



FIRST CHRISTIAN disciples of christ

HIGHLIGHTS

Making disciples who make a difference!

September 29, 2021

Life Together

This is my first Highlights article, well, for a long time anyway. It has been four and a half years since I was last your interim pastor, and a lot has happened since then. The church seems to be a lot stronger than when I left. That's a tribute to the ministry of Joey Pusateri, and to you. Committees seem to be more active, there are more people on the paid staff, and the financial picture is better. But most importantly, there are a lot of new people in the church. I am eager to build relationships with all those people and renew relationships with the ones I knew before. It is good to see a growing church, though such growth is very difficult to measure during the time of COVID.

So let me focus my first article on some questions that matter. When I came as your interim pastor six years ago, I came armed with **FIVE QUESTIONS**. They were:

- 1) What do you hope does not change about First Christian Church?
- 2) What do you hope does change about First Christian Church?
- 3) What do you hope I do?
- 4) What do you hope I do not do?
- 5) Do you have any other advice for me?

Over the course of 21 months, I formally asked those questions of 135 members! I still have your answers in a document and look over them occasionally, but times have changed and your answers would be different now than they were then.

This time I have a different **FIVE QUESTIONS**, and I am being a bit more informal about asking them. The questions are:

- 1) How do you feel about First Christian Church?
- 2) What is the greatest need of First Christian Church?
- 3) What do you think God is saying to First Christian Church?
- 4) What is the next step for First Christian Church?
- 5) Do you have any other advice for me?

I like these questions, though so far it seems that the answers to the first four often blend together. I want to encourage you to think through your answers to these questions, and don't hesitate to informally share your answers with me and with others. I plan to ask the questions

in various groups to start with. This Sunday at the elders meeting, I plan to ask my new questions and focus the group on the third one - What do you think God is saying to First Christian Church? I don't know the answer to that question, partly because I have been away from you for 4 1/2 years, and partly because I think the answer should come from the people, not the pastor.

Question 1 about your feelings about the church is important because your feelings matter. Ideally, every member would feel a connected affection for the church, its people, its worship, and its activities. But I know all too well that sometimes people get burned, burned out, and burnt up at church. Expressing and exploring such feelings is the first step toward healing.

Questions 2 & 4, the greatest need and the next step questions, seem to go together. Often the next step we should take relates to the greatest need we see. I love the next step question. It's the perfect question to ask when a committee or meeting gets bogged down in too much discussion about trivia. Asking, "So what's the next step here?" focuses the group and helps the group to move forward constructively. Try it in your next meeting and see if it doesn't work for you.

As far as Question 5 goes, I am always interested in your advice for me. Listening to such answers is one of the keys for ministry in my mind. In fact, I have found listening is one of the most profound and powerful tools in ministry, and in life! Most people are seldom listened to and really, deeply heard. I want to be the person who gives that gift to others.

But the most important of the questions is Question 3 - What do you think God is saying to First Christian Church? After all, that is what we are all about. That's what makes us different for any other volunteer organization. God is still speaking! And God is speaking to this congregation if only we will listen. Let's do!

Dr. Mickey Anders
Interim Sr. Minister

Inside...

News & Events

September Board Summary

FCC Kids Corner

October Birthdays & Anniversaries & Events Calendars

October Service Roster

September Board Summary

The Administrative Board met on Thursday, September 16, 2021 and the following are the highlights from the meeting:

