



February 2, 2023

PASTORAL REFLECTION:
“LAUGHTER AS WORSHIP?”

765-362-4812
www.fccville.org
211fccville@gmail.com



Every Sunday, when we enter the sanctuary and prepare our hearts and minds to worship God, what are some the activities that we engage in? The Lord's Supper, multiple prayers, reading scripture, receiving a pastoral message, engaging in music, and acts of stewardship, correct? But what about laughter? Is laughter a practice that we can engage in worship? I personally believe so.

I believe this because when I ask myself, “Would God welcome our laughter as a part of worship?” I immediately think about Jesus and his statement to his disciples when they attempt to block the children from coming to him. Children are the embodiment of joy and a big part in expressing such innocent joy is through laughter. So, when I hear Jesus say, “let the children come to me”, I hear Jesus say, “allow joy and laughter to flourish in my presence”. While we may think this is purely talking about children in worship, there are other scriptures that encourage the expression of joy as well. The praise filled psalms are

prime examples of individuals shouting for joy as an expression of worship toward God. Proverbs 17:22 also states that, “A cheerful heart is good medicine”. The book of Proverbs is comprised of wisdom texts in which the authors are influenced from their understandings of God's nature. 2 Corinthians 9:7 even states that God desire for people is to be “cheerful givers”. The Greek word for cheerful (Hilario) is how we get the English word hilarious.

When I hear laughter in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, I am reminded that God not only loves when we express our joy in our lives, but delights that we offer our laughs in God's presence as we give thanks for all the blessings we receive from God in our lives.

May each time we worship together as God's beloved community, we offer our joys to God and give thanks for the gift of laughter.

Blessings,
Pastor Kevin

UPCOMING

The calendar of events and activities is emailed on the first of each month—but you can also find an updated schedule online at fccville.org/events or call the church office to request a copy.

WEEK OF COMPASSION BENEFIT AUCTION:

Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice!

After worship on **February 26**, we will once again hold our annual First Christian Church auction to benefit the Week of Compassion! By donating items for or purchasing from the auction, we are helping people not only in our country but in other parts of the world whose lives have been devastated by floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, famine, war, disease, and other disasters.

In the past, thanks to your donations of “sugar and spice and everything nice” as well as your generous bids, you have made it possible for our church to send a sizeable check to WoC. So, we hope you will be thinking about the cooking, baking, sewing, carving, painting, writing and other ways you enjoy creating, then let us know what you would like to contribute to the auction!

Please contact Linda Weaver at weaverl@wabash.edu or Judy Michal at judy.michal@yahoo.com or leave word at the church office.



It's time again for this fun fellowship event! If you would like to attend, click here (or use the QR code below) to fill out a survey for Dinners for Eight in February. (Survey includes questions like do you want to host, what foods would you prefer to bring, dietary restrictions, and so on.)

Dinners will take place Saturday, February 18th, but please fill out the survey if you cannot do that date but are interested in potentially another date. **Survey Closes: Sunday, February 5th**

If you have questions, please reach out to Nate Tompkins.

<https://bit.ly/DinnersFebruary2023> or use this QR Code:

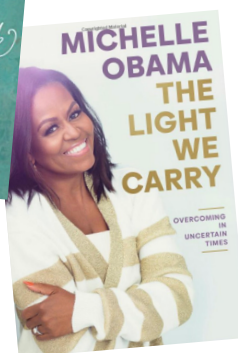
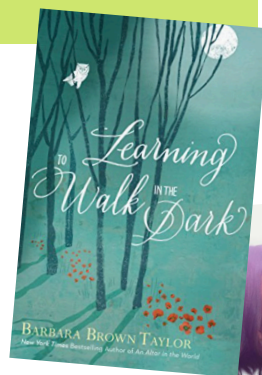


FCC BOOK CLUB

The book for our February 7th meeting is **Learning to Walk in the Dark** by Barbara Brown Taylor.

