



December 21, 2023

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
211 South Walnut Street
Crawfordsville IN 47933

O First Christian
Church, Rejoice!



This past Sunday during worship, the FCC Choir, directed by Dr. Sarin Williams, shared a beautiful, joy filled, and meaningful Christmas Cantata entitled, "O Bethlehem, Rejoice!" With trumpeters accompanying the singing, a special solo offered by operatic baritone Randal Turner, and chimes being played by 6-year-old Joshua Fossnock, the whole experience was simply divine! Thank you to Sarin, the choir, our trumpet players, Joshua and Jerry Whipkey who stepped in to lead for Sarin as needed!

Surely it is a time to rejoice for this wonderful music ministry that sings and rings our faith with hope, peace, love and joy!

I'm looking forward with joy to worshipping and serving alongside this remarkable community in 2024. As we learned during our Roots and Branches Congregational Renewal time, this community has a strong, sturdy foundation on which we continue to grow. I remain continually grateful for the love you all show for one another, and I'm eager to see what the new year will bring. Merry Christmas, everyone!

Grace and peace,
Darla





CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING

Communion SERVICE

Dec 24 from 10:15-10:45 am

Christmas Hymns / Scripture / Prayer / Communion
All generations welcome / Come as you are
No livestream



CHRISTMAS
EVE

Candlelight COMMUNION SERVICE

Dec 24 at 5:30 pm

Featuring Operatic Baritone Randal Turner
Livestream available



New Year's Eve Sunday Ecumenical Worship

Dec 31 at 10:40 am

At Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church
Preacher: Rev. Darla Goodrich



Each Sunday next month, we will be learning together how the spiritual gift of Holy Silence can open the door to wisdom, move us toward acts of justice, bring peace to our mental health, and invite us into a place of sacred rest. Additional information will be shared in next month's Pathfinder by Pastor Kevin but until then we hope you will join us each Sunday in January for this sermon series!

Date	Title/Scripture	Preacher
1/7	Holy Silence: Silence as Listening Mark 1:35-39	Rev. Kevin Toth
1/14	Holy Silence: Silence as Justice John 8:1-11	Rev. Darla Goodrich
1/21	Holy Silence: Silence as Peace 1 Kings 19:1-9	Rev. Kevin Toth
1/28	Holy Silence: Silence as Rest Mark 6:31	Rev. Kevin Toth



YOUTH news from Rev. Kevin Toth

Follow us on Instagram
@fccyouthcrawfordsville



All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to the Winter Youth Retreat at Bedford Camp & Conference Center February 16-18.

The theme of Drawing the Circle will be presented by Alexis Tardy. Alexis is the Coordinator for Ministry with Youth and Young Adults with Disciples Home Missions. It is sure to be a fun and informative time for the youth of our region.

Cost for this event is \$75 per person. We hope you join us for this wonderful retreat!



*The WOW youth having fun for the Christmas Season! WOW will be on break until **January 10th**.*



The calendar of events and activities is in the last Pathfinder 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.



Continental Breakfast Jan. 14th

Join us from 9-9:50 am in Fellowship Hall for our first Continental Breakfast consisting of coffee and tea, bagels and cream cheese, yogurt, fresh fruit, and granola. Please RSVP at this link or by calling or stopping in the Church office.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAB-2BA6FAC16-46943583-continental>

Volunteers needed for setup and cleanup. If you have food sensitivities, please contact Kate Lindsay to let her know.



Ladies Lunch Bunch

Grab your food and come join the warm LADIES LUNCH BUNCH fellowship in the CHURCH PARLOR at 12:30PM (*note time change) on Thurs. Dec. 21. All are welcome!!

Also mark your calendar for January, when LADIES LUNCH BUNCH will convene at 'The Laughing Cow Diner' (104 E. Main, Ladoga) on Thurs. January 18 at 12:30 pm for fun, fellowship & fine food!! Notify bonyund@hotmail.com, if you can join us!!

FCC BOOK CLUB

Upcoming books



Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, 6-7:30 pm

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charley Mackesy - discussion led by Deb Vaught

Tuesday, Feb 6, 2024, 6-7:30 pm

Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan

Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 6-7:30 pm

Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths by Bruce Feiler

NEW SELECTION for Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 6-7:30 pm

Unclobber by Colby Martin - discussion led by Kevin Toth

One copy of each upcoming book is available to borrow through our church library.

Questions? Reach out to Kelly Stanley, 765.366.6709

or fcc.comm211@gmail.com.



