

## How do we know we are forgiven?

As disciples we ground ourselves in the promise that Christ sustains us. On Ash Wednesday, ashes—dust, dirt from the ground—mark us with a symbol of our human sinfulness and mortality. But we live sustained by God’s forgiveness, presence and love.

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us. Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life. Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us. Lent calls us to journey with God.



**Join us for Ash Wednesday Worship, March 6, at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. throughout the Lenten season.**  
We will sing and pray and journey with God and with one another.

**“O Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.  
How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?”**  
from the Chalice Hymnal, No. 503 — “O Christ the Healer, We Have Come” v. 1

**“Come home, ye who are weary, come home;  
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling—calling, ‘O sinner, come home!’”**  
from the Chalice Hymnal, No. 340 — “Softly and Tenderly” refrain

*To know and love God, to nurture each other, and to reach out and welcome all people in the name of Jesus Christ.*

## WE CHOOSE LOVE.

**FIRST  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)



## A Note from Our Director of Congregational Life



Dear church:

My littlest one is now one (how did that happen?!). Her vocabulary is increasing and she recently learned to say, "No. No! No!" Please pray for me. Before I know it she'll be asking *all the questions*. Do you remember that stage? *Why is the sun hot? Where is God?* (A church member recently shared with me a good God question asked by her grandson. Neither of us had an answer.) *How? Why?* So many questions.

I'm participating in a webinar soon about inclusion. The guiding question is: Are all really welcome in your church? Good question. I'm preaching on the transfiguration and will ask: do we really want to be transformed? Good question.

With the leadership of its chair, James Thomas, The Faith Formation Team has planned a Spring Speaker Series in which guests will address various good questions.

### March 24: How is the church called to respond to the opioid crisis?

Guest speaker Elizabeth Brewington is the Opioid Response Program Coordinator with the North Carolina Council of Churches in their Partners in Health and Wholeness Program. The goal of the Opioid response program is to provide to faith leaders and communities of faith across the state, accurate information, accessible resources, and to dispel the many myths about the opioid crisis and those affected by it so that everyone can work toward compassionate rather than punitive and coercive responses.

### April 7: How is the church called to address issues of immigration?

Guest speaker Rachel Baker is the Immigration Advocacy Program Coordinator for the North Carolina Council of Churches. Rachel was engaged in immigration advocacy through her immersion in a multicultural, bilingual church, Reconciliation, which was started by her father. There, she was actively involved in the ministries of the congregation, working directly with first generation immigrant families. Her work at the North Carolina Council of Churches includes helping to build the NC Sanctuary Coalition. She works directly with pastors and congregations of North Carolina churches offering Sanctuary.

Each presentation will begin at 9 a.m. on those days with coffee and refreshments available at 8:45 before the program. Even more info will be shared soon.

I'm grateful that our church is a place where we can ask difficult questions. Join us for the Speaker Series in the months to come. Join us in all our conversations. Listen well to one another. May we also listen for the Spirit in all things.

Peace be with you.

Melissa



## News, Events, and Church Notes

### SERVING DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH

#### MARCH 3, 2019

**Elders:** Dean McPhail and Cliff Greaves **Deacons:** Nick Miller, Don Moehring, Leah Guthrie Loy, Robertson Rcham, Patti McDonald, and Les Rose **Children's Moment:** Melissa Guthrie Loy  
**Children's Church:** Amanda Desselles and Dona Norwood **Acolyte:** Charlie Manley  
**Worship Leader:** Babs Gordon **Building Responsibilities:** Bill Wiley  
**Coffee Hour Host:** Marsha Rose

#### MARCH 10, 2019

**Elders:** Cliff Greaves and Dean McPhail **Deacons:** Troy Desselles, Crystal Flynt, Bill Lund, MaryKate Holden, Jamie Cannady, and Dona Norwood **Children's Moment:** Susan Cox  
**Children's Church:** Amanda Desselles and Meredith Cooper **Acolyte:** Jack Wildman  
**Worship Leader:** Larry Hulighan **Building Responsibilities:** Bill Wiley  
**Coffee Hour Host:** Laura Tebow