We will be reading Michelle Obama's **The Light We Carry** for our meeting March 7th. At least one copy of each is available in the church library. Contact Kelly Stanley if you need help locating a copy to read.

Plan to join us February 7th at 6 pm for a light snack and a good discussion! Questions? Reach out to Kelly Stanley, 765.366.6709.



The Church's “Cruiser” group will no longer meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month. We will now meet on the 1st Thursday of the month (starting Feb. 2) at the Crawfordsville Pizza Hut at 11:30.



In just a few weeks, Ash Wednesday will be upon us and the beginning of our Lenten journey towards Easter! Here is a calendar of coming events:

Lenten Ecumenical Soup & Supper Series

Mark your calendars! This year in Lent we will get to return in person and celebrate our ecumenical friendships by sharing in a weekly Tuesday evening Lenten Soup and Supper Series hosted by each congregation. The series will be focusing on a conversation around immigration presented and facilitated by Wabash



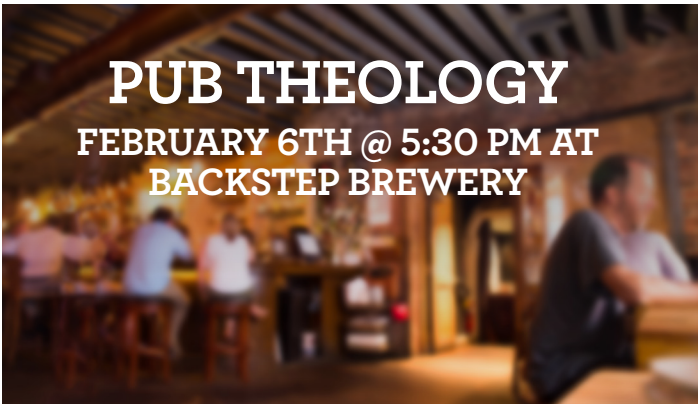
professor **Joyce Burnette, Professor of Economics, John H. Schroeder Interdisciplinary Chair in Economics**, with theological/biblical introduction by the pastors. A free will offering will be received each week to support the Rahimis, our Exodus Refugee family.

DATE	TIME	HOST CONGREGATION
Tues. 03/07	5:30 – 7 pm	Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church
Tues. 03/14	5:30 – 7 pm	Christ Lutheran Church
Tues. 03/21	5:30 – 7 pm	St. John’s Episcopal Church
Tues. 03/28	5:30 – 7 pm	First Christian Church

Ecumenical Worship during Lent / Holy Week

In the past few years, FCC has hosted the Good Friday Service. This year we have the wonderful opportunity of getting to create a brand-new meaningful service for Maundy Thursday! Ash Wednesday and Good Friday will be hosted by our ecumenical friends and partners. Here’s the schedule:

DATE	TIME	WORSHIP SERVICE	HOST CONGREGATION
02/22	7 pm	Ash Wednesday	Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church
04/06	7 pm	Maundy Thursday	First Christian Church
04/07	7 pm	Good Friday	St. John’s Episcopal Church



St. John’s new priest, Father Christian Baron, along with FCC’s Rev. Kevin Toth, would like to invite people interested in joining us for some intentional theology discussions at Backstep Brewery. Public Houses have always been gathering spaces in communities. People have crowded around tables to share a cold beverage and to discuss all of the things that are important and matter the most in their lives. Oftentimes these conversations center around philosophy, politics, morality and theology.

On Feb. 6 (Monday), we will engage in conversation regarding the theological question: “Does God heal people because of prayer?”

There is no need to RSVP. Simply show up a few minutes early to get your beverage and to pick your seat. Look for the “Pub-Theology” sign.

*****Drinking an alcoholic beverage is absolutely not important to participating in this event*****




Service opportunity with our neighbors!

Mark your calendars! There will be another FOOD FINDERS EVENT on **Tuesday, February 28 at 11:00 a.m.** at FCC’s parking lot with volunteers to arrive at 10:30 for set up. Food Finders is inviting another faith ministry to join us in this effort.



