

Welcome, Visitors! If you are visiting today, we are so pleased that you chose to worship with us. If we can do anything to make you more comfortable during your visit, please feel free to reach out to an usher or our Pastor. Here at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) we take Communion each Sunday. Anyone who is a follower of Christ is invited to partake. If you are interested in membership or learning more about our church, please speak with Rev. Michael following the service.

Children in Worship

Children are always welcome to participate in Worship. We do offer childcare for infants to 3 year olds while parents attend Worship and Sunday School. As an alternative to Sanctuary Worship, we offer Worship and Wonder, an experience designed to give children the opportunity to hear Bible stories and learn the Gospel at their own level. Children ages 3 through 2nd grade are welcome to join us following the "Children's Blessing."

If you haven't checked out our website and social media pages, we'd love to connect with you in that way:

Website: www.fccowb.org
Facebook: FCCOwensboro
Instagram: @fccowb



Online Giving
Online giving is now live for tithes and offerings. To submit your gift, visit www.fccowb.org/give or text "FCCOWB" to 73256. You may also scan the QR code to the left!

Staff

Sr. Minister.....	Rev. J. Chris Michael
Minister of Music.....	Dr. Phillip Mitchell
Minister of Finance.....	Kristin Callis
Education & Youth Activities	Meaghan Murphy
Education & Children’s Activities	Riley Payne
Executive Assistant.....	Stacy Castlen
Pianist.....	Ann Jeannette Pierce
Nursery.....	Kacee Glenn, Kaydence Coomes, & Sherry Rhoads
AV Team.....	Max and Miles Baur, & Christian Murphy

Contact Us:
Church Office 270-684-8879
Church Email: contact@fccowb.org
Web Address: www.fccowb.org
Guest Wifi Password: FCCGuest!

This week at First Christian Church (DOC)

*CR- Choir Room; C- Conference Room; F-Fellowship Hall;
FHL-Fa-Ho-Lo Room; S-Sanctuary*

Sunday, December 21 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:20 a.m. 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.		Worship Service (S) Fellowship (F) Sunday School Bethel Family Christmas
Monday, December 22		
Tuesday, December 23		
Wednesday, December 24 6:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	Men's Fellowship (Great Harvest on Frederica)	Church Office Closed Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, December 25		Church Office Closed
Friday, December 26		Church Office Closed
Saturday, December 27		



Announcements

There is a Congregational Meeting immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Church Service this morning.

Only ONE bag left of pecans for \$14.00! The proceeds go to St.Joseph Peace Mission.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service begins at 5:00 this Wednesday.

The Church Office will be closed 12/24, 12/25, 12/31, & 1/1/2026.

We are collecting mittens, hats, & scarves for kids and teens that will be donated to the schools and shelters. You can donate any and all and place them on the tree in the lobby now until January 4th.

Every household, please fill out a pledge card and let the Church have an idea what you are planning to give in 2026. If you are currently giving through a bank draft or by some other automatic means, you NEED to fill out a card for 2026. Your pledge will NOT automatically renew after January 1, 2026. We need to plan the 2026 mission and ministry in our Church and our community.



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
700 J. R. Miller Blvd.
Owensboro, KY 42303
270-684-8879 www.fccowb.org



 **FIRST
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**
(Disciples of Christ)

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025

December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

SEEKING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Welcome

Rev. Chris Michael

Bringing of the Light

Bell of Mindfulness

(Please use this time for quiet reflection.)

Prelude

FCC Celebration Ringers

Prelude

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

arr. Anna Laura Page

Call to Worship

Gary Bielefeld

One: Because of You, Righteous God, we begin our journey to Bethlehem,

All: trusting that You will lead us down the paths of faithfulness.

One: For You, Child Jesus, we wait,

All: on this day of anticipation and hope, in the days of doubt and worry.

One: With You, Spirit of Advent, we serve,

All: those for whom this season is not one of joy; those whose lives are empty of family and friends.

*Hymn #155

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer

Gary Bielefeld

(using “debts” and “debtors”)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - Candle of Joy

Children’s Blessing

Rev. Chris Michael

Children ages 3 through 2nd grade are invited forward for a blessing, then will be escorted to Worship and Wonder (located at the end of the first floor education wing)

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Chris Michael

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Choir Message

Ann Jeannette Pierce, Piano

“Christmas Peace” (a Song for Advent)

Phillip E. Mitchell

Second Scripture Reading	Rev. Chris Michael
Matthew 1:18-25	
One: The Word of God for the people of God.	
All: Thanks be to God.	
Sermon	Rev. Chris Michael
“Acts of Great Faith”	
Invitation to Discipleship	
*Hymn #147	
“Away in a Manger”	
OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD	
Preparation for the Offering	Rev. Chris Michael
Offertory	FCC Celebration Ringers
“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”	
14th c. carol/arr. Anna Laura Page	
*Doxology and Presentation of Gifts (Page 46)	
*Dedication Prayer	
RENEWING THE COVENANT IN THE LORD’S SUPPER	
We are one in Christ, let everyone share in this communion	
without regard for denominational affiliation.	
You are invited to take the cup and bread after your prayers.	
Invitation to Communion	Chris & Stacy Castlen
Words of Institution	
Prayer of Thanksgiving	
Communion Music	FCC Celebration Ringers
“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”	
Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599	
arr. Anna Laura Page	
GOING IN PEACE TO LOVE AND TO SERVE	
*Benediction	Rev. Chris Michael
One: The Lord be with you.	
All: And also with you.	
*Please stand if you are able.	

Scripture Reading
<u>Reading- Matthew 1:18-25</u>
¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”
which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.