

1ST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

focus

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

1ST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
NOVEMBER 2026, VOLUME 90

New Sermon Series

Most of us learn early that there's never quite enough to go around, and that a careful person holds tight to whatever they manage to get. But what if that's not the world's true story? What if the true is something else entirely?

Beginning Sunday, November 1, we'll launch "Generous by Nature," a new sermon series that looks past our checkbooks and into the heart of God.

We'll begin in Genesis, where a world bursting with seed and fruit shows a Creator who gives out of overflowing love. Then we'll stand at the foot of the cross, where God held nothing back. Along the way we'll find out how seeing God's generosity clearly can loosen our grip, quiet our worries and fill us with joy. Bring a friend, bring your questions, and come expecting to be amazed by the God who gives.



Randy Barnhart
Senior Minister



In October Ken and Polly MacHarg traveled to Iceland, knowing that possibly this would be their last foreign jaunt since their passports would soon be up for renewal. At this stage in life renewing made no sense. Polly had obtained her first passport as a college student for a European tour. Ken got his first after seminary when he and Polly moved to the Panama Canal Zone to pastor two churches.

Stateside ministries followed, but by l988 they were preparing for mission work by attending language school in Costa Rica. For 8 years they served with HCIB World Radio ministry which served 80% of the world in 15 languages with Christian programing. While Ken worked himself up to be in charge of the English programming, Polly was teaching high school missionary children as well as teaching English at a university of Quito. Both ministered on weekends reaching communities with Christian films. Ken preached during those years as well.

Back state side, they felt the call to work with a ministry based in Miami facilitating Latin American Mision work. This was a good fit and they worked there in a variety of fulfilling roles until retirement.

Retirement started with a move to Carrollton to be close to their daughter's family. Here they landed at FCC because one couple particularly made them feel welcomed. But retirement and Ken did not mix well. Within 6 months he was bored and felling a bit useless. His motto became, " One should retire to something." By 2004 , passports in hand, they back were in Costa Rica preaching for an international church and developing two courses at a Christian University. Then for a period of time back to Ecuador to serve the International English Church. Retirement was feeling better using their God-given skills for His kingdom. However, this retirement meant a lot of back and forth between ministry and Carrollton.

In 2010 they moved to Kyrgyzstan where they served The International Church of Bishkek for nearly 3 years. From that assignment was finished, they went directly to Prague for a year as interim ministers for the International Church of Prague.

Years into "retirement" involved a short ministry with a church in the Bahamas. Now it seemed time to settle back into their lovely house in Carrollton. As you can imagine, after the kind of life they had lived, cutting grass and walking to the library wasn't going to be enough. Their next step was to get involved with the International Students at the UWGA. This ministry was one they were extremely qualified to undertake. They knew full well what it was like to be the outsider in another country. Finally, in 2023, the MacHargs admitted that energy was flagging and they again retired. Those well-worn passports will now be another item in the keepsake box to remind them of their rich life.

Randy preached a series in October about intentionally aging into the person you want to become. One of his points was that the church needed the experience and wisdom of the older members. FCC has a treasure of experience and wisdom in these two members.



Estimate of Giving Sunday Is November 22

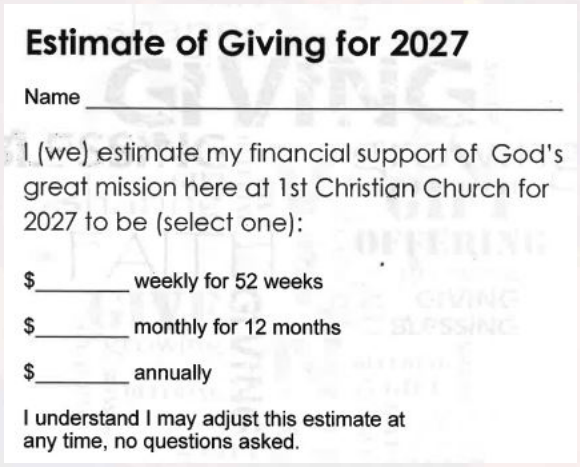
On Sunday, November 22, we'll celebrate God's faithfulness by placing our Estimate of Giving cards on the altar as an act of worship, laying our resources at the foot of the cross. Your estimate isn't a binding pledge. It helps our leaders plan wisely for the ministry God is opening up for our church in the coming year. As always, you will be able to adjust your giving according to how God is blessing you financially.

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Whatever we give to, we grow to love. Please join the Elders and me in praying about what the Lord might want you to do in the coming year. You'll receive a estimate of giving card with a letter from me this month, and more cards will be available the Sunday mornings leading up to November 22.

As we look ahead to 2027, our theme for the year will be *Unshakeable*. Life has a way of rattling us, but Hebrews 12:28 reminds us that we belong to "a kingdom that cannot be shaken." The God who carries us stays steady, no matter what assaults us.

