



FIRST CHRISTIAN disciples of christ HIGHLIGHTS

Making disciples who make a difference!

April 2026

Easter: The Persistence of Morning

We often treat Easter like a punctuation mark—a glorious exclamation point at the end of a long, weary sentence called Lent. We arrive at the tomb, find it empty, and we want to shout, “Everything is fixed!”

But if we are honest, life doesn’t stop feeling like a sentence. Grief remains present. Anger is ever wanting to be expressed. The brokenness doesn’t simply vanish because the calendar turned to Sunday. If hope were merely the absence of trouble, it would be a very fragile thing indeed.

Hope as an Occupied Tomb

In the Bible, hope is rarely a bolt of lightning. It is more like the quiet, stubborn persistence of a gardener who knows that seeds must be buried before they can become anything at all.

When the women went to the tomb that first morning, they weren’t going to celebrate. They were going to do the only thing left to do for someone they loved: with grief, finish the funeral rites. They went expecting the end. They found, instead, a beginning.

Hope, in the Christian sense, is not a feeling. It is not the belief that everything will turn out the way we planned. Rather, it is the knowing quiet conviction that God is at work inside the places we have already written off as finished.

Ways to Practice Easter Hope After Easter

If we want to live as a resurrection people, we might consider a few small, practical shifts:

Practice

Shift in Perspective

Active Waiting

Instead of waiting for the storm to pass, look for the work God is doing in the middle of it.

Naming Grace

Call out the small moments of kindness that defy the cynical logic of our world.

Remaining Present

Refuse to turn away from the “tombs” of others; stay long enough to see if life stirs.

The Story is Still Being Told

We are tempted to look for God in grand, supernatural displays. The Gospel suggests something much more subtle. God is found in the breakfast on the beach, in the walk to Emmaus, in the stuttered “I believe” of a person who has lost everything.

Easter does not invite us to leave the world behind. It invites us to look at the same old world—with all its tears and frustrations—and realize that we are no longer looking at it through the lens of failure.

The stone has been rolled away, not so we can see into the past, but so we can walk into a future.

May you find that hope is not a feeling, but a companion. May you have the courage to walk toward your own mornings, even when the dawn has yet to break.

Grace and peace

Rev. Colby

*Inside...April Birthdays, Events, News and
Announcements, Prayer Requests and more!*

FCC KIDS CORNER

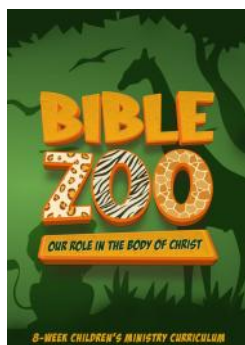
Kid's Club April Schedule

April 5th-NO Kid's Club (Easter)

April 12th-Bible Zoo (Zebra)

April 19th-Bible Zoo (Sloth)

April 26th-Destination Unknown



Kid's Club Spring Theme Bible Zoo

Lions and tigers and bears!!

Just as a zoo is made up of many animals, the body of Christ is also called to live with one another.

This series will show us how!

What is a Destination Unknown?

We do a Destination Unknown about once a quarter with Kid's Club.

Patti chooses a spot, we all get in the van and on the way to the Destination Unknown. The kids get clues to the location. The goal is to figure out where we are going BEFORE we get there!

It is a Kid's Club Favorite!

Easter Egg-Stravaganza!

A Palm Sunday tradition that includes a snack, a spring or Easter Craft, pictures with the Easter Bunny and an Egg Hunt in the Courtyard for all children from toddlers-5th Grade.



FCC Spring Sunday Morning Children's Programs

During Worship, Children Birth-5th grade are invited to leave the sanctuary after the Children's Chat to worship in a way that is developmentally appropriate to their age. All programs are staffed with background checked volunteers.

