



FIRST CHRISTIAN disciples of christ HIGHLIGHTS

Making disciples who make a difference!

January 27, 2021

Koinōvia (Koinonia)

koinē' nēə, noun: Christian fellowship

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matt 28:19, NIV)

I am excited about this new year for a number of reasons.

First, the new year always excites me. I am one of those sentimental types who makes a list of goals and resolutions every January. There is something motivating and refreshing to me about a new year, a new start. I don't always achieve every January goal, but I reach some of them, and that's better than nothing at all. In 2020, I made a resolution to eat dinner with my family at the table at least three times a week, and we did!

Second, I am almost certain that 2021 is going to be better than 2020. Why? Well, I have no crystal ball, but I do know that 2020 set an extraordinarily low bar for us to clear. After last year's global pandemic, social unrest, a contentious election season and an insurrection at the Capitol, we have no place to go but up!

Third, we have called a new pastor. The Rev Catherine Demoss arrived this month and she brings with her a top-notch education, valuable experience, many gifts and graces, a servant's heart and God's call. I am excited about her ministry. I know that we will enrich her life and she is able to enrich ours.

Lastly, I have been discerning a plan for FCC to follow and fulfill God's will for us and Danville-Boyle County in 2021. Let me give you a glimpse.

We are called to "Make Disciples Who Make a Difference." This comes directly from one of the most powerful passages of the Bible, called, "The Great Commission" in Matthew 28. We have been empowered by God in Christ to do a great thing. We have

been called and equipped to make disciples of all nations, to baptize them in the name of the triune God, to teach them all that Jesus commanded us, and to remember always that he is with us until the end of the age.

For us to make disciples of Jesus, we must be disciples of Jesus. And I don't think that being a disciple of Christ begins and ends with attending worship, learning the Bible and helping others. I believe that God has a more holistic, comprehensive desire for our wellbeing. **I think that disciple of Jesus means that we grow and become the best versions of ourselves.** I believe that God's will for us is to be happy, joyous and free. God intends for us to take care of ourselves, to have good physical, mental/emotional, spiritual, financial and social health. I believe that we must take seriously God's call for us to be the best versions of ourselves—to be disciples—so that we can fulfill the call to make disciples of others, to help this community become the best version of itself.

In this new year, what I am most excited about are the lessons we get to use from 2020. 2020 showed many of us what it looked and felt like to have poor physical health, to be stressed and depressed, to be isolated and alone, to descend further into unnecessary debt, to be distant from the joy of worship. This year, I want to model and lead us in wholeness and health. I want us to be fit, happy, hopeful, free from financial insecurity, connected to God and to one another.

May God continue to bless this congregation. May God's power sustain us through this persistent storm. May we emerge stronger than ever on the other side.

Shalom,
Joey Pusateri

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Greetings from Our New Associate Minister

Hello church! I am so glad to officially be with you, serving in ministry together! Thank you for greeting me with such hospitality and generosity. I am incredibly grateful for the love you have already shown me through cards, flowers, food, and well wishes. I am looking forward to getting to know each of you better.

It is exciting to come back to my home region of Kentucky after serving as an interim in Fort Worth, Texas. I grew up in Western Kentucky and attended undergraduate at Transylvania University in Lexington, so this area is not new to me, however, I am quite excited to learn more about Danville and get to know this community better. All recommendations (from food to fun) are much appreciated. I would love to hear about all of your favorite things. I love gathering together, being outside, and adventuring in new places. While I am gluten free, I do love to find new and different recipes and places to eat.



With my move, I have brought my cat, Sochi, who is sure to make an appearance anytime I am having a video meeting from home. She has traveled with me to at least 6 states, and while shy is a great little travel companion. As for me, I have made it to 46 states and am hoping to reach Alaska, Hawaii, Montana, and North Dakota in the near future. Sharing travelling stories gives me such delight and I would be thrilled to hear about some of your own adventures.

Through all of my time spent in community, travelling, and building new relationships I have found myself growing closer and closer to God in new and exciting ways. It is these which have encouraged my call to ministry which grows around a foundation of cultivating similar practices in others. I have never been one good at sitting still and understanding the complexities of the Divine in lecture or classroom style environments. For me it has always been about the messiness, difficult conversation, and growth which comes from being in community with each other. I greatly look forward to what our ministry together will look like as we co-create our community of God together.