Healing Through Artistic Expression

Dusk to Dawn Bereavement Services Learning Series

Athens Art Gallery Artist Ellie Dickmeyer will lead the first Dusk to Dawn Bereavement Services Learning Series Event in 2024. Using a sealed frame and resin, she will show how special memories can be preserved as resin keepsakes. Event is at the Athens Gallery, 216 E Main St, on Tuesday January 9, 2024 at 6:00pm. Learn more and register at dusk-to-dawn.org.

Our Learning Series events are made possible by a grant from the Montgomery County Community Foundation.



Parents' Night Out

Thank you to all who donated and volunteered to make our Kid's Advent Party/Parents' Night Out a success!

Bethel AME Update

During the past month scraping, painting and repairs of outside of the Bethel AME building have been completed. The building is sealed and beautiful. We are grateful to those from First Christian who volunteered to do and support the work. We hope a new sign will be installed soon. Please drive by to view the building and the renovated park and historical markers for that site on the Underground Railroad.





Offerings and Donation Statements

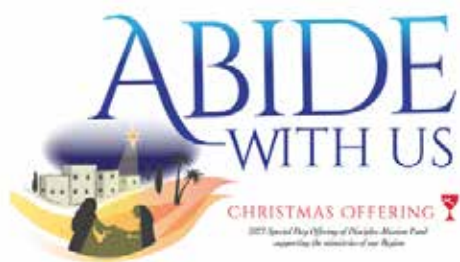
The final day that offering for 2023 Donation Statements will be Sunday, January 7, 2024. In the days between now and then, please make sure to clearly mark your donations and offering for either 2023 or 2024.

Also, new offering envelopes are being ordered and should be here soon. A new article will go out when they are available to pick up from the church.

Donation Statements will start to be compiled after the January 7, 2024 deadline. These statements should be emailed and/or mailed by January 31, 2024. If you have a preference of how you would like to receive your Donation Statement, please email fccville-finance@gmail.com and let Andrew know.

Thank you,

Andrew Nicodemus
Financial Administrator



Our gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas. Our regional ministry in Indiana works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our regions.

What So Many Want for Christmas: Food on the Table

We here at FCC have experienced a remarkable increase in our giving to the FISH Food Pantry over these past four months. I mentioned in a previous article that our weekly contributions to FISH were averaging 45 lbs per week. That was the case from our first weekly food offering on October 2, 2022, through August 20, 2023. Weekly totals during that time ranged from 26 lbs to 211 lbs, and averaged 45 lbs per week.

Then we turned a corner on August 27. Our food offering that Sunday was 138 lbs. We'd seen bigger offerings like that from time to time, but this time there was no drop-off back to the 45 lb **average**. Our smallest offering from August 27th to last Sunday, December 17th, was 76 lbs. Our weekly average over that time has been 111 lbs. **Our contributions have more than doubled.** I'm very glad that they have, but I'm not sure why.

Apart from one urgent call in late August for more food to restock empty shelves, we haven't been pestering you for more and more food. But you're bringing more and more food, without the pestering. Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, FCC! As of December 17, our total contributions to FISH for 2023 come to 3,377 items equaling 3,577 lbs. I'll update these numbers at year's end.

By the time you receive this Pathfinder, most FISH clients will have made their last visit for food before Christmas. So that you will know, everyone who came during this week (Dec.12-15) received these holiday items: bag of frozen strawberries, breakfast sausage, pop-open cans of biscuits and cinnamon rolls, full box of margarine, milk, eggs, and hot chocolate, plus all the other usual necessities. These same or similar offerings should be available to clients during the week just before Christmas. Thank you so much for your faithful concern for those of our neighbors in Montgomery County who struggle with food insecurity.

God rest ye merry Ladies and Gentlemen. There is a wind from the East carrying the aroma of incense and camel dung, and a song in the distance barely heard — maybe Tammy Wynette on the late night station from Del Rio, maybe a choir of angels . . .

Don Lindsay

PRAYER REQUESTS

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.



MARSHA POWELL (Carol McDonald's sister)—health Issues

RANDALL GARRETT—health issues

RICHARD McDONALD—health issues

The family of **JERRI STEWART** who passed away on Dec. 20

JUDITH SMITH'S husband **RICK** had successful open heart surgery last week, but prayers are still requested as he endures the 2 month rehabilitation.

NICK HEDRICK and family on the loss of Nick's grandfather, **DANNY HEDRICK**

The family of **ROD GONSO**, who passed away on Nov. 24

The family of **GEORGE VENIS**, who passed away recently

BETH LOWE—recovering from surgery

MARLENE ELMORE—receiving hospice care at home

SHEILA CLARK—now at home, recovering from hip surgery

JORDAN TURNER (Gerry Turner's grandson) and family—recovering from surgery to repair broken bones following a motorcycle accident

AMY WOODALL—recovering from surgery

DALLAS McDONALD—ongoing cancer treatment

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

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.

