

# The Caller



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



## **From the Preacherman....**

It happens almost every year. I think, “Well, there is no need to plan a big celebration for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Maybe grill some hot dogs and hamburgers, but that’s it.” As the day draws near, however, something happens to me. I start to make plans, search for leftover fireworks, get my chair ready for the driveway to watch the show after dark, consider smoking ribs and chicken and vegetables and every other thing I can buy.

Some in my family used to cook a pig in the ground around the holiday. I remember times in Bogart, Georgia and at Lake Lanier. I was too young to stay up all night or to help very much, but I miss those gatherings and am grateful for the memories. The food was always incredibly good, and I just assumed it would go on forever. One thing for sure beyond all doubt: the Bells could smoke a pig.

I remember fireworks in Louisville, Narrows, Blue Ridge, Valdosta, St. Simons Island, Beaufort and Owensboro. They are all over town here. It is a glorious and profligate waste of money, and I love it so. I remember days when the peak of holiday celebration was a few sparklers lit in the driveway under parental supervision. Or perhaps shooting bottle rockets at my siblings in the yard. All done safely, I assure you.

Independence Day makes me grateful and conscious of my responsibilities as a citizen. I love the holiday because it is far bigger than me and my time, my individual beliefs and convictions. As a Christian pastor I am profoundly thankful for freedom for my faith and religion, but also freedom from other people’s faith and religion. You do you and I’ll do me. However, I will fiercely defend your right to worship, or not worship, as you see fit. Just don’t tread on me. And don’t tread on another person’s right to do something completely different.

Being proud of my country does not mean that I am blind to its failures and shortcomings. I want us to be the best at everything and that means being honest about things that could be better, that ought to be better. It is the puzzling thing about politics these days. We have a process, imperfect but pretty good, to wrestle with issues and problems. However, we demonize and despise people who vote, think or believe differently than we do. When did differences make people into enemies who must be destroyed? You pull for your team and I will pull for mine and later we will eat barbecue together. Or tofu. Whatever floats your boat. (But try my smoked pork. Marcus, Clarence, Johnny, Buck and Judy set a very high standard for me.)

Our 250<sup>th</sup> day of National Independence is here. I am grateful and thankful and committed to being a good citizen with both people who agree and disagree with me. Even those who won’t eat my barbecue.

Peace.... Chris



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>DEADLINE: SIGN UP TO GET YOUR PICTURE TAKEN FOR THE PICTORIAL DIRECTORY BY <u>JULY 26TH!</u></b>			1	2	3	4
5 Worship/Sunday School	6	7	8	9 <b>Refugee Food Pantry</b> 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	10	11
12 Worship/Sunday School	13	14 <b>Primitimers Outing</b> 11:30 a.m. <b>Deacon &amp; Elder Joint Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m.	15	16	17	18
19 <b>Volunteer VBS Work Day</b> 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Worship/Sunday School	20	21 <b>Board Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m.	22 <b>Potluck</b> 6:00 p.m.	23 <b>Refugee Food Pantry</b> 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	24	25
<b>Vacation Bible School 4-7 p.m.</b>						
26 <b>DEADLINE to get your picture appointment!</b> Worship/Sunday School	27	28	29	30	31	

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

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 3 Janey Burns
- 4 Pat Cotton
- 4 Harroll Simon
- 8 Carolyn Watkins
- 9 Abbe Quisenberry
- 9 Landry Roberts
- 10 Adam Fischer
- 11 Amy
- Fredrickson-Wilkey
- 12 Hannah Webb
- 13 Cathy Perrin
- 14 Chris Lott
- 16 Emily Baur
- 16 Libby Johnson

- 18 Terri Bailey
- 18 Charles Emerson
- 19 Sue Napper
- 19 Jon Skillman
- 21 Debby Crone
- 21 Andy Johnson
- 21 Jackie Maddox
- 22 Larry Joe Douglas
- 23 Linda Jones
- 25 Leslie Carlisle
- 26 Ron Waite
- 27 Vicki Bellamy
- 29 Jim Midkiff
- 30 Naomi O'Hearn
- 31 Lenee Bowen

