



# FIRST CHRISTIAN disciples of christ HIGHLIGHTS

*Making disciples who make a difference!*

November 22, 2023

## Pastor's Note

Recently we have taken time to honor family and friends who've died within the past year with All Saints Sunday. We have taken time to honor and offer gratitude for those who have served, and those who are now serving, in the armed forces during worship and through community observances. We've taken time to express gratitude before God and with loved ones for blessings received. We now arrive at Advent's threshold.

Though fought back with concluding Daylight Savings Time, it's unlikely anyone fails to notice darkness is increasing. Students go to school in the dark, and before long, their parent's workday will end as it began, in darkness. The hours of light fade. The fewer hours of daylight available are often dimmed, obscured with winter's seemingly never ending cloud cover. Into this, Christians enter Advent.

The season of Advent marks the beginning of a new church year. A time whereby we reflect anew on the meaning of the incarnation, ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection - of Christ and for ourselves. In Advent we take time to focus on the threefold coming of Jesus Christ: in the flesh; in Word; in sacrament. Around this time we would do well to consider the question Martin Luther asked when contemplating the profound meaning of the Christmas story, "Why would the Lord of all the universe care enough about us mortals to take our flesh and share our woes?" (R. Bainton, Martin Luther's Christmas Book, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1948)

It feels fitting the most hopeful season of the church year begins just as darkness increases. In days to come, Advent wreath candles will be lit. Not a moment too soon. The light produced from these flames stands against growing darkness. And every week, as the flame of another candle is added, the light shines brighter even as the darkness arrives sooner and lasts longer.

God's love shines forth in the first breath of our life, in Christ, in those we love, in those who love us, in creation with its seasons. However, we only see what we focus upon. Too often, we choose to look not upon the goodness from God upon whom all blessings flow, but what feels missing, what seems to have been taken away, the lost dream lost with its anguish, the deep sadness from a beloved's illness or loss. Grief in all these moments, and so many more, must be acknowledged and claimed. No sense pretending we always find joy in God's plans and God's divine timing which seldom seems to match our own.

Even so, God's Word speaks to every faithful heart. The Bible teaches truth. God loves us. God works in each life for good ... always for good. Philippians 1:6 tells us, "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion ..." I chose to trust the God of all creation who rules with purposeful wisdom. I know it's true for me because it has been true throughout time.

Asking the question, "Why would the Lord of all the universe care enough about us mortals to take our flesh and share our woes?" leads us to consider all the ways in which God comes to us. With the season of Advent occurring the four weeks before Christmas Day, it can be easy to focus our eyes only on the baby Jesus cradled in the manger. But stepping back we can bring into view all the ways that God comes to us.

God splits the heavens and comes down not only in the event celebrated on Christmas day. The purpose of the season of Advent is not for Christians to transport themselves back two thousand years ago and pretend to be living in the first century while awaiting the Messiah. We live in the twenty-first century. So let us believe more firmly the truth that God has already come to us, is continuing on with us, and will be back to lead us personally to the dwelling place not made by hands, eternal in the heavens (2 Cor. 5:1).

We are the people of hope. This Advent may we believe and so live how Jesus showed possible. In this way the light always overcomes the dark. May God be praised!

*Inside...*

*November events, birthdays, anniversaries and more*

***Rev Colby Smith***

# KIDS CORNER

Christmas is right around the corner but there is still so much waiting to do! This month at Kid's Club, we will be **trying** to wait patiently while learning all we can about those who waited for Jesus' birth all those years ago.

Kid's Club for children in K-5th grade meets most Sundays right after worship to share a meal and learn more about the Bible with fun activities.



**November 27th**

**Angel Tree  
Shopping**



**December 3rd**

**Jesus Is the light  
of the World**



**December 10th**

**The Angels &  
Shepherds Hear  
the News**



**December 17th**

**Children and  
Youth Christmas  
Lunch & Program**



## Holiday Schedule Changes

Kid's Club will take a Holiday Break and will not meet on Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve or on January 7th. Since Jan 15th is a school holiday we will not meet on Jan 14th. We will resume regular meetings on January 21st.

Children will remain in worship with their families on Dec 24th in both the morning and Christmas Eve Worship services.

**Did You Know?** Many of our children bring their offering each week to Worship & Wonder and Children's Church. Their offering is held in a special account all year and as the holidays roll around, the children go shopping for two children from the Angel Tree. If you would like to donate to help with this Christmas Tradition, contact Patti.

