



THE

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OWENSBORO
(Disciples of Christ)

CALLER

No. 3 Vol. 17 ~ March 23, 2021

From the Preacherman....

If you want to see America, get off the interstate. You can get there faster by 4-lane, but the real stories are on the side roads. Take US 17 along the coast if you want to see genuine Georgia low country. If you want to see Kentucky's bluegrass, travel Highway 60 from Lexington to Louisville. Interstate 81 will take you quickly through the Shenandoah Valley, but Highway 11 is old Virginia. The question is one of journey versus destination. If getting there is what matters, then, by all means, take the fastest route. Sometimes, however, the journey is the destination, and the fastest route won't get you there at all.

Holy Week always presents us with a challenge: How do we get through it? The direct way is fastest: from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, skipping the rough side roads. People want to get to the good news of resurrection and eternal life as fast as they can, which is understandable. Life can be a struggle, even on the best days. Why focus so much attention on the hard stuff? Optimism and positive thinking are desperately needed in our world today; hope is in short supply.

But Easter without the Passion of Jesus is no hope at all. The side roads are not superfluous; indeed, they are the destination of Jesus' life: the Last Supper and upper room discourse with disciples; the test of faith in Gethsemane; arrest and trial before Roman officials; beatings and death on a cross. It is tempting to skip from Christmas to Palms to the glory of Easter. Nobody wants to watch someone else suffer and die, especially when there are direct implications for those who follow. Jesus' own disciples failed to make the journey with him to Good Friday. Why should we be any different? We aren't, but are called to try anyway.

Take the journey of Holy Week, the whole blessed thing, from the hallelujahs of hailing palms, to the depths of desertion and death, to the heights of resurrection glory. The whole trip is necessary for any of it to make sense. Easter without the cross is cheap grace, forgiveness without repentance, life without the threat of death, a lie. The cross without Easter is a sad, sick joke on a good man, mistaken in his faith in God. But together? Together they form the greatest story ever told, so pay attention to all of it this year. Watch. Follow. Weep tears of sorrow and of joy. You cannot get to Easter too quickly. Get off the interstate.

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
Financial Manager.....Kristin Callis
Secretary.....Anne Carlisle
Pianist.....Ann Jeannette Pierce
Choir Director.....Mike Tichenor
Nursery Attendants.....Cynthia Smith
Chandler Fleischmann
Elea 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

April 4, Easter Sunday, Worship In-Person

In order to accommodate increased attendance on Easter Sunday, the Task Force recommends (and Chris accepts) having two worship services.

The first Easter Service will be at 9:00 a.m. with Group 2 invited (Last names beginning with **H, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, V, W, Y, Z**). This service **will** be live on Facebook, Mixlr, and The Church is Calling.

The second Easter Service will be at 11:00 a.m. with Group 1 invited (Last names beginning with **A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I, J, T**). Please note that this service **WILL NOT** be on Facebook, Mixlr or The Church is Calling. Only the 9AM service will be available on Facebook.

Masks and social distancing will be needed. We will adhere as well as possible to our basic theology of "All are Welcome". The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the sanctuary with elements available for pick-up as you enter the sanctuary. While we won't pass offering plates, there will be one at the sanctuary door.

We look forward to seeing everyone!

In-Person Worship Starting April 11

The Task Force has updated the schedule for attending services in-person based on the first letter of last names. An email reminder will go out early in the week before the Sunday you are invited. Starting April 11, there will be 2 groups invited on alternate Sundays and are divided as follows....

Group #1: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I, J, T starting on April 11

Group #2: H, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, V, W, Y, Z starting on April 18

Congratulations to...

Austin and Caressa Schrecker on the birth of their son, Tucker Micheal Schrecker, born March 12. Proud grandparents are Bobby and Patty Schrecker.



Easter Offering
a special day offering of Disciples Mission Fund
March 28 and April 4, 2021

Donations to the Easter Offering may be mailed to the church, or dropped in the offering plate any Sunday in March or April.

The Easter Offering supports these general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ):

Center for Faith and Giving - Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries - Communication Ministries - Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry - Disciples of Christ Historical Society - Disciples Home Missions - Disciples Women Division of Overseas Ministries - Higher Education and Leadership Ministries - New Church Ministry - National Benevolent Association - National Convocation North American Pacific/ Asian Disciples - Office of the General Minister and President - Treasury Services



Maundy Thursday April 1 at 7PM

All are invited in-person for this service. It will also be available on Facebook, Mixlr and The Church is Calling.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to...

Hilda Nance and Lisa Nance Knott and extended family in the death of Lisa's husband, Michael D. Knott, on February 28.