# Happy Anniversary!

- Jenny & John Busse
- Norris & Pat Cotton
- Charles & Jody Emerson
- Calvin & Wanda Gilbreath
- Allen Holbrook & Forrest Roberts
- Matt & Natalie Johnson
- Andy & Becky Luckett

- Jackie & Tom Maddox
- Megan & Hunter McKay
- Joey & Teresa McKinley
- Kevin & Naomi O'Hearn
- Steve & Susan Rice
- Harroll & Pearl Simon
- Jo Anne & Jon Skillman
- Michelle & Patrick Whitmer

## May Financials

Offering for the Month:	\$48,098.10
Other Revenue Month:	\$931.97
Total Revenue:	\$49,030.07
Expenses:	\$49,550.76
Net for the Month	(\$520.69)
Year-to-Date Offering	\$203,243.70
YTD Other Revenue	\$16,706.70
YTD Revenue	\$219,950.40
YTD Expenses	\$238,698.97
Net for the Year	(\$18,748.57)

# Upcoming Events



## WE WANT YOU...TO GET YOUR PICTURE IN THE DIRECTORY!

Make your appointment for your picture to be taken Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup> for our new pictorial directory!

To make an appointment, you can sign up using ONE of the following ways:

- In person at church
- Call the Church 270-684-8879
- Email the church- [stacy@fccowb.org](mailto:stacy@fccowb.org)
- Use the Flocknote email sign up

Our VBS is quickly approaching! We would love to have a church full of kids and adults who are ready to learn about God and have some fun! Sign up some kids and have them bring some friends and neighbors. Call the church with any questions at 270-684-8879.

Please plan to help set up for VBS 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



July 20th-22nd  
4:00-7:00 pm

**July 14th**  
**Deacon & Elder Joint Meeting at**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
Please, make every effort to attend!

Know someone that might be interested in helping with sound and cameras on Sundays?  
We are looking to hire a couple of people to add to our AV rotation.  
Contact the church if you, or someone you know is interested.  
270-684-8879

# Thank you Notes

FCC Family,

On behalf of ISAF, Tres and I want to thank you for sponsoring the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Operation Cleanup in April. Your love and generosity helps provide all safety equipment and remaining funds will go towards the future park. FCC is an incredible part of our journey both as a family and as a Foundation for Issac.

Love you all,

*Katie Sterett*

On behalf of all at CrossRoads, I am writing to express our deepest gratitude for your continued support of our mission. Your recent grant is instrumental in our mission of serving the homeless women and children in our community. Your trust in our vision of serving allows us to keep making an impact in the lives of those who come to us. By supplying bus passes to the women and children staying with us, we are able to get them where they need to go safely. By helping us to provide covers for beds and/or clean pillows, assure them a nice place to sleep each night.

Thank you for your steadfast support and shared commitment to our mission.

*Haley Huskisson, Board Chair*

**Flat Jesus had a VERY BUSY June!** He traveled to two different countries on two different continents, went to six different states in America, visited five different cities/towns in Kentucky, went to Camp KBY, had at least ten outings in our community, and even traveled to the MOON!  
We really hope he travels in July as well and celebrates America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Flat Jesus crossed 'The Pond' and went to **Ireland** with Carroll Laswell. He got to see how Guinness and Whiskey is made, and he went to the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland.



Flat Jesus and Nancy Connor traveled to **Mt. Eden, KY** to pick out a monument for Henry, they visited her Afghani friend, Rasol Jan Pason, and they visited Taylor, Cameron, and Emily Onger. Taylor is recovering after her hip replacement.



Little Murray Murphy had Flat Jesus with her as she gathered eggs on the **farm**.



Aloma Dew and Stacy Castlen both ended up at the foot doctor's office in **Illinois** with Flat Jesus.

Debbie and Steve Crone took Jesus "out to the ballgame" in **Knottsville** and **Whitesville** to see their grand kids play. Pictured with Flat Jesus are Warren, Lucy, and Wyatt.





Cori Douglas was all smiles after dropping off Zeke at **Camp KBY**. She took Flat Jesus with her and ran into Jim Midkiff.



Flat Jesus went to **Camp KBY** with (L-R) Brooks Aud, Zeke Douglas, Elle Claire Aud, Holden Aud, and Sophie & Roselie McKinley.



