

# THE CALLER



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)  
OWENSBORO, KY

From the Preacherman...

August 2023

William Stafford, one of my favorite poets, wrote in language that was clean and clear, in poems like “Travelling Through the Dark” and “A Ritual to Read to Each Other.” Look them up; you won’t be disappointed. Stafford made it a practice to write a poem every day, ultimately penning nearly twenty thousand poems, a remarkable accomplishment. He was asked once what happens when one of his poems is not amazing. He succinctly replied, “I lower my standards.”

As a preacher I appreciate that deeply. I have preached over 1700 times in 30 plus years. I joke that if I fall out of bed at 3 a.m. I begin talking before I hit the floor. Weeks after I die you will pass my ashes in an urn on the mantle in my house and be able to hear me preaching. But here is the thing I have learned: The perfect is the enemy of the good. When I was younger, I spent far too many days worrying about the things that were wrong with sermons I had preached, rather than being thankful for the opportunity to try, learn and try again.

I have come to believe that being just good enough is fine with me. And with God. I say that as a perfectionist, as one who has dealt my whole life with a personality that bends directly towards being mistake-free in everything, an absolute impossibility. Learning to lower my standards has been an important part of the process of accepting my frailty as a creature made in the image of God, fallen and in the process of being redeemed.

Why don’t people try new things? Fear of failure, the moral self-judgment of not being good enough, of not being perfect on the first try. Nobody is good at anything on the first try. Being good at anything takes time and patience and years of practice. We underestimate the importance of failure as a teacher, of diligence and perseverance and dogged persistence in the face of disappointment. Just don’t quit.

Or maybe, quit. There are things worth trying, but admitting they aren’t for you. I tried ballroom dancing once. I took some classes with my wife. I’m adequate, but meh. I don’t like it enough to work at it. And I’m not good enough at it to keep trying. However, it was worth spending the time with Laura, so it was a win.

My beloved friend Marjorie Flowers was one of the great bakers I have ever known. Her cakes were exquisite. Those of us who got to sample them are among the blessed people on the planet. At some point a few years ago, however, she decided to try her hand at baking macaroons, a small, delicately made cookie/cake. She made thousands of macaroons and, shockingly, many were terrible. I ate some. Trust me. Bad. However, she kept working at it until she got pretty good at making them, never perfect, just kind of good. Then she quit and went back to cakes. Thank God.

What am I trying to say? Try it. Try something new. Don’t expect to be perfect until you work at it for a time and perhaps discover a new talent. Or not. But don’t quit until you have practiced a while. It took me years to know if I could preach. However, I loved it from the start, failures and all. I have a prayer I mumble at the end of every day of my life. I say, “I did my best. I tried, and failed a lot. Gracious God, grant me another day to try again.” And it is enough.

Peace.... Chris



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Worship/Sunday School	7	8	9 <b>BACK TO SCHOOL</b> Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	10 Refugee Food Pantry 1:30 pm	11	12
13 Worship/Sunday School <b>Youth Sunday School starting back up!</b>	14	15	16 Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	17	18	19
20 Worship/Sunday School	21	22	23 Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	24 Refugee Food Pantry 1:30 pm	25	26
27 Ministry Fair Worship/Sunday School Kevin Priebe Concert @ 6:00 p.m.	28	29	30 <b>Youth Group starting back up!</b> Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	31		

\*Men's Fellowship meets at Panera- 4600 Frederica St.

## Birthdays

- |                      |                      |                      |                        |                       |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Gloria Strehl      | 5 Eric Baur          | 10 Ed Burg           | 18 Ron Howard          | 26 Kyle Aud           |
| 2 Carrol Bell        | 5 Kaitlyn Fischer    | 10 Broderick Majors  | 18 Henry Williams      | 30 Connie Ford        |
| 4 Mark Roberts       | 6 Meaghan Murphy     | Divine               | 20 Stella Mabry Hayden | 30 Addie Slone Travis |
| 4 David Ruchsdeschel | 8 Evan LeBoutillier  | 14 Barbara Bennett   | 20 Elee Roach          | 30 Matt Johnson       |
|                      | 9 Will Sterett       | 15 June Stepleton    | 22 Gavin Roberts       | 30 Robert David Lyons |
|                      | 10 Cecelia Cate Webb | 16 John Busse        | 24 Nathan Nunley       | 31 Jason Roberts      |
|                      |                      | 16 Caressa Schrecker |                        | 31 Jo Anne Skillman   |

## Anniversaries

- Brian & Nina Belcher-- 8/28/2010
- Louis & Vicki Bellamy -- 8/21/1976
- John & Janey Burns -- 8/10/2000
- Garret & Stacey Carter -- 8/8/2000
- Henry & Nancy Connor -- 8/23/1969
- Mick & Connie Ford -- 8/6/2000
- Jack & Martha Lee -- 8/15/2000
- Mike & Janet Tichenor -- 8/23/2009

## JUNE Financials

Offering for the Month:	\$39,852
Other Revenue Month:	\$150
Total Revenue:	\$40,000
Expenses for the month	\$47,427
Net for the month	\$7,424
Year-to-Date Offering	\$263,790
YTD Other Revenue	\$9,041
YTD Revenue	\$272,830
YTD Expenses	\$242,380
Net for the year	\$30,450
Outreach:	
West Area Disciples CC	\$1,083
Disciples Mission Fund	\$1,833
HELP Office	\$550

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all of those who have prayed for me, called, visited, sent flowers, etc! It has truly meant the world to me!"  
-Nelda Barnett



# HELP OFFICE NEEDS

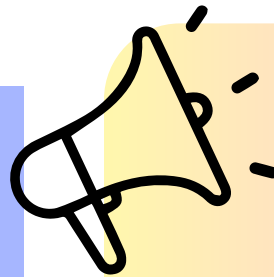
Below is a list of products the HELP office is focusing each donation on each month!

August- Canned Fruit  
September- Cereal/Oatmeal

October- Soup  
November- Ramen Noodles  
December- Peanut Butter/Jelly

# DWM

**DWM Groups will pick back up meetings in September! Stay tuned for more details!**



# coming up!

- **Elders Meeting:**  
*Tuesday, August 8 @ 5:30 p.m.*
- **First Day of School is August 9th!**
- **Youth Sunday School will begin back on Sunday, August 13th**
  - **Board Meeting:**  
*Tuesday, August 15 @ 5:30 p.m.*
- **Youth Group will pick back up meeting on Wednesday, August 30th @ 6:30 p.m.**
- **Volunteers needed, reach out to Meaghan Murphy!**



First Christian Church  
We wanted to thank all our Church Family for the prayers, well wishes, flowers, cards, gift cards, and deliveries to our home. It is so very appreciated. We are so blessed to be a part of this church!  
Sincerely, Mark & Barbara Chavez

**T H A N K Y O U**



**VBS was a huge success!  
Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and who helped make this possible here at FCC!**



# MINISTRY FAIR

IN JOHN 1:46 PHILIP TELLS NATHANAEEL  
"COME AND SEE."

SUNDAY AUGUST 27TH

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## Nominating Committee Announcement

**FCC Sisters & Brothers in Christ – The Nominating Committee will meet in August to propose Church leadership for the Board and to serve as Deacons & Elders. If you are interested in serving or you would like to nominate someone to fill any of those positions, please fill out below**

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your input in our church governance! You are vitally important to our mission.

Please fill out and return to church office or email to [krista@fccowb.org](mailto:krista@fccowb.org)