If you are able and willing to help join others in checking in 100-150 families or would like to help distribute the food itself to each family, please let Pastor Darla know! These events usually run about an hour and a half. Hope you will join me in serving with others to care for our neighbors in need in Crawfordsville!

DUSK TO DAWN LEARNING SERIES: **Wednesday, February 8 from noon–1**



GRATITUDE AND GRIEF

Dusk to Dawn Bereavement Services
Monthly Learning Series With Kelly O'Dell Stanley

Wednesday February 8, noon–1pm
Christ Lutheran Church

Free and open to the public
Register at dusk-to-dawn.org



The truth is, we're all going to have pain or loss or grief in our lifetimes. Those things can't be avoided—but they can co-exist alongside joy and goodness and kindness. When we develop practices to help us notice and remember, that's where deep, abiding gratitude is born.

Join **Kelly O'Dell Stanley** for an interactive workshop with guided writing prompts and discover how to enrich your life through gratitude in just a few minutes a day. Free and open to the public. Please register at www.dusk-to-dawn.org/learning-series



Plans have been finalized for the Global Ministries Mission Dash 5K sponsored by First Christian Church on **Sunday, March 19, at 8 am**. The theme of this run is "Moving Together to Care for God's World."

A great team of our folks have been working to accomplish this first 5K for First Christian Church. The Crawfordsville Board of Works approved the route this past week. Thank you to Dale Petrie for representing our church at the meeting.

Registration forms will be available soon in the church office. Registration is \$25 per person or \$50 per family. Shirts will be provided.

We hope other faith groups will join us that morning, along with Wabash runners. Our entire congregation will be able to participate in contributing to this event, whether they are running or not. We need to assist in the expenses. We plan to be able to donate the registration fees to Global Ministries of the Disciples of Christ. Volunteers are needed the day of the event at street corners, manning the water station at Jennison and Grant, and at the registration table.

Come be a part of this first 5K Global Mission Dash for First Christian Church. **For further information, contact Carolyn Snyder or Rev. Kevin Toth.** Thank you for your support!

*Carolyn Snyder, Linda Weaver, and Sandra Ruby
Local and Global Outreach*



We hope you join us by listening in to our discussions on 1 Samuel this month. And we love to address any questions you have so please send them our way by emailing bibleforthepeople@gmail.com.

<https://directory.libsyn.com/shows/view/id/bibleforthepeople>



Join us for lively discussion of scriptural topics inspired by current events—every Sunday at 9 am in the parlor.



Canned Fruit, Pasta and Sauce

I want to thank you all again for your weekly contributions of canned goods and other non-perishable food items to the FISH Food Pantry. During January, the Food Pantry has been experiencing a post-holiday drop-off in contributions, but not in the number of people and families needing food.

I've begun volunteering at the Food Pantry on Tuesday afternoons when clients come for food. The Food Pantry clients I've met are a mixed lot; many are old, some live alone, some are parents of young children and were doing OK until hit with a layoff or injury. They are all food-insecure, uncertain about keeping food on the table without assistance. And they are all our neighbors.

There are two categories of food that are in particularly short supply right now: (1) canned fruits and (2) pasta and pasta sauce. Contributions of these foods will help to fill an immediate pressing need, and, of course, all contributions are welcome and greatly appreciated.

¡Muchas gracias!

Don Lindsay

Unity Service with Our Family in Christ

Here are a few pictures from the incredibly uplifting Unity Service at FCC, this past Sunday, shared with Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church and Christ Lutheran Church! The next Unity Service will be held at Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 30 with Pastor Kelly Nelson preaching. May we show our support and love by attending as we received from these two wonderful partner congregations!



