

The Caller

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (*Disciples of Christ*) OWENSBORO, KY

From the Preacherman....

Words and phrases have lovely, odd, and curious meanings. "In the meantime" is a phrase that indicates an action that will occur while or before another action occurs: "I will read this article soon, but, in the meantime, I will make some tea." There is another sense of the phrase, however—one that emphasizes a very different definition.

We seem to be living in the meantime, or mean-time, a time in which we are callous with one another, fearful of things near and far, afraid of our neighbors who look different and believe different things. As the world has shrunk through various means of communication, our fears have grown, empowered by technology that invites us to see caricatures, not real people. Humans have always been tribal beings, noting "them" and "us" and highlighting differences that some think should be limited or eliminated.

I am a child of the 20th Century, so I know what I am saying. Hundreds of millions of people died in wars and genocidal murder on an awful scale on every part of our planet. People dehumanized tribes and nationalities and skin colors and ethnicities in an attempt to cleanse us of differences. The 20th Century learned from the 19th and has taught well the 21st. Things aren't exactly improving, eh?

I hear people say that if we could just get back to the way things used to be, all would be well. But when exactly was that? Before marriage equality? Civil rights? Voting rights for women? Before the Civil War and the end of slavery? The earliest stories in Genesis speak a truth we don't want to accept. Humanity has in its heart a willingness to defy God and murder our brothers and sisters. So, go back to when?




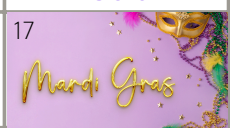


Long ago I learned a valuable lesson: a white American male pays less rent than almost anyone else in my country. What does that mean? It means that people see my gender and ethnicity before anything else and treat me kindly for it. Or judge me badly. People of different genders and skin colors and languages and sexuality and ethnicities pay more rent; they are judged differently and with greater prejudice than I am.

Jesus calls me to see the world in his own way, to treat people and this planet from a completely different perspective. He calls me to love my neighbor. Period. And he doesn't care who my neighbor is, who they voted for, or what team is their favorite. Jesus said to love them. He died believing that. It kind of matters.

Lent draws near, with Ash Wednesday on February 18. I have many sins for which I need to repent and receive forgiveness. We all do.

Peace....Chris

February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship/Sunday School Handbell Rehearsals	2  OCTC Choir Rehearsals 6:30 p.m.	3	4 Dinner @ 5:30 p.m. Worship @ 6:15p.m. Youth Groups & Choir Practice @ 6:30 p.m.	5 Refugee Food Pantry 10-1	6	7 
8 Souper Bowls for Super Bowl Worship/Sunday School Handbell Rehearsals	9	10 Primetimers Outing to Olive Garden 11:30 a.m.	11 Valentines starts at 5:30 p.m.	12	13	14
15 Worship/Sunday School Handbell Rehearsals	16 Finance Meeting 5:30 p.m. 	17 Mardi Gras 	18 Ash Wednesday 	19 Refugee Food Pantry 10-1	20	21
22 Education Meeting 11:15 a.m. Worship/Sunday School Handbell Rehearsals	23	24 Lenten Devotional 12:10 p.m. Board Meeting @5:30	25 Fellowship Meeting @11:00 a.m.	26	27	28
						

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

Happy Birthday!

2 Chris Castlen
6 Sue Boling
8 Austin Schrecker
8 Elton Smith
11 Carroll Hayden
13 Joanne Berry
15 Henry McKinley
16 Louis Bellamy
16 Mitch Stapleton
17 Brian Hedges
17 Wendell Thompson

21 Mike Glenn
21 Wayne Goodaker
23 Michelle Whitmer
24 Ken Lawson
24 Laura Michael
25 Ashley Webb
25 Patrick Whitmer
26 Holden Aud
26 Drew Johnson
27 Holly Roar



Happy Anniversary!

Becky & Flem Gordon
Bob & Patty Hines
Ginger & Terry Norris
Bobby & Patty Schrecker



SOUPER BOWLS for the SUPER BOWL

To help fund the DWM's backpack ministry, we are going to again have a homemade soup sale, on February 8, which is also Super Bowl Sunday. This has been a fun tradition in our church for a while. We're asking for you to bring soups in pint, quart, or maybe even gallon plastic or glass containers to sell before or after church. Soups, chili, stews (whatever you like to make) would all be great! Please label the jars with the kind of soup and the maker's name. Thank you so much for doing this, and giving many school children food to take home on the weekends when they don't have school breakfasts and lunches.

November Financials

Offering for the Month:	\$65,556.00
Other Revenue Month:	\$1,450.03
Total Revenue:	\$67,006.03
Expenses:	\$37,896.81
Net:	\$29,109.22

Year-to-Date Offering	\$431,495.40
YTD Other Revenue	\$29,270.29
YTD Revenue	\$460,765.69
YTD Expenses	\$548,935.21
Net for the year	(\$88,169.52)

December Financials

Offering for the Month:	\$75,688.36
Other Revenue Month:	\$58,231.81
Total Revenue:	\$133,920.17
Expenses:	\$60,040.58
Net:	\$73,879.59

Year-to-Date Offering	\$507,183.76
YTD Other Revenue	\$87,502.10
YTD Revenue	\$594,685.86
YTD Expenses	\$608,975.79
Net for the year	(\$14,289.93)

Mark your calendars!

