



Watch us live every Sunday morning at 10:15 am on VouTube

🎔 🎔 🧡 🧡 In The Heart of Eugene Since 1866 🎔 🎔 🗡 🗡



Rev. April Oristano



Communication Conversation with Pastor April

Since the COVID-19 quarantine began in March, all congregational life and communication systems have been in a hurricane. At the Board meeting on Sunday we discussed the following questions and these were our reflections. I welcome your reflection and ideas as well because this is a sincere attempt to remedy communication breakdowns, breeches, and loopholes we can identify and keep us all connected.

1. Think for a moment back to a year ago -- how would you, church member, say you most often learned of events (good or bad) happening in the church?

Bulletin, Bulletin boards, from the pulpit, word of mouth, coffee shop, newsletter, website, weekly e-news. (We are still accepting more answers, we're in the evaluation mode.)

2. How would you say the congregation shared hard news or had difficult discussions in the past?

In small groups in each other's homes or in the church.

Over long periods of time.

In as large a group as possible -- so we knew we were reaching the congregation.

Verbal communication was a top priority here. Written a close second.

Broadcasting and having an online presence (advertising, evangelism, and frankly web ministry) have been our lower priorities.

3. Think about the last couple of weeks -- if you have a question about church, who has this information? Where can you find it now?

Pastors April and Jerri and Facility Administrator Yvette.

The office in general.

If we're lucky the website has it if it hasn't been spammed, hacked, or hijacked, which it has several times since March.

Leaders of various committees -- but who are they? Where can you find this information outside of the church right now?

E-news. Newsletter.



My point: While everything has somehow changed in the last few months, I'm stretched to see how really anything has changed about our communication methods or preferences. Until recently. We've all had new technology, new apps, new headaches and new growth in these areas!

My observation of our methods reveals that one got at least 90% of one's "communications" Sunday to Sunday -- we saturated you with people in the back of the sanctuary to sign you up, printed in bulletin and in posters around the church, your pastors would tell you, point you to it, and give you 3-6 weeks to sign up. And often the product (be it program, special offering or congregational vote reappeared in front of all of us, in the sanctuary. If One couldn't go on the mission trip -- it always came back to the sanctuary.

One didn't have to go to the silent auction -- it came to the sanctuary.

One didn't have to identify, research and then send an email to a leader - they were IN the sanctuary.

As it relates to committee work, this also remains the status quo. Committees meet and send reports to the board. But pushing through our sub committees and task forces into whole congregational communication on the bits and pieces of day to day, month to month work has not been our strong suit.

I would argue most congregational members would say they don't want to read the minutes of a particular committee. But others did and would seek it out. The rest of us trusted the work others were doing. It's not a bad thing. Just an observation from your pastor. The most important bits would come to the congregational meeting or to the sanctuary. Another way to put this is: One has always had access to information -- one just had to know how and who to ask for it. I see a problem here.

So now what? I hear members asking "what's going on?"

The congregation has significant congregational work that we began in 2019 and we must continue all while developing new ways to do this work. We have necessary conversations awaiting us as in a time when many are anxious to be in the presence of one another. We have layers of grief work because the church is transforming faster than feels comfortable. **This requires patience and grace and analysis at every level, not just fast fix it action.**

If you are frustrated as a church member, you are not alone. If you are fatigued, you are not alone. If you are eager to connect, you are not alone! Mostly, you are not alone. If you are frustrated and fatigued as a church leader, you are not alone.

Leaders, if you have felt additional pressure in this time because we are physically apart, and have felt that as a leader you are "doing the work alone" -- YOU ARE NOT. Realize every single one of us feels that from time to time and together we can support one another as congregational leaders.

**And when this happens -- Please Call another leader or committee member when that pressure rises and check in -- because the truth is we are doing this work together and it is HARD work. Many hands make light work-- take over some of this burden for one another -- and be sure to ask for help.

