

The Christian Caller

fccfarmville.org

Morgan's Moment



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."

Peter Marty, the editor of *The Christian Century* magazine, recently wrote a column in which he used a very effective analogy. He noted that the windshield in his car is five feet across and three feet high. By comparison, his rearview mirror is nine inches across and about 2 inches high. The windshield, he suggested, is many, many times larger for a reason: when it comes to driving, while knowing what is behind us is helpful, looking forward is the much more critical part of the task. We need to see far and wide ahead of us to successfully navigate our journey.

That seems like a timely lesson for us in this particular moment. It can sometimes be tempting to look back on my life nostalgically and long for the past to be present again. Yet, no matter how much I want that to happen, it just isn't. One hundred percent of the rest of my life is out in front of me. It has not yet happened. And the good news is, I can have an impact on how it all unfolds – that is, provided I look through the windshield and not the rearview.

I'm reading a book now titled, *Canoeing the Mountains*. The author is Tod Bolsinger. The premise of the book is evident in the title of the very first chapter – "The World in Front of You is Nothing Like the World Behind You." Bolsinger has spent some time studying the journey of Lewis and Clark, those nineteenth century explorers who were among the very first to explore our country beyond the Mississippi and into the pacific northwest. Brave, intelligent explorers set out on their journey in canoes, fully expecting the western half of the country to look like the eastern half, with which they were familiar. They were badly mistaken. What lay ahead of them was not a river, but the Rocky Mountains. They had to ditch their canoes and figure another way to make the journey.

Bolsinger suggests that we often find ourselves in the same boat – er, canoe – as Lewis and Clark. What we are likely to experience in the future may be far different than we expect, based on our lived experience. The world is changing all around us at a rapid pace. That is an understatement, and I am certainly not the first to say it. So, Bolsinger's advice, that we need to expect the unexpected and be ready to adapt, seems like the right word at the right time.

Grace and peace and cartography, Morgan



Board Meeting Highlights

June 12, 2022

Present: Julie Walker, Kim Griffiths, Wes Flake, Al Joyner, Melinda Sampson, Jean Suggs, Donna Moore, Jason Powers, Chester Ellis, Susan Smith, Joyce Albritton, Beth Sumerlin. Also: Morgan Daughety, Tammy Matis.

EDUCATION: There will be a Movie Day in July—date TBD. Planning a community-wide back to school event for Aug 27. More details coming soon!

PROPERTY: Ramp repair is scheduled to begin Thursday June 16.

OUTREACH: Holding a Fan Drive to collect fans for community members in need during the hot summer. The board approved Outreach's request to install a Blessing Box on church property.

WORSHIP: In touch with local vendor to discuss creating a chalice set for use during worship service.

CMF: reviewing at least 2 ramp possibilities.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion about the possibility of changing the day of the week the General Board meeting is held. Discussion will continue.

Next General Board meeting: July 10, 2022

Full copy of the minutes available by contacting church office

In Our Prayers

Concerns: *Miriam & Grady Bailey, Beth Sumerlin, Nancy Quinerly, Jackson Wilkie, family of Jimmy Cowan*

Homebound: *Mabel Bowen, Marie Cowan, Annie Gurganus, Janie Joyner, Shirley Meeks, Myrtle Sugg, Ruth Taylor*

In service to our country:
David Groseclose, Jake Nicholson

Outreach

This June we distributed 80+ food boxes, 160+ pounds of cheese, SO many cucumbers, 85 bags of groceries! AND two window AC units and over 22 fans after our Fan Drive earlier in June.

VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH FOOD DISTRIBUTION ARE ALWAYS NEEDED:

On Thursday, July 28th, FCC will be feeding the Erasing the Lines youth from The Refuge camp. Breakfast will be served at the Refuge by the CMF and dinner will be served in the Fellowship Hall by DWM. Volunteers would be appreciated!

Wes is busy in the Soup Kitchen every 1st Monday of the month. He would welcome your help! He's there from about 11-1:30.

Membership

Monthly Covered Dishes continue all summer long! July 20, and August 17. Summer is a time for getting out and enjoying the beautiful weather; whether in our backyards or away on vacations. But let's not forget our church family and our covered dish Wednesday night suppers on the 3rd Wednesday of the summer months. Please try to make these nights of fellowship with each other. We all like to sit and talk for a spell (or sit and listen to others doing the talking). You don't have to bring a lot. Just bring one dish (homemade or store bought) and yourself. And if you don't have anything to bring, come anyway! Let's join and fellowship together!

DWM

Quarterly meeting coming up! We will be meeting at Bonnie's Café at 10am on Saturday, July 16. ALL women in the church are invited to come! We have food, good laughs and, most importantly, good fellowship. Put us on your calendar!

Education

On Saturday, Aug. 27, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the First Christian Church will host on its grounds the first ever community-focused Back to School Bash. It is a celebration that will welcome the beginning of the school year with fun games and kids' activities, food, and a parent resource fair for the caregivers in Farmville.

