



THE

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OWENSBORO

(Disciples of Christ)

CALLER

No. 22 Vol. 13 ~ November 28, 2017

From the Preacher....

The toughest season in the Christian year to keep is Advent. Lent is not bad in the Northern Hemisphere. It comes along in wet, dreary February and helps us to walk in penitence to Holy Week and Easter, but the weather makes us feel that way anyhow, so it's fine. By the time Easter rolls around, it is warm and sunny outside and we are ready to celebrate resurrection. Pentecost and Ordinary time are fine in Spring and Summer, as are Christmas and Epiphany in Winter, bright lights in dark days.

However, Advent is a mess, completely out of touch with the time of year. The Christian season is slow and quiet and meditative, when all around us is a blizzard of activity and frenzied movement until Christmas comes and we drop, exhausted, at the finish line. That is all well and good, but Advent heralds something different, deeper and hopeful.

Advent reminds us to be still and know that God is God and we are not. The world seems crazy and insane, moving from catastrophe to mishap, but beneath the surface, deeper down at the heart of things, beats the heart of God, poured out in Jesus of Nazareth, punctured and broken and killed for all humanity. Do we know that heart beating at the center of things? We can know that God, but we know our own hearts, and my heart, for one, is tired. I need to connect with something bigger, better and hopeful, with the truth that death didn't end Jesus. Nothing did, but I cannot know that, if life is too fast, and too busy. I have to be still and know.

Advent is also less about the forced happiness of secular Christmas and more about the tears that come in the stillness. As I heard a preacher say one time, you have to take time for the pain. Advent invites that, beckoning us to just take some time, a little or a lot, for the pain of loss and death. Yes, Jesus is coming, but to face the end like we all face. Take time for the pain.

Because of the difficulty of preparation, some people just decide to minimize the whole season and get through it. I understand that, but would counsel otherwise. Go big, bold and brash. Ready the house and the heart. Christen the tree and the hearth, for Jesus is coming. Get ready for something new and amazing and astonishing. God is coming in the flesh, so we better be prepared.

Is it any wonder people find Advent to be odd and strange? I do. It is the strangest season of all. And I love it.

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
Associate Minister.....Rev. Cheryl Russell
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 & 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

NEWS

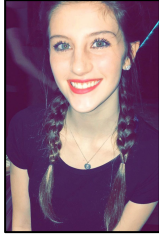
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Chase and Becky Luckett



Mackenzie Mahlinger



Emma Stanley



Rachel Lindow



Millie McDannel



Kendra Bronsink and daughters, Zoe & Scout Carroll

On November 12, we celebrated the baptisms of Chase Luckett, Mackenzie Mahlinger, and Emma Stanley. Chase is pictured with his mother, Becky Luckett, who joined our Church on November 19. The Luckett family lives at 7056 US Highway 231, Utica, KY 42376. The Mahlinger family resides at 2031 Stratford Drive. The Stanley family resides at 2518 Seminole Place. On November 12, we also welcomed Rachel Lindow into our Church family. Rachel resides at 4848 Oak Meadow Court, 42303. On November 19, Millie McDannel joined our church and lives at 2696 Wisteria Garden, 42303. November 26, Kendra Bronsink joined our church and lives at 721 Maple Avenue.

We are glad you are here!

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to...

Amy and Todd Harper and family in the death of Amy's grandmother, Frederica Williamson, who passed away November 13 in Bowling Green, KY.

Ashley and Brad Webb and family in the death of Ashley's grandmother, Judie Wurth, who passed away November 15 in Lenoir City, TN.

Join the Primetimers Plus for a Christmas Brunch on Tuesday, December 12, at the Miller House at 9:30 am. The **Primetimers' Plus** have a White Elephant Exchange planned for January 8 at 11:30 am. at Briarpatch.

Let Ron know if you want to join the group for either of these events, so you will be included in the reservations. Home-270-683-8510, Cell-812-454-8555, or ronwownsbbr@aol.com.

Congratulations to ...

Kyle & Sara Aud on the birth of their son, Joseph Brooks, on November 21. Brooks has a very proud big sister, Elle, and big brother, Holden.

Katherine and Pavel Zbořil on the birth of their daughter, Klara Elizabeth, on November 21. Klara Elizabeth has a very proud big sister, Layla. Proud grandparents are Russ and Tina Baker and great-grandparents, Gary & Sarah Hayden.