CONCLUSION QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

- 1. Questions for Committees and Committee leaders -- how can we deepen communication between your group and the wider congregation? What can your team do to foster dialogue and make available your work? Share today any ideas you have or make a commitment to discuss this at your next meeting.
- 2. Questions for all board members & church members -- how are you currently reading church news and what else do you wish the church could communicate right now? What can you do to deepen a relationship with another person in the church or foster positive communication in the church right now?
- 3. Model Good Communication Skills as Church Leaders--
 - A. Continue to set regular committee meetings, over zoom or in small groups outside with masks & social distancing. Communicate dates & times early and meeting information early.
 - B. Send all agenda items, reports, minutes, anything you want your team to discuss, provide it in advance so everyone has time to process the information.
 - C. Foster good care for one another by meeting for short periods of time, 1 hour or less. If you have more agenda items than 1 hour can hold--meet more often so you can keep meetings to 1 hour. Zoom rooms are draining. Everyone is traumatized. Covid brain is REAL.
 - D. Send all minutes to the Executive Team as soon as possible.
 - E. Send minutes or a short blurb to Pastor April by Wednesday if you want them shared with the congregation online.
 - F. If members of your committee or task force have suddenly dropped out of participation or have resigned, call Pastor April or Jerri right away as these are signs of a pastoral care need.
 - G. In these times we can all forget or miss a meeting or are suddenly not as prepared as we hoped. Be honest with each other, take the opportunity to be vulnerable and open with your team so together you can carry the responsibility and divide up the tasks.
 - H. Everyone is carrying an enormous load right now, continue in the way of kindness and be generous with grace. I think everyone is afraid of stumbling right now as leaders and the more openly and kindly we communicate with each other the deeper our bonds of fellowship and siblinghood will be. **Let your light shine!**



Follow FCC on Instagram! ///////// ////// fcceugene_disciples_of_christ



Yard Signs =



\$2.00 EACH EMAIL OFFICE@HEARTOFEUGENE.ORG

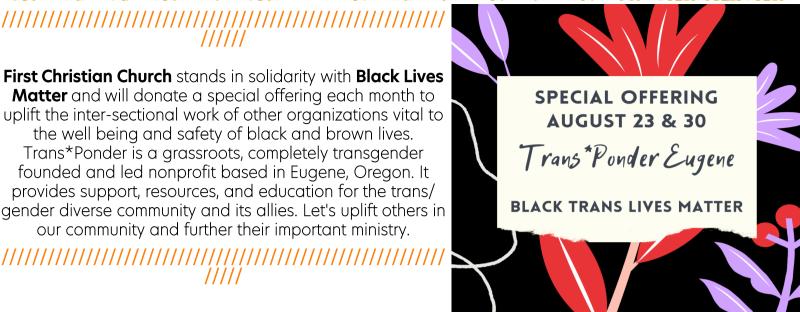


let's make a connection - please wear a mask

Monday August 10



First Christian Church stands in solidarity with Black Lives **Matter** and will donate a special offering each month to uplift the inter-sectional work of other organizations vital to the well being and safety of black and brown lives. Trans*Ponder is a grassroots, completely transgender founded and led nonprofit based in Eugene, Oregon. It provides support, resources, and education for the trans/ gender diverse community and its allies. Let's uplift others in our community and further their important ministry.

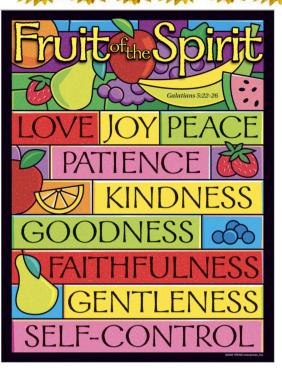


breeze church management

Breeze ChMS

Please take a moment to download the free church app called Breeze ChMS. Works with both iPhone and android. this is the digital church directory in your hands! Please check your email and spam folders for a **message from "BreezeChMS",** inviting you to join the FCC private directory and create a secure login and update your personal and family profile.





From Co-Pastor Jerri Worship this week

This Sunday we conclude our **Fruit of the Spirit series**. Self-Control. It is 'listening to my hear and doing what is smart'.

