



THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OWENSBORO
(Disciples of Christ)

CALLER

No. 22 Vol. 15 ~ November 19, 2019

From the Preacherman....

I received my first invitation to a Christmas party last month. The calendar is already starting to fill up. Excitement is beginning to build, but sometimes it feels like I am about to be caught up in the flow of a raging river approaching flood stage. I am standing on the bank, watching the torrent of water scream by, wondering just how I am to navigate December again this year.

It's time to make some choices, right now, about how we are going to celebrate the holidays this year. You can choose. You really can. You can decide to say "yes" to some things and say "no" to others, so that Thanksgiving is a day of gratitude, Advent a season of anticipation and Christmas a season of wonder. You can choose; in fact, you *have* to choose or someone will choose for you. What kind of holidays are you preparing to enjoy?

What each of us knows, from the youngest to the oldest, is that there is a gift, a blessing, to experience and receive from the holy days ahead. It is a gift spoken of very early in Scripture when Jacob offers a prayer for his sons, saying that the Almighty "will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath" (Gen. 49:25). The blessings of the deep that lies beneath cannot be discovered by worshipping at the altar of productivity. The deep that lies beneath has nothing to do with our busyness or effort, a full calendar and an avalanche of gifts. The deep blessings of God are received and experienced by those who are able to be present in each moment, to be still and know that God is God.

We have to decide to push back against the shallow materialism and consumerism of our culture and choose something different. We have to choose to journey deeper into the mysteries of God as revealed in Jesus of Nazareth. We have to choose to find time to be grateful at Thanksgiving, to prepare and anticipate during Advent, and to welcome the birth of the Christ into the world at Christmas. We have to choose or we will miss it because we are too busy to notice.

So, choose today what you are going to do, how you will spend your time and where your best energy will go. Learn to say "no" to some things, even good things, because it would further clutter your schedule and demand more than you can give. Find ways to be still and listen for God to speak in the silence of things. Discover the blessings of the deep that lies beneath.

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

A Moment for Stewardship....

How has your year been financially? Yes, the holidays are near, with the buying of gifts and travel plans, but there are needs here, both in your church and in our world. I know, I know: everyone is asking for money. The needs are great, the bank account small. I know it can be hard to think about giving money to your church. Financial appeals from your source of spiritual life can often be repellent and distasteful. I get that. I really do. Often churches say little about money because it is so hard.

But if we say little, then we accede to the voices of silence. Jesus didn't take this route. He talked about money and possessions more than any other single subject. He was concerned that our things would own us, that we would care more about stuff than people and relationships. We talk about money and possessions here because if we don't, then our best ideas will come from the culture, not from Jesus. Do we have enough? What can we give away so that others have what they need? The questions are simple. Hard, but simple. How can your church help you to give?--CM

Congratulations to...

Sarah & Sam Swift on the birth of their daughter, Nora Grey Marie, born October 31, weighing 8 lbs 4 oz., Proud grandparents are Mark & Anne Carlisle. Nora Grey was also welcomed by big sister, Joanna.

Brady & Jessica McKinley on the birth of their twins, Margaret Beirne, weighing 6 lbs 10 oz and Thomas Wellington, weighing 7 lbs 4 oz. born November 10. Proud grandparents are Joey & Teresa McKinley. The twins are also welcomed by big brothers Mills, Beau, and Jesse.

Annual Christmas Outreach Project Coming Soon!

Once again we will have the opportunity to make Christmas brighter for children at Foust and Burns.

Watch for the sign-up sheets on Sunday mornings.

A huge **THANK YOU to the Outreach Team** for all their efforts in making the School Replenishment Event such a success. The meal was enjoyed by many families and all the children now have school supplies for the rest of the semester and to start the new year!

Mark Your Calendar for the Next 5th Sunday Fellowship

December 29 at 11:30 AM

Pizza, salad, and dessert!

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to...

Jake & Kristi Isenbarger and family in the death of Jake's grandfather, John P. "Jack" Isenbarger, who passed away October 26 in Muncie, IN.