GERRY TURNER—health issues

JACK WYATT—Rehabilitating at Restoracy of Whitestown

BETTY CEDARS—ongoing health concerns

ALLEN GOFF (friend of the Keedys)—cancer

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

SANDY & KEN BROWN—ongoing health concerns

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

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 McDONALD,
BOB DIXON,
PAUL & MARIAN CASS,
RICHARD McDONALD

THE LANE HOUSE:
BETTY CEDARS

Free Training with Volunteers for Mental Health

Volunteers for Mental Health in Montgomery County is offering a free training opportunity for the adult version of Mental Health First Aid. Details are provided below:

If you would like to attend, please click here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfOCWbhs-sahN3AO2dBvedzMuQvTEhM7HAVDwoYUcIF7JTqFSA/viewform>. Registration is limited to ten, and the registration window closes on January 3.

COURSE CONTENT: "Mental Health First-Aid (MHFA) introduces participants to identify common signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use-related challenges, builds understanding on their impact and provides an overview of common supports. This eight-hour course (including the 2 hours pre-work) utilizes activities to demonstrate how to offer initial help in a mental health crisis and connect persons to the appropriate professional, peer, social and self-help care.

MHFA takes the fear and hesitation out of starting conversations about mental health and substance use problems by improving understanding and providing an action plan that teaches people to safely and responsibly identify and address a potential mental illness or substance use disorder.

DATE: Friday, January 19

TIMES: registration, coffee/tea, and breakfast items beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Instruction will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at approximately 3:30 p.m. If the group chooses to work through lunch, it is possible to conclude earlier.

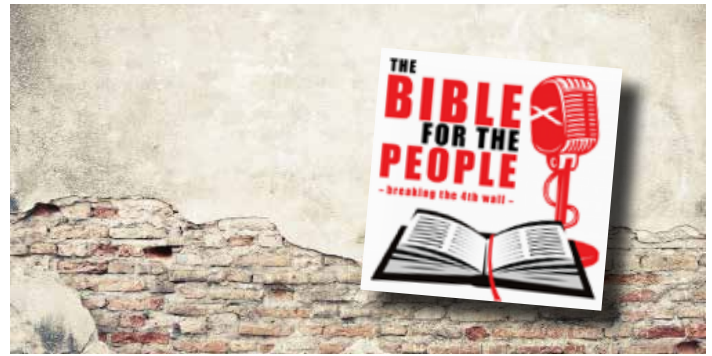
LOCATION: Hoosier Heartland State Bank Success Center, 1623 U.S. 231 Crawfordsville, IN 47933

MATERIALS AND FEES: Registration fees and materials, plus all food and drink for lunch and breaks are free of charge! Everything you need will be provided.

RENEWAL CREDITS: MHFA will issue a certificate of completion for your school corporation or work to consider as license renewal credits.

IMPORTANT: Attendees must complete approximately 2 hours of pre-work instruction online. You will be registered for this course by the instructor Cathy Wray. Cathy will send e-mail messages to you to instruct you in how to access the online work through MHFA.

****Should you not complete the pre-work in advance, you may not complete the in-person course.****



Bible for the People Podcast

Our recent conversation is on the book of Amos, one of the minor prophets in the Bible and his role in proclaiming justice during the time of the divided monarchy in Israel's history. Be sure to check out our latest episode, which will be released on Monday, December 25th (Christmas!). You can listen to every episode through Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Google Podcasts, as well as find links on our church Facebook page. We love to hear from you so send us your questions or feedback to bibleforthepeople@gmail.