#### MARCH 17, 2019

**Elders:** Robin Lund and Mike Wildman **Deacons:** Emily Boerckel, Helena Epstein, James Thomas, Susan Cox, Kasey Bogan, Lewis Woodruff **Children's Moment:** Paul Snyder  
**Children's Church:** Amanda Desselles and Laura Murray **Acolyte:** Izaak Myers  
**Worship Leader:** Judy Grubbs **Building Responsibilities:** Bill Wiley  
**Coffee Hour Host:** Louise Greaves

#### MARCH 24, 2019

**Elders:** Mike Wildman and Robin Lund **Deacons:** Brad Light, Debbie Light, Olivia Steadman, Madison Steadman, Larry Collins, Meredith Cooper **Children's Moment:** Darilyn Knibb  
**Children's Church:** Amanda Desselles and TBD **Acolyte:** Ashley Siu  
**Worship Leader:** MaryKate Holden **Building Responsibilities:** Bill Wiley  
**Coffee Hour Host:** Sue Hulighan

#### MARCH 31, 2019

**Elders:** Spencer Smith and Faith Manley **Deacons:** Emily Boerckel, Helena Epstein, James Thomas, Susan Cox, Kasey Bogan, Lewis Woodruff **Children's Moment:** Amanda Desselles  
**No Children's Church** **Acolyte:** Mosey Bogan  
**Worship Leader:** TBD **Building Responsibilities:** Bill Wiley  
**Coffee Hour Host:** TBD



## Just Wondering: Questions and Answers from Retired Disciples Minister J.T. Moore

**There are two miracles in which Jesus is said to have used spittle to bring about a cure (Mark 7:33, and John 9:6-12). Is there an explanation?**

The use of 'spit' seems strange, repulsive and unhygienic. However, in the day of Jesus it was quite common. The spit of some prominent person was believed to contain some curative qualities. (Keep in mind in our present day if we burn a finger the first instinct is to put it into our mouth.) Jesus was a wise physician. He took the methods and the customs of his day and used them. He brought about expectation by doing what the patient would expect a doctor to do. It was not that Jesus believed in these things. He knew how to relate to people.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 03/01 David Hodgin
- 03/06 Phyllis Collins
- 03/06 Chris Gooding
- 03/07 David Barnette
- 03/09 H'sun Rahlan
- 03/19 Dan Henley
- 03/24 Lee Moses

- 03/28 Judy Garrett
- 03/30 Larry Collins

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 03/07 David & Amy Miller
- 03/07 Vicki & Terry Simon

*Do we have your birth date or anniversary? If no, please send us your information. Email info@fccgreensboro.org.*

## Summer Camp

It's time to register for summer camp. Whoohoo! Summer camp! The 2019 dates and costs for Disciples of Christ summer camps at Camp Caroline and Christmount can be found at [ncdisciples.org/summer-camp/](http://ncdisciples.org/summer-camp/)

Registration forms are available in the church office. While registration is available online, the church office must have copies of your registration materials. If your child(ren) plan to go to camp, return the completed forms with payment to the church office before April 14. Please note that First Christian will cover 1/2 the cost of one week of camp for each FCC child. Feel free to contact the church office for more information or with specific questions.

## Regional Assembly

It's free! It's April 27, at Barton College in Wilson, NC. Gather with other Disciples for worship, learning, fellowship and church business. Please contact Board Chair John Flynt if you're interested in attending.

## A big thank you: FCC raised \$156 for the Green for Greens program

Many thanks to the bakers and helpers who contributed to the success of our sale at the Corner Market on February 16. We are especially grateful for the help of Katherine Barron, Mike Wildman, George and Charlie Manley, Jack Wildman, Lily Wildman, and Emily Viverette. Our efforts at the Corner Market were organized by Darilyn Knibb. Thank you, Darilyn, for your time and commitment to raising money to help those who face food insecurity.



