

The Christian Caller

Morgan's Moment

fccfarmville.org

"You are what you eat." I remember hearing that for the first time when I was still in school. It is an idea that has been around, as they say Christine, "for a good, long while."

As I understand it, Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin gave us the very first iteration of the phrase way back in 1826, in his seven-volume book *The Physiology of Taste*. He wrote, "Tell me what you eat and I will tell you what you are." Some years later, the German philosopher Ludwig Andreas Feuerbach, in 1863, repeated the idea in his essay *Spiritualism and Materialism*, saying, "A man is what he eats." Friedrich Nietzsche, even waxed philosophical about the idea in his 20th century work, *In Ecce Homo*. But you and I are familiar with the phrase, no doubt, because of English nutritionist Victor Lindlahr. In the 1920's he wrote, "Ninety percent of the diseases known to man are caused by cheap foodstuffs. You are what you eat." Then, in 1942 he parlayed this conviction into an extremely successful book: *You Are What You Eat*. Moreover, I have long made the assumption that most everyone in our modern culture takes as truth the idea that what we eat determines many things about us, including not only our relative physical health, but mental and emotional well-being as well. What we eat matters. If you don't believe it, just ask Adam and Eve.

Here at FCC, we have been actively involved with food for a long time. Our kitchen, in many ways, serves as the hub of activity for our congregation. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are prepared in our kitchen on a regular basis, as are fish stews, Wednesday Night Suppers, food for birthday parties, and meals for families who are preparing for the funeral of a loved one. We feed each other on a regular basis. And I would say the nourishment we provide and the community we build are substantial.

And we don't just eat in. We also provide take-out. We collect it and give it away on a regular basis. Over time, we have accumulated new partners and resources, and thereby have increased the amount of food we can give away, as well as the quality of the items we include in our bags. It is a good feeling to give someone food that is both delicious and nutritious. We have upgraded our efforts here, from doing something that just helps people to get by, to giving them food that lifts them up. Because what we eat matters.

I was thrilled recently to learn of the work being done by Kendall Vanderslice, a baker, writer, and public theologian. A graduate of Duke Divinity School (Master of Theological Studies), Boston University (MLA Gastronomy), and Wheaton College (BA Anthropology), she has committed her life to the study of food and community formation. Kendall is a professionally trained baker, having learned from several top American pastry chefs. In 2018, she was named a James Beard Foundation national scholar for her work bridging food and religion.

Kendall leads a project called "Edible Theology" that is based on the idea that we live in the midst of two interlocking crises: 1) a crisis of loneliness, and 2) a crisis of political and cultural polarization. At the root of both is an unmet need for belonging. On the website at, www.edibletheology.com, you can find more information about the several programs offered to help folks make connections between what and how we eat and our physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health. I hope to introduce Kendall and one of her programs to our congregation and community very soon, because what we "eat" matters.

In the meantime, I'll be here eating my veggies, and trying not to eat too many carbs nor too much refined sugar. That has proven difficult so far this month.

Grace and peace & strawberry shortcake, Morgan

VBS!

Vacation Bible School will be held from Sunday, June 11 to Wednesday, June 14, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church in Farmville. This year, we are going on an epic adventure to help children understand that each of us is on a journey of faith. When we follow Jesus, He will move us to do what Jesus says, believe who Jesus is, love who Jesus loves, share what Jesus did, and go where Jesus leads. Each night, the children will have a supper, classes, and activities. The cost of VBS is \$6 with t-shirts \$9. Preregistration ends on May 24, so please submit your registration information to ensure your child gets the appropriate size t-shirt. If you have any questions, please contact the FCC office at (252) 753-3179 or Melinda Sampson at (252) 717-4961. You can submit your registration information to FCC or email them to office@fccfarmville.org. Ages 4 through 5th grade. *Registration form:* fccfarmville.org



OUTREACH

In March, for the first time since we started distributing the food boxes, we gave ALL of them away. 90 of them out the door, plus produce and cheese. I hope the number keeps growing.

Weekly, we're delivering 24 bags of groceries to Home Delivered Meals clients that are filled with meat, fresh produce, fresh bread and more!

We are putting together 36 hygiene kits for Church World Service. They will get delivered to Rev. David Mallory next month.

