



# THE CALLER



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)  
OWENSBORO, KY

From the Preacherman....

The year 1905 is called the year of miracles, *annus mirabilis*, when Albert Einstein published four scientific theories that radically changed the way we see the universe. How we measure space, time, light and matter all changed with these theories. If you are reading this on a computer or cell phone, thank Einstein. He deserves the credit.

To draw an inexact parallel, this is our year of horribleness, our *annus horribilis*. The year is merely a third gone and we have had eight funerals at church. We have buried friends and acquaintances, loved ones and fellow disciples. We shall miss every one of them as their passing leaves our lives with great, gaping wounds. Like you, I am weary of death and dying, bone tired as they say.

We are in a season of quiet grief. Our culture urges us to quickly move on from loss. Perhaps we used to be better at understanding the long period grieving takes. Don't believe anyone who tells you to feel better because your loved one is in heaven now. Because that person is not here, we grieve, perhaps for a long time, perhaps our whole lives. I keep dates in my head and heart, dates that matter because someone I love is no longer here for me to embrace.

I am grateful for the wonderful gift of presence that my church has given to people who have lost much. Maybe you cooked something or made a phone call or showed up for a funeral or prayed without ceasing. Your presence matters more than you know, so spend your energy and existence on those things which matter: people and relationships rather than stuff and things. And dig in for a long haul. Grief takes time and we will take all the time and energy demanded of faithfully grieving the people we have lost.

All of this makes me grateful for the Christian calendar. We are deep in the season of Lent. Holy Week and Easter are on the horizon of April, but not yet. Not yet. Still, we travel with Jesus to Jerusalem and his final confrontation with suffocating religion and stifling politics. Can't we just move to the end of the story? Can't we simply skip the hard stuff and get to resurrection, Easter and the hope of life beyond the grave?

It would be nice, really, it would. But that would ignore the gift of hard days and deep losses. Gift, I say? How can such things be a gift? Because the good news of Jesus Christ reveals God's presence not merely in the best of things, but also the worst, maybe especially the worst, in suffering and in death, pain and desolation. That is the great good news of the Christian gospel. In his own *annus horribilis*, Jesus revealed God's love and kindness, God's fearless purpose, in the worst of days, Good Friday, and in the best of days, Easter Sunday.

Yes, he went instead of us, all our sins and pains to bear, but he also went ahead of us, pointing out the presence of God in the darkest of places, even a cross. Take your time and pay attention. It matters.

Peace, Chris

# April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Lenten Devo/Lunch @ 12:10 p.m.	2	3 Refugee Food Pantry	4	5
6 Worship/Sunday School Handbells	7	8 Lenten Devo/Lunch @ 12:10 p.m.	9 Elementary Youth Group Choir	10	11	12
13 Mens Mass Choir @ 3:00 p.m. Worship/Sunday School Handbells	14	15	16 Elementary Youth Group Choir	17 Maundy Thursday Refugee Food Pantry	18 Good Friday	19
20 Easter Worship/Sunday School Handbells	21 Primetimers Lunch @ 11:30 a.m. at FCC	22 Hospice Meeting @ FCC	23 Elementary Youth Group Choir	24	25	26
27 Worship/Sunday School Handbells	28	29	30 All Church Meal @ 5:30 p.m. Elementary Youth Group Choir			

## Birthdays

11 Sue Lawson  
12 Suzette Nunley  
14 Brad Webb  
14 Faye Neel  
16 Jane Miller  
17 Andy Goodaker  
17 Joseph McKinley

18 Chris Michael  
19 Addison LeBoutillier  
20 John Dawson  
24 Annabelle Grace Baur  
25 Mark Carlisle  
26 Emily Castlen  
29 Brian Belcher  
30 Susan Alford

30 Macy Roberts  
30 Sandy Roberts

Jerry & Joyce Bennett  
Richard & Leslie Carlisle  
Mark & Barbara Chavez  
Steve & Debby Crone  
Carroll & Larkin Hayden

Brian & Cathy Hedges  
Nathan & Suzette Nunley  
Austin & Caressa Schrecker  
Norman & Pam Woodward

## Anniversaries

## February Financials

Offering for the Month:	\$24,828
Other Revenue Month:	\$1,082
Total Revenue:	\$25,910
Expenses:	(\$42,999)
Net:	(\$17,089)

Year-to-Date Offering	\$73,890
YTD Other Revenue	\$5,911
YTD Revenue	\$79,801
YTD Expenses	(\$83,686)
Net for the year	(\$3,885)

FCC Youth will  
have an Easter  
Egg Hunt & a  
visit with the  
Easter Bunny on  
Sunday, April  
20th!

More details to follow!