John & Gloria Strehl and Ethel McElwain and family in the death of John and Ethel's sister, Betty Lou Pruden, who passed away November 10.



**Join the Primetimers' Plus
Annual Christmas Brunch
Tuesday, December 3, at 9AM
Miller House**

**Contact Ron Waite for reservations to
Primetimers Plus activities:
Home - (270) 683-8510 Mobile - (812) 454-8555
ronwownsbr@aol.com**

Primetimers' Plus Trip to Evansville on
December 4 - leaving church at 9:30AM - enjoy a
meal with Verne and Sue Bethel. Contact Ron
with reservation.

Handel's *The Messiah* Concert

Performed by the Owensboro Choral Society
Dr. Constance R. Ford, director
Sunday, December 8, at 2:30 pm at Third Baptist Church
This fundraiser concert benefits the Goodfellows Club.

OCTC Chorus Christmas Concert

Monday, December 9, at 7:30 pm at First Christian Church
Dr. Constance R. Ford, director
Angela Bruce, accompanist

SYMPHONY SUNDAY- December 15

All are welcome to a worship service that includes the
Owensboro Symphony Chamber Orchestra. A
reception will follow the service.
No Sunday school or Worship & Wonder on that day.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24 at 5PM – Bring your family and friends to
a candlelight worship service with Christmas readings
and special music.

Serving in Worship

November 24 ~ Thanksgiving Sunday ~ 9:00 AM

Liturgist: **Ginger Norris**
 Serving Elders: **Mike & Janet Tichenor**
 Acolyte: **Reise Elliott** Bell Ringer:
 Elders of the month: **John & Janey Burns**
 Deacons: **Eric Farmer, Blake & Missie Hayden, Brenda & Doug Hoyt, Matt Johnson, Joseph & Meghan McKinley, Abbe Quisenberry, Patrick & Michelle Whitmer**
 Youth Deacon: **Camryn Kyle**
 Worship & Wonder Storyteller: **Brian Belcher Shepherd:**

Flowers have been placed in the chancel by Mary Ellen Gant and Stuart Gant to the glory of God and in loving memory of Justice William M. Gant.

December 8 ~ Advent 2 ~ 9:00 AM

Liturgist: **The Busse family**
 Serving Elders: **Francy Miller and Nancy Connor**
 Acolyte: **Landry Roberts** Bell Ringer: **John Clay Ford**
 Deacons: **Nancy Barnard, Emily Baur, Brian Belcher, Leslie Carlisle, Cori Douglas, Joy Emerson, Marjorie Flowers, Larkin Hayden, Carroll Laswell, Brende & Chris Lott**
 Youth Deacon: **Cecelia Webb**
 Worship & Wonder Storyteller: **Libby Johnson** Shepherd: **Ginger Norris**

There will be a **Congregational Meeting** on December 8 immediately following the worship service to vote on the 2020 Budget, Slate of leadership, and Strategic Plans.

December DWM Day & Night Groups' Meetings

All ladies are invited!

Night Group will meet December 5 at 6PM at

Cathy Perrin's, 4680 Hunters Ridge

Day Group will meet December 10 at Noon at

Kaye Farmer's, 2525 W. Cloverdale

STEWARDSHIP OCTOBER 2019

Offering for the Month	\$36,892.00
Other Revenue Month	3,431.00
Total Revenue	\$40,323.00
Expenses for the month	45,900.00
Net for the month	(5,577.00)
YTD Offering	362,389.00
YTD Other Revenue	20,248.00
YTD Revenue	382,637.00
YTD Expenses	344,118.00
YTD Net	\$38,519.00

