



3493 Darrow Road, Stow, Ohio 44224
330.688.4450
www.firstchristianstow.org

PATHWAYS

OCTOBER 2020

*You show me the path of life. In
your presence there is fullness of joy.*
Psalm 16:11

Find us on Social
Media @FCCStow!



October ZOOM Meetings

Membership Team	Monday, October 5, 6:30 p.m.
Elders	Monday, October 12, 7 p.m.
Stewardship	Wednesday, October 14, 7 p.m.
Worship Team	Monday, October 19, 6 p.m.
Governing Board	Monday, October 19, 7 p.m.

World Communion Sunday
Outdoor Communion Services
October 4th, 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Youth Group
Sunday, October 4th, Hiking
Sunday, October 18th, meet at church

Loaves and Fishes
October 18, 4-6 pm Lower Level Entry

Trunk or Treat
October 25, 3-5 pm Upper Level Parking Lot

More information on all these events and so much more inside this newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR



If you didn't get a chance to hear our read my sermon from September 27th, "*The Time Has Come-The Time Is Now*" you might want to click over to the sermons tab on the church website and give it a once over as this pastor's

pen is setting up to be a sort of "part 2" to that sermon. And the reason for that is because I would rather over emphasize than under emphasize that the time has come, and the time is now, for Christians, for followers of Christ to be what we say we believe.

In that sermon I shared the following from retired Episcopal bishop and academic, Rev. Stephan Charleston who wrote recently, saying,

Now is the moment for which a lifetime of faith has prepared you. All of those years of prayer and study, all of the worship services, all of the time devoted to community faith: it all comes down to this, this sorrowful moment when life seems chaotic and the anarchy of fear haunts the thin borders of reason. Your faith has prepared you for this. It has given you the tools you need to respond: to proclaim justice while standing for peace.

Long ago the spirit called you to commit your life to faith. Now you know why. You are a source of strength for those who have lost hope. You are a voice of calm in the midst of chaos. You are a steady light in the days of darkness. The time has come to be what you believe.

These words and their message remind us that our spiritual journey has not been solely for us. It has been for others as well. It has been so that we would grow in our spirituality and deepen our relationship with God and Jesus, experience the transformation that comes with doing so, be blessed to be a blessing, and then to share that transformation and those blessings with others by showing others, through love and compassion, kindness and civility, that we are who we say we are—the body of Christ Jesus in the world today. This is being *what* we believe.

Now some might feel, and some might say (and they have) that I am teetering on getting political. But this is not about politics. This is not about your political party. This is not about who you plan to vote for in a few weeks. This is about how you will respond to those who are not part of your political party. This about how you will treat those who don't vote for who you plan to vote for in a few weeks.

This is about how you will look at, and think about, those who are different from you. Because here is the thing we all have to realize and accept when we call ourselves Christians, when we proclaim to be followers of Christ... all the labels we give to others—none of them matter. The only label that matters is that all people are children of God. Whether they know it or not, it's the only label that matters. Whether they believe it or not, it's the only label that matters. That is what Jesus taught us to believe. And the time has come for us to be what we believe.

The time has come...the time is now...the time for us to be what we believe. The time has come for us to rise up and know that the divisiveness can be overcome by loving our neighbors as ourselves. The time has come for us to respond to the angry shouts of others with grace and peace. The time has come for us to offer a listening ear to those who are crying out but are not being heard. The time has come for us to speak truth to lies and show civility in the face of incivility. The time has come for us to embrace all people as brothers and sisters in Christ.

The time has come for followers of Christ to be the salt of the earth. The time is now for the church to let the light of Christ shine bright. The time has come; the time is now, for us to be what we believe. With God's help, may it be so.

Your Pastor and Friend,
Jonathan

October - Junior Church: At-Home Edition

October Junior Church activities will be available for pickup beginning Sunday October 4th. Pull up to the ramp to pick up your kits from the Junior Church bin right outside the main doors. Be sure to stop by and grab yours! While you're here grab one for family, friends and neighbors! ☺

World Communion Sunday

October 4th, 2020

The first Sunday of October is a time when Christians in every culture around the world break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. It is called World Communion Sunday and it offers a distinctive opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. On World Communion Sunday we remember how we are part of the whole body of believers, all while we celebrate the communion liturgy in as many ways as there are congregations. And though there is diversity in how we all come to the table of remembrance, we know all still partake of the bread of life and the cup of salvation—the gifts of God for the children of God.

