

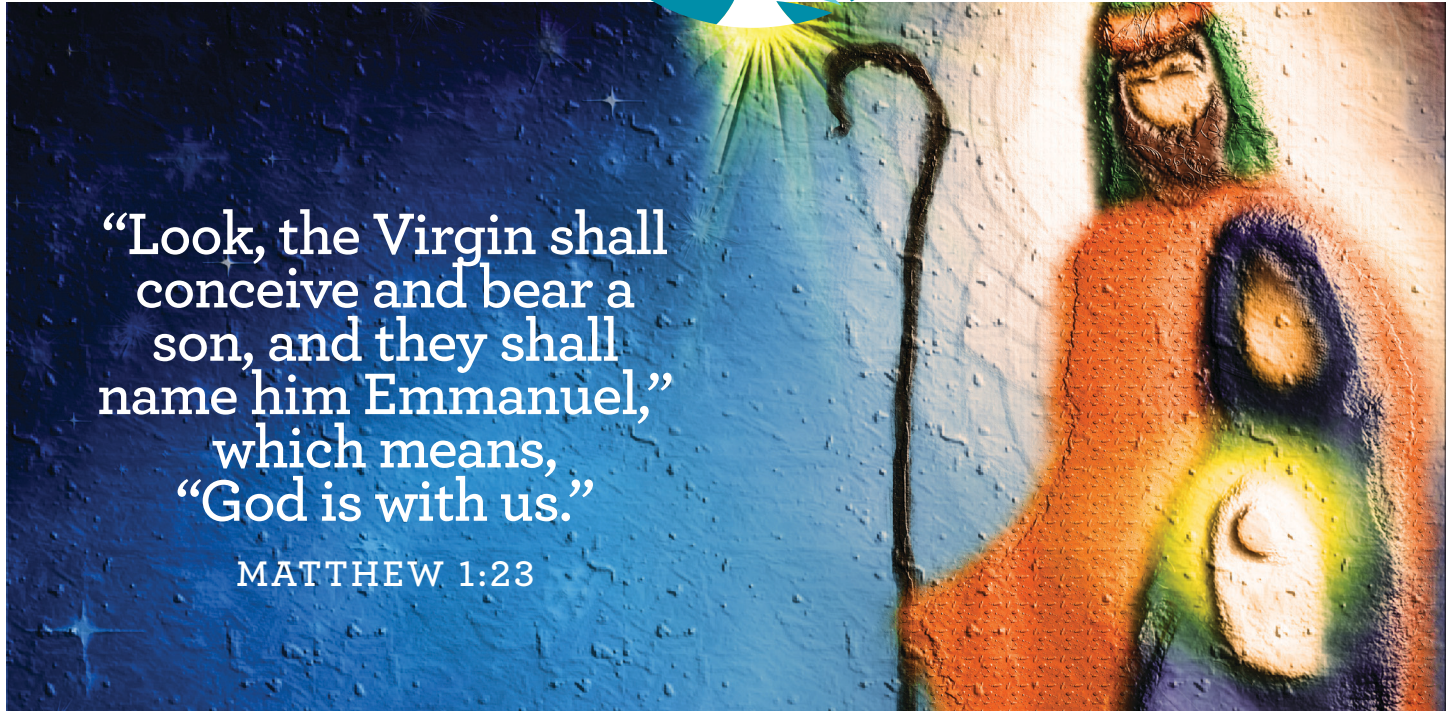


FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
211 South Walnut Street
Crawfordsville IN 47933
December 23, 2021

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

“Look, the Virgin shall
conceive and bear a
son, and they shall
name him Emmanuel,”
which means,
“God is with us.”

MATTHEW 1:23



PASTORAL MESSAGE

Advent is a season of the year that often reminds me of that part of the life of faith that has us living in between both memory and hope. We stand with gratitude in what is already given by God even while living into what is promised in Christ. This is the very heart of where new birth or transformation finds it home in our lives - somewhere in between what theologians refer to as the “already and not yet.”

I think of this season as that important reminder of the “in-



betweenness” of every day where Emmanuel (God with us) is always birthing new possibility in our lives **now** even if we may not recognize the unfolding of it until later.

Sometimes hope requires looking back to remember how God has been at work in us, even in some of the most difficult moments of our lives, before hope it is able to look forward. Jesus birth in the world long ago gives us this kind of hope!

Advent is a particular time that invites us to be attentive to this

reality—as we sing the great Christmas hymns of the season and hear the ancient story which invites us to be watchful for God’s presence with us now—to dare to live on the bridge between sunrise and sunrise—the place of the unknown where faith finds its legs, where God’s abiding mystery lovingly awaits our eyes to see and ears to hear both the memory and hope birthed through Jesus Christ our Lord! Thanks be to God!

Merry Christmas!

