

# 1<sup>ST</sup> CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## *focus*



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
1ST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
JUNE 2026 – VOLUME 85

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!

# Men Matter — and This Father's Day, We're Proving It

Father's Day is more than a Hallmark moment. It's a reminder that men who are present, engaged, and rooted in something greater than themselves still change everything around them.

**FEARING  
BRAVELY**

This Father's Day, June 21, we're launching a new 3-week series called *Fearing Bravely* — and we want every man in our church there for it.

The series explores what courage actually looks like in ordinary life. Not the Hollywood version. The real kind — quiet, costly, and rooted in trust. Each week, we'll follow men and women of Scripture who moved off the sidelines and into the moment they were made for.

**Week One — June 21 — "Stood Up"** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow. Their story reminds us that faithfulness sometimes means being the only one still standing.

**Week Two — June 28 — "Showed Up"** Esther stepped into a room she wasn't supposed to enter — because she was placed there for exactly that moment. God still does that. To us. Right where we are.

**Week Three — July 5 — "Spoke Up"** Peter and John in Acts 4 were ordinary men with an extraordinary message. The Spirit made the difference then. He still does.

Fathers, grandfathers, sons, mentors, husbands, young men — this series is for you. **Bring someone with you.** *Courage is contagious, and sometimes one Sunday morning becomes the start of something huge.*

Mark your calendar. June 21. Don't miss it.

*Randy Barnhart  
Senior Minister*

JOIN US FOR  
**FATHER'S  
DAY  
BRUNCH**  
*Brunch at 10 am*  
EVERY GUY GETS A FREE T-SHIRT



# WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



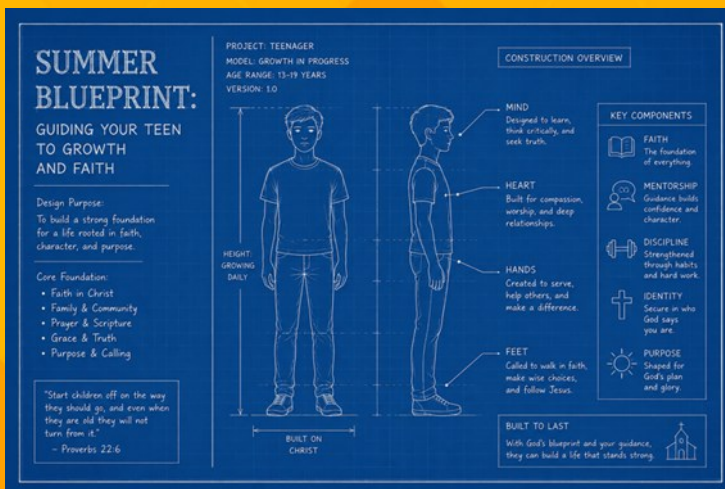
# SUMMER IN THE PSALMS

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

Led By Lindy Gregory

## Just For YOUth

### Summer Blueprint: Guiding Your Teen to Growth and Faith



This summer offers a precious window to shape your teen's character and deepen their walk with Christ. Encourage them to set meaningful goals—whether mastering a new skill, serving others, or exploring God's creation through outdoor adventures. Balance rest with responsibility by assigning age-appropriate chores and limiting screen time to foster real-life connections.

Most importantly, keep your teen anchored in church life. Regular attendance at worship and active participation in youth group activities provide spiritual nourishment, accountability, and lifelong friendships that help to counter summer and other distractions.

Schedule family devotions, volunteer together, and celebrate small victories. A purposeful summer builds faith, resilience, and memories that last. Your guidance today plants seeds for a fruitful tomorrow.

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Randy Barnhart  
Senior Minister



*Jake McPike*  
*Youth Minister*



After nearly nine years of ministry at 1st Christian Church, it is hard to find the right words to express what this church has meant to me and my family.

When I first moved here straight out of Bible college, I was young, excited, and honestly had no idea just how much 1st Christian would shape my life. You gave me an opportunity to serve, to grow, to lead, and to learn. Over these years, this church has not simply been a place where I worked—it has been home.

Through my time here, I have learned so much about ministry, about serving the local church, and about leading and caring for people. I am thankful for the countless students, parents, volunteers, and church families who allowed me to walk alongside them through so many seasons of life and faith. Those experiences have shaped me in ways I will always carry with me.

1st Christian has also been deeply woven into some of the most meaningful moments of my personal life. It was here that I grew not only as a pastor, but as a husband and a father. So many of you have walked alongside our family through milestones, celebrations, challenges, and seasons of growth. We will always be grateful for the love and support you have shown us.

Thank you for trusting me, encouraging me, praying for me, and allowing me the privilege of serving at 1st Christian for almost nine years. It has truly been an honor. While this transition is bittersweet, we leave with full hearts and deep gratitude for everything God has done during our time here.