OUTREACH OCTOBER 2019

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

December 1 ~ Advent 1 ~ 9:00 AM

Liturgist: **Kendra Bronsink and family**
 Serving Elders: **Mike & Angela Bruce**
 Acolyte: **John Clay Ford** Bell Ringer: **Reise Elliott**
 Elder of the month for December: **Rev. Bonnie Brown**
 Deacons: **Kyle & Sara Aud, Lenee Bowen, Stacey Castlen, Libby & Andy Johnson, Natalie Johnson, Andy Luckett, Patty Wahl, Brad Webb; Sally Wood**
 Youth Deacon: **Whitley Ford**
 Worship & Wonder Storyteller: **Sara Aud**
 Shepherd: **Missie Hayden**

December 15 ~ Advent 3 ~ Symphony Sunday~ 9:00 AM

Liturgist: **Rev. Bonnie Brown**
 Serving Elders: **Tom Maddox and Ginger Norris**
 Acolyte: **Anna Travis** Bell Ringer: **Landry Roberts**
 Deacons: **Barbara Bennett, Andy Goodaker, Sally Ham, Cathy Maddox, Teresa McKinley, Laura Michael, Cathy Midkiff, John & Jane Miller**
 Youth Deacon: **Jackson Kyle** **NO Worship & Wonder**

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, November 24 DWM Bake Sale

9:00 am Worship
 10:00 am FCC Café
 10:30 am Sunday School
 11:30 am Education Team Mtg.
 2:00 pm Youth Orchestra Rehearsal
 5:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

MONDAY, November 25

6:00 pm Youth Orchestra Concert

TUESDAY, November 26

9:00 am Faithful Cooking

WEDNESDAY, November 27

6:30 am MBS Panera

THURSDAY, November 28

Office Closed

SUNDAY, December 1 - Advent 1

9:00 am Worship
 10:00 am FCC Café
 10:15 am Hospitality Team Mtg.
 10:30 am Sunday School
 5:30 pm FaHoLo Christmas Party at Briarpatch
 5:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

MONDAY, December 2

5:30 pm Outreach Team Mtg.
 6:00 pm Cub Scouts
 6:00 pm OCTC Choir Rehearsal

TUESDAY, December 3

9:00 am Primetimers' Plus Brunch at Miller House

WEDNESDAY, December 4

6:30 am MBS Panera
 9:30 am Primetimers to Evansville
 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, December 5

2:30 pm Food Pantry
 6:00 pm DWM Night Group at Perrin's, 4680 Hunters Ridge

SUNDAY, December 8 - Advent 2

9:00 am Worship
 10:00 am Congregational Mtg.
 10:00 am FCC Café
 10:30 am Sunday School
 12:00 pm Fellowship Hall in Use
 12:00 pm Pitino Shelter
 2:30 pm *The Messiah* at 3rd Bapt.
 5:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal

MONDAY, December 9

7:30 pm OCTC Concert

TUESDAY, December 10

12:00 pm DWM Day Group Mtg. at Kaye Farmer's, 2525 W. Cloverdale

WEDNESDAY, December 11

6:30 am MBS Panera
 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, December 12

5:15 pm Finance Team Mtg.

SATURDAY, December 14

2:30 pm Symphony Rehearsal

SUNDAY, December 15-Symphony Sunday

9:00 am Worship
 10:00 am Reception
 4:00 pm Cookies & Caroling
 5:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal
 6:30 pm Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY, December 18

6:00 am MBS Panera
 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, December 19

2:30 pm Food Pantry



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Owensboro, KY 42303

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DECEMBER 15 AT 4PM

**JOIN US AT THE CHURCH TO ENJOY
HOT CHOCOLATE AND COOKIES
BEFORE LEAVING TO GO CAROLING.**



DISCIPLES WOMEN'S
MINISTRIES

Annual Bake Sale

All proceeds support DWM Outreach Projects.

**NOVEMBER 24 | 8:45AM - 11:30AM |
EVERYBODY'S WELCOME!**

Buy your favorite treats to serve on Thanksgiving!

Shop early and pick up your favorites!

Donations of baked items for the sale are also appreciated.



DWM Sponsored

Pecan Sale

\$11 for 16-ounce bag

Proceeds benefit

St. Joseph's Peace Mission.

Purchase pecans for your
holiday baking during the
DWM Bake Sale or through
the Church office.