



FIRST CHRISTIAN
disciples of christ

HIGHLIGHTS

Making disciples who make a difference!

February 26, 2020

Koinōnía (Koinonia)

koinə' nēə, noun: Christian fellowship

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.” (Matthew 5:15-16, NRSV)

Last week, tragedy struck our community again. As many of you know, particularly those of you who have made Danville your home for a long period of time, a young man named Matt Walter, who was well-respected and well-loved, died by suicide.

Many words in loving tribute have been spoken already, in newspaper articles, worship services, and conversations. I addressed it myself in the sermon that was preached last Sunday. I know that this is something that people will continue to wrestle with, talk about and bring to God in prayer. In this Highlights article, I would like to briefly revisit some of what I said in last Sunday’s sermon.

People have asked me in one way or another, “How can we prevent this from happening again?” (It has already happened an alarming number of times in our community in the last few years.) “What can we do to make sure that people know that it’s okay to reach out and ask for help if they are struggling?” I am grateful for these questions. They are the right questions.

My response is that we look closely at the situation. Matt was a lawyer and prominent community figure. He was active in charity work and well-known for his generosity and compassion. That means that he wore the garments of a significant, public role in Danville. In the short time I have been in this town, I have come to understand the difficulty of having a significant, public role. People know me as the pastor of FCC, which is an honor. But that also means that I have a responsibility to my family, my community and my congregation to appear a certain way, befitting of the honor of being called “pastor.” And so if I do or say anything unflattering to that role, then I feel the pressure of having let all of those people down. Furthermore, I

live in a community (like many small communities) where virtually everyone else is known by their role. I am introduced all the time to people who are titled, “doctor, lawyer, businessperson, preacher, politician, daughter or son of so-and-so, etc.” And the unfortunate problem with this is that without even meaning to do so, people’s identity becomes confused with their public role. And what is the problem with that? We are not our roles! You are not your job or your bank account or your family’s reputation; that’s not who you are! But when we mistake our role for ourselves, then we start living from the outside-in, trying to maintain the image.

So the solution is easy, right? All we need to do is tell people that they are safe to take off the role and be themselves. Not so fast. Many people have tried being vulnerable and authentic, only to endure the whispers and stares of judgment. I’ve heard the gossip, so I know what I’m talking about. It is not sufficient to tell people to be vulnerable. They see our actions louder than they hear our words. What we need is a culture shift.

The only way that people are going to feel safe in being vulnerable, sharing their struggles and reaching out for help is if we model it. In other words, people like you and me are going to have to actually do the things we want other people to do. They aren’t going to jump in the water unless they see you jump in the water. This is way more difficult that it might first appear, but it is our responsibility, nonetheless. After all, we are disciples of Jesus. And Jesus told us to shine our light, shadows and all.

Please join me in praying for healing. Join me in standing up to the darkness that hides the pain of our loved ones. Join me in shining the light. For that light comes from God and is powerful enough to overcome anything.

Shalom,
Joey Pusateri

Inside...

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*March Calendars &
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News & Events

Recovery Sunday

Join us this Sunday for a special worship service. We will have guests from Isaiah House sharing their testimony and leading us in music.

Associate Minister Search Committee

The search committee has a four questions survey for you to complete. Continue to pray for our church and the members of the search committee: Julie Jones, Joey Kirk, Patrick McClure, Jennifer Pusateri, Joey Pusateri (ex officio), and Cheryl Gibson, Chair person.

Lenten Lunches

On Tuesday, March 3, we begin our Lenten Lunches series with Messages of Hope. Lunch will be served at 12 Noon followed by a speaker and concludes by 12:55 pm. Make sure to invite your friends, family, and co-workers. Below is the 6-week Lenten Lunches schedule:

March 3	Speaker: Dr. Jerry Sumney Cook: Rodger Ross
March 10	Speaker: Dr. Mickey Anders Cooks: Larry & Jan Scott
March 17	Speaker: Rev. Caroline Kelly Cook: Harry Mercer
March 24	Speaker: Rev. Jason Kilby Cooks: Brian Calvert/John Funkhouser
March 31	Speaker: Elder Tom Huckleberry Cook: Brian Darnell/Ben Guerrant
April 7	Speaker: Rev. John Powell Cook: Lyle & Mary Ann McGlothlin

Open Gym

Help us get the word out that our gym and walking track is open to the community on Wednesdays 5-8 p. We greatly appreciate all our volunteers who make this happen.

