



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OWENSBORO

(Disciples of Christ)

May 19, 2021

From the Preacherman....

As you may have heard, the church is reopening fully for worship and group meetings. Hopefully, we are reaching the end of this ordeal of Covid and can move towards some semblance of normalcy, whatever that means these days. I expect there to be more days of struggle ahead, but also times of celebration and joy. You know, like ordinary days.

Let me commend you for some things. You have shared this suffering with one another as Jesus calls us to do. We have lost loved ones in this, have struggled with sickness and the terrible effects of loneliness and isolation. It would have been easy for you to have focused only on yourselves, yet you have maintained your connections with one another and cared for each other. We had months of worship with eight people in the room, but you showed up virtually and sometimes in person. I am grateful for your dogged diligence and perseverance. Thank you.

Let me encourage you to be patient, yet purposeful. It was easy to stop everything in March 2020. We just stopped. It is, however, enormously difficult to restart Worship & Wonder, Sunday School, the nursery, committees, etc. I have a list of things to restart, change or fix that never seems to get any shorter. We need ideas, but honestly, we need you to be present and active in multiple ways. Be patient with the mess we find ourselves in these days. Help where you can. It really is that simple.

I know from three decades of pastoral ministry that the thing people wish the pastor would stop saying is this: You have to take time for the pain. Our shared American story encourages us to look to the future, forget the past, expect the new day to be better than the old one. You know, *The sun will come out, tomorrow....* But tomorrow is always a day away.

That is not the gospel of Jesus Christ. Each year we remember and reenact his story from Advent to Easter because the whole story is deeply important to our world, the shared suffering and death, with the hope of Easter dawning from the future. Your persistent devotion through the ordeal of the past year offers me the surest sign of hope in the gospel because I saw it in your lives.

In Philippians 3:10-11 Paul writes, *“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”* I have seen both suffering and resurrection in you this past year, which means I have seen Christ in you. Thank you for that.

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

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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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