



FIRST CHRISTIAN disciples of christ HIGHLIGHTS

Making disciples who make a difference!

January 3, 2024

Hope for the New Year

God's will for us is to live victoriously in this New Year. We can. We can live without hopelessness or fear or frustration in the year ahead if we recommit ourselves to Christ with confidence in his promises. To live in victory we need only to follow God's plan. We must realize each day is about being in relationship with Jesus.

People around the world have different unique New Year Day practices. In the Philippines there is the banging of pots and blowing horns to scare away malevolent spirits before they ruin the new year. In Greece there is the smashing of pomegranates against the front door symbolizing the smashing of bad luck and ensuring good fortune. Closer to home, many eat black-eyed peas to ensure a year of health and wealth. I knew someone who did that every single year. Once I asked, "You are doing fine but you have some health problems and you are not financially independent, so why do you keep eating black-eyed peas every New Year's Day?" The answer, "You're right, but just think how things would be if I didn't eat black-eyed peas on New Year's Day!"

In II Cor. 1:1-11 Paul deals with suffering. He certainly knew all about the subject personally and frequently. Exactly how did Paul live victoriously through every hardship? He relates how he's experienced a great deal of suffering. It's apparent the previous year had not been an easy one, but we see he's not lost any of the hope of salvation. He's confident because salvation isn't dependent on the conditions under which we live. Paul knew he had something the world couldn't take from because the world had not given it.

Do you have the assurance of salvation? You can. Certainly God wants you to be assured that you are secured by faith in Christ. Once we know we have redemption through Jesus, we can face a new year with assurance. Our salvation is made sure because it is anchored in Christ, and he is at the right hand of God.

Consider what Paul teaches in Romans 8 (MSG):29-30

God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him. After God made that decision of what his children should be like, he followed it up by calling people by name.

After he called them by name, he set them on a solid basis with himself. And then, after getting them established, he stayed with them to the end, gloriously completing what he had begun.

31-39 So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us!—is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture:

They kill us in cold blood because they hate you. We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one.

None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

Nothing - absolutely nothing - can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord! We do not lose our salvation - even when we are disobedient. What a relief! On a farm in the Caprock of the Texas panhandle, between Matador and Childress, had suffered a tornado. An insurance adjuster surveyed the damage on a farm. The adjuster noticed the tornado had lifted the windmill and placed it on its side about 50 feet away. He noted, "I see you lost your windmill." Uncle Floyd answered, "No sir, it's not lost, it just aint where I want it to be." We may not be where God wants us to be, or even where we want to be, but we haven't lost what he gave us. Our salvation is assured, sustained and kept by the Lord.

As a Christian, you can live in the New Year knowing that your salvation is secure in Christ.

-Rev. Colby

Rev Colby Smith

Inside...January Birthdays, Events, News and Announcements, Prayer Requests and more!

FCC KIDS CORNER

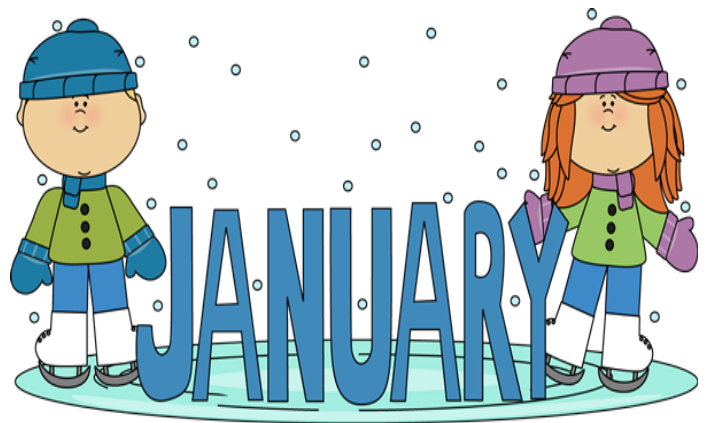
Upcoming Calendar of Events

**January 7th- Jesus is Sweeter than
CANDY! Almond Joy**

**January 15th- NO Kid's Club
(Patti out of town)**

**January 22nd- Jesus is Sweeter than
CANDY! Kit Kat Bar**

**January 29th- Jesus is Sweeter than
CANDY Milky Way**



FCC Kid's Club for children in K-5th grade meets most Sundays, right after worship until 2pm. We share a meal, play games, and do fun activities all based on a Biblical theme. **Volunteers are always needed to provide lunch for our weekly Kid's Club meetings**

If you are available to help with a meal in January, please contact Patti Wright .

It is a great way to get to know our FCC children in a relaxed atmosphere!

Contact Patti Wright if you are willing to help or need more information!

**Kid's Club Theme for January is
Jesus is Sweeter than Candy.**

Join us as we discover that Life is sweeter when we follow Jesus.

We start the series on January 7th by reviewing the birth of Jesus from Luke 2:1-10 and Almond Joy!



Check out Photos from the Christmas Program!

See the display on the bulletin board at the end of the Arcade Hallway.



Our children have been so faithful in 2023 about bringing their offering to Worship & Wonder and Children's Church.

This year, they donated almost \$300 which enabled them to buy clothes, coats, socks, shoes, and toys for two children in our community through the Angel Tree Program!

For questions about Children's programs, contact Patti Wright

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

FCC Snow Policy

Sundays will proceed as normal in snowy weather.

In the case that emergency vehicles only are to be on the roads, church would be altered or held online and a One Call Now message will be sent out.

Additionally, check these news outlets closing in-

News & Announcements



THANK YOU to all who supported the **Christmas Program** presented by our children and youth through your prayers and your presence. So many people helped make it a success!

Program-Nancy and David Robertson, Harry Mercer, Darell Rickmers, Sueann Rice, Kendra Funkhouser, Stephen Hinkle and Susan Hensley helped with music, getting children into costume and more!

Food-Our in-house chefs, John Funkhouser and Brian Calvert, and sous chefs Mary Emily Gross and daughter Lisi made the wonderful lasagna. Sueann Rice, Becky Whited, Julie Jones, Margaret and Ken Clark who helped serve. And thanks to everyone who brought delicious desserts!

Set Up /Take Down Crew- Soup's on Us crew including Terry Dachenhaus, Mary Ann McGlothlin, Sueann Rice, David May, Corey Jones, Ryan Jones, Doug McMurry and Jack Jones worked hard to set up and lots of folks helped tear down.

FCC Children and Youth!! Bari Bowman, Asher Hamlin, Asher and Meryk Hinkle, Ainsley, Avery and Alivia Shartzter and Katie Wilson. Youth included Chloe Darnell, Maddy Funkhouser, Edie Gover, Ethan Gover, Emory Herron, Becca and Kate Hoffman, George and Paul McClure, Kendall Williams, and Jenny Wilson.

-Patti Wright

Outreach Activities

Thank you FCC for your amazing response to needs in our community in December!

Angel Tree-The original 40 tags were claimed so quickly that some folks didn't get a chance to adopt an angel SO we added an additional 6. This means 46 children from our community will benefit from the clothes, toys, and other items purchased by FCC members. In addition, the Elders made a donation of \$400 that was used to purchase items needed by the Salvation Army office to complete bags for other children. And our FCC Children collected enough money through their weekly offerings to purchase clothes, toys and other items for two children bringing our Angel Tree total to 50!

Bell Ringing-We were grateful to have 20 FCC members ringing the kettle bell at Kroger on Dec.4 and/or Dec. 12. The sun was shining and your smiling faces kept those donations flowing into the kettle!

Waynesburg Manor Visit-On Dec. 7, Jan Bradshaw and her crew delivered a Christmas party, complete with caroling, gingerbread men, gifts from the Thursday morning bible study group and gifts purchased by FCC members. We were welcomed warmly by the residents, who seem to really appreciate our visits.

Coat Drive-Our congregation brought in approximately 65 adult and child-sized coats! The child-sized coats were taken to the Hogsett Primary School Resource Center, where the director would distribute coats to the other schools as needed. Several of the adult coats were taken to the Homeless Ministries of Sts Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Danville. A car load of coats was taken to the Kentucky Refugee Ministries office in Lexington, where there are many folks in need of winter wear.