World Communion Sunday is a profound worship experience and a time for learning more about our wider community of faith that spans not just Stow, not just Ohio, not just the United States. It spans the entire world. We are all God's children, and we are all invited to our Lord's Table.

World Communion Sunday **Outdoor Communion Services**

October 4th, 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

On Sunday, October 4th, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday during our regular 10 a.m. time of worship live streamed on Facebook, but we will also recognize and celebrate this day with an opportunity for in-person, outdoor, socially distanced time of communion.

We will have a time of prayer, song, and communion at 9:30, and then again at 11:15 or so—and each service will last about 15 minutes. Bring with you a chair and mask. We will share communion with individual communion sets that will be provided, or you are welcome to bring your own elements if you wish.

Planning Ahead: Christmas In-Gathering

Each year through the Christmas In-Gathering Outreach Program our church provides families the opportunity to have a very Merry Christmas through the giving of food and gifts they could not otherwise afford. And since this is such a huge ministry, the Outreach Team works all year long to make it a success, and therefore is already hard at work preparing for this tremendous ministry endeavor by purchasing adult gifts, socks, undergarments, hats, coats, and much more.

As the Outreach Team continues to prepare, they invite all of us to think about Christmas too! If you are interested in shopping for a family for this year's In-Gathering, or interested in supporting this ministry in anyway, please let the church office, or Ann Halpin, know how you would like to help.



Bulldog Bags - Special Offering

We have received \$1,385 so far in the special offering that is designated for Bulldog Bags. As we read in last month's Pathways, Bulldog Bags, Inc. is an all-volunteer managed, community, non-profit business that was organized to address food insecurity in children in the Stow-Munroe Falls City School District, and are able to support a student with TWO Bulldog Bags each month for the ENTIRE school year at a cost of just \$60.

Therefore - we will be supporting **23** students when we send these funds on to Bulldog Bags!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed. And it is not too late, though we will send this money forward now, we will continue to accept any other donations.

Bulldog Bags - Monthly Offering

We continue to collect items monthly as well. There is a plastic bin in the outside entry of the church marked Bulldog donations. The bin is for easy drop off of the monthly items we are collecting for bulldog bags.

We are collecting
Pudding Cups due October 14
Individual Cereal Cups due November 11

As always, bulldogs thanks you for your kind donations to assist with feeding the kids. If you would like to donate money instead of shopping for items, please make check out to First Christian church and \I will do the shopping!

Wanda Deiwert- World Outreach- Bulldog
Bags/box programs

ATTENTION ACME SHOPPERS **JUST A REMINDER**

Save those Acme receipts !
This years campaign runs thru the end of December. Put your receipts in a safe place and we will be collecting them later in the year. Thanks for your help.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity Committee

Stow-Munroe Falls Schools and Communities

The Stow Munroe Falls School District, along with the Cities of Stow and Munroe Falls has recently formed the *Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity, Committee* which is intended to be a school/community initiative that will actively address the issue of racism, its root causes, and its presence in our schools and communities. This committee is made up of area school teachers, faculty, staff and Board of Education members; along with city mayors, police officers, and local clergy, which includes our Pastor, Jonathan.

The mission of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Committee is to embrace diversity while providing a sustained commitment to equity and inclusion. We will demonstrate this by building meaningful relationships with everyone in our Bulldog Community.

Jonathan is serving on the Community focused subcommittee that includes other area clergy, a school board member, SMFS teachers and administrators, the mayor of Stow, a University of Akron professor, and the chiefs of police for both Stow and Munroe Falls.

Among their brainstorming ideas for community connection and involvement included: Seeking to hold community events that are intentional to meet and greet Stow community leaders and police officers, build relationships and get to know these servant leaders. The question was asked: Does Stow have any black owned businesses that we can feature and celebrate? It was emphasized that people of all color need to be included in places of power: group, committees, boards.

The Community Subcommittee will continue to create an action plan to be submitted to the D.E.I. General Assembly for further public conversations about racism. Among that action plan is creating a presentation for city councils of Stow and Munroe Falls, and present it at both city council meetings. Also, the committee is seeking to create opportunities for community education around black history and broadening understanding, while dispelling myths, around Black Lives Matter/Blue Lives Matter/All Lives Matter.

More updates about the work of this committee will follow in the weeks to come. If you have any questions about the committee or just want to know more please reach out to Jonathan.

