

The Caller



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



From the Preacherman...

No other season of the Christian year is so out of step with our culture than the season of Lent. Advent tries, it really does, but any emphasis on restraint, humility and penitence in the month of December is completely subsumed by the tsunami of consumerism that is Christmas in America. It's sad to say, but most pastors have given up on seriously marking Advent. Nobody listens.

We hold out hope for Lent, however. Lent doesn't compete with baby Jesus, magi, shepherds and angels. It doesn't face the challenge of last-minute shopping, lavish parties and brightly decorated homes. Lent creeps into our lives during the damp cold of late winter when our minds have begun to turn to spring cleaning and the coming renewal of the earth. This makes Lent's spiritual emphasis on confession, repentance and sacrifice a bit more palatable.

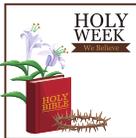
But not for long. Lent is 40 days in the wilderness with Jesus. It is somber and grim in its focus on the sin and suffering of the world. Songs of lament and contrition haunt the church in its attempt to grapple with the meaning of the cross of Jesus Christ. Frankly, our culture has little time and much contempt for disciplines such as these. We believe in the power of positive thinking. Don't worry, be happy! Keep on the sunny side, always on the sunny side. Given half a chance, the church wanders away to gaze at the flowers bursting forth in bloom. Like Advent, Lent doesn't have a prayer. Just get us to Easter, Preacherman, it has a happy ending.

However, Easter is meaningless without the cross. You cannot tell the story of Jesus by skipping merrily from Christmas to Easter, from joy to joy, because life is not like that. Life is full of joy, as the early flowers attest. But life is also full of heartache and suffering and unspeakable evil. Is there a word from the Lord on the day after another suicide? Is there any news from God in the face of our political warfare? The shallowness of American culture urges us relentlessly towards a naïve optimism that is willfully ignorant of the desperate suffering of millions of people on our planet. Lent is hard for this reason. Jesus traveled this very road to show that God does, indeed, give a care.

There is a word from the Lord today. A Church steeled and toughened by Lent is ready to speak and be God's living presence in this world. Life does not come with an Easy Button. Life comes with Lent.

Peace....Chris

March

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|--------|---|
| 1  Worship/Sunday School Handbell Rehearsals | 2 OCTC Choir Rehearsals 6:30 p.m. | 3 Lenten Devotional 12:10 p.m. | 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 Spring Forward  |
| 8  Worship/Sunday School Handbell Rehearsals | 9 Retired Teachers Luncheon 11:30 a.m. | 10 Lenten Devotional 12:10 p.m. Elders Meeting 5:30 p.m. | 11 POTLUCK- 5:30 p.m. Worship- 6:15p.m. Youth Groups & Choir Practice @ 6:30 p.m. | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Worship/Sunday School Handbell Rehearsals | 16 | 17  Lenten Devotional 12:10 p.m. | 18 Dinner- 5:30 p.m. Worship- 6:15p.m. Youth Groups & Choir Practice @ 6:30 p.m. | 19 Refugee Food Pantry 10-1 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Worship/Sunday School Handbell Rehearsals | 23 | 24 Lenten Devotional 12:10 p.m. | 25 Dinner- 5:30 p.m. Worship- 6:15p.m. Youth Groups & Choir Practice @ 6:30 p.m. | 26 | 27 | 28 West Area Workshops 10:00 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. |
| 29  Worship/Sunday School Handbell Rehearsals | 30  | 31  |  | | | |

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 2 Kirby Chelgren
- 6 Don Van Slyke
- 7 Chase Lockett
- 8 Mike Matthews
- 11 Meg Lawson
- 11 Janet Suwanski
- 12 Kristin Callis
- 12 Tucker Schrecker
- 15 Bonnie Brown
- 15 Pat Kelley
- 16 Sally Wood
- 18 Sam Busse
- 20 Judy Hale
- 22 Amy Harper
- 23 Susan Frederick
- 25 Tom Beane
- 26 Leslie Mobley
- 28 Oliver Busse
- 30 Sam Lyons
- 30 Vicki Quisenberry



Happy Anniversary!

Mark & Janet Lockett
Kevin & Terri Bailey



Thank you FCC Friends for you prayers, cards, and flowers following the death of my husband, Judge Miller.

Love,
Sheila Ann Miller

January Financials

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Offering for the Month: | \$31,021.00 |
| Other Revenue Month: | \$5,202.70 |
| Total Revenue: | \$36,223.70 |
| Expenses: | \$42,272.22 |
| Net: | (\$6,048.52) |
| Year-to-Date Offering | \$31,021.00 |
| YTD Other Revenue | \$5,202.70 |
| YTD Revenue | \$36,223.70 |
| YTD Expenses | \$42,272.22 |
| Net for the year | (\$6,048.52) |

Mark your calendars!

Remember, spring forward for March 8th!



