First Christian Church
800 Beech Street
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Newsletter
APRIL 2026

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid Permit # 9
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

To unsubscribe, please email office@fccec.org or call 252-338-6506 and request that your name be removed.

APRIL 2026

First Christian Church of Elizabeth City (Disciples of Christ)

Email: office@fccec.org Facebook.com/FCCDOC Phone: (252) 338-6506

Teresa Lassiter, Moderator
Norma James, Vice Moderator

Rana White, Admin. Assistant
Nina Gregory, Choir Director & Organist

"To be a Spirit-gifted, Christ-commissioned community where every person is invited and accepted while being transformed and made whole by God's love."

He lives…

I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today
I know that He is living, whatever men may say
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer
And just the time I need Him, He's always near…

Indeed, we serve a living Saviour! As Easter approaches, our minds go to Easter eggs, Easter dresses, a few days off, and going to church. It is a time for new or renewed beginnings. For those of us that have strayed from the church and from God, this is your time to return. Some of us may be in church, but our hearts are elsewhere. This is your time to repent and renew your relationship with Christ. And for those that are lost and seeking something missing from their lives, this is your time! Our Saviour is a loving, forgiving, protecting, providing Father. He welcomes ALL to follow Him and have the peace of knowing you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven.

He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way
He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.

At our Ash Wednesday service, we were marked with ashes in the shape of a cross on our foreheads. This is a way of showing the world we are repenting for our sins. Ash Wednesday was the start of Lent, a 40-day period when we give up something worldly and take on something such as spending more time in prayer. It is a time to strengthen our faith in God. Jesus spent 40 days praying and fasting after His baptism. He was tempted by the devil many times, but rather than be tricked into showing the devil His power, Jesus instead, spent the time praying to His Father for strength. God will do the same for you and me, if we ask, trust and obey.

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian! Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King!
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find.
None other is so loving, so good and kind!

I am so grateful to be part of the First Christian Church family. Members, I encourage you to invite someone to church this week. If you are reading this and have not come to church, I invite you to join us.

He is Risen!

Teresa Lassiter, Church Moderator

March 2026 Board Meeting Report

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM and opened with prayer by Vice Moderator, Norma James.

2. Attendance: Present: 15 board members, plus two guests.

3. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes: The minutes from the meeting held in February were presented. A correction was made that Tom Sawyer, not Keith Sawyer, presented the Property Committee Report for February's meeting. Otherwise, the minutes were approved.

5. Reports-

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Portia Copeland, presented the financial reports. They were approved as presented.

Worship Committee Report: The Worship Committee met on Feb. 15, to continue planning for the Lenten season and upcoming special services. George Stonikinis continued filling the pulpit in recent weeks, including February 22, and March 1. He is scheduled to serve on March 8 and March 15. Ash Wednesday was held at 12:00pm, on February 18, with Nina Gregory leading the planning of the service. Since our meeting, George Stonikinis has been asked to continue filling the pulpit through Easter. New acolyte gloves were purchased to replace older ones, and guidance will be provided on proper candle extinguishing procedures. The Collective service has been canceled. Keith and Tammy will continue to proofread the weekly bulletins, slides, and monthly newsletter. We missed a few things this past week, but turnaround time was tight. Looking ahead, Nina will coordinate the Easter Choir Cantata or special music on March 29, 2026, for Palm Sunday. Maundy Thursday service will be held at 7:00 pm and led by lay members. Good Friday service options are being explored in coordination with other area churches. For Easter Sunday, members will be invited to bring flowers. The committee continues working to ensure a meaningful and well-prepared worship experience throughout Lent and the Easter season. Our next meeting is March 15, 2026. Respectfully- Presented by Keith and Tammy Sawyer, Co-Chairs

Education Committee Report: Average Attendance–4, Still studying the book of Acts; Our meeting this upcoming Sunday, March 8, will be held immediately following the church service to discuss details of the Spring Fling lunch on Palm Sunday, and to begin VBS planning. We will have a sign-up sheet for volunteers who are interested in participating. More details to come soon. Presented by Ashley James, Chair.

