 AM Morning Worship
4:00 PM The Table
5:00 PM Children and Youth

Monday, April 23

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study
11:00 AM Staff Meeting

Tuesday, April 24

10:00 AM Ladies' Bible Study
6:00 PM Spaghetti Supper/TAN Art Show Fundraiser

Wednesday, April 25

6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

GET INVOLVED

APRIL 24: SPAGHETTI SUPPER/TAN ART SHOW FUNDRAISER

The Adventure Nook will be hosting a spaghetti supper fundraiser and art show on Tuesday, April 24 at 6:00 p.m. The children will put on a short musical with the art show and Mack's spaghetti to follow. We invite you to join us for a meal or even pick up a plate to go. Pricing is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children (ages 2-12). Children under 2 eat free. All proceeds will benefit the Adventure Nook.

THE LOVELADY CENTER

The Outreach Committee is launching an on-going donation drive to benefit The Lovelady Center, a Birmingham non-profit dedicated to wholly healing women and families touched by addiction and domestic abuse. A list of on-going needs of the center is located on the table in the Narthex closest to the church office. Feel free to take a list. Items may be dropped off in the designated Lovelady Center box located in the gym. This is a simple way our congregation can help this amazing ministry touch lives and break the cycle of addiction, abuse, and poverty, certainly answering Jesus' call to be his hands and feet. Thank you all in advance!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JULY 9-13, 2018

Mark your calendars, and make plans now to join us for this exciting week of Rolling River Rampage VBS! Register by going to www.fcc-bhm.org or fill out a form in the narthex and return to the church office. Call the office (205-991-5000) or email Dixon (dixon@fcc-bhm.org) with any questions.

We Gather Before God

Prelude	<i>Bachiana On An Ancient Chorale</i>	Gordon Young
Introit	<i>God Is So Good</i> Handbell Choir	Traditional arr. Venita MacGorman
*Call to Worship		Rev. Troy Tatum
Leader:	We praise the name of God,	
People:	Who gives life to all the earth.	
Leader:	Who brings forth life from dust,	
People:	And makes all things new.	
Leader:	Come and worship our God, our Savior,	
People:	Let us worship God in all we do.	
*Hymn of Praise	<i>My Hope Is Built</i>	Red Hymnal No.537
*Invocation and Lord's Prayer		Rev. Troy Tatum
	Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.	
*Prayer Response	<i>Gloria Patri</i>	Red Hymnal No. 35
	Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen, Amen!	
*Passing of the Peace		
Leader:	The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.	
People:	And also with you.	
A Time for Children		Rev. Robin Blakemore
	<i>Children age three through fourth grade may leave for Children's Worship & Wonder</i>	
Invitation to Present Gifts		Carl Crosby
Offertory Music	<i>Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread</i> Handbell Choir	ST. FLAVIAN arr. Michael Ryan

*Doxology Red Hymnal No. 46
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication Rev. Troy Tatum

We Offer Our Prayers With Love

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Robin Blakemore
Giver of all Life,
May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

We Gather at Christ's Table

Communion Hymn *O God, Unseen Yet Ever Near* Red Hymnal No. 399

Invitation to Communion Clarissa Harms

Prayer of Communion Darren Williamson

Words of Institution 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
This is the Lord's Table; all believers in Christ are invited. As the communion elements are passed, please partake of the bread and hold the cup so that we may share together after the congregational response.

Elder: The Lord Jesus, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is My Body which is given for you."

Communion Music *You Are Worthy* David Brasher

Elder: In the same way also the cup, after supper saying, "This cup is the new covenant of My Blood. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me."

People: As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

We Proclaim God's Word

Scripture Mark 4:26-29
Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *In Thee Is Gladness* IN DIR IST FREUDE
Handbell Choir arr. Susan T. Nelson

Sermon "While You Were Sleeping" Rev. Troy Tatum

We Respond With Our Lives

Invitation to Discipleship Rev. Troy Tatum

*Hymn of Discipleship *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* Red Hymnal No. 540

We Go Forth to Love and Serve

*Announcements & Benediction Rev. Troy Tatum

*Congregational Response *Come, Sing A Song of Harvest* Red Hymnal No. 719

**Come, sing a song of harvest, of thanks for daily food!
To offer God the first fruits is old as gratitude.**

**May God, the great Creator, to whom all life belongs,
accept these gifts we offer, our service and our songs.**

*Postlude *The Victor* arr. Tom Fettke

**All who are able please stand.*