



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



From the Preacherman....

Long ago, when I was but a boy, my mother sent me off to Vacation Bible School at church one summer. Some ragged old snapshots remain (thanks Dylan), but so does a distinctive memory of a craft I made that week. Masterfully shaping popsicle sticks, glue and yarn, I formed a beautiful star, added some glitter, then a verse of Scripture: Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted and forgiving, as God in heaven has forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:32). The exquisite craft is long gone, but the teaching remains.

Be kind. Both Hebrew and New Testament texts laud the teaching, as do other world religions. It forms the foundation of ethical behavior across our planet. Be kind. Often overlooked and dismissed as simplistic and naïve, we miss the profound depth and difficulty of this teaching. Too many people think that the whole point of life is to be right. They shout, louder and louder, until fists are thrown and shots fired. There are winners and there are losers and that's it, right?

We all think at some point that religious teaching must be more complicated, full of levels and practices and rules to keep. But what if that isn't the case? What if kindness is really the whole thing? What if kindness is the heart of the matter of God's gift of life to this universe, defining the life and ministry of Jesus in all its fullness? Being kind is costly. It got Jesus killed. He did not draw lines for grace and mercy, was profligate and wild with God's love and forgiveness, so religious and political leaders killed him for it. Being kind is very, very difficult.

"What I regret most in my life are failures of kindness" said George Saunders in a commencement address at Syracuse University in 2013. His speech is fantastic, but very simple. We regret those times when we failed to be kind to others. We remember times when people were kind to us. When we can set aside our fears, prejudices and selfishness and simply let the world breathe kindness in us and through us, life looks very different.

I remember a night of kindness, the night in 1996 when my mother died at home in Carlton, Georgia. I remember the progression of people late at night who came to see her. They were gone by midnight, but when she finally gave up the ghost and breathed her last, people started to return. By 4 a.m. the kitchen was filled with the smell of frying bacon and hot biscuits, scrambled eggs and apple butter. People returned in the face of death to love us. Kindness returned to an awful place. I will never forget that gift.

So, make your resolutions for the new year. Plan and dream big. Shoot for the moon. But maybe, in your day-to-day activities, just be kind. And see what happens.

Peace.... Chris



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>january</b>			1 	2 	3	
4 Last Day: Mitten Tree Donations Worship/Sunday School	5	6 	7 Dinner @ 5:30 p.m. Worship @ 6:15p.m. Youth Groups @ 6:30 p.m.	8 Refugee Food Pantry 10-1	9	10
11 Kaye Farmer's 80 <sup>th</sup> Bday Party 2-4 p.m. Worship/Sunday School Handbell Rehearsals	12	13 11:30 a.m. Primitimers @ Briarpatch 5:30 p.m. Elder's Meeting	14 Dinner @ 5:30 p.m. Worship @ 6:15p.m. Youth Groups & Choir Practice @ 6:30 p.m.	15 OPD Graduation Practice 1:00 p.m.	16 OPD Graduation Ceremony 2:30 p.m.	17
18 Worship/Sunday School Handbell Rehearsals	19 MLK JR DAY 	20 5:30 p.m. Board Meeting	21 Dinner @ 5:30 p.m. Worship @ 6:15p.m. Youth Groups & Choir Practice @ 6:30 p.m.	22 Refugee Food Pantry 10-1	23	24
25 Worship/Sunday School Handbell Rehearsals	26 OCTC Chorus Rehearsals Resume	27	28 Dinner @ 5:30 p.m. Worship @ 6:15p.m. Youth Groups & Choir Practice @ 6:30 p.m.	29	30	31

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

## Happy Birthday!

2 Lucas Ruckdeschel  
4 Brandon Lucas  
5 Gus Huddleston  
5 Jack Lee  
6 Joyce Bennett  
6 Ronnie Forrester  
6 Martha Quisenberry  
8 Max Baur  
10 Barbara Beane  
11 Teresa McKinley  
12 Riley Payne  
13 Cori Douglas  
15 Elizabeth Yager  
15 John Clay Ford  
16 Zeke Douglas  
16 Becky Gordon



18 Joe Berry  
18 Cate Gaddis  
18 Mark Luckett  
20 Camryn Kyle  
20 Janet Luckett  
20 Pearl Simon  
20 Gary Tunget  
22 Julie Burg  
22 Millie McDannel  
23 Stacy Castlen  
27 Norris Cotton  
27 Francy Miller  
27 Scarlett Roark  
27 Mike Tichenor  
29 Natalie Johnson  
31 Tres Sterett

## Happy Anniversary!

Patti & Terry Brownson  
Laura & Chris Michael  
Gloria & John Strehl  
Katherine & Pavel Zboril



## **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	<b>(\$88,169.52)</b>





# Newbies at FCC



**Welcome, Stan Brown!** Stan joined our church on December 8<sup>th</sup>. He is a retired teacher, has two adult children, and lives at 1651 West Fourth Street #408 (42301).



**Welcome, Miss Charlotte Elizabeth McKay.** Charlotte was born Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> to Meghan (Carter) and Hunter McKay. They rang in the New Year at 2520 Allen Street (42303).



Fashionistas, Mark and Laura are sporting their matching L.L. Bean flannel shirts they got for Christmas. Get yours soon before they're all sold out!

Not all 'Newbies', but a couple of new members and a new Minister of Music for our FCC Choir! They would LOVE to have some more new members, too! Let us know if you would like to join.