**We will go shopping this year  
during Kid's Club on Sunday,  
November 26th.**



## Children and Youth Christmas Program

### Come to the Stable



**Sunday, December 17th immediately  
following worship!**

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the Christmas program and Church Wide Fellowship Meal. We hope all our children and youth will participate and that the congregation will be there to support them!

This year's program, "Come to the Stable" tells the Christmas Story from the perspective of the animals in the stable.

**For questions about Children's programs, contact Patti Wright**

Email [patti@firstchristiandanville.com](mailto:patti@firstchristiandanville.com) or text (812) 483-9004

## News & Announcements

### 4 Cans 4 Others

We have collected a total of 35,095 cans after receiving 470 in November, bringing to the total this year to 1305. Let's keep bringing four cans every Sunday and let's spread the spirit of the season on the upcoming Advent Sundays. The Salvation Army appreciates each and every donation for needy families!

### Coat Drive

As the weather gets cooler, the Outreach Ministry team wants to warm up the community with a Coat Drive! New or gently used coats, jackets and hoodies of all sizes are needed from infants through adults. The coats we collect will be distributed through the Homeless Ministries of Saints Peter & Paul Church and to the schools through Centerpointe Church's mobile coat closet. Coats can be donated near the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings in November, or at the church office during the week.

### Looking Ahead as the Holidays Approach

The residents of Waynesburg Manor Personal Care Community are an underserved population that we have had a relationship with for well over a decade! FCC wants to provide Christmas Gifts (sweatshirts and sweatpants) for the 29 residents. Be looking for names/sizes of folks in the coming weeks at the Welcome Table. Our party will be on **December 7** and gifts will need to be at the church by December 4. All are welcome to join us for the Dec. 7th Christmas festivities as the bus takes us to Waynesburg at 1:00!

### The Connection Book Group

January 7, 2024, immediately following church in the chapel with a light lunch. The Connection Book Group will not meet in December, but will resume on January 7. Be ready to enjoy a light lunch as we discuss Peter Enn's book, chapters 8, 9, and 10. All are welcome!

### Giving Statements

In order to expedite giving statements going out they were sent through e-mail, if you would like a paper copy please feel free to stop by the office or give us a call and we will be happy to get one for you! Thank you for supporting the ministries at FCC and for your continued support.

## Prayer Concerns

Aubrey Sivis  
Jane Boyd  
Roger Elliott  
Larry Davidson  
John Caywood  
Gary Gibson  
Charlotte Hopper  
John Taylor Ross  
Jan Sheffield  
Bill Morgan  
Mary Lou Withers

Bill Barker  
Cindi Wollum  
Lesa Cooper  
Trevor&Lucy Graham  
Michael Gretton  
Robin Lee  
Lauryn Crawley  
Debbie Cline Pope  
Barbara Cash Rankin  
Heather Lockhart  
Rodger Morris



### Keep Grieving Families in Prayer

*Shannon Calvert Warren (Cousin to Janice Bohnannon) November 1, 2023*

*Pat Whited—March 19, 1951—October 5, 2023*

### Shut-In / Homebound

Martha Akin  
Jerry Boyd  
Pat & Steve Bruce  
Mindy Carter  
Patty Castle  
Hugh & Mary Jo  
Coomer  
Tom Ensslin

Odell Hines  
Lucille Lemmon  
Margaret Milburn  
Betty Ramey  
Aubrey Sivis  
Mike Swain  
Bonnie Wilson

## Celebrate the Season: Wassail!!!

*Presented by*

*Sounding Joy Women's Chorus  
and  
Resonance Men's Chorus*



**Congregational Meeting December 10th**

Please contribute to help the Danville H.S. Choir sing in New York City!



## News & Announcements

### OUTREACH Activities

1. Trunk or Treat (Oct 29) was a success with approx 170+ kids and 90+ adults visiting. Big thanks to everyone who participated!

2. Homeless Ministries Update: An Outreach donation was made from FCC to the Sts Peter and Paul Homeless Ministries to fund 12 hygiene backpacks and help fund their Thursday Homeless ministry.

3. Waynesburg Manor visits: On October 31, seven FCC members traveled to Waynesburg Manor to host a Halloween Party for the residents. **The next visit will be Dec 7 for a Christmas party.** A sign-up sheet for FCC members who would like to attend and/or purchase sweatshirts and sweatpants for the residents' gift bags is on the welcome table.

