



# First Christian Church

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Volume 68, Issue 3

**The Church Bell**

March 1, 2024

## Welcome

### New Members!

On February 18, we welcomed the Schieber family (left to right, Will, Cate, Beth & Scott) as well as Stephanie Pridgen (pictured right). Welcome officially to our growing community of faith!



## THANK YOU!

Thanks to your generosity, First Christian kids raised \$253.82 during the Souper Bowl of Caring offering on Super Bowl Sunday! This will go directly to Hope Station in their daily needs!

# HOLY WEEK AT FIRST CHRISTIAN

## Palm Sunday, March 24

Come join us as we ready our hearts for the triumphant entry into Jerusalem! With the opening words of scripture and the fanfare of the organ, kids and adults alike will begin processing down the aisles of our sanctuary with joy and excitement! Come ready to wave your palms and then set your eyes upon the road of Holy Week ahead.

## Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 7PM

Join us in the sanctuary as we remember the Last Supper and the Garden of Gethsemane. Come, see, as the palms will have lost their life after what was just a joyous occasion on Palm Sunday. Music will be offered by the Chancel Choir and Encounter as we worship around holy communion. Following worship we will burn all of the prayers and burdens that had accumulated on the Prayer Wall.

## Good Friday, March 29 at 2PM

### First United Methodist Church

Continuing our community Lenten walk to Golgotha, this will be a service of worship comprised of ministers and musicians from all over the community!

## Easter Sunday Worship, March 31 at 10AM

As you arrive for worship, help us "flower the cross" - bring flowers from your yard, Harris Teeter, whichever is your delight, and place them on the cross which will be by the church bell. Our 10AM worship service will be bursting with Hallelujahs as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ! Easter Lily tributes will be shared in the worship bulletin and the 2024 Easter Offering will be received. Then, stay after and watch as the young ones enjoy a traditional Easter Egg Hunt!

## Minister's Corner

### Staying in the Moment

In any job that requires planning and foresight, you must always be thinking ahead. Even though I try to be really organized, I struggle with planning because I like to stay in the moment—especially when it comes to spiritual things. As I write this, it's February 26. We just finished the second of six Sundays in Lent—nowhere near even halfway through. Staying mindful of hour of these forty days is spiritually critical. So, what is on my mind this day? Planning. Holy Week and Resurrection Sunday. These holiest of days at the very end of March are the payoff for doing the challenging spiritual work that began on Ash Wednesday and continues almost all month. While our staff is carefully doing our own spiritual work, we are getting ready for some meaningful celebrations at the end of the month and the end of the Lenten season. Please, do you own Lenten examinations.

Please plan to join on Maundy Thursday for one of the handful of most meaningful services on the Christian calendar. We all plan to rejoice on Easter morning; it's my prayer that you'll bear witness to the suffering that brings about the rejoicing. All while staying in the moment, of course.

Peace,  
Scott



### MINISTERIAL ACCESSIBILITY

As I start my ministry at FCC, I want to offer some hours that you can rely on me to be in my office and available to you, on a first come, first served basis. Those hours will be on Monday mornings from 10-noon and on Thursday afternoons from 3-5. Please note that I am generally available to meet you offsite for coffee, lunch, or a beer if you call and schedule something with me! I have broad experience in pastoral counseling and a honed listening ear and consider it an honor when you trust me enough to seek me out.

Rev. Scott Schieber

### LOVE ONE ANOTHER

**A Regional Faith Symposium on LGBT Inclusivity** will be held Saturday, March 16, at the Main Campus Student Center at ECU, hosted by the Peel LGBTQ Center. For more information, visit: <https://lgbtq.ecu.edu/loveoneanother/> Please consider this very important opportunity and be in touch with Scott if you are interested in attending. He will be going and would love to have a group join him! Contact at [scott.schieber@fccwilson.org](mailto:scott.schieber@fccwilson.org). We are working to share a clear message of welcome and inclusion at FCC. To become a fully inclusive community, we will need a commitment to understand one another in all the richness and challenges of our diversity. The only prerequisite for participating in this event is a compassionate heart.