Loaves and Fishes

The Community meal will be served as a drive-through at the lower entrance on October 18 from 4-6 p.m. Spread the word to those who need a hot, nourishing meal. Give Mom a day off from cooking!

Helpers are always needed for packing and distribution.

Youth Group in October

The Youth Group will meet in October in a variety of ways.

First we will take a hike together on Sunday, October 4th at 11:45 at the Meadow Trail head at 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge, right across the street from the Cornerstone Market. Bring with you a lunch to eat prior to our hike. Students should be dropped off and picked up at this location since, due to COVID regulations we will not be able to transport students in volunteer vehicles. Parents, if your student is ok with you hiking, too, then please join us! Masks and social distancing will be needed.

Then we will gather again on October 18th, at 11:30 for a regular Youth Group meeting that will include fun and games along with study and discussion. Please plan to bring with you a lunch. Weather permitting we will gather outside at the Vespers spot.

Additionally youth and families are invited to come out to our church's Trunk or Treat event, Sunday, October 25th from 3-5 p.m. This event is open to the community and always draws a big, big crowd.

Watch your mail for more information!

Yoga At First Christian!

Wednesdays, 6 p.m.

The First Christian Church Yoga class, led by Tammy Lott, a certified yoga instructor, has resumed and meets each Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. in the gym of the church.

The class is open to all levels of yoga, with a particular openness to those new to yoga. So if you have always thought about trying this incredible style of both physical and mental exercise, this is your chance. No sign-up required, just show up! Bring with you a yoga mat or a towel, and give it a try. Cost for the 50 minute class is by donation, with a suggestion amount of \$5. Please plan to wear a mask into, and of, the building, and maintaining social distancing for the duration.

Relay for Life 2020

Relay For Life went virtual this year and our First Christian Church team did very well ! We raised over \$1000.00 in donations. Overall, Relay raised \$60,000. Thank you all for your support. Janice McCreight



from the Music Department

Hello,

I hope all is well with the FCC congregation. Janice and I just got back from Delaware, where we gathered with about 30 (!) of our relatives to celebrate my mom's 95

birthday! Don't worry, we wore our masks and practiced social distancing as much as possible. We held the event in an open pavilion at a local state park. The day was just the right temperature and the sun came out to help with the festivities.

I want to thank Jim Hindel for leading the hymns this past Sunday in my absence, and if I haven't done so already, I thank Scott Haywood for doing so earlier this summer when Janice and I had to travel to California. Thank you both for your leadership. I know the congregation appreciates you as well.

Thanks to Barb Eppley for contributing two bell solos for the Message in Music this summer. I hear she is planning a Christmas solo for us as well. Blessings on you for a great job, Barb.

And without a doubt, the person who holds together the musical portion of worship is Andrea Drews. Without her faithfulness, talents and skill on piano and organ, our worship service wouldn't be what it is. Thank you, Andrea!!

You may have heard by now that Joy Bells started rehearsing in the balcony two weeks ago. We have been invited to submit a recording for the Children's Hospital Annual Memorial Service in December. In order to accomplish that, Jim Hindel and I moved some furniture around, added four tables and rearranged them so that we can stand 6 feet apart and ring. There is just enough room! It feels tight but it will work! The members were so glad to be back ringing!

As to the Chancel Choir, I don't think there is a chance for us to all meet in the choir room and rehearse. There just isn't that kind of room. I am considering how we could meet in the sanctuary and rehearse there and even sing from there as we continue with the livestreaming. I will let you know soon if that is going to happen. In the meantime, I am looking to put together a quartet or slightly larger ensemble to take the place of the full choir until we can all meet again as a group.

This Sunday, October 4, World-Wide Communion Sunday, Anna Lloyd and I will be doing a handbell duet.

Trunk or Treat 2020! **Sunday October 25th, 3-5pm**

We are excited for another Trunk or Treat!
Wear your costumes and trick or treat in the church parking lot!

We will be keeping things a little simpler this year: Trunk or Treat will be held in the upper parking lot & we will be following all safety precautions and CDC guidelines due to Covid-19. Cars will be spaced 6ft apart and hand sanitizer stations will be available - Masks and social distancing are required throughout the event.

We are in need of volunteers to make this event successful!

1. *Host a trunk! Decorate your trunk with any decorations and costumes and bring candy to give out for 75-100 kids. Sign up to host a trunk on the church website:*
www.firstchristianstow.org/trunkortreat
2. *Donate candy! We are asking that all candy is individually wrapped and sealed. There is a bin just inside the upper church entrance off the ramp for candy donations.*

Contact Anna & Richelle,
christianed@firstchristianstow.org, with any questions.