YOUTH news *from Rev. Kevin Toth*

Follow us on Instagram
@fccyouthcrawfordsville



YOUTH RETREAT * FEBRUARY 17-19
BEDFORD CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

All middle and high school youth are invited to a weekend retreat at Camp Bedford! It will be like going to camp but just over a brief weekend. The theme is "Finding Rest" based on Matthew 11:28-29. You can register online with the link below. Pastor Kevin will be attending with all registered youth and if you have any questions, you can reach out to him anytime.

https://wmt.suran.com/tool/event_registration_v2/attendees?guid=c-30308308c6211ed9e6fd0cdd32df89c&fbclid=IwAR3FR3MSRFRZL2VxxjI8xK-bGreBEZQYHmKFvJDHzd0m8YXbNg-B3QEgImGI

Worship & Wonder! New Children's Church Curriculum

The children's church team and I are excited to begin a new curriculum for our youth in children's church called, "Worship and Wonder"! Worship and Wonder is a holistic faith formation approach to learning the bible stories and invites children to not just learn these stories, but explore them in a Montessori environment and have a safe space to wonder about the stories being presented. Our teachers last month received special training in using this curriculum and Central Christian Church in Elkhart, IN gifted us with their complete set of materials! In the near future, we will begin implementing this curriculum. As always, we appreciate your love and support of our amazing children in worship as they grow in their faith journeys.

Blessings,
Pastor Kevin



WOW engages in a fun game of crab volleyball!



Middle and High school youth are invited to youth group with Pastor Kevin!

The next youth group is Sunday, February 12 @ 11:45am.

Youth group will be meeting the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month.





We are still looking for people to fill these positions:

Music director will be needed for 10-12 hours per week.

The **office manager** will work approx. 20 hours/week (from 10-2, Monday through Friday).

If you know a potential candidate, please ask them to reach out to Ryan Venis (rrvenismd@icloud.com) or Darla Goodrich (darla.goodrich@gmail.com).



TYPIST NEEDED / \$15 HOUR

A very part-time typist is needed. Contact Howard Goodrich at home 765-323-3158 or on Darlene's cell phone at 314-520-4324.



HHCL Opportunities

HHCL continues to be busy learning and growing! We currently have open positions for both **full-time and part-time teachers**. We are also in need of **occasional subs or volunteers** to help out, either with laundry or as extra hands in the classrooms. If you are interested, please contact Chantel Allen (HHCLdirector@gmail.com). Applications can also be submitted online through Indeed.com.

We're also looking for donations of simple art supplies like tempura paint, pom poms, and crayons.

Recovery Rec Center

The Recovery Rec Center at 1300 Ladoga Road has as its motto, "Think Positive and Positive Things Will Happen." Our own Ben McCormick is an integral part of this program provided for the Crawfordsville community. Regular meetings are held most days of the week, and the center is open every day of the week. A warming center has been provided during cold weather. Homeless individuals are able to stay warm until 9 pm and receive a warm meal and blankets.

A monthly meal for anyone is provided the last Saturday of the month. If you or a group would like to assist in providing this meal, please contact the Recovery Center.

The Recovery Center provides **free haircuts** the first Saturday of every month from 1-5. These have been very popular.

The center can be reached by calling 762-323-3940. Their Executive Director is Connie Esra. She has lived in this community all her life and has enlisted resources to assist in programming for the recovery community.

Stop in and take a tour of this facility. They are doing great things for the Recovery Community and we can support them with our resources.

Carolyn Snyder



Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are currently available. If you marked that you would like to have envelopes for your pledged offering, a set of envelopes with your name and address attached will be available at the Welcome Center in the Narthex starting this Sunday. If you would like to pick up envelopes for offering, but did not mark it on your pledge card, there will be loose envelopes available at the Welcome Center. Envelopes will also be available for Sunday Offering next to the Offering Plate in the Chapel.

Thank you,
Andrew Nicodemus

Remember when?



At the recent Remember When event, we started off by sharing who or what brought us to First Christian and then what made us stay. Some came because of a friend, a spouse, a babysitter, a former teacher; others were looking for a Disciples congregation or a good fit with their previous church; some for the church's youth program; some said they were born into the church as their parents attended here. One couple came after church members showed up in their driveway on moving day (with chocolate chip cookies).

