



PASTORAL REFLECTION

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December 15, 2022

Imagine a World with More... is a new sermon series for the New Year at FCC, that is inspired by our General Minister and President, Rev. Terri Hord Owens' vision of **God's Limitless Love**. The series is being used by congregations across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as a resource to explore what our world might look like with more of the church in it. More of the church's expansive love. More of the church's radical hope. More of the church's deep compassion and commitment to justice. And not just more of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) but more of our community doing what it does best in revealing God's limitless love right in Crawfordsville, Indiana! It's an invitation to imagine what God is doing and what God can do in each of our communities, in our own lives, families and neighborhoods.

Sometimes, especially after setbacks like a pandemic, faith communities can be unknowingly carrying the burden of a vision of scarcity driven by fear—what if there is not enough? What if we are not enough? What will we be if we aren't what we used to be? Instead, the **Imagine a World with More...** series, which I've shortened to the title, "Imagine," invites communities to ask—what if we dared to imagine a world, and our own personal lives, with more hope, more love, more forgiveness, more connection? What if we imagined a world in which God's love was limitless? What would our communities and our

own lives look like? Who would be changed in a world with more? What would be transformed? This series invites us to boldly see God's limitless love in Jesus as an abundant force of hope

and transformation in our world. I hope you'll invite your friends and neighbors to join us as we Imagine more than we could ever ask for or even imagine!
~Grace & Peace, Darla



DATE	SERMON TITLE & SCRIPTURE	PREACHER
01/08	Imagine More Forgiveness Acts 6: 8-15 & 7: 54-60	Rev. Darla Goodrich
01/15 MLK	Imagine More Justice Isaiah 58: 6-9	Rev. Darla Goodrich
01/22	Imagine More Community Acts 2: 42-47	Rev. Darla Goodrich
01/29	5th SUNDAY ECUMENICAL COMBINED WORSHIP At FCC	Rev. John Van Nuys
02/05	Imagine More Beauty & Creativity - Psalm 19: 1-6	Rev. Darla Goodrich
02/12	Imagine More Hope Week of Compassion Heb 10: 23-35	Rev. Kevin Toth
02/19	Imagine More Compassion Week of Compassion Mt 25: 31-44	Rev. Darla Goodrich
02/22	ASH WEDNESDAY Ecumenical Worship - Location TBA	Shared Leadership



DATE	ADVENT WORSHIP & PREACHER	TEXT
Sun. Dec. 18 10:15 am	The Advent of Seeing Joy 4th Sunday of Advent Rev. Darla Goodrich	Jn 16: 16-24

SPECIALTY WORSHIP SERVICES

Sat. Dec. 24 5:30 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service The Birthing of Living Dreams Rev. Darla Goodrich	Is 65:17-25 (selections)
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Sun. Dec. 25 10:15 am	Christmas Communion Service (30 minutes / Family Friendly) Includes Cake & Birthday Party for Jesus / Rev. Darla Goodrich	The Birth Story & Song
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Sun. Jan. 1 10:15 am	Epiphany / New Year's Day God, Words, and New Beginnings	John 1:1-14
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Our annual in-person Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will take place in the sanctuary on **Saturday, December 24 at 5:30 pm!** This earlier time was selected as our organist, Tom Lowe, was already scheduled to play for another congregation at 7 pm. With that said, many families seem thrilled to be able to have the little ones at home earlier for bedtime. This will be a family-friendly service in which we will sing the familiar Christmas hymns, hear the ancient story read by our children and youth, and offer a children's time for their reflection and interaction.

The children, as they do each Sunday, will be collecting food during the service for the FISH Food Pantry. So bring a dry good to share if you desire. Child care will be available and the Pray-ground space will be open in the sanctuary offering pew packets and quiet creative activities which highlight this season. Open Communion will be celebrated where ALL are invited and welcome to receive. Hope you, your family, friends and neighbors will either join us in the sanctuary or by Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/fccville) or Youtube (www.youtube.com/@fccville5997).



Thanks for your generosity!