Fall Photo Op! **Sunday October 18th – Sunday November 1st**

For two weeks from Sunday October 18th – Sunday November 1st we are going to host a free community fall photo opportunity! There will be straw bales, pumpkins, cornstalks and more! This photo booth will be set up in the green space near the church vespers area. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come and snap a group photo!

Would you like to add to our photo booth? Pumpkins can be donated! Please place any donations just inside the upstairs church entrance off the ramp. Thank you!

Update from the Stewardship Team Financial Giving From the Congregation

We won't close the financial books for September for a couple more days but I wanted to provide a status of where we are currently with our congregational giving.

The Congregational Giving budget amount is \$22,384 per month. For the month of September (through 9/27) we have received \$20,576. This is below the monthly budget amount by \$1,808. Year to date (through 9/27) we have received \$181,898. This is below the budget amount Year to date by \$18,558.

Our expenses are also lower than budgeted right now, with the limited building use. However, if you personally are feeling financially stable and would like to make an additional gift to the church above your normal giving, those are always appreciated. Any increases will help position us to be able to increase the outreach assistance we can provide to our community, both local and globally.

Here is the information:

2020	Sept	August	July	Apr-Jun	Jan-Mar	YTD
Budget	\$22,384	\$22,384	\$22,384	\$67,152	\$67,152	\$201,456
Actual	\$ 20,576	\$ 21,970	\$19,388	\$63,050	\$56,914	\$181,898
Actual - Budget	(\$1,808)	(\$414)	(\$2,996)	(\$4,102)	(\$10,238)	(\$19,558)

As a reminder, we have a link on the church website with information about electronic giving options. As always, if you have any questions please let us know and we can help. We can also provide envelopes/stamps for those who prefer to mail, and you can also drop off any envelopes in our secure mail box at the church.

Meetings In September

Even though we cannot gather in person, church leaders are still meeting. And you and your teams and ministry groups can too!

The following meetings are set to happen:

Membership Team	Monday, October 5, 6:30 p.m.
Elders	Monday, October 12, 7 p.m.
Stewardship	Wednesday, October 14, 7 p.m.
Worship Team	Monday, October 19, 6 p.m.
Governing Board	Monday, October 19, 7 p.m.

If any other group or ministry team wishes to have a Zoom meeting, please let Jonathan know and he can help get it set up.

Nominations of Officers.

Even though most of the year has required us to participate in services via Facebook Live, the Board of Elders has decided to count this as a full year of service for each office term. We will be having elections based on our normal protocol, which is to have yearly nominations and election of officers.

Included in this newsletter is a form you can use for your nominations. Please base your nominations on those who you believe will faithfully fulfill the duties of the office. You may use this form, or create your own form, we just ask that you put what office you are nominating that person for, i.e. Elder, Trustee or Diaconate. We have also attached a list of officers that should be returning for the 2021 church year as reference. Don't be afraid to nominate yourself if you feel the urge to help out on Sundays, or even during the week. We appreciate all the help we can get.

You may drop off your nominations at church, email them to fccstow@firstchristianstow.org, mail them to the church, 3493 Darrow Road, Stow, Ohio 44224, or just get them to one of the Elders. We will accept nominations up to Sunday, October 31. Thanks for your help and stay safe.

Yours in Christ,
Jim Hindel, Chair of Elders

Sunday Sermons and Pastoral Prayers Available By Snail Mail

If you or someone you know would like printed copies of the Sunday sermons and pastoral prayers sent via snail mail please let the church office know. We will be glad to mail copies to anyone who would enjoy reading the pastor's message.

We are also including weekly inspirational and fun letters in these mailings.

Also note that all sermons and prayer are also available on our church website, and videos of weekly worship services are always available at our church's Facebook page and YouTube Channel.

When Can We Return to Church?

Tom Safford, Elder and Jonathan Rumburg, Pastor

We are all asking the same question... When can we return to church?

Short answer: When Summit County has four consecutive weeks in a Yellow Status per the Ohio Public Health Advisory System.

Long answer: This plan was conceived by the Elders after intense discussion and prayer over several meetings. The return happens in stages beginning with a limited number of attendees who do not participate in the service.

The Governing Board approved this plan, and we published the entire detailed plan in the August Pathways. (Please contact the church office if you would like a copy.)

