

THE CALLER



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)
OWENSBORO, KY

September 2023

From the Preacherman....

I broke a shoelace a few weeks ago. I was standing in a grocery store when I noticed my shoe was untied. When I bent over to tie the laces, one snapped and came off in my hand. I hurriedly retied the pieces, then the laces, and found some new ones on another aisle. No big deal. Disaster averted. The whole time I was in the store, however, I worried about the problem. What if someone sees? What if they find out? What if my struggle is revealed?

In his book "The Things They Carried" Tim O'Brien writes about his experiences as a rifleman in the Vietnam War. He says in an interview "I carried all the standard military stuff: grenades, ammo, an M16, sometimes an M60. Letters from mom, dad. Letters from a girl back home. More than the physical, I carried incredible terror with every single step I took. Is the land going to blow me up? I think of that all the time, even when I walk out of the house. To this day, I watch the pavement, the grass. It's just been built into me." O'Brien, as much as anyone I have ever read, taught me to pay attention to what we carry, and why, and how those things affect us even now


What things do people carry around silently, rarely talking about them publicly, but are nevertheless burdensome and wearying? Some people carry around the broken pieces of relationships, hoping somehow to find a way to repair what has been lost. Some carry around troubles in their hearts for losses recent and long ago. Others have their souls torn asunder by the violence of others, both purposeful and casual, and find it hard thereafter to ever trust people again. Some carry around questions and problems and heartaches and pain and losses, and then stand there in line at the grocery with a pleasant smile painted on their faces like nothing in the world is wrong.

As a pastor I am profoundly grateful to offer people the space and the time to open their souls to God, to do that alone, then with other people in the presence of the Holy. We live in a hyper-individualized world. Your computer and cell phone tailor and shape the advertisements and articles you read and see. We have to make the effort to open our souls to God and other people, to be honest and vulnerable. There are places to do that, but I get to serve in a community of faith that offers more than individualized experiences. We offer stories of struggles in the past that lead to hope for a new day, instead of fear of what may happen next.

And that, more than anything, is the subversive, hopeful truth of our broken lives: we are not simply the heartaches, pain, losses and problems we inherited or caused. We are more than that. We human beings are a tough lot. Life will smack us upside the head with health issues or relationship problems or losses that empty our souls, but we learn and live and can even, miraculously, find hope in desolation. In A Farewell to Arms Ernest Hemingway wrote, "The world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong at the broken places." That's not true with shoelaces, but it is with people.

Peace.... Chris

September

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

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

Birthdays

- 1 Marie Abell
- 1 Stuart Gant
- 2 Cate Gaddis
- 4 Lucille Emelia Fischer
- 4 Cherilyn Kizer

- 4 Mike Robinson
- 5 Emme Roberts
- 5 Jim Westmoreland
- 5 Lily Mae Belcher
- 7 Mary Yerington
- 11 Nancy Connor

- 13 Martha Lee
- 13 Anne Carlisle
- 14 Mike Bruce
- 16 Gloria Goodaker
- 16 Patty Schrecker
- 17 Jackson Kyle
- 18 Reise Elliott

- 18 James Wimsatt
- 19 Tom Norvell
- 19 Ross Johnson
- 21 Margaret Miller
- 21 Katie Sterett
- 21 Terry Brownson

- 22 Cheryl Bell
- 25 Chris Gaddis
- 25 Carroll Laswell
- 25 Steve Rice
- 25 Marilee Thompson
- 26 Norman Woodward
- 26 Brenda Hoyt
- 28 Tom Maddox
- 28 Meghan McKinley

Anniversaries

- Kyle & Sara Aud
- Adam & Kaitlyn Fischer
- Wayne & Gloria Goodaker
- Toddy & Amy Harper
- Doug & Brenda Hoyt
- Mike & Patty Matthews
- Tab & Vicki Quisenberry
- Tres & Katie Sterett
- Gary & Mary Lisa Tunget
- John & Elizabeth Yager

JULY Financials

Offering for the Month:	\$44,327
Other Revenue Month:	\$3,347
Total Revenue:	\$48,062
Expenses for the month	\$53,517
Net for the month	\$5,455
Year-to-Date Offering	\$308,115
YTD Other Revenue	\$12,776
YTD Revenue	\$320,891
YTD Expenses	\$295,900
Net for the year	\$24,992
Outreach:	
West Area Disciples CC	\$1,500
Disciples Mission Fund	\$2,000
HELP Office	\$600

CHURCH PICNIC

Saturday, September
17th 3:00-7:00 p.m.

Meal at 5:00!

@ Legion Park

FCC will provide meat &
drinks, please bring a dish to
feed 8-10!



All friends & family welcome!

DISCIPLE WOMEN'S MINISTRY SEPTEMBER SERVING PROJECTS

*Cravens Elementary Family Resources
needs the following donations:*

- Boys Underwear (all sizes)
- Boys & Girls T-shirts (long sleeve, size large)

*Burns Elementary Family Resources
needs the following donations:*

- 1" plastic binders (white)
- Crayons (24 pack)
- Boys Underwear (small & medium)
- Boys Shorts



MINISTRY FAIR

The Ministry Fair was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who participated and put together incredible displays to inform FCC and those visiting exactly what this amazing church has to offer! We hope it was informative and encouraging for those who wish to get more involved in our volunteer program. Please feel free to reach out to the Church Office if you missed out or need more information!

DWMM

Meetings will start
back up in September!

Day Group meeting:

9/5 @ 1:00 p.m.

@FCC

Midday Moon meeting:

9/13 @ 12:00 p.m.

@ Century 21

HELP OFFICE

The donation item in need this
month is *Cereal & Oatmeal*

Thank you for your generosity!



COMMUNITY GARDEN



**SOME PHOTOS
TAKEN OF OUR
COMMUNITY
GARDEN! FEEL
FREE TO TAKE A
LOOK ANYTIME
YOU ARE HERE
AT FCC!**

