



FIRST CHRISTIAN disciples of christ HIGHLIGHTS

Making disciples who make a difference!

November 24, 2021

Life Together

I saw a recent post on Twitter by Beth Moore, the evangelist, author, and Bible teacher. On Sunday, November 7, she posted this:

*I love church.
I love my church.
I love the Church.*

I really like that little trilogy. Maybe I like it so much because I agree. As I mentioned in a recent Sunday's sermon, I have attended church VERY regularly since I was at least six years old. (I can't remember before that!) Cheryl Gibson told me she identified with the statement I made about attending every Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. She grew up in the same tradition I did that had services on those occasions every week. I've been fascinated by church all my life. I have been a part of 16 churches that I can count, many of them as the pastor. Church has shaped my identity and my career. I love church people. I love church activities. I love church.

I love my church. I love THIS church; it's my church. It's funny how we get a little ownership feeling about a church even though we all know that nobody owns the church. I have long wanted to do an advertising campaign for a local church with the theme: I (heart) my church. I actually saw a yard sign like that in Nicholasville recently. I came back to this church to serve as interim pastor because I had such a good experience doing that from 2015 to 2017. I loved my time here. You were so gracious and kind to me. This church has its problems and challenges like every church does, but I love it. That's why I'm here. I love my church.

And I love the Church. When capitalized the word means "the Church universal." Many Protestant churches recite the Nicene Creed. In fact, it's in our hymnbook on page 358. It says, "We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church." A footnote clarifies that when the word "catholic" is not capitalized, it means "universal." The Church Universal means that the one Church of Jesus Christ is not limited to any particular geographical region, ethnicity, economic class, age group, historical era, or sex. That means that we have brothers and sisters in Christ in a Chinese house church, in an African mud brick church, in a European cathedral, even in an Eskimo ice church (if

they really have such a thing.) The capitalized "Church" broadens my horizons and brings together Christians from all perspectives and locations. I rejoice that there are so many kinds of us Christians. I love the Church.

But I have found that not everybody feels like I do. I read the comments on Twitter in response to Beth Moore's post and found some of her followers disagreed with her. I saw comments like these:

*I love what the church was meant to be.
I love Jesus in spite of the church.
I love the Church, but I really don't like some of her members right now.*

In my 67 years of regular church attendance, I have found a lot of people who were wounded at church. I have met more than my share of church graduates - people who feel they have graduated from church and don't need to go anymore. I have known others who were so hurt by church that they swear they will never attend again.

I am reminded that the church is a very human institution. It grieves me to hear of some people's painful experience with church. We do make our mistakes. And far too often we fail to measure up to what we could and should be.

I hope you will join me in praying that we create fewer church dropouts or graduates, and more people who, like Beth Moore and me, can say:

I love church.
I love my church.
I love the Church.

Dr. Mickey Anders
Interim Sr. Minister

Inside...

News & Events

FCC Kids Corner

October Board Summary

December Birthdays, Anniversaries, Events, & Service Roster Calendars

Congregational Meeting Information

October Board Summary

- Doug and the board welcomed Sarah Renfro, Area Director, Pension Fund of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, to the board meeting. Sarah gave an overview of the Pension Plan and the 403b tax deferred retirement account, which FCC staff may participate in. Sarah had met with the Executive Team, Treasurer, and Personnel Chair this week to review current plans and explain options.
- The board reviewed and approved a recommendation from the Executive Committee, that for all employees making over \$5000.00 annually, retirement benefits be included in the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as provided by the Participation Agreement and that we contribute a minimum of 6% of salary for this benefits package, which also includes a disability benefit. This benefit will be retroactive to September 1, 2021. (the SIMPLE plan has been stopped).
- The board reviewed and approved a recommendation from the Executive Committee, that the Constitution be revised so that “Budget Committee” will be called “Finance Committee” and the responsibilities include these items:
 1. The committee will consist of the Treasurer plus two members from the church with a background in accounting or finance.
 2. The chair of the committee will be the current treasurer who will serve a three-year term and then remain on the committee for one year after that term to help in the transition.
 3. A current member of the committee should be the first preference for the next treasurer.
 4. The committee will meet every month to review the monthly financial reports and submit an overview to the Board
 5. The committee will prepare the annual budget to be presented to the Board.
 6. The committee will work with the ministers and the treasurer to develop and implement an annual stewardship campaign.

