

# THE CHRISTIAN CALLER

fccfarmville.org

from the Pastor

April 2018



*“...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”*

Matthew 22:36-39



## The Cost of Cheap Grace

Jesus was no Easter Bunny. He was a hard man who sometimes spoke hard words. Especially to those who didn't want to pay the price. Because of its reluctance to live like that, Christianity appears to be at a crossroad today, but has it ever not been?

It seems the question has been, when we approach Jerusalem, will we enter, or will we turn around and acquiesce to an authoritarian regime? Do we follow Jesus into Jerusalem or do we shout, crucify him, crucify him because the crowds in Palestine thought Jesus was a character actor too? Do we follow a group of young adults, victims of acts of terrorism, the young people Jesus demands we give a drink of water, as they entered Washington DC to begin our Holy Week or does Christianity shout crucify them, crucify them? Whose side are we on? Do we believe more in personal rights or do we believe in loving others as our community and their basic needs and safety like ours? The choice seems clear but apparently, it's not. I suggest that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, on a borrowed donkey, the choice was made for us. So why the nay-sayers or rather the okay until it comes to me or my church?

Jesus was a divisive figure some say. I suggest he became divisive only when he infringed upon people's personal lives. He only becomes divisive when he tells people they have to sacrifice some of their wants and needs so others may live. He becomes divisive for those who fear breaking away from the status quo. He becomes divisive for the church when the church thinks more of itself and what is necessary to survive instead of practicing the inclusivity of the Christ and thrive. It becomes divisive when the church caters to what benefits the church instead of opening its doors to those who need the benefits of the church.

Jesus never said it would be easy, on the contrary he said, they will persecute you. He was clear that to follow him, to take up our cross, means we won't acquiesce to the nay-sayers but walk through it no matter how painful it becomes to walk with others in their pain and suffering. That's exactly what Jesus did. That is the gospel, no matter how many proof texts Christians call upon to deny it or how much frothy emotional appeal called cheap grace we seek. The story of Christ is that he affirmed the life of everyone, especially those who were paying the price for the many. Especially those whom suffer under the regime. Especially those whom are thrown aside for the comfort of others. Especially those whom society crucifies.

The gospel is clear but are we prepared to sometimes go it alone like Jesus? To walk up that painful road to the place called the Skull? To die to our old selves so that others may receive the heart of Christ? Is the church willing to move forward up that hill to take our place on the cross so that others might live? Those others, in the gospel, were all sinners the nay-sayers said but who really were the sinners since "those others" were saved by Christ?

To become one is hard. One billion Christians are still trying to do that even though it seems like we're more intent to not do that and instead say-nay,

## Board Meeting Highlights

### General Board Meeting Mar 11, 2018

Present: Judy Owens, Jessica Avery, Kim Griffiths, Marah Walker, Wes Flake, Christine Dempsey; Al Joyner, Leslie & Amy Church, BJ Lawrence, Chester Ellis, Julie Walker, Gina Langston Miriam Lewis, Joyce Albritton, John Baumgartner, Josh Walker, Bert Smith, Paul Bryant, Harold Flanagan, Doris Briley. Also: Kevin Deibert

**TRUSTEES:** 2017 was closed out with a transfer of \$1291.77 to the General Fund from the Parsonage/Permanent Fund.

**TREASURER:** A budgeted \$8000 transfer was made from the 2017 Fall Festival to Outreach for their 2018 budget.

**EDUCATION:** Camp Carolina summer camp registration is open.

**PROPERTY & GROUNDS:** A presentation on a dishwasher for the kitchen is being scheduled.

**OUTREACH:** Camp Carolina "Fun Day Away" has been getting individual sponsorship donations to keep the expenses from the Outreach budget to a minimum. Relay for Life Bunco Night (in Memory of LuAnn Blalock) raised \$1285.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Mar 21 the Wed Night program will feature Bethann Wilke and Ainsley's Angels. April 4 will feature Amy Driver and her trip to India with Woman-to-Woman.

**DWM:** General Meeting Apr 14 at 10am.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Jessica Herring will serve as Deacon for the remainder of 2018 for Bryant Watson. BJ Lawrence is heading the committee to review the Building Usage policy. A motion passed to revive the Playground Committee and ask them to move forward with a less ambitious plan.

### Next Board Meeting—April 8

## CMF

At the January 21 meeting CMF voted to serve coffee and pastries at 9:30 every Sunday morning -- enjoy coffee and pastries and stay for Sunday School!

Tues, May 1—CMF's Annual Fish Stew Night! The whole community is invited, so spread the word! 6—7:30 (Donations accepted)

REMINDER: CMF will be serving breakfast at 9:30 on the third Sunday of each third month. Next breakfast is in June!

Wes Flake, CMF President

Cont. pg 1

not me, not my church. I suggest we, the church, have been at a cross road since the cross. Standing in the same old place with the same old cheap grace that costs us nothing.

"Discipleship is not an offer that man makes to Christ.