Thank you to the members of our congregation who assisted 15 children from the Youth Service Bureau Reindeer Project with wishes and needs this Christmas season. In addition, extra gifts were given by members for the children. If you did not participate this year and would like to do so next year, please keep this project in mind. The names are sent to our church around Thanksgiving and distributed at that time. Blessings.

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



There will be an in person **30-minute interactive** Family Friendly Christmas Communion Worship Service on **December 25 at 10:15 am** in the sanctuary. This will be a relaxed service so come as you are, bring the kids (even in their pajamas), and we'll sing Christmas carols, have the children help place the figurines in the Manger as we read the ancient story, share communion together and celebrate Jesus' Birthday! There will be birthday cupcakes for Jesus at the end of the service, following our singing to him! Hope you will join us!



MITTEN/ GLOVE/SOCK/ SCARF TREE

FCC and the Boy Scouts are asking for donations of hats, gloves, socks, and scarves for all ages. These will go to Youth Service Bureau, Pam's Promise and Trinity Mission house for men. Bring your donation to church and add it to the small tree as you go to the Fellowship Hall. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

THE LONGEST NIGHT

While amid a season of celebration and joy, 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 Cheryl Fuhrmann, ckfdusk2dawn@gmail.com

CHRIST LUTHERAN
CHURCH SANCTUARY

7:00PM
Wednesday, December 21



Staff Christmas Gifts

Dear First Christian member,

We are rapidly moving through the Christmas season, a busy season for all of us but especially for our church staff. I encourage you to consider giving a Christmas gift to the staff. You can drop it by the church office or its mailbox there on Walnut. If you want to describe how you want it divided indicate that. Otherwise it will be divided evenly among Andrew, Arleen, Dale, Darla, Jerry, Kelly, Kevin, Kym, Tom and Vic.

Grace and Peace in this season,

Dave Maharry
Governing Board Chair



Join us New Year's Day Sunday!

Please join us at **10:15 am on New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1**, as we celebrate and reflect on the gift of a fresh beginning before us! Rev. Kevin Toth will be offering the message for the day and concluding our Advent/Christmas series entitled "Perspectives". What better way to begin 2023 than beginning with a brand-new perspective for the year ahead and an opportunity to offer our gratitude to God in whom all things are made new! Hope to see you there!

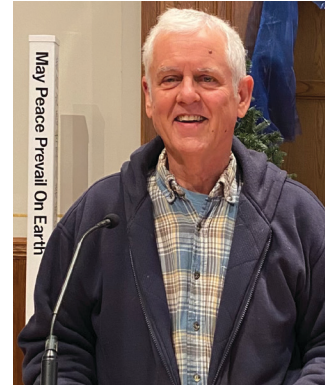


Don't forget to bring FISH Food Pantry donations for the children to collect during our weekly worship services!

WELCOME!

WELCOME, TOM LOWE!

What a joy it is to welcome **Tom Lowe** to the church staff as FCC's new organist! Tom is married to Dianne, has two grown daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, and 5 grandchildren. Tom was raised in Terre Haute, Indiana where he attended St. Stephen's Episcopal Church growing up. As a college student, he attended Indiana State University there, majoring in Music Education (Choral & General) with his principal instrument being the organ. He has been playing the organ and piano in congregations of the Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopal, Baptist, and Roman Catholic traditions for over four decades. Tom's father, who loved to sing and play the piano, inspired Tom at a very early age to love music. In fact, Tom was too young to be accepted as a student by music teachers, so a family member gave him piano lessons until he was old enough to begin piano lessons with an outside teacher. The rest is history, and we are so grateful for his beautiful creations each week and the spirit he brings to his playing. We especially are so grateful that Tom came on board just in time for the Season of Advent! Welcome Tom! You are already such a blessing to us!



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

It is with great joy that we are able to announce that this past Sunday, December 11, **Jerry Whipkey** and **Justin, Tammy & Malachi Meyers** became new members of First Christian Church! Given that they all are already members of Christ's Universal Body across time and space...they decided to give expression to that confession by joining hands with this church family, in the great mission we've been given—to love and serve in Christ's way, for the healing, peace and reconciliation of God's beloved world.