## RECENT ATTENDANCE

February 10: 115      February 17: 101      February 24: 99

## PRAYER CONCERNS Contact the church office if you would like a name added to or removed from the prayer list.

Angie Wethington	Betty Wilson	Amanda Oliver	Betty Reynolds
Ann Fry	Phyllis Collins	Bev & Dick Isaacson	John & Carolyn Ledford
Leroy Bymaster	Ed & Emo Wagoner	Shannon Huth	Kay Phelps
Gary Yeager	Robin Lund	Karen Watson	JoAnn Tucker
JoAnn Alley	David Hodgin	Shannon Lineback	
Roger Stanley	Steve Ball	Barbara Angel	

## CARE TEAM INFORMATION

If you are aware of someone who is sick, in the hospital or rehab facility, please send their names and any information to Robin Lund at [rlund@triad.rr.com](mailto:rlund@triad.rr.com). The Care Team also celebrates good news: new babies, promotions at work, academic achievements, etc. Please share that info as well!

Many have requested a mailing address for John and Carolyn Ledford: P.O. Box 1334, Flat Rock, NC, 28731.

## SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Search Committee members are meeting on a regular basis and ask for your support, input, and prayers along the journey.

Committee members are:

Dawn Steadman (chair), Bill Inmon, Louise Greaves, George Manley, Patti McDonald, and Mike Wildman.

## FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR, JOHN FLYNT

The first quarterly meeting of our consolidated church board was held on February 10th. As directed by our recent bylaws revision, the quarterly meeting invites all members of the leadership teams to meet for collaboration and planning. This meeting was well attended and resulted in us moving forward with our program of work. Feedback from the attendees was very positive and there were good suggestions for improving the format as this event evolves.

I want to thank everyone who was involved in this meeting with their participation and involvement with the work of our church. Thank you, Team Leaders, for bringing your team members. Thank you, Emily Viverette and Mike Wildman, for leading our group reflection activity. Thank you to the Health and Wholeness team for providing a healthy salad bar as a light lunch.

*Board minutes are available in the church office.*

*The next Board meeting is March 10 at 11:15 a.m.*

*Please note other important dates on page 4.*



SUNDAYS AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**9 a.m. Small Groups**  
**10 a.m. Worship**  
**11 a.m. Fellowship and Coffee Hour**  
**5:30 p.m. Youth Groups on the first and third Sundays**

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

**Table Topics**, Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. (except March 5)  
**Choir Rehearsal**, Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.  
**Table Talk**, Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.  
**Bell Choir Rehearsal**, Sundays, March 3, 10, 24, 11:15 a.m.  
**Elders Meeting**, Tuesday, March 5, 7:00 p.m.  
**Men's Coffee Group**, Wednesday, March 6, 9:30 a.m.  
**Ash Wednesday Worship**, Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m.  
**Board Meeting**, Sunday, March 10, 11:15 a.m.  
**Vintage Bunch**, Wednesday, March 13, 11:30 a.m.  
**Vintage Bunch Kings & Queens: Card Playing**,  
Monday, March 25, 9:30 a.m.  
**Ladies' Coffee Group**, Thursday, March 28, 9:30 a.m.

*Find the full calendar online at [fccgreensboro.org/calendar](http://fccgreensboro.org/calendar)*

**Pulpit Supply**

Many thanks to our guest preachers. Coming up:  
March 3: Rev. Melissa Guthrie Loy  
March 10: Susan Cox  
March 17: Rev. Caitie Smith  
March 24: Rev. Baylee Smith

**Sermons**

They're online! You can listen to sermons at [fccgreensboro.org/sermons](http://fccgreensboro.org/sermons)