They stayed for a multitude of reasons including:

- How generous the church is in all areas
- The church is Christ centered
- Humility – we don't have all the answers; we know we need forgiveness
- Friendliness of the people
- Inspirational sermons
- Solid leadership
- The church was (and is) welcoming and felt like home
- Full of love
- Lack of doctrine
- Being encouraged to think rather being told what to think
- The church is open to let people be who they are
- People are willing to discuss things
- Friendships
- Church will let women be leaders
- Members are strong Disciples and believe the denomination is worth something
- Dedication to music
- Regular visits from elders to shut-ins
- People provide rides to church services and events

Thank you from your FCC staff!

There are not sufficient enough words to tell you how grateful the First Christian Church staff is to have the honor and privilege of getting to serve such a joy-filled, generous and faithful congregation! The love, support, and constant encouragement you give to your staff is incredibly inspiring and continues to transform our own calls, faith and hope-filled vision for our future together.

We are also so grateful for, and humbled by, the generous raises you afforded us in these challenging economic times and the grace filled Christmas bonuses you gave at the holidays. We appreciate the faith that the congregation has placed in each of our calls to serve and lead, and so humbly pray God will continue to strengthen and grow us all in this mission we share together in serving one another and the world! Thank you!!



SCOUTING NEWS

Troop 365 has a New Eagle Scout! Please congratulate Christian Campbell for passing his Board of Review on Dec. 20th and reaching the highest honor and rank in Scouts BSA.



January Activity:

Saturday, Jan. 21st we went caving to Buckner's Cave near Bloomington IN.

We had 13 people, 4 youth from T247, 4 youth from T365, and 5 adults. This was a wild cave and extremely physical. Fun was had by all!

Coming up Next:

Weekly meetings on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm

Feb 5th: Scout Sunday

Feb 17th: Annual lock-in at First Baptist Church

Feb 19th: Eagle Court of Honour at New Hope Christian Church

As always, **if you are interested in being involved** in Scouting, 11-17 years old, or even as an adult leader, please let us know. We meet on Monday evenings from 6:30 pm to 8 pm at First Christian Church.



Help us keep this list up to date!

Please email fcc.comm211@gmail.com if you wish to have a name removed or provide an update. Thank you for your help with this—and for your ongoing dedication to holding each other in prayer.

Please keep **THE FAMILY OF ROBERT (BOB) HUDSON** in your prayers as Bob passed away on Jan. 29th

DALE PETRIE—recovering from shoulder surgery on Jan. 27th

The family of **MARTHA BAUSCH**, who passed away on January 9

Janene Plunkett and family on the loss of Janene’s brother-in-law **JAMES “MAC” MCLAUGHLIN**, who passed away on January 12

GERRY TURNER—home continuing to recover from an infection

SETH & JENNIFER NUNAN, DARYL & MARY HELEN FRY & their family on the loss of Seth’s grandfather & Mary Helen’s brother-in-law, Robert Nunan

SANDY RUBY—battling what is likely pneumonia

JUDY NABORS—at Durham home healing from hospitalization

JACK WYATT—Rehabilitating at Restoracy of Whitestown, 6712 Restoracy Dr, Whitestown, IN 46075

Marlyn Dimmick’s son-in-law, **CLINT**—kidney cancer (has only one kidney)

BETTY CEDARS—ongoing health concerns

DALLAS AND KAREN MCDONALD—Karen’s health has declined leading to her being placed in hospice care and Dallas is being treated for cancer

ALLEN GOFF (friend of the Keedys)—cancer

BETTYE HUDSON—cancer

DEBBIE (REBECCA LANG’S SISTER)—treatment for lung cancer

SANDY & KEN BROWN—ongoing health concerns

JERRI STEWART—breast cancer

MATT RYKER (son of Ron Yund’s friend)—beating victim, long recovery ahead

ALEX (and parents, Beth & Chris, friends of Sarah Jay)—tumor on his spine

JENNIFER (FRY) KREKELER (daughter of Daryl & Mary Helen Fry)—chronic fatigue syndrome

GARY MEEK—ongoing health concerns

CHURCH STAFF, MINISTERS, AND LEADERSHIP

Dear Church Family,

Thank you very much for the cards, flowers, and kind expressions of sympathy shown following the the passing of our mother and grandmother.