1st Christian will always hold a special place in our hearts, and we are excited to see how God continues to work in and through this church family in the years ahead.

With gratitude,  
Jake McPike



*Brittany Vibhakar &  
Beth Morgan  
Children's Directors*



## **VBS Volunteer Meeting**

There will be a VBS volunteer meeting on Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. We will serve dinner at 5:30PM and start the meeting at 6:00PM in the children's center. If you haven't signed up to serve, there are still ways in which you can help! Please email Beth or Brittany at [beth@1stchristianchurch.com](mailto:beth@1stchristianchurch.com) or [Brittany@1stchristianchurch.com](mailto:Brittany@1stchristianchurch.com) to RSVP for the dinner or for more information.

## **Biblical History Center Field Trip**

Join us July 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am for a day trip to the Biblical History Center in Lagrange, Georgia! This trip is geared towards kids that just completed 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 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 First 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.



**Vacation Bible School  
June 15 - 18, 2026**

[Click here to register for VBS](#)

# PARENT POWER

## Finding Balance

One of the hardest challenges for Christian parents today is helping our children find balance. Sports, academics, clubs, vacations, jobs, friends, and technology all compete for time and attention. None of those things are necessarily bad. In fact, many of them can help shape discipline, confidence, friendships, and character. But followers of Jesus must continually ask an important question: *What does healthy balance look like for people who want Christ to remain first?*

Jesus never called us to build lives where faith is squeezed into the leftover spaces. He called us to build our lives on Him. That foundation matters most when children are young, because what is consistently prioritized in childhood often becomes instinctive in adulthood. When worship, prayer, church community, service, and spiritual conversations become normal rhythms of family life, kids learn that Jesus is not merely part of life — He is the center of it.



At the same time, this is not about guilt or perfection. Every family is learning, adjusting, and growing. God's grace meets us wherever we are. No parent gets everything right, so don't beat yourself up! At the same time, every parent can **begin today to make small, intentional choices** that point their kids toward Christ. Foundations are not built in a day — they are built faithfully, one step at a time.

*Randy Barnhart  
Senior Minister*

# Senior

6/18 - 11:30 AM at SUTTONS



1<sup>ST</sup> CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**FOOD  
PANTRY  
9 - 10 AM**



Third Wednesday of the month

# AN ENCOURAGING WORD



Recently a UWG student wrote this note to the church family:

*I can't believe I ever worried about finding a church away from home. The Lord's goodness pours out of the congregation at FCC. I thank the Lord that He put FCC in my path here at UWG. Words cannot express how grateful I am to know you all. The love of the Lord shines through FCC.*

**YES CHURCH!!!!** The hospitality shown, the solid preaching of God's word, and the focused worship services have kept a few of the UWG cheer squad in attendance for two years. We won't see them again until the fall, but they will be back for their senior year. **GOOD JOB.**

*Dear church family, we would like to thank everyone for all the sweet cards and messages for Johnny and myself and our family. Please continue to keep Johnny in your prayers.*

*Love and God bless,*

*Connie Smith & Lindy Mashburn*

*This family worships at the 11 AM service.*



The Tanner Foundation recently recognized FCC for 27 years of continuous support of Tanner Hospice Care. For many years FCC also provided the chaplain for Hospice and hosted the annual memorial service for Tanner Hospice patients who had passed away during the year.

Neva Higgs, Susan Ingle, Margo Shepherd, Leah Veal attended the lovely appreciation luncheon.

# THE HEART OF A LION, THE WAY OF THE LAMB

*A message for men about masculinity and our relentless attempt to stick to the script.*

Brandon Cox, Host of the Walk Humble podcast.



There's a moment in Revelation, the last book of the Christian Bible, to which I keep returning. There is a search for one worthy to carry the title deed to all of creation, and it seems like no one was worthy, so John starts to cry.

An elder tells John, "*Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.*" (Revelation 5:5 NRSV)

Strength. Authority. Victory.

The kind of figure I learned, as a boy, to admire.

Long live the Great Lion!

But then John turns to look. And instead of a lion, he sees "*a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered...*" (Revelation 5:6 NRSV)

I spent years overlooking the significance of that detail.

I grew up absorbing a version of masculinity I never thought to question, because it was just in the air.

There was a script for *how to be a man*, and many of us who have tried to stick to the script our whole lives have come to realize we're still broken somewhere inside.

Because you can become tougher, meaner, and grittier. You can grunt and growl more, assert your dominance, and beat your chest.

You can keep climbing ladders over other people and finally reach the TOP!

**Alone.**

That's the thing nobody tells you about the *performance* of strength. About faking it. It costs you the people you most want to be close to, and you pay the bill in increments so small you barely notice.

