

1ST CHRISTIAN CHURCH *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF 1ST CHRISTIAN CHURCH JULY 2026 – VOLUME 86

Two hundred fifty years is a long time. Few nations have enjoyed such a remarkable story, and few generations have been entrusted with so many blessings. Before the cookouts, parades, and fireworks begin, it's worth taking a quiet moment to remember just how much we have to thank God for. As America celebrates its 250th birthday, our church family has every reason to rejoice with humble, grateful hearts.

We thank God for the freedoms we enjoy every day—the freedom to worship openly, to open His Word without fear, to share our faith, and to serve our neighbors here in West Georgia and beyond. Those are gifts we should never stop thanking God for.

At the same time, we know our nation's story has not been perfect. Like every nation—and like every one of us—America has known moments of remarkable courage as well as seasons of failure. We don't honor our country by pretending otherwise. Rather, we thank God for His grace, for those who have worked to pursue justice and mercy, and for the privilege of doing our part to make our community and our nation better for those who come after us.

As followers of Jesus, however, we know there is an even greater freedom worth celebrating. The liberty we enjoy as Americans is precious, but the freedom Christ purchased on the cross is eternal. He alone sets us free from sin, guilt, fear, and death. No government can offer what only Jesus gives: forgiveness, new life, and the sure hope of heaven.

So as you gather with family, friends, and neighbors this Independence Day, thank God for our country. But above all, thank Him for our Savior, whose love has made us free forever. May our church always be known as a grateful people who love God deeply, love our neighbors well, and never forget the One who has truly set us free.



Randy Barnhart
Senior Minister

YOUTH MINISTRY
GRAB YOUR SUNGLASSES



SUMMER 2026

CALENDAR OF ADVENTURES

JUNE

- 3**
WED **Kickoff BBQ** at Longview Park
- 10**
WED **Video Game Night & Board Game Tournament**
- 17**
WED **Serve at Churchwide VBS!**
- 24**
WED **Ultimate Frisbee + Sports Night**

JULY

- 1**
WED **Independence Pool Bash!**
Huge thanks to Tony AND the Evans' for offering their pools — final spot decided closer to the date!
- 8**
WED **Photo Scavenger Hunt**
- 15**
WED **Movie Night** at Regal Newnan
- 22**
WED **Service Project: Food Drive** — ends poolside at the Faircloths'

AUGUST

- 5**
WED **Thunderzone (kids) + Fall Planning Meeting** (student leaders & adult volunteers)
- 12**
WED **Back-to-School Bash**
- 19**
WED **Prayer & Worship Night**
- PLUS:** a Student Leadership Team relaunch all summer long

SAVE THE DATE

SUMMER RETREAT

TARGETING JULY 9 – 11

Location & full details TBD — we're aiming for July 9–11 (subject to venue availability). Want to help pull it together? Reach out to **Jason Faircloth**.

COMING THIS SUMMER

LAKE WEDOWEE SUNDAY

One Sunday afternoon. Sun, swim, snacks, sermon-on-the-shore. Date TBD — stay tuned!



*Brittany Vibhakar &
Beth Morgan
Children's Directors*



Vacation Bible School

Thank you to everyone that helped make VBS such a wonderful week! We journeyed to Rome and learned about God's love from Paul & members of the Underground Church. The kids were so excited to be there and every day we had new kids join us!

Popsicles & Playgrounds: An Event for Preschool – Kindergarten

Join us on Wednesday, July 1st for a fun morning of popsicles and playing on the playground. Drop off or join us from 9 AM - 11 AM. If you plan to drop off, please pre-register by calling or texting Brittany at 678-522-5913.

