



FIRST CHRISTIAN disciples of christ HIGHLIGHTS

Making disciples who make a difference!

May 1, 2024

Returning Blessing for Blessing

Global instability combined with volatile markets along with interest rates failing to keep pace with inflation has an increasing number of seniors feeling like their retirement is more of an uncertain roll of the dice rather than a secure future. In 35 years of ministry, I've observed those in difficult financial times craft increased guaranteed streams of retirement income while also producing enduring acts of faithfulness. The most prominent in my mind is Oskar.

Oskar Wagner was born August 16, 1916, in Blumenthal, Ukraine. Blumenthal was an ethnic German farming village in czarist Russia. Czar Nicholas instituted a land grant program to encourage German farmers to relocate in order to modernize Russia's agriculture. The 1918 Revolution changed everything. As a 13 year old student in 1929, Oskar returned home after school one day and witnessed his parents, uncles and older cousins being loaded onto trains. They were never seen again.

The farms were placed into a collective. Oskar's school headmaster and wife took the risk of intervening to offer Oskar a home as they were unable to have children. Not long after, they were abducted in the middle of the night, victims of the "Great Terror" intelligentsia purge.

Soon, the purge was followed by an engineered famine. Teenage Oskar learned how to step over the dead and dying on Odessa's sidewalks. Not long after, the WWII German war machine destroyed the world around Oskar. He was pressed into the German military as a first generation ethnic German. He was captured by the Allies in Normandy, France. He then found his way to Indiana. In 1958 he earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University. He married and had two children. He built a life far from nightmares experienced as he grew up.

He was a Boy Scout commissioner for 17 years, active civic group leader, a Master Gardener who planted thousands of trees for others to sit under their shade. He was a person with a profound faith in Jesus Christ.

Oskar visited me one day. He shared he wasn't always able to return to the Lord his tithe. At times there just wasn't enough. To do what his faith determined was the right thing, he shared the results of two decisions.

First, he created a Charitable Gift Annuity. He taught me how this helped stabilize his retirement during the 2009 Great Recession while also creating a future gift to Hazelwood Christian Church. Second, he had set up a Joint Remainder Trust. This would look after his children and his three grandchildren. Afterwards, it would benefit Christ's ministry. Though he mentioned the benefits of charitable tax deductions and bypassing capital gain taxes on investments, he quietly spoke of making things right with God. He understood his life to have been a blessed gift filled with all things good through Jesus Christ. He wanted the church to be ready to bless others as he had been after he no longer could do so in person.

I've never met another like Oskar: witnessed both his childhood families brutally disappear in purges; adjusted to snow covered famine deaths along lanes and empty lots and parks; experienced two of the bloodiest chapters in WWII - yet, he was convicted beyond question. His life was blessed.

Suzy and I have since followed Oskar's example by setting up final arrangements providing for family and for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. If you likewise believe the world going forward needs more Christ and less hate, consider tending to professionals in the field have to share.

Blessings, Colby

Inside...

May Birthdays, Events, News and Announcements, Prayer Requests and more!

Rev Colby Smith

FCC KIDS CORNER

Kid's Club Upcoming Calendar of Events

May 12th-NO Kid's Club-Mother's Day

May 19th-Kid's Club on the Go! Trip to SkyZone.



May 26th-NO Kid's Club Memorial Day

FCC Kid's Club for children in K-5th grade meets most Sundays during the school year immediately after worship until 1:30. We have lunch together and fellowship with games and activities on a theme. Friends are always welcome!

Kid's Club will not meet regularly in the summer months but will have several trips and special events instead.



Summer Changes for Children's Programs

During the summer months, instead of dividing into two groups for Worship & Wonder (ages 4-2nd grade) and Children's Church (3rd-5th grade) all children age 4-5th grade will worship together in **Summer Children's Worship**

All children who would like to attend **Summer Children's Worship** will leave worship after the Children's Chat and go to the 2nd Floor Youth Wing for a snack, singing, a Bible story and activities to dive deeper into the story. The first Sunday of combined worship will be Sunday, May 26th.

If you would like to help with Summer Children's Worship, contact Patti Wright.

Summer Vacation Bible School is right around the corner!

We had such a great time last summer when we combined forces with The Presbyterian Church of Danville for Vacation Bible School that we decided to do it again! VBS 2024 will be June 17th-20th from 6:00-8:00 each evening. We will be at The Presbyterian Church on Monday-Wednesday evenings and back at FCC on Thursday for the grand celebration.

This year's theme is "**Sand for Days**" where we will focus on Bible stories featuring the desert including The Exodus, Ten Best Ways to Live, and more!

Volunteers are needed to lead or assist with Bible Adventure, Recreation, Snacks, Crafts and Preschool, as well to lead groups of children through the stations.



Sand for Days!



For questions about Children's programs, contact Patti Wright

Email patti@firstchristiandanville.com or text (812) 483-9004

News & Announcements

**Mercer/Boyle Church Women United
Friendship Day. Friday, May 3rd @ 9:30AM**
Perryville Christian Church, 205 E.
3rd St., Perryville, KY

A Pot-Luck Breakfast begins at 9:30, followed by a brief business meeting, and then the Celebration/Worship Service.

