

# First Christian *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FELLOWSHIP | SEPTEMBER 2022 VOLUME 2  
[WWW.FIRSTCHRISTIANHAMPTON.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTCHRISTIANHAMPTON.ORG)

## Labor Day

Labor day usually symbolizes the end of summer and the start of a new school year. But, what is Labor Day? At the height of the Industrial Revolution, the average American worked 12-hour days, seven days a week. They endured harsh and unsafe work conditions, often times with little access to fresh air, sanitary facilities and breaks. As a result, strikes and rallies broke out in protest and many turned violent. On September 5, 1882, 10,000 workers took unpaid time off to march from City Hall to Union Square in New York City, holding the first Labor Day Parade.

In May of 1886, a group of workers called The Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Union had the idea to establish a “workingmen’s holiday,” a day of rest to enjoy time off from work. This day was meant to celebrate the achievements of American workers. Congress would not make the day a legal holiday until 12 years later, when they named the first Monday in September as a federal holiday. Labor Day is still celebrated across the United States with parades, picnics, barbeques and other public gatherings. Oh yes, and let’s not forget—back to school.



## Church Events

- **Sept. 25—Reconciliation Ministries Offering**

## **Partnering with H.E.L.P. Feeding and Sheltering the Homeless**

This coming winter we will make the rear portion of our building available to HELP for its Night's Welcome program. For the first half of the cold weather season, HELP will use our building to house those in need of warm food and a place to sleep. The guests will arrive after 5 p.m. and leave by 7 a.m. each day. The number of persons will vary each evening based largely on the severity of the weather – up to 100 or more on the coldest days.

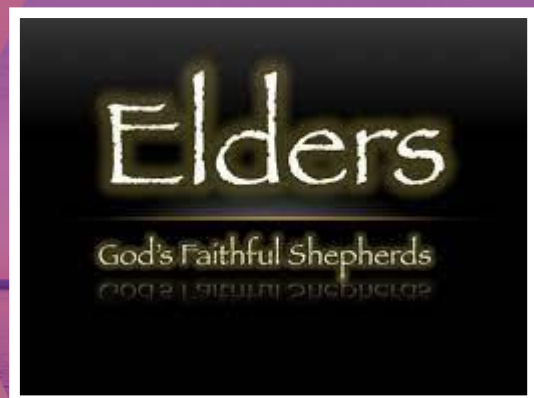
This effort will be supported by other churches who volunteer to provide the meals and assist the HELP staff members. Although our initial contribution to this program is to make our facility available for use by others, we can still volunteer to assist some of the other churches.

Since the Night's Welcome program does not use the building during the day, our very important outreach meal preparation and use of the social hall by Rehoboth Ministries will both be able to continue. We will have to adjust to the social hall and meeting room being unavailable for evening activities. Adaptations to accommodate the needs of the unfortunate are a great way to express God's love.

## **Elders Ministry Schedule**

**Bread — Chris Heier**

**Cup — Carolyn Boyer**





# Announcements

## First Christian is Calling a New Minister!

On Sunday, September 11, 2022, the congregation voted to call a new minister to fill our current vacancy. Upon recommendation from the General Board, the congregation voted unanimously to call Mrs. Debbie Ott to serve First Christian as a student minister.

Debbie is starting the Student Ministry program this fall and she was recommended to the Search Committee by our Regional Minister, Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning.

The student ministry program is operated by Disciples of Christ regions as a way of developing Commissioned Ministers. The program of becoming a Commissioned Minister takes a minimum of three years of rigorous educational requirements and practical experience and Virginia has one of the most rigorous programs.

As a sponsoring congregation, it will be our responsibility to work alongside Debbie and mentor her as she works to complete her studies and develop her skills as a minister.

This is the beginning of a new era in the life of our congregation and an opportunity to take a key role in helping to develop a new Disciples of Christ minister. Debbie's first service with us will be on October 2, 2022, and she looks forward to meeting everyone in the congregation and getting to know our church family.

## Updated Pilot

The Pilot has been updated and copies are available for pickup in the narthex, the sanctuary and in the church office.

# Readers Ministry Schedule

- **Sept 4th**                **Connie Herring**
- **Sept 11th**            **Dave & Carolyn Boyer**
- **Sept 18th**            **Robert & Martha Wright**
- **Sept 25th**            **John Maninga**





# Pastor's Notes

*Ecclesiastes 3:1 In everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven ...*

For the past 18 months, I have enjoyed the privilege of being your pastor and getting to know you as friends. Though our time together has been brief, I consider it time well spent and very meaningful to myself and hopefully, to you the members of FCC.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve in your pulpit and in your lives as brothers and sisters in the family of God. Please know that the connections we have made and the friendships that we have established will remain and go forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your Pastor and spiritual leader. Each of you will remain in my mind and heart. My prayers for you will continue. You are loved.

Affectionately,

David L Cox





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48d64](https://ccinva.us15.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=98ee317156350d4f94e573a1b&id=38b1248d64)

### Regional Church Website & Regional Blog

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

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

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

## September Celebrations! Birthdays

- Sept 17— Sylvia Winfrey
- Sept 17 — Brenda Bell
- Sept 22 — Ginny Crawford
- Sept 24 — Linda Kuster
- Sept 30 — Nancy Voss

## Anniversaries

Sept 7—John & Ann Maninga



## Need to Know

Church Office: [office@firstchristianhampton.org](mailto:office@firstchristianhampton.org)

Pastor: [minister@firstchristianhampton.org](mailto:minister@firstchristianhampton.org).

Welcome Table: [wt@firstchristianhampton.org](mailto:wt@firstchristianhampton.org)

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

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