# 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 voiced 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

## Jecember

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 OCTC Choir Concert @ 7	3	<sup>4</sup> Board Meeting @ 5:30 p.m. Men's Fellowship 6:30 an Choir Elementary Youth Group	Defense Fred	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 <b>DWM</b> Elementary Youth Group Men's Fellowship 6:30 am Choir		13	14
15 Symphony Sunday Children's Christmas Play	16	17	18 Elementary Youth Group Choir Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	Refugee Food	20	21 Christmas Basket Pickup 10-12
22 Congregational Meeting Worship/Sunday School	23	24 Christmas Eve service @ 5:00 p.m.	<sup>25</sup> 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



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

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

> SYMPHONY SUNDAY

## **October Financials**

Offering for the Month: Other Revenue Month: Total Revenue: Expenses: Net Loss:

Year-to-Date Offering YTD Other Revenue YTD Revenue YTD Expenses Net for the year \$31,552.24 \$5,165.50 \$36,717.50 (\$47,671.03) (\$10,953.29)

\$385,926.77 \$31,453.20 \$417,379.97 (\$444,032.62) (\$26,652.65)

### PRIMETIMERS / PLUS CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

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

PLEASE RESERVE A SPOT BY 12/8

Board Meeting- 12/4 @ 5:30 p.m. at FCC Congregational Meeting Sunday, 12/22 Following Worship

MEETING

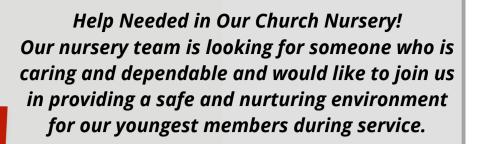
Christmas Eve Service December 24th @ 5:00 p.m.

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

CCTC 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.



If you're interested or would like more details, please contact the Church office @ 270.684.8879. Your support can make a big difference!



## Middle & High School YOUTH

## **Christmas Bowling Party**

Middle School and High School Students

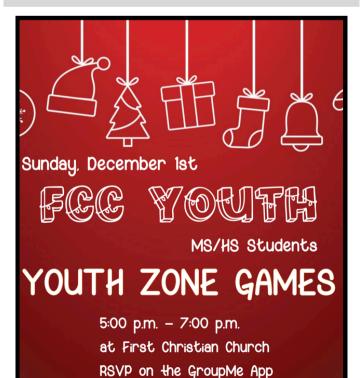
Sunday, December 22nd \* We will have Sunday School class for MS/ HS Students \* No evening youth activities (enjoy your Christmas break)

Group

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!







Middle School & High School Students

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

**Diamond Lanes South** 

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

## **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 Please contact Amanda if you would like to help.

DOING THE MOST GOOD