



First Christian Church

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The Church Bell

May 1, 2022



Minister Search Update

As most are aware, we are thrilled to announce that Rev. Jamie Brame has been selected to begin in May as our intentional Interim Minister. Rev. Brame will be with us while we search for the new permanent Pastor. Interim Ministers are typically retired ministers looking to continue to serve a congregation, but not on a permanent basis. Interim Ministers are usually in place for 6-9 months.

The Search Committee will now shift their focus to searching for the new Minister. Christy has received a handful of potential candidates. The committee will begin reviewing and considering whom to interview. The committee continues to need the congregation's support, prayers, patience and respect for confidentiality as the search process continues. We need to prepare our hearts and our church for change as we also lift up the "one who is coming". – FCC Board Chair, Theresa

11:11am Sunday Small Group

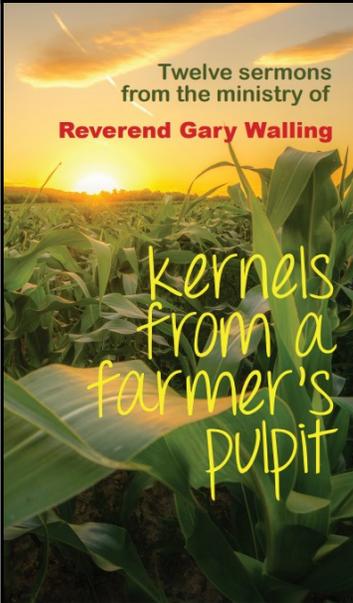
Join our discussion-based Small Group as we wrap up in May by finishing the book: **We Are the Church. . . Let's Act Like It.** It is a study on the Book of Acts, comparing today's church to those beginning churches in very practical and biblical ways. May 8th and 15th.

May 4 - 5:30-7PM - Kids & Youth Breakouts

Adults: REALM for Dummies with Kenneth Dildy!

Have you ever wanted the most up-to-date information for a member? Or a directory on your phone? Or give to the church with click of a button? You can! See page 11!

The "kernels" are here!



Two cases packed with 200 first-edition copies of ***kernels from a farmer's pulpit***, Reverend Gary Walling's debut book, have just arrived from the printer/publisher. Signed copies of this valuable collection of Gary's 12 favorite sermons from his decade in the pulpit at First Christian Church are free to those who donate or make a pledge to the **Gary and Linda Walling Endowment for Pastoral Leadership** at First Christian. *Leader of the Band, The Fourth Leper and Women in the Bible* are among the anthology's stellar selections.

In case you've misplaced your book announcement and pledge/giving card, copies are available on the church website or in the church office. And a giving card is printed on the back page of **The Bell**. Use the card to record a giving promise or to announce your immediate gift. Be sure to make checks payable to First Christian Church with the memo note "Walling Endowment." Gifts or pledges in any amount are welcome. So far, 31 gifts and promises have eclipsed \$11,000. If you are among the 31, your signed copy is coming soon.

Vacation Bible School Returns

VBS returns June 14-17 & June 19. Make plans to attend & bring your friends. Volunteers are always needed. See Pages 8, 9 and 10 For more details and sign-up sheets.

The spectacle of new glasses

At the very beginning of his audition sermon on Palm Sunday, gesturing with his hands and walking around on the floor below the pastor's pulpit, Jamie Brame asked us to take off our Easter glasses and to suspend for a time the knowledge those glasses provided.

Glasses hold the lenses through which we see the world in the ways we allow it to be seen. And I suspect all of us have many, many pairs, not those expensive designer frames, but metaphorical trifocals that we put on and take off so we can bring life into focus as we wish to see it. We have different pairs with which to see our neighbors, our work, our politics, our charity, our allegiances, our biases, our definitions of right and wrong. And then we have a pair for Sundays. On Palm Sunday, as Jamie mentioned, we pull out our Easter glasses for two Sundays, so we can see the season conclude with the understandings we expect. Maybe we'll wear them for a few more weeks before we put them away in a drawer for another year and return to wearing our regular glasses with their homemade points of view. For the most part, our prescriptions are incredibly different, and we see things sometimes with striking dissimilarity.

