

I give thanks that you are participating in the life of First Christian Church, and I want to inform you about this time in the life of our congregation. Some of you may have participated in churches who have annual stewardship campaigns. If you have, you may not be surprised to get this letter. If you haven't, I'd like to take the time to explain what you find here. As followers of Christ, we take seriously Jesus' call to serve and commit ourselves to His ministry. We do this in many ways including participating in worship, attending faith formation groups, serving those in need, offering our gifts and by giving our money to support the work of God in our congregation and other places. We do so in part because we have found that living out our faith through the life of First Christian Church is a precious gift. Each week in worship we invite the congregation to give an offering of money and commit time and energy to grow in faith.

Each fall, we send out a letter similar to this one and we spend time in worship discussing how our commitment to follow Christ intersects with our material resources. Jesus spends a great deal of time in the Gospels discussing money. In fact, the only topic Jesus spends more time discussing is the Kingdom of God.

Jesus reminds us that money can be a resource for living well and serving others, or it can be a roadblock to living faithfully. In Mathew 6:21, Jesus says, 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

While I understand that each person's giving is a deeply spiritual act between you and God, we ask you to turn in an estimate of giving card so that our leadership is able to create a realistic budget and ministry plan based on what this community tells us it plans to give. As commitments increase, we are able to engage in more vital ministry. On a personal and spiritual level, the prayer and process necessary to make the commitment to consistent giving helps each of us prioritize God and grow in our Faith life. An estimate of giving card is not a contract, it is a spiritual commitment which can be modified should your life situation change. If your situation changes, please let me know. If you have pastoral need, Pastor Tim is available for counseling and prayer. We plan to mail out a card and a hard copy of all that is in this email in the next couple of days. If you prefer not to receive it by mail, please let me know at

fccafinance@gmail.com

At the bottom of this email you will find a digital estimate of giving card that will come directly to me if you prefer to click on it and send your estimate this way

.Peace, Janet

Ministry Highlights

YEAR:2020

Each year the First Christian Church of Alexandria celebrates ministry by sharing some highlights. You may be asking yourself, "Does this extraordinary and unprecedented year have much to celebrate?" While this has been a year of great challenges, it has also been a year in which God has been at work within us and used us to share grace, hope, and life. It has been a year in which we have had to rely on the grace and hope of God as we seek to worship, serve, learn, and fellowship. As we celebrate 90 years as a congregation, let us give thanks for our shared ministry and gracious presence of the Living Christ.



As we celebrated Advent and Christmas, we were unaware of the dramatic changes which would affect our **WORSHIP** in 2020. We welcomed 5 new members in February and started to engage in the time of Lent by breaking the chains of injustice and sin. In March, because of the pandemic, Zoom Worship was quickly added to our vocabulary. Thankfully our staff had enough technological knowledge (Britney), creativity (Sarah and Bevin), and persistence (Pastor Tim) to offer a needed time of worship and gathering each Sunday. While the pandemic stopped us from gathering in person, it did not stop us from engaging in God's Word, gathering at the table, singing praise to God, and praying together each Sunday.

The virtual setting allowed us to connect with those who do not live within driving distance and encourage other congregations to continue to worship in this time. Special music from different homes brought inspiration; Children's Moment brought smiles to all ages; Elders prayers reminded us of God's continued presence and grace; hearing one another's heartfelt joys, concerns, and God sightings connected us. Worship included voices from Ghana, England, and Argentina. On Mother's Day, Kathleen Moore, Rachel Leslie, and Robin Moscati shared a sermon from different states. We celebrated with images of different tables united by Christ Jesus. Even when we were able to return to an in-person option, we emphasized that we need to keep the virtual option as we move forward. It's not always perfect, but we can all give thanks for the possibility to worship together in the midst of great challenges remembering that God's grace and hope are always present. It is important to note that in 2020, we continued to pay our employees, including our nursery workers, even if they were not fully able to fulfill their job duties.