# NOTEWORTHY MENTIONS FROM MUSIC MINISTRY

## Yard Sale Follow Up

To follow up from our February yard sale, \$3,815.29 was raised! This is about \$300 more than last year! What was left over was either picked up by Habitat for Humanity or given to First Baptist for their UNsale which benefits specific families in need in the community. Funds from FCC's yard sale goes to both Music Ministry and Compassion & Service, most recently being used to assist in the Honduras Mission Trip. Thank you again for everyone's role and ministry in this great effort.



## Mobile Music Ministry in March

I appreciate the flexibility Mobile Music Members have shared. In March, we will meet on the first and LAST Monday. I will be accompanying Hunt Chorus at MPA concert on Monday, March 18. With 50 minutes in each visit, it isn't a huge time commitment. Set your mindfulness to sharing in community!

Monday, March 4 at 11AM | Dalen Bottoms

Monday, March 25 at 11AM | The Landing

## A Lenten Doxology

Worship music is so vast and didn't stop being penned when the Chalice Hymnal was published over 25 years ago. Hymnody and hymns continue to flow from inspired humans every day. On occasion I carefully place such texts in worship to familiar tunes. During the season of Lent, the text has shifted to the tune HAMBURG (what we know as *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*). Yes, it is a perfect doxology, as there is no "true" doxology. It varies within congregations.

### What is a doxology?

The word comes from the Greek doxologia, "praise or glory," which is a combination of doxa, "glory," and logos, "a speaking." In music, it is simply a hymn or form of words containing an ascription of praise to God. I love an expansive text that alludes to a Creator God, Christ and Spirit, all together.

### My Lenten challenge to you.

Find a verse of a hymn that contains what you would feel is a beautiful doxology and share it with me!

## Chalice Ringers Handbell Festival Experience

On Saturday, February 24, 6 different handbell choirs presented 5 pieces under the direction of Winstead Methodist's Handbell Director, Joyce Wolfe. We loaded up and set up our bells on Friday afternoon, and then from 9AM-1:30PM rehearsed and laughed together. The final concert was glorious and a great representation of our journey in faith together, especially as musicians. What a joy! Thank you to all who came out!

Soli deo Gloria,  
Casey





# FCC Growing Disciples

## Wednesday, March 6 & 20

Our Growing Disciples got their hands dirty recently! How many of you know the origins of pretzels? During Lent in the 600s, it was law for people to fast and not eat eggs, milk and fat. Because of this law, a monk had an idea and made the first pretzels using water, flour and salt. The common way to pray at that time was to hold your arms over your chest, so he decided to shape the pretzels to look like folded arms. Pretzels became a traditional food for Lent in the Middle ages.

The next time you eat pretzels, remember your prayer life.

The next time you pray, consider crossing your arms over your chest!



### Prayer Beads / Worry Beads

Our Growing Disciples also crafted these incredibly neat Prayer Beads/Worry Beads which came from the idea of Dawn Lamm! They are able to take one bead at a time and pull it down to the bottom when their worries creep in, or if they need reminders to pray for many little things throughout the day. I wanted to share the beautiful picture (left). Her mom shared: "She brought her beads to school and said they made her feel so much better just having them and playing with them!" It's great to see a difference being made in their lives!

**THANK YOU to all of our snack supper volunteers! Coming up:**

Wednesday, March 6 | Tish Scott & Patsy Ferrell

Wednesday, March 20 | Leslie Kendall

Wednesday, April 17 | **OPEN FOR VOLUNTEERS**

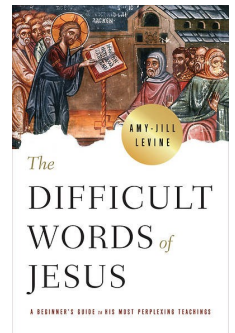
Wednesday, May 1 | Leslie Kendall

Wednesday, May 15 | **OPEN FOR VOLUNTEERS**

Contact Casey to volunteer with a meal, to help lead a devotion, a craft or games! Our Growing Disciples love seeing older disciples lead in their gifts and examples!

