

THE CALLER



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)
OWENSBORO, KY

From the Preacherman....

When I was younger, much younger, I thought I knew the meaning of Christmas. It was about gifts, right? You know the gifts we buy for others and the cookies we bake for friends and yes, the gift of baby Jesus in the manger. Ok, but If I am honest, truly honest, it was all about the gifts I was going to receive. I marked the pages in the toy catalogues for my parents so they would know exactly what to tell Santa to put in my stocking on Christmas morning and under the tree and at my grandparents' house later. What am I getting? I really needed to know!

What is amazing now is what I remember. I remember the Christmas when my dad was in seminary and my brothers and I got multiple model airplanes to build and paint and hang from the ceiling in our bedroom. Odd, isn't it, that the Christmas that first springs to mind was the most tenuous of my parents' young life together. They were hundreds of miles from home and family, working part-time jobs, based on something as tenuous as my father's call to ministry. However, the struggle makes my memory clearer. It is not unconfined joy, but the sharp ache that I remember.

Now, I pay attention to the ache, the longing, the hope for fulfillment. What I know now is that the season is about waiting, anticipation and the excitement that somehow slows time to a crawl so that Christmas seems to move with the swiftness of a sloth. I am so grateful as an adult to revere the season of Advent in preparation for Christmas and to actually celebrate the full 12 days of Christmas from December 25 to January 5. The seasons give the days room to breathe, time is given space to dawdle.

As a boy I remember my grandfather Michael putting lights on the giant holly tree beside the front door of his house. The tree was fifteen or twenty feet tall, huge at the base, with sharp leaves that pricked a child's hands when stringing the lights. And such lights! They were huge, thumb-sized bulbs in brilliant colors. They seemed visible for miles, or at least they did to me as I stood in the dark amazed.




What I remember most, however, is the quiet, the stillness, the hint of a promise of something coming, something unexpected and untamed. That is what I remember most and what I long for now, not gifts or presents, but PRESENCE, God's presence in this world, the true gift of Christmas. We have to pay attention, to listen and watch and smell and taste for the One who moves among us. Advent and Christmas urge us to calmness and silence and stillness, both with our memories and our hopes for days to come.

The culture around us will be loud and boisterous, but pay attention to the silence. Look and listen and watch. Christmas is coming. Christmas is here.

Peace.... Chris



December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 OCTC Chorus Dress Rehearsal @ 6:30 p.m.	2 Board Meeting @ 5:30 p.m. Last day to RSVP for Primitimers Outing	3 Dinner @ 5:30 p.m. Worship @ 6:15p.m. Youth Groups @ 6:30 p.m.	4 Choir Rehearsal @ 5:00 p.m.	5	6 
7 Youth Bake Sale Fundraiser Worship/Sunday School Handbell Rehearsals	8  OCTC Chorus Concert @ 7:00 p.m.	9  Primitimers Outing to Miller House 10 a.m.	10 Dinner @ 5:30 p.m. Worship @ 6:15p.m. Youth Groups @ 6:30 p.m.	11	12	13
14 Symphony Sunday Youth Christmas Play, Cookies, & Santa @ 5 p.m. Worship/Sunday School Handbell Rehearsals	15 Retired Teacher Luncheon 10-1	16	17 Angel Tree Gifts DUE! Youth Christmas Caroling & Wrapping @ 5 p.m. NO Dinner & Church	18 Refugee Food Pantry 10-1	19	20 Angel Tree Pick up Gifts and Food 10 a.m. -12 p.m.
21  Congregational Meeting Worship/Sunday School	22 	23	24  Christmas Eve Service @ 5:00 p.m. CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	25 	26 	27
28 Worship/Sunday School	29	30	31  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED			

*Men's Fellowship at Great Harvest on Frederica Every Wednesday @ 6:30 a.m.