Randy Barnhart

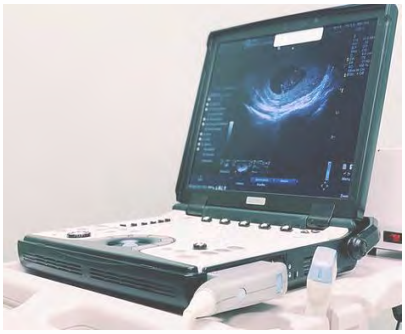




ASCEND
Women's Care & Family Support







Ascend Women's Care & Family Support is thankful for our current supporters, and this mission needs even more! We have volunteers who make beautiful Afghan's and blankets. Others write encouragement cards to our patients and clients. Door greeter? Another helps by cleaning our windows. Building maintenance, yard work, yep. Someone else by hosting a diaper drive. There is a service you can provide. What is your talent? Can you use it for Ascend? Call Sandy at 770-832-0256.

Greeting From The Other Side Of The World



Our Korean friend Sung Park who worshipped with us while he was a graduate student at UWGA recently sent his Carrollton friends an update. After graduation he returned to Korea where he landed his dream job as a cinematographer for WORLD VISION. Three months ago, his team was sent to work in Cambodia. This relocation lets him visit with his parents once a month. They have served as missionaries in Cambodia since Sung was quite young. He used to say that although he was Korean, he had spent only a small portion of his life in the country of his grandparents. Many will remember Sung was a regular with the worship band, playing various instruments. He reports that he is using his talents as a worship leader in a Cambodian church. What a blessing it is to cross paths with fellow Christians as we serve in our corner of the Kingdom of God.



Don't you love this?! Recently Mike and Lyndi Mashburn visited their daughter Pressley, a Florida State student. When sister Maddie and the parents went to church with her at Downtown Community Church, they had this clever photo opportunity.



1st Kids

Candy Collection

WOW! Thank you for showing up and showing out – we received an incredible amount of candy & goodies to hand out at our David and Goliath Experience!

Gratitude Challenge

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, November is a wonderful month to intentionally practice gratitude at home with your children. Each day, find a time – maybe during school drop off or at dinner - for each family member mention something they are thankful for. Challenge your family to come up with something new and specific each day! It's a wonderful reminder of all the blessings God has bestowed on us!

Christmas Performance

Practice for this year's Christmas performance is underway! Please make sure you're playing the songs for your child(ren) at home. You can access the music by downloading it using the QR code below or get a CD from Beth or Brittany. The Christmas performance will take place on Sunday, December 6th!







2026

NOVEMBER

1ST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Celebrate Recovery 4 - 6 PM	2	3	4 Wonderful Wednesday 5:30-7 PM	5	6	7
8 Celebrate Recovery 4 - 6 PM	9 Omega 6 pm	10	11 Alpha 10 AM Wonderful Wednesday 5:30-7 PM	12	13	14
15 Celebrate Recovery 4 - 6 PM	16	17	18 Food Pantry 9-10 AM Wonderful Wednesday 5:30-7 PM	19 Senior Fellowship Suttons 11:30 AM Dutch Treat	20	21
22 Celebrate Recovery 4 - 6 PM	23	24	25 **No Wonderful Wednesday Thanksgiving Break**	26	27	28
29 Celebrate Recovery 4 - 6 PM	30					

Be a Light in the Darkness

A message for teens

Good news! You don't have to start a revival at lunch to be light in the darkness. You don't have to carry a sign that says, "REPENT!" or a bullhorn so you can yell at people about God. In fact, I'm pretty sure some of that would be a downright bad idea.

That said, God DOES want you to let your light shine. So, what does that look like? Sometimes it looks like speaking to a friend who is depressed, saying something like, "If you want to know what keeps me going when I am feeling sad, I'd love to share it with you." And then just wait to see if they want you to. Sometimes it might be opening your mouth to take up for someone who is the subject of gossip. Or answering a group chat with honesty instead of the easy lie. Or sitting with the kid nobody claims when the table fills up.

Darkness doesn't always roar. A lot of the time it just shrugs and hides behind the weak excuse, "This is how it is." Your light doesn't have to shout either. Sometimes, it just has to refuse to go along.

Jesus didn't say, "Be the loudest." He said, "Let it shine." Most days that happens in ordinary places—hallways, group projects, the ride home—where one steady choice pushes back the dark a little further than it would have gone without you. You are the light of the world.

Randy Barnhart

Your Teen Still Needs You More Than They Act Like

Remember when your child couldn't stand to be away from you? Now you're lucky to get more than three words out of them—and two of those might be "I know!" Welcome to parenting a teenager!

As teens grow, they naturally begin seeking independence. They want privacy, freedom, and the opportunity to make their own decisions. Sometimes that means pulling away from the very people they need most.

But here's something every parent should remember: **Your teenager's desire for independence is not the same as a desire for your absence.**

Beneath the occasional eye-roll, slammed door, or one-word answer is still a young person who needs stability, guidance, encouragement, and unconditional love.

So how do you stay connected?

1. **Be available without being intrusive.** Some of the best conversations happen during car rides or late-night snacks.
2. **Listen more than you lecture.** Your teen is more likely to share their struggles when every conversation doesn't turn into a correction.
3. **Keep showing up.** Attend their activities, take an interest in their world, and remind them regularly that you love them.
4. **Prayer is presence.** Praying for your kids is a big part of staying with them. Keep on praying for your kids (this job NEVER ends). They need it, and so do you.

