

# The Christian Caller

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## Morgan's Moment



*"...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 NKJV



**"We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us."**

I recently enjoyed a good book on prayer and spirituality by Barbara Brown Taylor. Taylor is one of my favorite authors, and I am sure if you have been listening closely you have heard me quote her in my sermons. She is an Episcopal priest, who served a parish for about a dozen years before she became a college professor. She has served on the faculties of Piedmont College, Columbia Theological Seminary, Candler School of Theology at Emory University, McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University, and the Certificate in Theological Studies program at Arrendale State Prison for Women in Alto, Georgia. She is an acclaimed author of more than a dozen books, some of which have earned places on the New York Times bestseller list. In 2014 TIME included her on its annual list of Most Influential People.

So, you get the idea that Taylor is no slouch of a person. That is why I was so surprised by what I read in her 2010 publication, *An Altar in the World*. The book is about how we can discover sacred and spiritual things in the physical and material world all around us. It is a gifted treatment of how our spirituality can be an everyday kind of practice. This is something about which Taylor knows a good bit, as she and her husband have lived and worked on a farm in Georgia for many years. There are chapters on work and play and nature and meditation and pain and rest. And, there is one in which Taylor openly shares – and this is what surprised me – that she is "a failure at prayer."

Of course, it is not for lack of trying. She confesses to have taken courses on the subject, purchased and read many books, and that she has applied a plethora of techniques for praying only to be exasperated. She writes, "I would rather show someone my checkbook stubs than talk about my prayer life. I would rather confess that I am a rotten godmother, that I struggle with my weight, that I fear I am overly fond of Bombay Sapphire gin martinis than confess that I am a prayer-weakling."

I love her for sharing that bit of information. Prayer is difficult, and yet it is one of those things that people who describe themselves as religious are supposed to have figured out. It is something we all try to take for granted, but in our more honest moments we all know that talking and listening to God in a way that is deeply fulfilling requires some work – and perhaps, more help than most of us are willing to request.

Taylor shares that she has received help from a Benedictine monk, Brother David Steindl-Rast. Brother David's simple, straightforward advice about prayer is that we should "wake up." He said that "prayer is not the same thing as prayers." While prayers are important, and praying the Psalms, for example, is a good way to work some prayers into your life, "prayer is more than saying set prayers at set times."

"Prayer, according to Brother David, is waking up to the presence of God no matter where I am or what I am doing." "When I am fully alert to whatever and whoever is right in front of me ... when I am able to give myself wholly to the moment I am in, then I am in prayer." Brother David even said that just "biting into a tomato can be a kind of prayer."

I try hard every day to find some time to be still and quiet, to read some scripture, and clear my mind of all the things that I believe distract and prevent me from hearing God's voice. Most days, I struggle to do this successfully. Sometimes, I feel like a tiny, human version of those giant dishes we have trained at the heavens listening for the sound of intelligent life from other planets. I am "all ears," but I

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hear mainly a lot of silence.

Lately though, I am grateful for Barbara Brown Taylor's book and her advice and instruction on how to see the hand of God and hear the voice of God in more obvious places. I wholeheartedly recommend it to you: *An Altar in the World: a geography of faith*, Harper Collins Publishers; \$16.00 in paperback.

Grace and peace and tomato sandwiches,

Morgan

## Consecration Sunday

On Sunday, September 13, 2020 we will celebrate Consecration Sunday. It is all about Christian commitment to our church and the giving of our gifts and treasures. Why? Because we believe in Jesus Christ and we believe he has the greatest potential to change the world and lives of the people that desperately need his love. We believe in the church and its tremendous potential for changing, improving and enriching people's lives and because God call us to help his people and serve Christ.

Let's not lose sight of why we need to grow God's ministries and mission at Farmville first Christian Church.

## Board Meeting Highlights Aug 9, 2020

Present: Judy Owens, Lou Ann Wiley, Horace Wiley, Marah Walker, Josh Walker, Julie Walker, Mary Steinbauer, Christine Dempsey, Wes Flake, Bert Smith, Paul Bryant, Al Joyner, Chester Ellis, Donna Moore, Beth Sumerlin, Miriam Lewis, Joyce Albritton, David Whitley. Also Morgan Daughety, BJ Lawrence.

**OUTREACH:** Outreach is asking the Trustees that \$1000 of the Outreach budget be allocated for the Meals on Wheels mission.

**MEMBERSHIP:** A social media policy was approved.

**STEWARDSHIP:** David Mallory will be working with FCC on our Stewardship campaign.

**WORSHIP:** Continuing discussion on what worship will look like as soon as we can resume Sunday worship in person.

**CMF:** Replaced a door and repairs at Camp Caroline—Roland Letchworth Boat House

FCC will respond to the PCS survey indicating our willingness to assist schools as they reopen.

Fall Festival 2020 is canceled.

Nominating Committee: Christine Dempsey, Joyce Albritton, Julie Walker, Miriam Lewis, Josh Walker.