Biblical History Center Field Trip

Join us on Wednesday, July 15th at 8:30am for a day trip to the Biblical History Center in La-grange, Georgia! This trip is geared towards kids that just completed 2nd – 5th grade. If parents are in attendance, they are welcome to bring along younger and/or older siblings. This will be a wonderful hands-on experience for the kids! They will experience a Biblical meal, archaeological dig and bread making. We will provide transportation; however, we will not be able to transport any babies or preschoolers. Those families will need to drive in their own vehicles and can follow behind us or meet us there. We are supplementing tickets for any 1st Kids families in attendance. Children's tickets cost \$30 (a \$30 savings) and adult tickets (13+) cost \$40 (also a \$30 savings). Tickets are limited and available on a first come, first serve basis. Register online at: <https://onrealm.org/1stChristianChu/PublicRegistrations/Event?>



2026 VBS





Angel Bags

Bethshean Mexico Mission began over 50 years ago in the village of Estancia de Animas, Zacatecas, Mexico. Like the Joshua trees with many branches that dot the surrounding landscape, Bethshean has grown into multiple ministries that are reaching out into Central Mexico and inviting people to experience the richness of life in Jesus Christ.



Bethshean's ANGEL BAG PROJECT has graciously been supported at First Christian for about 20 years. On Sunday, July 26, Alpha Ministry will have this year's hand-made bags ready for pickup and to be filled by our congregation. Keep in mind that children will receive your gift and hear the Christmas story in villages around the Mission area. They and their parent(s) will be offered an invitation to grow and mature in Christ, and to have a Kingdom impact upon their culture.

Filled Angel Bags will be collected from the bins provided in our halls until Sunday, September 6, 2026. Thank you, in advance, for your participation.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY



SUMMER IN THE PSALMS

THURSDAY NIGHTS, 6:30-8PM IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER
JUNE 11, 25 & JULY 9, 16, 23

Led By Lindy Gregory





CELEBRATE RECOVERY

A CHRIST-CENTERED RECOVERY PROGRAM

SUNDAYS AT 4 PM

If you would like to sponsor a meal for CR, please contact Paul@1stChristianChurch.com

Healing IN MOTION

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP



YOU ARE NOT ALONE.
Support. Understanding. Growth.



A SAFE PLACE TO HEAL.
Share, connect, and find hope.



STRONGER TOGETHER.
Healing happens in community.



EVERY WEDNESDAY | 1PM TO 2PM



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



**306 COLLAGE STREET
CARROLLTON, GA 30117**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:



SARAH BETH
(589) 979-1970



JOSHUA
(404) 561-9375

Take the next step. You deserve it.

Bible Verses for the 4th of July

The 4th of July celebrates freedom, gratitude, and the unity of a people. While the Bible does not mention the date, many passages align with its themes of liberty, justice, and community.

Freedom and Liberty

- **Galatians 5:1** – *“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”* This verse reminds us that true freedom comes from Christ and should be used to serve others
- **2 Corinthians 3:17** – *“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”* Freedom is found where God’s Spirit dwells
- **John 8:36** – *“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”* True freedom is liberation from sin and bondage
- **Isaiah 61:1** – *“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me... to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.”* This echoes the call to set people free

PARENT POWER

The Best Family Memories Rarely Cost Much

It's easy to believe that giving our children a wonderful childhood requires a big budget. Social media doesn't help. Every scroll seems to feature another family vacation, amusement park, or picture-perfect adventure. Frankly, American values don't help.

But if you ask adults about their favorite childhood memories, they rarely begin with expensive things. They remember roasting marshmallows in the backyard, family game nights that ended in laughter, fishing with Dad, baking cookies with Mom, staying up a little too late to watch a movie together, or simply talking on the front porch after the sun went down.

Kids have an amazing ability to turn ordinary moments into memories—if we adults are fully present.

This summer, try two simple habits. First, create one "screen-free evening" each week. Play cards, throw a football, take a walk, or make homemade ice cream together. Your children won't remember every show they watched, but they will remember how you made them feel.