One stubborn argument. One withheld confession. One moment of going quiet instead of being honest. One more retreat into distance, irritation, work, distraction, or numbness.

You can lose intimacy without ever making a dramatic choice to do so.

You just keep choosing self-protection over truth.

Traditional masculinity teaches men to win approval through performance. Keep the vulnerable self hidden. If you are hurting, convert it into anger, silence, sarcasm, withdrawal, or overwork. Whatever you do, do not let it look like *need*.

You can see the consequences in the data: male loneliness, depression buried beneath numbness, anxiety surfacing as irritability, relationships starved by emotional absence.

But honestly, you can also just see it at any dinner table where a man is physically present and emotionally somewhere else.

You can see it in marriages where conflict never becomes intimacy because one or both people are still protecting an image. You can see it in church cultures where "strong leadership" sometimes just means polished detachment.

We were taught that vulnerability leads to humiliation, so we *perform* strength instead.

We posture, we dominate, we go quiet, we pretend not to care.

We call emotional distance maturity, and hope no one looks too closely.

*Continued on next page*

I used to preach about “biblical masculinity.” I stopped long ago, not because biblical masculinity isn’t a good thing, in theory. It just falls short because, while the Bible is a gift from God, our interpretation and application of the scriptures are shaped far more by our cultural norms and values than we realize.

I’m a Christian, which means I follow Jesus. He’s the model. He’s King. He’s the humble servant-leader who prays for his enemies and loves everybody. Yes, he overturns tables, but not because he was insulted. He acted courageously on behalf of oppressed and marginalized people who were being squeezed out of the religious pyramid scheme they had going inside the Temple.

And when I actually look at Jesus, I do not see a man obsessed with dominance, hierarchy, or proving anything. I see a man so secure in who he is that he can be tender without apology, suffer without flinching, and lay down power without losing himself.

That is what arrests me in Revelation. Scripture is not replacing the lion with the lamb. It is telling us what the lion actually is.

Jesus becomes the Lion through the way of the Lamb. Through surrender. Through sacrifice. Through love that gives itself away. Through wounds that are not hidden. Through authority that does not need to crush in order to reign.

That should rearrange almost everything we think we know about **being a man**.

Jesus has immense authority and uses it to protect the vulnerable.

He confronts injustice and weeps in public.

He sets boundaries and washes feet.

He speaks with clarity but never needs domination to validate himself.

He is neither passive nor aggressive, neither controlling nor insecure.

He is integrated.

And I think that integration is what so many men are actually starving for.

Not the destruction of masculinity. It’s healing.

The strongest men I know are not the loudest in the room. They are the ones secure enough to apologize. The ones who can sit with grief instead of numbing it. The ones who can be fully present with their wives and children. The ones who do not need to win every argument to feel like themselves. The ones who can tell the truth about their fear, their exhaustion, their longing, and their failures without collapsing into shame.

They became lions, I think, by following the Way made visible by the Lamb.

Not weak. Not spineless. Just no longer at war with tenderness.

My old friend Larry Barker used to pray over me (and many other young men), “God, give him the heart of a Lion!...”

And I’ll forever be grateful for those prayers.

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## Scripture moment

Joshua 24:15

*“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”*

Fathers bear the responsibility of leading their families in faith. Joshua’s declaration is a powerful example of a father’s commitment to serve God and influence his household to do the same. It challenges fathers to make God’s service the priority.

# Faithful

## IN EVERY SEASON

Summer brings changes to our routines—and our church family feels that too. As you enjoy this season of rest, travel, and time with loved ones, we're **grateful** for your ongoing **faithfulness**.



Your giving—whatever the amount—makes a difference and helps our church continue to share God's love all year long.



*Thank you* for being part of what God is doing through our church.



♥ Give in the way that works best for you. |  ONLINE |  BY MAIL |  IN PERSON

*However you give, thank you.* ♥



# 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](mailto:Paul@1stChristianChurch.com)

# Mother's Day 2026

Mother's Day was a truly special day at 1st Christian Church. Our brunch overflowed with delicious food, laughter, and fellowship, and two heartfelt services that touched everyone present. The joy in the room and the love woven through every prayer and act of worship made it a day we'll always remember.

We are deeply grateful to every person who helped create such a joyful and memorable celebration. Whether you prepared food, decorated with care, greeted guests with warm smiles, or worked quietly behind the scenes, your time, effort, and love made all the difference. To all the moms who inspire us daily — we love and appreciate you!



# BINGO Night



The recent Bingo Night at 1st Christian Church was not just an event; it was a resounding success. Families and individuals came together for some friendly competition, Wednesday May 13 as we concluded our Wednesday night programming until August. We invite you to join us for future gatherings at 1st Christian Church, where camaraderie and joy await, and become part of a community that celebrates together, grows together, and supports one another on this beautiful journey of faith.