The committee will submit to the Board policies and procedures regarding financial matters using as a resource the *Handbook for Treasurers of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Congregations*.

A congregational meeting will be held in December to vote on this and other items.

- The board reviewed and approved the following recommendations from the Personnel and Executive Committees: to move Harry Mercer from contract laborer to regular employee effective at the beginning of the next pay period and that nursery workers be paid for a flat three (3) hours on Sunday mornings.
- The board reviewed a first reading to be voted on at the November board meeting - that it shall be the policy of the church that employees of FCC shall not be reimbursed in lieu of taking health insurance offered, except for minister's contract negotiations.
- September, 2021 and YTD Analysis of Revenues and Expenses, Restricted Funds, Balance Sheet, and new format of financial report was reviewed and discussed. Contributions are up over September, 2020; water bill is now being billed monthly instead of quarterly and is now on automatic pay; communion supplies costs have increased however quality is much improved.
- The board reviewed and approved the following recommendations from the Executive Committee and/or Treasurer: to accept new format of financial report presented to the board; to combine funds in Capital Fund and Building Fund into one fund called the Building Fund; to correct Rev. Catherine DeMoss' salary going forward; and expenditures under \$300.00 may be authorized by the person making the purchase, \$300.00-\$1000.00 requires Executive Committee approval, and expenditures over \$1000.00 require Board approval.
- Board reviewed and authorized Property Chair to spend up to \$8000.00 for interior sanctuary and window repair; to pay Bluegrass IT wifi installation bill of \$2493.55 with remainder of Herndon Fund and balance to be paid from Building Fund; to close church office Dec 27-31 and compensate employees for an additional two (2) days for 2021.
- Board reviewed Emergency Fund amount and purposes and approved changing the name to Reserve Fund.
- Nominating Committee is in process of being completed – members to date are Cheryl Gibson, Susan Hensley, David May, Becky Whited, and Judy Morgan.
- Sound system continues to be a concern and it is being addressed.

Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting will be held December 5 immediately following worship. All members will vote on a church constitutional change, 2022 Church Budget and 2022 Slate of Officers.

The constitution be revised so that "Budget Committee" will be called "Finance Committee" and the responsibilities include these items:

The committee will consist of the Treasurer plus two members from the church with a background in accounting or finance. The chair of the committee will be the current treasurer who will serve a three-year term and then remain on the committee for one year after that term to help in the transition. A current member of the committee should be the first preference for the next treasurer. The committee will meet every month to review the monthly financial reports and submit an overview to the Board. The committee will prepare the annual budget to be presented to the Board. The committee will work with the ministers and the treasurer to develop and implement an annual stewardship campaign. The committee will submit to the Board policies and procedures regarding financial matters using as a resource the *Handbook for Treasurers of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Congregations*.

Slate of Officers 2022

Chair - Julie Jones

Vice Chair - John Funkhouser

Secretary - Kathryn Ensor

Treasurer - Martha Bryant

Personnel - Joey Kirk, Bart Gover, Evelyn Guerrant

Elder Chair - Kendra Funkhouser

Diaconate Chair - to be determined

Worship Ministry Area - Connie McVicker

Connections Ministry Area - Margaret Clark

Church of Healing - David May

Property Ministry Area - Jack Jones

Discipleship Ministry Area - Co chairs: Katie Powell & add'l members

Outreach Ministry Area - Co chairs: Brian & Patricia Calvert & add'l members

Youth Representatives - Kendall Williams, Maddie Funkhouser

Trustees - Bill Barker, Tom Hensley, Vince Pennington

Elders (2022-2024)

Debbie Baker

Brian Calvert

John Funkhouser

Kendra Funkhouser

Cheryl Gibson

Evelyn Guerrant

Brent Williams

Vince Pennington (Vice Chair)

**First Christian Church
2022 Proposed Budget**

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Income | | \$ 502,357.00 |
| Expenses | | |
| Payroll | | \$ 333,550.00 |
| Supplies and Postage | | \$ 14,300.00 |
| Computer and Internet | | \$ 6,000.00 |
| Insurance | | \$ 19,892.00 |
| Telephone and Utilities | | \$ 48,700.00 |
| Repairs and Maintenance | | \$ 32,470.00 |
| Area Ministries | | |
| Discipleship Ministry | \$ 3,085.00 | |
| Connections Ministry | \$ 600.00 | |
| Evangelism Ministry | \$ 1,000.00 | |
| Worship Ministry | \$ 1,000.00 | |
| Music Ministry | \$ 6,200.00 | |
| Outreach Ministry | \$ 32,500.00 | |
| Total Area Ministries | | \$ 44,385.00 |
| Miscellaneous | | \$ 3,060.00 |
| Total Expenses | | \$ 502,357.00 |
| Net Surplus/Deficit | | \$ - |