Chris and Stacy Castlen took Flat Jesus to visit Family in **Nashville, TN**.



Rebecca and Jenna Glenn enjoyed **Disney World** in **Florida** and their Mickey beignet with Flat Jesus.



Mark and Barbara Chavez enjoyed a meal at **Old Hickory** with Flat Jesus.

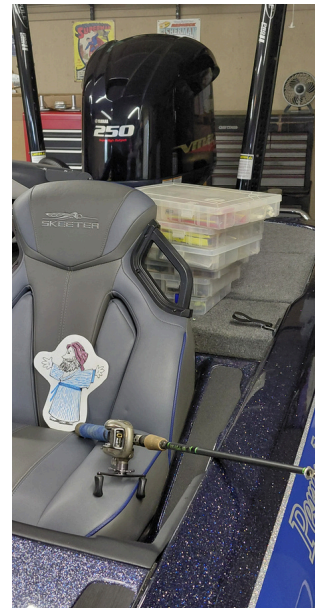


Phillip and Arden Mitchell took Flat Jesus with them to the **Botanical Gardens**.

Flat Jesus was on the phone with Chris & Stacy Castlen as they enjoyed an **outdoor concert**.



Kevin O'Hearn took Flat Jesus to do some work around the house and went **fishing**.



Flat Jesus got stuck in some of Bruce and Susie Kunze's grape vines in **Utica**.



Max Baur took Flat Jesus all the way to **Hua Hin, Thailand!** Max attended this trip with a group of students from OHS.



Barbara Bennett and Hervey Howell took Flat Jesus with them on a ferry en route to **Everett, WA;** and Jesus is aboard a train crossing the **Montana Plains.**



Patrick Whitmer took his Flat Jesus all the way to the **moon** with him!! He blasted off from **Carmel, IN.**



Sheila Ann Miller and Francie Miller took Flat Jesus with them to a memorial service for KY judges at Trinity Episcopal Church in **Covington, KY.**

Flat Jesus joined Marsha Hicks and her daughter at their weekly Bible meeting at **Third Baptist Church.** Members from three other churches meet at Third Baptist Church every Monday at 1:30 p.m.



Pat Hale had Flat Jesus with her while enjoying her garden in her **backyard.**



Flat Jesus made his way to **PorchFest** with (L-R) Madelyn, Emily (Haire), and Paige Castlen. He is also pictured below with Chris and Stacy Castlen and her cousins, Sean and Kellie Mattingly.



Ron Waite and Flat Jesus were all smiles at Ginger Norris, when she brought flowers and visited Ron in his **home.**

# Estes Bulldog Art Camp

Pictured are K-2 Estes students who attended the first week of art camp with Zeke Douglas, FCC member and art camp volunteer, and Kim of Kim's Diner. Kim's Diner donated breakfast on the very first morning of the art camp. She said she was excited to give back to OPS.



Pictured are 3rd-5th grade Estes students who attended the second week of art camp. On the last day of camp, the kids enjoyed silent disco that was provided free by Western KY Silent Disco. Kids also made tie-dyed shirts, used clay to make sculptures, made balloon art, painted, studied and made comics, and created face paint art.



Our church opened its doors and hosted two weeks of art camp for Estes Elementary School. This was an amazing way to do Outreach in our community and make some beautiful, lasting memories for some amazing kids. We hosted, volunteers helped to run it, and ALL of the food was donated by local businesses--we are talking breakfast, snack, and lunch everyday for TEN days! Many groups and individuals in the community donated money, their services, and art supplies to make this happen. If you want to see God in our community, look no further! This is love for one another at its finest and proof that when we say, "All are welcome", we mean even the messiest :)

Not sure if you caught the latest episode of *Owensboro Parent*, but you will see and get to read a great article about the Aud Family and Sara's tips for traveling. It is a well-written article with great travel tips (especially if traveling with kids), and some beautiful pictures!



Not only does Chris Michael offer a sermon each Sunday, but he also hands out free gum balls! Interesting Dr. Johnson's kids aren't asking for gum. Hmm.... And look at those floors shine! Our custodian, Kelly, has worked EXTRA HARD this month to keep our church clean AND she got married this month as well!



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