Barbara Bennett and Hervey Howell and extended family in the death of Barbara's sister, Martha Anne Bennett, on March 8.

Connie and Mick Ford, Catherine Ford, Tom, Peyton and Jones Claycomb, Hillary, Jared, and Ramsey Krieg in the death of Coralie Runyon Jones, on March 13.

Suzanne Willis, Kenny, Glenda, and Maysa Willis, and Angie, Mike, and Michael Blackiston in the death of Ken Willis on March 22 in Bentonville, AR.

In Appreciation...

First Christian,

Thank you for the many cards, kind words, and visits to the funeral home. It is a difficult time for me and my family. Pastor Chris, Pam, and Anne have gone the extra mile. I'm blessed to have found FCC as my new Church home.

Irma Johnson

Friends,

The two simple words "Thank You" don't seem powerful enough to express how we feel in receiving your many kindnesses and prayers in recent months, but please know your acts of compassion mean so much.

And, special thanks to all of you who have stepped up to help with our food pantries and outreach.

Janet Luckett

Dear FCC members,

Thank you for your \$1,000 donation to St. Benedict's. Community support is vital to our mission. Without donors like you, the shelter could not serve those in need.

Again, thank you for your care and concern.

Sincerely,

Harry Pedigo, Executive Director

FEBRUARY STEWARDSHIP

Offering for the Month	\$48,641
Other Revenue Month	<u>1,409</u>
Total Revenue	50,050
Expenses for the month	<u>36,642</u>
Net for the month	13,408

Year-to-Date

Offering	\$69,053
Other Revenue	<u>4,797</u>
YTD Revenue	73,850
YTD Expenses	<u>64,361</u>
Net for the year	9,489

FEBRUARY OUTREACH

West Area Disciples CCK	1,071
Disciples Mission Fund	6,506
HELP Office	450
Special Offering:	
Week of Compassion	275

JANUARY STEWARDSHIP

Offering for the Month	\$20,412
Other Revenue Month	<u>3,388</u>
Total Revenue	23,800
Expenses for the month	<u>27,719</u>
Net for the month	(3,919)

JANUARY OUTREACH

West Area Disciples CCK	1,071
Disciples Mission Fund	1,785
HELP Office	450

APRIL

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 28 - Palm Sunday

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

Tuesday, March 30

5:30 pm Elders' Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, March 31

6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 1

2:30 pm Refugee Food Pantry

7:00 pm Maundy Thursday

Service Online/In-Person for all

Sunday, April 4, Easter

9:00 am Worship Facebook, Mixlr, The Church is Calling/In-Person H, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, V, W, Y, Z

11:00 am Worship In-Person A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I, J, T (Not online)

Monday, April 5

Office Closed

5:30 pm Finance/Outreach Mtg.

Sunday, April 11

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

Monday, April 12

5:30 pm Outreach Zoom Mtg.

Thursday, April 15

2:30 pm Refugee Food Pantry

Sunday, April 18

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

Sunday, April 25

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

BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Robert Julius
- 11 Sue Lawson
- 12 Suzette Nunley
- 14 Brad Webb
- 16 Jane Miller
- 17 Andy Goodaker
- 17 Joseph McKinley
- 18 J. Chris Michael
- 19 Addison Le Boutillier
- 20 John Dawson
- 22 Rebecca Connor
- 24 Annabelle Baur
- 24 Zoe Carroll
- 25 Mark Carlisle
- 26 Emily Castlen
- 29 Brian Belcher
- 30 Susan Alford
- 30 Sandy Roberts
- 30 Macy Roberts

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Brian & Cathy Hedges
- 4 Nathan & Suzette Nunley
- 5 Pam & Norman Woodward
- 8 Jerry & Joyce Bennett
- 10 Richard & Leslie Carlisle
- 22 Steve & Debby Crone
- 25 Carroll & Larkin Hayden
- 28 Austin & Caressa Schrecker

The April DWM service project is receiving donations of items for our Friends at Home Easter bags. Donations may include note cards, lotion, gripper socks, and snacks. Donations may be dropped off in the office.



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. Information and registration forms are available in the office or online at

<http://www.campkumbaya.org/camp-kum-ba-ya-is-fun/>



EVENT	DATE	FEES
Spring Workday	April 24	
Junior grades 4-5	June 7-11	\$210
CYF grades 9-12	June 13-19	310
Sailing Camp grades 6-12	June 21-25	340
Chi Rho grades 6-8	July 5-10	260
Young Disciples grade 3	July 12-14	112
Discovery grades 1-2	July 16-18	112