## Lenten Study Continues

Lent is a great time to do a deep dive and broaden our understanding of scripture. There are times that we wonder, "What in the heck is Jesus getting at?" Well, join us as we continue a study that answers some of those questions! We meet on Thursdays at 10:00 am or 6:00 pm (note: the same material will be covered in each session, so you could come to either session). We are studying Amy Jill-Levine's book, *Difficult Words of Jesus, A Beginner's Guide to His Most Difficult Teachings*.



## Week of Compassion

Our 2024 Week of Compassion ends Sunday, March 3. If you haven't given, please consider a gift to Week of Compassion. Every gift, no matter the amount, helps Disciples to share God's blessings around the world through our refugee, relief, and development mission fund. Please write Week of Compassion in the memo line on your check or select Week of Compassion in the dropdown list for FUND on the online giving tool. To learn more, visit [www.weekofcompassion.org](http://www.weekofcompassion.org)

### Honduras Mission Report

Sunday, March 10 is Honduras Mission Team Sharing Sunday. Wendy Wingrove, April Henderson, and Kaitlyn Henderson will share the story of their February mission trip to Honduras during our Sunday worship. Please plan to be with us as we learn and give thanks for their ministry.

### Jim Boswell Birthday Tribute

The Jim Boswell 105th Birthday Tribute in Support of Veterans Residential Services has yielded a total of \$8,660. This has been an incredible outpouring of generosity for the VRS as well as a demonstration of love and appreciation for Mr. Boswell on his 105th birthday from both the FCC church family and the larger community. Mr. Boswell is very pleased by the result and the funds will make a meaningful difference in the lives of a number of veterans and their families. To learn more about VRS, visit [www.VRSW.org](http://www.VRSW.org)

### Light of Life Lectures

**Bishop Valerie Melvin, Regional Minister of the Christian Church in North Carolina, will be the speaker for the next Barton College Light of Life lecture.**

Her topic will be *Building Community*. The lecture is at 4:00 PM on Tuesday, March 5, in Howard Chapel on the Barton College campus.

### Community Lenten Services Continue

Lenten services continue in March with three more services. Each service will begin at 12:10pm and run for about 30 minutes. It will be followed by lunch at the church. This is a great opportunity to deepen your Lenten experience with God as you make new relationships in the community.

3/6, St. John's AME Zion Ch., Rev. Heather Herrin Wong preaching  
3/13, Barton College Chapel, Rev. Nick Demuynck preaching  
3/20, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Rev. Edwin Ferguson preaching  
3/29 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 2:00pm at First United Methodist Church, Rev. Maurice Barnes preaching



**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**Wednesday, March 20, 2-6pm, Fellowship Hall**  
**Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or call**

**Carol Steffa at 252-230-6965 to schedule an Appointment**



## A Novel Idea

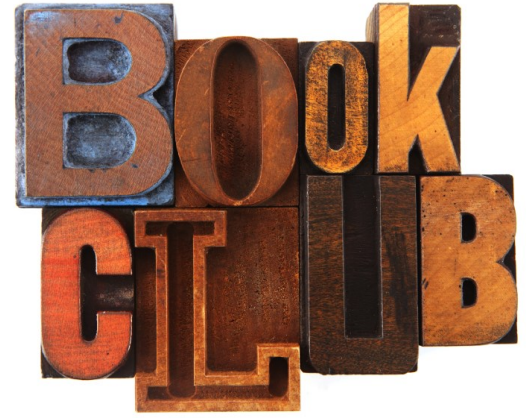
Tuesday, March 26, 5:30 p.m.

### *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

by Rebecca Skloot

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells -- taken without her knowledge -- became one of the most important tools in medicine. Henrietta's "immortal" cells helped develop the polio vaccine, unlocked secrets of cancer and viruses, and led to important advances in in vitro fertilization, cloning and gene mapping. Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave.