As the result of a fall in 2008, at 92, my father suffered irreparable brain trauma. We moved him to a hospice home in a rolling western Maryland valley, and I lived at his side. One morning, after days of motionless silence, he returned from his coma. Dad was back. He could sit up. He could feed himself. And he knew who I was. And we talked. You know what he wanted to talk about? In that familiar voice, he chattered about the birds in the feeder outside the window and the coming of spring. He never asked about his checking account or his Buick or his house or his beloved model train garden to which he'd devoted a lifetime. Just birds and trees. And sunshine. And later the rain. When my sister arrived in the evening, as she did every day, Dad was back in his coma, and there he remained, locked tight as a clam.

Two years later, after Mother passed away, I was at home in Baltimore clearing the house for sale. I used a power saw to cut my father's wonderful train garden into manageable pieces so I could haul it to the landfill. And I saw then, for the very first time, what I'm certain Dad saw all along. Through his lenses, things didn't matter. Dad never owned that garden, he never owned his talents or anything they produced. All were simply on loan – a Creator's doing, not his own. That day I took off the glasses through which I saw the world as a collection of precious things to own, and I threw them away. But that was just one pair of many that I still wear every day that distort the reality of what I am called to see.

I think there's really only one pair of glasses. Let's call them "divinity glasses" – lenses through which we can see creation as God intended. There's a pair resting at our fingertips right now, and they've always been there. Since birth. However, we've chosen to wear others. How would the world appear if we saw it as God does? I believe we'd finally awaken from sleep to see a road that leads to a Kingdom of perfect joy, love and peace – a picture that passes our understanding because, sadly, God's glasses remain as they lay. Untouched.

Notice that Jamie, when he wrapped up his preaching, never told us to put our Easter glasses back on. They're our creation, too, and, I suspect, a little out of focus. Maybe a different pair, perhaps those at our fingertips, might serve us better – to clear things up in a richer, deeper way. Jamie is arriving in a few weeks. Maybe it is time to get our vision checked. And just maybe Jamie will be a spiritual ophthalmologist and prescribe new lenses for all of us.

Bob Kendall

A Word from our Interim Minister

Greetings, First Christian Church!

On Tuesday morning, May 10, I will begin my ministry with you. Renae and I are looking forward to our adventures in Wilson. For her, it will be a new experience, since besides visiting Todd, she has only done a few things here (one of those was leading a women's retreat at the church several years ago – maybe some of you will remember her!). For me, it is a return to the town of my college years. Much has changed since that time, including First Christian itself AND the college. I am looking forward to discovering how much of the town that helped form me has changed.

Change is an important word in life. It is challenging. It is scary. It is hopeful. It is the very essence of life itself.

My hope for our time together is that, first of all, it will be a time of hope and excitement. I pray that it will be a time of faith, hope, and love. None of us knows what is coming, and that is why Renae has suitably named this time in our life – and in yours – our “Wilson adventure.” Adventure sounds like what is coming will be a gift to all of us, and that's what I believe.

God is giving us a gift of each other for this season in the life of the church. Let's pray for each other, for ourselves, for this church; let us remember that with God, all things are possible.

I look forward to beginning our ministry together in a little over a week!

Rev. Jamie Brame

Summer Break for Children's Programs – We all need a vacation!



As we approach summer, parents & families please keep in mind that the Children & Youth Programs will take a break over the summer. With so many families and volunteers traveling and taking vacations, it is hard to schedule regular activities. Wednesday night youth programs will end in May. Sunday morning activities will continue until school is out, last day will be Sunday, June 12. We will skip the remainder of June, July and August. We will restart in September with the new school year. However, a few fun summer activities will be planned.

Graduation Sunday – May 15

The Nurture & Growth Team will be celebrating our graduates on Sunday, May 15. Please let us know if a church members will be graduating from high school or college. Contact Melissa Inscoe or the church office.



Register now for Summer Camp At Camp Caroline

The dates for camps offered this summer at Camp Caroline are listed below. **Go online to <https://ncdisciples.org/summer-camp/>** to fill out the form. FCC will pay 50%! Please turn in your receipt if you make your payment online.

June 16-19	Uno for Grades K-2 (with a parent) - \$280
June 19-24	CYF camp for Grades 9-12 - \$425
June 26-July 2	Created to Be Me for Grade 8 - \$495
July 10-15	JYF Camp for Grades 2-5 - \$425
July 17-22	Chi Rho Camp for Grades 6-7 - \$425



Sesquicentennial plus one



“One is the loneliest number that you'll ever do.”