## FCC Ties with Carrollton High



Mandy Anderson, a life-long member of FCC, has spent her career in Special Education at CHS. As Special Ed Coordinator, Mandy ( 11 service) tells of her pride as she recently watched Grayson Faircloth ( 11 service) serve as an intern in her department during his senior year. She says Grayson was a natural friend and leader who kept an eye on his students well beyond the classroom hour. For example, each Friday Grayson came by to see if any of the students wanted to go with him to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting. Often, he made an effort to see these kids outside of the school setting. Going the extra mile.

Every Monday of the school year, Job Coach Mr. Fred Ricks brings his students to FCC where they help Elder Tony Ward ( 9 service) clean the

church facilities. This work gives the students an opportunity to hone their job/life skills, the subject of their class. There they often see other people who are coming to help out in various ways. They can make connections as they see Terry Hampton cleaning or painting on a Monday. They may run into Leah, Kay, and Sandy who are pulling weeds or watering plants. Good examples for students.

On their last Monday of the semester, Coach Ricks and his delightful students showed up at the church office with donuts for the staff. What a wonderful way to interact with our community. Let them see Jesus on Ward Street.

# 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.*



Omega is collecting baby towels & washcloths for the material goods program at Ascend.

Please turn in items by  
Sunday June 28.

Look for the donation bins throughout the church

Fathers hold a special place in the family and in God's design. The Bible is rich with verses that celebrate fathers—honoring their role as protectors, providers, spiritual leaders, and loving guides. Whether you are a father seeking wisdom or someone who wants to honor the fathers in your life, there are many powerful Bible verses celebrating fathers that will inspire, encourage, and uplift.

## 6 Bible Verses Celebrating Fathers

### 1. Proverbs 20:7

“The righteous who walks in his integrity—blessed are his children after him!”

This verse highlights the blessing that a father's righteous life brings not only to himself but to his children and generations after. Integrity in a father leaves a lasting spiritual legacy.

### 2. Ephesians 6:4

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

Paul instructs fathers to nurture their children with patience and godly teaching rather than harshness, emphasizing a father's role in spiritual formation.

### 3. Psalm 103:13

“As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.”

Here, God's fatherly compassion is compared to the natural love of a human father, illustrating the depth of God's care for His people.

### 4. Proverbs 23:24

“The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son, rejoices in him.”

A father's heart is deeply joyful when his children walk in righteousness and wisdom, underscoring the blessings of godly parenting.

### 5. Colossians 3:21

“Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.”

Paul warns fathers to lead with encouragement and love, avoiding behaviors that cause discouragement in their children's hearts.

### 6. Proverbs 22:6

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Fathers have a vital role in guiding their children early in life toward godly paths, with lasting influence.

# New Members



Don and M.J. Hurst joined on May 24th.



The family of Nick and Brooke Ivey joined on May 31st. Children Zeke, Jasper, Nora Jo, Ivey Law Tollson, and Nick's mother Annette Ivey.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- VBS
- Summer Youth Events
- Woodland Camp
- Youth Pastor search
- Ascend (formerly the
- Pregnancy Resource Center)
- Elders & Staff
- Fathers



FCC staff Jake McPike, Brittany Vibhakar and Paul Johnson got to see Dan Whitmer ring the cancer free bell Tuesday, May 12. Dan and his wife Keely attend the 11 AM service. They appreciate their church family and ask to keep Keely in our prayers. She is still receiving Chemo treatments at this time.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

6/7- Celebrate Recovery 4 PM

6/8 - Omega 6 PM in the bride's room

6/10 - Alpha 10 AM

6/11 - Women's Bible Study 6:30 - 8 PM in the FLC

6/14- Celebrate Recovery 4 PM

VBS - June 15-18

6/17- Food Pantry 9-10 AM

6/18- Senior Fellowship 11:30 AM at Suttons

6/21 - Father's Day Services at 9 & 11 AM, brunch at 10 AM,

Celebrate Recovery 4 PM

6/25 - Women's Bible Study 6:30 - 8 PM in the FLC

6/28 - Celebrate Recovery 4 PM

# WAYS TO GIVE



Sunday (Giving boxes)



1stChristianChurch.com



306 College Street  
Carrollton, GA 30117



Text 1stcc to 73256

## MAY NUMBERS

### Weekly Offering Needed

17,692.31

5/5

5/12

5/19

5/24

5/31

**Attendance**

286

345

261

246

272

**Offering**

\$26,701.02

\$13,546.14

\$19,523.20

\$9,917.62

\$7,838.00

**YTD Received**

\$397,663.34

\$411,209.48

\$430,732.68

\$440,650.30

\$448,488.30

**YTD Needed**

\$318,461.58

\$336,153.89

\$353,846.20

\$371,538.51

\$389,230.82