January Calendar



- Mon. 1/1 Church office is closed
- Tues. 1/2 **FCC Book Club** (*The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* by Charlie Mackesy)—6 pm
- Wed. 1/3 **WOW** is off for Christmas break
- Thurs. 1/4 New Pathfinder newsletter
Men's Coffee—9-10 am
Cruisers (Pizza Hut)—11:30 am
- Sun. 1/7 **The Wired Word**—9 am
Worship (in sanctuary or online)
w/Rev. Kevin Toth—10:15 am
- Mon. 1/8 **Un-decorating the church**—1 pm
Scouts—6:30 pm
- Tues. 1/9 **Elders Meeting** (Parlor)—7 pm
- Wed. 1/10 **WOW**—4:30-7 pm
Choir Practice—7:15 pm
- Thurs. 1/11 **Men's Coffee**—9-10 am
- Sun. 1/14 **Continental Breakfast**—9-9:50 am
The Wired Word—9 am
Worship (in sanctuary or online)
w/Rev. Darla Goodrich—10:15 am
Congregational Meeting—following service
- Mon. 1/15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Scouts—6:30 pm
- Tues. 1/16 **Euchre** (Parlor)—1 pm
Coordinating Council (Parlor)—7 pm
Governing Board Meeting—8 pm
- Wed. 1/17 **WOW**—4:30-7 pm
Choir Practice—7:15 pm
- Thurs. 1/18 New Pathfinder newsletter
Men's Coffee—9-10 am
Ladies Lunch Bunch (The Laughing Cow Diner in Ladoga)—1 pm
- Sun. 1/21 **The Wired Word**—9 am
Worship (in sanctuary or online)
w/Rev. Kevin Toth—10:15 am
- Mon. 1/22 **Scouts**—6:30 pm
- Wed. 1/24 **WOW**—4:30-7 pm
Choir Practice—7:15 pm
- Thurs. 1/25 **Men's Coffee**—9-10 am
- Sun. 1/28 **The Wired Word**—9 am
Worship (in sanctuary or online)
w/Rev. Kevin Toth—10:15 am
- Mon. 1/29 **Scouts**—6:30 pm
- Tues. 1/30 **HHCL Board Meeting**—7:30 pm
- Wed. 1/31 **WOW**—4:30-7 pm
Choir Practice—7:15 pm



January anniversaries

- January 13
Warren & Sona Lou Hartman
- January 21
Rex & Sandy Henthorn

January birthdays

- | | |
|------------------|------------|
| Carol Whipkey | January 1 |
| Steve McLaughlin | January 3 |
| Nate Tompkins | January 3 |
| Simon Carlson | January 8 |
| Caitlin Jeffries | January 8 |
| Kenneth L Brown | January 11 |
| LaDawn Priebe | January 11 |
| Sheila Clark | January 12 |
| Raven Davis | January 12 |
| Sona Lou Hartman | January 13 |
| Lacee Melevage | January 14 |
| Deb Vaught | January 16 |
| Larry Fields | January 19 |
| John Hooper | January 20 |
| Darlene Goodrich | January 23 |
| Janet Keedy | January 24 |
| Andie Nannet | January 24 |
| Riley Woodall | January 24 |
| Carter Morrett | January 26 |
| Carole Pendleton | January 27 |
| Beverly Wyatt | January 29 |





FCC OFFICE

Office Manager: Kay Nannet

765.362.4812

Email: 211fccville@gmail.com

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Friday,
10 am – 2 pm

CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Dec 25 – Jan 1

Pastor Darla's on call from Dec 25 – Jan 1

If you need to reach Pastor Darla during this time, please text or call her. She will be on call for emergencies while the office is closed for the holidays and the main church email and voice mail will occasionally be checked but not frequently enough for an urgent need.



PASTOR DARLA

CELL: 314-805-0347

darla.goodrich@gmail.com

PASTOR KEVIN

CELL: 724-825-0997

katoth112792@gmail.com

Monday is Rev. Darla's day off.

Friday is Rev. Kevin's day off.

On their days off, please contact the other pastor or the Church Office with questions, concerns or emergencies.

Thank you so much for all of the cards and prayers. The love and support of my church family has made such an incredible difference during my walk through the valley! I am humbled by and grateful for you all. God is good.

~Amy Woodall

As my family continues mourning the death of my paternal grandfather, I want to thank the members of my church family that sent sympathy cards, attended the funeral and held the situation in thought and prayer. Losing two grandparents in the same year has been a difficult experience, but the love I've felt from First Christian is a blessing.

~Nick Hedrick



For the ways you make the Word of God real and present; for your compassion and faithfulness; and for your steadfast partnership in this ministry of transformation and hope – we are so grateful at Week of Compassion!

May the Word made Flesh, the Prince of Peace, be born anew in your life and in the world!

~Vy, Caroline, Rouza, Alan & Courtney

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

DUSK TO DAWN BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

Cheryl Furman and Jai Miranda
765.267.1760 | dusk-to-dawn.org
info@dusk-to-dawn.org

FISH FOOD PANTRY

*Distributes grocery items to meet
emergency needs.*

Located at St Bernard's Church,
1306 E. Main St., Crawfordsville,
765.362.3474

HAND IN HAND CREATIVE LEARNING

Chantel Allen, Director
765.367.1727 | hhcldirector@gmail.com

MONT. CO. FREE CLINIC

*Offers local, uninsured residents
high-quality medical & dental care
and other health services*

816 S. Mill Street, Crawfordsville
www.mcfreeclinic.org
765.362.3244