

# The Christian Caller

## Morgan's Moment

fccfarmville.org

Sometimes our prayers are answered in ways we do not expect. It happened to me recently.

I have been part of a Lenten study group during the weeks that led us up to Easter. In that group we read and discussed *Hard & Holy Work*, by Birdwhistell and Mayfield. Their book is a Lenten journey through the book of Exodus, with a view toward issues of justice, equity, and the unexpected. This is so very appropriate, since the book of Exodus is the story of how God used Shiphrah, Puah, Pharaoh, and Moses and others to liberate the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

One objective of the authors was to make readers more aware of people and groups of people around us who are in need of liberation. In their opening chapter, they write: "This week we consider the theme of a God who sees – and not merely sees but also pays deep attention. How might we attend, as God does, to those often ignored, and then act on our new vision?"

During the second week of Lent I took a few days of vacation and traveled to the Virginia mountains to see friends and do a little trout fishing. The day we set aside for fishing was a very cold, beautiful, sunny day. When the temperature is below freezing, fish – even mountain trout – are not very active. So fishing was slow early on, but as it got nearer to the Noon hour, it began to warm up and prospects for catching a trophy trout increased. That's when my prayer was answered.

I was walking along this beautiful stream on perfectly flat ground, when I inexplicably slipped, and one foot went right out from under me and the other got caught underneath me as I fell backwards. As soon as I hit the ground, I knew I had injured my ankle severely. I learned later that day I had broken my fibula.

The next few days were much different than I had planned, and I quickly learned two things: 1) how to not do things I have always taken for granted, like standing, walking, and running, and 2) how to do things I've never had to do, like have people help me and wait on me.

Although there were other people fishing the stream, at the time of my fall no one was close by. So, I got up and began limping my way back to where we had parked the car. And it was during that part of my journey that day that the words of Birdwhistell and Mayfield came to mind, and I remember being prompted to ask myself a question: Do you think now, you can "pay attention" to those around you who are injured, either temporarily or permanently? "Yes, Lord! I hear you!"

Fly fishing for trout can be a beautiful experience. On a good day when everything goes just right – when you make the perfect cast to the perfect spot using the perfect lure – and the line goes tight and the rod bends double, it really is quite a lovely experience. However, on a not so good day, when the wind is blowing and casting is difficult and trees seem to reach out and grab your lure and line and reorder it into a tangled mess, it can be frustrating, even maddening.

Well, I don't think God caused me to fall that day, nor do I think God wanted me to hurt myself. However, I do think it may have been God who used two authors I've never met, a trout stream, and an unexpected moment to whisper in my ear something important right after I fell.

In his book about fly fishing in Texas, Steve Ramirez has written about how fishing can help us incorporate the yin and yang of the human experience. He writes:

Sometimes, my casts are beautiful, graceful, like a dance that mixes air and water. Other times, I think about it too much and put too much effort into the cast. When I do this, my casts bounce back and tangle into wind knots or around the pole tip or even in a nearby tree. It is not beautiful or poetic. In any other instance, something like this would bring out my lesser nature: you know, the one that drives down the road in heavy traffic impatient with the pace of it all. I don't like that guy. When I'm on the river, wind knots and tree knots do not bother me. I remain in the moment, and I marvel at the intricacies of the tangled line around the willow tree branch. I calmly unwind it as I listen to the sounds of the river and the birds.

If only I could always be as I am when I encounter a wind knot or wrap my leader around a blade of grass. Perhaps if I relaxed and came to understand that life just happens, and we must take the time to learn from it and unwind it all with a sense of calm acceptance. Perhaps if I make myself take notice that no matter what obstructs my forward movement, it also invites me to pause, breathe, and just be – with the sights, sounds, and sensations of the moment; in this way each moment is like a lover's embrace: rare, beautiful, fleeting. (Ramirez, Steve.

## In Our Prayers

**Concerns:** Perry Beamon, Nancy Bradham, Gene Martin, Ashlee Neilson, Beth Norville, Amelia Ross, Beth Sumerlin, David Whitley

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

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

Please notify an Elder of any changes.