# YOUTH



# Primetimers

**April 20th- Easter Egg Hunt & Bunny Visit**

**April 23rd- Youth Volunteer night at St. Benedicts**

**Mission Trip dates are June 22nd - June 28th.  
Sign-up information coming soon!**

**Vacation Bible School dates are July 28th - July 30th- more information coming soon!**

Primetimers,  
Mark and Janet Luckett and myself are planning the next Primetimers outing for April 21st at 11:30 a.m. at FCC. We are planning to discuss possible future outings. Lunch will be fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, & green beans. Approximate cost is \$7-\$10 per person depending on the total number attending.  
Please contact us by April 17th if you would like to join us!

Janet Luckett- by text messages  
**ONLY**  
270-929-4984

Barbara Chavez  
Phone: 270-929-6941  
Email: [babsc1222@gmail.com](mailto:babsc1222@gmail.com)

Thank you,  
Barbara Chavez

## Men's Mass Community Choir

Owensboro's Men's Mass Community Choir will be presenting its 20th annual concert for the community on Sunday, March 30th at Zion Baptist Church and also on Sunday, April 13th at FCC at 3:00 p.m.. This year's choir will feature men from 12 different churches, including FCC. A special guest performer, locally and nationally known as Alma Randolph Crump will be joining the choir this year!



# WELCOME

We are pleased to introduce our new Education Leadership team here at First Christian Church.

We are excited to welcome Riley Payne as our new Elementary Education Director. Riley will be stepping into this role, replacing her sister, Meaghan Murphy, who has faithfully served in this position for the past three years. Meaghan's role has been shifted to our Youth Director, where she will now be overseeing our middle and high school students.

Both Riley and Meaghan have been part of our First Christian Church family since they were children. They're not only familiar with our church, but also with our community, as both are dedicated elementary school teachers with Owensboro Public Schools. Their deep connection to FCC, their professional experience, and their passion for guiding and teaching our youth make them a wonderful fit for their new roles.

We're incredibly excited to have them continue to serve our church, and we're confident that their leadership will help us engage, nurture, and inspire the next generation here at FCC.



# Thank You

*"The Bethel Family would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support for our mom, Sue Bethel. Also, Thank you so much for the wonderful meal after her funeral, everything was delicious! Mom loved this Church and her church family, she loved serving and helping any way she could. We were all very blessed to have had her in our lives and to be a part of this Church.*

*Thank you all!"*

*-The Family of Sue Bethel*

*"Dear Chris, Janet, Kay, and all the friends of FCC,*

*Thank you for all you have done for our Uncle Leonard as well as Trude! They have taught us all how to love unconditionally. Although, we will miss them, we will carry their legacy of love with us each day. Thank you for sharing your time and saying yes to the Lord in all the big & small ways!*

*We appreciate you so much!"*

*Love, Julie & The whole Wimsatt Family*

*"Dear Rev. Michael and Congregation of the First Christian Church,*

*Thank you so much for your friendship and encouragement to James Wimsatt throughout his life but especially in the past few years when he and Aunt Trudy could no longer worship with you at your church. Uncle Leonard enjoyed the visits and flowers from his church family, and he knew he could always count on you. Rev Michael, your comforting words at his funeral were appreciated by all of us. Your bereavement committee made us all feel special with their wonderful meal after the funeral too. Until we meet again, I'm sure Uncle Leonard is waiting on the far side bank of Jordan drawing pictures in the sand.*

*From, Nieces Becky, Julie, Dian, Donna, Janet, Kim & Charity. Nephews, Dana & Lucas, Cousins, Jennifer and Kendra, & Uncle Leonard sister, Frances in Dallas."*

*"Thank you for your visits, prayers, and love shown to Jane and me during her illness. Thank you all for the wonderful meal. Jane loved her church and church family, and we could see the love her church family had for her. Thank you again!"*

*The Howard Family*

*Stuart and Owsley Families*

*"First Christian Church Family, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Chris, and the whole church for the kindness and love we all received after the passing of my Mom, Jane Howard. I grew up in this church and know it's a big part of who I am today as a Christian. My Mom always loved the church and it means so much to have your support. Thank you for everything!"*

*Love, Mike, Amy, August, & Ryman Owsley*

*"Dear Church, We would like to thank you for all the love and support shown to our mom, Nelda Barnett, and to our family over the last few years. Mom deeply loved her Church, friends, and family. She looked forward to your visits, calls, and flowers.*

*The last couple of years were more difficult for her to remember, so she enjoyed everything in the moment. She truly missed being able to attend Church and at times watched online. Also, thank you to everyone that helped our family during the time of her passing. You made it much easier for our family as we mourned her passing. Mom told us that she'd had a wonderful life and we know that included all of you."*

*Love, Leslie & Byron Rice*

*Dona & Terry Johnson*





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