



THE

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OWENSBORO
(Disciples of Christ)

CALLER

No. 2 Vol. 17 ~ February 23, 2021

From the Preacherman....

Upon arriving home from church last Sunday I exited my truck and walked to the garage door. I was paying attention to my steps, carefully edging through the snow, when I noticed something I could scarcely believe. There along the edge of the garage, poking up through the snow, were jonquils, pushing their leaves up, up, up, towards the Winter sun. I looked again. No, it wasn't a mirage. The flowers were real.

I stood there for a long moment, until the snow began to melt into my shoes. I did a quick inventory of the weather. Recent days had been rather harsh, to say the least. The temperature had been six, not sixty. This was no false Spring calling plants to flower early. Nope. It was frigid and blustery, and snow covered everything. And yet, flowers were pushing through the ice as if to say, "Watch this." My shoes were now wet and my feet were cold, but the image of those flowers has not left me.

We have been through a terrible year. Not an appropriate adjective? Take your pick: horrible, awful, dreadful, and painful. I am reminded of the children's book Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day, except this day has lasted for a year and will go on a while longer. We just started the season of Lent and people have told me that they have fasted for a year from multiple things. They want to know, "When is Easter?" Not the day in history, but the resurrection of new life from the cold, dark ground of our daily lives. When will that happen? When?

Well, perhaps it is already here among us, around us and inside of us. Maybe the kingdom of God is at hand, not because we decide or do anything, but because God is God, overflowing with creative power, continually replenishing and overfilling this universe with abundant life. We all go through things in our lives that cause us to question the providence of God in this world. Health issues, relationship problems, accidents and tragic events affect us all. Rarer are the events that affect us all at once. We are living through such a time now.

My word to you is this: Don't stop looking for signs of God's presence in our world right now. We are not waiting on Easter. Easter is already here. God is bringing new life and growth from the midst of frozen earth. I trust in the God who creates life from nothing, ex nihilo, life from earth so frozen a shovel won't turn the dirt, life even from the tomb of death. Yes, it is Lent. But Easter is here. Count on it.

Peace....Chris

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Owensboro, Kentucky Mission Statement

*"Our mission is to manifest
Christ's love by empowering all to
compassionate service."*

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Mission Statement

*"We are Disciples of Christ,
a movement for wholeness in a
fragmented world. As part of the
one body of Christ we welcome all
to the Lord's Table as God
has welcomed us."*

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers.....The Congregation
Sr. Minister.....Rev. J. Chris Michael
Minister of Pastoral Care....Pam Woodward
Education & Programming Coordinator....
Leigh Anne Castlen
Financial Manager.....Kristin Callis
Secretary.....Anne Carlisle
Pianist.....Ann Jeannette Pierce
Choir Director.....Mike Tichenor
Nursery Attendants.....Cynthia Smith
Chandler Fleischmann
Elee Roach

Church Office 270-684-8879
Church Email: anne@fccowb.org
Web Address: www.fccowb.org

Church Office Hours
Mon–Thurs 8 am–noon and 1 – 5 pm

You may listen to our worship service via your computer or smartphone by accessing www.mixlr.com/firstchristianchurch at 9 am CT Sunday, or by using a speakerphone dial 1-214-699-5100. The access code is 6939237#
Listen Live or archived services on Facebook

FCC App for iPhone & Android
Stay connected with the church, download from the App Store and Google Play - First Christian Church—Owensboro



