



FIRST CHRISTIAN disciples of christ HIGHLIGHTS

Making disciples who make a difference!

July 2026

A Fourth of July Reflection on 1 Peter 2:15-17 (MSG)

Every Independence Day is special for Americans. This one in particular as it celebrates a millennium quartern of democracy. Flags will wave, families will gather, communities will parade, and fireworks will fill the sky. We will celebrate freedom, and rightly so. Freedom is a precious gift. Yet every gift asks something of its recipient.

The apostle Peter wrote to Christians who daily experienced the opposite of the American Dream. They existed in uncertain times. They experienced no constitutional guarantees of liberty. They lived under an emperor's heel who ruled from Rome. Yet Peter's words continue to speak across the centuries:

“It's God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules. Treat everyone you meet with dignity. Love your spiritual family. Revere God. Respect the government.”

I watched a boy at a park open and attempt to assemble a kite. It was a perfect windy day. He tore into the packaging. From the outset, he became frustrated with the string. It vexed him: getting tangled, unable to tie a clean knot. In a burst of impatience, he screamed at his parents the kite didn't need string. You know what happened. A kite without a string does not become freer. It just loses direction and fails.

Freedom is often misunderstood in much the same way. Some imagine freedom means doing whatever pleases, whenever it pleases. Yet Peter points us toward a deeper understanding. Christian freedom is not freedom from responsibility; it is freedom **for** responsibility. It is not freedom to write-off others; it's freedom to serve all others.

The genius of democracy is not that it provides people with rights. It's that citizens accept the responsibility of participating in a shared community.

Democracies flourish when neighbors listen to one another and seek the common good. Democracy weakens when freedom self-centeredly focuses on an individual or small segment.

Peter's counsel is remarkably relevant today.

“Treat everyone you meet with dignity.”

What would happen if such simple instruction guided our discussions, our social media posts, and our community life? We'd discover disagreement need not lead to division or violence. We would relearn that democracy depends not on laws nor institutions, but upon individual responsibility, as the Bible declares, to be one's brother's keeper.

July 4th reminds us of freedoms secured through sacrifice. Men and women have served, struggled, and given their lives so others might enjoy the blessings of liberty. As Christians, we remember an even deeper freedom secured through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ—a freedom from sin's power, a freedom to live as God's people.

Peter's challenge is clear: **“Exercise your freedom by serving God.”** Freedom reaches its highest purpose when it is placed in service to something greater than self-interest. The citizen who serves the community, the neighbor who helps a neighbor, the believer who reflects Christ's love—this is freedom properly understood.

As we celebrate our nation in July, may we give thanks for the blessings of liberty. May we pray for our leaders, our communities, and our fellow citizens. And may we remember that the truest freedom is not found in demanding our own way, but in offering ourselves for the good of others. For when freedom is guided by faith, tempered by humility, and expressed through love, it becomes more than a political ideal. It becomes a witness to the kingdom of God.

May God continue to bless our nation with wisdom, justice, and peace,

-Rev. Colby

FCC Kids Corner

Kid's Club July Activities

Sunday, July 12th

Kid's Club/MS Youth Trip

Malibu Jack's

Eat lunch at FCC then leave
for Lexington.

Return at 3:00



A great (and messy) time was had by 30 children thanks to these amazing FCC Volunteers! Many thanks to all!

Linda Dachenhaus	Connie McVicker	Mary McKitric	Ande Teague
Patricia Calvert	Terry Dachenhaus	Sherri Horn	Karson Stofleth
Jacob Cooper	Stephen Hinkle	Bari Bowman	Karrigan Mitchell
Meryk Hinkle	David May	Julie Jones	Alice Reynolds
Keagan Walker	Penny Vaught	Nancy McMurry	Margaret Clark
Sueann Rice	Martha Bryant	Kendra Funkhouser	



For questions about FCC Children's Programs, contact Patti Wright
Email patti@firstchristiandanville.com or text (812) 483-9004

News & Announcements

Dear Congregation,

Thank you very much for your generosity, kindness and friendship. We received our donation to the Voices Inside Program. Your choice to be a part of the Pioneer Playhouse family and to help us continue our outreach programs mean a great deal to us! Thank you for helping keep the performing arts alive!

We could not continue to bring a unique theatre experience to our community without help from friends like you!

Again, Many thanks for your continued support! We are gearing up for our 77th season and can't wait to see you this summer... under the stars!!

Sincerely,

Heather Henson– Managing Director

Robby Henson– Artistic Director

Dear First Christian Outreach Team,

Thank you so much for gifting me this amazing scholarship! This scholarship will help me reach my full potential with more ease than I started with; for that I am grateful. I'm excited for this new chapter and glad you get to be a part of it! I have fellowshiped in your church through Danville Youth Connection and loved every minute! Continue to do great things for our community!

