



The Caller



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) OWENSBORO, KY



From the Preacherman....

On Sunday evening the skies darkened, thunder rolled and heavy rain began to fall. As lightning danced across the sky, my street quickly flooded, the storm drains overwhelmed with the volume of water. Laura and I turned off the lights and opened the shades to watch the show. When the storm had passed, another sound echoed through my neighborhood. It was the sound of children laughing with delight.

I looked out my window to see our neighbors' kids plowing through the inches-deep water on bicycles and scooters. Their laughter filled the air as parents watched, smiles etched on all their faces. We shouted encouragement from our front porch, thankful to see kids just being kids without a care in the world, a gift to enjoy if only for a few minutes. I went back inside and started to write.

When had I last done such a thing? Oh sure, when I was a kid, I have great memories of climbing trees for ripe fruit or sliding through giant puddles of water in my parents' front yard or slipping a boat into a pond long after sunset, just to listen for the frogs to start their chorus of croaking. But what had I done lately? When had the moment of full life arrived without a plan or a schedule? Did I miss that because I was just too busy to pay attention?

We live by schedules of days and dates, months and seasons. Go here, do that, pay this, sit here at this time, get up and leave. Take the kids to this practice or rehearsal or game or recital. Go to this doctor or specialist or another doctor? My planner looks like yours. It is full to overflowing with more needs and demands than hours in the day. So, like you, I kill the day and hope tomorrow will be calmer, with space to breathe, and think, and see the world for the gift that it is.

Reminders to pay attention are everywhere. During the month of World Cup Football, I was amazed at people from around our planet who loved our free drink refills, wide open spaces and epic hospitality. Who knew? People from everywhere found us to be kind and generous and welcoming. We know that about ourselves, deep down we really do. But it took strangers to remind us of who we are. Politics will always disappoint us, but not simple human kindness. Jesus knew that. He tried to tell us.

Darkness has returned to my street. The water has receded; the skies have cleared and quiet has come. The smiles and the memories remain, however, a gift from the heavens opened in our midst. Pay attention to the wonders of God all around us. You may get wet, but you won't be disappointed.

Peace.... Chris

August

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Worship/Sunday School	3	4	5	6 Back to School! Refugee Food Pantry	7 PICTURE DAY	8 PICTURE DAY
9 Congregational Meeting @10:05 PICTURE DAY PROMOTION SUNDAY Worship/Sunday School	10	11 Primetimers Outing to Farmer & Frenchman 12:00 p.m.	12 Education Meeting 4:00 p.m. Potluck @ 5:30 p.m. Cantata, & Choir around 6:30 p.m.	13 OPD Police Academy Graduation Practice 1:30 p.m.	14 OPD Police Academy Graduation 2:30 p.m.	15
16 Worship/Sunday School	17	18	19 Dinner @5:30 p.m. Worship @6:15 p.m. Youth Groups, Cantata, & Choir @6:30 p.m.	20 Refugee Food Pantry	21	22
23 Worship/Sunday School	24 OCTC Community Chorus Practice 6:30 p.m.	25	26 Dinner @5:30 p.m. Worship @6:00 p.m. Youth Groups, Cantata, & Choir @6:30 p.m.	27	28	29
30 Worship/Sunday School	31 OCTC Community Chorus Practice 6:30 p.m.					

***Men's Fellowship at Great Harvest on Frederica Every Wednesday @ 6:30 a.m.**

Happy Birthday!

1 Gloria Strehl
 2 Carrol Bell
 4 Mark Roberts
 4 David Ruckdeschel
 5 Eric Baur
 5 Kaitlyn Fischer
 5 Garrett Lott
 6 Meaghan Murphy
 7 Laura Farmer
 8 Evan LeBoutillier
 9 Will Sterett
 10 Ed Burg
 10 Broderick Divine
 10 Cecilia Webb
 14 Eric Wimsatt
 14 Barbara Bennett
 15 Adam Lott
 15 June Stapleton
 16 Caressa Schrecker
 16 John Busse
 18 Ron Howard
 18 Henry Williams
 20 Stella Hayden
 20 Elee Roach
 21 Jeffery Rice
 22 Gavin Roberts
 24 Nathan Nunley
 26 Kyle Aud
 30 Connie Ford
 30 Matt Johnson
 30 Bo Lyons
 30 Addie Slone Travis
 31 Jo Anne Skillman
 31 Jason Roberts

Happy Anniversary!