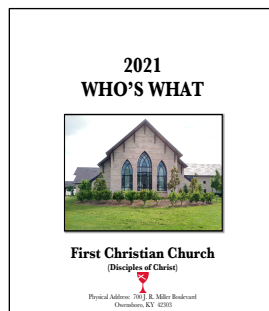
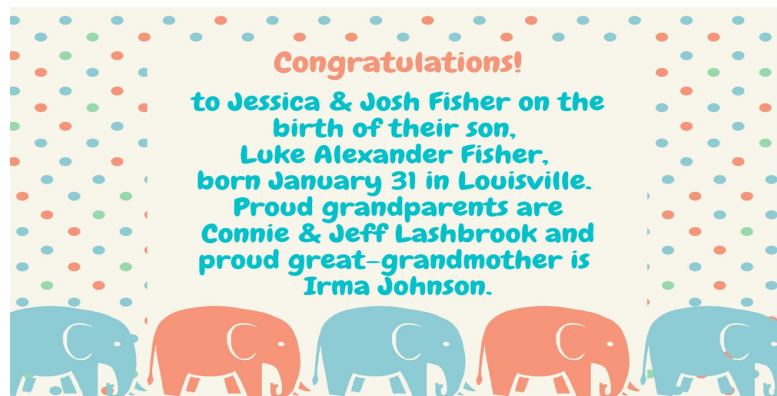
Easter lilies add to the beauty of the sanctuary Easter morning. If you would like to purchase a lily to be in the sanctuary on Easter morning in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact the church by emailing Anne at anne@fccowb.org or call 270-684-8879. The cost of one lily is \$13.50. Deadline to order is March 25. After the worship service, you may take your lily home.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to...

Irma Johnson and family in the death of her husband, Shelby Dean Johnson, who passed away February 2.

Bruce and Susie Kunze and family in the death of Bruce's mother, Lucy Jane Kunze, who passed away February 21.

Chris and Tammy Johnson and family in the death of Chris' mother, Mary Johnson, who passed away February 22.



The 2021 Who's What Church Directory is available in the office. A printed copy costs \$2.00. A **FREE** PDF is available, simply email anne@fccowb.org to receive yours via email.

The March DWM service project is to collect supplies for St. Benedict's Homeless Shelter. Suggested items may be dropped off at the office:

Cereal Coffee Paper Plates and cups
Deodorant Socks Underwear

Slightly used men's clothing - Especially belts
Body Wash



In-Person Worship

As we return to in-person worship, the Task Force for Reopening developed a schedule for attending in person based on the first letter of last names. A reminder will go out early in the week of the Sunday you are assigned. The groups picked up where we left off in November and look like this....

2/28/21 Group #4: O, P, Q, R, S, V, W, Y, Z
3/7/21 Group #1: A, B, C, I
3/14/21 Group #2: D, E, F, G, J, T
3/21/21 Group #3: H, K, L, M, N

Masks and social distancing are still going to be needed. We are going to adhere as well as possible to our basic theology of "All are Welcome," even in the middle of a pandemic. While we won't pass offering plates, there will be one at the sanctuary door. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in worship with elements available in the foyer when you leave.

We look forward to seeing everyone!

JOINING TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP SUNDAY MORNINGS!

While we are returning to limited in-person worship, we hope that those at home will continue to join us for worship each Sunday. There are 3 ways to attend online:

1. Watch and listen live at 9AM on our **Facebook** page (**you don't need to be a Facebook member, simply Google "First Christian Church Owensboro Facebook" and click the link.**)
2. Listen live at 9AM on **Mixlr** (you don't need to download an app, simply go to fccowb.org, scroll down to the Mixlr box and click play.)
3. Listen live at 9AM by **dialing** 1-214-699-5100 and enter access code 6939237#

The services are saved on Facebook and Mixlr, so you may go back and listen anytime.

To download the Mixlr app: **IPHONE:** Download via <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/mixlr/id583705714?ls=1&mt=8>

ANDROID: Download via <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.mixlr.android>

In Appreciation...

To the Caring Congregation at FCC,

Thank you so much for your overwhelming kindness and generosity to our Backpack Food Program at Burns Elementary School. We are so blessed to know you all!

Laura Whitehouse

To all at First Christian Church,

Thank you so much for your loyal support of Imagination Library of Daviess County. Your faithfulness enables us to continue our work of promoting literacy in our community by providing a book a month to young children in Daviess County.

Sincerely,

Wendy Wells ILDC

Chuck and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the beautiful flowers. They have brightened Chuck's days. Your thoughtfulness has blessed us in many ways. God sends us angels, your care is angels walking among us.

Chuck and Nancy Schmeal

FCC,

All your good wishes mean the world to me. God bless you.

Catherine Scott

FCC,

Thank you all so much for the gracious gift. I hope each of you had a very merry Christmas!

