

## Long-Term Calendar

Sat., Apr. 2 ~ Disciples Women's Spring Gathering in Mont'ry  
Sat., Apr. 9 ~ All Church Spring Picnic, 11-3  
Sat., Apr. 16 ~ All Church Work Day, 8:00  
Sun., Apr. 17 ~ Palm Sunday  
Thu., Apr. 21 ~ Holy Thursday service  
Sat., Apr. 23 ~ Deacons & Volunteers at church to prepare for Easter  
Sun., Apr. 24 ~ Easter Sunday!  
8:30 ~ Early Service in Community Prayer Garden  
9:15 ~ Breakfast and First Egg Hunt  
10:00 ~ Church Family Hour  
11:00 ~ Resurrection Day Worship with Child Dedications  
12:15 ~ Second Egg Hunt and Fellowship Time  
Sun., May 1 ~ Collaborative Sermon  
May 17-21 ~ Pastor Rebecca at Christmount for DHM Board  
Wed., May 25 ~ Council Meeting  
Sun., May 29 ~ Outdoor Worship for Earth Day/ Informal Worship Service

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*Celebrating the Unity and Diversity of the Body of Christ!*

First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
1327 Leighton Ave.  
Anniston, AL 36207

Bible Study 9:45 am ~ Faith Chat 12:45 pm  
Sunday Worship 11:00 am

Visit us at [www.fccanniston.org](http://www.fccanniston.org)

# The Good News

First Christian Church                      [www.fccanniston.org](http://www.fccanniston.org)                      April 2011  
Anniston, AL                      256-236-1316                      email: [fccanniston@bellsouth.net](mailto:fccanniston@bellsouth.net)

## EASTER is around the corner!

Even as we continue through Lent, we know that the excitement of Holy Week is coming soon. Please see the back of the calendar for more important details on these events.

**Holy (Maundy) Thursday Service** ~ April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 ~ Come share in the story of Holy Week and the Lord's Supper.

### Easter Morning ~ Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

**Early Service in the Garden ~ 8:30** ~ We will gather in our Community Prayer Garden for a special service. You might want to bring a lawn chair.

**Outdoor Egg Hunt and Breakfast ~ 9:15** ~ Everyone is invited to breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up soon to bring something.

**Church Family Hour ~ 10:00** ~ We will have an opportunity to learn more about the exciting programs coming together at FCC, like Children Worship & Wonder and Mission Adventures.

**Resurrection Day Worship ~ 11:00** ~ We will have a glorious service in our beautifully renovated sanctuary, with a Child Dedication of a couple of our small children who have not yet been dedicated.

**Indoor Egg Hunt ~ 12:15** ~ For kids that weren't here early, more eggs will be hidden inside for hunting.

**Sat., Apr. 9 ~ Spring Picnic @ Oxford Lake** (see page 2) ♥ !!

**Sat., Apr. 16 ~ Work Day** (see page 2) ♥

**Thu., Apr. 21 ~ Holy Thursday Service, 6:00 pm** ⊕ !!

**Sun., Apr. 24 ~ Easter Sunday** (see above) ⊕ ♥ !!

## Spring Picnic!!! ♥ !!

The Fellowship Coordinating Team invites everyone to our **All Church Spring Picnic at Oxford Lake on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 - 3:00.** A sign-up sheet for food is on the Engaged Faith Table. We will be grilling hot dogs and brats. You are invited to bring lawn chairs and friends too. There will be lots of space for the kids to play, and there may be fishing as well. You don't have to come for the whole time, but we hope everyone will at least stop by to chat for a while. ♥ !!

## Work Day – Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> ♥

The Stewardship Coordinating Team is asking everyone to pitch in for our **Spring All Church Work Day on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.** We want to get things in tip-top shape for Easter. We will be doing some touch-up painting, as well as finishing some painting projects that didn't get finished last summer. There is a fair amount of yard work to be done. This will also be the major day dedicated to cleaning out the north end of the Fellowship Hall so that it can become our Children's Worship Center by May. We will need all hands on deck in order to get everything done. We'll be getting started around **8:00 am.** Please join us! ♥

## April Mission Adventure Ω

Our March Mission Adventure was a great success! We collected 126 books for the Sable Center and delivered them together. Thanks to everyone who donated books and participated! Ω

