



# FIRST CHRISTIAN disciples of christ HIGHLIGHTS

*Making disciples who make a difference!*

November 25, 2020

## ***Koinōnia (Koinonia)***

koinē' nēā, noun: Christian fellowship

*You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today. (Deuteronomy 8:17-18, NIV)*

Have you ever heard the phrase, "fake it until you make it?" If not, here's another way of saying it, "if you can't think your way into a better way of acting, then act your way into a better way of thinking." In other words, sometimes we have to take action we don't feel like taking and then we will *feel like* it later.

A great example of this is exercise and nutrition. Many times, we would rather sit on the couch and do nothing, eating potato chips or cookies. We don't want to take a walk around the block, or go to the gym, or eat something healthy. But if we just do those things anyway, whether we want to or not, then after a while we will actually want to do them. We are "faking it until we making it!"

The fake it until you make it principle, I find, works best with gratitude. After all, sometimes we just don't feel grateful. In times like these, when people are losing their jobs, when people are getting ill, when some people are being hospitalized and dying, it can be hard to feel grateful. But I can testify from experience, that if you force yourself to feel grateful, even if it doesn't feel genuine, then you will suddenly see all of the things you truly are thankful for and your gratitude will be authentic.

The reason this is true is because gratitude is actually not a reaction to one's circumstances, but a conscious *choice* we make. Let me make my case. Have you ever met someone that can find joy in any circumstance? These are the people who lose \$20 and think, "Oh boy! I sure hope someone who needs it more than me finds it!" Other people would let that ruin their day. What is the difference? And then there are people who find a way to be upset no matter what happens. These are the people who could win the lottery and complain about the taxes they will have to pay and the long-lost relatives who may come and try to get some of the money. Most others would be elat-

ed. What's the difference? We see that it ultimately has nothing to do with what does or doesn't happen; our attitude is a choice.

I challenge you to force yourself to be grateful, even if it feels fake at first. Try making a list of 10 things that you are grateful for. Even if you are in the middle of a streak of bad luck, I bet you can find 10 things. If you woke up on this side of the grass today, that's one. Try that every day for a week and I promise something terrific will happen. Suddenly, you will see more and more blessings and more opportunities for gratitude all around you.

God commands us to be grateful, not because God ego is so fragile that he needs our endless thank you's. It's because it's in our best interest. Almost all of human misery seems to come from an attitude of selfishness, self-righteousness, and pride. We and the people around us suffer when we think that we are the ones who provide for ourselves. When we adopt the posture of humble gratitude, we remember that God is God and we are not. We recognize that a God who has cared for us so much already in our lives is certainly not going to abandon us now. And we see that the reason we are blessed in the first place, with money, talents, personalities, work ethic, creativity, experiences, curiosity, etc. is not for our individual enjoyment, but rather so that we can let God use us to bless the community around us. But gratitude is the key.

This Thanksgiving season, I am so grateful. I am grateful for the best staff, the best congregation, the best community I could ask for as a pastor. And I am tickled pink that God trusts me so much to be so blessed. To you and your family, Happy Thanksgiving.

Shalom,  
Joey Pusateri

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## ***November Board Summary***

