

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Jenks, Oklahoma  
Volume 18 Issue 19 June 10, 2018

## **“The Almond Tree”**

11 Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. 12 Then said the Lord unto me, thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.

(Jeremiah 1:11-12 KJV)

Isn't it amazing how the design of an almond tree was built? Unlike most trees in America, when winter comes in Israel, the wintry discharge can cast frigid temperatures all over the land. The chilly blast of snow, sleet and dark clouds cover all of mother earth in Israel.

God used the beautiful almond trees to provide its lovely blossoms during a time of ferocious and unbearable wintry blast. During the peak of Spring in Israel each winter the almond trees are the first of all trees to wake up from their hibernation and begin blooming, but yet, it's the last to bear fruit, amazing isn't it?

While all other trees are held in frozen slumber, the almond tree blossoms and begin looking out upon many other trees actively hibernating in a barren world. This is a good example of God at work, He's always awake, conscious, watchful and vigilant. Nobody anticipates Him! Wherever

Jeremiah was sent on his prophetic missions in Israel, the Lord would be there before him, being at work, being awake, being conscious, watchful and vigilant.

Jeremiah the prophet had some ferocious enemies, and before they could get out of bed and begin their evil irresponsible work, the Lord was on His field of duty providing a way and a means for Jeremiah to carry out God's task. In the coldest circumstances of a prophet's life God is wide awake: "He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep." And still the almond tree has its heartening significance for you and me.

My point is: Our God is wide-awake. He looks out upon our wintry circumstances where nothing is hiding from His sight. There is no unrecognized and uncounted factor which may secretly steal and take Him by surprise. Everything is open to Him. He is wide-awake on the far-off field where the isolated missionary is ploughing His lonely furrow; He is wide-awake on the field of common labor where some young disciple finds it hard to keep clean hands while he earns his daily bread.

In His Will,  
Pastor Dean

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH JENKS

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

27      28      29      30      31      01      02

03      04      05      06      07      08      09

Prayer  
Service &  
Bible Study  
6:30 pm

Propel  
7 pm

**CHI Rho Camp 6-8 grade @ Oakridge**

10      11      12      13      14      15      16

Prayer  
Service &  
Bible Study  
6:30 pm

17      18      19      20      21      22      23

Prayer  
Service &  
Bible Study  
6:30 pm

**Junior Camp 4-5 grade @ Central OK Camp**

**Discovery grade 2-3**

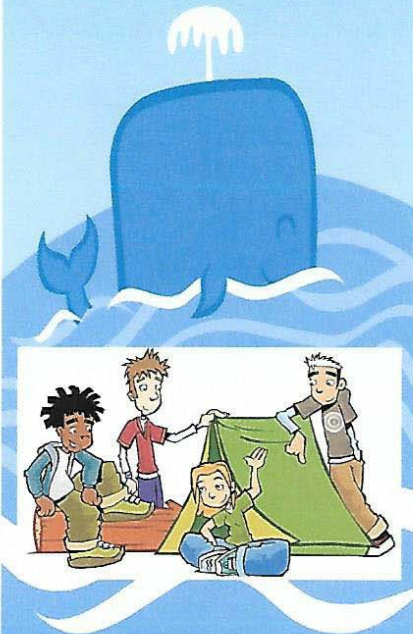
24      25      26      27      28      29      30

Prayer  
Service &  
Bible Study  
6:30 pm

**Discovery  
@ Central  
OK Camp**

**CYF Conference 9-12 grade  
Central OK Camp**

01      02      03      04      05      06      07



## Summer Camps

4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Chi Rho (gr 6-8) @ Oakridge

18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Jr. Camp (gr 4-5) @ Central Oklahoma Camp

22<sup>nd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> Discovery (gr 2-3) @ Central Oklahoma Camp

25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> CYF Conference (gr 9-12) Central Oklahoma Camp



June

2018

# Petitions to God

**Prayers for** Ron's cousin Mike Vaughn (Parkinson's disease), family discords after death of parent(s) and traveling mercies.

**Continue prayers for** Lorene's daughter Jeanette, Afrika's mother and niece, Nile Akbar, Sally's cousin JoAnn, Brittany, Stacy's brother's stepdad, Rick Lyons' Aunt Nancy and Uncle Jerry, Bea Whittenburg, Horace Wellons' grandson Harold Gallagher and his son, Sara McCutcheon, Bailey Dobson, Martha Rongey's Uncle Raymond and friends Tyler and Randy, Sally's friend Rita, Jeremy Skaggs, Mary Beth Gallagher, Sally's granddaughter Sabrina, Karen, Sally's aunt/uncle, Patsy Sky-Eagle's mother Bennie and nephews Russ / Shane / Colton and friend Teri, Jim and Joyce Bean and their granddaughter, mother and brother, Lynda Howard, Gail and her cousin Kristin, Dan Williams and family, Connie's son Tristen, Connie Ginn, Natalie, Mike Ford's friend, Autumn.

**Joys and Praise for** graduations and blessings bestowed on all.

## Green Chalice minister reflects on Poor People's Campaign

By Rev. Carol Devine, Green Chalice

This week, the fourth of six, Disciples in over 30 state Capitals and Washington D.C. marched, rallied and participated in direction action to bring attention to the issues around healthcare and the environment. I joined in the efforts in Kentucky on behalf of Green Chalice.

Rev. Dr. William Barber, II, Disciples minister and national voice of this movement led and inspired over 400 Kentuckians on the Capitol steps in Frankfort, KY with his passionate cries on behalf of "the least of these" our brothers and sisters.

Kentucky Disciples from all over the state prayed with their voices and feet in song, chants and marching. After speaking and preaching passionately with a Bible in his hand, Rev. Barber led the crowd, lined up two-by-two, to the public entrance of the Capitol building. The people were silent as Barber requested entry into "the people's house," but entrance was denied. After questioning the le-

## The Gathering's Spirit Team Schedule

May 27-June 10, 2018

Team 2 Debra & Connie

Jun. 17-July 1, 2018

Team 3 Bea & Stacy

July 8-July 22, 2018

## June Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

4 Joe Collins

18 Dan Williams

19 Austin Matchen

24 Sally Wellons

25 Rachel Lindsey

27 Elliott Abernathy

### Anniversaries

3 Nicole & Stan Duncan

28 Holly & Awais

gality of keeping the people out, Barber asked the crowd to kneel and Rev. Megan Huston of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Bowling Green, KY, led us in prayer. The people were stopped this time, but Barber promised the Commonwealth of Kentucky will be hearing from the campaign's legal team. After leading the singing of "Somebody's Hurting my Brother," Barber encouraged the crowd to keep coming back and never give up.

Saint Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the Gospel, use words when necessary." As a pastor, I mostly use words through preaching, teaching and writing to share the gospel. To get out and preach the Gospel with my whole body alongside 400 other people of faith felt invigorating and freeing. When Rabbi Abraham Heschel returned from marching with Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, he was asked by someone, 'Did you find much time to pray?' Rabbi Heschel responded, 'I prayed with my feet.' Won't you please join this movement and cry out for justice for the least of these by praying with your feet and sharing the Gospel with your body?