

**First
Christian
Church
(Disciples of Christ)**

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The Echo

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Welcome to the newest FCC members!



Diehl Ackerman
Home phone: 780-8736
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Joined February 10, 2013



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Joined February 17, 2013

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NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

Several years ago, we figured out a way to write “DEVELOPING DEEPER DISCIPLESHIP” on our walls. It was a visual way of reminding anyone who walks through the church that the Christian way of life is a lifelong journey, and we continue to learn and grow each day. I hope this leads many of us to be aware of how we change with the seasons and to be aware of the many opportunities we have – both within the church walls and without – to develop a closer walk with God.

+Several people each day walk our labyrinth. Do you? Have you stopped to take advantage of the benches, to sit and take in the ever changing garden?

+Have you taken time to ask someone you know to come to church with you?

+After you’ve heard a meaningful song or prayer from the table, have you thanked that person for their insight or talent?

+Have you looked at the many offerings of classes, groups, or other meeting here and thought, “Maybe another time”?

+Do you pray for your church family? Have you placed a slip in the chalice?

+If someone were to look at your iPad calendar, or your bank statement, would they know you are a part of a church?

One of the best ways to develop deeper discipleship is to remember that we do not GO to church. We ARE the church.

Go with God, beloved ones.....

Pastor Molly



A section of the contract we have with Pastor Molly states that she will be given a one month sabbatical at the end of each three years of service to the church. Beginning April 2, she will be taking her second sabbatical, returning on May 3. Sabbaticals are different from vacations – they acknowledge the need for rest, meditation, concentrated study, and time away. This allows her time to come back to us refreshed and renewed in her relationship with God and with us.

During these 4 weeks our capable elders will step up to handle church situations, and we will be blessed to hear several different voices from the pulpit, including Roger Fischer on April 7, and Paul Semisch on April 21 and 28. Church will go on as usual – which means we need to see all of you there! We also ask you to be in prayer for Pastor Molly and Leon during their time away.

From Mary Claire Williams, Youth Group Leader

The February youth group meetings were a huge success. Both youth groups played a trivia game to learn more about the season of Lent. After learning more of the facts, we turned to self reflection by taking time to sit quietly and reflect upon what Lent means to us. After the reflection time, the youth made a purple "forgiveness" box, and we placed our Lenten prayers inside the box. We prayed for people that we need to forgive and people that need to forgive us. The youth made a commitment to pray for all the prayers as a way to open up our hearts during Lent. We will burn these prayer slips as a symbol of rejoicing when Lent is over.

The older youth group had a great guest speaker in February. Our very own, Dr. Alana Scott, came to speak to our group about the Dead Sea Scrolls. Dr. Scott provided the group with information, pictures, and maps about the history surrounding the Dead Sea Scrolls. The information was fascinating and informative.

We would like to say a very special thank you to Dr. Scott for taking time to present to our group. Also, thank you to Susan Thomas, Dayna Seelig, and Curt and Cathy Hammond for providing food for our February meetings.

The March youth group meeting will take place on Sunday, March 17th immediately following church until 4:00 p.m. We are going to combine the two youth groups in March to take a field trip to the Life Care Center nursing home facility to distribute cards. Please let me know if you would be interested in providing lunch to the group or helping chaperone the youth at Life Care Center. **We will need food for approximately fifteen, and I will need approximately 1 to 2 chaperones.**

Thank you for sharing your wonderful young ladies and gentlemen with me. It is always a blessing to work with the youth at FCC!



Dr. Scott presenting to the Older Youth

Mack Building Fund

No donations to the Mack Fund were made during the month of February.

Living Memorial Fund

In memory of Tommy Griffith's mother

Etta Jane McCarty
Fran Helphinstine

March Birthdays

4- Jim Fred Cassidy
4- Josh Akers
9- Lee Chaney
11- Linda Bryant
12- Melodie Hoff
14- Jean Mack
26- Ron Walke
28- Roger Fischer
30- John Akers



Food Pantry

Until further notice, we will only be donating cereal to the food pantry.

Our bi-weekly meditation group continues to meet in the month of March. If you are interested, please contact Paul Semisch at pauljsemisch@hotmail.com or 356-4324. The days that meditation will meet in March are Thursday, March 7, and Thursday, March 14, both at 7pm.

During the months of May and June, we need individuals to volunteer to facilitate children's church. If you would like to, please contact Ryan Brown at the church office.

