



THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OWENSBORO
(Disciples of Christ)

CALLER

No. 13 Vol. 15 ~ July 9, 2019

From the Preacherman....

When our yearly celebration of national independence comes round on the calendar I take time to reflect on my ancestors who immigrated to this country. They were Baptists from England, Anabaptists from Holland and Huguenots from the region of Michel, France. Though radically different in many ways, they shared a common dream: to have the freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience. Their churches, in the minority in their home countries, faced persecution, imprisonment and even death from Christians who considered them apostate and infidels. They just wanted to be left alone to practice their faith as God led them, so they set out to find that freedom in a strange, new land.

They came here, and, unfortunately, found state-supported churches in both Virginia and Georgia, indeed in all the colonies save Rhode Island, churches that tolerated no dissent or competition; thus, more persecution. It took a lot of effort and a Bill of Rights, but freedom from and for religion became the law of the land. Christianity in its varied forms, Catholic and Protestant, was practiced by the majority of Americans, but others were free to practice theirs as well.

A few years ago I visited a direct result of that freedom enshrined in the 1st Amendment, the Hindu Temple of Atlanta. A tour took me through the worship space while informing me of the history and theology of the religion. The experience was both jarring and affirming. Here was a place the framers of our Constitution could not have imagined, and yet freedom was given to this group to practice faith as they felt led to do so. I felt proud to be an American, knowing that my immigrant ancestors made such a thing possible.

But I would be less than honest if I did not admit that the experience was something of an awakening. Despite the struggles of my ancestors, I take for granted the freedom I have to worship God without worrying about reprisal or persecution. Many others in the world do not share in that freedom. There are many things I worry about exporting to the world, fast food and celebrities come to mind, but religious liberty is high on my list of things we should advocate for in every nation.

Christians are persecuted in many lands, but so are people of other religions. People should have the freedom to accept or reject faith without fearing for their lives. Faith can never be coerced. If a person is not free to say “no” to God, then s/he isn’t truly free to say “yes” either. Remember where we came from. Let people of faith everywhere urge freedom of religion for all the people of our planet.

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



GREEN CHALICE TEAM

The Sessions class has agreed to re-launch our Green Chalice Program by following 3 requirements, which are: create a Creation Care Team, adopt the Green Chalice Covenant, and make 3 changes in any area.

The purpose of the Green Chalice Program is to encourage and assist local congregations who wish to live out their faith by caring for creation. This program is designed to recognize congregations for being good stewards of God's creation. It also aims to empower congregations/assemblies with ideas and resources to enable them to walk gently on the earth.

You are invited to be a part of our Green Chalice Creation Care Team. If you are interested, please contact Barbara Bennett or the Church office.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to...

Pam & Norman Woodward and Joey & Teresa McKinley and families in the death of Pam and Joey's aunt, Bernita McKinley Wilson, who passed away June 30 in Louisville.

**HOLIDAY WORLD TRIP FOR CHI RHO & CYF
JULY 28
Leaving from the church after worship.**

Dear First Christian Church Members,

Thank you for your generosity to the young people of Owensboro through your kind Legacy Fund gift to Care Net. As I described in our application letter, the number of young people we see in our center for crisis pregnancies, prenatal and parenting education and STD testing and treatment continues to grow.

We have been raising funds to remodel a building at the corner of 18th & Sweeney Sts. that was recently purchased for us to meet the needs of the increased number of clients who we are seeing. We hope to be in our new building very soon. Your generosity will help to provide necessary furnishings for our new facility.

We genuinely appreciate your partnership in serving the young people of our community for the Glory of our God.

Kind Regards,
Lisa Hyland, Executive Director



Make a Difference in a Child's Life

Children will return to school soon. For many children, school lunches may be their only meals during the week, so what happens over the weekend? The Backpack Ministry provides nutritious food for children to eat over the weekend during the school year. We hope to sponsor 65 children at Cravens Elementary again this school year. Would you consider sponsoring one child's backpack for the school year? A year's supply of weekend food costs \$150; however, all donations are appreciated.

If you are able to donate, please make checks payable to FCC and write Backpack Ministry in the memo section. You may drop the donation in the offering plate or in the mail - PO Box 966, Owensboro, KY 42302

Delivery of backpacks begins the second week of August.

AARP Refresh your driving skills and you could save on auto insurance...

When you take the AARP Smart Driver course, you could be eligible for a multi-year discount on your auto insurance. In Kentucky, it is good for 3-5 years, depending on your insurance company at age 55.

A class will be held for members of First Christian Church on August 20 from 12:30-4:30 pm in the Sessions Classroom at Church. The fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-AARP members. The fee covers the course workbook and the certification for insurance reduction for those 55 and older. Seating for this class is limited. Call the church office to register (270-684-8879).