- Financial Report
  - \* Contributions exceeded budget for October. Contributions year to date are \$46,000.00 less than budget. Expenses are less than budget for October and less than budget year to date. Due to the endowment income and forgivable \$34,500.00 Small Business Loan via the Cares Act, the church is holding its own financially and we have no debt. The forgivable \$34,500.00 loan was used for salaries and utilities.
  - \* The treasurer met with Kentucky Utilities regarding billing of electricity. KU responded that our billing is at the lowest rate and there is no minimum billing. Electricity continues to be higher than budget due to an overestimate of savings from new HVAC system and a KU rate increase.
  - \* The Capital Campaign fund will be 0 by end of 2020, as money will be distributed to the Building Fund and Emergency Fund. Money was borrowed from these two funds to pay off the HVAC units in the CLC.
  - \* The Stewardship Campaign has been completed, with the number of commitments and the amount of giving less than last year.
  - \* Following review and discussion, the board approved the 2021 Budget as proposed by the Budget Team. Endowment income of \$125,304.00 will go to the operational budget, as there is no debt to apply it to. It is projected that the total revenue will exceed expenses by \$24,588.00 and this money will be placed in the Emergency Fund. The Maxine Maxey Fund endowment revenue is \$13,556.00 and the Ansel Herndon Fund endowment revenue is \$3096.00. 2021 Budget includes salary increases, disability insurance for staff, electricity increase, and outreach increase with three(3) additional programs.
- Property: Lights over the gym and walking track have been converted to LED lights. An estimate will be obtained for re-glazing and painting of windows in the sanctuary.
- Pastor Joey is in the process of determining how we can do a pre-recorded Christmas Eve service, due to the escalating Covid-19 pandemic.
- Discipleship: Mary Ann McGlothlin and Patty Wright are working on a mailing to all children regarding Advent and are developing a plan so that the children can get to know new Associate Pastor Catherine DeMoss, who will be here in mid-January, 2021.
- Personnel announced the hiring of Patricia Whaley, effective 12/1/2020, as the new Business Administrator, due to the upcoming retirement of Sherrie Cocanougher on 1/31/2021.
- Board approved slate of officers, ministry area coordinators, Elder officers, and slate of new Elders, effective January 1, 2021.
- A congregational meeting will be held on 12/6/2020, for the congregation to vote on the 2021 Budget and the 2021 church leadership (slate of officers, ministry area coordinators, Elder officers, slate of new Elders). Information will be placed in the Highlights and sent to the congregation. The process for voting will follow the same process as the last time, with several ways to vote – by phone, by email, by mail, etc.
- Board approved the empowerment of the Maxine Maxey and World Outreach Committees to name the beneficiaries and to distribute \$40,000.00 in charitable giving by 12/31/2020.

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Aubrey Sivilis Sr.	3 *Jerry & Jane Boyd	4 Clare Coleman Maggie Milby	5
6 Terry Dachenhaus Bonnie Wilson	7 Margaret Clark Harrison Compton	8 Lauren Paynter Howard Wilson	9	10 Johnetta Gibson	11	12
13	14 Susan Hensley	15 Jan Bradshaw Mary Jo Coomer Alexis Kerbaugh	16	17 Fran Drury *John & Martha Caywood	18 Evelyn Page Lillian Russell	19 George McClure *King & Brenda Pruitt
20 Sherrie Horn	21	22 *Don & Betty Holtzclaw	23 Mary Lou Withers *Eben & Janet Henson	24 Mollie Darnell Janie Pass	25	26 *Billy & Gloria Cannon
27	28 Daniel Mann	29 Everett Compton	30 Patsy Clevenger	31 *Tom & Lynn Tye		