Children and Youth Ministry

**To be paid from Restricted Funds; \$29,766.06 currently available*

***Children and Youth will be part of the general budget once these funds are exhausted.*

FCC KIDS

All children in grades K-5th are invited to join the fun each Sunday as we share a meal, create crafts, and explore bible stories through games and activities! We meet immediately following worship-2:00 p.m.

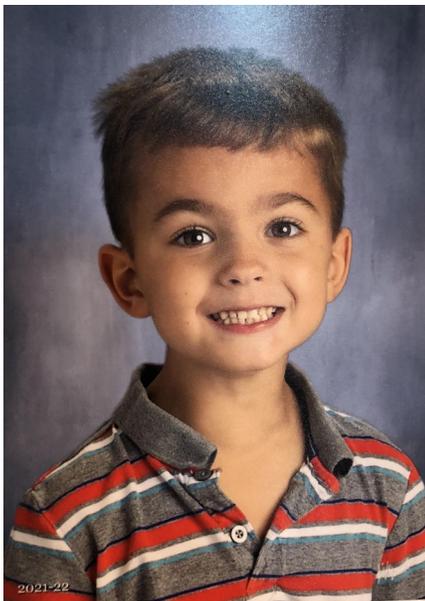
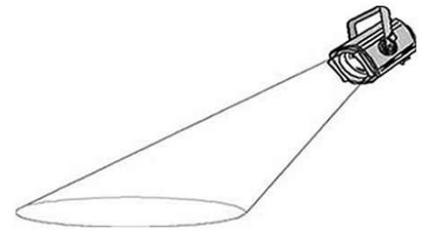
In December we will continue exploring Holiday traditions including Gift Giving and “The Reason for the Season” on December 5th and will have our Christmas Party on December 12th.

There will be NO Kid’s Club on December 19th and December 26th during Winter Break from school.



Spotlight on our FCC Kids!

Each month we shine the spotlight on one of our FCC Kids so you can put names, faces, and families together! This month our spotlight shines on **Asher Hamlin**.

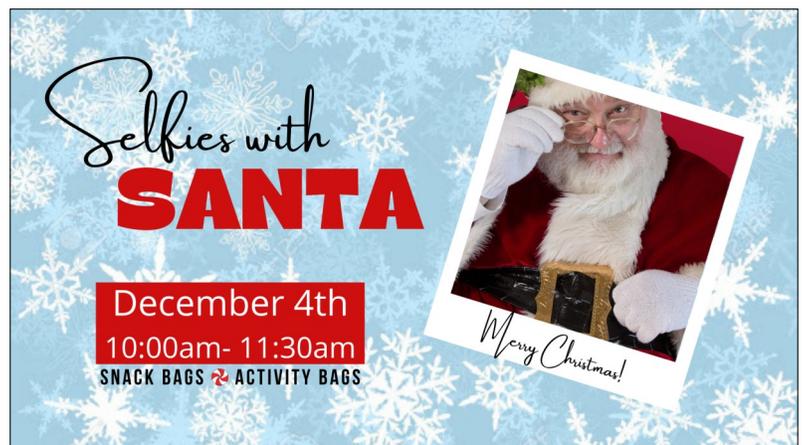


Asher attends FCC with his parents Kris Hamlin and Anne Milburn. He never has to worry about having someone to sit with as First Christian is also home to his Aunt Kathy Milby, Uncle Bob Milby and proud Grandmother Margaret Milburn!

Asher is in Kindergarten at Mary G. Hogsett Primary School where his favorite subjects are Math and Spelling. When he is not in school, Asher loves being artistic and anything related to robots. He also enjoys playing baseball and basketball and watching TV with his 2 dogs and 4 cats!

Asher’s favorite church memory is this attending this year’s Trunk or Treat. He also wants his church family to know that he loves everyone very much. When you see Asher at church, be sure to introduce yourself so that he gets to know his church family.

We hope you have enjoyed getting to know our FCC Kids over the past months. All of the Spotlight articles and photos are featured on the Bulletin Board at the end of the Arcade near the Chapel entrance. Be sure to stop by to see them next time you are in that part of the church!



Prayer Concerns

Bill Barker
Jane Boyd
Steve Cline
Rev. Catherine DeMoss
Ken & June Harmon
Margaret Ann Milburn
Mike Miller
Susan Montgomery
Bill Morgan

Mike Swain
Bonnie Wilson
Jeff Withers
Mary Lou Withers
Nyla Wright

Shut-ins

Jerry Boyd
Steve & Pat Bruce
Mindy Carter
Odell Hines
Jack Kaiser

Marianne Kirby
Betty Ramey
Catherine Shoulty
Dorothy Warren

Thank You

Dear Members of First Christian Church:

Thank you for your congregation's gift of \$1,300 given to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky for capital needs and property improvements at Camp Wakon' Da-Ho.

We are grateful for First Christian Church's commitment to the camping program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky.

Sincerely,

Rev. Donald K. Gillett, II
Regional Minister

Thank You to Mike and Sam Swain for providing the beautiful mums around the church this fall.

Inclement Weather

One Call Now and other media outlets will be used to announce any closings or cancellations of church activities or services. For inclement weather during the week, we will follow our snow policy:

If Boyle County Schools are closed, the church staff will move to a one-hour delay. At that time, the senior minister will make the decision to close the church or not, and would then contact media outlets to inform them of the church's operations for the day if it is closed.

News & Announcements

Advent Devotionals

Pick up an Advent Devotional Booklet at the Welcome Table while supplies last. This year's devotional booklet "Traveling with Our Ancestors" is written by Sandhya Rani Jha.

Christmas Poinsettias

Place a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. Cost is \$10. Fill out the information and make your payment at the welcome table on Sundays or call the church office. All poinsettias should be picked up after the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service or Worship Service on Dec. 26.

Backpack Kids Offering

We will be collecting for Backpack Kids on December 5. This outreach ministry helps supply food for children in need on weekends.

Soups on Us

Join us on December 18 for the last Soups on Us for the year! We thank each of you who volunteered and/or contributed in some way throughout the year to this ministry. Our cookie bakers are asked to bake a little extra in December. Remember cookies can be brought to the church during the week. Volunteers are needed at 7:30 am on the December 18 to begin the process.

4 Cans 4 Others

We had 101 cans given in November and now are only 138 cans away from reaching 33,000. Let's help the Salvation Army stock up their pantry for winter. Each can helps feed the hungry in our community.

Church Wi-Fi

FCC has extended the Wi-Fi into more areas of the church and now has a guest network called First Christian Church GUEST. The password is fccguest.

The Gathering (FCC Youth)

Mantra: "Jesus did not come to turn the world upside down, but rather to turn the world right side up."

All youth (6th-12th grades) are welcome to come on Sundays at 9:45a-10:30a for "The Gathering." They are studying the Miracles of Jesus for December.

The Gathering Time

10:45a-11:45a

1. Prayer of Invocation (Prayers to open our minds and heart to the Word of God.)
2. Discussing Scripture
3. Prayers for Holy Communion
4. Communion
5. Prayers of the People
6. Closing Prayer (The Lord's Prayer) Amen

Christmas Opportunities to Serve

The Salvation Army Angel Tree Program

The Angel Tree only has only two adoption tags left and someone we would even be glad to shop for you. Please choose a tag and sign it out near the welcome table. The children's wish and needs list tag can be an individual, a family, friends working together or a group Christmas activity. All items should be returned to the church by December 5 and taken to the Education Room 209. Contact Linda Dachenhaus at lbdach74@gmail.com with any questions.

The Salvation Army Kettle Bell Ringing

We will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army on December 9th at Kroger (inside) from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm and on December 16th at Hobby Lobby (inside) from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. Both locations are one-hour time slots. Please email or text Nancy Mahan (nancymahan99@yahoo.com, or text 859-319-3074). Include a first and second choice of time along with the location when signing up.

Giving Advent Calendar

Start filling up a box on December 1 with food items each day listed below for The Salvation Army. Boxes should be brought to the church on Sunday, December 19. Contact Mary Ann McGlothlin (859-396-7109) or email: maryann.mcglathlin@gmail.com. For box pick-up, contact Patricia Calvert (859-583-6336) or email: calvertz@bellsouth.net. Look for flyers on the welcome table this Sunday!

Dec1 Tuna
Dec 2 Tuna Helper
Dec 3 Canned chicken
Dec 4 Jelly
Dec 5 Pop-Tarts
Dec 6 Canned beef stew
Dec 7 Ravioli
Dec 8 Canned tomatoes
Dec 9 Jiffy cornbread mix
Dec 10 Ramen noodles
Dec 11 Canned peas
Dec 12 Individual instant oatmeal packets
Dec 13 Pancake mix
Dec 14 Syrup
Dec 15 Can of soup
Dec 16 Box of saltine crackers
Dec 17 Pasta
Dec 18 Spaghetti sauce
Dec 19 Mac n cheese (already in sauce)

Dash for Dolls (Carrying on the Legacy of Karen Wilson)

Karen Wilson had two passions in life: running 5K races and providing a doll for Christmas every girl, especially those from a challenging home life. She passed away on September 23, 2019. In honor of Karen's passion, we are collecting dolls (boys or girls, cars or trucks) until December 12. Look for a box in the narthex to drop off your items. For more information, contact Ruby Cline-Eaton (859-516-8046).

Selfies with Santa December 4 (10-11:30am)

Our Community Christmas with Santa will be done a little different this year. We will be handing out a snack bag and an activity bag for each child. We would love to include an easy family card game for the whole family to enjoy. Please consider donating an Uno, Wig Out, Go Fish, Crazy 8's, Red Light-Green Light, Family Charades, Left, Right, Center or one of your family's favorite card games to include in the activity bags. Please put card game donations in the blue bin in the entryway or drop off in the office.

FCC Christmas Dates to Remember:

November 28 1st Sunday of Advent (Hanging of the Greens)
December 1 Giving Advent Calendar (Food box Collection begins)
December 4 Selfies with Santa (10-11:30am)
December 5 2nd Sunday of Advent
Backpack Kids Offering
Congregational Meeting
Angel Tree Gifts Returned
December 9 Salvation Army Kettle Bell Ringing (Kroger)
December 12 3rd Sunday of Advent (Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols)
Kids Club Christmas Party
Dash for Dolls Final Collection
December 16 Christmas Food Box Distribution
Salvation Army Kettle Bell Ringing (Hobby Lobby)
December 18 Soups on Us
December 19 3rd Sunday of Advent
Giving Advent Calendar Food Boxes Returned
December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm
December 26 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

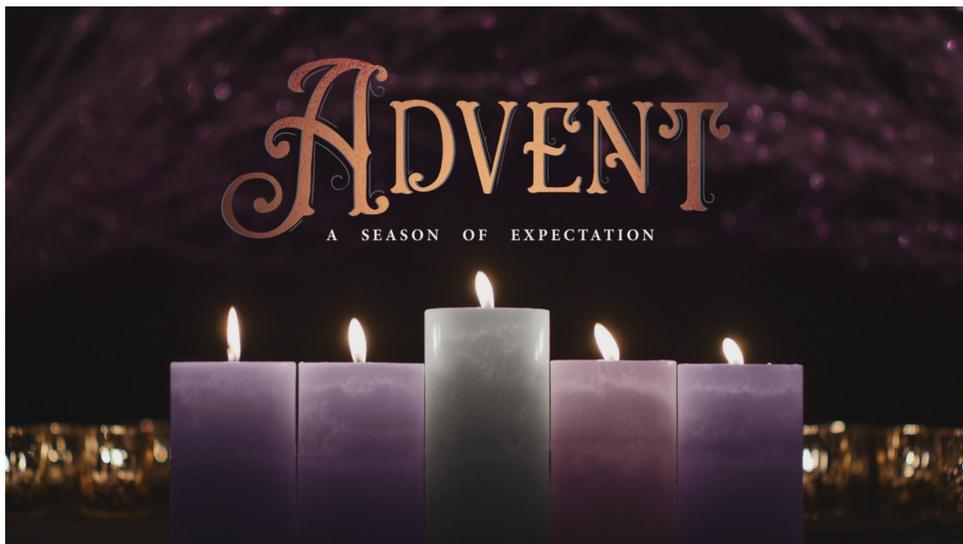
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Patti Wright
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Join us this Sunday as we begin the Advent season in lighting the Candle of Hope and celebrate the Hanging of the Greens.

First Christian Church

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