Henrietta's family did not learn of her "immortality" until more than twenty years after her death, when scientists investigating HeLa began using her husband and children in research without informed consent. And though the cells had launched a multimillion-dollar industry that sells human biological materials, her family never saw any of the profits.



## Treasurer's Report – YTD January 31st, 2024

Tim Sharp / February 19, 2024

For the month ended January 31st, 2024, FCC had YTD total income of \$24,480\* and YTD total expenses of \$32,768, resulting in a YTD **deficit** of \$8,288.

### 1/01/2024 – 1/31/2024 – YTD Operating Budget

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income	\$24,480*	\$32,328	(\$ 7,848)
Expenses	\$32,768	\$32,328	(\$ 440)
<b>Actual YTD Surplus/(Deficit) *</b>	<b>(\$ 8,288)</b>		

*(All amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar)*

*\*YTD income includes \$934.47 from our Operating Reserve account (\$934.47 per month) that was included to balance the 2024 operating budget.*

**Update for all FCC Board Members.** Meetings will be moved to immediately follow the church service on Sundays at 11:15. Sunday school classes will be canceled on those Sundays. Meetings will be held in the parlor on April 28th, August 25th, and December 15th.

## Compassion & Service Team

The Compassion & Service Team meets Sunday, March 17, at 3:00 PM. We would be delighted to **welcome NEW members** to our team! Our ministry involves a variety of projects and we seek to give every FCC Disciple options for participation. A robust planning and organizing effort is at the core of what we are doing. Please consider joining us. If you would like to sit in on a meeting with no continuing commitment, that would be great as well. Speak to Terry Shackleford or Carol Steffa if you have questions.

# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 27	Feb 28	Feb 29	1	2
<b>3</b> <b>10:00am</b> Worship <b>11:11am</b> Sunday Morning Small Group <b>11:15am</b> Disciples Class	<b>4</b> <b>11:00am</b> Mobile Music Ministry - Dalen Bottoms	<b>5</b> <b>11:00am</b> Staff Meeting <b>2:00pm</b> CWF <b>5:30pm</b> Encounter <b>6:30pm</b> Chalice Ringers <b>6:30pm</b> Girl Scouts	<b>6</b> <b>12:10pm</b> Community Lenten Service at St. John's AME Zion Church <b>5:30pm</b> Kids & Youth Programs <b>7:00pm</b> Chancel Choir	<b>7</b> <b>10:00am</b> Lenten Study <b>6:00pm</b> Lenten Study	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>10:00am-12:00pm</b> —Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall
<b>10</b> <b>10:00am</b> Worship <b>11:11am</b> Sunday Morning Small Group <b>11:15am</b> Disciples Class <b>TIME CHANGES, SPRING FORWARD</b>	<b>11</b> <b>6:00pm</b> Facilities and Maintenance Team	<b>12</b> <b>11:00am</b> Staff Meeting <b>5:30pm</b> Encounter <b>6:30pm</b> Chalice Ringers <b>6:30pm</b> Girl Scouts	<b>13</b> <b>12:10pm</b> Community Lenten Service, Howard Chapel at Barton College <b>7:00pm</b> Chancel Choir	<b>14</b> <b>10:00am</b> Lenten Study <b>6:00pm</b> Lenten Study <b>7:00pm</b> Elder's Meeting	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>8:00am to 12:00pm</b> Work Day at FCC
<b>17</b> <b>10:00am</b> Worship <b>11:11am</b> Sunday Morning Small Group <b>11:15am</b> Disciples Class <b>3:00pm</b> Compassion and Service Team Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>11:00am</b> Staff Meeting <b>5:30pm</b> Encounter <b>6:30pm</b> Chalice Ringers <b>6:30pm</b> Girl Scouts	<b>20</b> <b>11:30am</b> Young At Heart (Something Different) <b>12:10pm</b> Community Lenten Service at Calvary Presbyterian <b>5:30pm</b> Kids & Youth Programs <b>7:00pm</b> Chancel Choir	<b>21</b> <b>10:00am</b> Lenten Study <b>6:00pm</b> Lenten Study	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 Palm Sunday</b> <b>10:00am</b> Worship <b>11:11am</b> Sunday Morning Small Group <b>11:15am</b> Disciples Class	<b>25</b> <b>11:00am</b> Mobile Music Ministry - The Landing	<b>26</b> <b>11:00am</b> Staff Meeting <b>5:30pm</b> Encounter <b>5:30pm</b> A Novel Idea Book Club <b>6:30pm</b> Chalice Ringers <b>6:30pm</b> Girl Scouts	<b>27</b> <b>7:00pm</b> Chancel Choir	<b>28</b> <b>7:00pm</b> Maundy Thursday Service	<b>29</b> <b>2:00pm</b> Community Good Friday Service at First United Methodist Church	<b>30</b>
<b>31 Easter Sunday</b> <b>10:00am</b> Worship <b>11:11am</b> Easter Egg Hunt <b>11:15am</b> Disciples Class	<b>April 1</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>					



