

First Christian *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FELLOWSHIP | AUGUST 2022 VOLUME 1
WWW.FIRSTCHRISTIANHAMPTON.ORG

Living a Life Filled With Thankfulness

Dear First Christian Family,

Eight years ago, I heard about this job from a PTA friend who was a girl scout troop leader. I never thought I would get hired for the position. I had been on a few interviews and somehow I always managed to end up talking about my kids. Well I was determined to come to this interview and do better. I walked in the door and handed my resume and a sample bulletin to the minister. She kindly took my paperwork, glanced at it and gently laid it down on the table.

One of her first questions was “tell me about your kids”. It was in that moment that I felt “this place is different”. From then on First Christian has been a place with a warm atmosphere, a place where I could grow and use my skills and also a place where my whole family was loved! The friendships that I have made here have been a blessing beyond words. I am so thankful for the experiences that I have had at First Christian Church.



Church Events

- **Aug 1—Executive Committee Meeting 5:30pm**
- **Aug 7—Elders & Deacons Meeting (following worship service)**
- **Aug 9—Community Connection Meeting 6pm**
- **Aug 14—Luncheon for Tiffani Gray (following worship service)**
- **Aug 21—School Supply Drive Ends**

Salty Christians for the Win

When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone. Our own Salty Christians stepped up to the plate and thanks to them we are now a CWS Blanket congregation! Each blanket is only \$10, but the difference our congregation can make by providing blankets is inspiring.



In Matthew 6:9-13 and in Luke 11:2-4 we read of Jesus teaching his disciples how they should pray. This popular Scripture is known as **The Lord's Prayer**, and some know it as the **Our Father Prayer**. Take time to read through and memorize the Lord's Prayer as it was the example Jesus used when asked how we should pray. While this prayer was given as a template by Christ, we must use its word with heartfelt love and seeking of God! Contemplate the words of the Lord's Prayer to examine your own heart today.

District 8 CMF July Breakfast

There are no CMF meeting during the Summer months for the men of FCC, we will renew our meeting in early September. The district eight CMF program which covers all nine of the district eight churches meets once a quarter for a joint fellowship meeting. The host church is responsible for the meal and the program and for getting advanced meeting information out to the district churches. On Saturday July 23 Hampton Christian was the host church, they had prepared a delightful breakfast and an enlightening program about the importance of men's work in the church. There were twenty two men in attendance with representation from seven of the nine district churches. Following the program a business meeting was held and an offering taken to support district men's work. At the close of the meeting the attendance banner was awarded to the district church having the most in attendance and traveling the greatest distance, the host church is always exempt, FCC had the most in attendance but awarded the banner to Grafton Christian in the hope that they would bring it to the next district meeting to be held in October at Park View Christian church.

Christian Women's Fellowship

The CWF held its annual business meeting on July 22. Officers were elected for the coming year, with Susan Walkup elected President. The two CWF groups have combined to become one group that meets the first Thursday of each month at 10:30 am in the parlor, September through May.

Debbie Ott was a guest and presented information on "the well watered soul, inc.", a 501c(3) corporation raising money and awareness by connecting those in need with free virtual mental health triage.

The group voted to make the following contributions to outreach ministries:

LOCAL CONCERNS

H. E. L. P.	\$700.
the well watered soul, inc.	\$300.

REGIONAL CWF PROJECTS

Five projects	\$300.
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DENOMINATIONAL CONCERNS

Disciples Mission Fund	\$300.
Church World Service	\$700.

TOTAL OUTREACH CONTRIBUTIONS	\$2300.
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The Bible study for the coming year is "Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight." Study books are \$10 each with payment given to Barbara Mathews, treasurer, upon receipt. Please let Sylvia Winfrey, study leader, know by August 10 if you would like a book ordered for you.

All women and friends of the church are cordially welcome to attend the monthly meetings! Usually a group that is free for lunch chooses a restaurant and enjoys a period of fellowship following the meeting.



July Blood Drive Huge Success

We exceeded our goal of 13! We saw 17 donors and collected 14 units of lifesaving blood, impacting the lives of 42 patients.

Next blood drives are scheduled for October 4 and December 6.





Pastor's Notes

Today's cultural environment presents challenging times for the Church of Jesus Christ.

Current cultural influences no longer necessarily agree with, embrace or even support values once upheld as timeless and irrefutable. Our institutions are being confronted, disputed and rejected at their very core.

While counter-cultural influences sweep across the minds and souls of those we love and care for, maybe we as Disciples of Christ should take pause to reflect upon and evaluate our approach and influence upon our own families, friends, neighbors as well as our community at large.

Though Christianity as an institution may endure great scrutiny and even distrust, genuine faith-based relationships have always initiated great influence upon a broken world at all levels.

Our faith in Christ must first be personal and personally meaningful. We then share our faith with those who we love. The hope we have in Christ is not to be hidden or withheld but should become apparent and obvious in our interactions with others.

Remember that Jesus described His Church as a Light on a hill and as the preservative of the earth. Salt and light are tangible and necessary elements to life on this planet. Lets let our Light Shine!

Announcements

Community Connection

A new team has been assembled for the purposeful movement of building productive relationships with local churches and organizations through collaboration and communication. The focus of this team will be communication, coordination and extension in and around the community. We will be working collectively with Giaimo Management and the Hampton Neighborhood Commission to make our block in Northampton the very best that it can be. Our initial plan of attack is to make contact with the eight (8) churches on our block and the three (3) local public schools.

Farewell Reception for Tiffani

There will be a reception for Tiffani Gray immediately following worship on August 14th. A basket will be available for you to place your cards with expression of love and thanks and best wishes for a bright future.

Communion Preparation

An opportunity to serve our church is to participate in communion preparation!

Prior to this year, the two CWF groups have made a communion preparation schedule largely determined by the availability of those who serve as counters following worship. With only one CWF group this year, we are seeking volunteers who may sign on the schedule posted in the narthex kitchen. Preparation usually takes about a half hour. Arrival should be no later than 9:45 am.

We are encouraging all women in the congregation to volunteer. If you have not recently prepared communion and would like to have someone guide you the first time, just place an asterisk beside your name when you sign up. Instructions are also posted in the kitchen. One of the men is usually available to carry the filled trays up the steps in the sanctuary.

Readers Ministry Schedule

- Aug 7th Twana Robinson
- Aug 14th Ron Milovac
- Aug 21st Chris and Cynthia Heier
- Aug 28th George and Jacque White



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Regional Church Website & Regional Blog

<https://www.ccinva.org/about>

District Website (Tidewater/Hampton-Roads Area Disciples of Christ)

<https://thradisciples.weebly.com/>

August Celebrations! Birthdays

- Aug 4—John Mathews
- Aug 6—Carolyn Boyer
- Aug 8—Ann Maninga
- Aug 11—Bob Bowman
- Aug 23—Debbie Julian
- Aug 25—Charlene Vineyard

Anniversaries

Aug 6—Dennis & Connie Herring



Need to Know

Church Office: office@firstchristianhampton.org

Pastor: minister@firstchristianhampton.org.

Welcome Table: wt@firstchristianhampton.org

Website: <http://firstchristianhampton.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianChurchDOCHamptonVA/>