

THE CALLER



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)
OWENSBORO, KY

October 2023

From the Preacherman...

Practice. The word itself strikes fear and loathing in my soul, memories seared into my psyche long ago, of summer days on football practice fields in Eastman, Georgia, heat and humidity so thick that you could cut them with a knife. Brutal. And gnats. My goodness. Unless you live below the gnat line in Georgia you have no idea what it is like to inhale a handful of gnats with every breath. Just awful. Any mention of “practice” stirs bad memories in my soul.

However, over the years I have learned something important: to do a job, to compete or finish a task or be halfway decent at anything, takes practice. Whether you are teaching a class, finishing homework, completing a project or preaching a sermon, there is not a single thing any of us can do consistently well without practice.

My stepsons are avid climbers, mostly at their gym in Bowling Green, Kentucky, but sometimes outside on giant rock walls and cliffs that scare the life out of me. They didn’t become good overnight, but only after long and repeated sessions of learning tactics, strengthening muscles and disciplining minds. And falls. Lots of falls. It takes dedication, fearlessness and, well, a little madness, to attach yourself to a rock and climb straight up a sheer wall. They are good at it now and getting better. Why? Practice.

Anything I do well is because of practice. Yes, I am a decent preacher, but largely because of repetition and routine and much failure. I joke that I can fall out of bed at 3 a.m. and start talking. That isn’t an issue. I have had to learn how to manage my nerves, which I mostly do. However, if you have ever felt my hands before worship on Sundays, you know: my hands are like ice, my physiological reaction to being nervous. I return to this quote from Frederick Nietzsche: “The essential thing in heaven and earth is that there should be a long obedience in the same direction.” So, I keep at it.

Date night at my house on Thursday evenings is taking out the trash with my wife. I know you are impressed at my extravagant spending but stick with me here. Each week we eat supper together, gather up the refuse from the house, put it in the appropriate containers and walk the cans out to the road. We talk quietly, notice the trees, plants and flowers, the moonrise, animals in the yard, just ordinary things. It is but a tiny practice with my wife, but one we look forward to each week. It matters.

Worship, and many of the things in life that matter, are a long obedience in the same direction. Not every week in worship at church is earth-shattering, nor can it be. But the weekly practice becomes ritual, and we relax, and come to recognize the holy all around us. The routine of writing this is helpful to me, as is, hopefully, your reading of it. My mind is stirred, memories evoked and spirit opened with the practice. What is your spiritual practice? Find something and stick with it. Who knows what you will find, or what may find you.

Peace....Chris

October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 DWM 1:00 p.m @ FCC Elders Meeting @ 5:30	4	5 Refugee Food Pantry 1:30 pm	6	7
8 Worship/Sunday School	9	10	11 DWM 12:00 p.m @ Century 21. Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	12	13	14
15 Worship/Sunday School	16	17 Board Meeting @ 5:30	18 Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	19 Refugee Food Pantry 1:30 pm	20	21
22 Worship/Sunday School	23	24	25 Men's Fellowship 6:30 am	26	27	28
29 	30	31 				

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

Birthdays

- 1 Steve Divine
- 1 Max Sterett
- 3 Megan Nicole Carter
- 3 Sara Travis
- 4 Mackenzie Elliott

- 4 Marilyn Forrester
- 4 Colin Ruckdeschel
- 7 Clayton Roberts
- 8 Bob Hines
- 9 Wade Harper
- 10 Angela Bruce

- 10 Annalee Yager
- 12 Patti Brownson
- 13 Cathy Midkiff
- 16 Rebecca Glenn
- 19 Flem Gordon
- 24 Michelle Ruckdeschel
- 25 Allen Holbrook
- 25 Tessa McKinley

- 26 Camille Divine
- 27 Mary Lynne Roach

Anniversaries

- Carrol & Cheryl Bell
- Casey & Kristin Callis
- Steve & Shannon Divine
- Bill & Susan Frederick
- Chris & Cate Gaddis
- Blake & Missie Hayden
- J. Andrew & Libby Johnson
- Jason & Amanda Kyle
- Joseph & Meghan McKinley
- Wendell & Marilee Thompson

August Financials

Offering for the Month:	\$50,742
Other Revenue Month:	\$1,896
Total Revenue:	\$52,638
Expenses for the month	\$51,248
Net for the month	\$1,390
Year-to-Date Offering	\$358,857
YTD Other Revenue	\$14,672
YTD Revenue	\$373,529
YTD Expenses	\$347,146
Net for the year	\$26,383
Outreach:	
West Area Disciples CC	\$5,000
Disciples Mission Fund	\$2,000
HELP Office	\$2,350

TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, October 29th

We will have chili & hot dogs, games, a craft station and trunks for trick or treating! We hope to see everyone on the 30th at 5pm!

* If you are willing to sign up to bring chili, hot dogs, drinks or to be a designated "trunk", please reach out to Meaghan Murhpy!



Dear Church Family,
Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and flowers. I hope to be back soon!
-June Stapleton



PICNIC

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and attended the Church Picnic! We had an attendance of 75 or so and the weather was absolutely beautiful!



SUNDAY

school

Know anyone interested in a College Sunday School Class? We have a new group that will begin in October. Vangie Evans will be leading the class. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please contact Vangie at vgevans2020@gmail.com

MEETINGS

-  10/3 DWM @ 1:00 FCC
-  10/3 Elders Meeting @5:30 FCC
-  10/11 DWM @ 12:00 Century 21
-  10/17 Board Meeting @5:30 FCC