Singer-songwriter Harry Nilsson wrote that famous lyric in 1968 as he listened to the beep, beep, beep tones of a busy signal on his telephone. As birthdays go, adding one to a really special birthday year is just like a busy signal – an anticlimactic, pointless beep, beep, beep in lives too preoccupied to answer another call to celebrate so spectacularly so soon. After all, nobody throws confetti at 31. Or 41. Or 151. Right? Adding one year to a milestone jubilee is so ... lonely. It's only one. Ho hum.

April held a breathtaking plus one for First Christian Church – a marvelous milestone. Did it pass you unnoticed? First Christian Church turned 151 years old on Wednesday, April 27. On that day in 1871, seventeen Founders signed their names on the original charter planting First Christian in Wilson, near the shoulder of the new Wilmington-to-Weldon railroad line, a single block from where our stone and slate home sits today.

Did you remember? There were no fireworks. No flags waving along Tarboro and Vance Streets. No parties. No mention. A year ago, it was a different story. Odd birthdays don't generate the loudest cheers, do they? Or the grandest memories. But consider what's happened in our plus one. We applauded Gary Walling's 44 years in ministry. We landed a terrific interim minister. We created a working vision for the future. We moved forward together in remarkable ways.

Our plus two is coming. Number 152 could be foundational! But beware! Hurry! Remembrances fade fast. Circle Thursday, April 27, 2023, on your calendar right now. Because as Nilsson wrote, **“Two can be as bad as one. It's the loneliest number since the number one.”** Stay alert. Lest we forget what a landmark year 152 could be. So anticipate next April 27. No busy signals. Get the confetti ready.

Treasurer's Report – YTD March 31st, 2022

Tim Sharp / April 12, 2022

For the month ended March 31st, 2022, FCC had YTD total income of \$101,043 and YTD total expenses of \$80,808 resulting in a YTD **surplus** of \$20,235*.

1/01/2022 – 3/31/2022 – YTD Operating Budget

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income	\$101,043	\$99,729	\$1,314
Expenses	\$80,808	\$99,729	(\$18,921)
Actual YTD Surplus/(Deficit)	*\$20,235		

Month of March - Operating Budget

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income	\$20,812	\$33,243	(\$12,431)
Expenses	\$20,591	\$33,243	(\$12,652)
Month of March Surplus/(Deficit)	\$221		

**YTD income includes \$4,291.74 from our Operating Reserve account (\$1,430.58 per month) that was included to balance the 2022 operating budget.*

A Novel Idea

Tuesday, May 24, 5:30 p.m.

Shoe Dog By Phil Knight

"A touching, highly entertaining adventure odyssey, with much to teach about innovation and creativity. Phil Knight takes us back to the Big Bang of the swoosh, recalls how he first begged and borrowed from reluctant banks, how he assembled a crew of eccentric but brilliant misfits, how they all worked together to build something unique and paradigm-changing. An inspiration for everyone with an unconventional dream."—

Michael Spence, Nobel-prize winning economist

Elders, Deacons and Worship Leaders for May

	<u>1st</u>	<u>8th</u>	<u>15th</u>	<u>22nd</u>	<u>29th</u>
Elder	Tish Scott	Wanda Sutton	Wanda Brown	Jeannette Etheridge	Bob Kendall
Worship Leader	Phyllis Leary	Charles Cauley	Kenneth Dildy	Jeannette Etheridge	Sue Ray
Deacon Team	#2	#3	#4	#1	#2
	Melissa Whitley	Brittany Fulghum	Steffanie Sharp	Beth Williams	Melissa Whitley
	Glenn Etheridge	Kristin Lamond	Mandy Harris	Allan Daniell	Glenn Etheridge
	Melissa Denton	Jennifer McHarg	Katie Williamson	Libby Daniell	Melissa Denton
	LuAnn Wooten	Curtis Ray	Natalie Sutton	Christina Terdik	LuAnn Wooten
	Brooke Farmer	Sue Ray		Ricky Brown	Brooke Farmer
	Christy Webb	Steve Kite		Norma Faye Etheridge	Christy Webb

Elder on Call for the Month of May is Wanda Sutton

Vision Team Update

The Vision Teams are continuing their work on the 5 recommendations. Are you ready to be on a team that helps carry FCC into the next 150 years? Some teams will be large, while others will need just a few people. *On which team can you serve?* Please contact the church office to let us know your choice.