Cherries are the fruit of the week; they are the Lays potato chips of the fruit family... you can't eat just one.

"Self-Control"Galatians 5:22-26

The next<u>four weeks</u>we will take a look at "That one moment" in movies. Pivotal scenes from four different movies, look for watch party events.



Minister's Moment from Jerri About September worship

'Jumping in the deep end', that is what my friends say I did in moving to Eugene, Oregon... especially in the beginning months of Coved 19. 'Preaching in an empty room to a congregation, of people you have not yet been able to greet, must be so difficult, say retired ministers from this congregation. It is true. And, when I came here, in April, I had no idea that we would still be isolating, avoiding indoor groups. I had no idea the Pandemic would still be impacting the country and our individual lives for such a long period of time. I just new that God was calling me back to Pastoral ministry. I was delighted when Rev. Dr. Cathy Meyers-Wirt began talking to me about ministerial positions in Oregon. It was underway when COVID 19 showed up. Essential services were what remained operational. AND YET I knew God was calling me...You were searching for pastoral leadership. I am so glad for our opportunity to get together, pray together, worship together, heal and transform together. We had have studied and cultivated Fruits of the Spirit. We are now enjoying films together in August.

We will return to lectionary texts beginning in September. We will still be live-streaming worship on YouTube. Our Lectionary texts are:

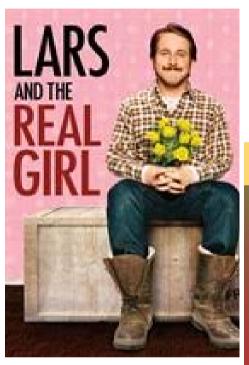


Worship Series:

The same of the same of the same of

in August we will be spending some time watching movies and lifting up some theological themes.

Aug 9 Lars and the Real Girl - Jerri Aug 16 Wrinkle in Time - April Aug 23 Bruce Almighty - Jerri Aug 28 Contact - April

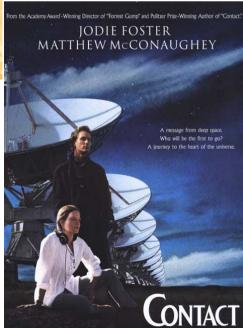








There will be Friday night viewings of each movie on-line August 9, 16, 23, 28.
Or you can watch it on one of your movie platforms. Don't forget your popcorn!





Dining for Dollars - With Distancing!

Events like these are coming in for the 2020 Dining for Dollars Silent Auction: Janet & Evelyn plan to host Game Night with Pizza via Zoom from your very own home, playing "Two Truths and a Lie". Pizza will be delivered to home of player/s, we'll play the game on-line. Saturday, October 17 at 6:00 pm. Need internet connection able to access video and audio zoom meetings. Open to six players (couples count as two).

Glen McKerrow will host an outdoor event called "Bring Grandmother's Photo" and is an opportunity to share stories of the generations past while being together.

Jerri is gonna host an acrylic pour painting party -- look it up, you're gonna wanna get messy with us!

There is still time, we want you to find inspiration in the little things that you might be able to share with 2 people, 4 people up to 10 people-- virtual or in person OUTDOOR events -- thank you for supporting First Christian Church and one another. Email Laura Hammond at hammondla@gmail.com this week and stay tuned for instructions to join our Online Silent Auction.







SUMMER & FALL 2020

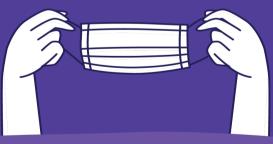
DINING FOR DOLLARS

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUNDRAISING FOR FIRST CHRISTIAN CHRUCH









Request for Sewers

The Covid-19 Reponse Team is seeking mask donations to serve church members currently without one AND create a supply for visitors.

- Visit Heartofeugene.org to view mask templates
- Email office@heartofeugene.org to drop off masks



The Executive Committee (President Amy Metzger, VP Tom Kozlowski, Treasurer Michael Kennedy, Secretary Jean Kozlowski, and Pastors April and Jerri) have been "Zooming" to keep up with the dealings of the church.