Birthdays

2 Tracy Elliott
2 Molly Roberts
6 Addison Callis
7 Mallory Roberts
9 Sally Ham
10 Todd Harper
10 Stacey Carter
11 Layla Rose
11 Jennifer Yates
12 Shelby Roberts
12 Larkin Hayden
12 Barbara Chavez
12 Russ Wilkey

13 Sara Aud
16 Ann Miller
18 Philip Travis
20 Patty Matthews
21 Elle Claire Aud
21 Anna Travis
22 Madelyn Castlen
22 Kevin O'Hearn
23 John Strehl
24 Kaye Farmer
24 Graham Johnson
25 Don Neel

Anniversaries

Roy & Sue Boling
Mike & Rebecca Glenn
Jim & Cathy Midkiff
Phillip & Arden Mitchell
Jason & Mallory Roberts

October Financials

Offering for the Month:	\$46,207.82
Other Revenue Month:	\$5,129.47
Total Revenue:	\$51,337.29
Expenses:	(\$63,624.52)
Net:	(\$12,287.23)
Year-to-Date Offering	\$365,939.40
YTD Other Revenue	\$27,820.26
YTD Revenue	\$393,759.66
YTD Expenses	(\$511,038.40)
Net for the year	(\$117,278.74)

**SYMPHONY
SUNDAY**

**DECEMBER 14
@ 9:00 A.M.**



"Thank You" and December Events

To Our Friends at FCC.

We want to extend a very warm thank you for your generosity. Too often, we as humans get caught up in the minutiae of daily physical life. Through your grant, not only are we better equipped to empower the lives of children and adults, but we are also spiritually renewed! How great is the love of our Savior, that He helps us to provide for those in greatest need. We are so incredibly grateful and humbled by your support.

Thank you!

The H.L. Neblett Center

MEETING

***Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 2
@ 5:30 p.m.***

***Congregational Meeting
Sunday, December 21
Following Worship***



A HUGE 'THANK YOU!' to those households who have filled out a Pledge Card for 2026. Your pledge makes it easier for the Church to plan for 2026!

A sincere 'THANK YOU!' to all whom brought food and/or made monetary donations to the food pantry this past month. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated!

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Choir Practice Thursday
Dec 4 @ 5 p.m.

Youth Bake Sale Fundraiser
Dec 7 Before/After Church

OCTC Community Chorus Concert

Monday, Dec 8 @ 6:30 p.m.

Primetimers Christmas Outing
to The Miller House

Tuesday, Dec 9 @ 10 a.m.

(RSVP by December 2)

Angel Tree Gifts Due by Dec 17

Angel Tree Family Pickup gifts & food

Saturday, Dec 20 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Handbells Performance

Sunday, Dec 21 @ 9 a.m. Service

NO Wednesday Night Dinner,
Worship, or Youth Groups
12/17, 12/24, or 12/31



**The Church has Advent
Devotionals for sale for \$3.00.
The first day of Advent was
November 30th. The
Devotional includes the 12
days of Christmas, as well!**



Christmas Eve Service

**Wednesday,
December 24
@ 5:00 p.m.**



Life at FCC



Our Church and the John Hager Fund for Community Enrichment hosted Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence and Rev. Dr. Jake Myers to come, preach, speak, and lead a clergy workshop November 2-3. They provided great insight not only for our congregation, but also our community and local clergy.



Nancy picks up the used towels from the Worship & Wonder room every Sunday, launders them, and brings them back every week!

Cathy, Anne, and Martha cooked up some delicious vegetable soup for "Empty Bowls", a fundraiser in which participants get a handmade bowl with their dinner of soup and bread. Proceeds from the dinner and a silent auction remain in the community and are awarded to local food pantries or soup kitchens.



Seth Woodward spoke to the Primetimers at Moonlite BBQ about the two locations of Wonder Whip that he owns.



The "FCC Fluffers" getting the new trees ready for the season of Advent and Christmas. Look closely and you'll see Martha, Gary T., and Francy.