Sincerely,

Lucia Kneisley

Connections Book Group will not meet in July. They will resume on August 2nd with a discussion of *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig.

This is a great group and always open to new members. Lunch is provided.

Lunch Outing – July 16th

Join us on **July 16** as we visit **Mama DeVechio's** for a delicious meal, fun, and great fellowship!

☐ **Meet at the church:** 11:00 AM

☐ **Departure time:** 11:45 AM

☐ **Restaurant location:** 212 Main St., Stanford, KY

We hope you'll come enjoy good food, great company, and a wonderful time together!

Come out for a Family Night of Fun at **Pioneer Playhouse** on July 14!

Enjoy an evening filled with family-friendly activities, including:

- Free pizza and lemonade
- A scavenger hunt
- A photo booth with fun props
- Cornhole and other games

The play begins at 8:00 PM. (The Iron Baby Angel)

Kids under 18 get in FREE with the purchase of an adult ticket.

Call today to reserve your tickets: 859-236-2747

Blood Drive at First Christian Church

Join us for a blood drive on **Monday, July 20th 2026**, from **9:00 am to 2:00 PM** at First Christian Church.

Your donation can help save lives in our community.

Schedule your appointment today: Visit **RedCrossBlood.org** and enter **FCCDanville**

Every drop counts—thank you for making a difference!

News & Announcements



On **Sunday, July 19th** at First Christian Church Music Ministry will present RING AND SING 2026! On this day, at 6:00 pm, our choir, handbells, keyboardists and soloists will present a program of music selected from the pieces we have presented in worship over the past year. Please come and bring your family to experience this joyful and laid-back event of celebration in worship music with your church family!

Donations may be made to support music concerts, musical dining events, and special musical support personnel at the event! Thank you for supporting your music ministry team!

Homemade Ice Cream Contest

Join us on **Sunday, July 19th at 7:00 PM** for our **Homemade Ice Cream Contest!**

Bring your favorite homemade ice cream recipe and enter for a chance to win the **Golden Scoop!**



Whether you're competing or just coming to taste, everyone is invited to enjoy an evening of delicious ice cream, friendly competition, great fellowship, and lots of fun.

We hope to see you there!

A Note from Stephen Hinkle

The Gathering recently enjoyed a fun outing to Topgolf, where our students and volunteers spent time together building friendships, encouraging one another, and enjoying some friendly competition. It was a wonderful opportunity for our group to connect outside of our regular meetings and create lasting memories. We would like to extend a special thank you to John Funkhouser for driving the van and helping make transportation possible. We are also grateful to Kendra Funkhouser for serving as a supportive volunteer and helping care for and encourage our students throughout the trip. Their willingness to serve helped make the outing a success.

Looking ahead, The Gathering will have another exciting outing with Patti's kids on July 12 at Malibu Jack's. While The Gathering, our after-church youth group, will take a break until the school year begins, The Seekers—our during-church youth group—will continue meeting throughout the summer.

Danville Youth Connection (DYC), a shared youth ministry between First Christian Church, Danville Presbyterian Church, and Trinity Episcopal Church, continues to provide opportunities for students to connect and grow in their faith. DYC is currently working to plan a summer outing for students, and we are hopeful that it will be a bowling trip. When school resumes, DYC will once again host its Wednesday morning Wake-Up Devotional. DYC's Wednesday night youth group will continue meeting at the Presbyterian Church each Wednesday evening, and our Sunday evening gathering from 5:30–7:00 p.m. will also resume when school begins. We are thankful for the many students, volunteers, churches, and families who help make these ministries possible and look forward to another great year together.

Office & Walking Track

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. – Noon & 1:00 p.m. – 4:00

News and Announcements

SUMMERTIME... and the GIVING is Easy!!!

Unlike Alice Cooper's song, "SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER," your Outreach Ministry team shows no sign of sitting in the shade & resting on their laurels. Here's what we've got planned to keep you busy & engaged:

"GIVING" so that others have the basics.

In the spirit of the words found in Matthew 25:40

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Special collection boxes & or bins will be set up 6/21 to 7/15 in the Arcade.

DID YOU KNOW?????

FREE laundry facilities are available @ Shepherd's House EVERY DAY - FOR ANYONE!

We're collecting laundry detergent (liquid), dryer sheets, laundry bags, stain remover, etc

FREE shower facilities are available @ Shepherd's House EVERY DAY - FOR ANYONE!