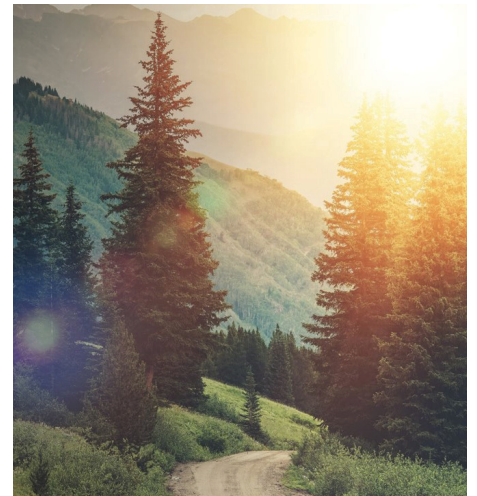
Darla

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Mask-wearing will be observed at all services.



Rejoice



7 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

For the first time in two years our annual *in-person* Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will take place in the sanctuary this Friday, December 24 at 7:00 pm! It will be a family-friendly service in which we will sing the familiar Christmas hymns, hear the ancient story read and a children's time offered for their reflection. Child care will be available and the *Pray-ground* space 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 and your family will either join us in the sanctuary or by Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/fccville).

NEW YEAR'S SUNDAY (JANUARY 2)

Please join us either in the sanctuary or on Facebook live at 10:15 on Sunday, January 2, as we celebrate and reflect on the gift of the new year before us. Rev. Kevin Toth will be offering the message for the day. What better way to begin 2022 than offering our gratitude to God in whom all things are made new! Hope to see you there!



Please join us for an abbreviated **Quiet Christmas Communion service, Sunday, December 26 at 10:15** in the sanctuary or live on FCC's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/fccville). Dr. Raymond Williams will be offering a special meditation and invitation to the Lord's Table. We will celebrate Christ's birth in our lives with Christmas hymns of hope and God's Word. Hope you will join us for this special worship opportunity to express our gratitude for the gift of Emmanuel (God with us)!



Congregational Meeting on Jan. 2 following Worship

On Sunday, January 2, immediately following worship, there will be a congregational meeting held in the sanctuary. Church members will be voting on the proposed 2022 budget and FCC Constitution updates. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Board Chair Dave Maharry, Vice-Chair Linda Spencer and/or FCC Treasurer, Brad Weaver. Hope to see you there! Mask will be worn and wearing and social distancing will be observed.



FCC'S CHRISTMAS CANTATA!

What a wonderful evening it was last Friday, December 17 celebrating this Advent season as a community! It was bittersweet since it has been two years since we've been able to host a Christmas Cantata and because this was Music Director Richard Bowen's and violinist/pianist Eileen Bowen's last Christmas Cantata before moving to Cincinnati. What a tremendous blessing and gift they have been to First Christian Church and will be wherever they go! Thank you to all those, in addition to Richard and Eileen, who participated in making this a spectacular evening of celebration including the choir, instrumentalists, media tech, worship, readers, narration writer and our keeper of the house! What a blessing and gift you have given for our whole community in order to honor and glorify our loving God!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Fri.	12/24	Church office closed Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)—7 pm
Sat.	12/25	CHRISTMAS DAY
Sun.	12/26	Quiet Christmas Communion Service —10:15 am
	12/27-12/31	Church office closed but Pastor Darla is available
Sun.	1/2	Wired Word class (Parlor)—9:00-9:45 Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)—after worship
Mon.	1/3	Scouts meeting (Upper Room)—6:30-8 pm
Tues.	1/4	The Cruisers will gather for fun fellowship and yummy food at Pizza Hut—11:30 am
Fri.	1/7	New Bible for the People Podcast
Sun.	1/9	Wired Word class (Parlor)—9:00-9:45 Worship —10:15 am Reception honoring Richard and Eileen Bowen —after worship
Tues.	1/11	Elders Meeting (Fellowship Hall)—7 pm
Wed.	1/12	WOW —4:30-6:30

PATHFINDER SCHEDULE ADJUSTED IN JAN.

I will be out of town on vacation from Jan. 16-23, so we've adjusted the Pathfinder schedule. This means there will be three weeks between this issue and the next, which comes out Jan. 13. After that, we'll be back to a new issue every second Thursday. Thanks for understanding!

~Kelly

Welcome, Paul Johnson!

On behalf of the FCC Board & Personnel we are pleased and excited to announce that Paul Johnson has officially agreed to serve as our new Freelance Music (& Choir) Director. He will begin his first week at FCC beginning January 3 with plans for the choir to sing its first anthem with him on Sunday, January 9.

Composer/Conductor **A. Paul Johnson** has for decades been an active independent artist and crossover Producer marking musical innovations for the late 20th & 21st Century in both concert and sacred repertoire. Paul's work as a church musician started by playing services at his High School, Brebeuf Prep. (a Jesuit School) along with accompanying the choirs, soloists, and theatre productions there. He toured for many years with regional theatre and eventually landed in Florida as a Composer-in-Residence with the Pinellas County Arts Council (St. Pete/Clearwater area). He organized his own production company in Florida which provided performing arts services for a diverse group of schools,

community centers, performing arts ensembles, and often as many as six churches where the corporate pool of various talents would create concert series, special community programs like youth theatre, pageants for special seasons like Christmas and Easter, and in most cases weekly service music too for a number of denominations.

