

THE CALLER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)
OWENSBORO, KY



From the Preacherman....

"The perfect is the enemy of the good" said the French philosopher Voltaire in 1764. I learned over many years, through trials and personal torments, the profound importance of this statement. I grew up a perfectionist, a personality trait I was likely born with. I came to believe that mistakes and failures were not tolerated in school, behavior or social situations. Becoming a preacher was a logical outcome and a trainwreck of failure. Every Sunday afternoon was spent thinking of what I should have said better.

Jesus was not much help early on. "Be ye perfect, as your father in heaven is perfect," he teaches in the Sermon on the Mount. Well, that's great. Be perfect? As a goal, this teaching is unattainable and forever the source of bitter pain and failure. It was only later, in reading what Jesus actually said, that the text became clearer. "Be mature, whole, complete" is the better translation of Matthew 5:48. Perfection is impossible. Maturity or wholeness or completeness? That is attainable, through many mistakes and much failure, the only actual way to learn.

A piece of saving grace came from a dairy farmer in my first church. We were talking one day in one of his barns, the warm, heavy smell of hay, cows and their odoriferous emanations on the floor and our shoes. I was lamenting something from the Sunday before, how I should have said it better in the sermon. I was probably whining, truth be told. He looked at me sternly and said, "Don't should all over yourself. I have to milk the cows this evening no matter how it went this morning." And he was right. The past cannot be changed and sitting around whining about it smells as bad as that manure in the milking barn.

The good news is that now, nearly 32 years later, I am mostly unafraid of failure. Living nearly six decades will do that for you, help you to see that you can learn from your life and failures as long as you don't live in them. I stand before a congregation every Sunday and do my best, but preaching is still terrifying. (It is too important NOT to be terrifying.) My ice-cold hands confirm that weekly. But I love it and live for it and fail at it weekly and can't wait to try again next week. Trying to be perfect at preaching, and at anything in life, is a fool's errand. It misses the possibility of being consistently good at anything: milking cows, preaching a sermon, raising children or playing the piano.

"There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in" said the singer and poet Leonard Cohen. That seems a good place to finish this. Be kind to yourself. Give yourself some grace. Learn from your mistakes. Don't live in them. The perfect is the enemy of the good.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Worship/Sunday School	4	5	6	7 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL! Refugee Food Pantry	8	9
10 Worship/Sunday School	11	12 Primetimers Outing @ 11:30 a.m. FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!	13 Board Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.	14	15 Flute Recital @ 4:00 p.m. Scarlett Head	16
17 Worship/Sunday School	18	19	20 BACK TO SCHOOL POTLUCK! @ 5:30 P.M.	21 Refugee Food Pantry	22	23
24 Worship/Sunday School	25	26	27 Dinner @ 5:30 p.m. Worship @ 6:00 p.m. Youth Groups @ 6:15 p.m.	28	29	30
31 Worship/Sunday School						

Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Gloria Strehl | 10 Ed Burg |
| 2 Carrol Bell | 10 Cecilia Webb |
| 4 Mark Roberts | 14 Barbara Bennett |
| 4 David Ruckdeschel | 15 June Stapleton |
| 5 Eric Baur | 16 Caressa Schrecker |
| 5 Kaitlyn Fischer | 16 John Burns |
| 6 Meaghan Murphy | 18 Ron Howard |
| 8 Evan LeBoutillier | 18 Henry Williams |
| 9 Will Sterett | 20 Elee Roach |
| 10 Broderick Divine | 20 Stella Hayden |

- 22 Gavin Roberts
 24 Nathan Nunley
 26 Kyle Aud
 30 Connie Ford
 30 Matt Johnson
 30 Robert Lyons
 30 Addie Travis
 31 Jo Anne Sillman
 31 Jason Roberts

Anniversaries

- Louis & Vicki Bellamy
 John & Janey Burns
 Garret & Stacy Carter
 Henry & Nancy Connor
 Mick & Connie Ford
 Jack & Martha Lee