Elee Roach

Dear FCC Legacy Fund,

On behalf of the Community Dental Clinic, we thank you for your grant of \$3,000 for the dental clinic. Our non-profit clinic has served the Daviess County community since August, 2009. We have served over 15,130 patients and greatly reduced visits to the local Emergency Department related to tooth pain. Also, we educated and screened 1,156 children at 10 local schools during the 2019-20 school year. We have a special emphasis on serving the dental needs of disadvantaged children in our community.

We have numerous patients eligible for care. Unfortunately, many of these patients are very ill. We now take the blood pressure of our adult patients before treating and refer the patient to a primary care physician, if needed. At our clinic, we are treating both dental and overall health with the goal of improved health for our community and its residents. In the past year, we provided over \$1 million of care. By improving dental care, one person at a time, the health of the community improves. Thanks to the help of generous donors like FCC, we significantly impact and improve oral healthcare in our community. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Suzanne Craig, Board Chair Community Dental Clinic

MARCH

CALENDAR

Thursday, March 4

2:30 pm Refugee Food Pantry

Sunday, March 7 - Lent 3

9:00 am Worship Online/In-Person A, B, C, I

Sunday, March 14 - Lent 4

9:00 am Worship Online/In-Person D, E, F, G, J, T

Wednesday, March 17

5:30 pm Board Meeting

Thursday, March 18

2:30 pm Refugee Food Pantry

Sunday, March 21 - Lent 5

9:00 am Worship Online/In-Person H, K, L, M, N

Sunday, March 28 - Palm Sunday

9:00 am Worship Online/In-Person O, P, Q, R, S, V, W, Y, Z

ANNIVERSARIES

2 Terri & Kevin Bailey

19 Mark & Janet Lockett

31 Verne & Sue Bethel

BIRTHDAYS

2 Kirby Chelgren

3 Barbara Norvell

4 Jake Isenbarger

7 Chase Lockett

7 Dick Yerington

8 Mike Matthews

9 Hilda Nance

11 Meg Lawson

11 Sharon Stuart

11 Sue Bethel

11 Janet Suwanski

12 Kristin Callis

14 Verne Bethel

15 Bonnie Brown

15 Pat Kelley

16 Sally Wood

18 Sam Busse

19 Jackson Roark

20 Judy Hale

22 Amy Harper

23 Susan Frederick

24 Jessica Wilborn

25 Tom Beane

26 Leslie Mobley

28 Oliver Busse

30 Vicki Quisenberry

30 Maci Quisenberry

30 Sam Lyons

DECEMBER STEWARDSHIP

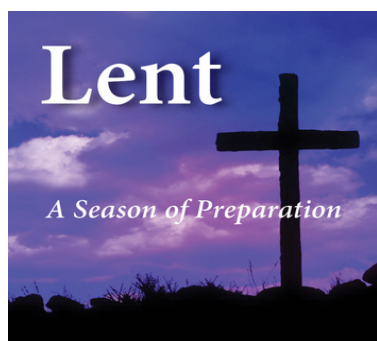
Offering for the Month	\$56,233
Other Revenue Month	<u>86</u>
Total Revenue	56,319
Expenses for the month	<u>46,412</u>
Net for the month	9,907

Year-to-Date

Offering	\$452,693
Other Revenue	<u>19,667</u>
YTD Revenue	472,360
YTD Expenses	<u>400,195</u>
Net for the year	72,165

DECEMBER OUTREACH

West Area Disciples CCK	1,071
Disciples Mission Fund	6,285
HELP Office	450



Plans are being made for a great summer of camp in 2021 at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya. This year's theme is Creation Speaks--inviting us to immerse ourselves in God's creation and listen for God's voice in the world today. Embracing our call as caretakers of creation, we'll experience the awe and wonder of the beauty and gifts of God's world.



Spring Workday	April 24
Junior grades 4-5	June 7-11*
CYF grades 9-12	June 13-19
Sailing Camp grades 6-12	June 21-25
Chi Rho grades 6-8	July 5-10
Young Disciples grade 3	July 12-14
Discovery grades 1-2	July 16-18

*SNOW DATE FOR JUNIOR CAMP - July 19-23