SERVICE

continues to be an essential part of our ministry together. In fact, the needs continue to grow during the pandemic. We had to stop serving Meals on Wheels in March but increased our serving to Safe Haven food program hosted by First Christian Church of Falls Church. We continued to serve at the West End Food Bank and through Neighborhood Clean-up. Special collections have included thermometers, diapers, food, and school supplies. We gave special donations to ALIVE! Food Distribution, Casa Chirilagua, Pilgrimage Christian Church, The House DC, ALIVE! House, and others as well as continuing to support ministry beyond

Individuals have served in many ways including Truck to Trunk Food Events, Casa Chirilagua Food collection, volunteering at the Culmore Health Clinic and Alexandria Health Department, raising voices for racial inequality and an end to violence, making masks, and many other ways. The change to the virtual setting has impacted many of the groups who use our building. The ALIVE! Child Development Center has ceased to operate, but we continue our relationship with ALIVE!, including offering more space in our building for service to the community. We also continue our relationships with Mt Sinai Congregation, First Samoan Congregational Christian Church, our many AA groups, National Alliance for Mental Illness, Scouts, and others. Our building is also becoming more friendly to those with limited mobility with new ramps and an automatic door. We also improved our WiFi for such a time as this.



Both **FAITH FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP** have been more limited since March, but we have gathered for Faith and Film and a Pizza Party. We shared in a Lent study that was continued in a virtual format. We have held Prayer Gatherings both virtually and outdoors. The Engaging Scripture Bible Study has grown in its virtual setting. The Serious Thinkers Class continues to join in worship. The Chronic Illness Support Group has continued to meet. Our Elders and pastor have continued to offer spiritual support and connections in a time of disorientation and challenge. We will continue to seek ways to deepen our relationship with God and Christ through various opportunities.

Palms & Pizza

APRIL 5TH @6PM!



Join us this Sunday for a virtual pizza. Order in, bake a boxed oven or even make your own - just your food then log in to Zoom at 6:00pm by a meal unlike any you have ever had. Just because we're maintaining 6 feet of social distance doesn't mean we have to be distant socially. We'll have large group conversation and small breakout groups. Come along with conversation and plan for fellowship with your church members. Hope to see you there. Click here to join.




Join us for a short Zoom Prayer gathering. We will share joys, concerns, God sightings and share in a time of prayer.

LIVE ONLINE TOMORROW AT 7PM

Click the button below Thursday at 7pm to join

PRAYER GATHERING



First Christian Church of Alexandria

In order to decrease the spread of COVID-19, all gatherings in this facility have been cancelled until April 5.

We apologize for any inconvenience as we understand the importance of the various groups who meet here.

God's Peace!




First Christian Church of Alexandria

Join us on Zoom!
Call: 802-715-9392
Member ID: 548 088 2044

Worship — Sunday, 11 am
Lent Study — Sunday, 5:30 pm
Bible Study — Tuesday, 7:00 pm

God's Peace!

First Christian Church of Alexandria

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

In order to decrease the spread of COVID-19, all gatherings in this facility have been cancelled until April 5.

We apologize for any inconvenience as we understand the importance of the various groups who meet here.



On Thursday May 7 at 7:00 pm we will join together for our first Faith and Film Gathering. In order to participate more fully in the conversation we invite you to watch the movie Groundhog Day prior to the gathering.

Meeting ID - 548-088-2044
Password - 667240
+1 301 715 8592

Click here May 7th




DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CULMORE CLINIC?

ENTER TO VISIT FIRST CHRISTIAN FALLS CHURCH

The Culmore Clinic is located in the building of First Christian Church of Falls Church. This clinic provides healthcare for all regardless of ability to pay. Currently, they are offering tele health visits and doing onsite testing for the COVID-19 virus two days a week. Jodi Bobbitt (pictured here) is serving there once a week. FCC Falls Church Pastor, Rev. Steve Moore, is photo-bombing. Please keep this clinic and their clients in your prayers.

FIRST CHRISTIAN Alexandria (Disciples of Christ)



Rev. Tim Bobbitt Senior Pastor www.fccalexandria.com Sunday Worship 11:00 am
703-549-3911

PRAY IN FAITH ACT IN LOVE
ONLINE! FCCALEXANDRIA.COM
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