Special thanks to Pastor Darla for the support after her passing and the kind words during the service. In addition, also many thanks for the meal and use of fellowship hall after her funeral. Your support at this difficult time was very much appreciated und of great comfort to all of us.

Jutta and Paul Hutson for the Family of Mary Ellen Hutson

Thank you for the prayers for my daughter Anna, her husband Erik, and their brand-new baby girl, Sophia! I’m grateful to have you all wrap around my family in prayer when so many of you don’t know them. <3

Kelly Stanley

Pray for our Shut-ins

Our shut-ins would enjoy visits.

BICKFORD: **TIM NANNET**

WHITLOCK: **CAROLYN SIMPSON** (#151)

HOME: **DALLAS & KAREN McDONALD, NANCY ROGERS, BETTYE HUDSON**

ST. ANTHONY’S, LAFAYETTE: **MARILYN MOFFETT**

THE LANE HOUSE: **BETTY CEDARS**

VACATION

Pastor Darla will be on vacation on the following dates:

February 6-12

March 20-26

Pastor Kevin will be on vacation February 13-16.


CLERGY RENEWAL LEAVE

Pastor Darla's Clergy Renewal Leave will take place from Monday, April 17 – Monday, July 17.

Amazon Smile Update

Amazon Smile is the program that donated a small percentage of all purchases made to a designated charity. Because of the huge number of charities, they felt their impact was spread too thin, so Amazon recently announced that they are discontinuing this program in February to begin other initiatives. Amazon will give each charity a one-time donation equivalent to three months of the organization's earnings in 2022 through the program.

We're grateful for all of those who used this program to benefit FCC!

 Find us on **Facebook (First Christian Church Crawfordsville)** for updates, news, and pictures of all of our happenings along with LIVE worship on Sundays. Also check out our website at www.fccville.org

FCC OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 10-1

Wednesday 10-1

Thursday 10-1

765.362.4812 (voice mail checked on weekdays)

Email: 211fccville@gmail.com

PASTOR DARLA

Monday is Rev. Darla's day off. Please contact Rev. Kevin with questions, concerns or emergencies when Darla is unavailable.

CELL: 314-805-0347
darla.goodrich@gmail.com

PASTOR KEVIN

Friday is Rev. Kevin's day off. Please contact Rev. Darla with questions, concerns or emergencies when Kevin is unavailable.

CELL: 724-825-0997
katoth112792@gmail.com

HOW CAN WE HELP?

OFFICE

211 S Walnut St, Crawfordsville IN 47933
765.362.4812 (voice mail checked on weekdays)
Email: 211fccville@gmail.com

GRIEF AND LOSS

Jai Miranda, Dusk to Dawn Bereavement Services
Cell phone: 765.720.2829 (call or text) | Email: jmiranda@coachj.com

FINANCIAL QUESTIONS & CONCERNS

Andrew Nicodemus, FCC Financial Administrator
765.362.4812 (leave a message) | fccvillefinance@gmail.com

HAND IN HAND CREATIVE LEARNING

Chantel Allen, HHCL Director
765.367.1727 (leave a message) | Email: hhcldirector@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS (including newsletter)

Kelly Stanley, Communications Administrator
Cell phone: 765.366.6709 | Email: fcc.comm211@gmail.com

OTHER LEADERS OR MINISTRIES

For a full list of our leaders, go to www.fccville.org/our-lay-leaders