When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

With love, Kevin

## In Our Prayers

### Prayer needs:

*Mabel Bowen, Larue Brinson, Ann Byrd, Marie Cowan, Dave Davis, Melissa Davis, Cissy Deas, Bud Eason, Jean Ellis, Annie Gurganus, Bobby Hodge Sr, Janie Joyner, Caleb Knox, Betty Lewis, Joyce Letchworth, Shane Miller, Camilla Murphrey, Beth Norville, Joan Smith, Myrtle Sugg*

### In service to our country:

*Jameson Cowan, Glen McDustrell, Zach Murphy, Jake Nicholson*

Please notify an Elder of any changes.

## GIVING MADE EASY

Your bank will do the work for you! Just sign up with your bank's 'auto pay' feature, and your bank will mail a check to FCC on a regular schedule—whether it's weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or something else.

You get to be sure that even if you have to miss a Sunday or even if you left your checkbook at home this week, your giving goes on and your church can continue its work.

More and more of our members are using this hassle-free method to keep up with their giving. Check it out!

## Membership

WNS Calendar:

Apr 4 Membership

Apr 11 Scripture & Coffee

Apr 18 COVERED DISH

Apr 25 CMF

Please join us for our churchwide Pig Pickin' on April 22 immediately following morning worship. We will have a bouncy house set up for the kids and fellowship for all!

Help us finish Wednesday night suppers off strong for the season with your presence. As a reminder, our regular Wednesday supper program will end for the summer at the end of April.

# SUNDAY, APRIL 22



11 am

Outdoor Worship



## Church Picnic



Worship on the lawn at 11am, then stay for the Pig Pickin' and the Bouncy House!  
Bring sides to share and join the family fun!

## April Birthdays

Melissa Davis	Apr 1
Wayne Dempsey	Apr 4
Ivy Hood	Apr 12
Johnathan Holloman	Apr 16
Alexander Irvin	Apr 19
Betsy Barrow	Apr 20
Allen Steinbauer	Apr 20

Friday 4/27 - Sunday 4/29



**CMF Fish Stew Night**

**Tues, May 1 6-7:30**

**Public welcome!**

**donations welcome**



DWM

**GENERAL MEETING**

**Sat, April 14**

**10a - 11:30**



**Sun, Apr 15 at FUMC  
12-4**



CMF invites  
you!

Coffee & Pastries

Every Sunday morning at 9:30  
Fellowship Hall



Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby  
Easter bulletin board  
Bobby Hodge Jr, Bethann Wilke  
and Ainsley's Angels at WNS  
DWM donations to North Pitt  
High School  
Fun Day Away at Camp Caroline





## April Servants

**Elders:** Lou Ann Wiley HE; Doris Briley

**Deacons:** Horace Wiley HD; Al Joyner, Marah Walker,  
Amy Church, Leslie Church

*If you are unable to serve,  
please contact someone  
to take your place.*



### Church Staff

Rev. Kevin Deibert	Senior Minister <i>pastor@fccfarmville.org</i>
Timothy Price	Director of Music <i>music@fccfarmville.org</i>
Kim Griffiths	Church Administrator <i>office@fccfarmville.org</i>
Julia Beamon	Nursery Attendant

Church Office: (252) 753-3179

Regular Office Hours:

9 am—3 pm, Mon—Thurs, 9am—12pm Fri

Also by appointment.

*office@fccfarmville.org*    *fccfarmville.org*

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

April 6—Membership  
April 11—Scripture & Coffee  
April 18—COVERED DISH  
April 25—CMF

May 16—COVERED DISH  
June 20—COVERED DISH  
July 16—COVERED DISH

### Mission of First Christian Church

#### Disciples of Christ

#### Farmville, North Carolina

*It is the mission of First Christian Church (DOC) of Farmville, NC to provide an environment where all who come can learn, fellowship, worship, and grow spiritually closer to God. We will fulfill our greater obligation to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by being of service to the members of our community and to the world. Our efforts will be done in the name of Jesus Christ.*



First  
Christian  
Church

Disciples of Christ

3776 South Main St.  
PO Box 205  
Farmville, NC 27828

**Sunday April 22**

**12pm**

**Pig Pickin'!**

**Bring sides to share**



Church  
Picnic

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 6:30 Easter Sunrise Service @ Presbyterian Church	2 Fun Day Away @ Camp Caroline	3	4 9a Quilting Bees 6p WNS— Membership cooks 7p Cabinet mtg	5	6 11a Soup Kitchen	7
8 8a Elders mtg 5p Choir practice 5p DWM Exec. mtg 6p Ministry Teams 7p General Board mtg	9 12p Farmville United @ the Cross—FCC	10	11 6p WNS— Scripture & Coffee cooks 7 New Deacon	12	13	14 10-11:30 DWM General mtg
15 8a CMF mtg 12p Blood Drive @ FUMC 5p Choir practice	16	17 9-11 FBM 7p Trustees mtg	18 6p WNS— COVERED DISH 7 Stewardship	19	20 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Regional Assembly</div>	21 7a DWM Auction
22 11a Outdoor worship 12p Pig Pickin' 5p Choir practice	23	24 6:30 Cub Scouts mtg	25 6p WNS—CMF cooks	26	27	28 DWM @ Dogwood Festival
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">4/23—4/27 Meals on Wheels</div>						
29 9:30 Unity Walk from Community Center 10 Community Worship @ Gazebo 11:30 Communion @ FCC	30	<b>SUNDAYS</b> 9:30 Coffee & Pastries <i>NEW!</i> 10a Sunday School 11a Worship				

# April