OCTC Chorus will present a Christmas Concert

Monday, December 4, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen Cathedral. A variety of seasonal works will be performed. Church members involved include: Connie Ford, director, Angela Bruce, accompanist, Bonnie Brown, Mike Bruce, Beverly Chelgren, Kirby Chelgren, Marjorie Flowers, Carroll Laswell, Janet Tichenor, Mike Tichenor.

December Disciples Womens' meetings will focus on service project gift bags for our church family members who are unable to attend worship. Our daytime group will meet at the Farmer home, 2525 W. Cloverdale Dr. at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, Dec. 5. The night group will meet on Thursday, December 7, at the Mobley home, 4621 Loftwood Dr. at 6:00 pm. All church women are invited to come and join one of the groups, bring gift items for the service project, and participate in the Christmas spirit that is in the First Christian DWM groups.

77th annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* to benefit Owensboro Goodfellows will be held on Sunday, December 3, at 2:30 p.m. at Third Baptist Church. Church members involved: Connie Ford, director, Bonnie Brown, Morton Holbrook, Marjorie Flowers, Carroll Laswell, Janet Tichenor, Mike Tichenor.

Dear FCC Friends

Thank you so much for the many, much appreciated expressions of support during the last several weeks. Your prayers, bread, cards, visits, calls, and flowers have given me hope along my unexpected journey through health issues and have allowed my faith to grow through your love.

Wayne Goodaker

Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build - The Apostles Build is an ecumenical build sponsored and built by a group of churches. First Christian Church has always been a partner church and we would like to see this partnership continue through a commitment of financial resources and manpower. The Legacy fund will donate \$1,000 and the Outreach Committee challenges our congregation to match that pledge. Please make donations payable to FCC and write Apostles Build in the memo section. Donations will be collected through January 14.

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.
Psalm 127:1

Serving in Worship

December 3, 2017 ~ Advent 1 ~ 9:00 AM

Liturgists: **Blake, Missie, Stella, and William Hayden**
 Serving Elders: **Mike & Angela Bruce**
 Acolyte: **Max Baur** Bell Ringer: **Sam Busse**
 Elder of the month:
 Deacons: **Kyle & Sara Aud, Lenee Bowen, Libby & Andy Johnson, Natalie Johnson, Andy Luckett, Leslie Mobley, Patty Wahl, Brad Webb, Sally Wood**
 Youth Deacon: **Millie Roberts**
 Worship & Wonder Story Teller: **Beverly Dawson**
 Choir Message: *I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light*
 Prelude: *There's a Song in the Air*
 Offertory: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
 Communion: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
 Sunday School Singers: *I Want to Tell Everybody*
 Hymns: *One Candle Is Lit; When God is a Child; Good Christian Friends, Rejoice; Hail to the Lord's Anointed; O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

December 10, 2017 ~ Advent 2 ~ 9:00 AM

Liturgists: **Mike and Angela Bruce**
 Serving Elders: **Ginger Norris and Nancy Connor**
 Acolyte: **Scout Carroll** Bell Ringer: **Max Baur**
 Deacons: **Nancy Barnard, Emily Baur, Brian Belcher, Leslie Carlisle, Joy Emerson, Becky Gordon, Larkin Hayden, Carroll Laswell, Brende Lott**
 Youth Deacon: **CC Webb**
 Worship & Wonder Story Teller: **Mallory Roberts**
 Choir Message: *The Babe of Bethlehem* **Brian Belcher**, solo
 Prelude: *Once in David's Royal City*
 Offertory: *In the Bleak Midwinter*
 Communion: *Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming*
 Hymns: *One Candle Is Lit; Come, O Long-Expected Jesus; Go Tell It on the Mountain; While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

December 17, 2017 ~ Advent 3 ~ 9:00 AM

Liturgist: **Rev. Chris Michael and family**
 Serving Elders: **Bob Morris and Amy Fredrickson-Wilkey**
 Acolyte: **Emme Roberts** Bell Ringer: **Macy Roberts**
 Deacons: **Barbara Bennett, Shannon Divine, Andy Goodaker, Sale Gordon, Sally Ham, Cathy Maddox, Teresa McKinley, Cathy Midkiff, Forrest Roberts, Sandra Roberts, Janet Tichenor**
 Youth Deacon: **Will Sterett**
NO Worship & Wonder
 Choir Message: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*
 Prelude: *Sinfonia* from *Messiah*
 Interlude: *Andante Festive*
 Offertory: *What Child Is This*
 Communion: *Pifa* from *Messiah* (Pastoral Symphony)
 Finale: *Concerto for Trumpet (mvt. 3)*
 Hymns: *One Candle Is Lit; Angels We Have Heard on High; Hark! The Herald Angels Sing; Joy to the World; O Come, All Ye Faithful; The First Noel*