Church Nursery -Newborns through age 4

Worship & Wonder-Children age 4-2nd Grade

Children's Church-Children in 3rd-5th Grade

News & Announcements

Connection Book Group Announcement

Our next selection is *The Hundred Story Home* by Kathy Izard*, a powerful and inspiring story focused on housing our homeless neighbors in Charlotte NC.

Next Meeting: April 12
Location: Fellowship Hall
Time: After Worship



Please note the **date change due to Easter events**.

A light lunch will be served. Everyone is welcome to read the book and join the discussion — we would love to have you with us!

Praying with Christ

Learning our Lives Through the Psalms

Beginning April 13th through May 18th, join Jacob and Rev. Colby on Monday evenings @ 5:30pm for **Praying with Christ**, six week gathering in the Psalms.

We'll share a meal, reflect on how the Psalms reveal the character of God and point us towards Christ, and learn to pray more honestly for ourselves and for one another.

Dinner is provided each week. All are welcome to join.



Bridge is returning on Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

Come join us for a fun time, great conversations, and plenty of good hands. We hope to see you there!



May 10th— Mother's Day Jazz Brunch

May 19th— Election Day

May 19th— Blood Drive 8am - 2pm

May 25th— Closed for Memorial Day



Thursday April 2nd— Maundy Thursday
Tenebra Supper @ 6pm

Friday April 3rd— Good Friday/Prayer Vigil. Come to the Sanctuary anytime from 6am—6pm for quiet meditation

Sunday April 5th— 7:30 am Early Easter Service led by Jan Scott, outside permitting weather, followed by a light breakfast

Easter Service- @ 10:45am

Keeneland Spring Meet Information

Date: Thursday, April 16th

Ticket Information:

General Admission: \$7 (Access only, no reserved seating)

Reserved Grandstand: \$15 (Includes a seat)

Ticket Purchase:

Please visit the Keeneland website to buy your tickets:

<https://tickets.keeneland.com/racing-events/>

Meeting Details:

Meeting Point: Church

Meeting Time: 10:45 AM

Departure Time: 11:00 AM

Additional Notes:

A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex for those planning to attend.

Please ensure you purchase your ticket in advance.

Office & Walking Track Hours

Monday— Friday

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

News & Announcements



April Showers...

Looking for opportunities that are looking for US!

✿ Building upon our "From the Heart" projects in February, March may have come in like a lion, but it certainly isn't going out like a lamb....we've been busy & are just getting started!! With **community** as our focus, here's what you need to know:

✿ We were "EGG-cited" to again spearhead the **Community** Easter Egg Hunt at Millenium Park, joined by the Parks & Rec Dept. (headed by Amber Baker Shartzter), Livewire Ministries, Trinity Episcopal, Saints Peter & Paul, and The Presbyterian Church.

✿ We are actively participating in the **Faith Leader Community Conversations**, led by Brice Gibson (Homeless Coalition Coordinator at The Bridge) and held the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Small group discussions covering: 1) Basic needs, 2) Communication & networking, 3) Housing/New ground, 4) Prevention, and 5) Volunteering continues to show the commitment to our community's vulnerable and a determined spirit towards real solutions with shared resources. A recent partnership with the 2 Five Star gas stations in town through the national program, Food Donation Connection, has given us an opportunity to help them reduce their store food waste by picking up and delivering leftover food to community organizations.

✿ Much like our efforts with Boyle County Schools, we have worked with the Danville Schools FRYSC (**F**amily **R**esource **Y**outh **S**ervice **C**enters) to help organize their newly established Food Pantry located at the **Jennie Rogers Community Center**. Each month there is a grocery pickup from Walmart & shelf stocking prior to a monthly shopping visit. We look forward to lending "our muscle" to support this vital link between our schools and the families they serve.

