



FIRST CHRISTIAN disciples of christ HIGHLIGHTS

Making disciples who make a difference!

July 2025

Jesus Defines Leadership, John 10:1-10

The focus of John 10:1-10 (The Good Shepherd) is leadership set in the context of sheep, sheepfold and shepherd. When some person seeks power and authority, how can we tell the difference between the shepherd and the shyster, between being blessed or being bamboozled, between those who are prophets and those who seek to profit, between those who pray with the flock and those who prey upon the flock? (The Very Reverend John D. Payne, Trinity Episcopal Church, Wichita Falls, Texas)

How can we tell a true leader from the one who seeks only personal glorification? We do it the same way art experts test the authenticity of a work of art; by comparing it to the authentic work of the artist.

The Christian community must evaluate national and local leaders, ministers and mission, church programs and individual spiritual formation, alongside the Gospel narratives of Jesus' ministry. Authentic faithfulness to serve others bears the marks, shares the vision, and takes part in the goals of the ministry of Jesus. This is why John 10:7 refers to Jesus as the "gate", the only legitimate way in and out of the sheepfold. It is through him that we enter the safety of the fold; it is through him that we go out confidently in search of green pasture. He is our way to the peace described in Psalm 23.

How can we tell the difference between the true shepherd and the shyster? I Peter 2:19-25 provides illumination. The true leader is willing to sacrifice themselves for the sheep as an expression of their own personal love, their own self-gift for those whom they are called to serve.

The story of Stephen in Acts 6 is a dramatic example of risk and suffering. Stephen was among the first seven deacons set apart to serve the Jerusalem Christian community. He was supposed to "wait tables" so that the apostles could devote their time to the ministry of evangelism, teaching and healing. Making sack lunches for the widows of Jerusalem, while important, turned out to be among the lesser of Stephen's gifts. Once apostolic hands were laid on him, all the grace and power that poured into him spilled over into incredible signs and wonders. Maybe the original intention was for him to stir the soup, but he ended up stirring the Holy Spirit that changed lives.

When you put Stephen and Jesus together it's pretty hard to deny that his is what a true shepherd looks like: not convincing another they are wrong because they think different than you; NOT USING ALL CAPITAL LETTERS WHEN ATTEMPTING TO EXPRESS YOURSELF; not even having a congregation go out of its way to be generous, but telling the truth so clearly that some people want to kill us for it. A true shepherd gets so wrapped up in living God's truth that they never consider protecting themselves. They forget to look out for their own safety because they are consumed with the safety of others.

How can we tell the difference between the true and the false leader, between the shepherd who feeds and the one who fleeces? By putting the one and Jesus Christ together. True leadership exhibits sacrificial love and draws people into the realm of grace, while false leaders self-serve at the expense of the common good.

Blessings, Rev. Colby

Rev Colby Smith

*Inside...July Birthdays, Events, News
and Announcements, Prayer Requests*

FCC KIDS CORNER

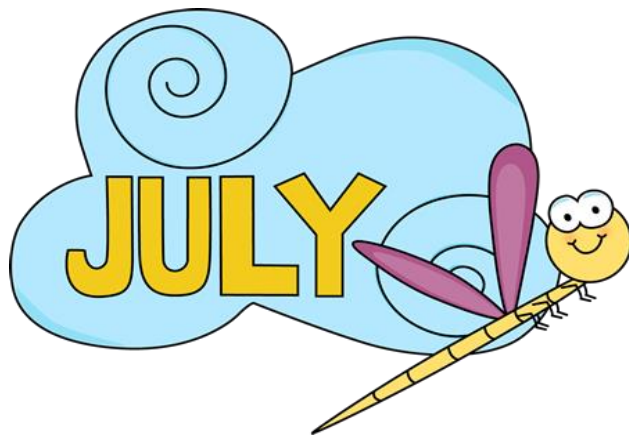
Kid's Club Summer Events

Save the Dates!

Sunday, July 20th

Sunday, August 10th

Details in the Weekly FCC Email!



Summer Children's Worship

During the summer months, all children age 4-rising 5th graders meet together during worship. After Children's Chat, they go upstairs to the youth wing for a bible story, activities and art. All children age 4-rising 5th graders are invited to join us. Contact Patti for more information.

Ark Encounter

Save the date and plan to join us as we explore this Kentucky Destination on Sunday, August 20th. Children, Youth and Adults are welcome! Watch for details in upcoming weekly emails and on Facebook!

Kid's Club Trip to Little Crooked Creek Animal Safari



It's Almost Here!
VBS at First Christian
July 7-10
6:00-8:15 p.m.
Age 4-Rising 6th Graders

It's not too late to sign up!
Invite your grandchildren, nieces and nephews,
Neighbors and friends to join us.
Contact Patti for more information!

