

November 25, 2021

Special Advent Edition



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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FROM A DISTANCE: An Advent Sermon Series

God is able to accomplish abundantly far more
than all we can ask or imagine. EPHESIANS 3:20



I suspect for many of us it feels like a full year couldn't possibly have occurred since 2020's Season of Advent and Christmas! So much has happened beyond anything we could have expected or imagined in this past year. But here we are, and like the very birth of Jesus himself, new life always arrives unexpectedly and finds us wherever we are. New birth is anything but routine or predictable!

Preparing for the unexpected of Christ's arrival in our lives isn't easy. We can vision it, plan for it, or assume its highest imaginable outcome. But ultimately, God is always able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine!



This year during Advent, I invite you to imagine with me stepping back **"From A Distance"** (our Advent theme) in order to gain a new perspective on the wonder and mystery of God's abundant new life unfolding in our midst! It's an opportunity to take precious time to rise above those things that may be crowding our view and open ourselves to what God might be seeking to realize among us. I hope you'll join us on this prayerful journey of discerning God's view **"From A Distance"** so that we might behold "the something new" that is waiting to be experienced and seen close up and personal!

Grace & Peace,

Darla

From a Distance

An Advent Sermon Series

The waiting of Advent teaches us to live in increments, in small pieces rather than large chunks. Waiting also teaches us to measure our progress slowly.

HOLLY WHITCOMB

DATE	SERMON TOPIC	
Nov 29	From a Distance, God is Near	Advent 1 / Hope
Dec 5	From a Distance, God is Among Us	Advent 2 / Peace
Dec 12	From a Distance, God Shows Grace	Advent 3 / Joy
Dec 19	From a Distance, God is Glorified	Advent 4 / Love
Dec 24	From a Distance, God With Us	Christmas Eve
Dec 26	Quiet Sunday	Quiet Christmas
Jan 2	New Year	Epiphany

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHOIR TO PRESENT

Tidings of Joy

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

On December 17, the First Christian Choir will present this year's Christmas cantata, *Tidings of Joy*. Inspired by Celtic music traditions and time-honored carols, composer Joseph M. Martin's cantata wraps the Christmas story in jubilant and meaningful music. *Tidings of Joy* features illuminating narration, inspirational choral numbers, moving solos, and expressive instrumental music.

Several community singers will join the Choir for the work, which will be accompanied by an instrumental ensemble. The Chancel Choir is led by Richard Bowen, Director, and j Miranda, Pianist.

So, mark your calendar and join us for *Tidings of Joy* on Friday, December 17, at 7:00 PM in the First Christian Church sanctuary, or online on Facebook or YouTube.

Don't miss these special services!



While we're in the midst of a season of joy, celebration, and light, for many, it feels more like a season of great darkness and shadows. While others are experiencing the light of hope, peace, joy, and love, we may feel as though our hope has gone, our peace extinguished, our joy snuffed out, and love vanished. **We don't have to be alone in our darkness.** Join others as we gather to share our burdens and losses in an ecumenical healing service of prayer, song, and reflection.

If you have questions about the service, please contact j Miranda, Minister of Bereavement Care.

The Sunday after Christmas, **December 26**, we'll be gathering at 10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary and online for a Quiet Christmas Communion Service to celebrate Epiphany and its invitation to follow God's leading to wherever new life is calling us. Join us for this abbreviated family service with singing, prayer, a brief meditation and communion so that we may honor the precious eternal gift of new birth in Christ!



In the silence of a midwinter dusk, there is a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen. You are aware of the beating of your heart. The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.

FREDERICK BUECHNER



What a joy it will be to be able to host FCC's **Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service** in person and online this year! We hope you will join us at **7:00 pm** in the sanctuary as we share in singing Christmas hymns together, as we hear God's word shared, as we experience Christ's gift at the Lord's Table and listen for Good News radiating from the voices of our choir! Invite your friends, family and neighbors to hear the eternal story of faith that shapes and reshapes our own stories over and over again!