CWF (Christian Women's Fellowship)

Ladies will meet March 10 at 1 pm following Lenten Lunches in the Community Room 100. Judy Morgan will share "Be of the Same Mind in the Lord: The Mind of Christ" based on Philippians 2:1-11, 4:2-9.

Christian Women United

Church Women United of Mercer & Boyle County will meet on Friday, March 6 at 9:30 am at St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Harrodsburg. There will be a potluck, light breakfast followed by the celebration/worship service. Our featured speaker is Anne Sleet who became the first African American woman mayor of Perryville. She has also been a nurse, caterer, a member of Perryville City Council and CWU. All Christian women of any denomina-

tion are invited to attend. We will celebrate Human Rights Day. After the worship celebration, everyone will meet at Grace Café for lunch. For more information, contact Wendy Hood @ 859 613-2575 or Judy Morgan@ 859 583-3261.

Outreach Team

There are several major events planned for the 2020 calendar year. We would like to make the congregation aware of the dates so they can be put on your calendars. Your participation in these events is appreciated.

April 11—11:00 am Community Easter Egg Hunt @ FCC

July 12—Church Under the Bridge in Lexington

September 6—Church Under the Bridge in Lexington

September 17—Arnold Tower Dinner

October 25—4:00 pm Track or Treat

December 12—10:00 am Breakfast with Santa

We also want to thank you for your continued support of our monthly outreach projects of Soups on Us, Backpack Kids, and 4 Cans 4 Others.

Lent Devotionals

Our Lent Devotional booklets are available at the welcome table or outside the church office.

Kids Corner

Upcoming Events

(Children)

March 1—Children (K-5th grade) meet after church for lunch and make cards/book marks to take to Worship @ Morning Pointe (12-3 pm)

March 15—Game Extravaganza (K-5th grade & friends) (3-5 pm)

March 17—God's Family

March 20-21—Lock-in (Children & friends 3rd-5th grade) 6pm—Will help that morning with Soups on Us

(Middle/HS Youth)

March 1—Lunch out after church

March 27-28—Lock-in

DYC (Middle/High School Youth) will meet at FCC on Sundays at 5:15 pm in March.

DYC (Senior High) Devotions at the Hub—Wednesdays at 7:15 am.

February Board Summary

- January 2020 Financial Report: Contributions were low for January and were \$10,500 less than January 2019. Expenses were over budget in January due to three (3) paydays. Capital Campaign – the \$50,000.00 loan for HVAC has been paid off plus interest and closing fee. The church is debt free.
- Senior Minister's Report – Rev. Joey is encouraging development of an Audio/Visual team under the Worship Ministry Area and has asked Connie McVicker to seek a coordinator to organize and recruit people to work all aspects of the sound and video. Training would be done by House Right, the company that installed the equipment.
- Worship attendance has increased; average is 177 YTD, which is a 5.06% over total 2019 and 12.68% over YTD 2019 (through eight (8) weeks).
- Personnel Committee has finalized the job description for the Associate Minister.
- Board approved the Youth Funds Activity Policy.
- Board approved changes to the Love Fund Policy.
- Maxine Maxey Funds and World Outreach Discretionary Funds have been allocated.
- Plans were reviewed and discussed in regard to FCC hosting DYC (the ecumenical youth partnership between FCC, Trinity Episcopal and The Presbyterian Church) in March.
- Board approved a request by the Boy Scouts Troup 326 to use one (1) church bus for a trip to Boundary Waters Canoe Area in Northern Minnesota June 13-21, 2020.