Our Pastors have enjoyed the times spent with the "Pastor in the Park" and Friday prayer time, though Jerri is looking forward to the time when she can meet folks "face to face" instead of "screen to screen."

We discussed the Board meeting this week, and want to make opportunities for more dialog in the meeting. We are still looking for nominees for church officers, as Tom, and Jean will end their terms in August/September, and Michael's term will go through January. The nominating committee is hard at work.

We are looking forward to some "Town Hall Meetings" in the coming months to discuss the many issues confronting our church, such as the physical building, Worship, and transition to a new Pastor.

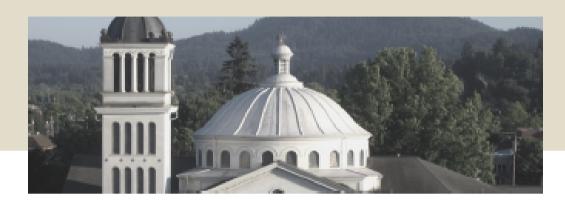
Things are changing in our congregation, but our mission remains the same, as outlined in our church mission statement.

If you have comments, questions, or suggestions for your Executive Board, please email one of the Pastors, or any of the officers.



JUNE 23, 2020

FCC TREASURER NOTES



POINTS OF INTEREST

Pierce Estate Distribution: The final distribution to FCC total of \$973,786.07. That sum will be distributed as follows: General Fund, \$97,379.07; Outreach, \$97,379; Building Advance, \$194,757; and Building Endowment (sent to Christian Church Foundation, a Disciples investment program in Indianapolis, IN), \$584,271. We currently have about \$1,205,000 invested with CCF for Building Endowment (approximately \$1,033,000) and Scholarship (approximately \$172,000).

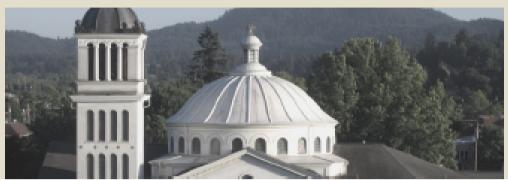
Paycheck Protection Program (PPP): First Christian Church applied for and received \$68,400 from the Federal Government's Small Business Administration that managed the PPP. Within a week of receiving notification that we had received the loan, the Executive & Administrative Ministry Teams notified Umpqua Bank that we would return the funds. The main reasons were: we were unsure if we would be able to meet the requirements that would make this loan into a grant due to significant staffing transitions including retirement, new hires, resignations, and terminations. If we did not meet the requirement our grant would transform into a loan. 2) We received notice that the Pierce Estate's final distribution would be received shortly. 3) The issue of government funds being used to pay church salaries raised questions of the separation of church and state. 4) We, as a church, are very fortunate that we continue to receive offerings; whereas, other small businesses (that the PPP was aimed at) only receive funds when they sell items or provide a service. We determined we would be using funds that could make a significant difference to struggling small businesses.

Gilbert and Ruth Kistler Permanent Fund: We received notification that Ruth had established a permanent fund with the Christian Church Foundation that would make an annual distribution to First Christian Church, Eugene, designated for the Organ and Music Fund.

What blessings we have to celebrate in our FCC Saints and Legacy Builders!

JULY 10, 2020

FCC TREASURER NOTES



MAY & JUNE FINANCIAL REPORTS

The May 2020 Overview	YTD-Budget	YTD-Actual	Difference
Income			
Identified Offerings	\$141,700	\$136,300	(\$5,400)
Unidentified Offerings	\$3,300	\$750	(\$2,550)
Other Income	\$80,300	\$37,300	(\$43,000)
Total Income	\$225,300	\$174,350	(\$50,950)
Expense			
Total Expenses	\$225,300	\$198,200	\$27,100

The *identified offerings* are the checks and on-line contributions to FCC. As you can see, contributions are holding up. We are so grateful that the pledges and tithes from members and regular attendees continue to come in monthly.

