



THE CALLER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OWENSBORO
(Disciples of Christ)

No. 23 Vol. 14 ~ December 11, 2018

From the Preacherman....

The foremost song of Advent begins with the line *O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear*. These words can be traced to a prayer for deliverance written during the fearful years of the late 5th or early 6th century A.D. when barbarians were finishing off what was left of the Roman Empire. It was the end of the world, a civilization that people had known for a thousand years. The prayer of the lonely soul, longing for Emmanuel to come, resonates still after fifteen centuries.

In the midst of the American holiday season, its relentless good cheer and upbeat songs building to the emotional frenzy of Christmas Day, a prayer of lament seems out of place. In fact, if you go on too long in this manner, people will tune you out. You will be labeled Scrooge or a Grinch and accused of trying to ruin Christmas for everyone. The tyranny of optimism that descends on our country in December is suffocating and unyielding. There is no room in the inn for lament, mourning or grief. It's Christmas! Be happy!

Advent and the Christian faith offer something different. Martin L. Smith writes, "Hope has nothing in common with optimism, a cheap, over-the-counter drug for maintaining denial. Hope is not only compatible with, but actually requires, a courageous facing of death and vulnerability." This is the true meaning of Christmas that Advent seeks to instill within us, a courageous, honest and therefore hopeful facing of life's realities. God sent Jesus, not because everything was fine and wonderful, but because the world is desperately lost in despair, hopelessness and death.

Therefore, every year during December, I find myself urging people to go visit a loved one in a cemetery or take some time with an old photo album or meander in the woods on a long walk letting the deepest pains and sorrows of the soul rise up in protest and grief. Leave the false optimism behind and cry out for Emmanuel to come and ransom us from lonely exile here. For those who struggle during this season with grief from loss, the vulnerability of life in these fragile bodies, or the slow, painful death of a loved one, hear the Good News. Christmas is for you. Christmas is God's embrace of suffering humanity in mortal flesh so that the world may be redeemed, saved, lifted up and made new.

The only way to get to the real joy of Christmas is through the dark night of the soul. *O come, O come, Emmanuel* is the faithful prayer of all of us who need God's help. The refrain sings our hope: *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!* For all who suffer this year, let it be so. Amen.

Peace....Chris

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Owensboro, Kentucky Mission Statement

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

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 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."

FCC STAFF

Ministers.....The Congregation
Sr. Minister.....Rev. J. Chris Michael
Minister of Pastoral Care...Pam Woodward
Financial Manager.....Kristin Callis
Secretary.....Anne Carlisle
Pianist.....Ann Jeannette Pierce
Choir Director.....Mike Tichenor
Nursery Attendants.....Cynthia Smith
Chandler Fleischmann
Elee Roach

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

Church Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 8 am-noon and 1 - 5 pm

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 dialing 1-214-699-5100. The access code is 6939237#

FCC App for iPhone & Android

Stay connected with the church, download from the App Store and Google Play - First Christian Church—Owensboro



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to...

Susan and Billy Frederick and extended family in
The death of their son, Brett Frederick, who passed
away November 22.

Symphony Sunday Worship Service

December 16

All are invited to a worship service
that includes special music by the
Owensboro Symphony Chamber
Orchestra. After the worship service,
all are welcome to a reception in the
Fellowship Hall. On that day, there
are no Sunday School classes or
Worship & Wonder.

Interested in joining a book study? Meeting new people in the church? Having meaningful conversation?

Let's get together and explore the possibilities!

Sunday, January 6, at 10:00 AM
following worship in the upstairs gallery

If we have an interested group, we'll be
reading *Everybody Always* by Bob Goff

Questions/comments - Meaghan Glenn
or Pam Woodward

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

December 24
at 5:00 pm



Primetimers' Plus Events:

Tuesday, December 18 ~ Meal at Log Inn

Sunday, December 30, 11 am ~ Trip to St. Paul's
UMC in Louisville for Boar's Head Festival with
dinner at Havana Rumba. Performance is free, cost
– gas for van and dinner.

Monday, January 7, 11:30 am ~ White Elephant
Luncheon at Briarpatch - Bring a gift that you have
received and DO NOT WANT, wrap it for exchange.

Monday, February 4, at 11:30 am ~ Lunch
at Shogun with Dr. Tom Norvell as speaker.

Any member or friend of FCC is cordially invited to
all Primetimers' Plus events. Contact Ron to make
reservations and feel free to bring guests:
Home– 270-683-8510, Mobile – 812-454-8555 or
email ronwownsbr@aol.com.

Flowers in the Chancel

There are openings for flowers in the chancel on
January 6, February 3, and 10. If you are interested
in providing flowers for any of these dates, please
contact the Church office at 270-684-8879.

Congregational Meeting: December 23
immediately following the worship service.

5TH SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP MEAL

DECEMBER 30, FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP

PIZZA & SALAD

PLUS

BRING YOUR LEFT-OVER CHRISTMAS DESSERTS AND CANDIES

(GET RID OF THOSE EXTRA CALORIES BEFORE THE NEW YEAR!)

\$5 PER PERSON

Serving in Worship

December 16 ~ Advent 3 ~ Symphony Sunday ~9:00 AM

Liturgist: **Katie & Tres Sterett and family**
 Serving Elders: **Mike & Angela Bruce**
 Acolyte: **Parker Webb** Bell Ringer: **Scout Carroll**
 Elder of the month: **Kaye Farmer**
 Deacons: **Barbara Bennett, Andy Goodaker, Sally Ham, Cathy Maddox, Teresa McKinley, Cathy Midkiff, Forrest Roberts, Sandra Roberts, Janet Tichenor**
 Youth Deacon: **Miles Baur**
NO Worship & Wonder
 Choir Message: *Cradle Hymn*
 Prelude: *Jig from St. Paul's Suite*
 Choral Offertory: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
 Communion: *Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana*
 Hymns: *Angels We Have Heard on High; Hark! The Herald Angels Sing; Joy to the World; Silent Night, Holy Night; The First Noel*

December 23 ~ Advent 4 ~ 9:00 AM

Liturgist:
 Serving Elders: **Pam Woodward and Anne Carlisle**
 Acolyte: **Stella Hayden** Bell Ringer: **Parker Webb**
 Elder of the month: **Kaye Farmer**
 Deacons: **Aloma Dew, Eric Farmer, Chris Gaddis, Blake & Missie Hayden, Brenda & Doug Hoyt, Matt Johnson, Joseph McKinley, Abbe Quisenberry, Michelle Whitmer**
 Youth Deacon: **Sally Lott**
 Worship & Wonder Story Teller:
 Shepherd: **Sara Travis**
 Choir Message: *Breath of Heaven*
 Prelude: *He is Born, the Divine Christ Child*
 Offertory: *The First Noel*
 Communion: *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*
 Hymns: *Silent Night, Holy Night; Angels, from the Realms of Glory; Go Tell It on the Mountain; Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, December 16

Advent 3 - Symphony Sunday

9:00 am Worship
 10:00 am Reception
 4:00 pm Cookies & Caroling
 6:30 pm Boy Scouts

MONDAY, December 17

6:00 pm Cub Scouts

WEDNESDAY, December 19

6:30 am MBS Panera
 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, December 20

2:30 pm Food Pantry

SUNDAY, December 23 - ADVENT 4

9:00 am Worship
 10:00 am Congregational Meeting
 10:00 am FCC Café
 10:30 am Sunday School
 6:30 pm Boy Scouts

MONDAY, December 24

Office Closed
 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight
 Communion Service

TUESDAY, December 25

Christmas - Office Closed

SUNDAY, December 30

9:00 am Worship
 10:00 am 5th Sunday Fellowship Meal
 11:00 am Primetimers' Plus Event
 6:30 pm Boy Scouts

