

THE CALLER

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

From the Preacherman...

“Finally comes the poet,” says Walter Brueggemann in his book on preaching by that title. That very book perches threateningly on the corner of my desk, watching me as I write this. Yes, I have a few preaching books lining the shelves of my study, dozens and dozens, truth be told. It is my craft, my weekly artistic endeavor, the single activity that demands the greatest amount of time and energy and creativity every week of my life. I love it, am haunted by it, and cannot quit doing it even if I tried. How shall I speak the gospel truth?

In a world of diminished truth, Christians are called to be “poets that speak against a prose world,” a world flattened and made shallow by language and images that seek to distract and entertain and lull us to sleep. Such superficial imagery and speech is all around us: on our phones and apps and computers and television. Literally everywhere. Despite all of the tumult, it may seem odd to say it, but it is deeply true: We are drowning in a drop of water.

Listening helps. Pay attention to the still, small voice, the sheer silence that alerts Elijah to God’s presence. Attention is a conscious, disciplined act, not merely being surprised by something that startles you. Listening is very hard, demanding time and energy and real focus, and often people simply give up trying to hear in the midst of so much noise.

We are going to work on our listening here. You are invited to listen to some of Kentucky’s great voices in our church on October 22. Three authors will be with us sharing prose and poetry they have written: Bobbie Ann Mason, Joe Survant and Kathleen Driscoll. My church has begun to offer such opportunities to any who are willing to come and listen and have our souls cracked open by words of depth and wonder. As a preacher I am mystified by people who simply cannot trust the power of words and Word, who seek to pound home declarative truth, when poems and stories and comedy and narratives do all of the real, honest, and heavy lifting in our world. I can tell you I was born in Georgia Baptist Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia in April 1966. My wife, Laura, was born in the same hospital in February. Those are facts. However, did we share the same crib? The same blanket? Maybe, perhaps. Who knows? I do know that makes a better, even truer, story than mere dates on a calendar. The Ten Commandments and Sermon on the Mount are not mere statements of facts. They are parts of stories that bear us along on their wings and words. Jesus knew that. Why don’t we?

“Words create worlds,” said Abraham Joshua Heschel. Historical atrocities begin with harmful words. So too are life and hope and love given ground to grow by our deep and abiding words of grace and kindness. Be still and know, says the psalmist. Maybe the poet knew something we have forgotten.

Peace.... Chris



OCTOBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 REFUGEE FOOD PANTRY	2	3
4 World Communion Sunday Worship/Sunday School Handbells 5:00 p.m.	5 OCTC COMMUNITY CHORUS PRACTICE 6:30 P.M.	6	Mums/\$\$ Due by 5:00 p.m. DINNER @5:15 P.M. WORSHIP @6:15 P.M. YOUTH GROUPS, CANTATA, & CHOIR @6:30 P.M.	8 OFFICE CLOSING AT NOON 	9	10
11 NO WW OR KID'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES Worship/ ADULT Sunday School	12	13 PRIMETIMERS OUTING @11:30 A.M.	14 NO Wednesday Night Activities!	15 REFUGEE FOOD PANTRY	16	17
18 Taking CANDY DONATIONS now until 10/28 Worship/Sunday School Handbells 5:00 p.m.	19 OCTC COMMUNITY CHORUS PRACTICE 6:30 P.M.	20 Elders Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.	21 DINNER @5:15 P.M. WORSHIP @6:15 P.M. YOUTH GROUPS, CANTATA, & CHOIR @6:30 P.M.	22 An Evening with Kentucky Authors 7:00 p.m. 	23	24
25 Worship/Sunday School Handbells 5:00 p.m.	26 OCTC COMMUNITY CHORUS PRACTICE 6:30 P.M.	27	28  CHILI SUPPER @5:30 P.M. TRICK OR TREATING 6:00 P.M. ~ 7:00 P.M.	29 GREATER OWENSBORO CHILI COOKOFF/SILENT AUCTION 5:00 P.M. CANTATA PRACTICE 5:30 CHOIR PRACTICE	30	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN

← FALL BREAK →

***MEN'S FELLOWSHIP AT GREAT HARVEST ON FREDERICA EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 6:30 A.M.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 Steve Divine	13 Cathy Midkiff
1 Max Sterett	15 Marijane Salmon
2 Bill Jagoe	16 Rebecca Glenn
3 Megan McKay	18 Terri Gant
3 Sara Travis	19 Flem Gordon
4 Mack Elliott	22 Jena Jacobs
4 Marilyn Forrester	23 Marsha Hicks
4 Bill Long	23 Bruce Kunze
4 Colin Ruckdeschel	24 Brenda Green
7 Clayton Roberts	24 Michelle Ruckdeschel
8 Bob Hines	25 Allen Holbrook
9 Wade Harper	25 Daniel Lott
10 Angela Bruce	25 Tessa McKinley
10 Annalee Yager	25 Radley Spencer
12 Patti Brownson	26 Camille Divine
12 Derek Worth	27 Mary Lynne Roach



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Carrol & Cheryl Bell	Amanda & Jason Kyle
Casey & Kristin Callis	Garrett & Sally Lott
Shannon & Steve Divine	Joseph & Meghan McKinley
Cate & Chris Gaddis	Dr. Don & Faye Neel
Blake & Missie Hayden	Marilee & Wendell Thompson
Andy & Libby Johnson	

augUST FiNANCiALs

Offering for the Month:	\$73,202.75
Other Revenue Month:	\$1,615.26
Total Revenue:	\$74,818.01
Monthly Expenses:	\$56,362.73
Net for the Month	\$18,455.28

Year-to-Date Offering	\$339,378.65
YTD Other Revenue	\$23,561.20
YTD Revenue	\$363,939.85
YTD Expenses	\$399,121.98
Net for the Year	(\$36,182.13)



COMING UP in October

*An Evening
with
Kentucky Authors*

PRESENTED BY THE
John Hager Family Fund
for Community Enrichment

HOSTED BY
First Christian Church
700 J.R. Miller Blvd

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026
@ 7 PM

~featuring authors~
Bobbie Ann Mason
Joe Survant
Kathleen Driscoll

Primetimers Outing: Oct 13

Our next Primetimers luncheon will be Oct 13 at 11:30 AM at Shogun Bistro at 2127 East Parrish Ave in Owensboro. We will have a speaker, Cindy Sheriff, from the Alzheimer's Association. She will speak about 'A Healthy Brain'. RSVP Janet Luckett by text only at 270-929-4984.



PLEDGE DRIVE



**EVERY HOUSEHOLD
PLEASE FILL OUT
(and return)
A PLEDGE CARD
by November 15th.**

THIS HELPS US PLAN AND BUDGET 2027

****We MUST have you pledge AGAIN,
even if you pledged last year.**

If you want the church to withdrawal an amount automatically from your account, you must fill out a new form for 2027.



Pastor Appreciation Month

is upon us! Let's show Rev. Chris Michael and Laura all month how much we appreciate them!

Weekend Food BACKPACK Program



We are STILL collecting money for the Weekend Food Backpack Program this year for students at Cravens & Estes Elementary schools. To fund one child for one year is \$165, however, every amount is appreciated and can be given at different times throughout the school year. If you would like to make a donation, please write a check to FCC with "backpacks" in the memo line, or place cash in an envelope marked "backpacks". Thank you for helping us with this important project!

Show Me the Bread on October 4

On Sunday, October 4th all around the world, Christians will celebrate World Communion Day. We would love for you to bring in some bread of your choice, (homemade or store-bought) to share. Please take it to the kitchen that Sunday before church begins. Label what type of bread it is, and anything else you would like to share about it.



We Want You... To Play For Us!

Please consider signing up to play an instrument of your choice for the prelude, offertory, and/or the music during the communion. Also, consider signing up to play the our hymns on our piano. To sign up, use the Flocknote that was sent, or see Phillip Mitchell, our Minister of Music. He will be in contact with you once you have volunteered.



Mum DONATION

The Youth Groups are planting mums at Cedar Hurst next week for a service project! Would you like to help us provide the mums? We are looking for any color and size mums or money to go toward purchasing mums. If you have any questions, contact Meaghan or Riley!

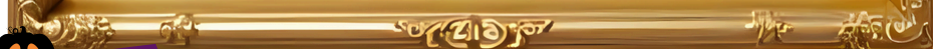
**TURN IN TO THE CHURCH
OFFICE BY OCTOBER 7TH @ 5PM!**



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

This November will mark **TEN YEARS** since we moved into this building. To commemorate this event, we will have a self-guided tour of items from our old church. If you have items from the old church that are meaningful to you (photos in and around the church, Bibles, certificates of Baptism, newsletters etc.), we would love to have those on display the month of November. Also, on Sunday, November 1st we want to recognize the deceased individuals who played a significant role in the rebuilding of the church.

Please contact one of the following if you have items, names, or questions:
Janet Corum: 270-871-5166;
janetwcorum@gmail.com
Stuart Gant: 270-314-4060; spg4809@gmail.com
Debby Crone: 270-315-7763;
cronedebby@gmail.com



WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28TH

CHILI SUPPER @5:30 P.M.

