



First Christian Church

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The Church Bell

June 1, 2021

New FCC Protocols for Wearing Masks and Maintaining Distance

As of this Sunday, May 30th, masks will no longer be required during church gatherings and our pews will not be ribboned off to maintain distance between worshippers. Our staff and church leadership has reviewed the new guidance and recommendations released by the Center for Disease Control on May 13th and approved these changes.

Because there will be unvaccinated children in our presence as well as adults who live with compromised immune systems, we will be requesting that unvaccinated adults continue to wear masks and maintain safe distances to ensure maximum protection for the people who make up the most vulnerable part of our community. We recognize that this will be a voluntary act- it will not be enforceable, but it will reflect a loving concern for others. (While fully vaccinated, our professional staff will continue to wear masks during worship to stand in solidarity with others in the congregation who are wearing face coverings in order to protect themselves or others.)

Nursery and Child Care Resuming

Also this Sunday morning, our Nursery will be open. Adults who will be providing childcare will be vaccinated and will be wearing face coverings. The nursery and children's classroom areas will be closed except for the children, parents, and attendants.

While we do not have our educational program ready for this Sunday, we are working to have the rest of our Sunday morning options for children – Worship and Wonder, Church School – up and running soon.

Sunday Summer Singing—The First Sundays of the Month

Yes, worship in the past year has been a little subdued. Our remarkable stable of vocalists have fed our spirits, but the time comes for people of faith when we just want to do our own singing and praising.

The recommendations on congregational singing, especially without face coverings, remain conservative. So, come June 6th, FCC will be starting worship outdoors and early. At 9:45am, we will gather outside the sanctuary where we can elbow ourselves a little room and belt out some hymns. When we are good and ready—if we get good and ready, we will take a couple of minutes to head indoors and resume our worship.

Sesquicentennial Walk: Barton College

June 12—9am

Our second Walk is right around the corner. Join us as we explore the heritage we share with Barton College. Meet us at the Bell outside Harper Hall.

For information on all our upcoming Sesquicentennial activities, see pp. 3-4.



Wanderings . . .

We are going to house The Arc this summer. Not that ark. The Arc . . . of Wilson County. This organization serves those people in our community who have developmental disabilities, and two summers ago, FCC provided space for their day camp. So, I can speak firsthand to what a remarkable job the staff and volunteers do with these young people. After a year off due to Covid, it is good to have them returning this summer.

And some of that is what is on my mind. I am thinking about this past year when The Ark – and pretty much every other group – was absent. When we think about the past year, much of what grieves us is what we personally have missed: family get-togethers, holiday gatherings, favorite restaurants (some of which did not survive), movies and popcorn in a big-screen theater, workouts at the gym, and much more. As for me, my sabbatical imploded . . . my modest string of blue ribbons from the county and state fairs for my apple butter was nipped. And, of course, here at 207 Tarboro St., we have mourned our inability to worship together, to study together, and to eat together. We have been left to care about our sick and homebound from afar, and we have laid some dear friends to rest in cemeteries standing at a distance and forgoing hugs with others who shared the loss. We have missed so much – personally and collectively.

But if we can hit the pause button on that, maybe we can get out of ourselves enough to recognize that loss which has been more communal. Our building has been something of a ghost town for many of these months, missing not just our folks but missing those who we have welcomed to do good work, even ministry, in this place. Like The Ark . . . and the Girl Scouts . . . and others. Advent/Lenten noon concerts and community worship services went virtual if they happened at all. We have missed hosting Music for Hope and other community concerts. We have shelved our annual summer food drive, and without people passing through the building, our regular food collection has been meager. With schools closed, our schoolyear CHEW program was not possible. Oh, we managed to open the doors for critical blood drives and pulled off a variation of our Christmas Community Lunch, and volunteers have continued to help at the Hope Station food pantry, with the summer CHEW program and elsewhere in the community. But you grasp my point – the loss we have suffered because of the Virus is not just personal but is collective and communal.

You have seen on the front page that we are taking a giant step towards a more normal church life. I am overseeing this step with some angst and worry, but also with some significant relief . . . with the hopefulness that as our building begins to fill again, our sense of discipleship and commitment to serve and compassion for those given to our care by Christ himself also will swell. I am filled with optimism that First Christian Church is not just open for business, but that we are open for ministry.

