



THE CALLER



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) OWENSBORO, KY

From the Preacherman....

"God is great, God is good." Thus begins the prayer we learn as children to bless the meal. The theology of that prayer forms the basis of our childhood faith in a God who is great, all-powerful and omniscient, but also good, kind and loving. Many, if not most, of us grow up building our faith around those two certainties. When we are able to verbalize our beliefs we confess that God is in charge, God knows everything that is going to happen, nothing happens without God's consent; a kind, loving God watches out for his children.

Then, we grow up. Things get messy. Bad things happen to good people. The old certainties fail in their ability to explain suffering. If bad things happen to people we consider bad, then, rightly or wrongly, our childhood theology is justified. But when bad things happen to good people, even people of great faith, then what? Such are the questions that are raised in this word, in our neighborhoods and in our own homes. They demand a mature response.

Some will say that all of it is in God's master plan and leave it at that. I find this an insufficient response to great tragedy. Yes, life and death are ultimate mysteries, but blind faith does not absolve me from seeking answers. Upon such journeys great faith is built. If God is indeed manipulating and controlling everything that happens, if God is in complete control, then what kind of God would let innocent people suffer and die? The problem is revealed. Do we believe God controls everything completely AND is kind and compassionate? Is God great and good?

Because of Jesus, I am unwilling to give up on the nature of God as love and compassion. But Jesus also teaches me to conceive of the power of God in a very different way. Jesus reveals a God who is intimately involved with the creation, but cedes complete control to include human freedom, frailty and limitations; indeed, from Eden onward we see God's allowance of human freedom. In Jesus' life we see that God's ultimate will cannot be thwarted, but God's immediate will is often thwarted on a daily basis by human decision and indecision, sin and evil, good choices and bad. We have tremendous freedom.

Sometimes, in that freedom, bad things happen. God does not step in to stop the bullet, slow the drunk driver or steady the boat. God does take the worst of this world and help us find redemption and hope. Thus, the cross is both tragedy and good news. The worst of the world's freedom became the best act of God, the resurrection of Jesus. God is great and good, but not like some cosmic Santa Claus. We are free to make mistakes. God is with us in the turmoil. That is honest, but also hopeful. I live there. Maybe you can too.

Peace.... Chris

August

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Refugee Food Pantry	2	3
4 Worship/Sunday School	5	6	7 BACK TO SCHOOL Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	8	9	10
11 Worship/Sunday School	12	13 Elders Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.	14 Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	15 Refugee Food Pantry	16	17 DWM luncheon
18 Worship/Sunday School	19	20 Board Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.	21 Primetimers Plus Outing @ 11:00am Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	22	23	24
25 Worship/Sunday School	26 Connie Ford Choir practice begins	27	28	29 Fellowship Meeting @ 10:00 (FH)	30	31

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

Birthdays

1 Sheila Campbell	5 Eric Baur	10 Nick Brake	15 June Stapleton	20 Stella Hayden	27 Millie Roberts
1 Gloria Strehl	5 Kaitlyn Fischer	10 Ed Burg	16 John Busse	20 Bill Frederick	29 Allison Carter
2 Carrol Bell	6 Meaghan Murphy	10 Broderick Divine	16 Vangie Evans	20 Walker Gaddis	30 Connie Ford
2 Mark Chavez	6 John Miller	10 Shannon Divine	16 Caressa Schrecker	20 Elee Roach	30 Matt Johnson
2 Joy Emerson	6 Rosalie McKinley	10 Wanda Gilbreath	17 Hannah Kate Divine	21 Forrest Roberts	30 Sara Van Slyke
3 Richard Carlisle	8 Yvonne Julius	14 Amanda Kyle	18 Henry Williams	22 Gavin Roberts	30 John Yager
4 Bev Chelgren	8 Evan LeBoutillier	14 Susan Rice	18 Ron Howard	24 Nathan Nunley	30 Robert Lyons
4 Missie Hayden	9 Becky Luckett	14 Barbara Bennett	19 Thomas Johnson	26 Sophie McKinley	31 Jason Roberts
4 Mark Roberts	9 Will Sterett	15 David Emerson	20 Aloma Dew	26 Kyle Aud	31 Jo Anne Skillman
4 David Rucksdeschel	10 Cecilia Webb			26 Edie Johnson	
	10 Mary Tunget				
	10 John Patrik Yager				

Anniversaries

Louis & Vicki Bellamy	Steve & Cathy Perrin
Joseph & Haley Berry	Dave & Holly Roark
John & Janey Burns	Ronnie & Marilyn Forrester
Garret & Stacey Carter	Frank & Linda Jones
Chris & Stacy Castlen	Jack & Martha Lee
Henry & Nancy Connor	John & Jane Miller
Eric & Laura Farmer	Tom & Barbara Norvell
Mick & Connie Ford	

May Financials

Offering for the Month:	\$45,040
Other Revenue Month:	\$1,062
Total Revenue:	\$46,100
Expenses for the month	\$40,186
Year-to-Date Offering	\$228,655
YTD Other Revenue	\$13,876
YTD Revenue	\$228,656
YTD Expenses	\$207,167
Net for the year	\$5,914
Outreach:	
West Area Disciples CC	\$1,083
Disciples Mission Fund	\$1,833
HELP Office	\$0
Food Pantry	\$433

MEETINGS

ELDERS MEETING:
TUESDAY, 8/13 @ 5:30 P.M.

DWM LUNCHEON:
SATURDAY 8/17 @ 11:00A.M

BOARD MEETING:
TUESDAY, 8/20 @ 5:30 P.M.

FELLOWSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, 8/29 @ 10 A.M.

PRIMETIMERS PLUS

Hello Primetimers!

I have reserved a room at The Briarpatch Restaurant on Wednesday, August 21st, at 11:00 a.m., to have a luncheon for the Primetimers. Steve and I are relatively new at First Christian, and we do not know everyone in this group. We hope to get to know you and plan many good times. If you have friends or relatives who would like to join us, just let me know and I can add them to the email list. So join us on August 21st and have lunch and make plans for the future. Be thinking about what and where you would like us to plan outings, as we will be asking for suggestions that day.

Please be sure to RSVP by this email, or my cell number is 270-570-1088, or let me know at church. I will need to let the Briarpatch know in advance how many to expect.

Thank You,

Susan Rice

picnic

FCC Annual Church Picnic
is Sunday, September 15th
@ Legion Park!

FCC will provide the meat, please
bring a side to feed 10 people. All
Friends & Family welcome!



nominating committee members

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***Stacy Castlen
Shannon Divine
Cori Douglas
Eric Farmer
Nikki Manley
Todd Manley
Laura Michael
Cathy Perrin***



Youth Updates

We will not have Sunday School or a Sunday afternoon activity on Sunday, August 4th. The Evans family will be out of town.

Starting August 11th we will be moving our Wednesday evening activities to Sunday. We will also be having separate activities for both Middle and High School students.

CHI-RHO (grades 6 & 7) will meet Sundays from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

CYF (grades 8-12) will meet Sundays from 4:30 -6:30 p.m.

Have a great first day of school!