We're collecting "travel size" toiletries (deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, shaving supplies [men & women], feminine hygiene), etc.

Also, any gently-used or new towels would be appreciated

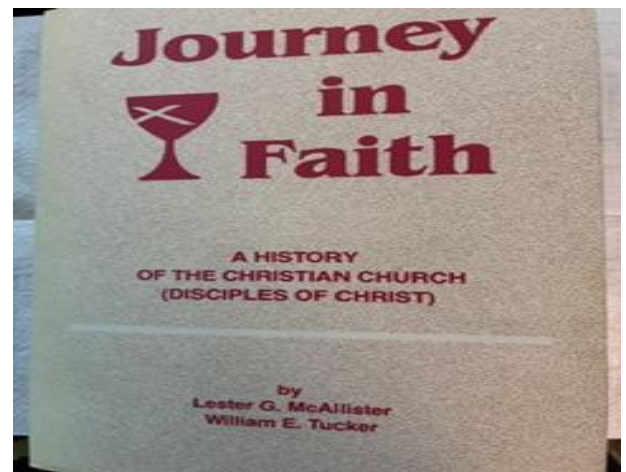
FREE clothing closet is available @ Shepherd's House EVERY DAY - FOR ANYONE!

We're collecting whatever you're interested in parting with (men's, women's, shoes, jackets, etc)

FREE food pantry items are available @ Shepherd's House EVERY DAY - FOR ANYONE!

***We're collecting grab-n-go items (snack cracker packs, fruit cups, granola bars, etc.)

Finally, in early August, we'll be sponsoring a FREE FOOD FRIDAY at Shepherd's House for the community. Details on how you can participate will follow shortly!!!



FCC is planning a late summer trip to Cane Ridge Meetinghouse near Paris, Kentucky. Watch upcoming Highlights for excerpts from the above book to prepare us to understand the significance of the Cane Ridge Camp Meeting in 1801 in Bourbon County.

Barton W. Stone, commonly recognized as a founding father of the Christian Church-Disciples of Christ, was a Presbyterian minister who participated in the Cane Ridge Camp meeting.

(More info in next Highlights)

Please Keep the following in your Prayers

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

Remember our Shut-ins

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



July Worship Roster

July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Worship Leader– Joey Kirk	Worship Leader– John Funkhouser	Worship Leader– Terri Dachenhause	Worship Leader– Jacob Cooper
Elder– Brian Calvert	Elder– Vince Pennington	Elder– Julie Jones	Elder– Tom Huckleberry
Elder & Counter– Patricia Calvert	Elder & Counter– Debbie Baker	Elder & Counter– Margaret Clark	Elder & Counter– Martha Caywood
Children’s Chat– Debbie Baker	Children’s Chat– Carter Nortcutt	Children’s Chat– Scott Walker	Children’s Chat– Patti Wright
Children’s Summer Worship– Debbie Baker	Children’s Summer Worship– Penny Vaught	Children’s Summer Worship– Jenna Walker	Children’s Summer Worship– Patti Wright
Nursery Volunteer– Mary McKitric	Nursery– Mary McKitric/Edna Prall	Nursery–Mary McKitric/Kris Hamlin	Nursery– Mary McKitric/Trista Hinkle
Kid’s Club Summer	No Kid’s Club– (Summer Break)	No Kid’s Club– (Summer Break)	No Kid’s Club– (Summer Break)
Parkview– Rev. Colby Smith/Harry Mercer	Greeters– Melissa & Reed Tally	Shut In Comm.– Greeters– Wendy & Rodger Ross	Cook / Devotion– Greeters– Edna Prall & Becky Whited

Even MORE Cans for Others

74 cans were donated during **June** bringing our total for 2026 to **477** cans. Keep bringing those cans so we can beat our total for 2025 of **1994** cans.



Rev. Colby Smith
Senior Pastor
(816) 527-6001
colby@firstchristiandanville.com

Patti Wright
Children's Ministry Director
(812) 483-9004
patti@firstchristiandanville.com

Stephen Hinkle
Youth Ministry Director
(859) 913-7581
stephen@firstchristiandanville.com

Harry Mercer (MSM) Organist
(502) 550-2698
Skeeterporch.harry@gmail.com

Tim Glasscock
Music Ministry Director
(502) 235-0771
sglasscock@bellarmine.edu

Jacob Cooper
Congregational Care Coordinator
(270) 590-6951
Jacob@firstchristiandanville.com

Trista Hinkle
Business Administrator
trista@firstchristiandanville.com

Yvonne Brand
Front Office Manager
yvonne@firstchristiandanville.com

FCC Contact Information
(859) 236-4006

First Christian Church

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

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