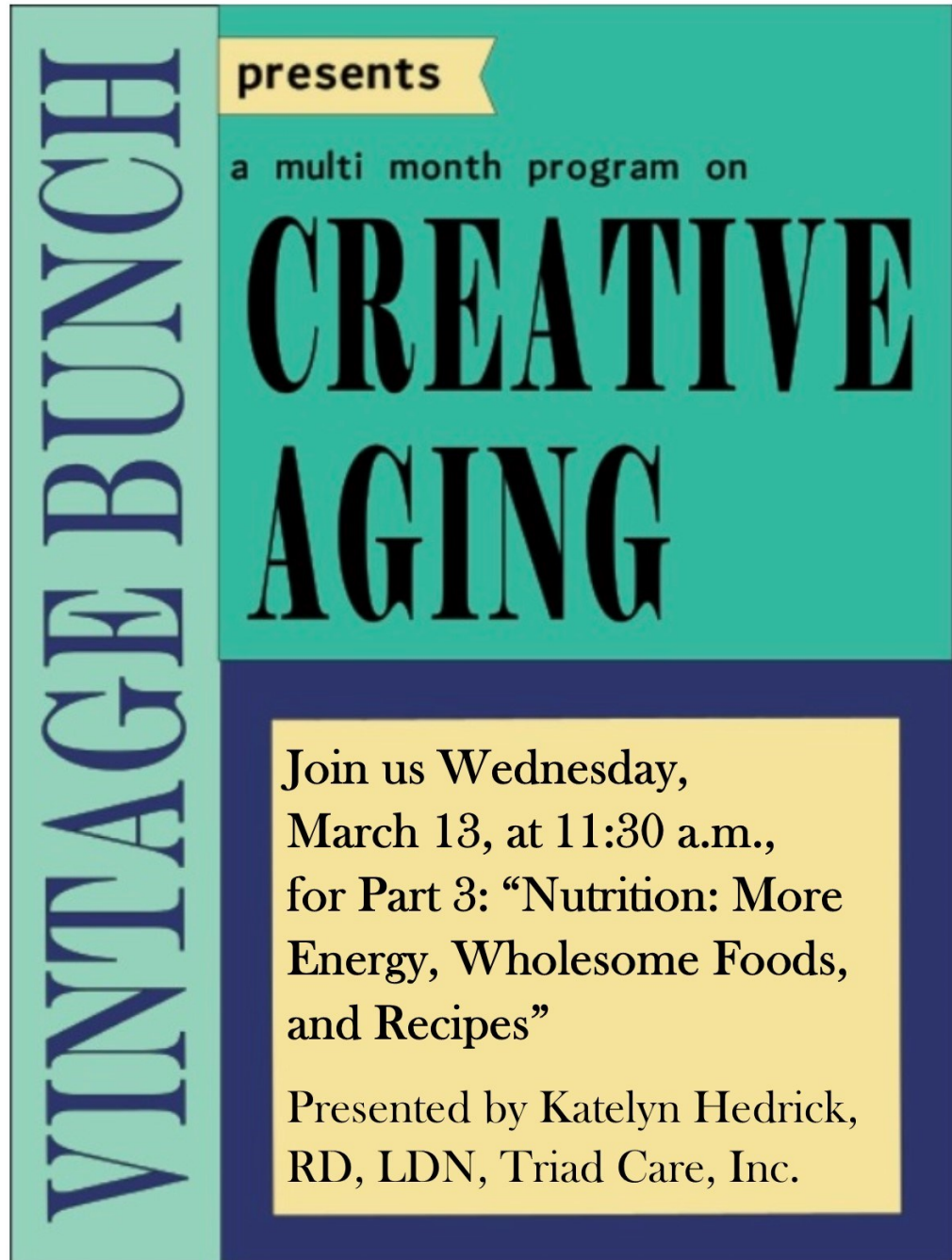
Worship bulletins are also posted on our website. See what you missed or review something that was meaningful. Bulletins can be found at [fccgreensboro.org/bulletins](http://fccgreensboro.org/bulletins)

**Sunday Nights**

The **Children & Families Potluck & Program** continues every first Sunday at 5:30 p.m. If you're interested in helping with a meal or assisting a leader, please contact Laura Murray.

**NYP, the Neighborhood Youth Project**, also meets at FCC on the first Sunday at 5:30 p.m., and the third Sunday at Congregational UCC, 400 West Radiance Dr. A couple of important dates:

March 10: Special trip to the women's ACC championship game. Meet at FCC at 11:15 a.m.  
March 17: Progressive Dinner. Meet at FCC at 4:30 p.m. Note the earlier start time.



**VINTAGE BUNCH** presents  
a multi month program on  
**CREATIVE AGING**

Join us Wednesday,  
March 13, at 11:30 a.m.,  
for Part 3: "Nutrition: More  
Energy, Wholesome Foods,  
and Recipes"

Presented by Katelyn Hedrick,  
RD, LDN, Triad Care, Inc.