The Soup Kitchen is as busy as ever with 40-50 meals being served every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. First Christian Church is there the first Monday of every month—if you'd like to help, let us know! Katharine Griffiths is our team leader over there.

Our mission reach has led us to be active in the Farmville Food Task Force. This group is led by Frank Bradham, and born out of a series of community meetings that were held at the Episcopal Church earlier this year. The group has done some VERY impressive things already. One of the most valuable benefits has been the network that's been established. Our meetings are opportunities for sharing ideas, questions (that someone there can usually answer), and how we all get it done.

Agencies represented regularly at the meetings include: FCC, the Community Outreach Kitchen, Shepherd's Pantry, Boys & Girls Club, Youth Justice from ECU, Interfaith Clergy, Salvation & Praise church, Mt Moriah church, and the Community Garden. Accomplishments so far include a comprehensive list of all the food assistance opportunities in Farmville that's being shared through many different agencies like the VA, Community Center, Social Services – basically anyone of us who gives out food or other kinds of help. That list is also being translated into Spanish.

We've been sharing commodities with each other when someone has too much of a particular thing. We share needs for volunteers so we can help each other out.

It's an amazing collaboration, and as Morgan has said, "There's a Spirit moving through Farmville!"

Our intern, Catherine Francis has been awesome, and I'm so sad that her time with us is up. This will leave a BIG hole in our weekly operations around here. Catherine has been riding along with Tammy every week and also every month on Food Box day. Every week she helps unload the van's Food Bank haul and put it away. She's kept an eye on the Blessing Box here, too. She's helped with pamphlets, lists, signs, finding income opportunities, and more. She's been a huge help with all the balls we're juggling around here and always ready to jump in. I know she'll go on to do amazing things! We'll need everyone's help in stepping back in to do the things she's been handling. Please consider helping out on Wednesdays with the Food Bank pick-up and/or each Thursdays with delivering our grocery bags, and every 4th Wednesday for distribution and/or riding with Tammy to deliver some of the boxes. We can't do it without help!

Thank you, everyone! *Kim Griffiths, Outreach Team Chair*

from our intern

I would like to preface this by thanking you all for welcoming me with open arms and helping me have an amazing internship here at First Christian Church. With this being my first internship, I was a little nervous about what to expect, but that quickly went away once I saw how passionate you all were about the food outreach programs and food insecurity here in Farmville. I have been able to learn more about food insecurity, food outreach programs, collaboration, evaluation, assessment, policies, and so much more that the list goes on. Working with you all on box distribution days and home delivered meals routes has been such an incredible learning experience and I cannot wait to see what you all accomplish next! You all are an amazing group of people!

Catherine Francis, ECU Masters of Social Work Student

In Our Prayers

Concerns: *Miriam & Grady Bailey, Carolyn Hawke, Harold Flanagan, Beth Norville, Maury Verzier, David Whitley, Family of Annie Gurganus, Family of Brenda Elks*

Homebound: *Mabel Bowen, Marie Cowan, Carolyn Hawke, Janie Joyner, Shirley Meeks, Nancy Quinerly, Myrtle Sugg, Ruth Taylor*

In service to our country:
David Groseclose, Jake Nicholson

May Birthdays

John Redden Lewis	May 4
Noah Knox	May 5
Carolyn Hawke	May 9
Sallie Eason	May 11
Suzanne Davis-Pelerine	May 19
Sean Verzier	May 25
Johnny J. Briley	May 30

May Anniversaries

Jason & Brandy Powers May 21



Growing Disciples

May Schedule

May 7 (Donna Moore lunch)

May 14—No meeting

May 21 (Suzanne Jones lunch)

May 28 Finale before summer break

**KINDOM
OF GOD
WITHIN US
AMONG US**

GENESIS 11:1-9 • LUKE 17:20-21 • 2 PETER 1:3

July 29 - August 1, 2023 · Louisville

Long-Range Planning Update April 2023

In January and February of this year, the Long-Range Planning Committee met with several focus groups to collect information to help us with our planning going forward. The focus groups did not include every active member of the church, but rather a cross-section of our membership. We plan to involve additional members in future activities, as this is an on-going process. It is our intention to keep everyone apprised of our progress as we move through this process.