Fellowship of the Least Coin is an international movement and is celebrated in over 80 countries. Its focus is PRAYER and ecumenical action to support peace and reconciliation. The significance of the "Least Coin" of each country is to allow the inclusion of all to participate equally, and can be compared to the widow's mite. The coins are to be collected all year long when women pray, individually or in a group. An offering will be taken.

Contact Judy Morgan to register or for more

You're Invited!

Please join the Danville Children's Choir for our
Spring Concert

Songs of the World.

Sunday, May 5 at 3:00 p.m.

Lexington Avenue Baptist Church

The Concert is free with donations accepted
for DCC Scholarships.



May Worship Roster

May 5th

Worship Leader– Evelyn Guerrant
Elder– Doug McMurry
Elder & Counter– Nancy McMurry
Elder For Morning Pointe– Lyle & Mary Ann McGlothlin
Children's Chat-Kendra Funkhouser
Worship & Wonder-Alice and Jay Reynolds
Children's Church-Linda Dachenhaus
Nursery Volunteer-Mary McKitric
NO Kid's Club

May 12th

Worship Leader– Larry Scott
Elder– Lyle McGlothlin
Elder & Counter– Mary Ann McGlothlin
Children's Chat–Debbie Baker
Worship & Wonder-Linda Dachenhaus and Sueann Rice
Children's Church-Penny Vaught
Nursery Volunteer-Edna Prall
NO Kid's Club-Mother's Day

May 19th

Worship Leader– Jane-Boyd
Elder– Martha Caywood
Elder & Counter– Tom Huckleberry
Children's Chat-Darell Rickmers
Worship & Wonder-Patricia Calvert and Sherrie Horn
Children's Church-Linda Dachenhaus
Nursery Volunteer– Kris Hamlin
Kid's Club Assist-TBD

May 26

Worship Leader-Mary Ann McGlothlin
Elder– Butch Pass
Elder & Count– Julie Jones
Children's Chat-Summer Children's Worship-Patti Wright and Sherrie Horn
**Summer Children's Worship-all children age 4-incoming 6th grade worshipping together
No weekly Kids Club until fall.

Four Cans for Others

72 Cans were donated during April bring our total for 2024 to **373** cans. Keep bringing in those cans so we can beat our total for 2023 of **1,421 cans!**

New Volunteer Opportunity!

Do you enjoy being outdoors in the spring and summer months? Then we need YOU on our new Landscaping Committee! Contact Jack Jones or the church office.



With Our Thanks

We would like to give a heartfelt thanks to Rev. Colby, the congregation and Alice & Jay Reynolds and their kitchen helpers, for the love and support, through cards, calls and food, given to us during the recent passing of our mother, Charlotte Henson.

It is never easy losing such a cherished loved one but having such a caring church family sure makes losing them a little easier.

Blessings to all.

The Henson Family

To our friends and family at FCC

We don't have enough words to say that will show our appreciation for all that you have done for our family over the last few years. All the phone calls, prayers, texts, cards, the Wednesday night meals prepared by Alice and Jay, meals prepared by church members, visits from Colby, church members and last but not least a big thank you to all who donated to the church in Bill's memory. His love for his church was not measured by anything as if was forever. The Lord God granted him mercy to the end.

Your kind expression of sympathy and loving kindness will always be remembered. God bless all of you and as Luke 6:31 says: "do unto others as you would like them to do to you".

Blessing to all,

Bill Barker's family

Ann, Debbie, Mandy, Cyndi and families

Please Keep the following in your Prayers

John Caywood

Lesa Cooper

Gary Gibson

John Taylor Ross

Jan Sheffield

Bill Morgan

Trevor & Lucy Graham

Darell Rickmers

Robin Lee

Rodger Morris

Laura Newman

Jane Boyd

Wanda Huffman

Mary Sebring

The Family of Charlotte

Henson

The Family of Bill Barker

The Family of Tom Ensslin



Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed!

June 16-20-5:45-8:15

Adult and teen volunteers needed to help with crafts, preschool activities, games, van drivers and more.

Contact Patti if you can help for 1,2, or all 4 evenings

Extra help needed on Thursday, June 20th for the Closing Picnic. Contact Julie Jones

Another Organ Update

You've probably noticed that we have been experiencing some strange and very evident sounds coming from the organ recently. Please rest assured that what is going on is being investigated and corrected by the company who has done the amazing installation.

There just seems to be a "gremlin" within the organ that is malfunctioning and is a well-hidden and unwelcome guest that seems to raise its most undesirable head at the most inopportune times.

Please know how much I as the organist appreciate your continued patience with this temporary issue. Rest assured we are working diligently together (the organ company and their experts and technicians) to ensure the installation is in top notch form. Hopefully, it has been discovered and corrected.



And, also hopefully, the organist can stop pulling his hair out!!!

Lauren Newman's New Address:

Richmond Place

Room 2102

3195 Rio Dosa Dr.

Lexington Ky. 40509

Remember our Shut-ins

Jerry Boyd

Pat & Steve Bruch

Mindy Carter

Patty Castle

Bonnie Wilson

Hugh & Mary Jo Coomer

Margaret Milburn

King & Brenda Pruitt

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FCC Contact Information
(859) 236-4006
info@firstchristiandanville.com

First Annual Hat Day
Sunday May 12

LADIES, plan on wearing a Hat! We want to CELEBRATE the many "hats" that the ladies in the church wear.



First Christian Church

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