Though the bash is still in the planning stages, the confirmed activities for kids include the Farmville Public Library will be offering activities for kids to do, Farmville Police will be available to hand out school supplies to those in attendance and there will be cornhole boards, face painting and a craft booth. The parent resource fair is shaping up to welcome predominant helping agencies within the county, including Trillium, TEDI BEAR Children's Advocacy Center, the Center for Family Violence Prevention, Integrated Family Services, the Farmville Public Library, Farmville Police Department, Parents for Public Schools and Martin-Pitt Partnership for Children.

There are several organizations that are expected to be there, as well, but those confirmations are still pending. We are also welcoming all the churches in Farmville to offer support and invite parents and kids in their congregations to come out. During this event, we will also be accepting donations of school supplies for grades K-5 to be donated to our Farmville schools, Sam Bundy/HB Sugg Elementary School.

If you want to help with this endeavor, call Melinda Sampson at 252-717-4961 or email her at melindasampsonoh@gmail.com

July Birthdays

Doug Barrow	July 1
Beth Norville	July 6
Weston Powers	July 13
Bobby Jr. Hodge Jr.	July 15
James Blalock	July 16
Anna Sampson	July 17
Jessica Avery	July 19
John McDustrell	July 23
Doris Briley	July 29
Tom Bulpett	July 30
Grimes Lewis	July 30
Velinda Moore	July 31

Statement on the Supreme Court Dobbs Decision

Posted on June 25, 2022

Dear Disciples,

Today's US Supreme Court decision in Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization to overturn the 1973 Roe v Wade Supreme Court ruling granting women reproductive freedom has been met with lament and anger by many, and with celebration by others. For decades, the issue of women's reproductive rights has been a divisive one in the US, even as Roe v Wade was considered settled law and an established precedent. Hostile debates and even violence have accompanied this debate in recent years, the impacts of which have been felt in our churches as well.

The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has wrestled with the issue of abortion on the floor on many occasions, consistently affirming support for reproductive freedom for women. In these proceedings, the church has consistently affirmed the sanctity of human life. The General Assembly has also wrestled with the fact that there is not agreement within the broader Christian community as to when life begins, and has accordingly raised concerns about legislating a specific religious belief upon all Americans. The General Assembly has also affirmed education for the prevention of unwanted pregnancies, and has raised concern about the lack of access to quality healthcare for poor women, including reproductive care, and the inequity that results when that care is not available to all. We have consistently issued a call to action to address these inequities. The General Assembly has also called on congregations to provide spiritual and emotional support for women and families faced with the difficult decisions that unwanted pregnancy can present. The historical record is clear that we have sought to engage the issue of reproductive freedom in all of its complexity, resulting in consistent affirmation of a commitment to reproductive rights for women.

In our commitment to be a reflection of the reconciling love of Christ, we have always valued the importance of respecting our differing theological perspectives, calling ourselves to continue to reflect and educate ourselves on these issues, reminding ourselves that Scripture teaches that God has "reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;" (2 Corinthians 5:18, NRSVue). And so as this Supreme Court decision throws into stark relief strong divisions within our society and our church, I am reminded that the aspiration of our movement for wholeness has been to somehow bear witness to God's love in ways that model the difficult work of sharing in this common cause of Christ. As individual citizens, there are means by which we can participate to make our voices heard, change policies, impact legislation. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to do that work in ways that yet affirm God's love for all, even when we disagree.

I pray that we as Disciples will find ways to hold our hearts and be mindful of the great pain that this decision has caused for many, even as we recognize that there are also those who have welcomed this decision. As a woman, I have grown up with the understood right to make my own choices regarding reproduction, and I must honestly confess my lament that today's decision removes that freedom in many states for my daughter-in-law and my nieces. Our ability to navigate the tension of disagreement can be a powerful witness to the Christ we follow. I hope that you will familiarize yourself with the history of the church's strong support for reproductive freedom for women, and that our continued wrestling might yet bear witness to the power of God's limitless love for all.

In Christ,

Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens

<https://disciples.org/general-assembly/statement-on-the-supreme-court-dobbs-decision/>



+ foodbank + Meals On Wheels =



Church Staff

Rev. Morgan Daughety Senior Minister
rmorgan@fccfarmville.org
252-289-0303

BJ Lawrence Interim Director of Music
music@fccfarmville.org

Penny McCreary Pianist

Kim Griffiths Church Administrator
office@fccfarmville.org

July Servants

Elders: Donna Moore HE; Miriam Lewis

Deacons: Shirley Rhodes HD; Susan Smith, Suzanne Jones, Wes Flake, Al Joyner

Counting: Chester Ellis, Donna Moore

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.



**Mon, July 4
can you help?**

WED July 27
CSFP Food Boxes
Volunteers!
Please be at the
church at 9:30



**First
Christian
Church**
Disciples of 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 fccfarmville.org

**BACK TO
SCHOOL BASH**

Saturday, Aug. 27 | 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
First Christian Church, Farmville, N.C.
3776 S. Main St.,
Farmville

Bring in the 2022-2023 school year with a bang! Come on out and celebrate the beginning of a new school year.



[fccfarmville](https://www.instagram.com/fccfarmville)



First Christian Church, Farmville NC



fccfarmville.org