Easter Services and Events

March 3 – Lenten Lunches (Every Tuesday @ Noon)

April 5 – Palm Sunday Service 10:45 am

April 9 – Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service 7:30 pm

April 10 - Good Friday Prayer Vigil 6 am - 6 pm

April 11 – Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 am @ FCC

April 12 – Easter Sunrise 7:30 am

Easter Worship 10:45 am

Prayer Concerns

Bill Barker	Julian Mitchell
Janice Bohannon	Peggy Mitchell
Jerry Boyd	Susan Montgomery
Steve Bruce	Bill Morgan
Lynne Dean	Jim Page
Peyton Guerrant	Betty Ramey
Odell Hines	Mike Swain
Jack Kaiser	Bonnie Wilson
Marianne Kirby	Jeff Withers
Marilyn Marlowe	Mary Lou Withers
Margaret Ann Milburn	
Mike Miller	



Attendance

February 16		February 23	
Attendance	160	Attendance	230
Last Year	163	Last Year	171

Weeks Ahead

Week of March 1		Week of March 8	
Sunday	9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service 12:00 Children's Missions (Lunch, Mission Project, Morning Pointe (12-3)) 12:00 Youth Lunch Out 2:00 Worship @ Morning Pointe 5:15 DYC at FCC	Sunday	9:45 Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service 5:15 DYC at FCC
Monday	9:00 Body Recall 6:30 PALS (Parents of Addicted Loved Ones) Support Group 7:00 Boy Scouts	Monday	9:00 Body Recall 6:30 PALS (Parents of Addicted Loved Ones) Support Group 7:00 Boy Scouts
Tuesday	6:30 Assoc. Minister Search Committee (parlor) 7:00 Property Team (chapel)	Tuesday	12:00 Lenten Lunches 1:00 CWF in Community Rm 100
Wednesday	7:15 DYC Hub Devotions 9:00 Body Recall 10:00 Healthy Back Class 5:00 Open Gym (5-8) 5:30 Grace Notes Handbells 6:30 Ladies AA Group 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Wednesday	7:15 DYC Hub Devotions 9:00 Body Recall 10:00 Healthy Back Class 5:00 Open Gym (5-8) 5:30 Grace Notes Bells 6:30 Ladies AA Group 7:00 Sanctuary Choir
Thursday	9:30 Magnet Bible Study Group 4:00 Centering Prayer Group 6:30 Living Word Bible Study	Thursday	9:30 Magnet Bible Study Group 10:00 Connections Team 2:00 Worship Team 4:00 Centering Prayer Group 6:30 Living Word Bible Study
Friday	9:00 Body Recall 10:00 Healthy Back Class 7:30 AA Meeting 8:00 Al-Anon	Friday	9:00 Body Recall 10:00 Healthy Back Class 7:30 AA Meeting 8:00 Al-Anon
Saturday	9:00 Men's Fellowship @ Cracker Barrel 10:30 Al-Anon	Saturday	10:30 Al-Anon

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Service Roster March 1

Deacons Jay Reynolds (Team Coordinator), Patty Castle, Laura Hoffman, Nancy Mahan, Jenny McClure, Patrick McClure, Connie McVicker, Alice Reynolds, Lynn Tye, Tom Tye, Jeff Withers **Elders at the Table** Patricia Calvert, John Funkhouser **Elders Serving Shut-in Communion** Mratha Caywood, Kathryn Ensor, Tom Hensley **Worship Leader** Julie Jones **Communion Preparer** Debbie Baker **Steward** John Caywood **Greeters** Rodger Ross, Wendy Ross **Ushers** Butch Pass, Becky Whited, Mary Ann Wilson **Welcome Table** Ann Barker **Children Worship & Wonder** Darell Rickmers, Debbie Baker

Service Roster March 8

Deacons Jay Reynolds (Team Coordinator), Patty Castle, Laura Hoffman, Nancy Mahan, Jenny McClure, Patrick McClure, Connie McVicker, Alice Reynolds, Lynn Tye, Tom Tye, Jeff Withers **Elders at the Table** Martha Bryant, John Caywood **Elders Serving Shut-in Communion** Debbie Baker, John Funkhouser, Nancy McMurry **Worship Leader** Cheryl Gibson **Communion Preparer** Ruby Cline-Eaton **Steward** John Caywood **Greeters** Nancy Mahan, Tillie Sowders **Ushers** Ann Barker, Edna Prall, Sueann Rice **Welcome Table** Jodell Brown **Children Worship & Wonder** Kandi Williams, Brent Williams

Next newsletter publication is March 11. Please submit any information by March 6.

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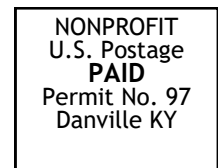
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First Christian Church

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*Bi-monthly newsletter
publication*

February 26, 2020



Return Service
Requested



a season of renewal