**Next General Board meeting—Sept 13**

*Please contact the office for a complete copy of the minutes*

## In Our Prayers

**Prayer needs:** Catherine Allen, Miriam Bailey, Jimmy Cowan, Gene Eason, Harold Flanagan, Myrtle Sugg

**Homebound:** Mabel Bowen, Ann Byrd, Marie Cowan, Jean Ellis, Annie Gurganus, Janie Joyner, Joyce Letchworth, Joan Smith

**In service to our country:** David Groseclose, Jake Nicholson

Please notify an Elder of any changes.



Sometimes, things that are good for us are not chosen, but rather, are placed upon us. This unplanned, unwanted season of the coronavirus has delivered some of these. Among them are the changes we have experienced in worship.

Disciples have long distinguished ourselves by observing The Lord's Supper every Lord's Day. We Disciples have come to understand it as a necessary part of our weekly worship experience.

However, sometimes doing without things can be a blessing. During this time when we have been worshipping together separately, we have been intentional about celebrating Communion less frequently. This seems like a good thing, even though it is contrary to our long-standing tradition. The extra time spent waiting and preparing may just be a fitting antidote to the concessions we are making by not being together in person for worship.

So, spend some prayerful time in preparation for Communion on the second Sunday of the month. Gather your Sister Schubert yeast rolls (or the most similar bread you can find), and your fruit-of-the-vine, and call to mind all the things that we cannot see that still keep us connected, like prayers, traditions, and memories. Bring all that to the table and prepare for worship that includes a meal that, however often it is shared, is always in memory of the One who provides it for us.

## Sept Birthdays      Sept Anniversaries

Cecil Walker	Sept 1	Billy & Brenda Lovic	Sept 14
Frank Bradham	Sept 8	Jackie & Tom Bulpett	Sept 15
Barbara Wainwright	Sept 8	Melinda & Ben Sampson	Sept 27
Benjamin Albritton	Sept 9		
Elizabeth Sumerlin	Sept 12		
Paul Bryant	Sept 13		
John K Briley	Sept 21		
Al Joyner	Sept 21		
Ann Byrd	Sept 23		
Myrtle Sugg	Sept 23		

## COMING SOON

**Find out how YOU can help  
make sure everyone is counted!**

**Our community is depending on  
all of us.**

**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR.**



Dear Church:

We write to you in unprecedented times to share some unprecedented news: In a special called meeting of the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) via Zoom on Sunday, July 19, 2020, the board voted to cancel the 2021 General Assembly originally scheduled for July 31-Aug. 4, 2021, in Louisville, KY.

This was not a decision that was made lightly. After many weeks of prayer, investigation and long discussion, it became obvious to us that we needed to act in the best interests of the Church going forward. The COVID-19 pandemic has made travel and large gatherings ill-advised until the situation becomes more stable.

We have worked closely with staff to explore all our options. Regional ministers and presidents of the general ministries were consulted as well. All of us were united in our desire to keep our members safe. When we took the situation to the administrative committee, they, too, were in agreement it would be best to not gather in person next summer. The health and safety of our church family is far too important to risk meeting in an environment when we can't be sure that everyone will be safe.

Deciding now to cancel the event, even as we don't know yet know what next summer will bring, is also an act of stewardship for the Church. There will be financial implications to cancelling, but had we proceeded in planning an event which needed to be cancelled at a later date, or one which was only sparsely attended, we might have incurred even great expense.

We join you in grieving the loss of this beloved event. We have some mourning to do before we can begin to find a way forward.

We know you may have many questions and thoughts about this situation, and so we invite you to register for a live conversation Wednesday evening (Aug. 19), via Zoom and also streamed to Facebook and YouTube. In that conversation, we will share more about the process by which we arrived at this decision and reflect on the opportunities this change offers us. If you aren't able to join us, the recording of the session will be available on the General Assembly website. You are also welcome to send your questions to [news@disciples.org](mailto:news@disciples.org). We'll be gathering up the most common questions and sharing responses later this week on the General Assembly website.

Even in these difficult days, and maybe more so in these difficult days, we are united in our conviction that God is with us. Over these past several months, we have often prayed together using the words of Romans 8:38-39, which would have been our theme scripture at the General Assembly: There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

We know this to be true.

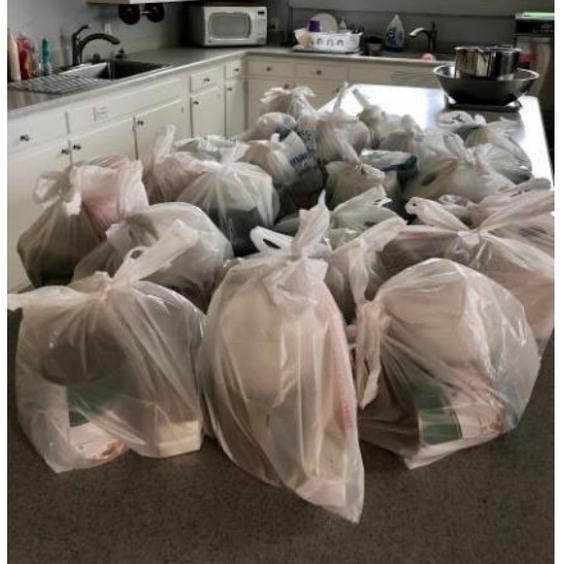
With gratitude,  
*Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President*  
*Rev. Belva Brown Jordan, Moderator*  
*Rev. Stephanie Kendell, First Vice Moderator*  
*Rev. Dr. Nestor Gomez, Second Vice Moderator*  
*Clyde Hunt, Moderator Elect*