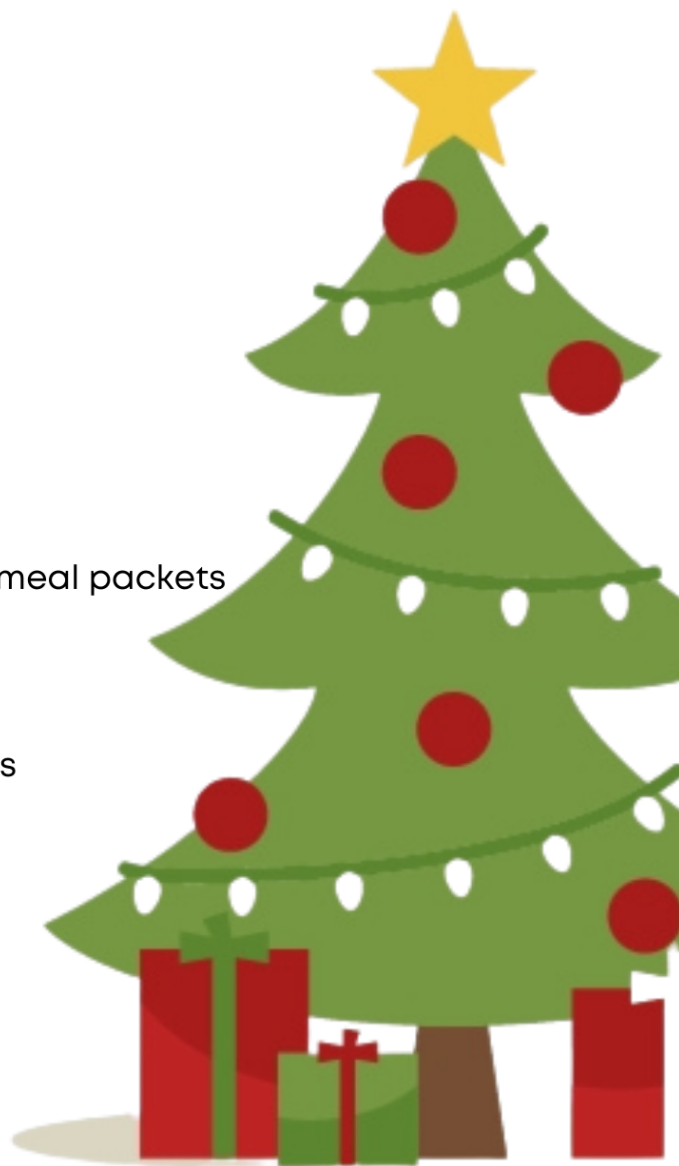
# Giving Advent Calendar

Each day place a food item in your box.

Bring the box to FCC chapel on December 22nd from 9-10am or 5:30-6:30pm.

All items will go to The Salvation Army.

<b>December 1</b>	Tuna
<b>December 2</b>	Tuna Helper
<b>December 3</b>	Canned chicken
<b>December 4</b>	Jelly
<b>December 5</b>	Pop-Tarts
<b>December 6</b>	Canned beef stew
<b>December 7</b>	Ravioli
<b>December 8</b>	Canned tomatoes
<b>December 9</b>	Jiffy cornbread mix
<b>December 10</b>	Shelf stable milk
<b>December 11</b>	Canned peas
<b>December 12</b>	Individual instant oatmeal packets
<b>December 13</b>	Pancake mix
<b>December 14</b>	Syrup
<b>December 15</b>	Can of soup
<b>December 16</b>	Box of saltine crackers
<b>December 17</b>	Pasta
<b>December 18</b>	Spaghetti sauce
<b>December 19</b>	Mac n cheese (already in sauce)
<b>December 20</b>	Cream of chicken or mushroom soup
<b>December 21</b>	Rice
<b>December 22</b>	Ramen noodles



Contact Mary Ann McGlothlin (859-396-7109) or email: [maryann.mcglathlin@gmail.com](mailto:maryann.mcglathlin@gmail.com)  
if you need your box picked up on December 22nd.

## Prayer Concerns

Bill Barker  
Jane Boyd  
Jerry Boyd  
Steve & Pat Bruce  
Philip Dean and family  
Josh Hensley  
Odell Hines  
Julie Jones  
Jack Kaiser  
Marianne Kirby  
Lucille Lemmon  
Marilyn Marlowe  
Nancy Mellios

Margaret Ann Milburn  
Mike Miller  
Peggy Mitchell  
Susan Montgomery  
Bill Morgan  
Bill Owens  
Jim Page  
Betty Ramey  
Mike Swain  
Bonnie Wilson  
Jeff Withers  
Mary Lou Withers

## Thank You

Thank you for the candy!

Thank you so much for the generous donations of Halloween candy. We were able to fill a total of 180 treat bags which included the Backpack Kids and the FCC Kids Club event. We appreciate your help!

