

ROOTS & BRANCHES

A series of reflections for March and April about our upcoming Clergy and Congregational Renewal Time.

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In the last three editions of the Pathfinder, I shared what the congregation would be doing and experiencing while I'm away during our Clergy and Congregational Renewal (CCR) time from April 17 - July 17. I also reflected on the CCR's overall theme of **Roots and Branches**, which is grounded in John 15:5, and how I would be engaging in the **ROOTS** and **CORE** portion of my time away. In this edition I want to share with you how I'll be engaging in the **BRANCHES** portion (or cultivating vision and dreams for the future) of my Clergy Renewal time. I liken this time of visioning as a way of living into the footsteps of Jesus who took precious time to go off by himself and pray, including his 40 days in the wilderness, to listen for God's leading in the face his own struggles, hopes, fears and vision for his ministry ahead.

This may perhaps be the most important part of the CCR time for both my time away and the congregation's time together. During the whole 3 months I will be carefully tending to create time and space to listen to the Holy Spirit's whispering in my heart through intentional reflection and

prayer time, worship with other congregations and spiritual reading, taking time for stillness and journaling, most of all creatively dreaming and visioning about where I see my gifts best being shared as your pastor in the years ahead! I will be praying to be courageously open to the creative possibilities the Spirit might present, that could change my ministry and yours, in ways that will further build our life and

witness together in powerful ways. I am inviting each of you to do the same and to share your insights with each other, in the story circles, Sunday morning conversations and simply one on one with each other. This will also be an experience that surely will invite Pastor Kevin to also reimagine his ministry in new and creative ways as he explores and lives into expanded and different roles as the lead minister. Your support of his exploration and leadership will be essential to his growth, as well as yours, and mine.

With all this said, I most want to leave you with my heart, that will miss seeing you on a daily basis, being able to grab a cup of coffee or a meal with you, to share in meetings and moments where we connect about the deeper things in our own lives and the life of the church, and I will miss hearing regularly from you by e-mail and text and phone. It will be a strange time but an important time for the you and I to re-imagine what God has in store for all of us together when we come back together in July. Until then, you will be in my heart, on my mind and of course in my prayers. Many blessings on your special time of exploration and story sharing while I am away!

I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit. JOHN 15: 5



*Grace & Peace,
Darla*

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.



**April 30, May 21, and July 9
(Sunday afternoons) from 4-5:30 pm**

As part of our congregational renewal time, First Christian Church is holding three “Story Circles” over the next three months. **These small group discussions about our lives and faith are an important part of the overall theme and planning for this renewal time.** We think they’ll also be fun! When we gather together, there is always laughter and connection and kindness.

How will this work? Each gathering will start at 4 pm in Fellowship Hall, where the topics for the afternoon will be introduced. Everyone will get copies of the questions we’ll discuss. No advanced prep is required, because these are questions about your life. Then we’ll divide into small groups, or “story circles.” The groups will gather in different areas (parlor, chapel, library, etc.) to discuss the prompts and share a bit about ourselves in the process. We’ll wrap up at 5:30.

Why should I come? These times of intentional sharing in safe spaces will help us build our relationships with each other, strengthen our bonds within this church, and provide an opportunity to reflect on our individual spiritual lives.

Who’s invited? Everyone who is or wants to be part of our church community is welcome. **Childcare** is available, but please be sure to indicate that child care is needed when you sign up.

Which Story Circle should I come to? All of them, if possible! Each gathering will be different so please come to as many as you can!

How do I sign up? Signup sheets are on an easel in the narthex, near the stairs to the sanctuary. You may also email fcc.comm211@gmail.com or call the church office (765-362-4812) to tell us which sessions you can attend. **Pre-registration is not required** but is helpful to us in planning.

Questions? Contact Kelly Stanley (fcc.comm211@gmail.com).

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Ladies Lunch Bunch dining at the Blue Cactus Taco Restaurant (Blvd. Mall) on Thurs. April 13 at 1 pm. Love to have you join in the fun!! (Pls note permanent change of date: 3rd Thursdays).



Celebrating our Graduates: May 21st!

We will be honoring our 2023 graduates whose families are associated with our church. We need your help to identify those graduating from high school, college, or other studies so that we can honor them in worship or in the church newsletter. Please contact Pastor Kevin or me by May 14 with the name of your graduate, degree achieved, institution, and future plans.