The Ohio Public Health Advisory System is updated every Thursday afternoon. The Elders review that update and determine the earliest Sunday we will meet the benchmark for the first stage of return. As of this writing (9/25/20) Summit County is in the Orange Status and the earliest possible Stage 1 return date is Sunday 11/1/20.

The projected return date is subject to change every Thursday when the most recent figures are put up on the [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov) website.

So what can we do to help? Several things...

When the time comes (and it will come!) we will need a cleaning crew to clean and sanitize the restrooms and high touch common surfaces such as doors and pews before every service. There will be a sign-up sheet for this activity.

There will be an online sign-up sheet for those who wish to return in Stage 1. This is to ensure that we are able to maintain social distance within the Sanctuary. We will leave room for walk ups because we never want to turn someone away from church.

Everyone who attends will have to wear a mask while in the church building and maintain social distance, and anyone who is experiencing symptoms associated with Covid-19, with or without test results, should stay at home.

And lastly, but really the first and best thing we all can do, is keep praying for God's blessings to be poured out upon those who are working so hard to bring this global health crisis to an end. Let us pray, let us follow the recommendations, and let us all do our part so we can all be back together in church as soon as possible.

Fall Hiking Spree and FCC!

Sunday, October 4th 11:45 a.m.

It's Fall! Which means the weather is cooler and the trees are turning their beautiful shades of autumn. This also means... winter is coming. So before the snow starts to fly, why not get out and enjoy the current season with the Fall Hiking Spree in our Summit County Metro Parks.

If you haven't started the hiking spree, how about starting on Sunday, October 4th with some folks from your church family!? Anyone who wants to take a hike with Jonathan and the Youth Group is invited to meet at the Meadow Trail head at 1088 North Ave., Tallmadge, right across the street from the Cornerstone Market.

This could be the beginning of the hiking spree becoming a fellowship opportunity with your church family. Why not reach out to someone from the church and invite them to join you for a hike. Or call Jonathan and finally tell him to go *"take a hike"* with you! Or let Jonathan, or anyone from the Membership Team know you are doing the hiking spree and we will spread the word to those we know who are doing it too so you can connect and hike together—socially distant of course. This is a great way to get moving, connect, and enjoy God's beautiful creation!

Participation is easy as all you need is a participation form, available online or the church can help get you one, then complete eight hikes on the Metro Parks hiking trails and you're done! First-year hikers earn a hiking staff and shield. Veteran hikers earn a shield for their staff. Spree rewards are FREE to Summit County residents.



RETURNING FCC OFFICERS for 2021

ELDERS (Need Minimum of 12 Total)

JACOB AUKEMAN	LYNN FAUVIE	JONI FITCH
SUE HOBSON	ANDREW ROBINSON	JIM HINDEL
TOM SAFFORD	BOB VANIK	DIANE WAITE

TRUSTEES (No Fewer than 6)

MIKE DEIWERT	GARY EPPLEY	STEVE LARGENT
TROY ONESTI	RANDY WAITE	

DIACONATE (No fewer than 44)

CJ BALL	CATE FIORITTO	TOM MEYERS
LANE BALL	TJ FIORITTO	JANICE McCREIGHT
CJ BALL	SCOTT HAYWOOD	MARY ELLEN NEITZ
LARAMI BALL	FAYE HAWS	ANGELA ONESTI
CORA DOWEY	RAE HOWARD	ANDY THOMAS
MIKE DREWS	DEBBIE KOSTENSKY	CINDY UMBARGER
BARB EPPLEY	AIMEE LARGENT	SYDNEY VARGO
TONY FALCIONE	TAMMY LOTT	

-
- Elder Reps / Co-Chair
 - NAME – Could serve by being extended

FCCS NOMINATIONS FOR 2021

DIACONATE:

TERM: TWO YEARS
RESPONSIBILITIES: COLLECTING OFFERING, DISTRIBUTING COMMUNION,
PREPARING AND CLEAN-UP OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS

TRUSTEES:

TERM: TWO YEARS
RESPONSIBILITIES: OVERSIGHT & PRACTICAL MAINTENANCE OF CHURCH
BUILDING, SIGNING OF ALL MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

ELDERS:

TERM: THREE YEARS
RESPONSIBILITIES: OVERSIGHT OF CHURCH STAFFING, SERVICE ON A
COMMITTEE, SERVE WITH PASTOR DURING SUNDAY SERVICES,
VISITS & OFFER OF COMMUNION TO HOMEBOUND



“Saints Alive ! Living Generously”

