

# THE CALLER



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)  
OWENSBORO, KY

December 2022

From the Preacherman....

A new year quickens the pulse and excites with the prospect of a blank slate, all those days and weeks just sitting out there waiting to be lived. Of course, many people don't feel that way. A sense of unease and dread casts a pall over the year to come. Illness and loss color the way we see the days ahead, as does the threat of terror, disease and violence. Maybe it's better if we just hunker down and keep to ourselves and prepare for the worst? Lots of people live that way. You can too.

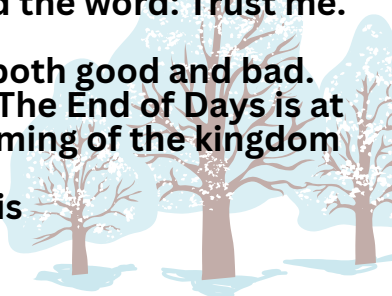
The Gospels announce something different. "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near," proclaims Jesus. "Repent and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:15). A new age has dawned in Jesus of Nazareth. Like the sun rising on a new day, the coming of Jesus into the world is God's dawning of a new age for all humanity. Advent prepares us for the coming of this new age and Christmas celebrates his birth. The season of Epiphany, beginning January 6, invites us to pay attention to the manifestation of the new age of Christ in our ordinary daily lives. God invites us to see and experience the world differently, to see through the eyes of his heart a world full of the glory of God, even in the worst of circumstances.

It is appropriate that Jesus includes the word "Repent" in his initial sermon in Mark's Gospel. "Repent" is such a great word with such a sorry history, calling to mind overwrought revival preachers casting listeners repeatedly against the rocks of our own failures until, broken and beaten, we finally turn to the light of Jesus. Repent is far more benign and at the same time provocative, if such a thing is possible. "Repent" simply means "to turn." In Jesus' preaching "Repent" is an invitation to turn from all the other ways of living and turn to him. No self-flagellation or debasement are needed.


In our context "Repent" might mean allowing ourselves to believe that God has not abandoned the good creation but is indeed as active and present as God has ever been. Repent might mean that we unclench our fists and open our hands. Repent might mean that we consider the possibility that the vulnerable, kind, compassionate way of Jesus is indeed a better way to live than being tethered to the anxiety of the internet 24 hours a day. Repent might mean what it has always meant, ever since Jesus first said the word: Trust me. I got this.

A new year dawns, quickening the pulse. Many things will happen both good and bad. Some will proclaim that it's the worst time ever! The fall of civilization! The End of Days is at hand!!! So remember, Jesus already announced the end of days, the coming of the kingdom of God. Trust him. He's got this.

Peace....Chris



# January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1  Worship at 10:00 a.m.	2	3 DWM Day Group 1:00 p.m. Tree Take-Down Day	4 Choir Practice 6:00 pm Men's Fellowship 6:30 am Youth Group 6:00 pm	5 Refugee Food Pantry 1:30 pm	6	7
8 Worship/Sunday School	9	10 Elders Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.	11 Youth Group 6:00 pm Choir Practice 6:00 pm Men's Fellowship 6:30 am Midday Moon Meeting	12	13	14
15 Worship/Sunday School Installation of new Officers!	16	17 Board Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.	18 Choir Practice 6:00 pm Men's Fellowship 6:30 am Youth Group 6:00 pm	19 Refugee Food Pantry 1:30 pm	20	21
22 Worship/Sunday School	23	24	25 Choir Practice 6:00 pm Men's Fellowship 6:30 am Youth Group Movie Outing	26	27	28
29 Worship/Sunday School	30	31				

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

## Birthdays

5 Jack Lee  
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 Lockett  
18 Joseph Berry  
20 Camryn Kyle  
20 Janet Lockett  
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  
20 Gloria & John Strehl

## November Financials

Offering for the Month:	\$69,038
Other Revenue Month:	\$334
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$69,372</b>
Expenses for the month	\$62,081
Net for the month	\$7,291
Year-to-Date Offering	\$492,832
YTD Other Revenue	\$19,928
YTD Revenue	\$512,760
YTD Expenses	\$441,094
Net for the year	\$71,666
Outreach:	
West Area Disciples CC	\$2,179
Disciples Mission Fund	\$3,667
HELP Office	\$900

# DWM

## MIDDAY MOON GROUP

Next Meeting: Wednesday,  
January 11, 2023!

12:00 p.m. @ Century 21

## DAY GROUP

Next Meeting: Tuesday,  
January 3, 2023!

1:00 p.m. @ FCC

## upcoming meetings

**Elders Meeting:**  
**January 10, 2023**  
**@ 5:30 p.m.**

**Board Meeting:**  
**January 17, 2023**  
**@ 5:30 p.m.**

## YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will meet:  
*January 4th, 11th, & 18th*

On *January 25th*, there will be a Youth outing to the movies!

More details to come on this fun event!

**Ash Wednesday is on  
February 22, 2023**

**Lent begins!**