Thanks for your help!

Judy Michal – email judymichal@yahoo.com or text 765-376-8255

Curious about the Congregational and Clergy Renewal Committee?

In the Spring of 2022, the Sabbatical Committee was recruited by members of our church leadership. **Members of this committee are Nick Hedrick, Tom Keedy, Kate Lindsay, Dave Maharry, Amber Rohr, Kelly Stanley, Linda Weaver, and Pastors Kevin Toth and Darla Goodrich.**

As with all committees one of the first orders of business was to identify roles and I, Kate, offered to be its chair as the new kid on the block and seeing that others were already wearing multiple hats. The committee meets monthly. Because our focus was both on what the congregation would be doing as well as Pastor Darla, we changed the name to the Congregational and Clergy Renewal Committee.

Darla told us of her conceptualization of “roots and branches” for her renewal time, divided into three parts: roots (past), core/trunk (present), and branches (future). We began trying to identify how to guide our community through its own 3 months of renewal. Our past and future plans include:

- **The archive committee**—led by Judy Michal, with Barbara Frye, Nick Hedrick, Pat Hooper, and Carolyn Snyder, has been looking into our “roots” in preparation for our 200th Anniversary in 2026.



- **“Telling Our Story” workshops**, led by the talented Gwynn Wills, guided many of you in sharing your own faith journeys or experiences of church community.
- **Scriptural guides and prompts for people to share their stories during worship**, shaped by our Pastor Kevin, Pastor Darla, and Kelly Stanley.
- **Story Circles**, three gatherings in which we can share our stories and connect with others. (See details on page 2 of this newsletter.)
- **A special historical program** planned by Judy Michal and others for May 7 that you won't want to miss.
- **A potluck lunch** following our annual congregational meeting on June 25th.
- **Musical offerings** supporting the themes of renewal under the leadership of Jerry Whipkey.
- **Selected written stories** to be shared through the Pathfinder.

Please reach out to members of this committee if you have questions or concerns. While Pastor Kevin will be our main shepherd, we remind you that there are many lay leaders (governing board, ministry team chairs, elders, deacons, and trustees) listed in your church directory who can also help when you have questions. Thank you! ~Kate Lindsay

Who do I contact during this time? What is the chain of command?

Rev. Kevin Toth will be stepping in as lead pastor during this time. He is excited to fill this role and has a strong network of support. He will fulfill all of Pastor Darla's normal duties.

Contact the church office (765.362.4812 or

211fccville@gmail.com) with **questions or for assistance with anything other than pastoral care.**

In addition, First Christian Church's **lay leadership** is well equipped for this time. If Kevin is not available or you have questions, you may reach out to **Dave Maharry** (Governing Board Chair), the **elders**, or the **leaders of any of the ministry teams.**

If you need information about church activities or have news for the congregation, reach out to our **communications administrator, Kelly Stanley.**

You may also reach out to the **members of the clergy renewal team:** Kate Lindsay (chair), Dave Maharry, Kevin Toth, Linda Weaver, Tom Keedy, Amber Rohr, Nick Hedrick, Jerry Whipkey, and Kelly Stanley.

All contact information can be found in the church directory. If you need a copy of the directory, contact the office.

We ask that you respect Pastor Darla's time away by not contacting her directly during this time. She will not be answering her phone or email so that she can return rested and recharged.



New art show: John Zimmerman

We're so grateful that John agreed to share his photography with us! Make sure you stop by the gallery area to look at his beautiful images. You can also find John's photography at Athens Arts.

Here's a little about John:

John's first camera, a classic Argus C3 slide film camera, came from his then soon-to-be wife. Seven photo cameras and four video cameras later, he continues to gather images with his original camera. With no formal training, he strives to capture the essence of his varied subjects around the world while traveling with his family and the Wabash College Glee Club. When John is shooting in the midst of a group, he likes to shoot quickly so he can stay in touch with the people.



FCC BOOK CLUB

Looking forward to seeing everyone in May to discuss **The Book of Longings** by Sue Monk Kidd. See you on May 2 at 6 pm in the Parlor.

Book for JUNE 6: **Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence** by Diana Butler Bass.

This meeting will be led by Aaron Morrison from St John's, right here at FCC, hopefully with members from both churches present.

One copy of each book is available in our church library. Questions? Reach out to Kelly Stanley, 765.366.6709.