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, December 3 - Advent 1

9:00 am Worship
 10:00 am FCC Café
 10:30 am Sunday School
 2:30 pm *Messiah* - Third Baptist
 5:00 pm Chi Rho/CYF Youth Grp
 6:00 pm Boy & Cub Scouts

MONDAY, December 4

6:00 pm Cub Scouts Meeting
 7:30 pm OCTC Concert-St. Stephen

TUESDAY, December 5

9:30 am Faithful Cooking
 1:00 pm DWM Daytime Group at Farmer's, 2525 W Cloverdale

WEDNESDAY, December 6

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

THURSDAY, December 7

2:30 pm Food Pantry
 6:00 pm DWM Night Group at Mobley's, 4621 Loftwood Drive

FRIDAY, December 8

6:00 pm Cub Scouts Christmas Party

SUNDAY, November 10-Advent 2

9:00 am Worship
 10:00 am FCC Café
 10:30 am Sunday School
 12:00 pm Pitino Shelter
 4:00 pm Cookies and Caroling
 6:00 pm Boy & Cub Scouts

MONDAY, December 11

6:00 pm Worship Team Meeting
 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Meeting

TUESDAY, December 12

9:30 am Faithful Cooking
 9:30 pm Primitimers Plus Meal at Miller House
 5:15 pm Board Meeting

WEDNESDAY, December 13

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

THURSDAY, December 14

5:30 pm FaHoLo Class Party at Old Hickory

SATURDAY, December 16

10:00 am Symphony Practice

SUNDAY, December 17

Advent 3-Symphony Sunday

9:00 am Worship
 10:00 am Reception
 5:00 pm Chi Rho/CYF Youth Grp
 5:00 pm FCC Kids!
 6:00 pm Boy & Cub Scouts

MONDAY, December 18

5:15 pm Education Team Mtg
 6:00 pm Cub Scouts Meeting

WEDNESDAY, December 20

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

THURSDAY, December 21

2:30 pm Food Pantry

SUNDAY, December 24-Advent 4

9:00 am Worship
 10:30 am Adult Sunday School Only
 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

MONDAY, December 25

Office Closed

STEWARDSHIP OCTOBER 2017

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Offering for the Month | \$40,140.00 |
| Other Revenue Month | 4,628.00 |
| Total Revenue | \$44,768.00 |
| Expenses for the month | 36,892.00 |
| Net for the month | 7,876.00 |

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| YTD Offering | 369,243.00 |
| YTD Other Revenue | 67,268.00 |
| YTD Revenue | 436,511.00 |
| YTD Expenses | 419,689.00 |
| YTD Net | \$16,822.00 |

OUTREACH

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Disciples Mission Fund | 1,785.00 |
| Christian Church in KY West Area | 1,071.00 |
| HELP Office | 450.00 |



PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID

AT OWENSBORO, KY 42303

THE CALLER USPS 085-600
Published Bi-Weekly by FCC, Owensboro, KY
Periodicals Postage Paid at Owensboro, KY 42303
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
700 J.R. Miller Blvd.
Owensboro, KY 42303



Advent Special Services

Symphony Sunday ~ December 17 at 9:00 AM ~
All are welcome to a worship service that includes
Owensboro Symphony Chamber Orchestra.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service ~
December 24 at 5:00 PM – Come and bring your family
and friends to a candlelight worship service with
Christmas readings and special music.

Mitten Tree

Please bring mittens, gloves, sock caps, and scarves to
decorate our Christmas tree located in the entry hall
near the Sanctuary. All donations will be given to
children at a local elementary school. We will receive
donations until December 13.

Pecans for Sale

The DWM is selling fresh Georgia pecans as a
fundraiser for St. Joseph Peace Mission. The cost is \$8
per bag. Please stop by the Church office or see Nancy
Connor or Janet Luckett to purchase pecans for your
holiday baking.

Pitino Shelter Volunteers – December 10

Forrest Roberts & Allen Holbrook
Barbara Bennett & Hervey Howell
Nancy Barnard