Second, ask one meaningful question each day instead of settling for, "How was your day?" Try, "What made you laugh today?" "What was the hardest part of your day?" or "Where did you see God at work?" Those conversations often become the moments that shape a child's heart.

Years from now, your children probably won't remember every toy, every vacation, or every perfectly planned event. They'll remember that home was a place where they were loved, heard, and pointed to Jesus, and those memories never lose their value.

*Randy Barnhart
Senior Minister*

A Heartfelt Thank You

Dear 1st Christian Family,

Thank you so much for the incredible love you have shown me over the past week. Your prayers, cards, texts, phone calls, visits, meals, and every expression of kindness meant more than I can put into words. Each one reminded me that God often shows His love through the hands and hearts of His people.

One of the many things I love about our church is that when someone is hurting or in need, you don't just say you care—you show it. That's exactly what you did for me, and I will be forever grateful. Thank you for walking alongside Randy and me during this time and for surrounding us with such genuine encouragement and affection.

With love and gratitude,

Wendy Barnhart

UPCOMING EVENTS

7/5 - Celebrate Recovery 4 PM

7/8 - Alpha 10 AM

7/9 - Adult Bible Study 6:30 - 8 PM in the FLC

7/12 - Celebrate Recovery 4 PM

7/13 - Omega 6 PM in the bride's room

7/15 - Food Pantry 9-10 AM

7/16 - Senior Fellowship 11:30 AM at Suttons

Adult Bible Study 6:30 - 8 PM in the FLC

7/19 - Celebrate Recovery 4 PM

7/23 - Adult Bible Study 6:30 - 8 PM in the FLC

7/26 - Celebrate Recovery 4 PM

Baptism



Jack Hoover was Baptized by Scott Gregory after the 11 AM service on June 21st (Father's Day). He is pictured with his mom and dad, Arthur and Dana.

A Season of Freedom and Faith (Patriotic + Reflective)

July invites us into a season of gratitude—gratitude for our nation, for the freedoms we enjoy, and most importantly, for the freedom we have in Christ. As fireworks light the sky and families gather for cookouts, we're reminded that true freedom is not just a national privilege but a spiritual gift.

Paul writes in *Galatians 5:1*, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." This freedom is deeper than independence; it is liberation from fear, shame, and the weight of sin. It is the freedom to love boldly, serve joyfully, and walk confidently in God's purpose.

As we celebrate this month, let's pray for our leaders, our communities, and our world. Let's also recommit ourselves to being people who use our freedom to reflect Christ—through kindness, generosity, and courage. May our church be a beacon of hope in a world that desperately needs it.

1ST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**FOOD
PANTRY
9 - 10 AM**



Third Wednesday of the month

Senior

7/16 - 11:30 AM at SUTTONS



The church recently received notification that the BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG campaign raised \$82,129. Our congregation contributed \$3,870.54. Well done FCC!!!!

Should you feel called to volunteer with this vital ministry, contact Gretchen Rakestraw at grakestraw@ascendwga.com or call her at 678 390 7861.

Prayer Requests

- Safe travels for vacationers
- Local and national leaders
- Youth Pastor search
- Woodland Camp
- Staff and Elders
- 1st Kids and Youth
- Mission work in South India and Indonesia
- Recovery and Restoration
- Chad Taylor and Whitney Vaughn (FCC security team)

WAYS TO GIVE



Sunday (Giving boxes)



1stChristianChurch.com



306 College Street
Carrollton, GA 30117



Text 1stcc to 73256

JUNE NUMBERS

Weekly Offering Needed

17,692.31

	<u>6/7</u>	<u>6/14</u>	<u>6/21</u>	<u>6/28</u>
Attendance	273	276	260	247
Offering	\$46,641.00	\$12,409.09	\$13,035.70	\$11,451.00
YTD Received	\$494,979.30	\$507,388.39	\$520,424.09	\$531,875.09
YTD Needed	\$406,923.13	\$424,615.44	\$442,307.75	\$460,000.06