The *unidentified offering* is the cash placed in the offering plates on Sunday mornings. It is logical that this category is low since we are not getting visitor donations or any walk in the door donations when we do not have a weekly service. Note: the () are used in accounting to indicate a negative.

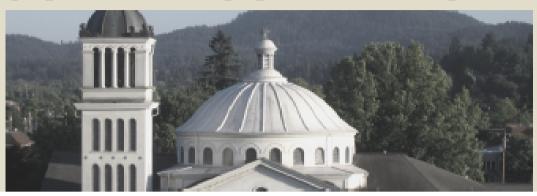
Other Income is composed of three significant items: building use by renters, parking income from lot behind the church, and interest withdrawal from funds deposited with the Christian Church Foundation (CCF). Parking income continues to come in but with the building closed we are receiving minimal income from renters and we are delaying the withdrawal of interest from CCF in this volatile time.

With the church building closed and many purchases not needed or postponed, we have spent less than budgeted for May. Consequently, we have a budget deficit for May 2020 of (\$23,850): Income less than budgeted (\$50,950) and a decrease in expenses of \$27,100, which equals the deficit of (\$23,850).

—CONT. ON NEXT PAGE

JULY 10, 2020

FCC TREASURER NOTES



MAY & JUNE FINANCIAL REPORTS CONT.

The June 2020 Overview	YTD-Budget	YTD-Actual	Difference	
(the amounts below are incomplete and will change because the month is not yet closed)				
Income				
Identified Offerings	\$170,000	\$153,000	(\$17,000)	
Unidentified Offerings	\$4,000	\$750	(\$3,250)	
Other Income	\$96,300	\$37,700	(\$58,600)	
Total Income	\$270,300	\$191,450	(\$78,850)	
Expense				
Total Expenses	\$270,300	(232,900)	\$37,400	

Therefore, we tentatively show a budget deficit for June 2020 of (\$41,450): Income less than budgeted of (\$78,850) and a decrease in expenses of \$37,400, which equals the deficit of (\$41,450).

The Investment Team met recently and made adjustments to our investment portfolios.

The Administrative Ministry Team meets monthly to review monthly income and expenses.

A final note: We are very aware that members' financial condition may have changed during this time of COVID-19. If you have been hit with unemployment, furlough, or other financial hardship, please feel free to contact the Treasurer, Michael, or the Administrator, Yvette, to speak confidentially about a necessary change in your pleage.

Thank you for your continued Support of First Christian Church. Submitted by Michael Kennedy, Treasurer



By now you have seen a couple articles from the Property Committee. Thank you for reading and getting involved as we together pray and look into the future as members of Eugene First Christian Church. We are ready to provide opportunities to gather your input and questions. Property Committee does not make decisions, but rather provides information and suggestions to the Administration Ministry, on to the Executive Ministry Team, then to the church board, and the top decision maker: THE CONGREGATION.

We hope to offer some q & a (questions and answers) through E-News, plus zoom forums and other ways to foster a congregational discussion.

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

Who is on the property committee?

What are the general results from the \$11,000+ work with Arbor South and Essex?

Could you share the specifics: details of projects and estimates of cost?

What are the basic issues around safety in our current buildings (1911 and 1966) regarding egress and life safety should we experience an earth quake?

THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION, WISDOM, AND PRAYERS



THE LAST MESSAGE FROM THIS COMMITTEE COMMUNICATED THAT OUR DINNER SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 19 WOULD BE CANCELLED.

THE PANDEMIC INITIALLY LIMITED OUR ABILITY TO MAKE AWARDS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR. WE EXTENDED THE APPLICATION DEADLINE TO JUNE 1 AND RECEIVED APPLICATIONS FROM FOUR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED AID AND ARE ENROLLED FOR FALL 2020 TERM.

