
FIRST FAMILY NEWS

3495 Sugarloaf Pkwy., Lawrenceville GA 30044 770-963-9922

Go to Galilee, Do Not Fear, and Love Others!

The idea of “re-reading everything on the basis of the cross” is a concept that I offer to you from a focus page in a devotional book that I use called, *SACRED SPACE – THE PRAYER BOOK 2018*. [Page 144 to be exact. This phrase comes from Pope Francis, *The Joy of Discipleship*.]

Remember Jesus’ words to Mary – not just to tell the others that she had seen him alive, but to go and meet Jesus in Galilee. Why Galilee? That’s where they were first called to be disciples. It’s as if they are starting over again, from the original, beginning place... a literal place where Jesus had walked the shores where the fishermen were casting their nets. To go to the place of beginnings to begin again can be a metaphysical place – in our spiritual lives. I pray for us all to have that same eagerness as the first disciples to return to Galilee... to begin afresh, invigorated by the astounding love of God that conquered death. To know in our minds and hearts that Christ is risen! God’s mission continues!

“Do not fear” was also in that message from Jesus and the angel in the empty tomb. If you have been paying attention, you might have noticed fear has been mentioned often in our Easter season readings. Fear and wonder and believing and faith and doubting and even repentance are all big themes for Easter season. All of these... together. All of this as reaction to the supreme act of love that Jesus Christ demonstrated by offering himself voluntarily to suffer and to die a shameful, tortuous death. We often view Jesus as the role model for us. I take it that this part of the story shows us that God’s loving way is not going to be easy and in fact, will be painful. To be clear, this is not for punishment’s sake, but because growth happens via suffering.

Love is the other major focus in our Easter readings – it’s almost to the point of being nauseating in First John. The readings from the First Letter of John in the Easter season all focus on the theme of love and God’s love for us and how we as children of the light are to love one another as Christ loves us. Repetition means it’s important – so significant that it bears repeating over and over again. To say we love God is meaningless if we don’t act out the love in our daily lives. It’s just that simple. And that hard.

So when the preacher says, *go in peace to love and to serve the Lord* as a benediction, we are being given a tough assignment! Maybe we’ve heard it so many times, the words do not pack as much punch. How about – *Go to Galilee. Do not fear. Love others!*

Yours in Christ’s service,

Melinda



The honor of Minister Emeritus was bestowed upon The Rev. Dr. Hoyt Huff, Jr., during worship on Sunday, April 22. Honoring his 54 years of faithful service across several states and within the Region of Georgia, his family and friends from many places attended the celebration, including Regional Minister, Rev. Denise Bell, and Christian College of Georgia President, Bob Harris. Lawrenceville First Board Chair, Lee Thompson, presented from the congregation a monetary gift to Hoyt and a donation to the Christian College of Georgia. A special thanks to Connie Thompson for decorating and flower arrangements, and to Linda and Bruce Rowe for catering.

Graduation Covered-Dish Celebration May 27

On Sunday, May 27, there will be a covered-dish meal following the 10:50am service to honor our three high school seniors who will have graduated in the days preceding our event: Rafael Evatt-Machado from Dacula High School, and Angel Ramirez and Angelo Ramirez from Discovery High School in Lawrenceville. The LFCC family congratulates them and their families as we celebrate this joyous occasion with them. More information about meal needs will be forthcoming in announcements and egrams.

FRF - Featured Restaurant Fellowship

We need volunteers to host FRF for the months of May and June. As the host you will pick the restaurant, check with the restaurant about reservations, send information in for the egram and newsletter, and be there to greet people when they arrive. That's it! We usually schedule for the 3rd Tuesday of the month, but can be flexible. Talk to Beth Thompson if you are interested.

Dear Disciple Women (aka Angels)

Holy Trinity Church in Flowery Branch sends their heartfelt THANK YOU for the gifts we sent. They have just recently reopened their "Free Closet". They have a wonderful mission outfitting people looking for employment. I was unaware they need men's clothing also. Perhaps we want to consider that next time. They seem to have lots of baby clothes.

I thank you for your wonderful response to this mission. We sent three complete outfits including a suit, blouse, scarf, jewelry, pantyhose and a purse that was stuffed with goodies! We also had a huge box of all kinds of clothing.

Thank you again my Angels!

Fondly,
Dorrie Toth

Volunteer at the Lawrenceville Food Ministry Cooperative

Founded in 1995, the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry has been serving the citizens of Gwinnett County, Georgia, for more than 20 years. We are a Christian organization that seeks to care for those in need in the Lawrenceville and Dacula communities. The Lawrenceville Co-Op will be moving during the spring of 2018 to a new location at 52 Gwinnett Drive, next to Lawrenceville Elementary School and across the street from Central Gwinnett High.

There are volunteer positions of Greeter, Front Desk, Interviewer, Office clerical and Pantry. Volunteers may work as much or as little as they prefer. All prospective volunteers are invited to attend a volunteer orientation meeting to learn more about the ministry and the opportunities for service. (Attendance at an orientation is required before new volunteers may begin work at the Co-Op.)