- Chair Doug McMurry and board members welcomed Dr. Mickey Anders to the board as our Interim Minister and thanked him for joining the Ministry Team at FCC.
- Financial Report: Analysis of Revenues and Expenses – August and Year to Date, 2021 Summary and Detail and Summary of Restricted Accounts, Balance Sheet, and Treasurer's Report were reviewed and discussed. Our YTD Pledges and Offerings are down \$14,362.27 compared to YTD Budget; net surplus for the year is \$74,958.46 which is due to the Endowment Fund income and lower expenses year to date.
- Personnel: The new Part Time Facilities Administrator Stephen Hinkle is at work and actively engaged in many facility projects working with new Property Chair Jack Jones and others. Personnel will ensure the new Part -Time Custodian has the number of hours promised. The board approved a bonus, recommended by Personnel, for Donna Everett, Administrative Assistant, in recognition and appreciation of the additional work she has taken on this year.
- Property: Jack Jones, new Property Chair, was welcomed to the board. The board expressed appreciation for the many contributions and excellent work of former Property Chair Steve Cline, who stepped down due to health reasons. Patrick Cooper Painting has completed the exterior window painting and repair project, hardwired internet has been installed in church offices and the Youth Room, the CLC roof leak has been repaired; a new large vacuum cleaner with attachments has been purchased, the water fountain has been repaired, and LED lights are being installed in the Youth Room. Numerous projects have been identified for repair and are being addressed. Jack plans to evaluate the building inside and out and prioritize the needs. A fall clean-up day may be planned for church grounds.
- Interim Minister's Report: Dr. Mickey Anders expressed he is honored to be here and honored to be our Interim Pastor. He reported he has seen a lot of good changes in the 4.5 years since he served us last and sees engagement in committees and a good spirit and health in the church. Because of relationships he had made before he can quickly ramp up in reconnecting with the congregation and has already connected or attempted connections with 111 people in the eight (8) days he has been here. He and Rev. DeMoss will be off on Fridays as it is the slowest day in the office and they will be on call for emergencies. The sign in sheet will be resumed which will be helpful in connecting with visitors and new members.
- Senior Minister Search Committee will be formed at a later date.
- John Funkhouser and Rev. Catherine DeMoss have volunteered to be the Fire and Security contacts in regard to the security alarm.
- Children's Ministries Director Patti Wright expressed her appreciation for the church's great support for filling 72 backpacks with school supplies for Boyle and Danville schools. The Elders donated \$250.00 which was used for headphones and dry erase markers.
- Associate Minister Catherine DeMoss is balancing doing work from hospital and home and continues on right track toward Maintenance Chemo. Catherine is engaged in work on technology, marketing, AV/Sound, Youth and Families, College, Outreach, and Pastoral Care.

FCC KIDS CORNER

October is a busy month for our FCC Kids! With Fall Break in area schools, Halloween, and our Trunk or Treat event, our typical Sunday schedule will change this month. Please see below for what's happening in October.

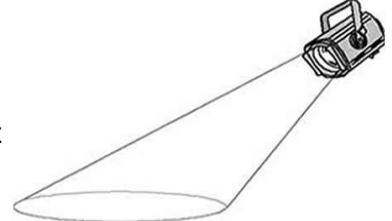
We will resume our regular Kid's Club Schedule in November!

October 3rd and October 10th NO Kid's Club Fall Break 	 October 17th Fall Fun at Daynabrook Farms Right after Worship-3PM	October 24th Trunk or Treat! 4:00-6:00 p.m. Candy, games, prizes, fun!! 	 October 31st NO Kid's Club Halloween
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Spotlight on our FCC Kids!

Each month we will shine the spotlight on one of our FCC Kids so you can put names, faces, and families together!

This month our spotlight shines on **Serenity Smithers**



Serenity attends FCC with her guardians, Don and Carolyn Burton. She is surrounded by lots of family at church including her sister, Kierstyn Gibson, Donna Carol, Sean, Liam and Elijah Welch.

Serenity is in 5th grade at Junction City Elementary School and her favorite subject is Science.

When she is not busy with school you will find her playing kick-ball, gaming, and playing with her friends. She also loves art, especially drawing, and loves to sing. In fact, Serenity's favorite memory at church is singing a solo in the church Christmas program! When asked about her future plans, Serenity said, “

When I grow up, I want to be a doctor so I can help people.” When you see Serenity at church, be sure to introduce yourself so she can get to know her church family!

Acolyte Training and Refresher

Any child 2nd grade and over are invited to an acolyte training and refresher on October 24 immediately after worship. Susan Taylor will be leading the training for anyone interested in learning or as a refresher. Acolytes serve in an important part of worship and arrive at 10:30 on Sundays. For more information or questions, please contact Ms. Patti.

Prayer Concerns

Bill Barker
Jane Boyd
Jerry Boyd
Steve Cline
Rev. Catherine DeMoss
Ken & June Harmon
Elmer Jackson
Margaret Ann Milburn

Mike Miller
Susan Montgomery
Bill Morgan
Jim Page
Mike Swain
Bonnie Wilson
Jeff Withers
Mary Lou Withers

Shut-ins

Steve & Pat Bruce
Mindy Carter
Odell Hines
Jack Kaiser

Marianne Kirby
Betty Ramey
Catherine Shoultz
Dorothy Warren

Thank You

To the Congregants of First Christian,

Many thanks to you for your incredibly gracious donations of school –supply-filled– backpacks! IN-CREDIBLE. We are grateful to you all.