March Deacons

Liz Reffitt, Mickey Reffitt, Alicia Carter, Dewayne Carter, Catherine Rogers, Charlene Bradford.

Looking to give someone a birthday or anniversary gift? Why not send a kid to camp in honor of that person or persons? Cards to send to the recipient are available in the church office and the donations are \$25 each.

BOARD MEETING

March 25, 2013

Committees @ 6:00pm

Executive Board @ 6:30pm

Full Board @ 7:00pm

For those who enjoy reading the sermon Bible passages for the month, they are as follows:

March 3: Luke 13: 1-9

March 10: Luke 15: 11b-32

March 17: John 12: 1-8

March 24: Luke 19: 28-40 (Palm Sunday)

March 31: John 20: 1-18 (Easter)



During the month of February, our church received a check for \$249.60. **The cost of healthy food rises each month—PLEASE continues to re-load and use your Kroger card to continue to fund this ministry.**

Treasurer's Report

Income for February

\$13,948.00

*The average monthly income needed to pay the church expenses is **\$9,087.95***

Join us for our First Sunday Lunch on March 3. We will be having an Italian feast! There is no cost, but you may make a donation if so led.



Our next One Pot Topic will take place at 5pm on Sunday, March 24 in the Conference Room. Pastor Molly will lead a discussion on "How Each Gospel Look at Holy Week."

Lenten Activities, Services, and Study Groups

Maundy Thursday services will be held in conjunction with Faith Presbyterian Church at here at FCC on Thursday, March 28 at 7:00pm. We will be worshipping with a beautiful combination of Scripture and music, using the talents and voices of both churches and put together by our own Diana Knoll. We will also take communion together as we meditate on the last days of Jesus' earthly life. Please come; invite someone to come with you.

Plans are still tentative for the Rowan County Ministerial Association Good Friday service. Stay tuned.....

Looking for a way to engage the Scriptures during Lent? Join us for *lectio divina* (literally, "divine reading") Tuesday March 5 and 12 at 7pm. *Lectio divina* is not a Bible study or lesson. It is a prayerful, reflective exploration and discussion of the Scriptures. We will focus on a specific Lenten Gospel text each week in order to understand how that text speaks to us and how it can be lived in our world today. Come and journey with us as we break open the Lenten Scriptures together! For more information, please contact Paul Semisch at [606-356-4324](tel:606-356-4324) or pauljsemisch@hotmail.com. The following is the schedule for scriptures to be covered:

March 5: Luke 15: 11b-32
March 12: John 12: 1-8

On Sunday, March 10 from 4-6pm, the elders will have a short business meeting. Afterward they will take part in a program with Dr. David Sharrard about care and visiting people who are in the hospital or have serious illnesses. After the program dinner of pork BBQ will be served. If you have not done so, please get a hold of Marge to discuss what side items, drinks, and desserts are currently needed for the dinner.

Feldenkrais: Be...Connect...Act
Mondays: 5:30 to 7:00pm
March 4, 11, 18.

Are you looking for a Lenten class that will genuinely change the way you feel, think, and act? Do you want to feel more connected but less exhausted? Are you in transition and need to clarify what God is calling you to do? Maybe you simply want weekly quiet time.

It is not too late to join in the second part of this six part series where we'll explore these questions together using gentle meditative movement that helps us to slow down, relax, and let go so we can more clearly listen for God in our daily lives. And then act with intention.

Please bring a box of cereal as a weekly donation. To register or ask questions, contact Maggie Miles at 776-4769 or HippieHollerFarm@gmail.com. Limit 10 people.

The Focused Heart Book Club is a group of ladies that will be studying the Beatitudes, and through reading and journaling will discuss and reflect on these sayings from Jesus. This book club will meet the following times and discuss the following pages of The Power of a Focused Heart by Mary Lou Redding:

-March 10 (at First Christian Church), From 12:30 to 1:30, Chapters 3 and 4
-March 24 (at Faith Presbyterian Church) From 12:30 to 1:30, Chapters 5 and 6
-April 5 will be at Carter Caves State Park for an overnight retreat and discussion of Chapters 7 and 8.

If you have any questions, please make contact with either Dayna Seelig or Sarah Chaney.

