



THE

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OWENSBORO

(Disciples of Christ)

# CALLER

No. 12 Vol. 16 ~ December 15, 2020

## From the Preacherman....

What is the best Christmas you ever had? Perhaps you got a favorite toy or all of the family made it home or maybe someone surprising showed up at the last minute. We all have stories of favorites. But how about this: What is your most memorable Christmas? That changes the equation, doesn't it? I'll tell you what I think. Our most memorable Christmas comes when times are tough.

In the mid-1970's my father was in seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. I didn't know how tight finances were, but we were told before Christmas that Santa's gifts that year might be a little light. I remember waking on Christmas morning to find that my brothers and I had received a dozen or so model airplanes to build, with glue and paint included. We crafted to our hearts' content, then got my parents to hang those planes from the ceiling of our bedroom. I have had some joyful Christmas celebrations, but I remember that one from my childhood more than any other.

Odd, isn't it, that we remember with clarity the times of struggle. Seasons of our lives come and go, but suddenly there is a change, a loss, a health problem, the death of a loved one, a struggle of calamitous proportions, and time slows to a crawl, every conversation and interaction memorable and noteworthy. We remember the details of that time better than we can recall lunch yesterday or a friend's birthday.

But isn't that true of Scripture? There are two primary stories in the Hebrew Bible: the Exodus and the Exile, each seared into the memory of ancient Israel, remembered for terrible struggle and the God who met them there. The New Testament is the same. In the fullness of time, under oppressive Roman rule, Jesus was born, not in an upbeat and happy period, but in the difficulty and darkness of repression and persecution. Then, Jesus was born, not to tinsel and bright lights, carols and gingerbread, but in the midst of discord and desolation.

So I ask you, will this be a Christmas we remember? Not because we have all the things we think are necessary, but because life is hard and different, a struggle in multiple ways. Maybe this explains why Jesus would be called "Emmanuel, God with us." When people needed a sign of God's presence in the struggle, Christ was born. This, we sing plaintively, "O come, O come Emmanuel" because we need that now, more than ever. Let it be so.

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](mailto:anne@fccowb.org)  
Web Address: [www.fccowb.org](http://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](http://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

We thank the individuals and families who have pledged their support to the missions and ministries of First Christian Church. We also thank those who support the Church financially, but do not send an estimate of giving. We could not continue our ministries without you! If you have not returned your estimate of giving, you may email kristin@fccowb.org or mail the church.

David & Bonnie Adkisson  
Nancy Barnard  
Eric & Emily Baur  
Barbara Bennett & Hervey Howell  
Roy & Sue Boling  
Lenee Bowen  
Mike & Angela Bruce  
Casey & Kristin Callis  
Sheila Campbell  
Mark & Anne Carlisle  
Richard & Leslie Carlisle  
Garret & Stacey Carter  
Chris & Stacy Castlen  
Kirby & Bev Chelgren  
Henry & Nancy Connor  
Norris & Pat Cotton  
Aloma Dew  
Charles & Jody Emerson  
Kaye Farmer  
Mick & Connie Ford  
Chris & Cate Gaddis  
Robert & Maxine Goebel  
Andrew Goodaker  
Wayne & Gloria Goodaker  
Flem & Becky Gordon  
Evelyn Guthrie

Sally Ham  
Blake & Missie Hayden  
Carroll & Larkin Hayden  
Marbrey Hedges  
Bob & Patty Hines  
Allen Holbrook & Forrest Roberts  
Madeline Howell  
Doug & Brenda Hoyt  
Matt & Natalie Johnson  
Shelby & Irma Johnson  
Coralie Jones  
Linda Jones  
Scot & Gina Kane  
Carroll Laswell  
Ken & Sue Lawson  
Jack & Martha Lee  
Andy & Becky Lockett  
Mark & Janet Lockett  
Cathy Maddox  
Tom & Jackie Maddox  
Ken McDanell  
Joey & Teresa McKinley  
Vivian McNatton  
Jim & Cathy Midkiff  
Francy Miller  
John & Jane Miller