Next Orientation for New Volunteers: Thurs., June 21, at 7 pm at the Co-op

Staff: Tom Balog - Executive Director
Ruth Hardy - Assistant Director

Mission Statement

The mission of the Co-Op is to glorify God and to demonstrate God's love. The Co-Op is an intentionally Christian organization seeking to honor the Lordship of Jesus Christ in word and deed by following His example in sharing and caring for neighbors in need. The Co-Op seeks to preserve clients' dignity while encouraging self-responsibility and spiritual growth.

Can You Deliver Our First Sunday Food?

LFCC needs a Volunteer(s) to deliver the First Sunday Food donations to the Co-op. This would be once a month and can be done anytime the Co-op is open. See schedule following. If interested let Lee T or Rod B know.

Normal weekly Co-op schedule:

Monday

9:00 to 10:30 AM - Open for Food Donations
6:00 to 7:30 PM - Open for Clients *

Tuesday

9:00 to 10:30 AM - Open for Food Donations

Wednesday

10:00 AM to 1:30 PM
Open for Clients

Thursday

9:00 to 10:30 AM
Open for Food Donations

Friday

10:00 AM to 1:30 PM
Open for Clients

Saturday

10:00 AM to 1:30 PM
Open for Clients *

*Food Only days

For more information go to the Co-op website:

lawrencevilleco-op.org

The Co-op follows the Gwinnett County school calendar

No School = Co-op is closed.

Letters to Our Summer Campers, Directors and Counselors



There will be a table set up with a listing of camp dates, those attending camp this summer and note cards to use. Send a note to our campers and counselors. They enjoy getting mail and we will make sure to get the mail to them.

Junior I: Counselor- Rebecca Thompson

Oasis: Counselor In Training- Rafael Evatt-Machado

CYF Conference: Campers- Rafael Evatt-Machado, Annie Ballew, Collin Chandler, Mason Thompson

Directors/Counselors: Amanda and Joey Baker

Chi Rho Camp: Campers- Braxton Holden, Caleb Maxwell, K J Moon, Brooks Thompson, Perry Westbrook

Directors/Counselors: Stephen Westbrook, Denise Holden

Mid-High Conference: Campers- Riley Ballew, Tara Maxwell

Chrysalis: Campers- Sophia Coker, Payton Holden, Eleanor McElhanon, Mary Kate Westbrook

Directors/Counselors: Meredith Westbrook, Rod Baker, Denise Holden, Elizabeth McElhanon

Junior II: Campers- Molly Ballew

Directors/Counselors: Libby Ballew, Elizabeth Anders

April Birthdays:

2 Hoyt Huff
5 Matt Klimshuk
7 Josué Machado
10 Kali Parks
11 Scott Britt
15 Bessie Kirby
15 Chris Klimshuk
18 Leigh Britt
24 Lee Thompson
24 Alyna Lee
25 Amanda Baker
27 Beth Thompson
30 Libby Ballew



May Birthdays:

1 Matthew Britt
1 Gabriel Evatt-Machado
3 Rosie Tripp
5 Lynn Lane
10 Barbara Bagwell
13 Kayla Lee
15 Tony Ramirez
16 Brendon Parks
18 Debbie Huff
23 Tommy Hlass
25 Eileen McCollough
27 Julie Lee
29 Matt Hall
29 Karla Johnson
31 Mabel Simmons

Serving at the Table in April/May

Elders in April- Elizabeth McElhanon, Libby Ballew

Deacons in April- Anna Harrison, Brian Ballew, Annie Ballew,

Communion Meditation in April- Libby Ballew, Anna Harrison, Jimmy Peeples

Elders in May- Connie Thompson, Lee Thompson,

Deacons in May- Rebecca Thompson,

Communion Meditation in May- Jimmy Peeples, Kim Peeples

Worship Helpers in April/May

April 29- Responsive Reader- Molly Ballew, **Scripture Reader-** Bruce Johnson

Communion Meditation- Needed, **Greeter-** Lee Thompson

May 6- Responsive Reader- Rafael Evatt-Machado, **Scripture Reader-** Kim Peeples

Communion Meditation- Needed, **Greeter-** Needed

May 13-Youth Sunday helpers

May 20- Responsive Reader- Rafael Evatt-Machado, **Scripture Reader-** Dorrie Toth

Communion Meditation- Jimmy Peeples, **Greeter-** Needed

May- Responsive Reader- Rafael Evatt-Machado, **Scripture Reader-** Jimmy Peeples

Communion Meditation- Kim Peeples, **Greeter-** Needed

***We are in need of Worship Helpers for May and June. Please see Melinda to sign up. Thank You for serving!**

Summer Small Group Book Study

Anyone interested in joining the Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community book study this summer, please meet Melinda after service on Sunday, 4/29. Bring your calendars and let's see if we can begin meeting this summer. I am looking at Tuesday nights July 10 and 31 from 6:30-7:45. If you are not able to be at this planning session, please email Melinda at melindamcdonald07@gmail.com or call her at 864.205.2695.



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

lgafcc@gmail.com

lawrencevillefirstchristian.org

Minister: The Rev. Melinda McDonald- 864-205-2695

Music Director: Kim Peeples