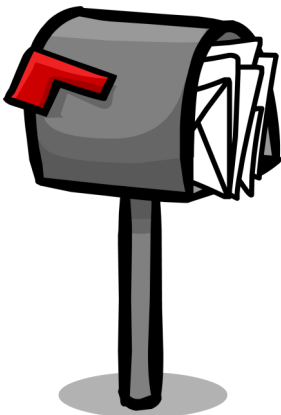
The Outreach Committee

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Thank you to our Property Team!

Our property team, chaired by Steve Cline, has been hard at work with several projects over the past month. Many thanks to Steve and Lyle McGlothlin for many hours repairing the baptistry area. And thank you to Tim Barringer and all the volunteers who helped with the new landscaping outside the front and chapel side of the church.

## Kids Corner



Hey kids!

Watch for a special mailing coming for you and your families. There are great Advent activities and a cool Christmas idea for you to participate in this year.

## FCC Happenings

### Virtual Congregational Meeting December 6

A congregational meeting will be held virtually during the online worship service on December 6. All church members will vote to approve the 2021 Church Budget and Church Leadership. Information/ballot packets will be sent out prior to the meeting. Voting ballots or responses should be received at the church no later than 4 pm on December 10 by any of the following ways:

1) email to [sherrie@firstchristiandanville.com](mailto:sherrie@firstchristiandanville.com), 2) mailing ballot to the church at 555 E. Lexington Ave. or 3) call the church (236-4006) on Monday, December 7 or Thursday, December 10.

### Christmas Poinsettias

Orders for Christmas poinsettias are being taken in memory or in honor of a loved one for \$10 each. Flowers can be picked up after Christmas on December 27. There is a limited supply so order soon by December 20! Please mail in your order with payment to Sherrie at FCC with the following information:

- 1) In memory or in honor of ... and given by ...
- 2) Make check out to FCC with "poinsettias" in the memo line.

### Advent Devotionals

If you would like an Advent devotional booklet, please call the church (236-4006) and leave a message or email at [donna@firstchristiandanville.com](mailto:donna@firstchristiandanville.com). We will either have someone drop it by your house or mail it to you.

### The Salvation Army Angel Tree Tag Adoptions

All Angel Tree tags given to the church have been distributed. If you want to adopt a child this year for Christmas, please pick up a tag at Wal-Mart. All items should be returned by December 7 to The Salvation Army, 519 S. Fourth St. Hours are M-F, 9-4p. No items are to be brought to the church due to COVID. Please contact Linda Dachenhaus (419-260-0618) or email [lbda-ch74@gmail.com](mailto:lbda-ch74@gmail.com) if you need your items picked up and taken to The Salvation Army.

### CWS Blanket Collection

Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF) says thank you for contributing to the blanket project. A total of \$1,441.00 was collected for purchasing blankets through Church World Services.

### The Salvation Army Kettle Bell Ringing

FCC is ringing the Kettle Bell for Salvation Army inside Kroger's on Monday, December 7 and Monday, December 14. Limited one-hour time slots are still available on December 7 at 4:00 or 6:00 or December 14 at 10:00, 11:00, or 1:00-6:00. If interested in volunteering, email Nancy Mahan at [nancymahan99@yahoo.com](mailto:nancymahan99@yahoo.com) with your preferred time and phone number.

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

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

Church Office (859) 236-4006  
Fax (859) 236-4075  
Dial-a-Prayer (859) 236-2584

## Church Calendar

**November 26-27 - Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving**

**November 29 - 1st Sunday of Advent**

**December 7 - Angel Tree gifts to be returned to The Salvation Army**

**December 12 - No Community Breakfast with Santa**

**No Christmas Dinner**

**December 16-17 - Outreach Christmas Food Boxes**

**December 22 - Giving Advent Calendar Food Box Return**

### **First Christian Church**

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