Team 1 – Help create at FCC State of the Church report for self-examination

Team 2 – Explore Community Partnership to help serve the community

Team 3 – Review website and printed materials to reflect inclusiveness

Team 4 – Explore ways to use our facility and empty spaces

Team 5 – Update the FCC By-laws and create a 5 year strategic plan

The next round of team meetings will be on Sunday, May 22 @ 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. We understand this overlaps with some adult Sunday School classes. Those involved felt this meeting time would have the highest attendance for volunteers and keep the plans moving forward. The Vision Teams will meet on the 4th Sunday each month: May 22, June 26 and July 24.



May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00am Worship-Guest Preacher Rev. Ed Koffenberger 10:15am Sunday School for Little Kids 11:00am Disciples Class	2 11:00am Mobile Music Min- istry with Keith and Sherry Brenner 5:30pm Facilities and Maintenance Team	3 11:00am Staff Meeting 2:00pm CWF (Parlor)	4 6-6:45pm Children, Youth and Adult activities 7:00pm Chancel Choir	5	6	7
8 Mother's Day 10:00am Worship-Guest Preacher 10:15am Sunday School for Little Kids 11:00am Disciples Class 11:11am Small Group Book Study	9	10 Jamie Brame's first day as Interim Minister 11:00am Staff Meeting	11 7:00pm Chancel Choir	12 6:30pm Elder's Meeting	13	14
15 Graduation Sunday 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School for Little Kids 11:00am Disciples Class 11:11am Small Group Book Study	16 11:00am Mobile Music Min- istry with John and Mabel Whitley	17 11:00am Staff Meeting	18 11:30am Young At Heart (at Something Differ- ent) 2-6:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive 6:00pm Children, Youth and Adult activities 7:00pm Chancel Choir	19	20	21 Regional Assembly
22 10:00am Worship with Hunt High School Vocal Ensemble 10:15am Sunday School for Little Kids 11:00am Disciples Class 11:00am Vision Team Meetings	23	24 11:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm A Novel Idea Book Club	25 7:00pm Chancel Choir	26 6:30pm Elder's Meeting	27	28
29 10:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School for Little Kids 11:00am Disciples Class 11:11am Small Group	30	31 11:00am Staff Meeting	June 1 6-6:45pm Children, Youth and Adult activities 7:00pm Chancel Choir	June 2	June 3	June 4 Wilson Pride Day

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.



Birthdays of the Month

May 2

Bryant Glover

May 4

Sheldon Campbell

May 5

Sue Ferrell

May 6

Nalan Logan

May 7

Julia Floars

May 8

Ricky Brown

Curtis Ray

May 9

Gilbert Ferrell

May 12

Betsy Brewer

May 13

Ed Floars

May 15

Kathy Werline

May 16

Tina Hensley

Christina Terdik

Amy Watson

May 17

Bill Tyson

May 18

Cecilia Avery

May 19

Ernie Smith

May 24

Ann Watson

May 27

Mary Ann Ruffin

May 31

Graci Brown

Prayer Concerns

Dalen Bottoms; Lucas Cain (Libby Daniell's great nephew); Ed and Julia Floars; Rolie Gardiner (Bridget Bryant's mother); J. R. Gordon; David Grant (Jackie Clifford's brother); Gay and Jerry Manning (Leslie Kendall's friends); Shelton McNair, Sr. (Mary Louise Gray's brother); Bill Mount (George Mount's brother); Norma Mustian (a FCC visitor); Henry Newcomb; Kristie O'Neal and her son Tyler (friends of Ann Watson); Maggie Peterson and family; Laura Pritchett and her mother; Beverly Quick (Myra Powell's sister); Doug Ramsey; Anne Sharpe; Troy Tatum; Ron Taylor; Charlotte Wallace; AJ Walston; Ann and Jim Watson; Kristy Wisniewski (friend of Christy Proctor & Melissa Denton); Sim Wooten (William Wooten's brother)

CWF Meeting

The Christian Women's Fellowship will meet on Tuesday, May 3rd at 2:00pm in the Church Parlor. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Blood Drive Coordinator Needed

We are searching for a Blood Drive Coordinator for our bi-monthly Red Cross Blood Drives. If you are interested in knowing more, just call the church office.

