

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH HAPPENINGS FOR MARCH 2023



## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 25, we will be providing breakfast for our community free of charge from 8:00 -10:00 a.m. If attendees wish to donate, the money will be used to support our other ministries. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Please sign up to help. Thank you.

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### We Love to

### Eat!

Breakfast in the Basement is the first Saturday each month at 9:00 a.m. Bring your own breakfast or something to share with everyone.

Men's Breakfast is the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at City Café.

Young at Heart welcomes everyone to join them on the third Thursday each month at Aubrey's at 11:30 a.m.

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### **DISCIPLES WOMEN (CWF) BEGINS!**



Beginning March 21, Disciples Women will meet the third Tuesday each month at 6:00 p.m. All women are invited to



## Tuesday Bible Study

Everyone is invited to come learn more about a relationship with God on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at First Bloom Coffee Shop in Old Woolen Mill.

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## Meals for Kids

Items that are needed are listed in the bulletin each week. Please consider donating the requested items or cash to help support this ministry effort.

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## Calling all Prayer Warriors



Prayer Circle meets at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday. Join us in prayer in the

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God to expand our borders to reach more people in need of God's love.

### **MARCH DEVOTION**

\*From Searching for the Sacred by Rev. Cameron Trimble, pgs. 8-9.

#### **An Unexpected Emergency in Flight\***

*Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)*

As I was taking off from Peachtree-Dekalb Airport (KPDK) in Atlanta, another pilot who had been cleared to land lowered his landing gear on his dissent as he had hundreds of times before. But this time, as his landing gear descended, it began making a horrible shaking noise. This is never good. He called the tower and reported that he might have an emergency on his hands. All of us in flight immediately tuned in.

The controller called back to the pilot and recommended he do a flyby so that the controllers in the tower; using binoculars, could visually confirm that the landing gear was down. They would not be able to confirm that the landing gear was locked in place, which left the risk open that the gear could collapse once the plane touched the runway. But it's what they could do in the moment. The pilot flew low straight down runway 3L, and the controllers called back, confirming that they could indeed see all

They cleared the pilot to circle the airport. The air traffic controller called him, saying, "Our longest runway is yours. When you are ready, and only when you are ready, you are cleared to make your turn and land. We are prepared for you."

He made a wide circle so that he had time to get himself mentally prepared for potential emergency procedures. Ground services and the fire department got in position to meet the plane quickly if his landing gear collapsed. Everything was in place. The rest of us listened (and prayed). We only made radio calls as required by regulation. We wanted to make sure that the frequency was open for that pilot to use in any way he needed. The waiting was interminable.

Finally, the pilot entered his final approach. Responding to the air traffic controller, he confirmed there was one soul on board and forty gallons of remaining fuel, which the fire department would need to know to gauge the intensity of the potential emergency.

In this situation, pilots are trained to land the airplane at the lowest speed possible and hold the airplane's weight off the disabled wheel for as long as possible. At some point, gravity takes over, and there's nothing left to be done.

The pilot lined up for runway 3R. He lowered his airspeed to just above stall speed, and then he gently, as if like a feather, placed the airplane onto the

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and shimmied and left black rubber tire marks down the runway. But it remained intact, and he was safe. The controller came back on the radio with his call sign confirming that the plane was clear of the runway. Then he said to the pilot, "Really great job, sir." It was a simple salute that held a universe of relief and respect from all of us.

Things go wrong in life despite our every attempt to make it safe and predictable. We can't anticipate the curveballs that life throws our way even as we try to prepare to handle them in the safest way possible. Life is risky. The wondrous gift is that as we each experience our moments of challenge, we are never alone.

Compassion is the comforting presence we grant one another in the moments of our deep challenges. It is how we embody the Divine. In that space of loving witness, we meet God in each other and are moved to care for one another's plight.

I often sign my emails and notes with the words, "We are in this together." Yesterday, I was reminded by an ATC controller and a lucky pilot just how essential that truth is.

### Reflection Questions

What curveballs have come your way that felt overwhelming but worked out in the end? What did you learn about yourself?

Asking for help can be hard. When

stops you from asking? What if you reached out to them today?

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### **DAILY PRAYER**

*I Chronicles 4:10--*

*Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from hurt and harm!" And God granted what he asked.*

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### **TIME CHANGE!!!**

**SPRING FORWARD on Saturday, March 11, so you are not be late for Bible Study and Worship.**

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