



THE

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OWENSBORO
(Disciples of Christ)

CALLER

No. 5. Vol. 16 ~ May 26, 2020

From the Preacherman....

Vaclav Havel, first president of the Czech Republic, once said, "I am not an optimist, because I am not sure that everything ends well. Nor am I a pessimist, because I am not sure that everything ends badly. I just carry hope in my heart. Hope is the feeling that life and work have a meaning. You either have it or you don't, regardless of the state of the world that surrounds you." Those are great words, worth remembering, especially in these days of uncertainty amidst pandemic. For good reason the editors of *The Living Pulpit*, a preacher periodical, made Hope the subject of their inaugural publication almost three decades ago. Hope is crucial and fundamental, a gift from God and a promise worth our very lives.

I live by hope. Neither optimism nor pessimism guide me. My internal gyroscope always resets towards hope. But this is also true: Hope is not a plan. And planning is where we are as a church. Shutting down everything was difficult, but opening the church is even harder. Thus, you will find listed in our newsletter people who have taken on the gargantuan task of figuring out how to re-open our church for worship on Sundays.

Why is it so hard to do this? Because the church, by definition, cares about every single person, from the youngest to the oldest, from its newest to its most experienced. We are called to care for the neighbor, the least among us, the unwell and the needy. And who gets to define the needy to Covid19? Someone was kind enough to point out to me that 5 years ago I had a stroke, likely due to a faulty heart valve that allowed a blood clot to reach my brain. That makes me, your pastor, a candidate to receive undesired attention from coronavirus. Am I scared? No, but neither am I stupid. I want people to be careful, for your sake and for mine.

All of this makes me extremely cautious as your pastor and supportive of every effort to sustain good health, whether I like it or not. As your pastor I struggle against the individualistic forces that would atomize our existence. We are better together, but not together in a cemetery. We will take our time, make good efforts, endure mistakes, and keep trying, with our humanity, faith and finitude in full view.

Years ago Vin Scully was broadcasting the Cubs-Dodgers game when he said, "Andre Dawson has a bruised knee and is listed as day-to-day....Aren't we all?" Yes we are, Vin. Yesterday is over and tomorrow is unknown. We are all day-to-day. That's all we ever are. And it is enough.

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

Stay connected with the church, download from the App Store and Google Play - First Christian Church—Owensboro

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Herbert Reedy who passed away May 13.

Congratulations to Our High School Seniors

Paige Castlen graduating from Owensboro High School

Lucas Ruckdeschel graduating from Daviess County High School

If there are other graduates, please contact the Church office with the graduate's name and school.

We Welcome ...

Steve Perrin joined our Church family on May 3 – our first to join virtually! Steve & Cathy Perrin reside at 4680 Hunters Ridge, 42303.

Madeline Carl Howell re-joined our Church family on May 17. She was baptized here as a youth before her family moved to Alabama. Madeline & Steve Howell live at 424 Locust Court, 42301.

We are glad you are here!

The Board met via Zoom on Tuesday, May 19. Below is an update:

- **Covid-19 Relief Fund** has been created with \$5,000 from Legacy Fund - Members and Community are encouraged to donate to increase the balance in this fund to:
 - Help FCC families in need – contact office for application
 - Help the community - contact office for application
- **Return-to-Church Task Force** has been created.
 - Members of the Task Force are:
 - Steve Divine (Chair of Elders)/Vicki Quisenberry (Board Chair) Co-Chairs
 - Andy Goodaker (Chair of Deacons)
 - Chris Michael and Pam Woodward (Staff)
 - Nathan Nunley (Chair of Property)
 - Chris Gaddis (Chair of Worship)
 - Leslie Carlisle (Chair of Communications)
 - Health Rep (to be named soon)
 - Safety of members and staff is top priority – we will open for services when it is safe
 - Items under consideration:
 - Data indicators determining when it is safe to return
 - Sanctuary - Safe numbers & Sanitization
 - Communion
 - Logistics
 - Social Distancing and Contact Tracing
- **Finances** are holding steady! Thank you for financially supporting the Church during this difficult economic time
- **Outreach Committee** is continuing to meet and review Legacy Fund applications
- **Education** – the **Personnel Committee** (including Education Co-Chairs) will be interviewing a candidate for Education Coordinator within the next few weeks
- **Elders** are checking on members and met May 26
- **Deacons** plan to meet soon to discuss ways they can help
- **Property Committee** – upcoming projects:
 - High quality camera installation in sanctuary to improve online service
 - Addition of sound panels in the Fellowship Hall
 - Addition of blinds to Fellowship Hall windows
 - Water heater for dish washer in kitchen

Sunday Morning Worship

We hope that you will join us for worship each Sunday. There are 3 ways to attend:

1. Watch and listen live at 9AM on our **Facebook** page, which is accessible via our website.
2. Listen live at 9AM on **Mixlr** – go to fccowb.org scroll down the Home page to the Mixlr information and click in the box.
3. Listen live at 9AM by **dialing** 1-214-699-5100 and enter access code 6939237#

Services are recorded on Facebook and Mixlr, so you may go back and listen anytime.