TUESDAY, January 1

Office Closed

WEDNESDAY, January 2

6:30 am MBS Panera
 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, January 3

2:30 pm Food Pantry
 6:00 pm DWM Night Group at FCC

Friday, January 4

6:30 pm Friends in Faith
 Epiphany Party at Woodward's,
 1679 Stinnett Rd., Maceo

SUNDAY, January 6

9:00 am Worship
 10:00 am FCC Café
 10:00 am Book Study Mtg.
 10:15 am Hospitality Team Mtg.
 10:30 am Sunday School
 6:30 pm Boy Scouts

MONDAY, January 7

11:30 am Primetimers' Plus White
 Elephant Brunch at Briarpatch
 6:00 pm Cub Scouts
 6:00 pm Worship Team Mtg.

TUESDAY, January 8

9:00 am Faithful Sewing
 1:00 pm DWM Daytime Group
 at FCC
 5:15 pm Board Meeting

WEDNESDAY, January 9

6:30 am MBS Panera
 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, January 13

9:00 am Worship
 10:00 am FCC Café
 10:30 am Sunday School
 12:00 pm Pitino Shelter
 6:30 pm Boy Scouts

MONDAY, January 14

6:00 pm Cub Scouts

December 30 ~ Christmas 1 ~ 9:00 AM

Liturgist: **Eric Baur**
 Serving Elders: **Nancy Connor and Carroll Hayden**
 Acolyte: Bell Ringer: **Jackson Roark**
 Elder of the month: **Kaye Farmer**
 Deacons: **Aloma Dew, Chris Gaddis, Blake & Missie Hayden, Brenda & Doug Hoyt, Matt Johnson, Joseph McKinley, Abbe Quisenberry, Michelle Whitmer**
 Youth Deacon: **Lucas Ruckdeschel**
 Worship & Wonder Story Teller:
 Shepherd: **Nancy Connor**
 Message in Music: *Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*
 1st/3rd Quartet; Shirley Overfield, piano; Connie Ford, flute
 Prelude: *Angels We Have Heard on High*
 Offertory: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*
 Communion: *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*
 Hymns: *O Little Town of Bethlehem; The First Noel; What Child is This; We Need a Silent Night in Here*

January 6 ~ Epiphany ~ 9:00 AM

Liturgist:
 Serving Elders: **Tom Maddox and Francy Miller**
 Acolyte: **Daniel Lott** Bell Ringer:
 Elder of the month: **Angela Bruce**
 Deacons: **Kyle & Sara Aud, Lenae Bowen, Libby & Andy Johnson, Natalie Johnson, Andy Luckett, Leslie Mobley, Patty Wahl, Brad Webb, Sally Wood**
 Youth Deacon: **Adam Lott**
 Worship & Wonder Story Teller: **Brian Belcher**
 Shepherds: **Nancy Connor & Janet Luckett**
 Choir Message: *Seek Ye First*
 Prelude: *We Three Kings*
 Offertory: *One Day at a Time* ~ Cindy Thompson Goodrid;
 Wendy Thompson Wells; Wendell Thompson; James Stuart
 Communion: *Wherever I May Wander*
 Hymns: *Another Year Is Dawning; More Love to Thee, O Christ; We Three Kings; Called as Partners in Christ's Service*



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Owensboro, KY 42303

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID

AT OWENSBORO, KY 42303

THE CALLER USPS 085-600

Published Bi-Weekly by FCC, Owensboro, KY

Periodicals Postage Paid at Owensboro, KY 42303

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

700 J.R. Miller Blvd.

Owensboro, KY 42303



West Area Ski-Thing

January 25-26

For Youth in Grades 6-12

Friday night enjoy games, friendship,
and worship at a lock-in at FCC.

Saturday morning, after clean up, head
to Paoli for skiing and/or tubing.

Watch your mailbox for registration forms!
(Or, pick up forms in the Church office.)

**Deadline to register and order a t-shirt
is January 15.**