

THE CALLER



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) OWENSBORO, KY

From the Preacherman....

Neck-deep in the season of Lent we Christians find ourselves worn out with it all. The journey back to the beginning of the season is about the same as it is to Holy Week and Easter. Might as well keep going, even if the added worship services and spiritual disciplines make the way wearisome and tiring. Like Sam and Frodo trekking through Mordor to Mount Doom, the way seems too long and demanding. Let's just quit. But there is fish on Friday, so maybe we continue?

It all makes sense. I am preaching from Mark's Gospel, the middle chapters. Jesus' insistence on predicting his suffering and death (3 times) is misheard and misinterpreted by his followers. Repeatedly. This repetition and rejection herald the difficulty we have in accepting that we follow One who knows God's presence clearly in pain, suffering and death. In other words, God is in the bad stuff, even the worst stuff of all. The way of Jesus travels through the bright blessings of life, of course, but, shockingly, is present in the awfulness as well.

That is not a popular message in some corners of Christianity. His death is viewed by many as the salvific action that opens a way for humanity to be accepted by God and be saved from eternal torment. His death and resurrection offer the gift to us of life and life everlasting. His suffering, death and resurrection open the way for humans to receive from God the riches of a new, intimate relationship with the Divine. All are fine ways to understand the meaning of Good Friday and Easter. Not a thing wrong with any of them. But they miss something crucial.


He didn't merely go instead of us, as many theological formulations state. He went ahead of us, promising us life on the far side of death, but also divine presence in the midst of suffering and death as well. Every time I go to the hospital, hospice or the funeral home I see a miracle, the crucified and risen One in the room of the person I am visiting. Life literally shouts, sometimes weeps, and also keeps silent watch in the presence of suffering, dying and death. Go with me some time to those places. I go there to see God. You can too.

When I was 11 years old my great-grandfather, A.P. Bell, died in Bogart, Georgia. My family travelled from out of state for the funeral. We stayed at my grandparents' home, which also was the place where the casket was waiting until the day of the funeral. All of the family gathered there, dozens of them during the day and evening. And that night, when I got up in the early morning hours to go to the bathroom, there were men in the living room talking quietly, sitting up with the dead. They kept vigil, waiting with the body until it went into the ground. I was amazed. Still am. But now I understand. They honored their loved one, but also were comforted by the presence of a living God in the presence of death itself. They stayed up to see the God who goes with us, come what may. Keep watch. You may see signs and wonders as well.

Peace.... Chris



March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Worship/Sunday School	4	5 Lenten Luncheon	6 Men's Fellowship 6:30 am Youth Group	7 Refugee Food Pantry 1:30 pm	8	9
10 Worship/Sunday School	11 Retired Teachers Luncheon	12 Lenten Luncheon Elders Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.	13 Youth Group Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	14	15	16
17  Worship/Sunday School	18	19  March Madness Starts Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.	20 Youth Group Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	21 Refugee Food Pantry 1:30 pm	22	23
24 Worship/Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt	25	26	27 Men's Fellowship 6:30 am Youth Group	28	29	30



*Men's Fellowship meets at Panera- 4600 Frederica St.

Birthdays

- 2 Kirby Chelgren
- 6 Don Van Slyke
- 7 Chase Lockett
- 8 Mike Matthews
- 11 Sue Bethel

- 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

Anniversaries

- Kevin & Terri Bailey
- Mark & Janet Lockett

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?



Need a ride on Sunday mornings? Our church bus picks up people in town to come to church. If you need a ride, please let us know in the church office and we will put you on the schedule.

January Financials

Offering for the Month:	\$31,542
Other Revenue Month:	\$4,657
Total Revenue:	\$36,200
Expenses for the month	\$43,505
Year-to-Date Offering	\$36,200
YTD Other Revenue	\$4,657
YTD Revenue	\$31,542
YTD Expenses	\$43,505
Net for the year	\$7,304
Outreach:	
West Area Disciples CC	\$1,083
Disciples Mission Fund	\$1,833
HELP Office	\$500
Food Pantry	\$1,548



EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 31, 2024
SERVICE AT 9:00AM
THERE WILL BE
DONUTS & COFFEE.
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL



**LENTEN LUNCHESES
WILL CONTINUE
EVERY TUESDAY AT
12:10 P.M. UNTIL
3/19.**

MEETINGS

3/11 Retired
Teachers Luncheon

3/12 @ 5:30 p.m.
Elders Meeting

3/19 @ 5:30 p.m.
Board Meeting



OCTC
Community
Chorus
Spring Concert
Monday, April
29th @ 7:00 p.m.
at FCC

DWMM

There will be **NO**
DWMM meetings in the month
of March. Meetings will pick
up like normal in April!

THANK
YOU!

"Just want to thank you all for the visits,
flowers & cards from the church I have
received. I miss getting to come to
church!"

Love, Linda Jones



In Concert



Mens Mass Community Choir

“MEN PRAISING GOD”

**Sunday,
March 24 2024
3:00 p.m.**

**Zion Baptist Church
2311 W Ninth St.
Owensboro , KY**



Encore Concert

**Sun., April 14
3:00 p.m.**

**First Christian Church
700 JR Miller Blvd**



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



SUNDAY, MARCH 24

10:00

FOLLOWING WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

bring your own basket!