Louis & Vicki Bellamy
 Janey & John Burns
 Garret & Stacey Carter
 Connie & Mick Ford
 Terri & Stuart Cant
 Marsha & Jim Hicks
 Jack & Martha Lee
 Brende & Chris Lott

June Financials

Offering for the Month:	\$31,752.00
Other Revenue Month:	\$395.44
Total Revenue:	\$32,147.44
Expenses:	\$55,713.41
Net for the Month	(\$23,565.97)

Year-to-Date Offering	\$234,995.70
YTD Other Revenue	\$17,102.14
YTD Revenue	\$252,097.84
YTD Expenses	\$294,412.38
Net for the Year	(\$42,314.54)

Upcoming Events



Picture Days



Come be a part of our Christmas Cantata!

Sing with Us on the Road to Christmas! This December, we will present *The Road to Christmas*, an original eight-song cantata written by our Minister of Music, Phillip Mitchell. **We need singers**, no matter your level of experience or training! You do not have to join the choir to take part. **Cantata rehearsals will begin after the Wednesday evening service and will last about thirty minutes. The first practice will be on August 12.**

A small ensemble of instrumentalists will join us for the presentation, so we need plenty of voices! The cantata will be presented on Sunday, **December 20, at 9:00 a.m.** We will also have a special dinner and rehearsal with the instrumentalists on Saturday, December 19.

Come sing with us and help us pave The Road to Christmas!



WHAT: We are creating a new pictorial directory for the Church.
WHO: ANYONE that would like to be in the directory!

WHY: We haven't had one since 2017! Directories are especially useful to get to know your church family.

WHEN: August 7, 8, and 9. The portraits are by appointment only. Please come in on time for your appointment.

WHERE: These will be in the front office, and we will be here to help you in any way.

WHAT IF: you cannot get your picture taken that weekend or you didn't make an appointment: PLEASE either send a picture of you or you and your family OR let us take a picture of you.

FCC CHILDREN'S NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026

8/12	BACK TO SCHOOL BASH-CHURCHWIDE POTLUCK MEAL	 INTERESTED IN RINGING THE BELL OR LIGHTING THE CANDLES? SEE RILEY!
8/19	FIRST YOUTH GROUP: DINNER, WORSHIP & YG	
8/26	DINNER, WORSHIP & YOUTH GROUP	
9/2	DINNER, WORSHIP & YOUTH GROUP	



PROMOTION SUNDAY: AUGUST 9TH

JOIN US FOR A BACKPACK BLESSING & SWEET TREAT TO CELEBRATE THE START TO ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR!



UPCOMING EVENTS
 8/9: PROMOTION SUNDAY
 8/19: FIRST YOUTH GROUP
 9/7: NO SCHOOL- LABOR DAY WEEKEND
 9/9: YOUTH GROUP OUTING
 10/9-10/16: FALL BREAK- NO YOUTH GROUP OR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Thank You Note

Dear friends,
Thank you so very much for your recent gift (Week of Compassion)! Your generosity is a powerful witness to the impact of this shared ministry. Thank you for your faithful partnership!

Many thanks,

Rev. August Laperche

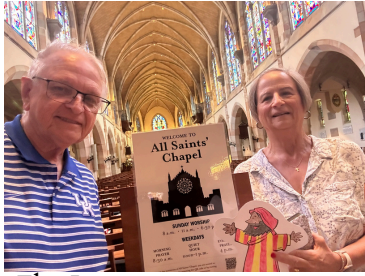
Interim Development Coordinator

Primitimers Outing



Primitimers went to Steak and Stone in Leitchfield, KY with the Primitimers in July. Our next Primitimers luncheon will be **Aug 11 12PM** (please note the time change since they open at 12) The Farmer and The Frenchman 12522 US 41 Robards KY. We will have a bus \$5 per person. Arrive at 11AM for departure at 11:15. Please let us know if you're coming and if you want a seat on the bus. Contact Janet Luckett by text only 270-929-4984 or Barbara Chavez 270-929- 6941 by text or leave a message. ALL are welcome!

Flat Jesus had another busy month! He traveled to Scotland, six states in the U.S., several cities in Kentucky, and even visited the New Seven New Wonders of the World.



Flat Jesus got to go on a mountain vacation with Cathy and Jim Midkiff. They toured the All Saints' Chapel in Sewanee, TN. They also did some mountain climbing in Tennessee at Lookout Mountain.



Great views with Flat Jesus and Addison from Utah! Addison stated he could see and smell the fires that were/are burning out west. Keep that in your prayers, as well as safe travels for Addison and Flat Jesus!



Sue Napper hosted Camp Mimi, and was excited to have Flat Jesus with them. Pictured with Flat Jesus in their Camp Mimi shirts are (L-R) Emily Napper, Emma Rhodes, Will Napper, and Hudson Rhodes. One day they came in and filled bags for the pantry box.