Catherine DeMoss



**FAREWELL TO
SHERRIE COCANOUGH**

FCC has been very blessed to have Sherrie Cocanougher for 18 years as the Church's Business Administrator. We come with mixed emotions of her upcoming retirement and move from Danville, but want to extend our warmest wishes and gratitude for her dedicated service throughout the years. Sherrie began in 2003 and has gone above and beyond her job to serve the people well at FCC. Let's send her our love and all the best as she begins a new season in her life.

Birthdays & Anniversaries February 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| | 1 | 2 Joshua Joiner *Wally & Mary Emily Gross | 3 Greg Barnard Judy Spellacy | 4 Lisi Gross | 5 | 6 Tom Bryant |
| 7 Heather Pennington Nyla Wright Graham | 8 | 9 Shauntina Phillips Jenny Wilson | 10 Eben Henson Brandon Sebastian Mike Swain *Jim & Evelyn Page | 11 | 12 *Philip & Ann Nichols | 13 Jack Kaiser |
| 14 Kira Pusateri Catherine Shoulty | 15 Hunter Baltazar Ethan Gover Jackson Pass | 16 | 17 Brent Williams | 18 Bill Morgan Jennie Sue Sivis | 19 *Darrell & Kathryn Ensor | 20 |
| 21 Sarah Wall John Funkhouser | 22 | 23 Mindie Kerbaugh | 24 Bobby Rightmyer | 25 | 26 | 27 Jim Brown |
| 28 | | | | | | |

FCC KIDS CORNER

Valentine's Day is right around the corner and that got me thinking about candy! What is your favorite candy? How many of you like those **Candy Conversation Hearts**? You know, the ones that say things like "You're Sweet", "Cool Cat", and "Be Mine". They are not my favorite candy to eat but I do have fun reading the sayings!



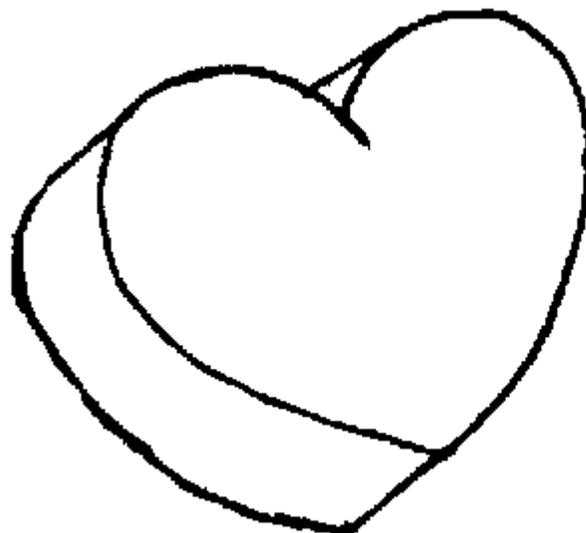
The sayings remind me of a scripture from Jeremiah 31 where God says, "I will put my law in their minds and **write it on their hearts**. I will be their God, and they will be my people." That got me thinking . . .

I wonder what Jesus would write if he sent us a Candy Conversation Heart?

In Romans 8:39 it says: "Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

If we tried to fit all that on a Conversation Heart it might read, "**Always with me**".

This month I challenge you to read each of the scriptures below with your family and think about how you might say it in a way that is short enough to write on a candy heart. You can cut out the candy heart on this page and trace one for each of the scriptures below on colored construction paper. Then hang them some place where you can see them each day.



John 3:16

Jeremiah 31:3

Psalms 89:2

Psalms 36:5

Romans 5:8

Romans 8:28

Ephesians 5:1-2

1 John 3:16



February is also the month that the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ takes a special offering to help those who are in need. Think about ways that you could collect some change to be part of this special offering. Ask your parents to watch for more information about the Week of Compassion and talk with your family about how you might be part of this important ministry.

I'm looking forward to getting back to worship and seeing you in person soon!

Patti

January Board Meeting Summary

The Administrative Board of FCC met on 1/21/2021 under the leadership of new Board Chair Doug McMurry. Highlights are as follows:

- Doug and the board welcomed Pastor Catherine DeMoss to FCC. Pastor Catherine's first day was 1/18/2021.
- Doug welcomed new board members, Julie Jones - Vice-Chair, Martha Bryant - Treasurer, and Jan Scott -Elder Chair.
- Financial Report:
Board approved a change to the bank signature card to remove Larry Thygesen and Sherrie Coconaugh and add Patricia Whaley and Evelyn Page. Martha Bryant and Bill Barker will remain.

Board also approved a change to the Simple IRA agreement with Kentucky Trust to allow new employees to be effective upon employment.

