

THE CALLER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)
OWENSBORO, KY

December 2023

From the Preacherman....

Christmas is music. Whatever else you can say about the season- the gifts, Santa Claus, family, the birth of Jesus- it is most certainly about songs. Does anyone go caroling on Valentine's Day? Gather for singing on Memorial Day? Sing any Thanksgiving songs recently? Easter has lots of songs, but radio stations don't play Easter music for a month. Independence Day? Maybe, if you are into marches and such. Even our birthdays only get a single tune, and it isn't very complicated or fancy.

But Christmas? The season is inseparably intertwined with songs. Hundreds of them, maybe thousands. There are so many great secular songs we can scarcely name them: "I'll Be Home for Christmas" or "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" just to name two. The sheer number of religious tunes is astounding. We can hum the melodies if nothing else



Why is this so? For lack of a better phrase, music is time-travel. No matter the song or tune, we are often transported to another place and time when we hear the familiar. I have songs I heard at 16, driving around Eastman, Georgia in 1982, songs that evoke that very place and time in my life, right down to the smells of the air and the gnats in my mouth. Music does that to us, inviting us into a world that isn't past at all. (h/t William Faulkner)

Also, music touches us in deep places emotionally, places that evoke feelings we don't even know. The Apostle Paul calls this "sighs too deep for words" in Romans 8. The words and the music we sing and hear at Christmas are evocative, as if we are haunted by the presence of another that we cannot quite touch or see.

In this spirit, my sermons in Advent and Christmas will arise from the songs we sing: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel;" "O Little Town of Bethlehem;" "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day;" "Away in a Manger;" "Silent Night" and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing." Even if some of the words aren't quite recalled, you are already humming the tunes, your souls moving across miles and years to a place you remember but haven't yet visited. Yes, that place, deep down at the foundations of the world. Listen and watch. Christmas is coming, wafting in on the wind. "You better watch out, you better not cry, you better not pout, I'm telling you why...." Peace....Chris



DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 First Sunday of Advent Worship/Sunday School	4 OCTC Choir Concert 	5 Primetimers Plus Christmas Brunch @ Miller House 9:30 a.m.	6 DWM 12:00 p.m. @ Century 21. Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	7 Fa Ho Lo Christmas Meal @ Moonlite BBQ 6:00 p.m. Refugee Food Pantry 1:30 pm	8	9
10 Worship/Sunday School Symphony Sunday!	11	12 DWM 12:00 p.m. @ Kaye Farmers House	13 Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	14	15	16
17 Worship/Sunday School Congregational Meeting	18	19	20 Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	21 Refugee Food Pantry 1:30 pm	22	23
24 9:00 Morning Service 5:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas 	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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

Birthdays

- 2 Molly Roberts
- 2 Tracy Elliott
- 6 Addison Callis
- 7 Mallory Roberts
- 9 Sally Ham

- 9 Jane Howard
- 10 Todd Harper
- 10 Stacey Carter
- 11 Jennifer Yates
- 11 Layla Herrera
- 12 Larkin Hayden
- 12 Shelby Doolittle

- 12 Barbara Chavez
- 13 Sara Aud
- 16 Ann Miller
- 18 Philip Travis
- 19 Gene Parks
- 20 Patty Matthews
- 21 Ellington Aud
- 21 Anna Ruth Travis

- 22 Madelyn Castlen
- 22 Kevin O'Hearn
- 23 John Strehl
- 24 Kaye Farmer
- 24 Graham Johnson
- 25 Don Neel

Anniversaries

- Joseph & Haley Berry
- Chris & Stacy Castlen
- Eric & Laura Farmer
- Ronnie & Marilyn Forrester
- Frank & Linda Jones
- John & Jane Miller
- Tom & Barbara Norvell
- Steve & Cathy Perrin
- Dave & Holly Roark

October Financials

Offering for the Month:	\$38,596
Other Revenue Month:	\$4,385
Total Revenue:	\$42,982
Expenses for the month	\$39,669
Year-to-Date Offering	\$472,021
YTD Other Revenue	\$19,625
YTD Revenue	\$491,646
YTD Expenses	\$426,512
Net for the year	\$65,134
Outreach:	
West Area Disciples CC	\$0
Disciples Mission Fund	\$0
HELP Office	\$0
Misc.	\$1,134



The Owensboro Choral Society, directed by Connie Ford, will present Handel's Messiah on Sunday, Dec. 3rd at 2:30 at Third Baptist Church. All proceeds go to the Goodfellows of Owensboro.

The OCTC Community Chorus will present a Christmas concert on Monday, Dec. 4th, at 7:00 p.m. at First Christian Church. Directed by Connie Ford and accompanied by Anna Sparks, the 40-voice chorus will present a variety of Christmas choral works. Church members in the chorus include Janet Corum, Carroll Laswell, Beverly and Kirby Chelgren, Janet Estes, Mike Tichenor, and Bonnie Brown.

COMING UP!



Primetimers Brunch 12/5 @
9:30 a.m.

DWM Meeting 12/6 @ 1:00 p.m.

DWM Daytime Meeting @ Kaye
Farmers house on 12/12 @
12:00

Symphony Sunday 12/10

Board Meeting 12/12 @ 5:30
p.m.

Congregational Meeting 12/17



Thank You

We send our heartfelt thank you to everyone at FCC for your many prayers, cards, visits, and the delicious dinner after the funeral for Rich. Chris was such a comforting presence in the weeks during Rich's illness also. It is a blessing to be part of such a caring, kind church family. Love you all - The family of Rich Suwanski (Janet, Jill, and Ellen)


December



2023 Reverse Advent Calendar

Each day add an item to your family advent box & bring to FCC!

Sponsored by the Primetimers Plus Group

					1 Box of Cereal	2 Peanut Butter
3 Cooking Oil	4 Pckg. or Boxed Potatoes	5 Macaroni & Cheese	6 Can of Fruit	7 Can of Tomatoes	8 Can of Tuna	9 Pckg. of pudding cups
10 Jar of Apple-sauce	11 Can of Sweet Potatoes	12 Peanut Butter	13 Can of Beans	14 Box of Crackers	15 Package of Rice	16 Box of Oatmeal
17 Package of Pasta	18 Spaghetti Sauce	19 Chicken Noodle Soup	20 Tomato Soup	21 Can of Corn	22 Can of Chicken	23 Box of Crackers
24 Can of Green Beans	25 					

There will be collection tables in the lobby on Sundays starting on November 26th!

Collect these items at home & bring them to FCC OR sponsor the Advent month for \$40 cash or check. Please write "Reverse Advent" in memo line of check.

Thank you for your generosity!