So, welcome back to our blessed friends from the Arc. And for the rest of us, remember to snag a bag of groceries next time you are coming to church. Paint a wall or clean the kitchen or plant some flowers – whatever you can do to welcome people to FCC. Because if this resumption of church life and activity is only about what we personally have missed in the past year, then why would we think it even matters.

Blessings and Peace,
Gary

Sesquicentennial Walk #2

Barton Walk – Saturday, June 12, at 9 a.m.



Interested in learning more about First Christian Church's connection with Barton College? First Christian was there in the beginning. FCC was only 31 years old when the College was founded in 1902. Discover how much the College has changed and grown over the past century, and learn what's on the horizon.

Join President Doug Searcy, Kathy Daughety, and Todd Brame as they lead the **Barton Walk** on Saturday, June 12, at 9 a.m.

Park in the lot at the Main Entrance of the College, located at the crossroads of Atlantic Christian College Drive and Vance Street. We will gather at the Bronze Bulldog beside the Centennial Alumni Bell Tower. Dress casually and wear comfortable walking shoes. We look forward to seeing you!

Sesquicentennial Trivia for June

1. In the original sanctuary, 1871-1898,

- a. women and men broke with tradition and sat together as families for the first time;
- b. women sat on the right facing the preacher, men on the left;
- c. women sat on the left facing the preacher, men on the right;
- d. women sat behind the men in designated rows at the rear of the church on both sides of the aisle.

2. Prior to installation of a baptistry in the original 1871 sanctuary, the church conducted immersions at

- a. First Baptist
- b. First Methodist
- c. the Masonic Lodge
- d. Toisnot Stream

3. In 1897, the original church was

- a. donated to the family of Fannie Hines, who'd given the lot on which the church stood;
- b. removed across the railroad track down Vance Street and remodelled as apartments;
- c. razed by the City of Wilson for \$1;
- d. donated to the Masonic Lodge.

4. The new brick church, 1898-1954, at its dedication in September, 1898, was

- a. valued at \$75,000 with a 30-year mortgage of \$41,000;
- b. valued at \$12,000 and was debt free;
- c. valued at \$25,000 with a \$12,000 balance to be paid by the congregation in a three-year capital campaign;
- d. a gift from the Hackney family.

5. First Christian's historic 614-pound church bell first sounded from its bell tower at the 1871 sanctuary and

- a. chimed every Sunday until 1898 at the worship hour;
- b. violated a City ordinance that "no bell larger than a dinner bell" shall be rung from a church tower and required a special exemption to ring;
- c. for a gift of \$500, was silenced by a neighbor whose dog barked at its sound;
- d. was removed in 1885 from the wooden bell tower because of its weight.

6. During its 75th anniversary in 1946, First Christian Church announced in *The Wilson Daily Times* that its resident membership had reached _____ .

- a. 480
- b. 575
- c. 760
- d. 900

Answers on Page 4

sesquicentennial

There are 1,396 words hidden in **sesquicentennial**. How many can you find? Your first goal is 150 words. Easy, right? Then shoot for 300. Maybe 600. Take your time. A month or two. All summer. Reach an Achievement Club. Here's your first word – **essential**. **Ready. Set. Go.**

Achievement Clubs

Reach 150 words

Jacob's Ladder Club

You are able to bridge the distance between Heaven and Earth.

Reach 300 words

Noah's Ark Club

You are strong enough to survive any flood and build big things.

Reach 600 words

Moses's Staff Club

You carry the authority to draw water from a rock and to part the sea.

Reach 900 words

David's Sling Club

With five smooth stones and giant courage, you are stronger than Goliath.

Reach 1000 words

Paul's Light Club

Men and women will stand speechless before you.

Reach 1200 words

God's Mighty Hand Club

No one shall challenge your authority.

[Answers to Sesquicentennial Trivia for June \(Page 3\)](#)

1. b 2. d 3. b 4. b 5. c 6. d



The Sesquicentennial Psalm Stroll

The Psalm Stroll has rolled into June. What have been your impressions? Could you relate to David's lament in Psalm 5: 9? What a powerful cry.

