



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, OWENSBORO

## (Disciples of Christ)

# THE CALLER

No. 6 Vol. 17 ~ June 23, 2021

### From the Preacher....

Early one morning last week I poured a cup of coffee and glanced out the kitchen window. There in the birdbath, hunkered down low, with only its head above the water, was a hawk. A hawk was in our birdbath. Splashing about, leisurely cleaning its feathers, the hawk had the run of the place. Nothing else was moving. Nothing. No birds were anywhere to be seen. Two squirrels crouched in the side of the yard, frozen in place. The rabbits all were hiding. From its watery throne the hawk reigned supreme for maybe ten minutes, then flew up to a tree to dry its feathers. The yard began to come to life again.

As my heart started to beat normally, I noticed a few things. For ten minutes I stood looking at the hawk and never took a picture with my phone. My kids are laughing at me for that. Is that a generational thing? Perhaps. Will I miss not having a picture later? Maybe. Was I fully in the moment as I watched? Absolutely. It is learned behavior practiced for years.

I remember deer hunting once in woods near my parent's home. Squirrels chattered, birds chirped and chipmunks rattled through the leaves. Then, the woods grew still, silent. An owl softly hooted and swooped silently by my head, landing in a tree nearby. Nothing moved, not a sound was made. The owl hooted again as it scanned the forest floor. After a few minutes it flew away. The forest gave a soft sigh as it breathed again. I learned to listen and pay attention in the woods.

I also learned it in church, a place that asked me to be quiet and to pay attention, learned behavior that, if practiced over years, becomes a way of living in this world. "Be still and know that I am God," says the psalmist. Watch and listen for the God who is present but whose presence we often miss because we are too busy. I hear all the excuses about busyness. We need to learn to multitask! Or maybe we just need to learn to task, because our lack of attention is deadly.

The question these days to the preacher is often desperate: is there any word from the Lord? I am grateful for that inquiry, truly I am. But the bigger question may be this: am I really paying attention? I often wonder if Moses was the only person who saw the burning bush or was he simply the only one paying attention? People tell me weird stuff happens at my house. Maybe, I mean, who has bees in their wall, and now a hawk in the birdbath? Or perhaps the presence of God is all around us. And we are simply too busy to notice.

Peace....Chris

### Our Church Mission:

*"Our mission is to manifest Christ's love by empowering all to compassionate service."*

### Denominational Mission Statement:

*"We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us."*

### CHURCH STAFF:

Ministers.....The Congregation  
Sr. Minister.....Rev. J. Chris Michael  
Minister of Pastoral Care.....Pam Woodward  
Financial Manager.....Kristin Callis  
Communications and  
Admin Support Staff.....Michael Ervin  
Choir Director.....Mike Tichenor  
Pianist.....Ann Jeannette Pierce  
Nursery Attendants..... Elee Roach  
Sherry Rhoads  
Chandler Fleischmann

### Contact Us:

Church Office 270-684-8879  
Church Email: michael@fccowb.org  
Web Address: www.fccowb.org

### Join us for worship in person or online!

First Christian Church Offers multiple ways to join in worship each week. Join us in person on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. If you would like to participate in online worship, we livestream each service to our Facebook account:

[www.facebook.com/FCCOwensboro](https://www.facebook.com/FCCOwensboro)

You may listen to our worship service via your computer or smartphone by accessing:

[www.mixlr.com/firstchristianchurch](https://www.mixlr.com/firstchristianchurch)

at 9 am CT Sunday, or by using a speakerphone dial 1-214-699-5100. The access code is 6939237#

*We're on Facebook!*



# Your gifts making a difference...



Congregation of First Christian,  
How I continue to be in your debt (gratefully). You allowed your former building to host my first Latino Law Clinic – which grew to the Immigration Legal Services we provide today...and then you donate \$25,000.00 to allow us to keep people in their homes with lights on! Your example of ecumenicalism truly reflects the Body of Christ!  
May God bless you all,  
Susan C. Montalvo-Gesser, J.D.  
Director of Catholic Charities

Each month our food pantry gives out food to numerous families in need in throughout our community. During the month of June, our Emergency Walk-in Food pantry gave out over twenty bags to families in need. How can you be involved with this effort? We are seeking volunteers to help keep the pantry full and bags packed. Monetary and food donations are always appreciated. We covet your prayers as we attempt to be the hands and feet of Christ for Owensboro.