During the sessions earlier this year, we asked six questions of each focus group. Those questions, and the most frequent answers are as follows:

Why did you join this church? When asked this question, the most frequent answers were, 1) because of the emphasis our church gives to inclusiveness, (meaning, because of the welcome offered to everyone, regardless of their age, gender, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation) 2) because I am a legacy member, (meaning, my parents and/or grandparents brought me here) and 3) because a friend invited me.

What makes you stay at this church? When asked this question the most frequent answers were, 1) because of the people, 2) because of the emphasis this church places on inclusiveness, and 3) because of the mission work of this church.

What word describes the ideal church? When asked this question, the most frequent answers were, 1) inclusiveness, and 2) mission work.

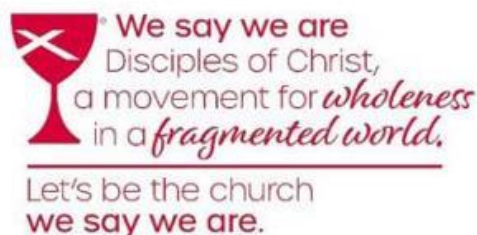
What words describe what it is like to be a member here? When asked this question, the most frequent answers were, 1) supportive, and 2) inclusive.

What do you value most? When asked this question, the most frequent answers were, 1) mission work, 2) Communion, 3) music, 4) children's programming, and 5) fellowship.

What advice would you give to make us a better church? When asked this question, the most frequent answer was, 1) openness to change.

What would you look for in a new church? When asked this question, the most frequent answers were, 1) children's programming, 2) more energy, 3) mission work, 4) Communion, 5) traditional worship, and 6) fellowship.

The Long-Range Planning Committee is grateful to all those who participated in the focus groups. In the months ahead we will be gathering additional information through a survey in addition to other venues, and will share more information as it is gathered. The Long-Range Planning Committee is comprised of: John Briley (Chair), Jason Powers, Joyce Albritton, Wayne Dempsey, Miriam Lewis.



We are a Movement for Wholeness in a Fragmented World

In the beginning, every church was new.

It's right there in the Book of Acts. Early disciples came together, sharing all things in common, breaking bread with glad and generous hearts. God was doing a new thing: creating a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

In the beginning, Jesus sent out disciples, two by two, not to "plant" churches, but to proclaim good news, to experience the hospitality and wisdom of neighbors all around.

At New Church Ministry, we believe God is calling the whole Church back to becoming new... back to becoming who we are: a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

Your gifts to the 2023 Pentecost Offering, received this year in most congregations on Sundays, May 21 and 28, help ensure our movement continues to embody the Disciples of Christ vision: to be and to share the Good News, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.

Half of your gift supports the local new church movement through your region's ministry. The other half supports New Church Ministry efforts across the United States and Canada to equip, train, and empower new leaders.

So, thank you. For participating in the new thing God is still doing — just as in the beginning.

Please give generously to the Pentecost Offering. *May 21 & 28, 2023*



Spring has sprung at Camp Caroline! The staff and volunteers have been busy bees getting the facility ready for a very exciting season of retreats, family reunions, weddings, and CAMP! Today is our Spring Retreat Work Day and many volunteers have gathered together to help make improvements at camp! Thank you!!

There are many ways to continue to help Camp Caroline get ready for camp. Please consider helping in one or more of these special ways:

- **Pray** - Pray for the campers, councilors, directors and year round camp staff for an amazing summer camp season. Pray that camp is a place of welcoming love, a Holy Ground, where we can be our authentic selves and learn our 2023 camp theme "Get Real: Finding Your True Self in Jesus". Find out more about camp and register at: campcaroline.org.

- **Share** - Share with your congregation, community, and youth about Camp Caroline! Visit our updated website (campcaroline.org) or keep up-to-date with all things camp by liking us on Facebook and Instagram and sharing the exciting things happening at Camp Caroline.
- **Volunteer** - Camp is looking for volunteers who would like to spend a week at camp being the camp nurse! Consider spending a week on camp ministering to the ochiees that sometimes happen at camp. If you are interested in learning more about being a Regional Volunteer Camp Nurse contact Amber at amber@ncdisciples.org or call 252.249.0848.
- **Give** - Camp Caroline has a new Amazon Camp Wish List! Click on this link (https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/516ORC2ML1BD?ref_=wl_share) and consider donating a special item that would help make our camp experience even more grand! Or, consider sponsoring snacks for the campers by making a donation to the Canteen.