Membership Committee Report: We held our butter bean soup and ham biscuit sale on February 11, 2026. Our net profit was $370. We cooked 30 pounds of beans (4 pots), and dipped out 112 pints of beans, and 120 biscuits. We sold 61 orders of beans and biscuits and received $185 in donations. Our expenses were $120. We donated 24 orders of beans and biscuits to the fire department, and 32 orders were donated to church members on Sunday, February 15. We served Subway sandwiches after the Ash Wednesday service on February 18, with chips and a few deserts provided by volunteers. On Sunday, February 22, we served soup, crackers and sandwiches for the Week of Compassion Soup Lunch. Soups served included beef vegetable, chicken noodle, ham vegetable, broccoli and cheese; sandwiches prepared included pimento cheese, egg salad, and peanut butter and jelly. Beverages included coffee, tea, and water. Looking ahead, the committee plans to help with the CMF Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on Saturday, March 7, 2026, from 7:00-10:00 am. Our next butter bean soup and ham biscuit sale will be on March 11, 2026, from 11:00 am-1:00 pm. We will have Bingo on Saturday, March 21, 2026, from 6:00-8:00 pm. Presented by Portia Copeland, Chair.

Outreach Committee: On February 7, 2026, members of the Outreach Committee packed 80 backpacks. Of those, 40 were delivered to P.W. Moore Elementary School. On February 5, 2026, we placed the 'Souper Bowl of Caring' Collection Pot and Basket in the foyer. We collected $160 and 10 pounds of canned goods. Posters advertising Week of Compassion were put up February 15, 2026. We would like to thank Nancy Tatum for sharing the mission minutes and video during worship services. This enlightened the congregation as to where and how the monies are spent for disaster relief. We would also like to thank CWF, CMF, Membership, and Worship Committees for all their help and assistance with both Week of Compassion and the soup luncheon. We collected $1,000 to be sent to Week of Compassion. On February 17, 2026, we delivered 40 backpacks to P.W. Moore Elementary School. Due to the weather, the Ministers' Council of Education was canceled. Report submitted by Joy Rhodes and Melodi Robbins, Co-Chairs

Stewardship Committee: No Report

Property Committee: Replaced hardware on the exterior door located on the right side of the building by the church offices. To finish the foundation repair previously approved, McKinley Riggs

Finance Report

Questions? Contact Treasurer, Portia Copeland,

February 2026

Monthly Budget	$ 15,875
Budget Income	$ 12,774
Budget Shortage	$ 3,101
Expenses:	$ 19,454
Designated Income	$ 3,205
Designated Bills:	$ 220
Attendance:	
February *(**3** Sundays)*	43 avg
Children	4 avg

April Birthdays

04	Natalie Scott	21	John C. Lee
08	Kaeden Mills	21	Thomas White
09	Jeff Moore	23	Kathy Gray
09	Kristina Mullen	23	Kelly Raper
10	Jimmy Flowers	23	Emmett Spivey
10	Holly Watts	24	Jessica Flowers
11	Paul Miller	24	F.C. Twiford
12	Hope Van Dalsum	25	Caleb Bray
16	Mary Ann Scott	29	Vance Meads
16	Gene Scott, Jr.	30	Michelle Twiford
16	Bobby Sivills		
18	Rhonda Kaden		
18	Brittany Lassiter		

Serving in April

Elders: Tom Sawyer, Julian Copeland

Deacons: Jimmy Flowers, Melodi Robbins, Betty Sawyer, Arlene Bruce, Larry Bruce

Deaconess: Joy Rhodes

Greeters:
05 Gene & Mary Ann Scott
12 Kacey Weatherly
19 Jeff & Teresa Moore
26 Arlene & Larry Bruce

April Anniversaries

06 Tommy & Melissa Copeland
09 Mark Williams & John Smith
10 Keith & Tammy Sawyer
11 Jeff & Teresa Moore
20 Randy & Gwen Williams
23 Phil & Michelle Wall

Our Elders

We have a great appreciation for our Elders. They are:

Julian Copeland — Tom Sawyer
Joseph Lassiter — Teresa Moore
Portia Copeland — Teresa Lassiter

If you have a need the Elders can help with, including sharing communion or prayer in your home, please let one of them know. You may also call the church office at 252-338-6506 or email office@fccec.org to have them contact you.

Altar Flowers

April 5 –

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving honor of Tommy & Melissa Copeland on their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Geneva Lewis, by her daughter, Melodi Robbins.

April 12 –

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving honor of Keith & Tammy Sawyer on their 16th Wedding Anniversary.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving honor of Tommy's mother on the occasion of her birthday, by the family of Tommy & Melissa Copeland.

April 19 –

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. William M. Norris, by Sandra & Darrell Riggs.