TRICK OR TREATING

6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

**HALLOWEEN CANDY
DONATIONS
ACCEPTED:
10/18-1/27
FOR TRAIL OF TREATS**



DUE TO FALL BREAK:
*NO Worship & Wonder or children's Sunday school classes on Sunday, Oct. 11th *NO church activities on Wednesday, Oct. 14th
Elders WILL MEET!
Elder Meeting
Tuesday, October 20th @5:30p.m.

Wednesdays are Back!

Wednesday nights are the BEST! There is something for everyone starting at 5:15 p.m. We have a delicious meal, service, communion, youth group, cantata & choir practice all with our church family. We will save a place for you at the table and the Table!



Wednesday Night Dinner

Chicken, Broccoli,
Rice Casserole

October 7 @ 5:15pm

Fall Break No Meal TIME FOR A BREAK
October 14

Hamburgers and Hashbrown
Casserole

October 21 @ 5:15pm

Trail of Treats: Chili, Hot Dogs
and Grilled Cheese

October 28 @ 5:30pm

October



Primetimers Had BIG Fun at BIG Whiskey!



Welcome, Ruth Ann!



We are pleased to announce that Ruth Ann Dearnness is an official member of our church. You may already know her from the Disciples Sunday school class, or cantata practice. You may even know her from Century Christian where she was a deacon.

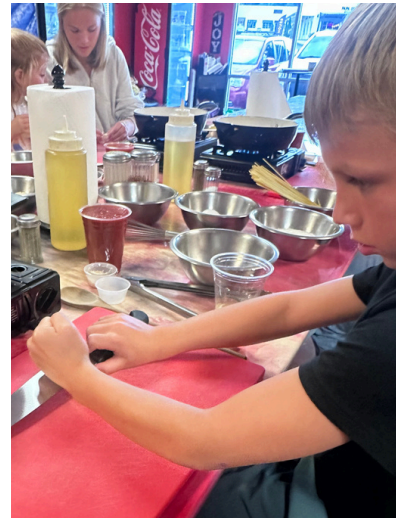


We Want You in Our New Pictorial Directory!



Our photographer, Curtis, has come and gone. So if you have not sent in a picture to be in our new pictorial directory, please do so ASAP. You can email it to stacy@fccowb.org. We can help you do that. If you need us to take a picture, we can do that too.

SEPTEMBER Events



The Joy of Cooking

The FCC Youth Groups visited the Joy of Cooking Classes and More on September 8th and had a blast learning to make chicken parmesan. Looks like a new cooking team in training!



Bunks Across America

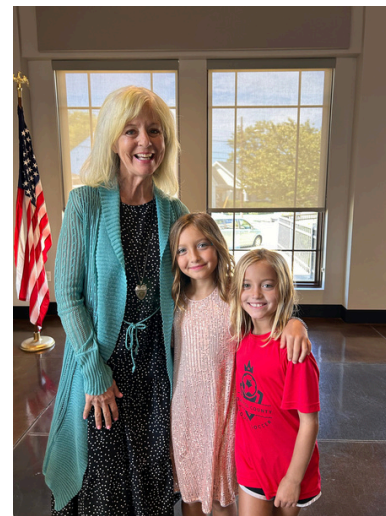
Our Youth Group was busy Saturday September 12th participating in the "Bunks Across America Day" with the group Sleep in Heavenly Peace - Owensboro. To ensure 'no one sleeps on the floor in our community' our group met their goal of building fifty beds! Meghan Murphy & Michelle Whitmer participated along with the following Youth Group members: Anna Travis, Hampton Gaddis, Ross Johnson, Elton Smith and couple of his buddies--William Doyal and Fisher Hicks.





Goodbye...Ann Jeannette

On Friday, September 25th we said goodbye to our beloved, Ann Jeannette. Many of our members spoke about her talent as a piano teacher, composer, and musician. Many spoke of their special friendships with her over her tenure here. She played her last service with us on Sunday, September 27th and now she is off to Lexington to better care for her daughter. We will miss her terribly, but wish her and her family all the best in this new adventure.



Hello...Joseph

During our Sunday, September 27th church service, we hosted the ordination of Rev. Joseph Jacobs. Joseph serves as a chaplain with Owensboro Health and is a member of our church. It was a truly beautiful service from start to finish. Thank you to all who participated in this special event. If you missed it or would like to watch and listen to it again, be sure to check it out on Facebook or on YouTube.





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