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Wed. 11/24 **Mid-Week Devotional** by Pastor Kevin posted to Facebook page
- Thurs. 11/25 **Thanksgiving Day—Office closed**
- Fri. 11/16 **Office closed** (but Darla is working)
- Sun. 11/28 **Wired Word class** (parlor)—9:00-9:45
- Mon. 11/29 **God Talk Discussions** with Pastor Kevin (parlor)—5:30-6:30.
RSVP requested but not required. All are welcome.
- Tues. 11/30 **Volunteers for Mental Health donations** needed
- Wed. 12/1 **WOW**—4:30-7:30
Stillness & Storytelling Circle (Chapel)—5:30-6:30
Choir practice—7-8:30
- Thurs. 12/2 **Mental Health Volunteers for Montgomery Co.**—5-9 pm
- Fri. 12/3 **Mental Health Volunteers for Montgomery Co.**—9 am - 5 pm
- Sun. 12/5 **Wired Word class** (parlor)—9:00-9:45
- Mon. 12/6 **God Talk Discussions** with Pastor Kevin (parlor)—5:30-6:30. *RSVP requested but not required. All are welcome.*
Scouts meeting (Upper Room)—6:30-8 pm
- Tues. 12/7 **Cruisers**— meet at Pizza Hut for fun and fellowship!! 11:30 am
- Wed. 12/8 **WOW**—4:30-7:30
Choir practice—7-8:30
- Thurs. 12/9 **Next Pathfinder Newsletter**
- Sun. 12/12 Youth Service Bureau's **Reindeer gifts** due to the church. *If you would like to take a child's name, contact Carolyn Snyder at 765-362-7493 or carolynsnyder42@gmail.com.*
- Tues. 12/14 **Ladies Lunch Bunch** gather at CRACKER BARREL for Christmas comraderie at 1 pm!



God Talk Discussions

Starting on Monday, November 29th @ 5:30pm, I will be hosting an informal educational/ fellowship gathering called God Talk. Everyone who has a question about God, faith, Christ, church, and/or the world will be invited to write an anonymous question that will be discussed by the entire group gathered. We will be gathering on every Monday in December and while RSVPs are not required, they are greatly appreciated. I hope you will join me for some engaging holy conversations during Advent!

Peace,
Pastor Kevin



Pray for Our Church Family, Friends, and Other Concerns

Continue to pray for the protection, health, and well-being of those people who are serving in various ways that put them at higher risk of exposure to COVID-19. We give thanks for their service.

- BEN MCCORMICK**—at Lafayette Regional Rehabilitation Hospital in Lafayette for further healing.
- BETTY CEDARS**—recovering from pneumonia and Covid 19.
- NICK HEDRICK'S FAMILY** on the loss of Nick's great-uncle Gary Austin
- NANCY BEACH**—ill and struggling with COVID-19 symptoms
- THE APPLE FAMILY** on the passing of Karon Apple
- BRAD PADDACK** and family on the passing of Brad's father Barton Paddack
- THE KEEDY/RANSPACH FAMILY** on the passing of Hulah O'Dell
- LIAM VENIS** and family—Liam is recovering from surgery
- MAXINE WILLIAMSON**—recovering from surgery to repair a broken arm
- DAPHNE REED** (Sarah Reed Jay's mother)—home from the hospital and recuperating but would love continued prayer
- ABBIE PLUNKETT**—recovering from surgery on her ankle
- RANDAL TURNER**—recovering from hip surgery
- MATT RYKER** (son of Ron Yund's friend) — victim of a beating
- RUSSELL RUBY**—health issues
- DEBBIE (REBECCA LANG'S SISTER)**—treatment for lung cancer
- SANDY & KEN BROWN**—he had pacemaker replacement procedure and she's recovering from broken arm
- JERRI STEWART**—breast cancer; recovering from mastectomy
- BOB MASON**—energy is low from tests and treatments for cancer
- CATHY MOFFETT** (Marilyn Moffett's daughter-in-law)—chemo for breast cancer
- ALEX** (and his parents, Beth and Chris, friends of Sarah Jay)—Alex has a tumor on his spine
- MYRNA THOMPSON**—breast cancer and radiation treatments
- CARSON COLLINS** and family (friends of Kym Bushong's)—leukemia
- JENNIFER (FRY) KREKELER** (daughter of Daryl & Mary Helen Fry)—chronic fatigue syndrome
- JOE CARTER**—friend of Keedys, cancer
- GARY MEEK**—ongoing health concerns
- SHEILA CLARK**—Chronic Lymphatic Leukemia
- CHURCH STAFF, MINISTERS, AND LEADERSHIP**