April 26 –

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving honor of Jessica Flowers on the occasion of her birthday by her granddaddy Jimmy Flowers.

FROM THE DESK OF…

Pastor Jimmy Elks

Hello Albemarle District,

The email below from David Mallory was sent after our October meeting in Washington where we discussed our annual participation in the CWS kits ministry and David updated this ministry.

As in past years, I will take FCC Plymouth kits to David at Hillyer Memorial in Raleigh the week of June 8th. I will be happy to carry kits from any Albemarle DOC churches when I go. You can bring your kits to the April 28th meeting at 4:00 pm at FCC Robersonville or contact me (252-661-0411) or jimmyelks13@gmail.com for other arrangements. Thanks and hope to see you in Robersonville!

Pastor Jimmy

Hey Jimmy,

We're starting the 2026 CWS kit ministry program. I wanted to see if your district will be participating again this year. Our focus this year is hygiene kits. They are the easiest and cheapest to pack and they continue to be in high demand. I have attached an updated inventory list.

I am so grateful for your support and coordination of this ministry in your district. People seem to enjoy it and it makes a difference to those communities impacted by natural disasters. Let me know if you have any questions.

Blessings, David Mallory

CWS HYGIENE KITS

UPDATED

The Church World Services Hygiene Kit includes travel-sized shampoo, deodorant, lotion, and toothpaste, making it more practical for people on the move or in temporary shelters. These updates ensure the kits meet immediate needs with greater care and relevance.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ⇒ One-gallon resealable plastic bag
- ⇒ Washcloth
- ⇒ Fingernail or toenail clipper (packaging removed)
- ⇒ Toothbrush (in original packaging)
- ⇒ Travel-size deodorant (3.4 oz or less, non-aerosol)
- ⇒ Travel-size lotion (3.4 oz or less, fragrance free, NEW)
- ⇒ Travel-size shampoo (3.4 oz or less, NEW)
- ⇒ Travel-size toothpaste (3.4 oz or less, 1-year exp date)
- ⇒ Sturdy wide-tooth comb (6" minimum, unpackaged)

FCC HYGIENE KIT COLLECTION

The Membership Committee of First Christian Church will be taking donations for hygiene kits. **The deadline for collection June 1st.** Inquiries can be directed to any member of the Membership Committee.

A Special Thank You!

I want to thank you for your support of our work, which helps transform the lives of thousands of families every day. Our neighbors face many challenges, and your gifts ensure they have the food they need to thrive.

Your generous donation of $160 received on 3/3/206, to the Food Bank of the Albemarle through your Souper Bowl of Caring efforts will provide area children and families with healthy, nutritious meals.

Your support is providing nutritious meals to neighbors across Northeastern north Carolina, people like Herbert: "I am most grateful to be able to get the food. I don't know how I would make it without what I have been receiving."

Thank you for your support,

Liz Reasoner

Executive Director
www.afoodbank.org

Food Bank of the Albemarle
Fighting Hunger in Northeast NC
FEEDING AMERICA

Brick Work quoted $8,500. This is to include the kitchen steps, and the side along Parsonage Street. Presented by Tom Sawyer, Member

Memorial Committee: No Report

6. Special Committee Reports-

Elders: No Report
Deacons: No Report
Deaconess: No Report

CMF: The February meeting had 13 men in attendance. On March 7, 2026, there will be a pancake sausage breakfast from 7:00-10:00 am. The next meeting will be held on March 19, 2026, at 6:30pm. Presented by J.P. Rich, President

CWF: CWF will meet on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 12:00pm. All ladies are welcome to come. Presented by Portia Copeland, President

7. Unfinished Business: The Board continued to discuss the current condition of the nursery. The Property Committee is purchasing new crib sheets; Sandra Riggs donated a Pack & Play to the nursery. A motion was made to approve the quote for McKinley Riggs brick work for $8,500 to complete the foundation repair. The motion was seconded and carried. A motion was made for Allie Stevens to be appointed to Junior Deaconess for a term of three years. The motion was seconded and carried. Norma James was appointed as Head Deacon. The closing attorney, Will Norrell, is working on the title documents for the Main Street properties being purchased by Justin James.

8. New Business: The Board discussed holding upcoming baptisms until after Easter. There is a book available from Disciples of Christ that teaches the reader about baptisms and about joining the church to be used for Baptismal Classes. The Board discussed moving the board meetings to another time but tabled the discussion for another time.