Serving in Worship

July 14 ~ Pentecost 5 ~ 9:00 AM

Liturgist: **Janey Burns**
 Serving Elders: **Wayne & Gloria Goodaker**
 Acolyte: **Walker Gaddis** Bell Ringer: **Scarlett Roark**
 Elder of the month: **Pam Woodward**
 Deacons: **Nancy Barnard, Emily Baur, Brian Belcher, Cori Douglas, Joy Emerson, Marjorie Flowers, Larkin Hayden, Carroll Laswell, Brende & Chris Lott**
 Youth Deacon: **Zoe Carroll**
 Worship & Wonder Storyteller: **Pam Woodward**
 Shepherd: **Nancy Connor**
 Prelude: *Holy, Holy, Holy*
 Message in Music: *And Can It Be* **Shelby Wooldridge, soloist**
 Offertory: *I Know that My Redeemer Lives*
 Communion: *Nocturne in B flat minor, OP. 9 No. 1*
Morton Holbrook III, guest pianist
 Hymns: *God of Grace and God of Glory; I Want Jesus to Walk with Me; Give Thanks; Day by Day*

Flowers have been placed in the chancel by Homer Belcher and Sandy Royse to the glory of God and in loving memory of wife and mother, Joy Belcher.

July 21 ~ Pentecost 6 ~ 9:00 AM

Liturgist: **Andy Goodaker**
 Serving Elders: **Tab & Vicki Quisenberry**
 Acolyte: **Reise Elliott** Bell Ringer: **Walker Gaddis**
 Elder of the month: **Pam Woodward**
 Deacons: **Barbara Bennett, Andy Goodaker, Sally Ham, Cathy Maddox, Teresa McKinley, Laura Michael, Cathy Midkiff, John & Jane Miller, Sandy Roberts**
 Youth Deacon: **Clayton Roberts**
 Worship & Wonder Storyteller: **Natalie Johnson**
 Shepherd: **Jessica Wilborn**
 Prelude: *Praise Him! Praise Him!*
 Message in Music: Trio: **Victoria Meacham, Janet Estes, and Wendy Wells**
 Offertory: *Close to Thee*
 Communion: *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*
 Hymns: *The Church's One Foundation; Come Down, O Love Divine; We Came as Guests Invited*

Flowers have been placed in the chancel to the glory of God and in honor of Jackie Maddox who has been attending this church since her birth, 75 years ago today, by her family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, July 14

9:00 am Worship
 10:00 am FCC Café
 10:30 am Sunday School
 12:00 pm Pitino Shelter

MONDAY, July 15

11:30 am Education Team Mtg.

TUESDAY, July 16

5:45 pm Board Meeting

WEDNESDAY, July 17

6:30 am MBS Panera

THURSDAY, July 18

2:30 pm Food Pantry

SUNDAY, July 21

9:00 am Worship
 10:00 am FCC Café
 10:15 am Hospitality Team Mtg.
 10:30 am Sunday School

MONDAY, July 22

11:30 am Property Team Mtg.

TUESDAY, July 23

5:30 pm Elders' Meeting

WEDNESDAY, July 24

6:30 am MBS Panera
 9:00 am Primetimers' Plus Meal
 Prep. For Habitat for Humanity

SUNDAY, July 28

9:00 am Worship
 10:00 am FCC Café
 10:30 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Youth to Holiday World

PITINO SHELTER VOLUNTEERS July 14

Ginger & Bill Boehm
 Connie & Mick Ford
 Michelle & Patrick Whitmer

Board Meeting – Tuesday, July 16, at 5:45 PM in the FaHoLo Classroom

Elders' Meeting – Tuesday, July 23, at 5:30 PM in the FaHoLo Classroom



Flowers in the Chancel

There are openings for flowers in the chancel on September 1, 15, 29, October 6, 20, and 27. If you are interested in providing flowers on any of these dates, please contact the office at 270-684-8879.

SHOES FOR WATER

DONATE SHOES **SAVE LIVES!**

Simply donate new or gently used shoes of any size, type, or style, as long as they are free from mold/ mildew, and you'll help fund safe drinking water projects all over the world – projects that help to save hundreds of thousands of lives each year. You may place donated shoes in the WaterStep donation box located in the foyer.

STEWARDSHIP MAY 2019

Offering for the Month	\$29,813.00
Other Revenue Month	<u>52.00</u>
Total Revenue	\$29,865.00
Expenses for the month	<u>35,785.00</u>
Net for the month	(5,920.00)
YTD Offering	172,524.00
YTD Other Revenue	<u>8,500.00</u>
YTD Revenue	181,024.00
YTD Expenses	<u>170,278.00</u>
YTD Net	\$10,746.00

OUTREACH MAY 2019

West Area Disciples CCK	\$1,071.00
Disciples Mission Fund	1,785.00
HELP Office	450.00

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Owensboro, KY 42303



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700 J.R. Miller Blvd.
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A huge THANK YOU to Sally Lott & Embry Luallen
for serving as counselors JULY 1 - 6 during
Chi Rho camp at KBY.



Our youth and sponsors arrived safely in Florida Sunday afternoon. Their home base during the mission trip is in a church in Panama City.

On their first day, they removed fallen trees and roots from properties. They have been shocked to see the amount of destruction in the area and many people have expressed their gratitude for their help.

Please keep Maggie Lott, Evan LeBoutillier, Sally Lott, Adam Lott, Paige Castlen, Hannah Kate Divine, Joe Lewis, Addison LeBoutillier, Stacy Castlen, and Laura Michael in your prayers. They will return on July 13.