Proverbs 22:6 reminds us of the importance of guiding our children. Your teenager may be growing up, but your job isn't finished. **They may need you differently now, but they don't need you any less.**

Randy Barnhart

Celebrate Recovery
A CHRIST-CENTERED RECOVERY PROGRAM

Real People.
Real Hurts.
Real Hope.

Help Families Heal Together:

Lead CR Kids! ♥



Our **Celebrate Recovery (CR)** ministry needs adult volunteers to lead **CR Kids** on Sundays from **3:45 PM – 5:45 PM** (2 hours/week).

CR Kids uses a curriculum that mirrors the adult lessons, allowing parents and children to learn the same principles and **heal together as a family.**

Schedule:
Sunday afternoons,
3:45 PM – 5:45 PM.

Availability:
We would love a one-month commitment for consistency, but we happily accept **any availability** you can share!

All lesson materials and formatting are fully provided.
If you want to make a lasting impact on a child's life,
reach out today!

Contact Steven and Nicole Miller
at **(706) 452-3953** or **celebraterecovery@1stchristianchurch.com**
to sign up.

Celebrate Recovery
A CHRIST CENTERED Recovery Program

1st Christian Church
Every Sunday at 4pm
We can't wait to see you there!!!



These verses emphasize gratitude, the central theme of November and Thanksgiving

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 — "Give thanks in all circumstances…"
- Colossians 3:17 — Give thanks in all you do.
- Psalm 107:1 — God's steadfast love endures forever.
- Ephesians 5:20 — Give thanks always.
- Psalm 100:4 — Enter His gates with thanksgiving.
- Philippians 4:19 — God supplies every need.
- James 1:17 — Every good gift is from above.
- Numbers 6:24–26 — The Lord bless you and keep you.
- 2 Corinthians 9:8 — Grace abounds for every good work.
- 3 John 1:2 — Prayer for health and well-being

Youth Group
1ST CHRISTIAN CHURCH


Zack Ziegler

If you've walked past the youth room on a Wednesday night lately, you may have noticed new faces, new sounds! Zach Ziegler, who is leading the youth has brought a new energy!

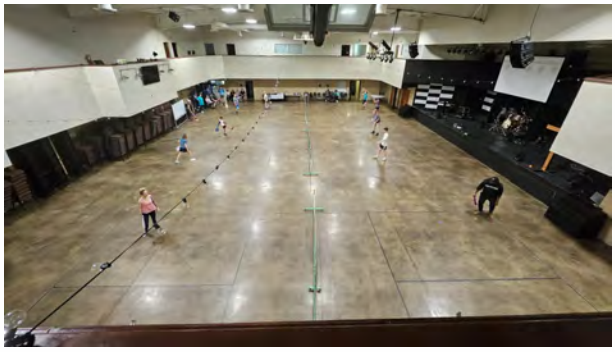
One of Zach's goals has been to make youth group a place where every student feels welcome the moment, they walk in, and where they feel it's genuinely theirs. That doesn't mean the teenagers are running the show unsupervised. It means they're being given real responsibility and trusted to carry it. At the same time, the heart of the group hasn't changed: they gather to worship God through live music and to dig into Scripture together, with the teaching carried into small groups where students can talk honestly about what the Bible says and what it means for their lives.

The ownership part is already bearing fruit. Charley Evans has been leading worship alongside Jacob Joiner, and last week Emory Faircloth stood up and delivered the message. It's one thing to sit in a youth group; it's another to help lead it, and our students are stepping up in ways that should encourage all of us. If you see any of them around the church, tell them you heard about it.

Looking ahead, Zach will spend the next three weeks teaching through the Psalms, the prayer book of the Bible, where God's people brought Him everything from praise to grief to frustration. After that, the group will begin a series on dating. Parents, that's a great opportunity to have some follow-up conversations at home, and Zach would be glad to hear from you if you have questions about what's being covered.

Youth group meets Wednesdays @ 6:00 PM. If you have a teenager, or know one who needs a place to belong, we'd love to see them there. And please keep Zach, our students, and our search for a full-time youth minister in your prayers.







1ST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WAYS TO GIVE

GIVE VIA TEXT TO GIVE
Text 1stcc to 73256

MAIL
306 College Street Carrollton, GA. 30117

USE OUR CHURCH WEBSITE
1stChristianChurch.com

SUNDAY GIVING BOXES
Put your offering in the giving boxes



- Our National and local leaders
- Elections
- Families as they travel during the holidays
- 1st Kids and Youth at FCC
- 2027 Budget for FCC

October Numbers

Weekly Offering Needed $ 17,692.31

	10/4/26	10/11/26	10/18/26	91/25/26
Weekly Offering	$ 32,012.20	$ 11,512.32	$ 13,680.20	$ 4,124.34
YTD Received	$773,921.47	$785,433.79	$799,113.99	$803,238.33
YTD Needed	$707,692.40	$725,384.71	$743,077.02	$760,769.33
Attendance	247	227	260	239