### Please remember:

**As an Elder, Deacon, or Officer of First Christian Church, one of your responsibilities is to attend monthly General Board meetings. The church cannot conduct its business without you!**

**Thank you.**

## April Birthdays

Wayne Dempsey April 4  
Waker Powers April 9  
Mark Matis April 30

## April Anniversaries

Joe & Amanda Tomkiewicz Apr 6



COVID put up a wall around many of our traditions—one of which is celebrating new members! We're excited to welcome these new and 'newer' FCC members to the family:

**Mathin Ange, Mark Matis, Tammy Matis, Lynn Blunier, Madeline Craft, Dorothy Haller, Milton Helms, Laurie Helms, Sarah Reckley, Maurey Verzier, Alysa Verzier, Sean Verzier, Courtney Martin, and Eugene Martin.**

They will be honored on Sunday, April 21.

## Growing Disciples

**Sundays  
12-1:30**



## Outreach

We distributed 113 boxes of food and 226 pounds of cheese on Feb 27

Each Thursday we're sending out 43 bags of groceries to all of the Home Delivered Meals clients (and the waiting list) in Farmville

We'll be putting together 25 hygiene kits and 25 period packets for Church World Service next month. They'll get delivered to Hillyer Memorial Church in Raleigh. We collected 16 units at our Red Cross Blood Drive on March 5.

10 containers of Boy Scout Chili and cobbler were donated by their Feast of the East Chili Cook-off and delivered to some homebound seniors in town. And a LOT of Girl Scout cookies, too

Some of our 'outreach' comes in the form of help given behind the scenes, and we're happy to be able to help in that way, too.

THANK YOU for your support.

# ripe revival

**Reviving Communities Through Food**  
Efforts to "bridge the gap between  
FARM EXCESS and FOOD ACCESS"

EVERY WEDNESDAY 10:30-12 in front of First Christian Church and the May Museum. Fresh produce, groceries, dairy products and more! ALL operated on a "pay what you can" basis.

**Come check it out!**

*(schedule subject to change)*

Moment cont. pg 1

(2020). Casting Forward: fishing tales from the Texas hill country. Lanham, MD: The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc.)

One of the things I learned during Lent and Easter this year is to slow down and pay attention. I am grateful for that, even though I learned it the hard way.

Grace and peace and answered prayers,  
Morgan

## Minister's Report to the General Board First Christian Church, Farmville, NC

March 10, 2024 Report for February

### Narrative Summary

The three discussion groups that have been initiated recently have gone very well. (Two Lent-related discussion groups and one for parents of our young children.) I am pleased to have these significant educational groups in progress, as they are all contributing to faith formation among our congregants.

I am also pleased that we have continued to observe Ash Wednesday with the members at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. The opportunity to experience a different kind of worship, (i.e. more liturgical) is enjoyable and nourishing for all of us. Additionally, it is helping to foster a mutually beneficial relationship with the church and the members at Emmanuel.

### Significant Activities to Date

With Elders, delivered Home Communion to Homebound Members (2.4)  
Farmville Ministerial Assoc. (2.8)  
CMF Ramp Build (2.9 and 2.10)  
H.B. Sugg Stewards (2.12)  
Wednesday Night Supper (2.14)  
Ash Wednesday Service (2.14)  
CMF Breakfast (2.18)  
Elders' Meeting (2.18)  
Ministry Teams & Board Mtg. (2.18)  
FBM Duty (2.20 and 2.27)  
Theology on Tap (2.27)



### Significant Action Items to Date

Initiated two Lenten discussion groups: 1) *Coloring Lent*, and 2) *Hard and Holy Work: a Lenten Journey Through the book of Exodus*.  
Initiated a book reading and discussion group among parents of young children to explore children's spirituality.  
Received two new members (Courtney Martin and Eugene Martin) into our congregation's fellowship. (2.25)  
Received, on behalf of the congregation, an appreciation gift from Farmville Chamber of Commerce for our assistance with Taste of Farmville. (2.19)  
Historic H.B. Sugg Strategic Planning Meeting (2.24)

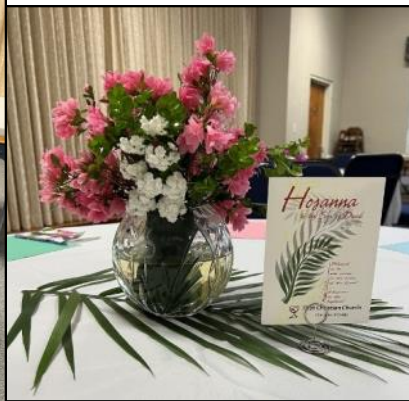
### Continuing Education

RAFI Workshop – *Listening and Sharing Sacred Stories* (2.6.2024)  
Farmville Food Hub Learning Collaborative (2.26)



*Disciples Women's Ministries*  
*of the First Christian Church of Farmville*  
Chance to win:  
**Quilt 54x68 inches**  
**Pieced by Shirley Meeks**  
**Quilted by Lori Millsap, ITQ**  
Drawing on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 4pm  
**\$1.00 Donation**  
*You do not have to be present to win!*





## 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

## April Servants

**Elders:** Bert Smith HE, Miriam Lewis  
**Deacons:** Beth Sumerlin HD, Wes Flake,  
Tammy Matis  
**Counting:** Bert Smith, Miriam Lewis

## Wednesday Night Suppers

**April 10 Membership**      **May 15 DWM**  
**April 24 Covered Dish**      **May 29 Covered Dish**

## Community Outreach Kitchen

**Mon, May 6**  
**can you help?**

**WED April 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

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Church Office: (252) 753-3179  
Regular Office Hours:  
9 am—4 pm, Mon—Thurs, 9am—1pm Fri  
Also by appointment.  
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[fccfarmville](https://www.instagram.com/fccfarmville)



First Christian Church, Farmville NC



[fccfarmville.org](http://fccfarmville.org)

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue   | Wed   | Thu   | Fri | Sat  |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----|--|
|   | 1<br>Outreach<br>Kitchen 11-1                           | 2<br>7p Outreach<br>Team mtg                  | 3<br>6:30 Fellowship Hall<br>reserved—Cub<br>Scouts                             | 4<br>9:30 Senior Food<br>Bags<br><br>10 Safety mtg at<br>Outreach Kitchen | 5   | 6  |
| 7<br><br>11 Worship<br>12 Growing Disciples   | 8<br><br>5:30 FH re-<br>served—<br>American Le-<br>gion | 9<br><br>6:30 FH re-<br>served—Cub<br>Scouts  | 10<br><br>6 Wed Night Supper<br>Membership cooks                                | 11<br>9 Senior Food<br>Bags   | 12  | 13   |
| <b>Kim out of office Sat, April 6—Sun, April 14</b>   |   |   |   |   |     |  |
| 14<br>11 Worship<br>12 Growing Disciples<br>5 DWM Executive mtg<br>6 Ministry Teams mtgs<br>7 General Board mtg                   | 15<br><br>7 DWM—<br>church library                      | 16<br>9-11 FBM<br><br>7 Trustees<br>mtg       | 17<br><br>6:30 FH reserved—<br>Cub Scouts                                       | 18<br><br>9:30 Senior Food<br>Bags  | 19  | 20   |
| 21<br>8 CMF mtg<br>8:30 Elders mtg<br>11 Worship<br>12 Growing Disciples<br>12 New Members Lunch<br>2-4 FH reserved—Cub<br>Scouts | 22  | 23<br><br>6:30 FH re-<br>served—Cub<br>Scouts | 24<br>9:30 Food Box Distri-<br>bution<br><br>6 Wed Night Supper<br>Covered Dish | 25<br>9:30 Senior Food<br>Bags  | 26  | 27<br><br>10-4 DWM<br>tent at Dog-<br>wood<br>Festival |
| 28<br>10 FARMVILLE UNITED<br>@ THE CROSS<br>Community Worship at<br>Town Common   | 29  | 30  |   |   |     |  |

**April at FCC**