We're thrilled to announce Jerry Whipkey, our interim music director



I'm am so thrilled we have new life arriving on staff in this Easter season in both Kay Nannet as our Office Manager and now Jerry Whipkey as our new official Interim Music Director! We've been praying all along (as Kelly writes in *Praying Upside Down*) for the person God is calling to these positions, rather than for God to find us staff members. And look! Kay and Jerry are well beyond anything we could imagine or hope for...and have arrived in God's time!!

In the meantime, we now have all these new volunteers who have grown accustomed to serving in the office, and seem to really enjoy it, and the Choir has grown into its own with Jerry's collaborative and gifted leadership style and has brought a wave of joy and hope to worship, and literally found their own voice in a new way!

Here's a little more info to help you get to know Jerry:

Jerry Whipkey (he/him) is a retired sailor and letter carrier. He joined the church in 2022 when he was led to join through friendships and the spirit of seeking truth.

Growing up in South Bend, he trained in orchestral music and stayed in touch with music by singing in choirs throughout his life.

With his wife Carol, he loves spending time with their large extended family. He also enjoys hiking along Sugar Creek.



YOUTH news from Rev. Kevin Toth

Follow us on Instagram
@fccyouthcrawfordsville



The Children found Jesus @ Easter Egg Hunt!

After Easter services, our children went on a search for Jesus. In the easter eggs across the playground, they found the message that Jesus is always with them in each of their hearts. The children had a wonderful time! We thank everyone who volunteered either through donations, stuffing eggs, and hiding the eggs this year! The support you give to our children makes a huge difference!





FruitFULL Faith

A Spirit-filled Life!

2023 CAMPS

Geneva

- June 12-14 **You & Me 1** (age 5+ and an adult)
- June 12-17 **Explorers** (completed grades 4-5)
- June 15-17 **New Beginnings** (completed grades 1-3)
- June 19-21 **You & Me 2** (age 5+ and an adult)
- June 19-24 **M.A.D.** (Music Art & Drama - completed grades 6-12)
- June 26-July 1 **High School Traditional** (completed grades 9-12)
- Middle School Traditional** (completed grades 6-8)
- June 26-July 1 **C.R.O.S.S.** (Christian Recreation and Outdoor Sports Skills - completed grades 6-12)

Bedford

- June 19-24 **Explorers** (completed grades 4-5)
- June 26-28 **New Beginnings** (completed grades 1-3)
- June 29-July 1 **You & Me** (age 5+ and an adult)
- July 3-8 **High School** (completed grades 9-12)
- July 10-15 **Middle School** (completed grades 6-8)



Camp 2023: Register ASAP!

Please make sure to register your child for camp as soon as you can and please let Pastor Kevin know if your child is attending church camp this summer. Also let Pastor Kevin know if you wish to counsel a camp. Scholarship support is available upon request.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

Date	Bible Story	Teacher
April 16	Road to Emmaus	Beth Lindsay
April 23	Good Shephard and the wolf	Sara Nicodemus
April 30	NONE	NONE
May 7	Lord's Supper	Gwen Carlson

All children ages 4 to 12 are invited to participate in our Worship and Wonder curriculum!



Save the Date- Vacation Bible School: July 19-21!

Registration is coming in May! If you are looking to volunteer, reach out to VBS Director, Tammy Meyers.



He is Risen Indeed!

What a wonderful Easter Sunday celebration it was this past Sunday as we welcomed nearly 165 friends, neighbors, guests and members, as well as nearly 25 children. How things have changed since a short two years ago when a global pandemic had us all worshipping only online.

Let us give God thanks for the many ways God surprises us with resurrection in ways we could never imagine or hope for!

Special thanks to the choir and organist, the media team, worship chair, deacons, teachers, greeters, worship leaders and elders for making it such a special day! It does take a village, for sure!

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are 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 in the office. If you would like to pick up envelopes for offering, but did not request envelopes on your pledge card, they are available at the Welcome Center and next to the offering plate in the chapel. Look for the green envelopes.