In April, our Pass the Salt ministry is Habitat for Humanity. We will have special guests in worship to share their experiences with Habitat. Since we can't collect lumber and nails, you are invited to bring in bottles of bug spray and sunscreen for the volunteers to use on the work-site. We are hoping to have a work day on a house, but we are still determining if there will be a work site available. You can bring in your bug spray and sunscreen any Sunday in April, and checks for Pass the Salt in April will all go to Habitat as well. Ω

## Easter Prep Day 4/23 ♥

All Deacons and everybody else who can be asked to come to the church on Saturday, April 23, at 4:00 to help prepare the church for Easter. We will be filling and hiding eggs, trimming flowers, re-draping the cross, setting out lilies, setting up and decorating for breakfast, and generally making sure things are in tip-top shape. Many hands make light work! ♥

## Church in Covenant Opportunities and News

### FCCers making plans for summer's General Assembly ⊕ ♥

On Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, the Council of FCC approved the appointment of Kenny & Lori Hays as our voting delegates to the General Assembly being held this summer in Nashville. This will be the Hays first Assembly, and they are excited about taking the whole family. Caryn and TJ will be enrolled in the Assembly's high quality children's programs. ⊕

It is not too late for others to make plans to attend. Assembly will not be this close again soon. (2013 is in Orlando.) The early-bird deadline is March 30<sup>th</sup>, after which the registration costs increase. If you would like to explore going, please see Pastor Rebecca or visit [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org) and look for the "Tell It!" button which will take you to all the information you need. If you are interested in supporting Assembly or FCCers attending Assembly, please see Pastor Rebecca. ⊕

### GMP Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins approved for second term ♥

At the General Board meeting of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on February 26<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins was nominated to serve a second six-year term as General Minister and President. The nomination came from a Review, Search & Call Committee formed last April after she indicated her willingness to continue as GMP. You can read more at: <http://www.disciples.org/tabId/58/itemId/847/General-Board-recommends-that--Rev-Dr-Sharon-Wat.aspx>. ♥

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## Regional Prayer Calendar

*In 2011, we will continue to send cards with our prayer blessings to our partner churches in the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. Iglésia joins us in signing the cards. The Prayer Calendar for April is:*

- Apr. 3: Primera Iglésia Cristiana, Ft. Walton Beach, FL – José and Ana Diaz
- Apr. 10: First Christian Church, Birmingham, AL – Edd & Mary Pat Spencer, Jan Watts
- Apr. 17: Jeffries Memorial Christian Church, Birmingham, AL – Edward Williams
- Apr. 24: Grateful Life Community Church, Huntsville, AL – Sherry Birney  
Harrison Street Christian Church, Greenville, AL – Timothy O'Neal

## From the Pastor's Pen...

Beloved Church,

There is something that some folks at FCC have been discovering lately that I hope you will all experience: talking with one another about our faith is fun, inspiring and stimulating.

So many people enjoyed our "Talking Faith" program, under the leadership of Julie Nix, Suzy Spiceland and Ken Whisenant, that we want to keep the momentum going. That is how Faith Chat was born, and you're invited to join in the fun.

Faith Chat happens every week after worship for about 30 minutes. We are discussing the issues raised by the morning's sermon. It is an informal conversation, where everyone's views are respected and heard. Questions and ponderings are welcome. So far, it has been a great experience for those who have participated. I hope you'll join us soon. Something very exciting is happening here at FCC, and I don't want you to miss out on it!

*Grace and peace,*

*Pastor Rebecca*

*P.S. See you in church!*

## Service Schedules ♥

### April Meetings ♥

Stewardship – Tue., Apr. 5, 4:30

Fellowship – Wed., Apr. 6, 6:00

Mission – Tue., Apr. 12, 6:30

Spirit. Form. – Wed., Apr. 13, 6:00

### Elders ♥:

Apr. 3: Anne Phillips

Apr. 10: Judy Bell

Apr. 17: Rebecca Littlejohn

Apr. 24: Maria Zamarripa

### Communion Set-Up/Service ♥:

Janie Morrow & Getral Smith

### Fellowship Hosts ♥:

Apr. 3: Robin Andrews

Apr. 10: Suzy Spiceland

Apr. 17:

Apr. 24:

### Liturgists / Kids Message ♥:

Apr. 3: Joe Medley / Rebecca

Apr. 10: Colin Green / Rebecca

Apr. 17: Dick Bell / Lori Hays

Apr. 24: Lori Hays /

### Pre-School / CC / Floater ♥:

Apr. 3: Anne P. / Suzy S. / Julie N.