Thanksgiving Potluck

The Fellowship Committee hosted about 120 for Thanksgiving Potluck on November 12th.



Angela found the perfect spot for Kyle's casserole.



Sara & Meghan are all smiles and no kids!



Brooks, Holden, & Zeke were first in line and first to clean their plates!

Phillip & Arden Mitchell drove seven hours to make it to the potluck!



L-R: Patrick, Michelle, Bill (Michelle's dad), Ann Jeannette, Leslie, and Richard enjoy each other's company while letting their food 'settle'.



Cathy, Carolyn, Anne, & crew are busy cleaning up the kitchen and leftovers.



fcc youth




BAKE SALE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
BEFORE & AFTER
WORSHIP

ALL PROCEEDS GO
TOWARDS THE YOUTH
ANGEL SHOPPING!



DECEMBER YOUTH NEWSLETTER

DATE	EVENT & INFORMATION
12/3	YOUTH GROUP (BEGIN WORKING ON CHRISTMAS PLAY) BE SURE YOUR CHILD IS IN ATTENDANCE THIS MONTH IF THEY PLAN TO BE IN THE CHRISTMAS PLAY! THE PLAY IS ON DECEMBER 14 AT 5 PM FOLLOWED BY COOKIES WITH SANTA IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
12/7	 YOUTH BAKE SALE & RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE BEGINNING TODAY (\$10 EACH)- ALL PROCEEDS GO TO YOUTH ANGEL SHOPPING (YOUTH ARE SHOPPING FOR 6 CHILDREN THIS YEAR)
12/10	YOUTH GROUP (WORK ON CHRISTMAS PLAY) RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE AT WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER
12/14	 SYMPHONY SUNDAY 5PM: CHRISTMAS PLAY & COOKIES WITH SANTA RAFFLE WINNERS ANNOUNCED (WINNER MUST BE PRESENT!)
12/17	 YOUTH CAROLING & WRAPPING

There are lots of events and things happening this month! Please make sure your child is here at church on Sundays and Wednesdays!

PARENTS!
WE CAN USE ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET THIS MONTH TO KEEP ALL THE CHRISTMAS MAGIC ON TRACK! FEEL FREE TO STICK AROUND ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS OR DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL HOURS TO HELP OUT!



New Faces at FCC



Welcome, Marsha Hicks!

Marsha joined the Church November 5th. She lives with her husband, Jim, and daughter's family at 4406 Wilderness Trace (42303).



Welcome, Phillip & Arden Mitchell!

Phillip is our new Minister of Music. He and Arden officially moved to Owensboro November 12th. They joined the Church November 19th and just moved into their new home at 2118 York Drive (42301).

Not a new face, but
SNOW fell on
November 10th!!



Captain Duane Harper, with the Daviess County Sherriff's Department has enjoyed his new 'gig', working security at our Church on Wednesdays.



Olivia Owen has been cooking some delicious meals for our Wednesday night dinners. She is a science teacher at Foust with twenty years in education. She loves cooking and used to make a salad bar for her school. When asked about making dinners for the Church, Olivia said, "I love it there! Everyone is so friendly and welcoming! I look forward to going and seeing everyone on Wednesdays!"

deck halls

On November 24th
our little elves
were busying
themselves by
getting the Church
ready for the
Advent and
Christmas Seasons
to begin on
November 30th.
You may notice a
few changes in the
decor and a few of
our old favorites
too!



Jack, we caught you on camera!
You are perfectly capable of
decorating a Christmas Tree!
--Martha Lee



Gary and Carroll were working hard
behind the scenes as well as in front of
them. Be careful on those ladders!



Francy, Ginger, and
Michelle were like the three
"Queens" in their crown
ornaments made by the late,
great Marjorie Flowers.



Gary worked up a sweat in
creating a new nativity scene for
the Church.



Anne does NOT like to be
caught on camera, but
we did it! She was hard
at work and did not see
us sneaking around.





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