# 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.



## March 1

Karen Elliott

## March 2

Dianne Chambers

## March 4

Janet Robbins

## March 7

Ethan Strickland

## March 11

Doug Boone

## March 12

Alston Cooper

## March 15

Michael Nesselhauf

## March 16

Kathy Daughety

## March 19

Steffanie Sharp

Rylee Jones

## March 20

Ryley Kite

## March 23

Peggy Anderson

## March 24

Martha Beland

## March 25

Justin Fulghum

## March 26

Ethan Boyette

## March 27

Brooklyn Fulghum

## March 30

Jackie Clifford

## In Our Prayers

Peggy Anderson; Vickie Balazsi (Kathy Sandifer's cousin); Jim Boswell; Donahue Bottoms, Jr. (Dalen Bottoms' son); Chris Boyette (friend of Gilda Cauley); Kevin Carroll (Laura Pritchett's cousin); Hope Christian (friend of Gilda Cauley); Win Craft; Mary Louise Gray; Nell Griffin; Elaine Hanna; Anita Hathorn (Laura Pritchett's aunt); Tina Hensley; Lynn Kyle (friend of Libby & Allan Daniell); LaRue Massey (Kathy Sandifer's friend); Troy and Leigh Ann Tatum; Soraya friend of Jennifer Whitehurst Hendrix).

Family of Agnes Robbins (Christy Webb's husband's aunt );

## Homebound

Peggy Anderson; Jim Boswell; Dalen Bottoms; Sherry Brenner; Hazel Byers; Gena Carter; Gilbert Ferrell; Judy Harris; Doug Ramsey; Anne Sharpe; Lenore Smith; Alice Thomas; Kathleen Ujlaki; A.J. Walston.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Duncan and Veronica Elise Mathis on the birth of their daughter, Natalie Winona Mathis. She was born on Friday, February 23. Its official! Proud grandmothers Theresa Mathis and Deanna Ujlaki are now Mimi and Nanna x 2!

## CWF

The CWF will meet on March 5 at 2:00pm in the Church Parlor. All women of the church are invited.

## 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 March 20th!

## Worship Service Participants for March

	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
Elder	Mary Louise Gray	Jerry Pritchett	Christy Webb	Gilda Cauley	Beth Williams
Worship Leader	Carol Steffa	Melissa Inscoe	Jennifer McHarg	Mary Louise Gray	Alysun Skinner
Deacon Team	#3 Steven Winstead Kristin Lamond Terry Shackleford	#4 Natalie Sutton Steffanie Sharp William Wooten	#1 Curtis Ray Sue Ray Ricky Brown	#2 Melissa Whitley Andrew Whitley Glenn Etheridge	#3 Steven Winstead Kristin Lamond Terry Shackleford

**Elder on Call for the Month of March is Alysun Skinner**