Pray for our Shut-ins

Long-term care facilities are open again to visitors, even without vaccination. Our shut-ins would enjoy visits.

- WHITLOCK: CAROLYN SIMPSON** (#151)
- FOUNTAIN SPRINGS ADULT COMMUNITY IN COVINGTON: EILEEN MORRETT**
- WELLBROOKE: MARGE KOPERSKI** (Marge Michael's mother)
- HOME: BILL & FRANCES COLLINGS, DORIS BRANSTETTER**
- ST. ANTHONY'S, LAFAYETTE: MARILYN MOFFETT**
- THE LANE PLACE: BETTY CEDARS**





HOW CAN WE HELP?

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- Nov. 27 Pastor Kevin
Doris Branstetter (104)
- Nov. 28 Sawyer Ranspach
- Dec. 01 Andrew Nicodemus
- Dec. 3 Kate Lindsay
- Dec. 7 Warren Hartman (90)
- Dec. 7 Rick Stout
- Dec. 8 Dallas McDonald (85)
- Dec. 10 Bob Snyder (83)
- Dec. 12 Dave Maharry
Dale Petrie
Diane McLaughlin
- Dec. 13 Marilyn Patton (81)
- Dec. 14 Donna Coats
- Dec. 15 Keith Strain
- Dec. 16 Pat Hooper
Nicholas Reese
Daniel Petrie

ANNIVERSARIES

- Nov. 26
Joe and Kristy Reese
- Nov. 28
Paul and Marian Cass (68th)
- Dec. 19
Brad and Linda Weaver

If you would like your birthday and a anniversary included in the bi-monthly Pathfinder newsletter, please let Kelly know.

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

EMAIL:

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

EMAIL:

katoth112792@gmail.com

YOUR SAFETY IS IMPORTANT TO US

We continue to wear masks and practice social distancing for all church activities in order to create a welcoming, safe environment for all. All church staff and childcare givers are fully vaccinated.



Sharing our Facebook posts helps us grow! On our **Facebook (First Christian Church Crawfordsville) page**, we share updates, news, and pictures of all of our happenings along with LIVE worship on Sundays.

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon. & Wed. 12 – 5:30 p.m.

Tues., Thurs., Fri. 12-3 p.m.

The FCC doors will remain locked during office hours in order to maintain safe space for our Hand in Hand children and staff, and our FCC staff who may be in the office by themselves. Please simply ring the bell during office hours (at either the Walnut Street or Parking Lot doors) and FCC staff will be delighted to "buzz" you in!

OFFICE STAFF

Nick Hedrick, Secretary

Arleen Wilhite, Volunteer

765.362.4812 (Leave a message. Voicemail is checked on weekdays.)

EMAIL: 211fccville@gmail.com

GRIEF AND LOSS

j Miranda

Minister for Bereavement Care

CELL: 765-720-2829 (call or text)

EMAIL: jmiranda@coachj.com

FINANCIAL CONCERNS

Andrew Nicodemus

FCC Financial Administrator

765.362.4812 (leave a message)

EMAIL: fccvillefinance@gmail.com

HAND IN HAND CREATIVE LEARNING

Sara Nicodemus, HHCL Board

Lori McKinney, HHCL Director

765.362.4812 (leave a message)

EMAIL: hhclboard@gmail.com

HAVE INFO FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS?

Kelly Stanley

Communications Administrator

EMAIL: fcc.comm211@gmail.com

CELL: 765.366.6709

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