**Not a word from their mouth can be trusted;
 their heart is filled with malice.
 Their throat is an open grave;
 with their tongues they tell lies.**

Three times during our course through Psalms, a Disciples theologian will host a discussion of selected Psalms from those we've encountered in daily readings. The first is **Monday, July 12, at 7 p.m.** when Rev. Carla Aday, senior minister at Country Club Christian Church in Kansas City, Missouri, joins us by ZOOM. Spiritual wonder will certainly generate a large crowd for our out-of-town guest. Join us for this all-hands-on-deck experience with Rev. Aday.

June

1, Psalm 26; **2**, Psalm 27; **3**, Psalm 28; **4**, Psalm 29; **5**, Psalm 30; **6**, Psalm 31; **7**, Psalm 32; **8**, Psalm 33; **9**, Psalm 34; **10**, Psalm 35; **11**, Psalm 36; **12**, Psalm 37; **13**, Psalm 38; **14**, Psalm 39; **15**, Psalm 40; **16**, Psalm 41; **17**, Psalm 42; **18**, Psalm 43; **19**, Psalms 44-45; **20**, Psalm 46; **21**, Psalm 47; **22**, Psalm 48; **23**, Psalm 49; **24**, Psalm 50; **25**, Psalm 51; **26**, Psalm 52; **27**, Psalm 53; **28**, Psalm 54; **29**, Psalm 55; **30**, Psalms 56-57.

Treasurer's Report – YTD April 30th, 2021

Tim Sharp / May 17, 2021

For the month ended April 30th, 2021, FCC had YTD total income of \$104,568 and YTD total expenses of \$122,702, resulting in a YTD **deficit** of \$18,134*.

1/01/2021 – 4/30/2021 – YTD Operating Budget

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income	\$104,568	\$130,751	(\$26,183)
Expenses	\$122,702	\$130,751	(\$ 8,049)
Actual YTD Surplus/(Deficit)*	(\$18,134)		

Month of April - Operating Budget

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income	\$31,329	\$32,688	(\$ 1,359)
Expenses	\$29,293	\$32,688	(\$ 3,395)

Month of April Surplus/(Deficit) \$2,036

**YTD income includes \$11,650.84 from our Operating Reserve account (\$2,912.71 per month) that was included to balance the 2021 operating budget.*

Sounds of Summer

As part of the Sesquicentennial celebration, the Sounds of Summer Concert Series returns! This series began in 2019 and took a quick hiatus as I was on maternity leave last year. Where does the time go? These mid-day concerts are intended to be a time of relief, enjoyment and renewed spirit during the workday. Read more about our artists joining us in concert in June and beyond.



Wednesday, June 9 | 12PM | Christopher Pharo, organist

Mr. Pharo currently serves as Organist and Choirmaster for Calvary Episcopal Church, Tarboro, NC. Mr. Pharo has performed in solo and group recitals in North Carolina and Maine. He has served as Organ Scholar for the Royal School of Church Music Carolina Course based in Raleigh, NC, and continues to work as a proctor for the RSCM Charlotte Course. As Director of Music for Calvary, Mr. Pharo oversees a traditional choral program which includes one adult choir and two children's choirs. Mr. Pharo has an active piano studio and works as a freelance accompanist for choirs and individual singers throughout eastern NC. Mr. Pharo resides in Tarboro with his dog, Duke (no collegiate affiliation). He will perform works by Bach, Widor, Kodaly and Bédard

Wednesday, June 23 | 12PM | Vonda Darr, harp

Vonda recently moved to Tennessee but we are absolutely delighted to welcome her back to Wilson! She continues to serve as principal harpist for the Augusta Symphony and Classical Harpists for the North Carolina Symphony.



Other concerts to look forward to this summer:

July 14 | Matthew Joyner, tenor & Dexter Ruffin, pianist

July 28 | The Craven Brass Quintet

August 18 | Elizabeth Winstead, soprano; Cindy Darden, pianist; Jack Fisher, clarinet

Paint with us this Summer!

#FCCROCKS is cranking back up this summer! Join us on the second floor of the Education Building on these dates at 5:30 to help us spread joy to others in the community. You do NOT have to have artistic talent to join in on the fun!