✿ Finally, we're committed to discovering people, organizations, and causes that are looking to us to champion their efforts. Reaching out following a request from **Turnersville Community Christian Mission** in Stanford, Julie met with Renee & Don King (mission directors) & John Prather (operations manager) to learn more about the mission's vision, operations & financial needs. Even though challenges have been encountered at every turn, these wonderful folks are firm in their convictions that God has led them to this calling...definitely a work in progress. Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church will be having **A Community Awareness Dinner & Fundraiser on April 18th**, benefitting their Homeless Ministry. If you don't know all they are doing, here is your opportunity to share a meal with them & learn more. Centenary Methodist will be hosting a **community concert**, featuring Remedy Drive on **April 26th**, to benefit the Boyle County Homeless Coalition. This rock band uses their music to shine a light on human trafficking & they are "committed to promoting the restoration & rehabilitation of trafficking survivors by sourcing all their merchandise from organizations specializing in these areas. The band's music centers on the theme that ordinary individuals can play extraordinary roles in the pursuit of freedom & justice."

Our financial support in the 1st Q of 2026:

Church Budget funds: \$2500 for SOU; \$1000 to SP&P Homeless Ministry

\$2000 to Week of Compassion

Maxine Maxey funds: \$1500 to Family Services Assoc of Boyle Co.

\$500 to DV FRYSC & \$500 to BC FRYSC's Food Pantry

Please Keep the following in your Prayers

Gary Gibson	Mindy Carter
John Taylor Ross	Barb Webie
Jan Sheffield	Ben Guerrant
Bill Morgan	Lucille Lemmon
Darell Rickmers	Patsy McClure
Lauren Newman	Ann Pennington
Wanda Huffman	Shelby Pass
Mary Sebring	Barabara C. Rankin Family
Mary Lou Withers	
Jim Routin	
Janet Henson	
Bonnie Traschel	
Butch Pass	
David & Nancy Robertson	

Remember our Shut-ins

Martha Akin	Lucille Lemmon
Pat & Steve Bruce	Bonnie Wilson
Mindy Carter	Georgianne Smith
Hugh & Mary Jo Coomer	Butch Pass



April Worship Roster

April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
Worship Leader– Elmer Jackson	Worship Leader– Lyle McGlothlin	Worship Leader– Joey Kirk	Worship Leader– Julie Jones
Elder– John Funkhouser	Elder- Brian Calvert	Elder– Vince Pennington	Elder– Margaret Clark
Elder & Counter– Kendra Funkhouser	Elder & Counter– Patricia Calvert	Elder & Counter– Debbie Baker	Elder & Counter–Julie Jones
Children’s Chat– Debbie Baker	Children’s Chat– Patti Wright	Children’s Chat– Jacob Cooper	Children’s Chat– Scott Walker
Worship & Wonder– Children in Worship	Worship & Wonder-Patti Wright and Sueann Rice	Worship & Wonder– Kandi Williams/Jenna Walker	Worship/Wonder– Connie McVicker/ Sherrie Horn
Children’s Church– Children in Worship	Children’s Church– Jenna Walker	Children’s Church-Molly and Jacob Cooper	Children’s Church–Patti
Nursery Volunteer–Mary McKitric	Nursery Volunteer–Mary McKitric and Edna Prall	Nursery-Mary McKitric and Kris Hamlin	Nursery– Mary McKitric & Trista Hinkle
No Kid’s Club	Kid’s Club Asst-Martha Bryant/ Lunch-Libby McWhorter	Kid’s Club Asst-Penny Vaught/Lunch –need vol	Kid’s Club Asst-Sueann Rice/Lunch-need vol
Parkview– Elmer & Suzi Jackson	Greeters– Rodger & Wendy Ross	Shut In Comm.– Doug & Nancy McMurry	Cook / Devotion– Larry Scott
Greeters– Alice & Jay Reynolds		Greeters– Edna & Bobby	Greeters– Terry & Linda Dachenhaus

Even MORE Cans for Others

188 cans were donated during March bringing our total for 2026 to **264** cans. Keep bringing those cans so we can beat our total for 2025 of **1994** cans.



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