Admirably,
Jenny Clark
Families First (Danville) FRC Coordinator

Dear FCC Family,

Thank you for honoring me as a retired teacher. The candle was a special reminder that teachers are appreciated. The credit card will enable me to give another gift to buy more school supplies. It is a pleasure to be a part of the FCC Family.

May God bless each of you.

Mary Ann Wilson

Dear Church Family,

What a surprise I had when I opened my card of appreciation from First Christian. Please know the gift card is truly a gift from heaven. As a teacher, we spend a lot of our money on little things that are needed to help our children to be successful learners. This gift will help me get some extras for classroom. The children in my K/1 split class send their thanks too. Their smiles tell it all.

Blessings,

Elizabeth Reynolds

News & Announcements

4 Cans 4 Others

We had 80 cans given in September to The Salvation Army Food Pantry. Our total is now 32,703. Thank you for continuing to support this outreach ministry.

Soups on Us

Help out with this outreach ministry on October 16. Cookie bakers and volunteers are always needed.

Welcome Reception

A Welcome Reception will be given for our Interim Sr. Minister Dr. Mickey Anders and his wife, Sarah, on October 17 after worship. Dr. Anders was previously our Interim from 2015-2017 and we are pleased to welcome he and his wife back to FCC again.

Blanket Sunday October 24

Christian Women's Fellowship/Women's Ministries has been involved in "The Blanket Project" through Church World Services every year by collecting money to buy blankets for people around the world who have lost everything due to natural disasters, war, political displacements & poverty.

Our congregation can be part of an even greater response in 2020. You will reach families fleeing their homes, recovering from flood disasters, Covid and more.

\$10.00 buys one blanket. Buy as many as you can afford to shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, warm the cold, or give comfort in times of disaster.

New Staff & Church Members

Welcome our latest staff member Steven Hinkle as our Facilities Administrator. Steven is a retired United States Air Force veteran and currently studying Pastoral Ministries at Campbellsville University. He moved to Danville in March 2020 with his wife and two sons. Stephen will oversee all aspects of the building and property. His hours are Monday-Friday from 9am-1pm.

New Members Cory and Kellie McMurry Jones have returned to Danville. They both grew up in FCC Danville. Cory is a commercial loan analyst with First Financial Bank and Kellie is a veterinarian at Animal Hospital of Danville. Please welcome them back to FCC!

In Sympathy

To the family of Peggy Mitchell who passed away on September 19.

To the family of Nancy Mellios who passed away on September 24.



Where are the Youth?!

Have you been concerned that our youth seem to be missing from worship?

Well worry no more! Our youth are here and working hard every Sunday!

This summer, our middle and high school youth met with Jennifer Pusateri and Nancy McMurry to design a plan for a new and improved youth room to call their very own. Around the same time, Susan Hensley brought back Youth Sunday School, renamed "The Gathering" where they share donuts and conversation around issues they face as teenagers.

Starting in July, every Sunday during the worship hour you might have found anywhere from 5-15 of our amazing youth taping, painting, cleaning, putting together furniture and more under the direction of Jennifer Pusateri. They are almost finished and their new room is almost ready to be unveiled.

Be watching for a date for the **Youth Room Open House** so you can see all they have done!



The children in our community have missed out on so much during the past 18 months! This year we would like to offer a Safe Version of our highly successful Trunk or Treat but we need everyone's help.

There are Three ways you can be part of the fun!

1 Provide a Candy Booth	2 Buy Candy!	3 Loan us your canopy!
Decorate your car trunk or a table, dress-up and distribute candy. You can be as elaborate or as simple as you choose! Sign-up at the Welcome Table	Individually wrapped candy is needed! Drop off your bags of candy in the designated bins in the narthex or outside the church office.	Just in case we have rain, help our candy booth folks stay warm and dry! Contact Patti Wright or Linda Dachenhaus for details.

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Join us for a safe family fun time outside in the church parking lot!

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