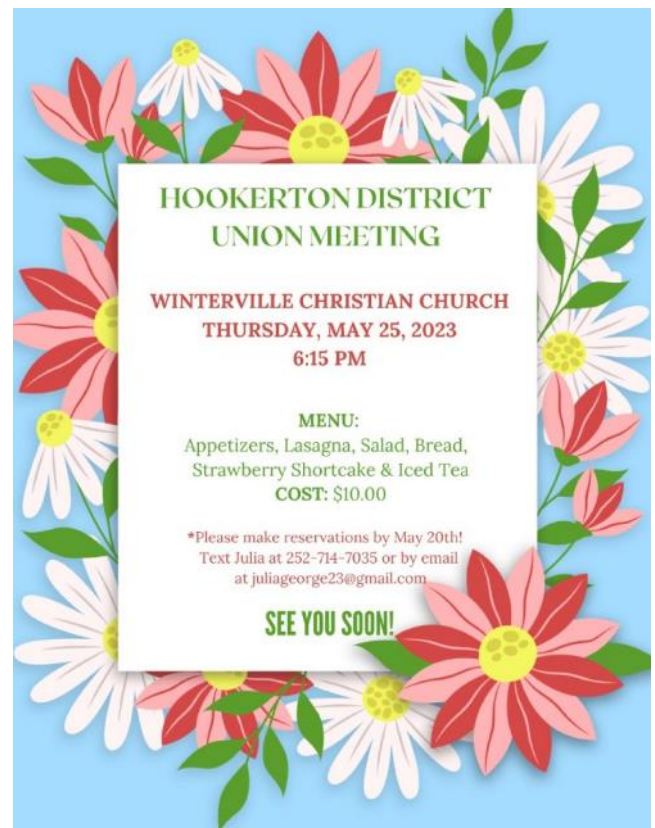
Thank you for your prayers, witness, and support to Camp Caroline.





Summer Camp Registration is live! We have something for everyone from kindergarten to seniors! Remember that summer camp registration goes by grade just completed. Register today: <https://ncdisciples.org/summer-camp/>

CYF (grades 9th-12): June 18th-23rd
Created to be Me (grade 8th): June 25th-July 1st
JYF (grades 2nd-5th): July 9th-14th
Chi-Rho (grades 6th & 7th): July 16th-21st
UNO (grades K-2nd): July 27th-30th

If you have any questions, please contact Courtney Cartwright at courtney@ncdisciples.org.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 11 Soup Kitchen	2	3	4 9a weekly food bags	5	6
7 8:30 Elders mtg 11 Worship 12 Growing Disciples 5 VBS mtg 6 Ministry Teams 7 General Board	8 5:30 FH reserved 7 DWM—church library	9	10 6p Wed Night Supper—Covered Dish	11 9a weekly food bags	12	13
14 MOTHER'S DAY 11a Worship	15 	16 9-11 FBM 7p Trustees mtg	17	18 9a weekly food bags	19	20
21 8a CMF mtg 11 Worship 12 Growing Disciples 12 DWM Churchwide Lunch	22	23	24 9:30 Food Box Distribution	25 9a weekly food bags 6:15 Hookerton District mtg @ W'interville Christian	26	27
28 PENTECOST 11 Worship 12 Growing Disciples	29 MEMORIAL DAY Office closed 	30	31			

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

Madeline Craft Nursery Attendant

May Servants

Elders: Donna Moore HE; Christine Dempsey
Deacons: Jackie Bulpett HD; Horace Wiley,
Jean Suggs, Cecil Walker
Counting: Wayne Dempsey, Donna Moore

Wednesday Night Suppers

May 10 Covered Dish
June 14 Covered Dish



Mon, May 1
can you help?

WED May 24
CSFP Food Boxes
Volunteers!
Please be at the
church by 9:30



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

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



VBS

June 11-14 5:30-8:30
First Christian Church
fccfarmville.org for registration form



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



First Christian Church, Farmville NC



fccfarmville.org

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