

# THE CALLER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)  
OWENSBORO, KY



From the Preacherman....

I am watching in wonder as a woodpecker inches its way around a tree in my front yard, tap-tap-tapping the trunk in search of dinner. The tree itself is bursting with new growth, buds and tiny leaves. Daffodils and tulips declare their presence, shouting with brilliant colors where not long ago snow and ice ruled with an iron fist. Now, nature loses all control in my yard. I sit in silent reverie.

Something in this stirs me to confess a deeply held truth: God is wasteful, careless and wild in the ways of this world. In particular, God is heedless and profligate in the showing of love for human beings great and small. Jesus was such a gift. God wastes so much time and energy every day to bless my life with such astonishing signs. No, not money and things, but people and nature and friends and food and sentences. Yes, even sentences. Surprised?

The wastefulness of God goes against the dominant belief in our time. Our culture values efficiency, timeliness, and bottom-line thinking. Just the facts, ma'am, said Joe Friday, and we confess to supporting such nonsense. We have less room and little value for stories and poems and beauty and quiet, aimless conversations. Such things are supposedly of little value and barely important in the "real world." They are, however, the things that matter most, all that really count. Why do we dismiss them?

I have two paintings by CW Conner, an artist from Georgia, in my study at church. One is a scene of a revival service and the other the Last Supper of Jesus. His perspective in painting is immediately noticeable, but something more elemental is also present. CW painted on pieces of old wood, discarded tin and unused shingles that he found. He often took what amounted to trash and painted on it brilliant scenes in a distinctive style. The glory of God's presence shines out of a folk-artist's discovered canvas.

So, when I notice a friend's dogwood blooms on a broken limb in her home, the flowers still shining brightly, I pay attention. My wife's orchids blooming in full glory announce their presence daily in my den. Birds gather sticks in my yard for sturdily built nests awaiting new life. In things great and small God's presence announces itself.

At the grocery recently I watched children gaze in wonder at the gum/toy/candy dispensers in the front of the store, then scurry quickly to mom with outstretched hands. "Please, please, please!" they begged as she slowly dropped coins into their palms. I smiled as I passed them squealing with delight, remembering such days long ago. I have made so many errors and mistakes in my life, committed so many sins, and yet the glory of God abounds all around me, offered as gifts to an open heart, if I will simply see and accept and wonder. What are you waiting for? Let God in.

Peace, Chris

# MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Early Bird Camp Sign-up Refugee Food Pantry	2	3  Kentucky Derby!
4  Worship/Sunday School	5  OCTC Choir Concert @ 7:00 p.m. at FCC	6	7  Fundraiser @ 5:30 p.m. Choir	8	9	10
11  Worship/Sunday School	12	13  Primetimers Lunch @ 11:30 a.m. Goodwood Brewery	14  Worship Committee Meeting @ 12:00 p.m. Elementary Youth Group Choir	15  Refugee Food Pantry	16	17
18 Worship/Sunday School	19	20  Last Day of School!	21  Youth Group End of Year Bash! Board Meeting @ 5:30 p.m. Choir	22	23	24
25 Worship/Sunday School	26  MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed!	27	28 Elementary Youth Group Choir	29	30	31 DWM Meeting 11-1 @ FCC

## Birthdays

1 Sheila Campbell  
2 Joy Emerson  
3 Mark Chavez  
3 Richard Carlisle  
4 Bev Chelgren  
4 Missie Hayden  
6 Roselie McKinley  
6 John Miller

9 Becky Lockett  
10 John Patrik Yager  
10 Mary Lisa Tunget  
10 Nick Brake  
10 Shannon Divine  
10 Wanda Gilbreath  
14 Amanda Kyle  
14 Susan Rice  
17 Hannah Kate Divine  
19 Thomas Johnson  
20 Aloma Dew

20 Bill Frederick  
20 Walker Gaddis  
21 Forrest Roberts  
26 Edie Johnson  
26 Sophie McKinley  
27 Millie Roberts  
29 Allison Carter  
30 John Yager  
30 Sara Van Slyke