Each year our church calls into order a Nominating Committee, comprised of 1 elder, 2 deacons, and 3 members at large. The function of this committee is to fill necessary positions within the church board – officers and deacons. (It also presents the name of any new elders which need to be nominated, but those are gathered within the elder board, and that does not happen each year) This is done through a system of gathering names from within the congregation. Anyone who has been a church member for the 12 months prior to the new church year (which begins on 1 July) may be considered. Slips for suggesting possible names are available at each door of the sanctuary, and on this page. It is to be hoped that many of you will – with prayer and discernment – think about those around you who would be good additions to our working Board. Officers are elected each year, but traditionally serve 2 years in a row; the upcoming year will be the second for our officers. **The deacon co-chairs determine how many new deacons need to be added to the roster, which consists of a term of three years on, one year of sabbatical.** It is the job of the Nominating Committee to count the names on the slips AND TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THOSE WHO ARE NOMINATED.

At the February Board meeting, President Jami Hornbuckle presented a list of names to serve on the 2013-2014 Nominating Committee: Darlene Perkins and Roger Fischer, who were appointed last year and will serve their second year; Mike Seelig, Adrian Swain, Catherine Rogers, and Susan Thomas. Please be in prayer for them as they work and serve our larger church. **NOMINATION SLIPS NEED TO BE TURNED IN BY MARCH 15th**; a basket is available in front of the sanctuary chalice in which to place the slips, or you may drop them in the offering plate or mail them to the office.

Our Nominating Committee is working on the 2013-2016 rotation of deacons. They ask you to join them in prayer and discernment as this process unfolds. **Only church members may be nominated.** The slate will be presented to the board at the March meeting for approval; then the slate will be published in the ECHO and the bulletin so that the congregation may know the names. The slate will be voted on by the congregation at the May annual meeting.

Suggestions for Deacons:

Time to Order Easter Flowers—WE'RE DOING SOMETHING NEW

This year, FCC is in partnership with the Horticulture program at MSU to provide beautiful flowers for the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Instead of purchasing Easter lilies like we have in the past, we can choose between Ice King daffodils or red tulips that will be delivered to the church in terra cotta pots. **PLEASE TURN THIS SLIP INTO THE OFFICE WITH PAYMENT FOR THE FLOWERS (\$8 PER POT) BY NOON ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13.** The deadline is earlier than previous years, but this is to give the horticulturists time to prepare our flowers. Names of the individuals to be honored or remembered will appear on the back of the bulletin on Easter Sunday, March 31st.

Ice King daffodils *or* Red tulips

In memory of *or* In honor of: _____

Given by: _____



March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 9:45 Sunday school 10:45 Service After service: First Sunday Lunch 2-4pm Fellowship Hall re-served</p>	<p>4 5:30 Feldenkrais</p>	<p>5 5:30 Yoga 7pm Lectio Divina</p>	<p>6 5:30 Bells 7pm Choir</p>	<p>7 5:30 Yoga 7pm Meditation group</p>	<p>1 11-4 Fellowship Hall reserved</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>10 Girl Scout Sunday 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service 12:30 Book group on <u>Power of a Focused Heart</u> 4-7 Elder dinner</p>	<p>11 5:30 Feldenkrais</p>	<p>12 5:30 Yoga 7pm Lectio Divina</p>	<p>13 Noon: Flower slips due at church. 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir 7:00 Fellowship Hall reserved</p>	<p>14 5:30 Yoga 7pm Meditation group</p>	<p>15 Office closes at 10:30</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service 12-5 Youth</p>	<p>18 5:30 Feldenkrais</p>	<p>19 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>20 5:30 Bells 7pm Choir</p>	<p>21 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Service 2-4 Fellowship Hall reserved</p>	<p>25 BOARD MEETINGS: 6:00 Committees 6:30 Executive 7:00 Full Board</p>	<p>26 5:30 Yoga</p>	<p>27 5:30 Bells 7pm Choir</p>	<p>28 7pm Maundy Thurs. Service with Faith Pres.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 <u>Easter Sunday</u> 10:45 Service</p>						

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Rev. Molly Smothers, Minister
Diana Knoll, Choir
Mary Claire Williams, Youth
Ryan Brown, Secretary
Chia-Ling Hsieh, Organist
Michael Young, Pianist
Sarah Chaney, Bell Choir
Lindsey Morris, Nursery
Katie Messer, Nursery
Darrin Roe, Custodian

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Phillip Swim, Ned Breschel, and Isaac Young at the Football pool game during the Souper Bowl lunch.