



THE

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OWENSBORO
(Disciples of Christ)

CALLER

No. 8 Vol. 16 ~ August 25, 2020

From the Preacher....

I was reading a memoir of one of our best poets, Donald Hall, when I stumbled across a line that unsettled me. Hall writes,

Where I sit today, working at my desk, there are shelves behind me that are dense with abandoned or unfinished work.... Behind my neck roosts a rookery of bad manuscripts. To write as much as I have done, I have needed often to fail.
(pg. 136, *Unpacking the Boxes*)

It was that last line that staggered me: "To write as much as I have done, I have needed often to fail." I knew immediately the profound truth of Hall's words. Every week I write pages and pages of notes and ideas for the sermon, and much of it is worthless, never to be seen again. I have boxes of sermon manuscripts that will forever remain unspoken. I preached some really bad sermons in my early years as a preacher, and fully expect more. Failure is not only probable, it is predictable.

All of that failed writing is simply part of the process that brings to the surface words that are truly worthy to be voiced by the poet or the preacher. Failure is one of the chief side-effects of innovation, creativity and hard work. Thomas Edison failed thousands of times to create the light bulb before he found the right combination of elements. Creative genius is often nothing more than the ability to learn from every mistake, every failed attempt, and keep trying.

We need often to fail. The culture around us does not value that and neither does the church very much. Perhaps it is the moral stigma that religion attaches to failure that dampens our innovative impulses. It could be the mistaken belief that church should primarily set limits on behavior to keep us in line. Our inclination to celebrate winners creates an aversion to risk-taking as an essential element of the gospel. Plain old pride keeps us from admitting failure and owning responsibility, thus limiting the teaching prospects of failure.

The fact of the matter is, Jesus failed a lot. He did not heal everyone, did not change every person, and could not convince all people of his identity. His death is, in part, the failure of his ministry. God fails, extravagantly, casting love upon this world, as a sower casts seed, and we mostly ignore it. It is the nature of the gospel to have failure as a built-in ingredient, because grace is abundant in the heart of our God. So don't be stingy with your love, your compassion or your mercy just because it will just go unnoticed or unheeded or fail to bear fruit. If you plan to follow the risky way of Jesus Christ, we need often to fail.

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
Education & Programming Coordinator....
Leigh Anne Castlen
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#

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

RETURN TO WORSHIP PLAN

First Christian Church has committed to following recommendations by Healthy at Church – Christian Church Disciples of Christ in Kentucky. **Return to worship date will be determined after a steady decline and no local spikes in Covid-19 cases in the two weeks leading up to tentative start date.** The Task Force and Ministerial staff reserve the right to cancel services due to local/regional Covid-19 spikes and/or consistent increases in order to protect members and guests.

- **Masks** - As a **sign of respect** for each other and to **protect staff** and **every member** of our church family, **ALL** worship attendees over the age of 3 are **required** to wear a mask while in the church building.
- **Chancel Area**
 - Worship leaders (Ministers, Lay Leader, Musicians) only will be allowed in the chancel area and will be appropriately physically distanced
 - Vocalists and those playing wind instruments will be 10 feet away from others when performing, unless living in the same household
 - Hand sanitizer will be available in Chancel area
- **Choir** - No choir at this time.
- **Singing** - Singing is temporarily suspended except from the Chancel by the Music Minister and/or invited vocalists
- **Sanctuary Seating**
 - The Task Force is recommending no more than 60 people (approximately 25% of capacity) in the Sanctuary
 - To maintain physical distancing, worshippers will be seated by ushers
 - Families who wish to return to worship will do so alphabetically according to the following schedule, beginning with a six-week rotation.

