



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OWENSBORO

(Disciples of Christ)

THE CALLER

No. 7 Vol. 17 ~ July 28, 2021

From the Preacherman....

Jackson Roark has died. He was 13 years old. He was smart, funny, articulate, impatient with simple things and intrigued by the complex. He loved his family, his parents, his pets, and even his sister, which is hard for all boys, I should know. I had the opportunity to talk with Jackson many times and was always amazed and thankful for his questions. He asked about God, faith, what comes next and his pets. He asked good questions, ones that are not always voiced, ones without easy answers, some with no answers at all. He blessed me with that.

Jackson's friends have watched him struggle heroically in his battle with cancer for more than a year and a half. We wear t-shirts for him, emblazoned with the statement "Not All Superheroes Look The Same," words surrounded by 12 superhero masks, 11 black, and one yellow. The yellow one is for Jackson. We have prayed, given money, taken food, offered gift cards and prayed some more. We know some heroes in all of this, and they are Jackson, Holly, Dave and Scarlett.

Which brings me to this simple question: Why? Why did this happen to a boy, a kind and gentle human being, only 13? Don't tell me I cannot ask God "Why?" Job dealt with friends who tried to shush his bold inquiries, but Job would not be silent. He wanted to know about the death of his family. He screamed at the heavens in expectation of a reply! He got one, too, not the one he wanted, but more importantly, he got God Almighty, a Voice in a whirlwind. Ask your questions! Jesus did. So should we.

In her poem "Kindness" Naomi Shihab Nye writes, "Before you know what kindness really is/you must lose things/feel the future dissolve in a moment/like salt in a weakened broth." We know all too well what it is like to feel the future dissolve in a moment. Too much loss. Too much dissolved. Just too much. I need the kindness now, thank you very much.

I have to be honest. I am sick and tired of losing things, of burying people that I love and carrying around the sorrow from that loss. I grow weary of trite, simplistic faith statements that seek to suppress our lament, despair and anger. Give it to God, all of it, every shred of your shattered soul, in all of its honesty. And demand an answer! Beneath the crushing losses, way down at the bottom of things, there is kindness, the kindness of God, and friends who understand the valley of the shadow of death, people who have walked that way and come out the other side. Kindness rises out of deep loss. The cost is great. The gift is greater.

Peace....Chris

Our Church Mission:

"Our mission is to manifest Christ's love by empowering all to compassionate service."

Denominational Mission Statement:

*"We are Disciples of Christ,
a movement for wholeness in a fragmented
world. As part of the one body of Christ we
welcome all to the Lord's Table
as God has welcomed us."*

CHURCH STAFF:

Ministers.....The Congregation
Sr. Minister.....Rev. J. Chris Michael
Minister of Pastoral Care.....Pam Woodward
Financial Manager.....Kristin Callis
Communications and
Admin Support Staff.....Michael Ervin
Choir Director.....Mike Tichenor
Pianist.....Ann Jeannette Pierce
Nursery Attendants..... Elee Roach
Sherry Rhoads
Chandler Fleischmann

Contact Us:

Church Office 270-684-8879
Church Email: michael@fccowb.org
Web Address: www.fccowb.org

Join us for worship in person or online!

First Christian Church Offers multiple ways to join in worship each week. Join us in person on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. If you would like to participate in online worship, we livestream each service to our Facebook account:

www.facebook.com/FCCOwensboro

You may listen to our worship service via your computer or smartphone by accessing: www.mixlr.com/firstchristianchurch at 9 am CT Sunday, or by using a speakerphone dial 1-214-699-5100. The access code is 6939237#

We're on Facebook!