9. Ministers Report: Moderator Teresa Lassiter discussed the Interim Pastor's schedule, upcoming vacation plans, and pay schedule. The Worship Committee is set to meet with Interim Pastor, George Stonikinis, on March 15, 2026, to discuss additional duties that he may fill. Moderator Teresa Lassiter discussed the continuation of Bible Study. Church Elders are set to meet quarterly. Church Elders are planning to meet to discuss visitation. Communion for shut-ins is to be provided by the church. Presented by Moderator Teresa Lassiter

10. Adjournment: With no further business, a motion was made by Melodi Robbins and seconded by Ashley James to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended in a closing prayer by Moderator Teresa Lassiter.

03/20/2026
Secretary/Clerk Signature

Ashley James

Note: *Please remember that this edition of the board report is from the date of the meeting. Please refer to the church calendar to verify event details as they may have changed.*

2026 Service Schedule

JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER

ELDERS	Tom Sawyer (3) Julian Copeland (3)
DEACONS	Jimmy Flowers (3) Melodi Robbins (1) Betty Sawyer (3) Arlene Bruce (3) Larry Bruce (3)
DEACONESS	Joy Rhodes (3)

FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, NOVEMBER

ELDERS	Portia Copeland (1) Teresa Moore (2)
DEACONS	Norma James (1) Nancy Tatum (1) Justin James (2) Michelle Hopkins (2) Sophia Martel (1)
DEACONESS:	Teresa Moore (1)
Jr. DEACONESS:	Allie Stevens (1)

MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER

ELDERS	Joe Lassiter (1) Teresa Lassiter (2)
DEACONS	Kacey Weatherly (2) Sandra Riggs (2) Tommy James (1) Bettie Duncan (3) Jeff Lassiter (2)
DEACONESSES	Bettie Duncan (2) Helga Spruill (3) Franziska Spruill (3)

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS
HEALTH FAIR

Saturday, April 25, 2026

FREE Event | 10:00 am—2:00 pm | Northeastern High School

SCREENINGS INCLUDED:

Mammograms A1C Cholesterols Blood Pressure Eye Exams

Prostate (PSA) Kits and Colon Cancer Kits will be available while supplies last.

For more information contact Hipp Barclift at barcliftm23@ecu.edu or call Monata Johnson at 252-338-5000

Easter Sunday is April 5, 2026

Please bring fresh flowers for the cross to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he makes his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matthew 5:44-45

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
**Sunday, April 12, is the Coast Guard Marathon which will reroute traffic in the waterfront area.*		1 4:00 pm—8:00 pm Gym Reserved NEAAAT 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	2 12:00 pm CWF 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service 6:00 pm—8:00 pm Gym Reserved	3	4 GOOD FRIDAY	
5 ○ 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Easter Special Offering EASTER *Resurrection of the Lord*	6 7:00 pm Board Meeting	7 6:00 pm—8:00 pm Gym Reserved	8 4:00 pm—8:00 pm Gym Reserved NEAAAT 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	9 6:00 pm—8:00 pm Gym Reserved	10	11
12* ○ *C.G. Marathon Today* 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Education Com Mtg *Second Sunday of Easter*	13	14 12:00 pm Card Ministry 6:00 pm—8:00 pm Gym Reserved	15 4:00 pm—8:00 pm Gym Reserved NEAAAT 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 6:30 pm CMF 6:00 pm—8:00 pm Gym Reserved	17	18 6:00 pm—8:00 pm BINGO! Night
19 ○ 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Worship Com Mtg *Third Sunday of Easter*	20	21 3:00 pm Outreach: Backpack Ministry *(Fellowship Hall)* 6:00 pm—8:00 pm Gym Reserved	22 4:00 pm—8:00 pm Gym Reserved NEAAAT 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	23 8:00 pm Outreach: Backpack Ministry *END OF ACTIVITY* 6:00 pm—8:00 pm Gym Reserved ***Newsletter Submission Deadline***	24	25 10:00 am—1:00 pm Applejack Sale ($4/each)
26 ○ 10:10 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship *Fourth Sunday of Easter*	27	28 12:00 pm Card Ministry 4:00 pm Albemarle District Mtg—Robersonville 6:00 pm—8:00 pm Gym Reserved	29 4:00 pm—8:00 pm Gym Reserved NEAAAT 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	30 6:00 pm—8:00 pm Gym Reserved		