Apr. 10: Lori H. / Jen S. / Trace S.

Apr. 17: Janna S. / Marie B. / Karen R.

Apr. 24: Janie M. / Dick B. / Nancy G.

### One + One + One Key

⊕ = You ♥ = Church Ω = World

!! = Bring a friend!

## Disciples Women ⊕

All Disciples Women are invited to travel to the Spring Gathering at FCC-Montgomery on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 9:30-2. We will carpool down there. The next meeting will be Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at the church at 10:30 am, with Janie Morrow hosting brunch. Marie Bittle is responsible for the program. All women are invited to be part of Disciples Women. ⊕

## Schedule Adjustments Ω

Because of the date of Easter this year, our annual **Outdoor service** for Earth Day will be held in conjunction with our regular informal worship service, on **May 29<sup>th</sup>** in our Community Prayer Garden. Ω

Also, the Disciples Women have decided to sponsor our Church World Service **blanket drive at Father's Day**, rather than Mother's Day. Ω

## Update on Time Capsule ♥

Things take time. It has been decided that we will fill and seal up our time capsule in June, on our 126<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the one-year anniversary of Miracle Day. We want to include copies of the photo directory and the updated history in the time capsule, so we're waiting till those projects are completed. ♥

## Men's Group Moving Forward ⊕

All men are invited to meet for **breakfast at Golden Corral on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**. Afterwards, we will head out to Robert Soleman's for some **fishing**. See Robert or Kenny for more info. ⊕

We encourage all our men to show up for our Church Work Day on April 16<sup>th</sup>, as well. Service is a spiritual growth opportunity! ⊕

## Collaborative Sermon, Anyone?

If you would be interested in working with Pastor Rebecca on a collaborative sermon, please let her know. The next one is scheduled for Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. This is the first one not on a special occasion, so the topic is wide open. ⊕

## PAGE TURNERS ⊕

The Page Turners book group will be discussing "The Road Less Traveled" by M. Scott Peck on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to join the group. See Anne Phillips for more information. ⊕

**Common Daily Bible Readings Study continues ~ Sundays @ 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall ~ Join us!** ⊕

## Excitement Growing After Children Worship & Wonder Training!!!

Five members of FCC – Tristan Frintner, Lori Hays, Janie Morrow, Jennifer Smith and Maria Zamarripa – along with one guest from Tennessee, were trained in leading Children Worship & Wonder by Jane Nettles of Union Christian Church in Tuskegee and Diana Hodges-Batzka of FCC-Montgomery in March. We are excited about the potential of this new way of helping our children understand faith in God. ♥

Children Worship & Wonder is a very comprehensive and intentional approach to helping our kids grow as people of faith. We want to be as well-prepared as we can, so we are going to take our time getting ready. We will officially begin orientation in August, but there are many things to do in the meantime. We will continue with the One Room curriculum and our current volunteer rotation until then. ♥

We will be using the north room of the Fellowship Hall as the Children's Worship Center. Between now and August, it will be transformed, with your help, into a holy place for connection with God. During the Church Family hour on Easter, our trained story-tellers will be sharing some of their hopes and plans for this exciting program so we can all learn how we can help. ♥

## Sharing about Stewardship ~ Easter Offering ♥

While it is exciting to see everything that is happening here at First Christian Church, the truth is that we're helping witness to the life-giving power of Jesus not just here, but around the world. On April 17 and 24, we will be collecting the Easter Special Offering. This offering goes to support our "general ministries," that is, all the ministries we do together as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It supports efforts at Christian unity, missionaries around the world, volunteers who help communities re-build after disasters, work to dismantle racism, training for church planters, support for congregations going through transition and transformation and much more. Ω

You can donate to the Easter Offering by using the special envelopes. The theme is 40 Days – 40 Ways, reminding us that there are so many different ways that we can serve God as the Christian Church. Please give generously! Ω

Ω Ω "Pass the Salt" Recipient in April: Ω Ω  
Habitat for Humanity