

# THE CALLER



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)  
OWENSBORO, KY

No. 12 Vol. 17 ~ December 29, 2021

## From the Preacher....

I don't care much for New Year's resolutions. Perhaps they work for a little while, encouraging a walk in the evening or stiffening resolve to pass on dessert, but in my experience many resolutions are so ambitious and grand that failure is the only option. In a culture that encourages us to dream big it seems unexceptional to make any resolution that falls short of climbing Mt. Everest, running a marathon or writing the next War and Peace. "If you can't go big, go home," I heard someone say recently. Sigh. Pass the cake....

I prefer to go in the opposite direction when attempting changes. Is there anything wrong with making a small alteration in behavior and practicing that until it becomes a habit? I know. Habits have such a bad reputation. Each of us can consider a bad habit we perhaps need to drop or at least change a bit. However, most of what we do and do well is done out of a sense of habitual practice until the thing becomes second nature.

Twenty years ago I picked up *The Divine Hours*, a fixed-hour prayer book, and began using it as the framework for my life of prayer. I hoped it would last, but I really didn't know. I did not try to pray for twenty years, I just tried to pray the next assigned hour. Two decades later I look up to find that God has begun to build a real and lasting house of prayer in my life. I hope that in another ten years I might begin to understand prayer, but I don't know. Reinhold Niebuhr was right: anything worth doing takes more than a lifetime to accomplish.

There were many failures along the way, entire days lost on vacation or to some other thing, including a stroke. But the small resolve has become a holy habit that shapes my every day. I offer this as encouragement to all who wish to deepen their faith in 2022. Do something, for the sake of God and others, until it becomes a holy habit practiced whether you feel like it or not.

I am particularly interested in how people might handle adversity and failure in the process. That's right: failure is not an option; it's a given, even in attempting small resolutions. And thus, humility becomes one of the great gifts of the endeavor. Do we really think that we can be a success at everything all the time? The culture may teach that, but Jesus does not. However, failure is the best-BEST- teacher ever. Include that in your resolution and see where it leads.

A new year is at hand, a blank slate on which our lives will be written. Small changes today can make a huge difference down the road. Just start somewhere, trust God to work in the process and enjoy the trip. Even the failures.

Happy New Year.....Chris

# JANUARY

## CALENDAR

January 1- New Year's Day  
 January 2- Worship and Sunday School  
 January 3-  
     11:30 a.m. Primetimers Lunch at  
             Briarpatch Restaurant  
 January 4-  
     9:00 a.m. Chrismon Tree take down  
     1:00 p.m. DWM Day Group at church  
 January 5  
     6:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship\*  
 January 6- Epiphany  
     2:30 p.m. Refugee Food Pantry  
 January 9- Worship and Sunday School  
     1:00- 3:30 p.m. Youth Ice Skating  
 January 12  
     6:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship\*  
 January 13  
     6:00 p.m. DWM Night Group  
         at Gina Kane's Home  
 January 16- Worship and Sunday School  
 January 17- MLK Jr. Day Observed  
 January 19-  
     6:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship\*  
 January 20-  
     2:30 p.m. Refugee Food Pantry  
 January 23- Worship and Sunday School  
 January 24-  
     6:30 p.m.- OCTC Chorus  
 January 26  
     6:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship\*  
 January 30- Worship and Sunday School  
 January 31  
     6:30 p.m.- OCTC Chorus

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

## BIRTHDAYS

5 Jack Lee  
 5 Charles Mahlinger  
 6 Joyce Bennett  
 6 Martha Quisenberry  
 8 Max Baur  
 10 Barbara Beane  
 11 Teresa McKinley  
 11 Henry Connor  
 12 Riley Glenn  
 13 Cori Douglas  
 15 Elizabeth Yager  
 15 John Clay Ford  
 16 Becky Gordon  
 16 Zeke Douglas  
 18 Hampton Gaddis  
 18 Mark Luckett  
 18 Joseph Berry  
 20 Camryn Kyle  
 20 Janet Luckett  
 20 Pearl Simon  
 20 Gary Tunget  
 22 Millie McDannel

22 Julie Burg  
 23 Stacy Castlen  
 27 Scarlett Roark  
 27 Mike Tichenor  
 27 Francy Miller  
 27 Norris Cotton  
 29 Natalie Johnson  
 31 Tres Sterett

## ANNIVERSARIES

2 Terry & Patti Brownson  
 14 Katherine & Pavel Zbořil  
 17 Chris & Laura Michael  
 19 Jim & Martha Quisenberry  
 20 Gloria & John Strehl

## November Financials:

Offering for the Month:	\$54,845
Other Revenue Month:	\$111
Total Revenue:	\$54,956
Expenses for the month	\$36,033
Net for the month	(\$18,923)
Year-to-Date Offering	\$427,896
YTD Other Revenue	\$18,073
YTD Revenue	\$445,969
YTD Expenses	\$377,015
Net for the year	\$68,954
<u>Outreach:</u>	
West Area Disciples CC	\$2,142
Disciples Mission Fund	\$3,571
HELP Office	\$900



### **Youth News- Ice Skating- Jan 9, 2022**

Let's go ice skating! Middle AND High school youth are invited for an afternoon of skating at the Edge Ice Center January 9th 1:00-3:30 pm. Group admission fee (includes skates) is \$4.50/person plus money for snacks, arcade games. When entering, say "First Christian Church youth" to get discount.

### **DWM- Disciples Women's Ministries**

January meeting for day group is Tuesday, January 4, at 1:00 PM at First Christian Church. The night group will meet January 13th at 6:00 at Gina Kane's 3123 Spring Point. Please bring donations of snacks for Hayden Home for Girls. Needed are: Small packets of Kool-aid, Little Debbie Cakes, Cheese Crackers, Peanut Butter Crackers, Nutty Buddies, Microwave Popcorn, Pop Tarts, Individual small bags chips. For more info, contact Kaye Farmer: [jdkfarmer@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### **Primetimers Lunch and White Elephant Exchange**

Primetimers will be having lunch at Briarpatch Restaurant on Monday, January 3. We will be exchanging white elephant gifts. Please RSVP by Sunday, January 2. Contact Ron Waite for more information or to RSVP: Ron Waite: Home - (270) 683-8510  
Mobile - (812) 454-8555; [ronwownsbr@aol.com](mailto:ronwownsbr@aol.com)



### **Singers Welcome**

There are opportunities to share your musical gifts in 2022! The FCC Choir will resume rehearsals after the first of the year, and we'd love to have your participation. Contact Mike Tichenor for more information: [pmiket@att.net](mailto:pmiket@att.net)  
The OCTC Chorus will also be resuming on January 24. Please contact Connie Ford for information about joining: [connie.ford@kctcs.edu](mailto:connie.ford@kctcs.edu)



**First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

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