CALENDAR

Sunday, August 1
 9:00 am Worship

Wednesday, August 4
 6:30 am Men's Fellowship*

Thursday, August 5
 2:30 pm Refugee Food Pantry

Sunday, August 8
 9:00 am Worship

Wednesday, August 11
 6:30 am Men's Fellowship*

Sunday, August 15
 9:00 am Worship

Wednesday, August 18
 6:30 am Men's Fellowship*

Thursday, August 19
 2:30 pm Refugee Food Pantry

Sunday, August 22
 9:00 am Worship

Wednesday, August 25
 6:30 am Men's Fellowship*
 5:30 pm Board Meeting

Sunday, August 29
 9:00 am Worship

*Men's Fellowship meets at Panera:
 4600 Frederica St,
 Owensboro, KY 42301

BIRTHDAYS

1 Gloria Strehl
 2 Carrol Bell
 4 David Ruckdeschel
 5 Jason Pierce; Eric Baur;
 Kaitlyn Fischer
 6 Meaghan Glenn
 8 Gary Hayden; Evan LeBoutillier;
 Rodney Berry
 9 Will Sterett
 10 Ed Burg; Broderick Divine;
 Cecilia Webb
 14 Barbara Bennett
 15 Adam Lott; June Stapleton
 16 Caressa Schrecker; John Busse
 17 Taylor Mahlinger
 18 Ron Howard; Wynnise Isenbarger;
 Henry Williams III
 20 Terry Norris; Stella Hayden
 22 Gavin Roberts
 24 Nathan Nunley
 26 Kyle Aud
 27 Meagan Lyons
 30 Addie Travis; Connie Ford
 Robert David Lyons; Matt Johnson
 31 Jason Roberts
 Jo Anne Skillman

ANNIVERSARIES

6 Mick & Connie Ford
 8 Garret & Stacey Carter
 10 John & Janey Burns
 12 Jim & Janet Westmoreland
 15 Martha & Jack Lee;
 Brende & Chris Lott
 21 Jeff & Judy Howe;
 Lou & Vicki Bellamy;
 Mike & Janet Tichenor
 23 Henry & Nancy Connor;
 Scott & Meagan Lyons
 28 Brian & Nina Belcher

June Stewardship Update:	
Offering for the Month:	\$38,190
Other Revenue Month:	\$81
Total Revenue:	\$38,270
Expenses for the month	\$32,321
Net for the month	(\$5,949)
Year-to-Date	
Offering	\$218,680
Other Revenue	\$8,831
YTD Revenue	\$227,512
YTD Expenses	\$49,335
Net for the year	\$32,291
Outreach:	
West Area Disciples CC	\$1,071
Disciples Mission Fund	\$1,785
HELP Office	\$450

Primetimers Plus- First Monday Luncheon

Join the Primetimers for lunch at O'Charley's on Monday, August 2 at 11:30 a.m. We'll hear from Harry Pedigo, Exe, of St. Benedict's Home for Men. Like many organizations, St. Benedicts has had a troubling year, and we'll have an opportunity to support them financially. Reservations are due by Sunday, Aug 1. Please contact Ron Waite: Home - (270) 683-8510
 Mobile - (812) 454-8555; ronwownsbr@aol.com

Do you love to knit?

We are hoping to start a knitting ministry at First Christian. Our purpose (besides the enjoyment of knitting and fellowship) would be to provide hats, scarves, mittens, teddy bears, etc... to various organizations in our community. If this would be of interest to you, please call or text Bev Chelgrin: 270-925-2353



Music Ministry Update:

First Christian has been blessed these past weeks and months with a variety of singers and players. Vocalists and pianists from 10 to 85 years old have shared in our services. We look forward to our Choir resuming in rehearsal on September 8. All are welcome to join. Our handbells will resume at a later date when it becomes feasible.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Tichenor: pmiket@att.net

Children's and Youth Sunday School

Children and Youth Sunday school will resume on August 1. We are in need of two teachers for each Preschool through Fifth Grade class from August 1 through November for grades, as well as a teacher for our Middle School and High School groups. Feel free to sign up for multiple months!

CLICK HERE to sign up, or contact Emily Baur for more information: emily.baur@yahoo.com



Food Pantry- Come lend a hand!

The FCC food pantries help at least 150 people per month. Come help us pack tubs of food for those in our community every 1st and 3rd Thursday. The next dates will be Thursday, Aug 5, and Thursday, Aug 19. You can also donate items like: peanut butter, tuna, canned chili or beans, and toiletries.

Daviess County VOAD Meeting- Thursday, August 26th at 5:30pm

Come see how you can get involved with volunteer opportunities in our community. VOAD helps with things like feeding, housing, dispatching other volunteers etc... during crisis and natural disasters. Our speaker this month will be Mr. Jim Garrett, Volunteer Liaison for Kentucky Emergency Management, KY VOAD's response to eastern Kentucky flooding. The meeting will be at Owensboro Community & Technical College, 4800 Hartford Rd, in the Humanities Building Auditorium.





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