

THE CALLER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)
OWENSBORO, KY



From the Preacherman....

I live in border country; so do you. No, I don't mean that I live on the border of a section of this nation. I do live a few miles from the state of Indiana which lies just across the river. There is a border between us, a state line marked on maps and signs and voiceded by a map service in many vehicles. "Welcome to...." That kind of border is curious and interesting but is not what I mean. I mean something deeper and more important.

Border country is the edge of the unknown, the land both settled and understood, but also the territory that is beyond, mysterious and even a little scary. As a pastor I get to visit that border country a lot. I get to talk with people who have welcomed new life into this world. I get to listen to people who pour out their hearts when they confess failures to grasp opportunities for relationships. I get the privilege of sharing tears with people who have suffered great loss. I get to face death with people, the time to face the true mystery of life when all seems to fail, yet hope resides.

Border country is that liminal space, the threshold between one thing and another, that we preachers absolutely live for. In a good sermon, when somehow time and space between ancient stories and our own have collapsed, time ceases to pass, the hands on the clock stop moving and nothing else matters. Then is now is forever is the moment. We live in our known lands, but the border has moved and suddenly the world looks different. Music can do this to us. So can art.

Our culture minimizes such experiences, delving instead into stuff and things, fame and notoriety, money and possessions. It shallowly inquires what you got for your birthday or Christmas or graduation, etc. Rarer is the experience that simply boils down to the essence of things: deep conversations, laughter and tears, good food and drink, stories that are so good they just have to be true. I don't miss a single gift my parents ever gave me. I miss my parents.

At my 40th high school graduation celebration- the greatest class ever: Dodge County High School Class of 1984!- I got to see friends and share old memories and marvel at all the people whose hair had escaped like my own. I also got to see years and decades collapse into moments as we shared old stories and amazing events that happened yesterday forty years ago. I got to visit border country for a little while and it was amazing. I am thankful for the experiences with all my friends.

Advent is border country in the Christian faith. Starting on December 1 this year, it's not quite Christmas, but headed that way. Advent invites us to wait and watch and linger in anticipation. My hope for my church and my friends is that you can step away from the busyness that the culture values so much but is ultimately worthless. Pay attention to the stories and music, the relationships and the people. They are invaluable. Those things will not be there in the same way ever again. Go to border country. You won't be disappointed.

Peace, Chris





December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 OCTC Choir Concert @ 7 	3	4 Board Meeting @ 5:30 p.m. Men's Fellowship 6:30 am Choir Elementary Youth Group	5 Refugee Food Pantry	6	7
8 Hospice Service @ 2:00 p.m. Children's Bake Sale MS/HS Group Worship/Sunday School	9 Retired Teacher Luncheon 10-1	10	11 DWM Elementary Youth Group Men's Fellowship 6:30 am Choir	12 Primetimers Christmas Brunch @ 9:30 a.m.	13	14
15  Symphony Sunday Children's Christmas Play	16	17 	18 Elementary Youth Group Choir Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	19 Angel Tree Gifts Due Refugee Food Pantry	20	21 Christmas Basket Pickup 10-12
22 Congregational Meeting Worship/Sunday School	23	24 Christmas Eve service @ 5:00 p.m.	25 Merry Christmas 	26	27	28
29 No WW or Sunday School Worship	30	31				

*Men's Fellowship meets at Panera- 4600 Frederica St. @ 6:30 a.m. ev

Birthdays

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

10 Stacey Carter
10 Todd Harper
11 Jennifer Yates
11 Layla Rose Herrera
12 Barbara Chavez
12 Larkin Hayden

12 Shelby Roberts
13 Sara Aud
16 Ann Miller
18 Philip Travis
19 Gene Parks
20 Patty Matthews

21 Anna Ruth Travis
21 Ellington Aud
22 Kevin O'Hearn
22 Madelyn Castlen
23 John Strehl
24 Kaye Farmer
24 Graham Johnson
25 Don Neel

Anniversaries

Mike & Rebecca Glenn
Jim & Cathy Midkiff
Jason & Mallory Roberts

**SYMPHONY
SUNDAY**

**DECEMBER
15, 2024
@ 9:00 A.M.**



October Financials

Offering for the Month:	\$31,552.24
Other Revenue Month:	\$5,165.50
Total Revenue:	\$36,717.50
Expenses:	(\$47,671.03)
Net Loss:	(\$10,953.29)

Year-to-Date Offering	\$385,926.77
YTD Other Revenue	\$31,453.20
YTD Revenue	\$417,379.97
YTD Expenses	(\$444,032.62)
Net for the year	(\$26,652.65)

MEETING

*Board Meeting- 12/4 @
5:30 p.m. at FCC*

*Congregational Meeting
Sunday, 12/22
Following Worship*

Christmas Eve Service

**December 24th
@ 5:00 p.m.**

PRIMETIMERS PLUS CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

THE MILLER HOUSE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH @
9:30 A.M.
COST: \$22.50

PLEASE RESERVE A SPOT BY 12/8

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

★ OCTC Choir Concert
Monday, 12/2 @ 7:00 p.m.
(KY Youth Chorale will be featured)

★ Hospice Service
Sunday, 12/8 @ 2:00 p.m.

★ DWM Meeting
Wednesday 12/11
@ 12:00 p.m.

HELP NEEDED!

*Help Needed in Our Church Nursery!
Our nursery team is looking for someone who is
caring and dependable and would like to join us
in providing a safe and nurturing environment
for our youngest members during service.*

*If you're interested or would like more details,
please contact the Church office @
270.684.8879.*

Your support can make a big difference!



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS PLAY



15 DEC
2024

5⁰⁰ PM

CHILDREN &
YOUTH
MINISTRIES

FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP & A VISIT FROM
SANTA + ANNOUNCING RAFFLE WINNERS

Middle & High
School

Youth

Group

Sunday, December 22nd

- * We will have Sunday School class for MS/HS Students
- * No evening youth activities (enjoy your Christmas break)

Sunday, December 29th

- * No Sunday School or evening youth activities for MS/HS Students (enjoy your Christmas break)

Sunday, January 5th

- * No Sunday School or evening youth activities for MS/HS Students (enjoy your Christmas break)

Please contact Amanda Evans for any questions!

Christmas Bowling Party

Middle School and High School Students



Sunday, December 8th
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Diamond Lanes South

Wednesday, December 4th



FCC Youth

Middle School & High School
Students

Ring the Bell

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
@ Kroger on KY-144

Come ring the Salvation Army bell with us. It's for a good cause.
Afterwards we'll stop at Wonder Whip for a meal.

FCC Youth

MS/HS Students



You can help with our
adopted Angel Tree
family.



We will need help
with donations and
shopping.

Angel Tree



DOING THE MOST GOOD®

Please contact
Amanda if you would
like to help.



Sunday, December 1st

FCC YOUTH

MS/HS Students

YOUTH ZONE GAMES

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

at First Christian Church

RSVP on the GroupMe App