## Thank You, FCC!

A sincere "Thank you" to all who sent cards, flowers, and prayers after my hip replacement surgery this past November. We are all so lucky to have the support and love I felt from this place.  
--Jody Emerson

**THANK YOU** to ALL households who have filled out a 2026 Pledge Card. Your pledge makes it easier for the Church to plan and budget for 2026. It's not too late to send one in!  
--FCC





# Events Hosted by FCC



Lots of beautiful sounds on Symphony Sunday, which took place on a VERY COLD December 14<sup>th</sup>. Broadway singer, Andrea Ross, accompanied the orchestra. If you missed the service or wish to watch/listen to it again, it is on our Facebook and YouTube channel. The next day the Messenger had a nice article about the Church and its outreach to the community with this wonderful event that is celebrated by so many in and out of our Church.

Thank you to all who helped set up and came out to support the OCTC Community Choir. The Choir delighted a large audience in our Church with songs of the season. They were led by Dr. Connie Ford and had several FCC Members that participated on Dec 8<sup>th</sup>: Angela & Mike Bruce, Bonnie

Brown,  
Janet Corum, Janet Estes,  
& Mike Tichenor.



The Fellowship Committee was busying itself with cookies and punch for Symphony Sunday. Remember, calories don't count if consumed at Church:)

Our 'First Lady' is one hard workin' woman!



Thanks to the Property and Worship Committees for getting everything ready for Advent and Christmas!

The Retired Teachers Luncheon/Meeting took place Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Several in attendance (including FCC Executive Assistant) are members of our Church, however, many are not. All love our space for their meetings and were delighted to hear a choral performance by the OHS Belle Choir.







# Disciples in Action



Our last Wednesday night meal, service, and Youth Groups finished for 2025 on December 10<sup>th</sup>. To wrap up the season, our teens read the story of Jesus's birth and the younger ones acted out the scene complete with memorized lines! Great job to all involved!



Hannah Webb, Hampton Gaddis, Elton Smith, and Colton Manley narrated the play. They were fantastic and set a great example for our younger members (and some of our adult ones)!



**Rebecca Glenn always willing to pitch in on Wednesdays!**

**Santa heard we had kids and cookies, so he stopped by after the play. I see some nice and naughty "kids".**



Meaghan and Riley led the youth in a bake sale and raffle to raise money to buy gifts for students on their angel trees at their schools. Members of the Education Committee shopped for the 'Angels'. Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> the kids went caroling, then went to the Gaddis's house for pizza and to wrap those gifts.





# Disciples in Action



FCC Youth Groups, Y.A.C.H.T., and Friends in Faith were hard at work wrapping Christmas presents for the Foust Angel Tree. Looks Like Kyle was doing a lot of the heavy lifting. Lift with your legs, Kyle!



FCC helped to brighten the Christmases of more than a dozen families through the Salvation Army Christmas Angel Project.



Our Refugee Food Pantry is ready to be delivered. The three new Christmas trees make a beautiful background.

Look closely and you'll see Janet, Chris, and Mike among the gifts set out for our Salvation Army Angels AND Refugee Food Pantry.



The FCC Mitten Tree needs more decor! We are collecting hats/mittens/scarves/warm socks for kids and teens through January 4th. Thank you to all who have donated!



# Announcements



**1/4/2026**

**Last Day we are taking Mitten Tree Donations**

**1/7/2026**

**Dinners, Service, and Youth Groups Are Back!**

**1/13/2026**

**@ 5:30**

**Elder's Meeting**

**1/20/2026**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Board Meeting**



**1/13/2026**

**@11:30 a.m.**

**Primetimers**

**White Elephant Gift Exchange**

**@ Briarpatch**

**RSVP texting Janet Luckett**

**270-929-4984**

**or text, call, or email Barbara**

**Chavez 270-929-6941-text,**

**babsc1222@gmail.com**



**1/11/2026**

**2-4 p.m.**

**Kaye Farmer's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party**

**RSVP to Eric at: efarmerlts@hotmail.com**

**or**

**270-485-1759**



**1/8/2026**

**9-11 a.m.**

**Take Down Christmas Decorations**

## Messenger INQUIRER

The Owensboro Messenger

Celebrating 150 years!

THE OWENSBORO INQUIRER

Vol. 151, No. 342

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

Owensboro, Ky.

## DEVILS DELIVER

**OHS defeats Pulaski 35-7 to win first state football title in 39 years**

BY MARK MATTHEWS

LEXINGTON — It took nearly four decades, but Owensboro High School earned another state football championship. OHS dropped Pulaski County 35-7 in the UK HealthCare Sports Medicine Class 5-A State Football Finals on a chilly first Saturday night in December.

It was the first time OHS won a state football title since 1986. OHS had played in four state championship games from 2000 to 2020, and the fifth appearance produced a breakthrough for the Red Devils. It's the third state football championship officially for the Devils.

They started the season 0-2 then went on a 13-game winning streak to finish a dominating 5-A playoff run. OHS outscored its five opponents 229-41. OHS had looked like a team on a mission for much of the season, and especially in the last half of the season. It was a team that stayed focused and on task after being shaken by two big losses in the season.

"It was about our mindset, every week we had a different theme of the week to keep us focused on the task at hand," OHS coach Damarcus Gawayne said after winning the state championship in his first season with the team. "It was about us continually trying to find corrections, find ways to get better, come together and play for each other."

"Our theme this week was championship mindset. We've



Owensboro's Andrew Johnson celebrates on the field after the Red Devils' win over Pulaski County on Friday during the 2025 UK HealthCare Sports Medicine Class 5-A State Football Finals at Kroger Field in Lexington.

**CONGRATS** to one of our FCC Seniors, Drew Johnson, who played Right Tackle for the Red Devils! He was pictured on the front page of the Messenger Inquirer on Dec 7<sup>th</sup>. Graham Johnson is Drew's cousin, and is inspired to win his own state trophy one day!