WE ARE PROUD TO RECOGNIZE:

KAILYN BRIGHT, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

PETER THOMPSON, PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

JOSIE THOMAS, UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

ANDREW BRANDENFELS, OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

THE COMMITTEE AWARDED A TOTAL OF \$6,250 FROM THE EXISTING BALANCE IN THE SCHOLARSHIP DESIGNATED FUND. WE LEFT THE ENDOWMENT FUNDS TO GROW THROUGH 2020. YOU CAN MAKE A GIFT TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT ANY TIME BY CONTACTING THE CHURCH OFFICE. YOU ARE SINCERELY APPRECIATED AND WE HOPE TO CONTINUE OUR TRADITION OF FUNDRAISING DINNERS NEXT YEAR.



Covid Rapid Response Team (CRRT) Committee

The **CRRT** committee was created to keep the members of our congregation safe, meet the Governor's mandates on health guidelines and determine what we can do or cannot do within the given mandates.

The committee consists of Amy Metzger, Nancy Hayner, Yvette Diggs, April Oristano, Jerri Handy, and Tom Kozlowski.

The committee meets every Tuesday to review requests for access to the building and review any changes regarding the health guide lines.

The committee has developed a "request for access" form if someone needs to obtain access into the church for whatever reason. The form is required so that we do not have too many people in the building at any given time.

When Oregon went from phase 1 to phase 2 the committee set the first week in September to evaluate the possibility of having church services, with small numbers of people, in the sanctuary once again. Since that time, the situation has turned for the worst. The state has taken a step back due to the increase of virus cases. Due to this increase in virus cases, it is not safe to go back into the sanctuary. The committee has decided to re-evaluate any changes in building use in the first week of January 2021. If the virus conditions greatly improve, the committee will review the building use at that time.

The utmost goal of the committee is to keep everyone safe. We are looking forward to the day when we can all come together again to worship in the church. Until that time our homes are our places of worship each Sunday on You Tube.

Please stay safe and God bless.

Tom Kozlowski.



Leigh Anne Turner 08/01

John Moore 08/05

Wayne Hayner 08/07

Cheryl Knox 08/07

Elena Viles 08/07

Annie Tobin 08/10

Kris Larson 08/11

Linda Bright 08/12

Gregg Ybarra 08/12

Dick Lauer 08/16

Monte Campbell 08/11

Thomas Oristano 08/19

Lea McKerrow 08/22

Eric Wahlstrom 08/25

Phyllis Warner 08/28

Gary Boss 08/29

Sage Kretschmann 08/31

OFFICIAL BUILDING UPDATE

First Christian Church of Eugene

The First Christian Church building will remain <u>closed</u>
<u>to the public through December 2020 due to</u>

COVID-19 restrictions*.

Please join us for an online worship experience Sundays at 10:30 on YouTube.

Visit heartofeugene.org for details on virtual and in-person programs outside the building.

*Subject to change according to enhanced community quarantine guidelines.

For access to a Good Samaritan or other outreach sources, please call 541-344-1425, Monday - Friday 9 am - 4pm





11 66 Oak Street Eugene, Oregon 97401

Church Staff

The Reverend Jerri Handy, Co-Pastor

The Reverend April Oristano, Co-Pastor

Yvette Diggs, Office Manager

Nancy Anderson, Music Director

Chris Tumer, New Celebration Director

Ron Dalton, Church Custodian

Christa Dalton, Assistant Custodian

Larry Wahlstrom, Event Manager

Dylan Loigman, Communications & Production Manager

Phone 541.344.1425 Fax: 541.383.3618 Email: office@heartofeugene.org Website: www.heartofeugene.org

The First Christian Church Newsletter is published by First Christian Church, Eugene for it's members and friends.





Mission Statement

We believe in love of God for all people

We gather as a worshiping community offaith to follow Jesus Christ

We delight together in what God is doing through us to bring: healing within brokenness; unity within diversity; joy within grief; and power within weakness

Our mission is to strengthen relationships we have with God, with each other, with our families, and with our world.

We are an Open and Affinning Congregation and people of all orientations, and gender identities are welcome in the full life and ministry of our church.

We are a global ministries church and wejoin and with global and local partners to work for justice reconciliation and peace.

We are a Green Chalice congregation and we strive to demonstrate the fullness of God's Shalom through living out our faith by caring for God's

creation.