Six Sunday Rotation Schedule: Group #1: A-6, B-50, I-5 = 61 members

Group #2: C-32, D-11, E-7, T-10 = 60 members

Group #3: F-21, G-24, J-14 = 59 members

Group #4: H-26, K-7, L-21, N-5 = 59 members

Group #5: M-27, O-2, P-3, Q-5, S-23 = 60 members

Group #6: R-27, V-2, W-23, Y-9, Z-4 = 65 members

- **Health & Safety**
 - Attendees are encouraged to take temperatures before leaving home
 - Those with temperatures above 100.5 must not enter the building
 - Temperatures may be checked at the door
 - Those who have been exposed to someone diagnosed with Covid-19 within the past 14 days or anyone with following symptoms may not enter the building: *coughing, shortness of breath, sneezing, chills, repeated shaking, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste and/or smell and/or other symptoms as identified by healthcare professionals as indicating Covid-19.*
 - Attendees are expected to sanitize hands from stations in the lobby before entering the sanctuary.
 - Attendees are encouraged to use restroom at home before heading to church. Restrooms available for emergencies.
 - Water fountains will be turned off.
- **Entrance and Egress**
 - Please arrive early to guarantee physical distancing seating
 - Entrance and Egress doors will be designated
 - For contact tracing purposes, a record will be kept of everyone entering the building; method TBD
 - Allow at least 6 feet between family groups while entering and exiting
 - At the conclusion of the service, ushers will control congregational exit one row at a time. Those in the Chancel area will dismiss last
 - Please maintain appropriate physical distancing after exiting the building
- **Communion**
 - Those who prepare Communion will wear a mask and gloves.
 - Communion will be conducted during the regular portion of the worship with the exception of consuming the elements. Prepackaged Communion elements may be picked up outside the Sanctuary after the service and consumed after exiting the building.
 - Communion and program waste will be placed in containers by worshipers as they exit the building. Please do NOT leave your waste in the building.
- **The Order of Worship** - Worship bulletins will be placed in seats before the service or handed out upon arrival.
- **Offering**
 - Congregation is encouraged to contribute offering via online giving or paper check through the mail (please do NOT lick envelope!)
 - A donation basket will be placed near the Sanctuary exit doors for cash or checks; please place donation in the basket as you leave the sanctuary.

Additional Notes

At this time, there will be no Sunday School, Worship & Wonder, Nursery or Fellowship.

As the state of Kentucky analyzes the level of the Covid-19 virus (up or down) after more openings in the upcoming months, the Task Force will reconvene and determine how to proceed on a consistent basis until we determine our New Normal.

Christian love and sympathy is extended to...

Bob Smith and family in the death of his father, Joe Smith, who passed away August 2.

Emily Crume Deitz and family in the death of her husband, Brian Deitz, who passed away August 12 in Athens, Georgia.

September DWM Service Project

Schools are opening and there are many needs...

Clothing (as unisex as possible):

Socks and underwear sizes 6, 8, 10

Sweats sizes 6, 8, 10, 12

DWM will collect these items for Cravens and Burns Elementary schools during the month of September. You may drop items off at church.

We will also accept cash donations and purchase needed items, if you choose to do that. Checks may be made payable to FCC with DWM school clothes in memo. Mail to PO Box 966, 42302.



For several years, our Church, through DWM, has sponsored backpacks filled with food to be given to children at Cravens Elementary each Friday of the school year and we plan to do so again this year.

A year's supply of weekend food costs \$150; however, all donations to the Backpack Ministry are appreciated. If you are able to donate, please make checks payable to FCC, write Backpack Ministry in the memo section and mail your donation to PO Box 966, Owensboro, KY 42302.

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL AND FLOWER MINISTRY

Through the end of the year, there are only 3 openings left for a floral bouquet to be placed on the chancel on Sunday mornings: October 4, 11, and 25. If you are interested in providing flowers for any of these dates, please contact the office at 270-684-8879.

On Monday mornings, volunteers divide the chancel bouquet into smaller arrangements that are delivered to our friends at home. If you would like to help make bouquets or deliver flowers contact the office.



To reduce your carbon footprint:
Keep your car tuned up and with a clean air filter.

SEPTEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

7 Tab & Vicki Quisenberry
7 Brian & Jessica Wilborn
8 Katie & Tres Sterett
9 Wayne & Gloria Goodaker
9 John & Elizabeth Yager
13 Todd & Amy Harper
17 Gary & Mary Lisa Tunget
17 Adam & Kaitlyn Fischer
22 Kyle & Sara Aud
23 Doug & Brenda Hoyt
27 Mike & Patty Matthews

CALENDAR

Thursday, September 3

2:30 pm Refugee Food Pantry

Sunday, September 6

9:00 am Worship

Monday, September 7

Office Closed

Sunday, September 13

9:00 am Worship

Tuesday, September 15

5:45 pm Board Meeting

Thursday, September 17

2:30 pm Refugee Food Pantry

Sunday, September 20

9:00 am Worship

Sunday, September 27

9:00 am Worship

BIRTHDAYS

1 Marie Abell
1 Stuart Gant
2 Cate Gaddis
4 Cherilyn Kizer
4 Mike Robinson
5 Lily Belcher
5 Emme Roberts
5 Jim Westmoreland
7 Mary Yerington
8 Chandler Fleischmann
11 Nancy Connor
11 Scot Kane
13 Martha Lee
13 Anne Carlisle
14 Judy Howe
14 Michael Bruce
14 Jim Stuart
16 Gloria Goodaker
16 Patty Schrecker
16 Scarlett Isenbarger
17 Jackson Kyle
17 Angela Fleischmann
18 James Wimsatt
18 Reise Elliott
19 Tom Norvell
19 Ross Johnson
21 Katie Sterett
21 Margaret Miller
21 Terry Brownson
22 Cheryl Bell
25 Marilee Thompson
25 Carroll Laswell
25 Chris Gaddis
26 Norman Woodward
26 Brenda Hoyt
27 Sally Lott
28 Meghan McKinley
28 Tom Maddox
29 Cameron Quisenberry

STEWARDSHIP JULY 2020

Offering for the Month	\$32,290
Other Revenue Month	<u>3,053</u>
Total Revenue	35,343
Expenses for the month	<u>27,316</u>
Net for the month	8,027

Year-to-Date

Offering	\$253,285
Other Revenue	<u>12,160</u>
YTD Revenue	265,445
YTD Expenses	<u>218,903</u>
Net for the year	46,542

OUTREACH JULY 2020

West Area Disciples CCK	1,071
Disciples Mission Fund	1,785
HELP Office	450



IN APPRECIATION

Dear Church Family –

We could feel the Christian love surrounding us during the loss of my father through prayers, calls, conversations, texts, social media connections, donations to OCTC and cards. Wow – the cards! Please accept our heartfelt appreciation to each and every one for lifting us during this trying time.

We are blessed to be a part of the FCC family,

Tab, Vicki, Kendall, Cameron and Maci Quisenberry; Adair, Harrison & Brooks Price; Aaron Mayo (Kendall's fiancé)

First Christian Church,

Thank you all for my blanket. I will definitely be using it in my dorm room at WKU in the fall!

Paige Castlen

Dear FCC Kids and Pam,

I'm sorry I missed your visit Friday, but I am really enjoying your neat art work. It means so much to be remembered by you.

Patty Wahl



Camp Kum-Ba-Ya is embarking on a capital campaign to reach our goal of raising **\$50,000** to repair and renovate the Billy Williams Lodge. Serving as our dining hall, air-conditioned gathering room, administrative office, craft room, staff

showers, and winter season dormitory, it is central to our mission. **Your gift will be matched by the Christian Church In Kentucky's Camp Endowment fund - this is a tremendous opportunity to DOUBLE the effect of your gift.**

FUNDS ARE NEEDED TO

- **REMEDiate** mold found in the outside walls of the shower rooms,
- **RESTORE** women's and men's restrooms and shower rooms with new sheetrock and upgraded, ADA compliant fixtures
- **REPLACE** our HVAC system that has served us ten years beyond industry expectations.
- **TO GIVE BY CHECK** - Checks may be written out to **Camp Kum-Ba-Ya, P.O. Box 1332, Madisonville, KY 42431** with **"Capital Campaign" in the memo line.**
- **TO GIVE ONLINE** - Online donations may be received through **Givelify or PayPal** on our **"You Can Help"** tab at **www.campkumbaya.org**