



THE

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OWENSBORO

(Disciples of Christ)

CALLER

No. 4 Vol. 17 ~ April 20, 2021

From the Preacherman....

"Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore," says Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz. It is a famous line, one perfectly applicable to our situation right now. Anyone, and I mean anyone, who thinks they know what is coming next in our world is simply whistling past the graveyard, to use another wonderful old saying. Nobody knows what comes next, but there are some things I think we do know.

No matter how happy we may be to re-engage our world, to return to some semblance of normal, I think we have to be absolutely clear: much has been lost in the last year, losses that need and deserve our grief. I talked with someone recently who buried her grandfather last fall, but the visitation and funeral were so strange that her grief is simply stuck, still there, unexpressed and mired like sludge in the bottom of her soul. Some of you are carrying around the enormous weight of loss from the death of a loved one. That loss is its own special burden. None of the normal patterns are there to help you grieve. Everyone, however, is carrying around something that has been lost or changed and is never, ever, going to return.

Thus, my sense as a pastor is that while we may rejoice at the reunions that have begun, we may well uncover a deeper sense of loss that is going to take awhile-months and years- from which to recover. That is just the truth. Sorry I have to tell you that, but if we do not take time for the pain, then the pain will take time for us, in destructive and terrible ways. A great gift of our faith is patience with the ways of God in our world and in our lives. While the world will want to move on quickly, we will, like Jesus noticing children, widows and a man up a tree, take time to let God work on us in mysterious and wonderful ways.

I also know this: we will try our best to go back to what we knew instead of striking out into an unknown future. The Hebrews in the wilderness wanted to go back to Egypt, to the past they knew, even slavery, because it felt safer to them. Moses urged them onward, into the unknown called tomorrow, a gift the Jews gave to the whole world: the future. Our inclination is going to be to recreate what we know while ignoring what God is calling us towards in the future.

The simple gift we are given to navigate these perilous times is faith, faith in the God who calls us ahead, yet leaves no one behind; faith enough to face what is lost and what is to come; to be sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we cannot see. God, give us such faith.

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

Christian love and sympathy is extended to...

Sara, Kyle, Elle, Holden, and Brooks Aud, Adam, Kaitlyn, and Lucy Fischer in the death of Sara and Adam's grandmother, Edna Myrle Rearden Boswell, on March 24.

Joanne and Rodney Berry, Joseph and Haley Berry, Adam and Emily Berry in the death of Joanne's mother, Betty Ann Peckenpaugh, on March 28.

Nancy Yaun in the death of Frank Yaun who passed away April 3. Frank was a master carpenter who built our communion table, pulpit, and lectern using wood from a tree that was removed from the church property during construction of our current building.

May DWM Service Project Donations for Fresh Start for Women

Items suggested: Move-In Kits (trash can, cleaning supplies, scrubbing brushes, trash bags, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry and dish detergents), feminine hygiene items, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, wipes, and canned food products.

Congratulations to...

Emily and Jason Payne on the birth of their son, Warren Reid Payne, born April 9. Proud grandparents are Steve and Debby Crone. Warren was also welcomed by siblings Braxton, Lucy, and Wyatt.

Let's talk about special day offerings...did you know that there are four Disciples Mission Fund Special Day Offerings received each year during Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons? The special offerings provide an opportunity to highlight specific ministries as part of our faith celebrations.

- Easter Offering was celebrated on March 28 & April 4 and supports the General Ministries of our church;
- Pentecost Offering will be celebrated on May 16 & 23 supports Disciples new church development;
- Thanksgiving Offering will be celebrated on November 14 & 21 supports Disciples colleges, universities and theological institutions; and
- Christmas Offering will be celebrated on December 12 & 19 supports the Disciples regional ministries.

Special day offerings are not funded in the annual operating budget, but you can donate if you want. Here's a summary of past contributions:

Easter	Pentecost
2021 - \$265	2020 - \$25
2020 - 75	2019 - 255
2019 - 1,315	2018 - 1,594
2018 - 603	2017 - 491
2017 - 408	2016 - 369
2016 - 503	
Thanksgiving	Christmas
2020 - \$75	2020 - \$50
2019 - 611	2019 - 440
2018 - 414	2018 - 714
2017 - 343	2017 - 133
2016 - 0	2016 - 555

Invitation to In-Person Worship

Childcare available starting this Sunday, April 25, in the nursery

The Task Force updated the schedule for attending services in-person based on the first letter of last names. Two groups will be invited on alternate Sundays....

Group #1: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I, J, T on April 25, May 9, 23

Group #2: H, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, V, W, Y, Z on May 2, 16, 30

Services will continue to be live on Facebook, Mixlr, and The Church is Calling. Masks and social distancing will be needed. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the sanctuary with elements available for pick-up as you enter the sanctuary.

We look forward to seeing everyone!