Executive Committee will review balance in Capital Campaign Fund as it was to be 0 at the end of 2020. Executive Committee will also review some carry-over funds still in budget at year end.

Arrangements will be made for an HVAC audit to ensure temperature settings are correct.

- Maxine Maxey and World Outreach Committees will meet week of January 25.
- Ministry Area teams are still unable to meet in person due to the Covid-19 pandemic; some may explore meeting via Zoom in the future.
- Senior Minister's Report:

Once Covid-19 restrictions lift to enable it to happen, there needs to be training of audio/video/internet worship team to allow Joey to focus on pastoring the congregation.

We are saying goodbye at the end of this month to our longtime business administrator Sherrie Cocanougher. This is a bittersweet time for us as we simultaneously are grieving her departure and celebrating the next season of her life in retirement in beautiful sunny Florida. We are also glad to welcome Patty Whaley as our new business admin. We are also very excited to welcome Pastor Catherine DeMoss to our ministerial staff.

Prayer Concerns

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Bill Barker | Peggy Mitchell |
| Steve & Pat Bruce | Susan Montgomery |
| Josh Hensley | Bill Morgan |
| Odell Hines | Jim Page |
| Julie Jones | Betty Ramey |
| Jack Kaiser | Mike Swain |
| Marianne Kirby | Lynn Tye |
| Marilyn Marlowe | Bonnie Wilson |
| Nancy Mellios | Jeff Withers |
| Margaret Ann Milburn | Mary Lou Withers |
| Mike Miller | |

In Sympathy

To Con & Sherrie Horn on the passing of Con's mother, Margaret Horn on January 12.

Thank you for participating in the Giving Advent Calendar!

Over 40 boxes of food were donated by members and friends of First Christian Church who participated in the Giving Advent Calendar.

We received this note from The Salvation Army regarding this outreach ministry: We are forever grateful for the amount of food that was given to The Salvation Army.

Welcome Patty Whaley

FCC welcomes Patty Whaley as our new Business Administrator. Patty has already been training with Sherrie for the past two months and comes with great business experience. She lives in Waynesburg, Kentucky after moving from Florida a year ago with her husband, Wayne, who is a Baptist pastor. They have two grown children. We look forward to seeing how God uses Patty's expertise and gifts here at FCC. If you need to contact Patty, her email is patty@firstchristiandanville.com.

News & Announcements

Backpack Kids

There will be an offering taken for Backpack Kids on February 14 to purchase food supply for students in Danville/Boyle County Schools who need assistance. Please mail in your monetary gift and indicate "Backpack Kids" on your check or noted elsewhere. FCC's Outreach Ministry Team continues to pack bags each month for this program.

Week of Compassion Collection February 21

Our annual collection for Week of Compassion will be taken on February 21. This year's theme "Let love flow." reminds us when we share what God has given, that love spreads into many lives that are not just saved, but are transformed. This collection will help support water and other sustainable development projects all over the world. Your monetary gifts should be mailed to the church with "Week of Compassion" on the memo line of the check or noted elsewhere.

Ash Wednesday

Mark your calendars for February 17 as we begin the Lenten season with our Ash Wednesday Service. This service will be streamed live on Facebook or YouTube at 7pm.

Lent Devotions

Our Lenten devotional booklets are now available for pick-up at the church. The devotions "Steadfast Love" are taken from passages of Henri J. Nouwen. Please email Donna (donna@firstchristiandanville.com) or call the church if you would like a booklet. Lent begins February 17.

Church Under the Bridge

FCC's Outreach Team will be taking food to Lexington for Church Under the Bridge on February 7. This is our third year partnering with this outreach ministry.

FCC February Calendar:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| February 7 | Church Under the Bridge |
| February 14 | Backpack Kids Offering |
| February 17 | Ash Wednesday (Lenten Season begins) |
| February 20 | Soups on Us |
| February 21 | Week of Compassion Collection |

Rev. Joseph "Joey" Pusateri
Senior Pastor
859-236-4006
502-299-7439 (cell)
joey@firstchristiandanville.com

Rev. Catherine DeMoss
Associate Pastor
859-236-4006
270-985-5050 (cell)
catherine@firstchristiandanville.com

Larry Davidson
Director of Music Ministry
859-936-3188
lawr3188@roadrunner.com

Church Office (859) 236-4006
info@firstchristiandanville.com
fccdanville.com



Our Ash Wednesday Service will be streamed live on Facebook and YouTube on February 17 at 7 pm.

First Christian Church

555 E. Lexington Ave.
P.O. Box 1398
Danville, KY 40423

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