Through the generosity and hard work of the Issac Sterett Adventure Foundation (<https://www.issacsterettadv.org>), campers at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya will get to experience some exciting new \_\_\_\_ this year, including: two new half-court basketball courts, a swim raft, paddle boards, and new kayaks! They have also donated a hydrostatic Kubota tractor with a front-end loader and a dual-bench-seat Polaris Ranger for the staff to better care for the campgrounds. The camp says, "We are so very thankful for this collaboration. We give thanks that we have the honor of carrying on the legacy of Issac, who was a member at First Christian Church in Owensboro, and extending his love of Camp Kum-Ba-Ya, so that other children may come to discover and enjoy the gifts of God's awesome creation."

GRADSA received a \$3,000 grant from the Legacy Fund today to help us provide the perfect library for individuals we serve... our kids and adults with Down syndrome. With all funds we receive throughout the year, our kids and adults are front and center in the planning for these funds.... We are SO thankful to those who give. It touches our hearts and blesses many.

Thank you, Legacy Fund

-- Tiffany with GRADSA (Green River Area Down Syndrome Association)



Dear Friends at FCC,

I want to thank you for always remembering me with the beautiful flowers. They brighten my week and make me feel connected to the church even when I can't come. Thank you also to the ladies who put the bouquets together and deliver them.

Love,  
Betty Troutman



# Backpack Kids

Weekend Food for Hungry Students



For many years, our Church, through DWM, has sponsored backpacks filled with food to be given to children at Cravens Elementary each week of the school year and we plan to do so again. A year's supply of weekend food costs \$160; however, all donations to the Backpack Ministry are appreciated. If you are able to donate, please make checks payable to FCC, write Backpack Ministry in the memo, and mail your donation to PO Box 966, Owensboro, KY 42302.



## Chi Rho Camp (July 5-10):

Mackenzie Elliott, Reise Elliott, Daniel Lott, Broderick Divine, Drew Johnson, Whitley Ford, John Clay Ford, Max Sterett, Maya Joska, Addie Travis

## Discovery Camp (July 16-18):

Jenny Busse, Oliver Busse, Libby Johnson, Ross Johnson

## Counselors:

Elee Roach and Taylor Mahlinger



## Children's Picnic- July 14- 4pm-7pm

Join us at Ben Hawes Park (400 Boothfield Road, Owensboro, KY 42301) for a time of food and fellowship. ALL AGES are welcome to join us as we celebrate the re-launch of our Children's Ministry. Bring your own chair and the church will provide food and drinks. [Click here to sign up](#) or contact Nancy at 270-316-1473.

## Volunteer to help lead Childrens' Worship and Wonder

We are excited to announce that Worship and Wonder resumed on Sunday, June 20. In order for the program to continue being successful, we need volunteers to help lead the class. Each week, we need Storytellers and Shepherds. Storytellers guide the lesson, while Shepherds help with classroom management and general help. If you have any questions about how you can serve, please contact our Education Committee at: [emily.baur@owensboro.kyschools.us](mailto:emily.baur@owensboro.kyschools.us)  
To sign up, please [click here](#).



## Thank you- from Anne Carlisle

Dear First Christian Friends,  
It has been a pleasure working in the church office - the best part was being in the unique position to meet and work with so many of you. I will treasure those memories along with the love and support I have received.

This congregation is filled with kind, compassionate, generous members and I thank you for all the cards and gifts I have received including the Waterford vase and gift of money given during worship on June 13. All are deeply appreciated.

With love and gratitude,  
Anne Carlisle



*welcome*  
*to our newest members!*



Elton Smith



Paige Castlen



Henry Busse

During the month of June we celebrated the baptisms of Elton Smith, Paige Castlen, and Henry Busse. When you see them around the church, welcome them to our congregation and let them know that you're praying for them.



