



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OWENSBORO

(Disciples of Christ)

April 28, 2021

From the Preacherman....

I usually have a decent idea for something to write when I come to this space, a few paragraphs that seem to cohere and form a complete idea. I'm not sure how things fit together today, though, so I will tell you what is on my mind and let you decide...

First, for nearly a year and a half the health concerns of Jackson Roark have compelled our prayers and attention. Jackson, 13 years old, has valiantly battled cancer, with all of its concurrent treatments and surgery. We have attempted in numerous ways to support him and his family. Recently the question arose: How can we help now? Thus, the church, all of us, whoever that may be, wherever you are, will take up a monetary collection to help his family. It is cold hard cash with a giant dose of our love and compassion. We ask today a simple, prayerful question: What can you give to help Jackson? Send it to the church (700 JR Miller Blvd, Owensboro, KY 42303) and we will give it to them. It is what we can do right now to help.

Second, Anne Carlisle is retiring as our church secretary at the end of May. She has served nearly 15 years in this capacity with, get this, 4 Senior Ministers, 5 Interim Ministers, 2 Associate Ministers and 1 Fire. Let that sink in for a moment. The one constant at church through nearly fifteen years of near constant change-and THE FIRE- has been Anne Carlisle. Preachers can come and go, but not Anne. Well, now Anne is going, with all the words of thanksgiving, gratitude and blessing that we can muster. She doesn't want any fanfare or public recognition, and I ask you to respect those wishes, but your quiet expressions of appreciation are welcome. She deserves them.

So, how are these things related? They reveal a simple but essential aspect of the gospel. God calls us to love in particular, not in general. I am called to love you, in this place and time in history, not as I wish it was, but as things are. And you are called to love me. Period. Full stop.

The gospel is true, not because it is universal, but because it is particular and peculiar, odd and strange. Love the people in your midst who need it and want it, and those who don't. Love your church and those who serve in it. Love this world in all of its joy and pain, its sorrow and celebration. This is the gospel in all of its fullness. And oddness. I love this gospel and what it calls me to. Do you?

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."*

FCC 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
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 dialing 1-214-699-5100. The access code is 6939237#

FCC App for iPhone & Android
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