Let us be in prayer for our baptismal candidates:

May 2 - Hampton Gaddis and Parker Webb
 May 16 - Stella Hayden and Scarlett Isenbarger
 June 6 - Henry Busse and Elton Smith



Chancel flowers

If you would like to provide flowers in the chancel on May 9, 16, 23, 30, June 6, 13, or 27, please contact the church at 270-684-8879.

First Christian Church,

Thank you for your expressions of sympathy at this difficult time. The flowers were beautiful. Our family is grateful for all the prayers and support First Christian has provided for Mom (Hilda Nance) and Mike's cancer journey. Your kindness and thoughtfulness has been a blessing to us all.

God Bless,
 Lisa Knott and family

Dear Friends at First Christian Church,

You all really made our frosty day warmer and bright with your generous \$3,000 donation to Habitat for Humanity! Thank you so much.

Even with Covid and cold winter weather, we are still working on our Habitat homes. This week we have been painting the interior of our house at 489 Sutton Lane. Today, a small team is planning to do some trim work.

And the work on our new home for Habitat at 1701 Breckenridge is moving along too. Some paid drywall finishers are at work there. Then, we'll recruit a team of painters to set some paint days there. Big question all want to know is when we might move from 1702 Moseley St. to our new location. Many holdups since we bought the old Business Equipment, but moving along and hope to be moved in by Easter.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Virginia Braswell, Executive Director

Dear Friends and fellow Church members,

Thanks to all for the wonderful acts and words of kindness that I have received during my last 10 months of illness. The flowers, the cards, visits and thoughts have helped so much.

I appreciate each expression of kindness. My prayers are with you and all the church.

Nelda Barnett

MAY

CALENDAR

Saturday, April 24

KBY Work Day

Sunday, April 25

9:00 am Worship Online/

In-Person A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I, J, T

Thursday, April 29

Camp KBY forms due

Sunday, May 2

9:00 am Worship Online/In-Person

H, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, V, W, Y, Z

Thursday, May 6

2:30 pm Refugee Food Pantry

Sunday, May 9

9:00 am Worship Online/

In-Person A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I, J, T

Sunday, May 16

9:00 am Worship Online/In-Person

H, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, V, W, Y, Z

Wednesday, May 19

5:30 pm Board Meeting

Thursday, May 20

2:30 pm Refugee Food Pantry

Sunday, May 23

9:00 am Worship Online/

In-Person A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I, J, T

Sunday, May 30

9:00 am Worship Online/In-Person

H, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, V, W, Y, Z

Monday, May 31

Office Closed

BIRTHDAYS

1 Janet Westmoreland

1 Sheila Campbell

2 Joy Emerson

3 Richard Carlisle

4 Beverly Chelgren

4 Missie Hayden

5 Maggie Lott

6 Rosalie McKinley

6 John A. Miller

8 Yvonne Julius

9 Becky Luckett

10 Shannon Divine

10 Wanda Gilbreath

10 Mary Lisa Tunget

10 Nick Brake

10 John Patrik Yager

12 John Weston Wilborn

14 Amanda Kyle

16 Hannah Kate Divine

19 Garrison Johnson

20 Walker Gaddis

20 Aloma Dew

20 Bill Frederick

21 Forrest Roberts

26 Sophie McKinley

26 Robert Howe

27 Millie Roberts

29 Allison Carter

30 Mary Ellen Gant

30 Sara Van Slyke

30 Jay Bethel

30 John Yager

ANNIVERSARIES

11 Tom & Barbara Norvell

12 John & Jane Miller

20 Joseph & Haley Berry

24 Eric & Laura Farmer

25 Chris & Stacy Castlen

26 Holly & Dave Roark

28 Linda & Frank Jones

28 Steve & Cathy Perrin

MARCH STEWARDSHIP

Offering for the Month \$47,538

Other Revenue Month 111

Total Revenue 47,649

Expenses for the month 33,522

Net for the month 14,127

Year-to-Date

Offering \$116,591

Other Revenue 4,908

YTD Revenue 121,499

YTD Expenses 97,883

Net for the year 23,616

MARCH OUTREACH

West Area Disciples CCK 1,071

Disciples Mission Fund 1,785

HELP Office 450



Registration forms are due April 29!

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
Junior grades 4-5	June 7-11	\$210
CYF grades 9-12	June 13-19	310
Sailing 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

Parents – the nursery will be available during worship starting this Sunday, April 25th!

Stand for Peace

You are invited to join Non-Violent Owensboro on May 9, Mother's Day, at 2PM to stand in silence for 5 minutes. We will meet at Kendall-Perkins Park on 5th St. or you can stand wherever you are for 5 minutes of silence. This is a global wave of humanity, and we hope that the act of gathering and standing in silence will inspire and energize all to take action that will help shape the world for our children, grandchildren, and several generations beyond. We dream of a world with safe water to drink, clean air to breathe, enough food to eat, and a place of safety where no one lives in fear of violence.

Make a stand for non-violence and think about what you can do personally to promote peace.

Nancy S. Connor