5:30-6:30

May 27

June 3

June 10

July 22

July 29

August 12

**Spring/Summer
FCC Rocks
Painting Dates**



June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 11:00am Staff Meeting	2	3 5:30-6:30pm FCC ROCKS Rock painting	4	5
6 10:00am Worship: Live & Livestream 11:00am Small Group Study (Zoom and in person) 11:00am Disciples Class	7 5:45pm Facilities and Maintenance	8 11:00am Staff Meeting	9 12:00pm Sounds of Summer Concert Series—Chris Pharo, organist	10 6:30pm Elder's Meeting	11	12
13 10:00am Worship: Live & Livestream 11:00am Small Group Study (Zoom and in person) 11:00am Disciples Class (in the Parlor)	14	15 11:00am Staff Meeting	16	17 5:45pm 150th Anniversary Task Force (Zoom)	18	19
20 10:00am Worship: Live & Livestream 11:00am Small Group Study (Zoom and in person) 11:00am Disciples Class (in the Parlor)	21	22 11:00am Staff Meeting	23 12:00pm Sounds of Summer Concert Series—Vonda Darr, harp 7:00pm The Sesquicentennial Readers	24 6:30pm Elder's Meeting Deadline for July 2021 Bell Articles	25	26
27 10:00am Worship: Live & Livestream 11:00am Small Group Study (Zoom and in person) 11:00am Disciples Class (in the Parlor)	28	29 11:00am Staff Meeting	30			

Our Church Family

Please notify the church office at (252) 237-4125 if someone's birthday needs to be added and/or if you have some news to share.



June 1

Tim Sharp
Horace Stott

June 2

Nell Griffin

June 3

Gilda Cauley
Steven Winstead

June 4

Mary Liza Starling
A.J. Walston

June 5

Joseph High

June 6

Davis Wooten

June 7

Clayton Bardin
Helen Batts
Paul Brewer

June 10

Johna Kite

June 12

Patsy Ferrell

June 13

Alice Davis

June 18

Will Brinson
Mikaila Dildy
Christy Proctor

June 19

Earl Boykin

June 20

Bryan Jobe
Duncan Mathis

June 23

Tommy High

June 25

Trevor Dildy
Zeb Whitehurst IV

June 27

Andrew Childers

June 28

Leigh Finnegan-
Hosey

Prayer Concerns

Peggy Almond, Jack Clifford, Neal Gibbs (Carol Steffa's son), Bobbie Griffin, Betty Jordan, Anna Jane Ruffin, Melanie Smith (Charles Cauley's niece), J C Steelman (Theresa Mathis' father), Ron Taylor (former organist at FCC), Kathleen Ujlaki, Mac Wetherington, Sim Wooten (William's brother),

In Memory

We give thanks for the life and faith of Nell McLean Mitchell, sister of Sue Newcomb) who passed away on May 11th. Services in celebration of her life were held at Joyner's Funeral Home on May 16th.

Jeff Flower's father passed away on May 26th. Service arrangements have not been made at this time, but we enfold Jeff, Mandy, and the entire Flowers family in our prayers.

In Celebration

Duncan Mathis and Veronica (Ely) Garza were united in marriage on May 22nd in Texas, and they will repeat their vows this weekend in Wilson. Our prayers and best wishes are with them as they begin their married life together.

Georgia Lee and Steven Brook Tripp—daughter and son of Savannah (Flowers) and Shane Tripp were born on May 18th. Our deepest prayers are with this young family.

From the Financial Affairs Committee

Our budget deficit as of the end of April is (\$18,134). If we add the amount that we borrowed from reserves to balance the budget, the deficit is approximately (\$30,000). Our staff and committees are doing a good job watching our spending. We depend on contributions to support our ministries; everyone's participation is needed. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Worship Leaders and Elders for April

	6th	13th	20th	27th
Elder	Gilda Cauley	Patsy Ferrell	Bob Kendall	Carol Steffa
Worship Leader	Mac Wetherington	Allan Daniell	Mary Louise Gray	Melissa Denton

Elder of the Month is Kathy Sandifer