Now concerning the collection for the saints: you should follow the directions I gave to the churches of Galatia. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come. And when I arrive, I will send any whom you approve with letters to take your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me. — 1 Corinthians 16: 1-4, NRSV

The Kick-off of our Annual Stewardship Campaign is quickly approaching and while it is our aim to once again focus on this necessary part of church life, we nonetheless come to it aware that this year is unlike any other that we have experienced, presenting us all with many challenges, and having had to adjust our lives to a new normal, all while distancing ourselves from each other in order to protect the most vulnerable among us. Additionally, many have suffered physically, emotionally, and financially, with the uncertainty as to when this will end lingering still. Despite all this, however, you have continued to support the mission and ministry of First Christian Church of Stow through your faithful and generous giving, which is deeply appreciated by all those who are impacted by the ministries of our church. It is indicative of the truth that the church has never closed during these uncertain times. Which is why this Stewardship Campaign is so important in these uncertain times.

As faithful stewards of the ministry and mission we share, we continue to seek ways to live generously in Christ. Therefore we invite you to join us on this stewardship journey, as together we explore what it means to live generously. Over the next few weeks we will once again share stories about the ministries God has entrusted to us and show how these ministries lead to the transformation of lives, demonstrate God’s love, and shows without equivocation how God is at work, and God’s work is always for good. These stories of our shared life and witness grow out of God’s love in Christ—the rich ground from which new life arises.

Then on Sunday, November 1st, we will celebrate God’s generosity toward us, and honor God’s invitation to bless those who are eager for the Good News of Jesus Christ. At that time, we will accept your personal commitment cards as an act of worship.

These are uncertain times for sure. Which is why now is such a critical time for the church to respond faithfully to God’s call to further God’s good work in our community and beyond. Watch for more information coming soon, including a visual narrative budget that will help interpret dollar amounts in terms of mission and ministry, as we begin this journey of giving together!

In Christian Fellowship,

Allan Naylor



BULLDOG BAGS, INC.

...a weekend food program for qualifying children in the Stow Munroe Falls City School District

P. O. Box 1475, Stow, OH 44224

www.bulldogbags.org

bulldogbags44224@gmail.com

September 21, 2020

Pastor Joel Rumburg
First Christian Church
3493 Darrow Road
Stow, OH 44240

Dear Pastor Rumburg, Trustees, and Congregation of the First Christian,

Once again **Bulldog Bags, Inc.** thanks you for your unwavering support, most recently with your donation for Bulldog Bags for the 2020-2021 school year. Even though Bulldog Bags were not distributed in August due to the delay in the start of school, the cups of mac n cheese were included in the first September Bag. **Bulldog Bags, Inc.** is working with the SMFCSD's Hybrid schedule for the students' learning, so Bags will be distributed when the students are present in school or when the Bags are picked up for the students on the Gold schedule. Whenever they get them, they will help to stretch the families' food budgets! Although we do not have a number of students yet that we can count on to serve for each distribution, we expect that it will be appreciably higher than were served in 2019-2020.

Bulldog Bags, Inc. thanks you for your support of our summer program, Bulldog Boxes. We have appreciated your allowing the program to be operated out of your church. What you did for the program for summer of 2020 was beyond what could have dreamed of – to have a dedicated room in which to store the food and to allow us to purchase a freezer coincided with the pandemic, when the need for the program doubled in size! It provided a total of 363 Bulldog Boxes over the four packings between June and the end of August! The Boxes contained fresh and frozen foods, as well as non-perishables and taxable items. They weighed an average of 57# each and had an average retail value of \$130.00! Feedback from families through an end-of-program survey was that the Boxes were very helpful in meeting their summer food needs!

The success of **Bulldog Bags, Inc.** has been our volunteers who are in many capacities: some in person, some through monetary donations, some through food and in-kind donations, some through kind words and cheering the organization on, and some in ways of which we are unaware! They are all VERY important and appreciated! *First Christian Church continues to play a huge part in the success of **Bulldog Bags, Inc.***

Bulldog Bags, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law and no goods or services were provided in exchange for your assistance. **Bulldog Bags, Inc.** has a Facebook page where current events are posted and, as you know, we have a web page where more in-depth information is available for the public to access.

Thank you again for your amazing support of **Bulldog Bags, Inc.**, a community effort, helps to address food insecurity in our children and their families.

Sincerely,

Jan Mather, Secretary

A cooperative effort between the community and the schools, funded by community donations

A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization