



The Charleroi Christian

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

April 2023

61 Walnut Ridge Road
Charleroi, PA 15022-3322

Church Office: (724) 489-9014

Church's email: fcccharleroi@gmail.com

Web Site: www.fcc-charleroi.com

Pastor Dennis Stitch

Pastor's email: dennis.stitch@gmail.com

Pastor's Cellphone (724) 316-9255

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Luke 6:36 NIV

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

Welcome to our April 2023 Newsletter.

Looking at the above scripture can challenge all of us in life to meet the Lord's expectation. We like to receive mercy and forgiveness more than give it. Why? It's hard for us to keep our composure when someone takes a parking space we were waiting for, someone says something to us that is hurtful, we are treated unfairly on our job. I have definitely experienced these situations in my life. I assure you mercy and forgiveness were not the first thing that came to my mind. I tell you the bible is very clear, mercy is utmost important to God. It is so important that He sent HIS Son, Jesus Christ, to die so He could pour out mercy on us. He commands us in scripture to show mercy to others even when we feel they don't deserve it. So the best we can do in life is to follow Jesus' command and show mercy to others. Is it easy? Absolutely not, but we must ask our Father in heaven to give us the strength to follow Jesus' command to be merciful. So when we face this type of challenge in our life, let us pray to God to strengthen us.

Last month, on March 12th, I was installed as your Pastor. It was truly a blessing to be officially welcomed by the First Christian Church family. Rev. Dr. Thaddaeus Allen, Regional Minister of Disciples of Christ, performed the installation service. Afterwards we enjoyed a spirit filled gathering of fellowship, excellent food and wonderful conversations.

My first sermon, after the installation on March 19th, focused on how a person who has accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, has the Holy Spirit living inside of them. The spirit inside of you is greater than the spirit that's in the world, 1 John 4:4. We are **VICTORIOUS!** We closed out the month on Sunday, March 26th, comparing the difference between **Human Perspective vs. Divine Perspective.** We learned how keeping the Divine perspective in life will make a huge difference as we walk through this life. In addition, the congregation was blessed with a visit from Mike "The HitMan" Easler, former World Series Champion of the 1979 Pittsburgh

Pirates. Mike played on the "WE ARE FAMILY" team. He is an ordained minister and shared his experiences of playing 14 years in the Major Leagues of professional baseball.

The Good News is the Gospel and spreading His word throughout the world. Sharing how a person can be free from bondage by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of his or her life. Remember, what He has done for me, He will also do for you. Invite Him into your heart today. HE's the difference maker!

Come and visit us. We at First Christian Church Disciples of Christ, Charleroi, would love to see you.

May God's Peace be ever present in your life.

Senior Pastor, Dennis J. Stitch

NEW MEMBERS

During the month of February, somehow, yours truly forgot to mention that Gary Dunmeyer had joined our church family on February 5, 2023. In March of 2023, Pam Smith and Tammy Greco became members. We are so blessed to welcome all of you to our church family.

Also, Betty MacDonald, reactivated her membership. Welcome back Betty! We have missed you.

"I am the Lord, and I do not change."-Malachi 3:6 NLT



Tithes and offerings

A STEWARDSHIP REMINDER

PLEASE REMEMBER:

JUST BECAUSE YOU MAY NOT BE AT CHURCH ON A GIVEN SUNDAY, THE

Church Office (724) 489-9014
Web Site: www.fccharleroi.com

LIGHTS ARE STILL ON, THE FURNACE AND AIR CONDITIONERS ARE STILL IN USE, THE CUSTODIAN HAS CLEANED THE CHURCH, AND THE BILLS STILL NEED TO BE PAID. SO, IF YOU HAPPEN TO MISS A SUNDAY (OR THREE OR FOUR SUNDAYS) **PLEASE MAKE UP YOUR PLEDGE/OFFERING.**

THANK YOU!

Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?'"
In tithes and offerings!! -Malachi 3:8

BIRTHDAYS

April 2	Alize Marie Gernot
April 7	Joe Valla; Bob Gilpin
April 13	Ken Ballentyne
April 19	Ethan Santo; JoAnna Frederick
April 20	Gary Dunmeyer
April 24	Karie Kolodychak
April 26	Kyrsten Cole
April 29	Candy Callery



ANNIVERSARIES

April 11	Wesley & Lettie Porter
April 17	Joe & Sarah McCurdy

MOVIE NIGHT AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH – 7 P.M. – SOCIAL HALL

THANKS TO MALCOLM CALLERY, **EVERY THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH**, A MOVIE WILL BE PRESENTED FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT. COME AND FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH'S SOCIAL HALL.

ELDERS' FOR APRIL COMMUNION



April 2	Debbie Colvin Mary Valla
April 6	Tom Griffith Taryn Grant
April 9	Dennis Caldwell Deb Caldwell
April 16	Cora Russell Paula Barndollar
April 23	Joe Valla Diane Rusak
April 30	Mary Valla Debbie Colvin

Prayer Concerns

- *Linda Ingram (Betty Jo's aunt) fell and had surgery on her femur. Prayers for healing.
- *For Jill Cramer Skaris (Sandy & Harold Cramer's daughter) in Mercy Hospital, going to have a procedure done for a lower body abscess, but due to her bleeding/blood clot condition, she needs a special doctor before they can treat her. Requested by: Sandy & Harold Cramer
- *Sympathy and Concerns for the Family and Friends of Joe Wojick, who died recently. Requested by: Sherry & Mike Erdely
- *Debbie Lessman (Jeff's wife) fell and has a broken nose and a broken wrist. Prayers for healing and strength,
- *Patty Coursin had gall bladder surgery on March 20.
- *Deanna Shingleton (Cheryl Blair's daughter) needs an MRI for lesions found in her liver.
- *Harvey Dunmeyer had a tumor removed, a drainage stent and another procedure to keep the right kidney strong. Healing prayers and comfort. **Update**: Harvey's tumor was cancerous and he needs chemotherapy.
- *Lauren Snyder (Cora's son Jarrod's girlfriend) was thrown from a horse. Multiple fractures and head injury. Healing prayers and comfort. **Update**: She is home now. Praise God
- *Aliah's father who is receiving a new kidney. Requested by: Erin
- *Leota Voelker's sister, Beth, had a 4 hr. surgery on Monday, March 13th to remove a benign tumor behind her ear. They found the tumor after she popped her lens implant. **Update**: She is doing well.
- *For Chris Sekora, 42 yrs. old, just had his 4th brain tumor surgery. He is going blind. Requested by: Aunt, Nancy Swingle from Texas
- *For Dan and Mary Ann Beagle. Mary Ann had an extremely bad fall and landed on her face. No broken bones; however, she had a 2nd fall. She is Joey DeMoss's (from Sierra Catholic) grandmother.

JOYS

- *Betty Jo's Sister's Grandson & wife are going to have a baby – Making Grace a great, great grandmother.
- *Betty Jo's son Mark was able to get his Student Loan debt of \$180,000.00 forgiven because he worked for a non-profit for over 10 years.
- *Bertha Zollars is now living at the Mon Valley Care Center on the 3rd floor. She is happy with the move. Just needed a little help. Requested by: Debbie Colvin
- * Mary Jo Short's scan of the spinal lesions shows no growth; however, she is having an MRI of her brain due to issues and falls. Praying for good test results. Requested by: Deb Caldwell

Thank You

Pastor Dennis wishes thank his First Christian Church Family for the beautiful communion set given to him at his recent installation. It was greatly appreciated.

Under Long-Term Prayer

<i>Our Leaders*</i>	<i>Marlene Celaschi*</i>	<i>Sophia Renk*</i>
<i>Our Troops*</i>	<i>Ellis & Darla White*</i>	<i>Betty Jo Matesich*</i>
<i>Our Church*</i>	<i>Bill & Garnet Krutz*</i>	<i>Nancy Lessman*</i>
<i>Universities*</i>	<i>Rocky Renk*</i>	<i>Sherry Ballentyne*</i>
<i>Grace Vandernitte*</i>	<i>Father Bob Hanna*</i>	<i>Kristin Colvin*</i>
<i>Justin Sutch*</i>	<i>Missy Pendleton*</i>	<i>Miley Ava Delval*</i>
<i>Karin Brightwell*</i>	<i>Helen Gootee</i>	<i>Grethen & Tom Speece*</i>
<i>Lila Risch*</i>	<i>Alicia Hruby*</i>	<i>Sarah Matay*</i>
<i>Bertha Zollars*</i>	<i>Jack Sharp*</i>	<i>Gage Peters*</i>
<i>Lois Buberniak*</i>	<i>Hannah Simpson*</i>	<i>Cindy Buckley*</i>
<i>Michael Erdely*</i>	<i>Laverne Giordanengo*</i>	<i>Dave & Chrissy Zoltun*</i>
<i>Tanner Riley*</i>	<i>Patty Strychalski*</i>	<i>Mike Shingleton*</i>
<i>Jessica Beimel*</i>	<i>Terri Brownfield*</i>	<i>Richard Evans*</i>
<i>Heather Simpson*</i>	<i>Victor Angelo*</i>	<i>Debbie Colvin*</i>
<i>Small Businesses*</i>	<i>Christian Colleges*</i>	<i>Mary Jo Short*</i>
<i>Brian Stillwagon*</i>	<i>Bob Gilpin*</i>	<i>Margie D'Antonio*</i>
<i>Joe & Betty Jo Rapp*</i>	<i>Karl & Dorothy Semekoski*</i>	<i>Sam & Jane Semekoski *</i>
<i>Bre Randolph*</i>	<i>Tonya Kepich*</i>	<i>Mae Lynn Rose*</i>
<i>Andrew DeBroeck*</i>	<i>Jesse & Joseph Bird*</i>	<i>Connie Siranni*</i>
<i>Rudy Guy*</i>	<i>Matt Sezawich*</i>	<i>Senia Lowther*</i>
<i>Gene Kite*</i>	<i>Rev. Doug Bush*</i>	<i>Rev. Chuck House*</i>
<i>Ingri Humphrey*</i>	<i>Betty Draganac*</i>	<i>Rich Graham*</i>
<i>Jake Hurley*</i>	<i>Lauren Snyder*</i>	<i>Tony Gaisbacher*</i>

EVANGELISM – Margie D'Antonio

There were 16 prayer letters sent last month.

These prayer letters are always available in the narthex for you to sign and to put a name in the notebook for someone to get the prayer letter. You can call Margie at 724-239-2560 with a request, too!

*******THE CHURCH HAS A NEW WEBSITE: WWW.FCC-Charleroi.com *******

Thank you to Ed Gould for establishing our new website domain.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

ELDER'S PRAYER

It's April and I'm ready to offer my prayer to God. One thing I want to ask before my prayer begins: Do any of you say, "Good Morning, Jesus or God?" A lot of different people tell their life stories to live by.

Good morning! This is God! I will be handling all your problems today. Isn't it wonderful we have Jesus or God to pray to, or help us every day; to get up, and to help us eat when we don't want to do it. We just can't do it ourselves, we need Jesus. Sometimes we plan something, but something always comes up that you can't do what you wanted to do, because you forgot to ask Jesus first. He always has the right way to do things.

This is the time when Jesus died, was buried and rose again to give life. If only we would believe! God bless all of you. If we continue to believe in Jesus we will have eternal life with him in Heaven.

Love,

Darla White, Elder

A PRAYERFUL NOTE

Lord, after the flood you showed us the rainbow as your promise to never again destroy the world. But the world turned back to its wicked ways, so you sent your son not to destroy, but to save the world. The cross is your promise that through his sacrifice, and by your grace, we believe in his resurrection and will join you in your heavenly kingdom.

So, as we worship you during this Easter season, we give thanks to the Holy Spirit who guides us, and to you God and Jesus for the promise of the cross.

"HE HAS RISEN!" Amen Tom Griffith, Board Chair

THANK YOU NOTE TO OUR FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH FAMILY

Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed upon us. You have provided us with more than we ever could have imagined. You have surrounded us with people who always look out for us. You have given us a congregation of family and friends who bless us every day with kind words and action.

Thank you, First Christian Church for receiving us so warmly and blessing us abundantly.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Dennis, Valerie and family

DATES FOR CAMP LAURELVIEW

- Chi Rho – June 18-June 24 (incoming 7th, 8th and 9th)
- CYF Conference – June 25-July 1 (10th grade – New Grad.)
- Family Camp - July 6-9
- Junior Camp - 16-22 (4th, 5th and 6th)
- Mini Camp - July 23-26 (1st, 2nd and 3rd grade)

COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWS

- ❖ **CHARLEROI UNITED METHODIST CLOTHING/SHOE DRIVE + TOWELS/WASHCLOTHS:** Many in our area are in need of the above items. You may delivery your items to the church on Thursdays from 11 AM – 2 PM or Pastor Randy will come to pick-up these items if transportation is a problem for you.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness.

- ❖ **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHARLEROI** would like to invite you to their Famous Premium Ham Dinner (**TAKE OUT ONLY**) on April 29, 2023, 3PM to 6 PM, corner of 514 Fifth St. and Lincoln Avenue, Cost \$15 per meal. Call church office at 724-483-5861 or Ruthann at 412-217-2240 for a ticket/reservation. Local delivery to homebound individuals available. Food: Ham, potatoes, corn, applesauce, coleslaw and dessert.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH SERVICES

- ❖ Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023, **10:45 A.M.**, Pastor Nikki Mazza-Fredley
- ❖ Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023, **7 P.M.**, Lay speaker Marci Mazza-Fredley
- ❖ Good Friday, April 7, 2023, **7 P.M.**, Pastor Dennis Stitch
- ❖ Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023, **10 A.M.**, Pastor Dennis Stitch

The Great Commission

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go ^{19a} therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” ^{20a} Amen.