Thank you, *Andrew Nicodemus*



We have finished the books of 1st and 2nd Samuel! Throughout the summer, Pastor Kevin and Chuck Ranspach will be exploring the book of Job and the complicated nature of suffering. Episodes will be posted irregularly to accommodate Kevin and Chuck's schedule while Pastor Darla is away. Job is a powerful and complicated biblical book so please feel free to send us your questions to bibleforthepeople@gmail.com. And be sure to check out all our previous episodes! <https://directory.libsyn.com/shows/view/id/bibleforthepeople>

Bits-o-history

After studying three different historical accounts, Nick Hedrick shares his interpretation of the story of the tombstone found under our church.

Foster Fields is dead. The ol' sheriff got his skull cracked over a stupid fence. John Bloomfield did it, but he's not a murderer. The charge doesn't stick without witnesses.

Some people believe the quarreling neighbors were going at it that day in 1829 over a lane separating their farms down there by Alamo. Some people think Bloomfield swung a club, someone else wrote it was a stake. Nobody was there to referee.

Bloomfield had his day in court and walked out a free man. By then, Fields was six feet under, but where? With the Revolutionary patriots at Old Town Cemetery? In the woods by the college? Maybe it was under the old First Christian Church because in the late 1880s or '90s that's where the wrecking crew found his tombstone, smashed into a half-dozen chunks of slate. R.K. Krout came up from Ripley Township to take a look and decided it must have been the handiwork of John Speed, the abolitionist stone mason politician. Evidently, the tombstone was handy when the time came to shore up the building's foundation.

Reckon Foster got a new stone?



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.

THOMAS MAY (Sandy Brown’s son-in-law and Lisa Lofland-May’s husband)— suffering from Stage 4 Cancer and is taking chemo but is seriously ill. Lisa and Thomas have a 12 year old son, Connor.

JOHN HOOPER—ongoing Parkinson’s issues

DARLA GOODRICH—for a meaningful and rejuvenating time of clergy renewal

GAIL MERRIMAN—health issues

The family of Nick Hedrick on the passing of his grandmother, **MARGE BOWMAN**, on March 25

QUINTON NANNET and family—Quinton continues to remain in New Zealand, is physically safe, but is facing a lot of uncertainties ahead. Please pray for Quinton’s resilience, courage, hope and wisdom, amid the challenges he’s facing.

The family of **ANN SKOMP** on the passing of her sister, **RUTH ELLEN ALLISON**, on March 11

JIM & CATHY MOFFETT & FAMILY—the passing of **MARILYN MOFFETT** on March 7

GERRY TURNER—health issues

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

BETTYE HUDSON—treatment for cancer

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

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

CHURCH STAFF, MINISTERS, AND LEADERSHIP

Pray for our Shut-ins

Our shut-ins would enjoy visits.

BICKFORD: TIM NANNET, ROD GONSO

WHITLOCK: CAROLYN SIMPSON (#151)

HOME: DALLAS & KAREN MCDONALD, NANCY ROGERS (MOVING SOON), BETTYE HUDSON, BOB DIXON

THE LANE HOUSE: BETTY CEDARS

Thank you

To My Church Family:

Thank you for the cards. I have felt the love from all of you. Like the rays of light from the windows that flood the sanctuary in peaceful majesty, it brings me comfort.

Love,
Nick Hedrick

PASTOR KEVIN ON RETREAT APRIL 24-28

I will be away on my Bethany Fellow's ministerial retreat the last week of April. **For pastoral emergencies and concerns**, please reach out to **Raymond Williams** (williamr@wabash.edu). You can also reach out to the **Clergy Renewal Team** for other concerns regarding the church. I will be back in town Saturday, April 29th and will return to emails, texts, and phone calls then. Thank you for allowing me the time to experience some rest and renewal and for the opportunity to serve as one of your pastors!

CLERGY RENEWAL LEAVE

Pastor Darla's Clergy Renewal Leave will take place from Monday, April 17 – Monday, July 17. Please respect her time away by not contacting her directly during this time. She will not be answering her phone or email so that she can return rested and recharged.



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
New hours effective May 1:
Monday through Friday, 10-2
765.362.4812 (voice mail checked on weekdays)
Email: 211fccville@gmail.com

PASTOR KEVIN
Friday is Rev. Kevin's day off.
CELL: 724-825-0997
katoth112792@gmail.com

MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY & CONGREGATIONAL RENEWAL TEAM
Kate Lindsay (chair),
Dave Maharry, Kevin Toth,
Linda Weaver, Tom Keedy,
Amber Rohr, Nick Hedrick,
Jerry Whipkey, and
Kelly Stanley

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