Flat Jesus went to Panama City Beach, Florida Cathy Midkiff and her daughter, Sarah. Cathy said she and Sarah were enjoying lunch at Schooners without the grands!



Flat Jesus hung out watching soccer with the Castlen, Brake, and Michael families. They got together for a family wedding shower.



Ken is always grateful to connect with his church family and enjoys a good visit, but even more so with Flat Jesus by his side. Chris visited one day, but Mike Matthews visits his friend nearly every Monday.



Rev. Jim Midkiff & Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler met at church, and look who showed up! Rev. Chris Michael and Flat Jesus crashed the meeting!



Beverly and Kirby Chelgren recently moved into their new home, so glad Flat Jesus was not lost in the move and made it into the picture! Welcome home, Chelgrens!



Selma and Nadia Lucas were in Denver, Colorado with Flat Jesus and their family at big brother, Asher's NPL soccer tournament. Looks like Flat Jesus is leading some great cheers for Asher's team!

So excited to have this gorgeous picture after Hannah Kate Divine's shower. The bride-to-be is in the center of the picture holding Flat Jesus. On each side of her are members of her family (and future mother-in-law Laura Michael) who are all members of First Christian Church.





Curtis Hannah and Flat Jesus were all smiles as they traveled across the river to Jasper, Indiana to run the AV and MC Kim Messmer's Mary Kay Unit Awards Program. Curtis also had a little fun with him and visited all the New Seven Wonders of the World.



Flat Jesus joined Sherry Rhoads and her "card group". These card sharks played until one in the morning! We are certain there was no cheating while Flat Jesus was around, and Sherry and her partner (Debbie Settles) won some games against Pat Frey and her partner and sister, Deloris Williams.



Flat Jesus made it "across the pond" once again! This time with the McKinley Family (Joseph, Brady, Joey, and Teresa) in Scotland.



Flat Jesus was caught playing Scrabble with Janet Corum, Gary Bielefeld, and Janet's sons, Otto Corum and Edwin Reichmuth, joined them in the game.



Flat Jesus joined in birthday celebrations for Debbie Crone at the Cheesecake Factory in Nashville, TN. Flat Jesus, Debbie's daughter Julie, and grandkids, Camille and Landon, helped celebrate with "Dee Dee" aka Debbie.)



Flat Jesus and Chanella went to visit Doctors Casey Callis and Mary Beth Reynolds. They are pictured in the office with Sheri.



Nancy Connor, Flat Jesus, and Jacqueline went to "Calm Waters" at the hospital.



Not one, but TWO Flat Jesuses made their way with the Primertimers all the way to Leitchfield, KY to have lunch at Steak and Stone. Their next outing is to Farmer and Frenchman on Tuesday, August 11th at 12:00 p.m. Hopefully, Jesus can make that one too.



Flat Jesus went with Seth, Bethany, Riley, and Phoebe Duke all the way to Holland, Michigan--a trip with two under two! We are sure Jesus was needed!

Events Last Month

Elton Smith, Hannah Webb, and some of Hannah's friends assisted in preparing a meal for CrossRoads with members of Friends in Faith Sunday School class. Hannah said they had a blast helping out and we were lucky to have them help. Did you know that once a month FIF feeds CrossRoads shelter for women and children?



On July 7th our church hosted a babysitting class for our youth. Annabelle Baur, Hannah Webb, and Elton Smith learned some of the basics about taking care of babies and toddlers. These youth are planning to use these skills while baby sitting and working in our nursery.



On the first Thursday of the month, we host a group that plays bridge. Connie Ford, Vivian McNatton, Cheryl Shewmaker, and Ruth Blakeman are at one table. Bev Chelgren, Leslie Carlisle, Sue Lawson, and Janice Hawes are at the other table.



This past month members of the Worship, Property, and Safety Committees came together and hung this quilt that survived the fire. It is now located at the landing of the staircase between the first and second floors. The following each contributed to the making of the cross stitch pieces that tell some of the stories of the Bible: Lois Bethel, Sue Bethel, Ginger Carter, Stephanie Curran, Mary Ruth Emerson, Francy Miller, Leslie Mobley, Helen Mountjoy, Naomi O'Hearn, Sandra Roberts, Dena Schaeffer, Janet Suwanski, Betty Troutman, and Carolyn Williams.



We celebrated Ron Waite and his nine decades with friends and family at church, and the Miller House.



Volunteers worked after church on Sunday, July 19th to prepare for VBS. We are so thankful to have so many who stayed and worked that afternoon. They really proved that "many hands make light work".





V.B.S.
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