Thank You

Thank you to the congregation, adults and children, for the card and especially for the colorful stone piece made by steady hands. It was a very special gift and came at Easter for us to enjoy.

Again, thank to all who made this gift possible. We will certainly cherish it. Thanks for thinking of us in such a special way!

Sincerely,
Sue and Gilbert Ferrell

Please report any corrections or omissions to the

Young At Heart

We welcome anyone to come fellowship, have fun and have delicious food at Something Different. An uplifting program is always presented. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30am. Come join us on May 18th!

Music Ministry Notes in May

In May, we invite you to join us for Mobile Music Ministry! All are welcome, simply show up!
May 2—11AM Home of Keith and Sherry Brenner
May 16—11AM Home of John Lee Whitley
Also, on Sunday May 22, we welcome the Hunt High School Vocal Ensemble with us!

Red Cross Blood Drive

Wednesday, May 18, 2-6pm, Fellowship Hall

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: First CC to schedule an appointment or call the Church Office at 252-237-4125



Vacation Bible School

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
207 N. Tarboro Street - Downtown Wilson

June 14 - 15 - 16 - 17 & 19
Tuesday - Friday

5:30 - 8:00 pm

Sunday, June 19 - Celebration Sunday

Submit Registration form early! Deadline: **Wed, June 1**

Sign up on line: www.fccwilson.org or call: 237-4125



VBS Activities:

Each night the children will participate in a variety of activities including:

- Light Dinner Provided @ 5:30 pm
- Bible Story time
- Arts & Crafts
- Music
- Games



Open to Kids
Pre-School
- 5th Grade



Parent Drop off (5:30 pm) & Pick Up (8:00 pm)

Families may **drop off** their children at 5:30 p.m. The program starts with dinner served for everyone at 6:00 pm. Return for **pick up** at 8:00 p.m. Parents welcome to come in and join the closing ceremony at 7:45 pm. We cannot send the kids outside or with another child, parents must come inside to drop off and pick up.

VBS Celebration - Sunday, June 19 @ 10 am

Both children and families are encouraged to join us for a morning Worship Celebration on Sunday, June 19, which is also Father's Day. The children will participate in the worship service by sharing the VBS stories and singing songs they learned.

VBS Challenge = Food Drive

The VBS Kids are challenged to donate food items to fill the giant "VBS" letters. Please help the kids donate items boxed, bagged or canned food such as soup, mac & cheese, canned goods, cereals, etc... foods must be in a box, jar, can or bag.

(We cannot accept items that need refrigeration.)



Vacation Bible School 2022 Registration Form

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
 VBS Week: Tuesday, June 14 – Friday, June 17
 VBS Celebration: Sunday, June 19
 Registration due by Wednesday, June 1



Family contact: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone: _____ Mailing Address: _____

Please give cell number you can be reached at during VBS. Street City Zip

Email: _____ Add to Church Newsletter list

Activities planned for kids 4 – 10 yrs old, rising into Pre-school, Kindg., 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th grades.
 We are seeking VBS JR Assistants for kids in middle school and high school. Sign up using the VBS Volunteer form.

Kid's Names	Grade <i>(start in Fall)</i>	Age <i>(in Aug)</i>	Gender	T-shirt size*	Allergies or Disabilities?
1					
2					
3					
4					

T-shirts: Please note above if Youth or Adult size as needed. Late registrations (after June 1) may not be able to receive a t-shirt.

Provide the names of the adults who are allowed to pick up your child (2 max):



All the VBS children will be included in Worship on Sunday, June 19 at 10 am.
 Will your children attend Worship on Sunday morning? yes no

Photography Agreement – check one box below...

- Yes, I agree to allow the church staff, and VBS volunteers, to take photos of my child to document the activities and create a slide show to share during Sunday morning worship and on social media.
 Objections: Photos may be taken, but not displayed on social media. NO photos at all.



Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Registration forms due as soon as possible. The deadline is **Wednesday, June 1**. Questions? Call 237-4125

Vacation Bible School Volunteer Sign Up

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Tuesday, June 14 – Friday, June 17

Sunday Celebration – Sunday, June 19

5:30 – 8:00 pm

Questions? Call 237-4125



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ T-shirt size: _____

YES! I want to volunteer. I have checked below ALL are the areas I am willing to help.