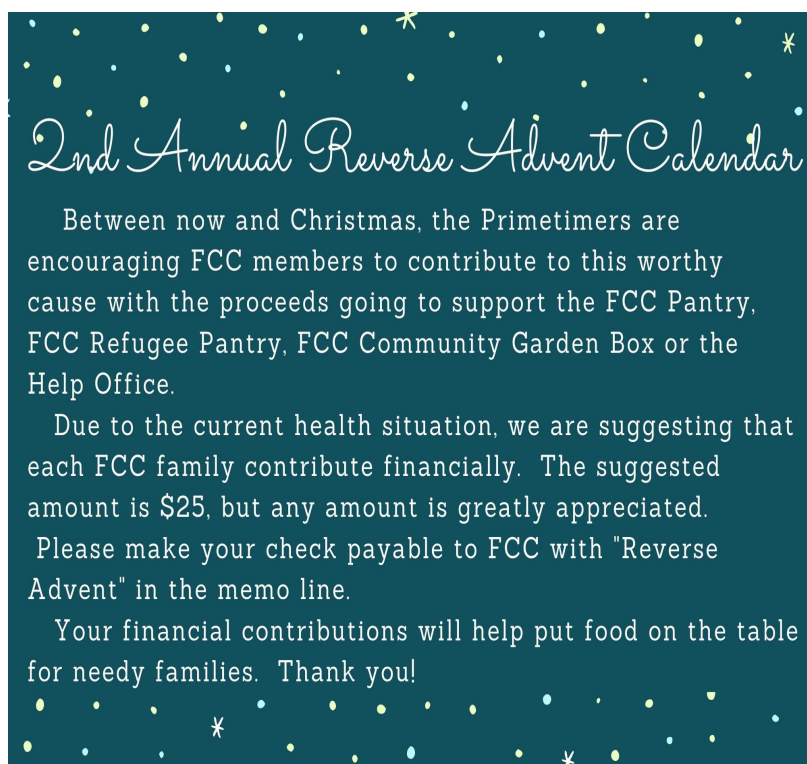
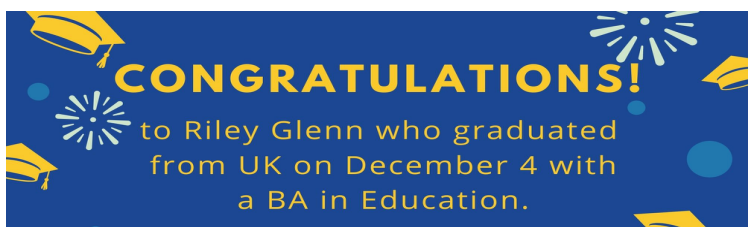
Leslie Mobley  
Hilda Nance  
Ginger & Terry Norris  
Dr. Tom Norvell  
Nathan & Suzette Nunley  
Kevin & Naomi O'Hearn  
Gene Parks  
Jim & Martha Quisenberry  
Tab & Vicki Quisenberry  
Larry & Sherry Rhoads  
Gavin & Molly Roberts  
Jason & Mallory Roberts  
John & Sandy Roberts  
Nancy Rowe  
Pearl & Harroll Simon  
Jon & Jo Anne Skillman  
Mitch & June Stapleton  
Tres & Katie Sterett  
John & Gloria Strehl  
Rich & Janet Suwanski  
Patty Wahl  
Ron Waite  
Carolyn Watkins  
Henry & Carolyn Williams  
Sally Wood  
Norman & Pam Woodward  
Mary & Dick Yerington

### Christian love and sympathy is extended to...

Eric, Emily, Miles, Max, and Annabelle Baur and extended family in the death of Eric's mother, Deloris, "Dee Dee" Kay Rysavy Baur, who passed away December 3 in Louisville, KY.

### Congratulations to...

Nathan & Katie Langford on the birth of their daughter, Lily Marie Langford, born December 8 in Bowling Green. Proud grandmother is Traci Langford and proud great-grandparents are Linda & John Jones.



## FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL

There are openings for floral bouquets to be placed in the chancel on Sunday Mornings: January 10, 31, February 7, 14. 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 bouquets into smaller arrangements to be delivered to our friends at home or in a nursing home. Contact the office if you would like to help make bouquets or deliver flowers.