Four Cans for Others-116 cans were brought in during December, making our grand total for 2023 to **1,421 cans!** Continue to bring in those cans AND be on the lookout for news of our food drive, coming in February, to help stock the supply for our food-insecure neighbors.

Holiday Food Boxes were provided to 22 Boyle County families: two large boxes filled with staple food items, a ham, turkey, gallon of milk, paper towels, toilet paper and holiday goodies. Recipients were recommended by Family Services of Boyle County.

Soups on Us prepared and delivered 307 meal boxes for the food insecure in the Danville/Junction City area in December. Twenty five of those meals were given to homeless individuals.

We have been blessed these past months to have Sisters from the Church of Latter Day Saints help with the Soups On Us Ministry. These young ladies have been assigned to Danville for their missionary work to help with community activities and help people become closer to Jesus's work.

-Patricia Calvert

Next Outreach meeting is Tuesday, Jan16th at 5:30.

FCC Youth News

In December, the Youth participated in the Children's Christmas play and bonded at a Lock-in. The Youth were excited to help with the play and even had one volunteer to be a "Wiseman" to make sure there were three!

At the Lock-in we had dinner, a white elephant gift exchange, a movie, and sardines. We had a blast exploring the church and discovering different spaces we didn't know existed. Thanks to Kendall Williams for volunteering to supervise overnight.



Please Keep the following in your Prayers

Lee Ann McCann	Robin Lee
Larry Davidson	Debbie Cline Pope
John Caywood	Barbara Cash Rankin
Lesa Cooper	Heather Lockhart
John Funkhouser	Rodger Morris
Gary Gibson	Donna Brown VanHook
John Taylor Ross	Paul Gwaltney
Jan Sheffields	Linda Fisher
Bill Morgan	Family of Aubrey Sivis
Mary Lou Withers	Rev Charles Highfield
Bill Barker	Mike Swain
Trevor & Lucy Graham	All Unspoken prayers
Michael Gretton	
Shannon Warren	



Shut-ins

Martha Akin	Tom Ensslin
Jerry Boyd	Odell Hine
Pat & Steve Bruce	Margaret Milburn
Mindy Carter	Betty Ramey
Bill & Patty Castle	Mike Swain
Hugh & Mary Jo Coomer	Bonnie Wilson

What's better than a wrapped present under the tree or a full stocking on the mantle?" It's the opportunity to fellowship with other FCC members and spread some holiday cheer!!



On December 20th, 15 or so folks gathered to do just that - armed with warm coats/hats/mittens & an extensive list of favorite Christmas carols, we set out in the vans to bring comfort & joy (and some rather impressive vocals!) to as many of our shut-ins as we could. Whether we stood on the doorstep, inside the hallways at McDowell Place & Parkview Manor or in someone's living room, the holiday spirit WAS alive and well and filled all our hearts to overflowing. As an added bonus, Catherine DeMoss, who was in town visiting, joined our jolly caravan!! It was "giving & receiving" at its simplest & finest. Hope more will join us again next year!!

-Julie Jones

Possibilities Book Study

Beginning January 7th, 2024 we will begin a new study of the Book of Romans using the book Romans: The Gospel of Grace by Dr. David Jeremiah.

All are invited to join us. We meet in room 211 starting at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Come join us for Coffee and Conversation.

-Doug McMurry

Connections Book Group returns January 7th!

Our study of Peter Enns book continues as we discuss chapters 8, 9, and 10.. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship with Bonnie Trachsel providing a light lunch. All are welcome!

-Jan Bradshaw

Healthy, Happy New Year!

Is one of your 2024 resolutions to be move more? You can do that right here at FCC!

Our **Walking Track** is open from 8:00-12:00 and 1:00-3:00 each day. Whether you like to speed walk or prefer a more leisurely pace, we've got you covered when it is too wintry to be outside! The Walking Track is closed when the church office is closed.

The **Fellowship Hall** hosts classes on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays as well.

Tai Chi meets on Mondays at 10:00

Body Recall meets on Mon, Wed and Friday at 9:00

Healthy Back meets on Wed and Fridays at 10:00

All classes are free with donations accepted.!

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Read more
inside this
newsletter
about programs
right here at
FCC to make
your 2024
healthier!

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