2/8 Before/After Church

Sunday Souper Bowls for Super Bowl

2/10 @ 11:30 a.m.

Prmetimers Outing to Olive Garden

2/11 @ 5:30 p.m.

Valentinos

2/16 @ 5:30 p.m.

Finance Committee Meeting

2/18 6:15 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service

2/22 @ 11:15 a.m.

Education Committee Meeting

2/24 @ 12:10 p.m.

Lenten Luncheon

2/24 @ 5:30 p.m.

Board Meeting

2/25 @ 11:00 a.m.

Fellowship Committee Meeting

The **Finance Committee** would like you to know any member of FCC is welcome to come and sit in on their meetings.

The next Finance Committee Meeting is Monday, February 16th @5:30 p.m.

Our annual **Valentinos**, a fundraiser for the youth mission trip, takes place on February 11th.

*Please **RSVP either** online **or** by filling out a ticket at church.

* There are no reservation times. Just come and eat after 5:30 p.m.
(Donations only)



DWM Lenten Devotionals

Each Tuesday during Lent, the Disciples Women's Ministry will host a series of lunchtime devotional services from 12:10 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. Feb. 24th is the first one, then the following Tuesdays until Easter.

There will be a different speaker and special music each week. Following each service, a luncheon will be served in the Fellowship Hall with a \$10 suggested donation for DWM.



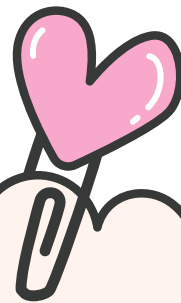
THANK you



Thank you
for sponsoring Foust
students and their
families for Christmas.
Your generosity
certainly made our
families day! Thanks
again for your
continued support.

--Amanda FRC

THANK you



A heartfelt thank you to our volunteer
bus drivers who faithfully pick up and
drop off members and friends for
Sunday worship and special activities
throughout the week. Their dedication
ensures that those with
transportation needs can fully
participate in the life of our church -
to gather, worship and belong. We are
deeply grateful for the care, time, and
commitment they share.

Chris Gaddis
Carroll Hayden
Allen Holbrook
Todd Manley
Luke Payne
Steve Rice

Fun Times among Friends and Family



Flowers gifted to
the church by Mark
and Janet Luckett.



Vacation fun!

Chris and Laura traveled south to enjoy a
much needed vacation with their five kids,
significant others, in-laws, and a fiancé. It
was the first time in 5 years for them to have
all five kids together. A joyful time, for sure!

Primetimers Outing to Briarpatch

A lot of laughs over the fun gifts
that were given and received
at the White Elephant Christmas Party on
January 13th.



New Members at FCC



Welcome the Howton family!

Brendon (270-922-6990) is from this area, is a lineman with Kenergy, and is in the Army National Guard. Sidney (773-485-3063) works in the dental field and is from Chicago. They have two children, Jana (in fifth grade at Highland) and Austin who is three months old. They lived in Savannah, GA for 8 years, are huge Cubs fans, and Sidney is a Georgia Bulldog fan. They currently live at 3963 Cross Creek Trail (42303)



Welcome to the Huddleston family!

Paige (512-787-1862) currently serves as the Accounting Lead at Miles Enterprises, and Gus (252-314-0700) works for the U.S. Coast Guard on the Ohio River. Marley just turned two over Christmas and keeps them on their toes. In addition to keeping up with Marley, they love spending time outdoors. Whether they're enjoying the serenity of the river, hiking in nature, hunting, fishing, or tending to their garden. They live at 390 Carinal Lane in Lewsiport KY 42351, however, they will be moving out of the area in May, 2026.



Youth Groups



Even in the **freezing temps**, youth groups are back at it this month. Wednesday night meals have been delicious and everyone loves a little blue icing on their cake! If you haven't been able to make it, try it in February. We start serving the meal at 5:30 p.m., have a short service in the sanctuary at 6:15, after that kids go to youth group around 6:30, and the choir goes to rehearse. We'd **LOVE** to see you there!



On January 23rd the Evansville Thunderbolts hosted a 'Faith Night' for their hockey game. Some of our Youth Group attended the game. This picture was taken before anyone got carried away with team spirit and took their shirt off:)



Events Hosted by FCC



Kaye Farmer's family hosted a birthday celebration in her honor on January 11th. Cake, punch, fun old family pics, and some great insights provided by her sister made this a GREAT way to spend a cold afternoon!



FCC hosted the third graduating class from our own OPD Academy on January 16th. They had four recruits that successfully completed the 23 weeks of training.



What's better than one baby dedication? TWO! Austin Andrew Howton and Mary Glenn Payne were dedicated on January 18th along with their parents. Both seemed to enjoy being in the spotlight:)



Volunteering is Good For Your Heart and Soul!

Did you know the benefits of volunteering have been found to mirror the effects of antidepressants? Scientists have named it “the helper’s high.” According to the “Wellness Insider,” when you donate time to a cause, you activate the same brain regions responsible for pleasure and reward. Dopamine floods your system. And unlike fleeting happiness from shopping or scrolling, this boost motivates more helping behavior creating a self-reinforcing cycle of well-being. So, show some love of self and volunteer!

Pictured are just a FEW of the MANY daytime volunteers.





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