PLEASE JOIN US
THEME: ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS - "CHALLENGED"
LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



700 JR MILLER BLVD.

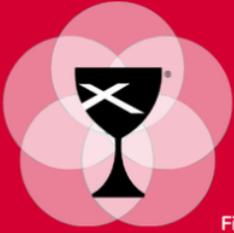
FEB 24 MARCH 03 MARCH 10 MARCH 17 MARCH 24

12:10 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. each Tuesday

Speakers: Carroll Laswell, Chris Gaddis, Phillip Mitchell, Joseph McKinley and Rev. Bonnie Brown

Hosted by the Disciples Women's Ministry with special music each week. Luncheon following the service in the Fellowship Hall. Suggested lunch donation \$10.

"Connected, Called, and Committed"



West Area Workshops

First Christian Church, Owensboro • March 28, 2026

We are hosting workshops at the end of the month!

No Primetimers Outings in March. Come to the Lenten Devotionals!

Elders Meeting March 10th @5:30 p.m.

No Board meeting in March!



FCC Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 29th
After Church

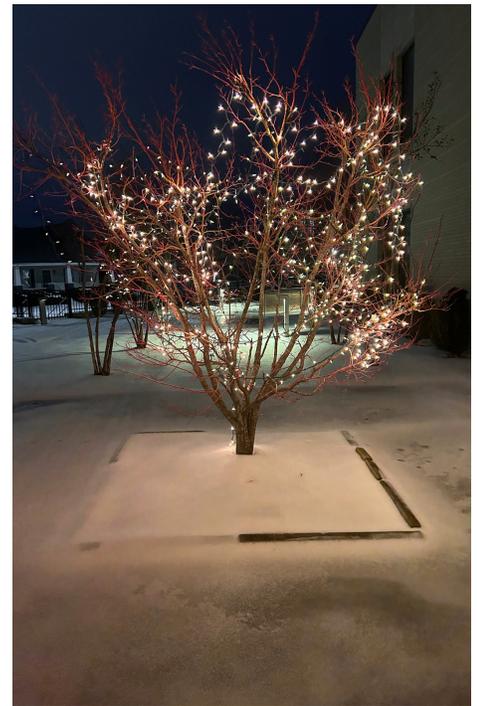
Events Last Month



New church officers, board members, and new deacons were installed during the worship service on February 1st. Pictured are new deacons, Sherry Rhoads and Riley Glenn Payne, with other current deacons. New deacons not pictured are: Brenda Green, Ron Howard, Stacey Carter, and Sara Travis. New church officers installed February 1st were Janet Corum (Worship Chair), Emily Baur (Personnel Chair), and Cathy Perrin (Elder Chair). Also installed were Shannon Divine, Mike & Sherri Robinson as the new members at large. Emily Baur was installed as the new vice-chair of the board.



Wednesday Nights: Despite the snow and ice, FCC Youth Groups met, decorated for Valentino's, and took reservations. Our volunteers were hard at work making delicious Wednesday night meals too! Even our south Georgia Pastor braved the cold, snow, and ice was able to inspire us and get us in the door for a short service.



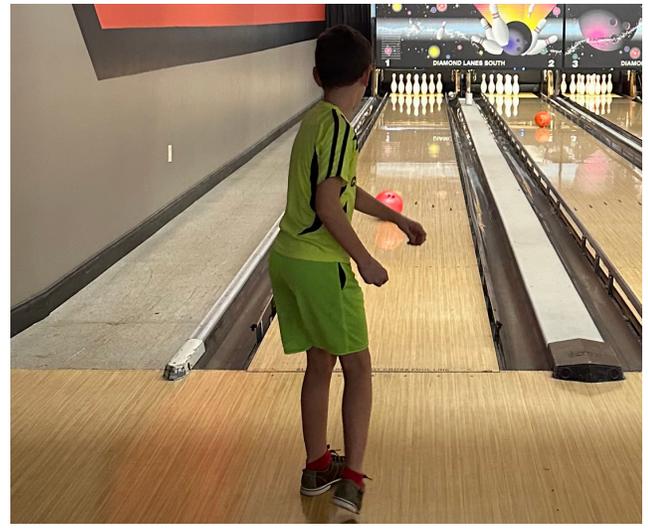
After Chris Michael fell sick with Covid, Meaghan, Riley, Meghan, Kyle, Patrick, Michelle, the Glens, and so many others came together to make our **Ash Wednesday Service** not just happen, but one we will never forget! A special 'thank you' for our 'to go' fried chicken dinners for all infected with Covid!!







After Ash Wednesday dinner and service, the youth of FCC enjoyed some fun bowling with ashes on their heads:)



The Primetimers Outing was to Olive Garden with a presentaitaion by Bill Sturges with AMR Ambulance on February 10th. He gave a very informative presentation on what to expect when you need an ambulance, what information you can give them that will help speed up the process for someone who needs assistance, what to do when you are following the ambulance, and more. Many questions were asked/answered. It was a great presentation!



Lenten Devotional & Luncheon



The first **Lenten Devotional & Luncheon** took place on Tuesday, February 24th. We enjoyed a beautiful solo by Aaron Lundy, the liturgist was Connie Ford, and Carroll Laswell spoke about Jesus's family. Afterwards, we all enjoyed a potluck of delicious salads, cheeses, sandwiches, and deviled eggs! The proceeds collected by DWM for this event are going to fuffill their pledge to the Help Office.