The weekly bulletin is posted on the website – look for link near the Mixlr box on the Home page.

News from the Columbarium Committee

At the May Board meeting, the group approved that former FCC members and their immediate family household members who were active and contribute financially to the support of the ministry of FCC are eligible to purchase niches in the Columbarium. Of course, this is in addition to current FCC members and family household members. For more information, contact Angela Bruce, Martha Lee, or the church office for an updated form or details.

Have you seen the completed engraving of the Memorial Wall on the west wall of the Columbarium area? Take a look at this area to memorialize your loved ones. More information on this at the church office.



This summer, instead of traditional in-person camps at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya, our advisory team is creating a fun and meaningful virtual experience called **Camp Zoom-Ba-Ya!** Like our summer camp programs, our virtual camps will be designed for the various age levels (grades 1-12) around the theme "This is Our Prayer." You'll see familiar faces and places through our online connections and activities—all from the comfort of home! Through Bible stories, video conference gatherings (where age appropriate), off-screen activities, and spiritual practices, we will be teaching our campers about living a life of prayer from their homes that will help them discover a deeper connection with God. Registration forms and T-shirt information are available at www.campkumbaya.org.

Discovery (grades 1, 2)*	June 4-6
Junior (grades 3-5)**	June 29-July 3
Chi Rho (grades 6-8)	July 6-11
CYF (grades 9-12)	June 7-13
Sailing (grades 6-12)	June 22-26

* A parent/guardian is required to participate with Discovery campers.

** Younger campers may need assistance with some aspects of the online camp activities.

DWM Outreach Projects

During the month of May, DWM is accepting donations to be given to Fresh Start for Women whose mission is to provide safe, affordable, transitional housing for single women who have completed an addiction recovery program or are facing other life challenges and need a community that fosters accountability and healthy decision making.

During June, DWM will collect funds for the Heartford House to purchase snacks for patients and families.

Donations to either/both projects may be sent to Janet Westmoreland, 4142 Liberty Point, Owensboro, KY 42303 or dropped by the church. You may make checks payable to FCC and write DWM Fresh Start or DWM Hospice in the memo section of your check.

June Birthdays

- 1 Casey Callis
- 2 Whitley Ford
- 3 Irma Johnson
- 3 Nancy Moyer
- 3 John Burns
- 3 Jenna Glenn
- 6 Nelda Barnett
- 6 Bill Boehm
- 7 Roy Boling
- 8 Bobby Schrecker
- 9 Maxine Goebel
- 9 Joey McKinley
- 9 Nancy Castlen
- 11 Tab Quisenberry
- 12 Scout Carroll
- 14 Andy Luckett
- 14 David Duncan
- 17 Evelyn Guthrie
- 17 Carolyn Williams
- 18 Henry Busse
- 18 Trudy Wimsatt
- 19 Nancy Rowe
- 19 Suzanne Willis
- 19 Blake Hayden
- 21 Cathy Maddox
- 23 Parker Webb
- 23 Patty Wahl
- 25 Kendra Bronsink
- 25 Addelyn Yager
- 27 April B. Evans
- 29 Laura Green
- 29 Linda Green
- 30 Jenny Busse

June Anniversaries

- 1 Beverly & John Dawson
- 1 Sherry & Larry Rhoads
- 2 Eric & Emily Baur
- 7 Kirby & Beverly Chelgren
- 10 Ashley & Brad Webb
- 10 Jim & Sharon Stuart
- 11 Henry & Carolyn Williams
- 12 Candance & Nick Brake
- 14 Mike & Angela Bruce
- 15 Philip & Sara Travis
- 19 Dick & Mary Yerington
- 19 Sue & Ken Lawson
- 20 Mark & Anne Carlisle
- 20 Larry Joe & Cori Douglas
- 25 John & Sandy Roberts
- 27 Jim & Trudy Wimsatt
- 28 Gavin & Molly Roberts



PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID

AT OWENSBORO, KY 42303

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Thanks to All Who Worked in the Community Garden and Church Landscaping!

Several people worked in the Community Garden preparing the raised beds for this year's growing season. They also replaced the storage building's floor, as it had rotted. Thank you for your efforts.

Others have been busy working on the Church's landscape by weeding, trimming shrubs and trees, and spreading mulch. Thank you to all who have stopped by to help make our grounds look neat and well-maintained. If you have time and enjoy working outdoors, there is still plenty to be done - contact Nathan Nunley to see how you can help.