June Financials

Offering for the Month:	\$30,041,31
Other Revenue Month:	\$745.97
Total Revenue:	\$30,787,28
Expenses:	(\$65,956.54)
Net:	(\$35,169,26)
Year-to-Date Offering	\$228,051,03
YTD Other Revenue	\$13,120,51
YTD Revenue	\$241,171.54
YTD Expenses	(\$317,290.04)
Net for the year	(\$76,118.50)

PRIMETIMERS PLUS OUTING



Next Primetimers will be on Tuesday **August 12th** at
Smitty's Italian Steak House-
2109 W Franklin St, Evansville IN at **11:30 a.m.**

Contact Janet Luckett by text message only @270-929-4984 or
Barbara Chavez 270-929-6941 text, call or leave a message-or
email: babsc1222@gmail.com

****Since this luncheon will be in Evansville there will be a bus for
the drive to the restaurant with a cost of \$5 per person. Contact
us if you would like to go on the bus.**

meetings!

Elders Meeting:

No meeting in August!

Retreat date: September 12th, 13th

Board Meeting:

Wednesday, August 13th
@ 5:30 p.m.



Ready to try something old again?

*On Wednesday, August 27 we will start an old/new schedule for
Wednesday nights.*

At 5:30 we will share a meal in the fellowship hall, followed by a brief
service of prayer and the Lord's Supper in the sanctuary at 6 p.m. At
6:15 children, youth and adults are free to attend groups until 7 or so, or
maybe just visit a while and return home. Yes, most of us have done
this all before. It's old-hat, ordinary, and kind of exciting, eh?
Come and see....



Potluck!

Wednesday,
August 20th
@ 5:30 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate
the new school year with
a potluck gathering. A
main dish will be
provided, and we kindly
ask guests to bring their
favorite side dishes or
salads to share.

For dessert, we are
excited to have
homemade ice cream!
We look forward to seeing
you there!

Please reach out to Cathy
Midkiff if you can help in
providing homemade ice
cream! 270-314-9008

August & September

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

august 20

WELCOME BACK!

JOIN US FOR A CHURCH POTLUCK TO CELEBRATE THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!
(5:30 PM)
PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH TO FEED 8-10 PEOPLE

august 27

REGULAR CHILDRENS & YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

NOTE: PROMOTION SUNDAY IS AUGUST 10! PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS IN ATTENDANCE TO RECEIVE A BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING & TREAT!

september 3

REGULAR CHILDRENS & YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

september 10

CHILDRENS:

REGULAR MEETING
YOUTH:
TOUR OF 1010 ALLEN STREET & LEARNING ALL ABOUT ISAF

september 17

REGULAR CHILDRENS & YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

september 24

OUTING!
DETAILS TO COME

BEGINNING AUGUST 27, THERE WILL BE A 15 MINUTE WORSHIP SERVICE EACH WEDNESDAY BETWEEN DINNER & YOUTH GROUP. ALL ARE WELCOME!



REMINDER: YOUTH GROUP WILL NOT MEET DURING SCHOOL FALL BREAK!

NEW JUNIOR DEACON PROGRAM

WE ARE EXCITED TO BE BEGINNING A NEW JUNIOR DEACON PROGRAM. ALL CHI-RO (6TH -8TH) AND CYF(9TH -12TH) STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE PROGRAM TO LEARN TO SERVE COMMUNION AND COLLECT OFFERING. WE WILL PRACTICE AND PREPARE TO BEGIN SERVING ON SUNDAYS. PLEASE REACH OUT TO MEAGHAN MURPHY TO JOIN THE PROGRAM!

INTERESTED IN RINGING THE BELL OR LIGHTING THE CANDLES! SEE RILEY!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND HELPERS FOR YOUTH GROUP ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS. PLEASE REACH OUT TO MEAGHAN OR RILEY TO VOLUNTEER!

PLEASE CONTACT MEAGHAN MURPHY OR RILEY PAYNE FOR ANY QUESTIONS!



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