Jerry Whipkey is married to Carol (Sparrow) Whipkey, already a long-time member of the church. They were married 4 ½ years ago at FCC and Carol is retired from Franciscan Health. Jerry is retired from the Naval Reserve and the U.S. Postal Service and delivered FCC's mail for years. Jerry grew up in South Bend, Indiana, and was most recently a member of Darlington Christian Church. Along with being a volunteer for Meals on Wheels, Jerry is a member of FCC's Wired Word Class, men's coffee group, men's pool league, the FCC Choir and is our volunteer Choir Director, for which we are so blessed! Welcome Jerry! We couldn't be more thrilled to get to serve and lead with you in this wonderful journey of faith we all share!



The Meyers Family have been participating at FCC since December of 2021. Justin will be celebrating 10 years at Beckman Coulter this coming February and Tammy just graduated with an Ed.S in School Administration and started a new job at Indianapolis Public Schools as a Special Ed Specialist/Coach. Justin and Tammy recently celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary and have 3 sons. Harrison is a freshman at IUPUI studying Political Science, Sullivan is their infant in heaven, and Malachi is in 6th grade at North Montgomery Middle School where he plays on the boy's soccer team. Justin, Tammy and Malachi are all very involved with FCC's intergenerational WOW ministry on Wednesdays and are such a blessing to the congregation! The Meyers's shared that they are happy to have found a church home that shares their values, and they look forward to continuing to know and serve beside everyone. Welcome Justin, Tammy & Malachi! We couldn't be more thrilled to get to serve and lead with you in this wonderful journey of faith we all share!





YOUTH news from Rev. Kevin Toth

Follow us on Instagram
@fccyouthcrawfordsville



WOW had a wonderful Christmas season! We will be on break until January 11th.



WOW youth making ornaments for the fellowship hall Christmas tree



Indiana Youth Council

The Indiana Youth Council (IYC) is a group of high school youth from around the state who serve as representatives for youth throughout the region. IYC plans and coordinates all youth events in the region except summer camps. This is a great opportunity to serve the Indiana region and grow in one's leadership skills!

Youth interested can follow the link to find the online application. Scroll down till you see "Indiana Youth Council." Applications are due January 9, 2023!

<http://indianadisciples.org/commissions/commission-on-faith-formation/#camp>



We will not meet the next 3 Sundays: December 18th, 25th, and January 1st. We will resume next year on January 8th.



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

All middle and high school youth are invited to a weekend retreat at Camp Bedford next Spring. It will be similar to camp activities but just over a brief weekend. Registration details will come out next month but if you are interested, please reach out to Pastor Kevin. And don't worry...the cabins have heat!

Check out our updated calendar online at
fccville.org/events



Save the date! Tell your story!

While Pastor Darla is on sabbatical in the spring, we're looking forward to many opportunities for us to gather with each other, grow in fellowship, and share our stories of how our faith has grown and how we've been changed by our time at FCC. Some may share during worship services or small groups; others may wish to record their stories on video. Still others may write them down for our archives or newsletter. There will be several ways to share—if and how you choose—and we promise not to put you on the spot!

But we know it can be overwhelming to think about how to share our stories—sometimes we aren't sure what we even have to tell, or it's hard to find the right words. To that end, **the Sabbatical Team is thrilled to invite you to one of three upcoming workshops in January.** Stay tuned for sign-up information, but we will offer three different times to choose from:

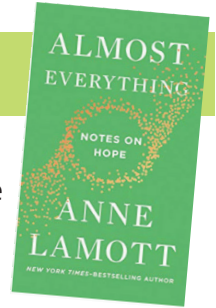
- **Thursday, Jan. 19** - during the **daytime**
- **Thursday, Jan. 19** - during the **evening**
- **Sunday, Jan. 22** - during the **afternoon**

Gwynn Wills, who's trained to facilitate these workshops, will lead us, creating a safe space and prompts to help us think about our stories in encouraging ways. The Sabbatical Team took part in a preview session and found it quite moving and meaningful. We're so excited to open this up to you! Everyone is encouraged to attend. If we need to add other sessions to accommodate others, we will. Watch for more details to come in the next Pathfinder, but we hope you will save the date in your calendar!