4. Coat Drive: Many coats are being collected thanks to the generosity of our FCC members. 13 of those coats have been sent to the Sts Peter and Paul Homeless ministry; the balance of the coats will be delivered to the Danville and Boyle County Family Resource Centers. The drive ends Dec. 3.

5. Salvation Army Angel Tree: Angel Cards will be available for pick-up on our tree near the welcome table beginning Sunday, November 19. Outreach team members will be available to answer questions and assist with the sign-up sheet.

6. Salvation Army: The Bell Ringing Schedule and sign-up sheet is posted at the welcome table. We will be ringing on Mon., Dec. 4 and Tues., Dec. 12. Please consider participating in this important community effort!

7. Next Outreach meeting: **Tuesday, Dec. 5** at 5:30pm in the parlor. All are welcome!

### Meet Jessica—Our new Night Custodian

Jessica, in her own words, is "loving my position here at First Christian Church and I am extremely grateful for this opportunity to work for you all." She loves spending quality time with her daughter and doing puzzles in the winter. You can expect to see her around here 5pm-10pm through the week and in the afternoon on Sundays.

### Homelessness In Danville

Public Meeting on December 6th 4:30pm-6:00pm Danville City Hall.

**Thank you for bringing in cookies! All recipients of Soups on Us had homemade cookies this month.**

### Children's Program Christmas Potluck

Join us December 17th for our Children's Program and Potluck! See the Kid's Corner page for more information.

### Soul Squad next Meeting

Meet with Soul Squad (Young Adults) on December 12th at 6:30pm! At Kelly & Cory Jones'

### More Opportunities for Christmas Music!



#### Whispers of Winter

Sunday, Dec 3rd

3:00 pm.

Lexington Ave Baptist

### Cantata Sunday December 17

Please join us at 10:45am in the sanctuary for our wonderful, music-filled Cantata

### Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringers

Please sign up at the Welcome Desk for a time slot to ring the bell at Kroger on Monday, December 4th and/or Tuesday, December 12th. Thank you! Outreach Committee

### Giving Thanks

I just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who helped with Youth Sunday. Thank you to all the Youth who participated in the service and a big thank you to Maddy Funkhouser for her sermon. I would also like to thank Susan Hensley and Patti Wright for their work with Youth preparing them to take over. I would also like to thank the congregation for being open to the idea of a youth takeover on Sunday.

*Stephen Hinkle, Youth Ministries Director*



I would like to express our thanks to our church family for all your prayers, cards, and thoughts during our journey with ALS! We always knew this was a loving church and now we are experiencing it first hand. The ALS continues to progress slowly with fatigue, weakness of speech, and breathing Issues. We truly miss seeing everyone at the Sunday morning Worship Service. May God's Blessings & Love be with each of you

*Bill & Ann Barker*

# December 2023

## Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9a Body Recall 10a Healthy Back 7:30p Jaywalkers AA 8p Al-Anon	2 10a Poinsettia Decorating 10:30am Al-Anon
3 Coat Drive Ends Kids Club Elder's Lunch Morning Pointe NO Book Connection	4 Wb Manor Gift Due 9a Body Recall 10am Bridge/Tai Chi 6p Parents/Addicted 7p Resonance	5 5:30pm Outreach Meeting	6-9am Body Recall 10am Healthy Back 11a Happy Travelers 5:30p Bells Reh 6:30p Ladies AA	7 10am Bible Study 10am Worship Team 1pm Waynesburg Manor Christmas	8 9a Body Recall 10a Healthy Back 7:30p Jaywalkers AA 8p Al-Anon	9 10:30am Al-Anon
10 Backpack Kids Congregational Meeting   9:45a Adult SS 10:45a Worship Kids Club	11 9am Body Recall 10am Bridge/ Tai Chi 6p Parents/Addicted 7p Resonance	12 8am CCE Potluck 6:30p Soul Squad 7pm Dress Rehearsal	13-9am Body Recall 10am Healthy Back 11a Happy Travelers 5:30p Bells Reh 6:30p Ladies AA	14 9am Connections 10am Bible Study 6pm FCC Men 7pm Choir Concert	15 9a Body Recall 10a Healthy Back 7:30p Jaywalkers AA 8p Al-Anon	16 7:30am SOU 10:30am Al-Anon
17 Shut In Communion 10:45 am Worship Children's Christmas Program & Potluck	18 9am Body Recall 10am Bridge/ Tai Chi 6p Parents/Addicted 7p Resonance	19	20-9am Body Recall 10am Healthy Back 11am Food Boxes 5:30p Bells & Choir 6:30p Ladies AA	21 10am Bible Study 4pm Holiday Food Boxes 7pm Church Board	22 9a Body Recall 10a Healthy Back 7:30p Jaywalkers AA 8p Al-Anon	23 10:30am Al-Anon
24 9:45a Adult Sun Sch The Bistro 10:45a Worship NO Kids Club	25 Closed—Christmas	26 Closed-Christmas	27 Highlights 9am Body Recall 10am Healthy Back 5:30pm Bells & Choir 6:30pm Ladies AA	28 10am Bible Study	29 9am Body Recall 10am Healthy Back 7:30p Jaywalkers AA 8p Al-Anon	30 10:30am Al-Anon
31 9:45a Adult Sun Sch The Bistro 10:45a Worship NO Kids Club						