## Anniversaries

Joseph & Haley Berry  
Chris & Stacy Castlen  
Eric & Laura Farmer  
Ronnie & Marilyn Forrester  
Frank & Linda Jones

John & Jane Miller  
Tom & Barbara Norvell  
Steve & Cathy Perrin  
Dave & Holly Roark



## March Financials

Offering for the Month:	\$50,161.03
Other Revenue Month:	\$1,028.65
Total Revenue:	\$51,189.68
Expenses:	(\$39,402.14)
Net:	\$11,787.54
Year-to-Date Offering	\$112,971.66
YTD Other Revenue	\$8,131.52
YTD Revenue	\$121,103.18
YTD Expenses	(\$125,275.11)
Net for the year	(\$4,171.93)

# YOUTH



Last day of Youth Group is May 21st.

June- Sunday School ONLY

July- No Sunday School or Youth Group



Youth Mission Trip dates:

June 22<sup>nd</sup> - June 28<sup>th</sup>



Vacation Bible School dates:

July 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, & 30<sup>th</sup>

*Thank you*

"Dear Pastor Chris and Church Family,  
Thank you all for the expressions of sympathy and comfort given to us during the difficult time of Ryan's health issues and passing. Every gesture made us feel so loved. We are blessed to have this wonderful church family helping us through our grief journey."

With love,

Susan and Steve Rice

The OCTC Community Chorus under the direction of Dr. Connie Ford will present a spring concert on Monday, May 5 at 7:00 in the sanctuary at FCC. The nearly 50-voice chorus is accompanied by Anna Sparks. Church members in the group are Mike and Angela Bruce, Bonnie Brown, Janet Corum, Janet Estes, Carroll Laswell, and Mike Tichenor.



## COMING SOON

NO ELDERS MEETING  
IN MAY

BOARD MEETING-  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>  
@ 5:30 P.M.

DWM- SATURDAY, MAY  
31<sup>ST</sup> 11-1 @ FCC

**CAMP KBYA**  
& RETREAT CENTER

Junior Camp (gr. 3-5) June 2-6  
Sailing Camp (gr. 6-12) June 9-13  
Discovery Camp (gr. K-2) June 20-22  
Chi Rho Camp (gr. 6-8) June 23-28  
CYF Camp (gr. 9-12) June 30-July 5

**FEB 1**  
REGISTRATION BEGINS

SAVE THE DATES [www.campkumbaya.org](http://www.campkumbaya.org) 4943 Barge Island Rd., Benton



## HELP WANTED

## HELP NEEDED IN OUR CHURCH NURSERY!

Our nursery team is looking for someone who is caring and dependable and would like to join us in providing a safe and nurturing environment for our youngest members during service.

If you're interested or would like more details, please contact the Church office @ 270.684.8879.

Your support can make a big difference!



# Thank You

*"Thanks to everyone who prayed or sent me a card during my hospitalization. I am grateful for my church family and all who cared for me during my illness."*

*God bless you all, Carolyn Watkins*

# Thank You

*"First Christian Church,*

*Thanks to the congregation for all the support you gave Frank and our family in the last part of his life.*

*He was always happy when we were able to attend church. We all were grateful for the prayers, food, flowers, and offers for help.*

*All our family appreciated the meal after the funeral.*

*Special thanks to Janet and Ann Jeannette for the music at the service and to Chris for all his care.*

*God Bless "*

*Brenda, Laura, & Linda*



CINCO DE MAYO

Cyf

FUNDRAISER



**JOIN US WEDNESDAY, MAY 7**

**5:30 PM**

**FOR OUR ANNUAL CYF**

**CINCO DE MAYO FUNDRAISER**

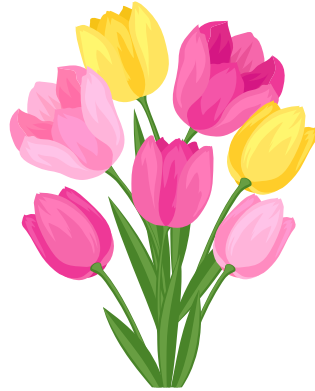
**ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS OUR**

**SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO**

**ARIZONA!**



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



*Happy Mother's day*