CMF door repairs at the Roland Letchworth Boat House at Camp Caroline

Bobby Hodge Jr's birthday parade

Donations for our weekly round of food supplements for Meals on Wheels clients



## Computer Security Tips

Dear Members and Friends,

Many of us have been working from home in recent months. When we go back to the office, it may be good to assess our new environment, and make a few changes. In addition to changing out of those pajama bottoms, and putting on some "real" clothes, we may need to refresh ourselves about how to keep our computer and digital files secure.

Locking your screen when you get up from your desk is a security action that is often overlooked. Failing to lock your screen can open you up to several vulnerabilities--some more serious than others.

Although many organizations have a policy which automatically locks your screen with a screen saver after a certain amount of inactivity, not all screen savers are password-protected, leaving your workstation defenseless.

Here are a few things the bad guys can do when you leave your workstation unlocked and unattended:

- Files can be downloaded from the internet and executed on your computer, such as malware, spyware, keyloggers, and other types of malicious software.
- Emails can be sent from your email address to coworkers, your boss, or other business contacts.
- If you save passwords in your browser (another no-no), they now have access to your online banking, Facebook, and other accounts.

Locking your workstation before you get up from your desk is simple and can prevent you from ending up in a bad situation. Here are some ways you can lock your workstation:

For Windows:

- Press the Windows key + the L key at the same time on your keyboard.
- Press and hold Ctrl+Alt+Del and then choose Lock This Computer.
- For Mac:
  - If using Mac OS X (2015 and later), be sure to enable the lock screen ability. Find this under System Preferences > Security & Privacy > and look for the "Require password..." setting under the General tab.
  - Then, press Control+Command+Q on your keyboard, or do a quick web search to learn the keyboard shortcut for your Mac's Operating System.

Set up hot corners, which allows you to push your cursor to a certain corner of your screen to lock the computer. This can be set up under System Preferences > Desktop & Screen Saver then choosing Hot Corners.

Get in the habit of locking your screen. If nothing else, it will prevent coworkers from sending prank emails from your account!

### Password Safety

Creating strong passwords should be the number one priority in keeping your online world safe. Having weak passwords could result in stolen identities, loss of data or money, and even the loss of a job and/or reputation.

You've likely heard recommendations for creating secure passwords before. Experts suggest using long, complex, and random combinations of words, letters, numbers and special characters. Follow the tips below to improve your password safety practices:

- Improve the strength of your passwords. Strong passwords are usually made up of at least eight characters. They should contain numbers, uppercase and lowercase letters, as well as special characters.
- Use passphrases. Recently, security standards strongly recommend using a passphrase rather than a single word. A good passphrase is one that is unique to you so that you can remember it, but is also secret enough that no one else can guess it.
- Never use personal or obvious information in your passwords. For example, never include your name, email address, phone number, birth date, or any other information connected to you.
- Never use the same password for multiple accounts. If cybercriminals steal your password from one account and you're using that password on other accounts, then you've given them the key to all of the accounts where you've used the same password.
- Use a password manager. If your organization allows it, use a password manager to create, store, and sync complex passwords across multiple devices. Password managers only require you to remember one master password.

Ask your internal IT (or other applicable) team to see if this is something you can do.

Most importantly, if there is one available, always follow your organization's password policy. Password policies are created to keep you and your organization safe.

## Office Hours Reminder

In the early days of the coronavirus crisis, our Minister and Church Administrator began coming to the church office on alternating days, just to help with the distancing that will curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This has worked very well so far. (On days when they are not in the office, they are working from home.) Kim is here on Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Morgan is here on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Both come in on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in order to efficiently conclude the week's work, while still distancing, and masking when appropriate.

### Church Staff

Rev. Morgan Daughety 252-289-0303	Senior Minister <a href="mailto:rmorgan@fccfarmville.org">rmorgan@fccfarmville.org</a>
BJ Lawrence	Interim Director of Music <a href="mailto:music@fccfarmville.org">music@fccfarmville.org</a>
Penny McCreary	Pianist
Kim Griffiths	Church Administrator <a href="mailto:office@fccfarmville.org">office@fccfarmville.org</a>
Julia Beamon	Nursery Attendant

## September Servants

**Elders:** Miriam Lewis, HE; John Briley  
**Deacons:** Jackie Bulpett, HD; Martha West,  
David Whitley, Wes Flake, Julie Walker  
**Trustee:** Bert Smith

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

### 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.*



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

Church Office: (252) 753-3179  
Regular Office Hours:  
9 am—4 pm, Mon—Thurs, 9am—1pm Fri  
Also by appointment.  
[office@fccfarmville.org](mailto:office@fccfarmville.org) [fccfarmville.org](http://fccfarmville.org)