

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Elders on Call

Beverly Baxter
Jim Baxter

Serving Diaconate

Kallie Blakemore, Linda Browning, Deb Carpenter,
Bob Frederickson, Bruce MacKenzie, Sue MacKenzie,
Bruce Moon, Marian Moon, Donna Penn, Paul Penn, Bob Smith,
Art Varvoutis, Regena Varvoutis, Barbara Wyrosdick

Communion Preparer

Molly Springfield

Acolytes

Addy Taylor
Emma Taylor

Sunday School Greeter

Jim Baxter

Worship Greeters

Fletcher & Sandy Hamilton (Door)
Donna Strickland (Sanctuary)

Children Worship & Wonder

Ascension
Leigh Ann Tatum (storyteller)
Andrew Ford, Jennifer Powell (greeters)

Nursery Volunteer

Kimberly Jones

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"



May 13, 2018
SEVENTH 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



This week we wrap up our annual stewardship campaign to fund our mission and ministry for 2018-2019. The impact our gifts can make is immeasurable. Our gifts are what make possible life-changing ministries like Vacation Bible School, children's and youth groups, choir and music ministry, local outreach, Sunday morning worship services, and so much more. This campaign provides the opportunity not only to raise funds for ministry but also to renew the faith foundations in our church. We trust that with all of us in prayer together, we will experience spiritual renewal as a congregation.

Our theme is, "Seeds: Tending the Garden of God's Love." For the last few weeks, church members have shared how God has been growing their faith at FCC. We have the opportunity through our generosity to plant seeds in God's garden, so that our faith, and God's kingdom, may produce great fruit. Pledge cards can be returned to the church office or placed in the offering plate. You may also complete your pledge online at www.fcc-bhm.org/give, with the option of setting up a recurring gift at the same time.

If you have already completed your pledge for 2018-2019, *thank you*. If you haven't, please take the opportunity this week to prayerfully consider what and how God is calling you to give in the coming year.

God is able to grow great things in and through First Christian Church. The harvest will come, if we are faithful in sowing the seeds of hope in this church, in our community, and in our world. We hope you will join us in tending the garden of God's love through your prayers and your financial support.

CONNECTION CARDS: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

During worship each Sunday, just before *A Time for Children*, you are invited to make your presence known by signing the Connection Card in your bulletin and then placing that Card in the offering plate when it is passed. Why is that important? Because we use these cards to record worship attendance in our church database. That database is the best, most reliable way we have to recognize whenever members of our church family are repeatedly absent so that we can reach out to determine if all is well. Please do your part to help us care for our congregation by signing your Connection Card each Sunday morning.

THIS WEEK

Today, May 13

Mother's Day

10:15 AM Morning Worship

Monday, May 14

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study

11:00 AM Staff Meeting

Tuesday, May 15

10:00 AM Ladies' Bible Study

6:30 PM TAN Graduation

Wednesday, May 16

6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

GET INVOLVED

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.

CARING & SHARING: THURS, MAY 24 AT 5 PM AT KATHEY LONG'S

It's a PLANT SWAP! Bring some cuttings from a plant that you would like to share. Please snap a photo of the "mother" plant with your phone so all can see! Bring your own sandwich supper. Drinks and dessert will be provided. All are welcome! Hope you can come! Plans include caring, sharing, prayer, giggles, lots of fun, and FLOWER POWER!

We Gather Before God

Prelude

Introit

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Call to Worship

Rev. Troy Tatum

Leader: We come today to worship the One who gives life;

People: To know the joy and peace that comes in the Lord.

Leader: We seek to faithfully follow the example of Christ.

People: The kindness and generosity of our Savior humbles us.

Leader: Let us live lives of generosity and love.

People: Guided by the Spirit, we will produce good fruit.

*Hymn of Praise

God of Grace and God of Glory

Red Hymnal No.464

*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

Gloria Patri

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

Children age three through fourth grade may leave for Children's Worship & Wonder

Invitation to Present Gifts

Joshua Berry

Offertory Music

*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

We Gather at Christ's Table

Communion Hymn *Give Thanks* Red Hymnal No. 538

Invitation to Communion Beverly Baxter

Prayer of Communion Jim Baxter

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

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 Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *Praise the Lord* G.F. Handel/arr. Hopson

Sermon "A Fruitful Life" Rev. Troy Tatum

We Respond With Our Lives

Invitation to Discipleship Rev. Troy Tatum

*Hymn of Discipleship *Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom* Red Hymnal No. 535

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

**All who are able please stand.*

The flowers on the altar today are given by Clarissa Harms in honor of her daughter Emma and son-in-law, the new Mr. and Mrs. Alexander O'Neal!