If you have questions, feel free to reach out to any member of the Sabbatical Team: Darla Goodrich, Kevin Toth, Kate Lindsay, Dave Maharry, Nick Hedrick, Tom Keedy, Amber Rohr, Linda Weaver, or Kelly Stanley.

FCC BOOK CLUB

January's book is *Almost Everything: Notes on Hope* by Anne Lamott. There is one copy available through the church library and another available through the Crawfordsville Public Library. Contact Kelly Stanley if you need help locating a copy to read.



Plan to join us January 3rd at 6 pm for light snack and a good discussion! Questions? Reach out to Kelly Stanley, kellyostanley@me.com, or call or text 765.366.6709.



Graduation from Flourish Program



In February of 2021, I applied to the Indiana Region's, "Flourish Program". This program was created in partnership with the Lilly Endowment to provide education on financial literacy that would support clergy and congregations with how they handle their finances. My participation in this program came to its conclusion last Thursday when I officially graduated from Flourish.

During my time in Flourish, I have gained invaluable education on how I can better manage my own personal finances as well as have a better understanding of stewardship through the church. A huge requirement for my participation in Flourish was to attend four financial literacy retreats over the course of two years. The program not only required that I attend these retreats, but that leaders in my church also attend as well. As such, I would like to thank the following individuals for taking the time to support me by attending one of my four required financial literacy retreats: Brad Weaver, Dave Maharry, Don Lindsay, Ron Yund, Andrew Nicodemus, and Eileen Bowen. In addition, I want to thank everyone for supporting me and supporting the Flourish Program. It has been a gift that I will forever be thankful for.

Many Blessings,
Pastor Kevin



prayer concerns



12 WELLNESS VIDEOS FROM DISCIPLES NBA

The holiday season can be a tremendously stressful time for many individuals who are struggling with a mental illness such as depression and anxiety, or for many who experience deep grief this time of year. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reported that approximately 24 percent of people with a diagnosed mental illness find that the holidays make their condition “a lot” worse and 40 percent “somewhat” worse.”

To help with feelings of grief, depression, or anxiety you may be feeling this season, Joselyn Spence, Director of NBA’s Mental Health and Wellness program has recorded 12 short 2-3 minute video reflections, with tips, that are intended to support you as you go through this time of year with a bit more wellness in mind. Whether your are struggling or not, these videos offer good grounding for navigating this Advent season and all that comes with it.

All 12 videos can be accessed any time at www.nbacares.org/resources/12-days-of-wellness/

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.

- **JACK WYATT**—Rehabilitating at Restoracy of Whitestown, 6712 Restoracy Dr, Whitestown, IN 46075
- **PAUL & JUTTA HUTSON**, at the loss of Paul’s mother, Mary Hutson, on Friday, Nov 26
- **MARY ELLEN FIELDS**—Thyroid surgery on Nov 17
- **MARTHA BAUSCH**—pancreatic cancer/hospice
- **LAFOLLETTE FAMILY**—passing of James “Jim” LaFollette on Nov 14
- **ERIK & ANNA KILE** (Kelly Stanley’s daughter & son-in-law)—he’s deployed with the military/serving overseas while she is due to have their baby in late Jan.
- Marlyn Dimmick’s son-in-law, **CLINT**—kidney cancer (has only one kidney)
- **BETTY CEDARS**—ongoing health concerns
- **CHRIS MICHAL** (Judy’s son)—recovering from surgery
- **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
- **BOB AND BETTYE HUDSON**—cancer
- **DEBBIE (REBECCA LANG’S SISTER)**—treatment for lung cancer
- **SANDY & KEN BROWN**—ongoing health concerns
- **JERRI STEWART**—breast cancer
- **CATHY MOFFETT** (Marilyn Moffett’s daughter-in-law)—chemo for 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**

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 AND BOB HUDSON**
- ST. ANTHONY’S, LAFAYETTE: **MARILYN MOFFETT**
- THE LANE HOUSE: **BETTY CEDARS**

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.

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

Office Closed Week After Christmas

The Church Office will be closed the week after Christmas to give our volunteers and office staff time with their families. Pastor Kevin will be on vacation and Pastor Darla is the Pastor on call. She will be available for pastoral needs and will be working remotely at home during the week.



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



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



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