## IN APPRECIATION

Dear Church Family,

We are forever grateful for the many ways you have supported our family this year. Issac loved FCC and all the wonderful people who loved him and helped him grow in his faith.

Your continuous acts of kindness are bringing us comfort and joy even months later.

We love you,

Tres, Katie, Will, Max, and Reid

FCC Friends,

Thank you for all the cards and beautiful flower arrangements. We miss our Church Family, but still have HOPE!

Sincerely,

Martha & Jim Quisenberry

First Christian Church,

On behalf of myself, staff members and children at St. Joseph Peace Mission for Children, I would like to thank you for your donation of \$500. Because of your compassion and support, we are able to continue serving the most vulnerable, at-risk youth in our community each day.

Our organization provides shelter, food, and counseling services for more than 250 children in crisis each year from Daviess County and surrounding counties. Your generous contribution helps to provide for some of the basic needs of our children that include: hygiene supplies, food, clothing, bedding and more! The need for the services we provide the children and families continues to grow at an alarming rate in our community, and your support helps to make sure those needs are met.

Thank you for your support and helping us succeed in our mission to care for these deserving children.

Paula Yevincy

President/CEO SJPM

# JANUARY

## CALENDAR

**Sunday, January 3**

9:00 am Worship Online

**Monday, January 4**

9:30 am Christmas Tree Taken Down

**Thursday, January 7**

2:30 pm Refugee Food Pantry

**Sunday, January 10**

9:00 am Worship Online

**Sunday, January 17**

9:00 am Worship Online

**Monday, January 18**

Office Closed

**Thursday, January 21**

2:30 pm Refugee Food Pantry

**Sunday, January 24**

9:00 am Worship Online

**Sunday, January 31**

9:00 am Worship Online

## BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Jack Lee
- 5 Charles Mahlinger
- 6 Joyce Bennett
- 6 Martha Quisenberry
- 8 Max Baur
- 10 Barbara Beane
- 11 Teresa McKinley
- 11 Mary E. Johnson
- 11 Henry Connor
- 12 Riley Glenn
- 13 Cori Douglas
- 15 Elizabeth Yager
- 15 John Clay Ford

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Terry & Patti Brownson
- 14 Katherine & Pavel Zbořil
- 17 Chris & Laura Michael
- 19 Jim & Martha Quisenberry
- 20 Gloria & John Strehl

## OCTOBER STEWARDSHIP

Offering for the Month	\$39,310
Other Revenue Month	<u>3,370</u>
Total Revenue	42,680
Expenses for the month	<u>42,602</u>
Net for the month	78

## Year-to-Date

Offering	\$355,375
Other Revenue	<u>19,267</u>
YTD Revenue	374,642
YTD Expenses	<u>327,235</u>
Net for the year	47,407

## OCTOBER OUTREACH

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

- 16 Becky Gordon
- 16 Zeke Douglas
- 18 Hampton Gaddis
- 18 Mark Luckett
- 18 Joseph Berry
- 20 Camryn Kyle
- 20 Janet Luckett
- 20 Pearl Simon
- 20 Gary Tunget
- 22 Millie McDannel
- 22 Julie Burg
- 23 Stacy Castlen
- 27 Scarlett Roark
- 27 Mike Tichenor
- 27 Francy Miller
- 27 Norris Cotton
- 29 Natalie Johnson
- 31 Tres Sterett





MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

As you can see in the photo below, the FCC Chrismon tree is decorated for viewing day and night. Thanks to volunteers who assembled the tree and decorated! Thank you, Wendell, for photographing the decorated tree.



## Christmas Eve Services

**5PM OUTDOOR SERVICE**-Weather permitting, we will meet in our parking lot for a candlelight service.

**7PM ONLINE SERVICE** - Join us on Facebook or Mixlr for a candlelight service.



Center Street Church is collecting used bicycles for children in our community that do not have one. Center Street is in the heart of our community for these kids and is asking our members for any help.

If you have a used bicycle that you would like to donate, you may bring it by our church and Center Street will pick it up.

Thanks!