We ♥ love
BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US

For questions about Children's programs, contact Patti Wright

Email patti@firstchristiandanville.com or text (812) 483-9004

Please Keep the following in your Prayers

John Caywood	Jim Routin
Gary Gibson	Marlena Ellis
John Taylor Ross	Melodee Quinn
Jan Sheffield	Mindy Carter
Bill Morgan	Bonnie & Tyler Traschel
Trevor & Lucy Graham	Danielle Fields
Darell Rickmers	Pat Mallard
Lauren Newman	Butch Pass
Wanda Huffman	Ruth Sigler
Mary Sebring	
Ellie Pennington	
Mary Lou Withers	
Jenny Wilson	

Remember our Shut-ins

Martha Akin	Lucille Lemmon
Pat & Steve	Margaret Milburn
Bruce	Bonnie Wilson
Mindy Carter	Georgianne Smith
Hugh & Mary Jo	Johnetta Gibson
Coomer	



July Worship Roster

July 6

Worship Leader—
Evelyn Guerrant

Elder—
John Funkhouser

Elder & Counter—
Kendra Funkhouser

Children's Chat—
Debbie Baker

Summer Worship—
Linda Dachenhaus
and Debbie Baker

Nursery Volunteer—
Mary McKittrick and
Jessica Maynard

No Kid's Club
(Summer Break)

Parkview- Elmer and
Suzi Jackson

July 13

Worship Leader—
Elmer Jackson

Elder— Margaret Clark

Elder & Counter—
Jan Bradshaw

Children's Chat—
Darell Rickmers

Summer Worship—
Darell Rickmer and
Sueann Rice

Nursery Volunteer—
Edna Prall and Jessica
Maynard

No Kid's Club
(Summer Break)

July 20

Worship Leader—
Martha Bryant

Elder—
Elmer Jackson

Elder & Counter—
Suzi Jackson

Children's Chat—
Jacob Cooper

Summer Worship—
Molly and Jacob
Cooper

Nursery Volunteer—
Kris Hamlin and
Jessica Maynard

Kid's Club Summer
Fun Trip!

July 27

Worship Leader—
Joey Kirk

Elder—
Nancy McMurtry

Elder & Counter—
Doug McMurtry

Children's Chat—
Patti Wright

Summer Worship—
Patricia Calvert/
Patti Wright

Nursery Volunteer—
Trista Hinkle and
Jessica Maynard

No Kid's Club
(Summer Break)

Four Cans for Others

168 cans were donated during June. Which give a total of **474**. Let's keep bringing in those cans so we can beat our total for 2024 of **1,421** cans!



News & Announcements



Ladies Group Paint Party

Date: July 12th **Time:** 2:00–5:00 PM **Cost:** \$30
Location: 475 West Main Street (102) Danville

Join your friends for a relaxing, fun-filled afternoon of creativity!

No experience needed—our guided, step-by-step group instruction (with individual assistance as needed) will help you create something beautiful.

Class cost includes: ☐ Expert instruction ☐ A 16x20-inch canvas ☐ Unlimited acrylic paint

Creativity is encouraged! Personalize your flower and colors to match your décor.

Feel free to bring snacks and treats to enjoy. Outside drinks are not allowed, but water bottles will be provided.

Come paint, laugh, and make memories with us!



Sign up now at: <https://square.link/u/Om4RhR1H>

Help Us Raise Funds for a New Sanctuary Piano

First Christian Church is raising funds for a new piano for the Sanctuary. Our goal is \$19,000, and every gift—large or small—brings us one step closer.

If you would like to contribute, you can:



- Write a check with “**Sanctuary Piano**” in the memo line
- Or call the church office for more giving options

Thank you for supporting the music ministry of our church!

Meetings postponed for the month of July

There will be no Worship, Outreach, Book Club or Board meeting in the month of July. They will resume in August.

Office & Walking Track Hours

Monday— Friday

8:00 a.m.— Noon & 1:00 p.m.— 4:00 p.m.

Summer Reading Connection Book Club

We're excited to announce that Summer Reading Connection Book Club will resume on **August 3rd** as we continue our journey through **Jaber Crow** by **Wendell Berry**, a beloved Kentucky author. We'll be discussing chapters 18-32 so be sure to read ahead!

This group offers rich and thoughtful conversation with the purpose of deepening our understanding and guiding us forward in our spiritual journeys. Whether you've been with us from the beginning or are just joining in, we'd love to have you there.

Jan Bradshaw



Dear Trista and FCC Members,

Thank you for your generous donation and consistent support of Backpack Kids. Unfortunately, the need for meals in our community is great. However, with the continued giving of FCC and other churches and organizations in our community, we are meeting the needs of food insecure students in the Danville and Boyle Co. school districts!

With grateful hearts,

BPK



A Message from Stephen:

As the Youth Ministries Director, I want to sincerely thank this amazing congregation for the love and support you've shown our graduating seniors. Senior Sunday is not just about their achievements, but also about the role you've played in shaping their faith. From your prayers to your presence, you've made a lasting impact. To the families, thank you for your dedication and guidance—you've been their first and strongest example of Christ's love. And to our seniors, we are so proud of you. As you step into the future, know that this church will always be your home. Thank you all for being a vital part of their journey.

Stephen Hinkle,
Youth Ministries Director

Rev. Colby Smith

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