- Little Kids Group Leader / Group Assistant
- Big Kids Group Leader / Group Assistant
- Cooking Dinner on Tue. Wed. Thurs. Friday
- Helping serve Dinner on Tue. Wed. Thurs. Friday
- I can help with the Sunday Hot Dog Luncheon.
- Photography
- Junior Volunteer, I am in: Middle High School

Stations

- Check In
- Bible Stories
- Arts & Crafts
- Games
- Music
- Security



Save the Date for the **VBS Volunteer Meeting - Wednesday, June 8, 6:30 pm**

We will share details, handouts, the registration list and teams will be able to gather, work with other teams and prepare. Decorations will go up on Saturday & Sunday, June 11& 12.



All the VBS Children will be included in Worship on Sunday, June 19 – Father's Day at 10 am. We will need volunteers to help on Sunday morning. **Can you attend & help?** Yes No



Save My Seat – A light dinner will be provided for all VBS children and Volunteers.

Would you like to join us for dinner?

- YES, I would like to eat dinner at VBS on: Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday
- No thanks, I will eat before I come.



Photography Agreement – check one box below...

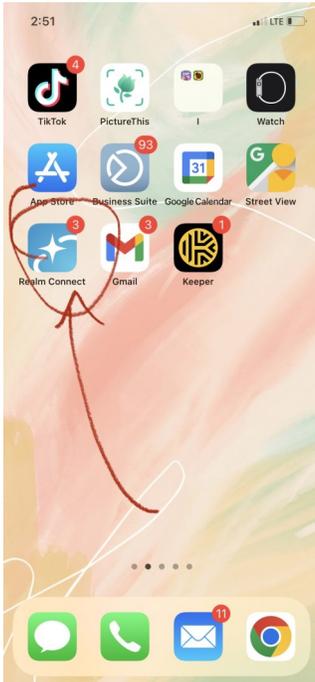
Yes, I agree to allow the church staff, and VBS volunteers, to take photos of my child to document the activities and create a slide show to share during Sunday morning worship and on social media.

Objections: Photos may be taken, but not displayed on social media. NO photos at all.

Volunteer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Wednesday May 4 | All Church Night
5:30PM Light Chips & Sandwich dinner
6-6:45PM Kids & Youth Breakouts

Adults: Realm for Dummies with Kenneth Dildy



First, come early and join in the fellowship with your church family from 5:30-6PM. A light chips and sandwich option will be available. Donations are welcome. Please let us know if you plan on eating!

Then from 6-6:45PM the kids and youth will have their breakout sessions. Adults will have their own breakout session with IT expert, Kenneth Dildy. No, we are not insinuating you are not intelligent... HOWEVER...

Have you ever wanted the most up-to-date information for a member? Or a directory on your phone? Or give to the church with click of a button? Guess what? YOU CAN!

Adults will venture in the capabilities of REALM! What is "Realm"? Realm is our church database and is capable of providing so much beyond our usage.

If you haven't registered on Realm, or downloaded the APP on your phone and want to know more, Kenneth will be helping and sharing in all of those areas! Join us!

Message from the Board

from Tim Sharp, Treasurer

When we write a check, make an online payment or place offering in the plate on Sunday, our collective gifts become an interconnected means to underwrite our mission of being the Body of Christ. One of our most important ministries is outreach. Some outreach giving is included in the annual budget, but some is not. Some of it is local, but much is regional, national or worldwide. Here is a breakdown of our outreach giving for 2021:

Disciples Mission Fund	\$15,600
Special Day Offerings	\$ 9,985
Hope Station & Soup Kitchen	\$ 4,786
Wesley Shelter	\$ 2,400
CWF / CMF	\$ 2,001
Afghan Refugee Project	\$ 1,262
Backpack Program (CHEW)	\$ 1,230
Miscellaneous Outreach	\$ 1,186
Total for 2021	\$38,450



For more specific information about Disciples Mission Fund or Special Day Offerings, you can visit <https://disciplesmissionfund.org/>



A Capital Campaign for the Soul
funding the
Gary and Linda Walling
Endowment for
Pastoral Leadership

To celebrate the ministry of Reverend Gary Walling, I/
We make an immediate gift of _____
or the promise of _____ payable over
1, 2, or 3 years (circle one) to the **Gary and Linda**
Walling Endowment for Pastoral Leadership.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____