# December 2023

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Aubrey Sivils Sr
3 **Jane & Jerry Boyd**	4	5	6 Terry Dachenhaus Bonnie Wilson	7 Margaret Clark Harrison Compton	8 Howard Wilson Lauren Paynter	9
10 Johanna Gibson	11	12	13	14 Susan Hensley	15 Mary Jo Coomer Jan Bradshaw Alexis Kerbaugh	16 Reid Talley
17 Fran Drury Meryk Hinkle **John & Martha Caywood**	18 Evelyn Guerrant Lillian Russell	19 George McClure  **Brenda & George (King) Pruitt**	20 Sherrie Horn	21	22 **Elizabeth & Donald Holtzclaw**	23 Mary Lou Withers  **Eben & Jan Hen- son**
24 Janie Pass Mollie Darnell	25	26 **Billy II & Gloria Cannon**	27	28	29 Everett Compton	30 Patsy Clevenger
31						

## Service Roster October

	3-Dec	10-Dec	17-Dec	24-Dec	24 Eve	31-Dec
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Jacob Cooper	John Funkhouse	Mary Ann McGlothlin	Elmer Jackson		Julie Jones
<b>Elders at the Table</b>	Brian & Patricia Calvert	Debbie Baker Joey Kirk	Martha Caywood	Nancy McMurry Doug McMurry		Evelyn Guerrant
<b>Deacons</b>	Connie McVicker Dave May The McClures	Libby & Jeff Joiner Jeff Withers Sherrie Horn	Terry & Linda D Jeff Withers Connie McVicker	Terry & Linda D Dave May Connie McVicker	Terry & Linda Dachenhaus	Jeff Withers Dave May, Sherrie Horn Connie McVicker
<b>Greeters</b>	Jeanette Barbour Katie Powell	Terry & Linda Dachenhaus	Youth	Connie McVicker		
<b>Stewards</b>	Joey Kirk	John Caywood	Evelyn Guerrant	Elmer Jackson		Kasey Wilson
<b>Children's Chat</b>	Kendra Funkhouse	Darell Rickmers	Rev Colby	Debbie Baker		Patti Wright
<b>Children's Worship &amp; Wonder</b>	Sherrie Horn	Patricia Calvert Jackie Fowler	Children in Worship	Debbie Baker		Patti Wright
<b>Children's Church</b>	Kendra Funkhouse	Darell Rickmers	No Children's Church	Combined		Combined
<b>Nursery</b>	Mary McKittrick	Edna Prall	Kris Hamlin	Trista Hinkle		
<b>Acolytes</b>	Ainsley Shartzer	Lillian Russell Becca Hoffman	Bari Bowman Ainsley Shartzer	Lillian Russell		Maryk Hinkle Bari Bowman
<b>Sound</b>	John Funkhouse	Brian Calvert	Doug McMurry	Kevin Jones		
<b>Camera</b>	Patsy Clevenger	Patricia Calvert	Cory Jones	Margaret Jones		
<b>Slides</b>	Molly Cooper	Patsy Clevenger Backpack Kids	Patsy Clevenger	Patsy Clevenger	Patsy Clevenger	Patsy Clevenger
<b>Other</b>	MP - J Bradshaw & R Sigler Elder's Lunch   Dev- M Caywood Cooks- Brian & Patricia Calvert		Cantata Children's Program and Potluck	No Kids Club		No Kids Club

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