

THE CALLER



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)
OWENSBORO, KY

No. 11 Vol. 17 ~ November 29, 2021

From the Preacherman....

The toughest season to keep in the Christian year is Advent. Lent is not bad in the Northern Hemisphere. It comes along in wet, dreary February and helps us to walk in penitence to Holy Week and Easter, but the weather makes us feel that way anyhow, so it's fine. By the time Easter rolls around, it is warm and sunny outside and we are ready to celebrate resurrection. Pentecost and Ordinary time are fine in Spring and Summer, as are Christmas and Epiphany in Winter, bright lights in dark days.

However, Advent is a mess, completely out of touch with the time of year. The Christian season is slow and quiet and meditative, when all around us is a blizzard of activity and frenzied movement until Christmas comes and we drop, exhausted, at the finish line. That is all well and good, but Advent heralds something different, deeper and hopeful.

Advent reminds us to be still and know that God is God and we are not. The world seems crazy and insane, moving from catastrophe to mishap, but beneath the surface, deeper down at the heart of things, beats the heart of God, poured out in Jesus of Nazareth, punctured and broken for all humanity. God is with us! Do we know that heart beating at the center of things? We can know that God, but we know our own souls, and my heart, for one, is tired. I am weary of pandemic, weary of problems and pain and struggle. I need to connect with something bigger, better and hopeful, with the truth that death didn't end Jesus. Nothing did. But I cannot know that if life is too fast, too busy. I have to be still and know.

Advent is also less about the forced happiness of secular Christmas and more about the tears that come in the stillness. Do not miss the opportunity that is offered to us in this season. As I heard a preacher say one time, you have to take time for the pain. Advent invites that, beckoning us to just take some time, a little or a lot, for the pain of loss and death. Yes, Jesus is coming, but to face the end like we all face. Take time for the pain.

Because of the difficulty of preparation, some people just decide to minimize the whole season and get through it. I understand that, but would counsel otherwise. Go big, bold and brash. Ready the house and the heart. Christen the tree and the hearth, for Jesus is coming. Get ready for something new and amazing and astonishing. God is coming in the flesh, so we better be prepared.

Is it any wonder people find Advent to be odd and strange? I do. It is the strangest season of all. And I love it.

Peace....Chris

DECEMBER

CALENDAR

- December 1
6:30 am Men's Fellowship*
- December 2
2:30 pm Refugee Food Pantry
- December 5- Advent 2 Worship
- December 6
9:30 am Primetimers Brunch
7:00 pm OCTC Chorus Concert
- December 7
5:30 pm Board Meeting
- December 8
6:30 am Men's Fellowship*
- December 12- Advent 3 Worship
Symphony Sunday
- December 15
6:30 am Men's Fellowship*
- December 16
2:30 pm Refugee Food Pantry
- December 17
6:00 pm FaHoLo Potluck Dinner
- December 19- Advent 4 Worship
10:05 am- Congregational Meeting
- December 22-
6:30 am Men's Fellowship*
12:00 pm- Church Office Closed
- December 23- Church Office Closed
- December 24- Christmas Eve
5pm- Worship
- December 26- Worship and Sunday School
- December 29
6:30 am Men's Fellowship*
- December 30- Office Closes at Noon
- December 31- New Year's Eve

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Brian Wilborn
- 2 Tracy Elliot; Molly Roberts
- 5 Tina Baker
- 6 Addison Callis
- 7 Mallory Roberts
- 9 Sally Ham; Jane Howard
- 10 Stacey Carter; Todd Harper
- 11 Jenifer Yates; Brende Lott
- 12 Beau Isenbarger;
Larkin Hayden
- 13 Sara Aud
- 16 Ann Miller
- 17 Luke Wilborn
- 18 Philip Travis
- 19 Gene Parks
- 20 Patty Matthews
- 21 Anna Travis; Elle Aud

- 22 Madelyn Castlen;
Kevin O'Hearn
- 23 John Strehl;
Brennan Benjamin
- 24 Graham Johnson;
Kaye Farmer
- 25 Malcolm Bryant;
Ken McDanell
- 31 Cailyn Fleischmann
Stephanie Williams

ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Jason & Mallory Roberts
- 12 Jake & Kristi Isenbarger
- 17 Janet & Rich Suwanski
- 23 Roy & Sue Boling
- 27 Jim & Cathy Midkiff
Mike & Rebecca Glenn

Financial Update

Church Van Fundraising

We have begun fundraising to purchase a new Church Van. Through various efforts, we have raised a total of \$5,235. Thank you to the 22 individuals, plus one Sunday School Class, and the Primetimers for helping us with our fundraising efforts. We estimate the new bus will cost around \$50,000, so donations are still needed!

October Financials:

Offering for the Month:	\$43,529
Other Revenue Month:	\$3,932
Total Revenue:	\$47,461
Expenses for the month	\$40,966
Net for the month	(\$6,495)
Year-to-Date Offering	\$373,051
YTD Other Revenue	\$17,962
YTD Revenue	\$391,013
YTD Expenses	\$340,983
Net for the year	\$50,031

Outreach:

West Area Disciples CC	\$2,142
Disciples Mission Fund	\$3,571
HELP Office	\$900

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

Worship Services for the Advent/Christmas Season

We have multiple special opportunities for you to join us in worship during the month of December:

Dec 5- Blue Christmas Service- 5:00 p.m.

Dec 12- Symphony Sunday- 9:00 a.m.

Dec 19- Advent 4- 9:00 a.m.

Dec 24- Christmas Eve Worship- 5:00 p.m.



OCTC Chorus Concert

Join us on Monday, Dec. 6, at 7:00 p.m., for a wonderful celebration of the holiday season. The Owensboro Community & Technical College (OCTC) Choir will be performing its annual Holiday Concert, here at First Christian, under the direction of Dr. Connie Ford. Masks will be required for audience members. "Distanced seating" will be practiced.

DWM- Disciples Women's Ministries

The daytime group will meet on Dec. 2, at 12:00 pm, at Kaye Farmer's home. The Dec. Mission for both groups will be Christmas bags for their home-bound friends.

For more info, contact Kaye Farmer: jdkfarmer@gmail.com



Bus Drivers Needed

We are in need of a list of bus drivers or van drivers to pick up our Congolese families who desire to attend church. If enough people sign up, we can develop a monthly rotation plan. Please, please consider this. Text, email, or call Ginger Norris (270-929-3539) or Teresa McKinley (270-314-9936) if you are able to volunteer.

FaHoLo Class- Potluck Dinner

The FaHoLo Sunday School Class will be hosting a potluck for its members on Friday, December 17, at 6pm. Come join in the fun and bring a dish to share!

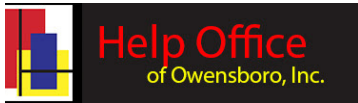


Save it or Shave it?!

Should Rev. Michael save his beard... or shave it? Vote for your preference by placing money in the designated containers. We are hoping to raise \$5,000 for various mission projects in the church.

Outreach Committee

We, on your Outreach Committee, believe that it is of the utmost importance that you know where your outreach dollars are spent. Below is a list of organizations that have received funding as well as amounts received:



LEGACY FUND DISTRIBUTION (2020-2021)

HELP OFFICE: \$4000

OWENSBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS: \$5000

DAVIESS COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: \$5000

GOODFELLOWS: \$3500

COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC: \$3000

ST. BENEDICT'S SHELTER: \$1000

HERITAGE PARK HIGH SCHOOL: \$800

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: \$5000

OASIS: \$3000

LIGHTHOUSE RECOVERY: \$2805

FRIENDS OF SINNERS: \$3250

WENDELL FOSTER: \$3250

ST. JOSEPH PEACE MISSION: \$3000

GREEN RIVER DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION: \$3000

GROWING HOPE GLOBALLY: \$4000

INDIVIDUAL SUSTAINING FIRE: \$1000

Total: \$51,105



BOARD APPROVED OVERAGE FUNDING FOR OUTREACH (TOTAL \$85,000)

CASA: \$1000

DANIEL PITINO SHELTER: \$6053.20

FRESH START FOR WOMEN: \$6000

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: \$5000

HELP OFFICE: \$8000

IMAGINATION LIBRARY: \$3000

OCTC BURMESE HERITAGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND: \$9000

OWENSBORO REGIONAL RECOVERY-AUDUBON AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES: \$3000

ST. BENEDICT'S WOMEN'S AND FAMILIES' DAY SHELTER: \$3500

INDIVIDUAL: \$315

Total: \$44,868.20

GRAND TOTAL: \$95,973.20

The list does not include all of the additional generous donations you have made, including for the incoming refugees, Oasis, Fresh Start, special offerings throughout the year, and others. This truly is a congregation with generous hearts.



2021 R E V E R S E



ADVENT CALENDAR



**EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM
TO YOUR FAMILY ADVENT
BOX AND THEN
BRING THE ITEMS TO FCC**



**December 1 – box of cereal
December 2 – peanut butter
December 3 – cooking oil
December 4 – boxed potatoes
December 5 – macaroni and cheese
December 6 – can of fruit
December 7 – can of tomatoes
December 8 – can of tuna
December 9 – pkg. of pudding cups
December 10 – jar of applesauce
December 11 – can of sweet potatoes
December 12 – cranberry sauce**

**December 13 – can of beans
December 14 – box of crackers
December 15 – package of rice
December 16 – package of oatmeal
December 17 – package of pasta
December 18 – spaghetti sauce
December 19 – chicken noodle soup
December 20 – tomato soup
December 21 – can of corn
December 22 – can of chicken
December 23 – can of carrots
December 24 – can of green beans**

This is an opportunity to continue to help others in our community. These items will be distributed starting in January where there is a need in the: FCC Pantry, FCC Refugee Pantry, Germantown Park Box or the Help Office.

There will be a collection table(s) in the lobby on Sundays starting on:

- **December 5** for December 1-8 items.
 - **December 12** for December 9-16 items.
 - **December 19** for December 17-24 items.
- Collect these items at home with your family and bring them in by December 19 **OR** sponsor the Advent month (all 24 items) for \$30 by cash or check. Please put Reverse Advent in the memo section of your check.

Thank you for your continued generosity.



SPONSORED BY THE FCC PRIMETIMERS