MTWTFSS MTWTFSS MTWTFSS MTWTFSS  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

## Primetimers Plus: A Night of Music and Fellowship

On Wed, July 7, at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall, the Primetimers Plus will host a potluck dinner with special musical guests, The River City Strings. Two of our own FCC musicians, Anne Jeanette Pierce and Wendell Thompson, play in this 7 member ensemble. Fried chicken will be provided, and guests are encouraged to bring side dishes and desserts. Guests are always welcome. Please RSVP to ensure we have enough for everyone!

Contact Ron Waite to RSVP or for more information:

Ron Waite  
ronwownsbr@aol.com  
Home - (270) 683-8510  
Mobile - (812) 454-8555

## CALENDAR

Sunday, June 27  
9:00 am Worship  
Wednesday, June 30  
6:30 am Men's Fellowship\*  
Thursday, July 1  
2:30 pm Refugee Food Pantry  
Sunday, July 4  
9:00 am Worship  
Monday, July 5  
Office Closed  
July 5-10 - Chi Rho Camp at KBY  
Wednesday, July 7  
6:30 am Men's Fellowship\*  
7:00 pm Primetimers Potluck  
Sunday, July 11  
9:00 am Worship  
Wednesday, July 14  
6:30 am Men's Fellowship\*  
4:00 pm Children's Picnic  
at Ben Hawes Park  
Thursday, July 15  
2:30 pm Refugee Food Pantry  
Sunday, July 18  
9:00 am Worship  
Wednesday, July 21  
6:30 am Men's Fellowship\*  
5:30 pm Board Meeting  
Sunday, July 25  
9:00 am Worship  
Tuesday, July 27  
3:00 pm Ken Willis Memorial  
Wednesday, July 28  
6:30 am Men's Fellowship\*

## BIRTHDAYS

1 Scott Lyons  
3 David Yates, Janey Burns  
4 Harroll Simon, Pat Cotton  
8 Carolyn Watkins  
9 Abbe Quisenberry, Landry Roberts  
10 Adam Fischer  
12 Hannah Webb, Sarah Hayden  
13 Cathy Perrin  
14 Chris Lott  
16 Libby Johnson, Emily Baur  
18 Charles Emerson, Terri Bailey  
19 Sally Bryant, Jon Skillman  
20 Caroline Brake  
21 Debby Crone, Andy Johnson  
Jackie Maddox  
22 Larry Joe Douglas  
23 Linda Jones  
24 Karla Ochoa  
25 Leslie Carlisle  
26 Ron Waite  
27 Vicki Bellamy  
28 Betty Troutman  
29 Jim Midkiff  
29 Heather Mahlinger  
30 Naomi O'Hearn  
31 Lenee Bowen

## ANNIVERSARIES

1 Jon & Jo Anne Skillman  
2 Joey & Teresa McKinley  
6 Andy & Becky Luckett  
12 Matt & Natalie Johnson  
15 Tom & Jackie Maddox  
16 Pat & Norris Cotton  
17 Calvin & Wanda Gilbreath  
21 Michelle & Patrick Whitmer  
22 Kevin & Naomi O'Hearn  
26 Malcolm & Sally Bryant  
27 Pearl & Harroll Simon  
27 John & Jenny Busse  
28 Allen Holbrook & Forrest Roberts  
31 Charles & Jody Emerson

## May Stewardship Update:

Offering for the Month: \$22,688  
Other Revenue Month: \$109  
Total Revenue: \$22,798  
Expenses for the May \$37,911  
Net for the month (\$15,113)

Year-to-Date  
Offering \$180,491  
Other Revenue \$8,751  
YTD Revenue \$189,241  
YTD Expenses \$42,808  
Net for the year \$23,751

### Outreach

West Area Disciples CC 1,071  
Disciples Mission Fund 1,785  
HELP Office 450  
WOC Special Offering 410  
Easter Sp. Offering 265

## Flowers for Worship



If you would like to provide flowers for the chancel, please contact Michael Ervin at: michael@fccowb.org or call the church office at 270-684-8879.

We have the following dates available:  
August 15, September 19, Sept 26

\*Men's Fellowship meets at Panera:  
4600 Frederica St,  
Owensboro, KY 42301



**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