Paul is a native Hoosier, and in 2014 re-settled back in Indianapolis where he provided music for two years at First Christian Church in Mooresville, and then spent five years as organist for Northwood Christian Church, both Disciples of Christ congregations. His large repertoire of recordings and compositions are published by Performers Edition in Indianapolis. The premiering and commissioning ensembles for his original music have included local groups like the Carmel Symphony, Indianapolis Philharmonic, Indiana Repertory Theatre, and Louisville Mandolin Orchestra alongside international venues such as

the Prague Symphony Orchestra, Ensamble Rosario (Argentina), Warsaw National Philharmonic, and the Slovak Radio Orchestra.

As a teacher Paul has maintained studio clients in vocal coaching, which he considers his pedagogic specialty, and has taught seminars, master classes and as an adjunct professor for Vincennes University, Bellerme Univ., Central Florida Community College, Canterbury Preparatory Episcopal School, and Pacific College of Costa Rica.

Dr. Johnson has been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Institute for Music Theatre at the Kennedy Center, two Individual artist Fellowships from the Florida Arts Council and two Pulitzer Prize nominations for concert music composition. He worked for 20 years as Producing Director for the Apollo Project, Inc. creating stage shows, concerts, artist residencies, CDs, a television pilot, broadcasts and educational programs. He studied composition with Thomas Briccetti in Indianapolis and with Carlisle Floyd at the University of Houston. His Doctorate is in Philosophy from Pacific College of Costa Rica.

We celebrate the long legacy of music excellence at FCC as we continue to bask in this final week of Richard's outstanding leadership, which brings so much light and joy especially through the music in the Christmas Cantata and Christmas Eve services. It is a bittersweet time as we move through this transition in music ministry, even as we give thanks to God for how God continues to bless this congregation with tremendously faithful and gifted people!



SPECIAL CELEBRATION JANUARY 9! Honoring Richard & Eileen Bowen



It is with bittersweetness that we announce Richard Bowen's last service to lead as our Music/Choir Director will be Christmas Eve. There simply are not sufficient enough words to capture our gratitude for Richard's heart, dedication and excellence given especially through the most difficult days of the pandemic when he sang the hymns every Sunday, led the choir by zoom or in FCC's outdoor parking lot!. We also are deeply grateful for Eileen's continuous leadership in playing the piano and violin, helping with the Zoom meetings and serving as the secretary of our Board! Both have been such a blessing to us! On **Sunday, January 9**, there will be a special reception for Richard and Eileen following 10:15 Worship that day! Hope you will join in celebrating their time with us and Richard's music leadership from 2011- 2016 and 2018-2021!

CONGRATULATIONS, NICK!



FCC received bittersweet news that Nick Hedrick was offered a wonderful new full time administrative position with the public defender's office here in Crawfordsville. This means will be leaving his long-time post at the Journal Review and his 5-month long position as secretary at FCC. While we'll all be saddened to lose Nick on our staff, still it's so exciting that

he has accepted this wonderful new opportunity. Nick's last day on staff at FCC was Friday, December 17. He really took to the secretary position like a fish to water, and instantly became a beloved part of our staff family. Nick will continue to be a wonderful and integral part of the FCC family as a member of the church. What a blessing he will continue to be to FCC as we continue to share in this journey of faith together. Congratulations Nick on your new and exciting position!

P.S. Until we find a new secretary, feel free to reach out to Kelly Stanley if you need anything at all.



Send us your smiles!

Wouldn't it be great to be able to put names to all the faces? There are so many of us and as you know the church photo directory is awesome, but it changes so quickly. **Will you please send the church a recent photo of you and your family to help us know who is who?**

Many of us have Holiday Photo cards ready to go at this time of the year. Send the church one of those! This would be great for visitors and members alike.

You may email a photo to 211fccville@gmail.com, mail it to 211 S. Walnut Street, or drop it by the office during office hours. Once your photo has been received, we will display it in the church. (Note: This display is a work in progress.) FYI we will not be returning your photo, so do not send one you do not want to lose.

Help us Begin 2022 with a BIG feeling of COMMUNITY!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PLEDGES & GIVING

What a strange year it has been. We continue to meet for worship, some in person and masked, but mostly virtually. And yet we continue to care for each other, our community and the world. Every Wednesday the WOW kids meet to play, to learn and to know that they are cared for. And adults come to teach, lead and serve. Members continue to call on members who are shut-in, or call by phone, or mail a card, showing God's care even when we can't be together. **It's been a strange, difficult year and yet—and yet—as we face the new year I am excited and feel blessed to find that we anticipate ending the 2021 budget year with only a very small deficit, and that we have increased our pledged giving and resources this year to continue the work of this church, this loving community, even in uncertain times.**

Your pledges to First Christian Church will allow us to again create a budget which supports our staff as they bring us together in worship and for other programs, to maintain this building where we can meet both to worship and learn, but also provide youth activities and child care, and to provide outreach to our community and to support the mission of the Disciples of Christ in our Region and around the world. **This 2022 budget contains an increase in your individual giving and also a bequest of \$20,000 from the family of Karen Apple and an anonymous gift of \$10,000 to enhance the Parlor.** For each of you I give thanks.

On January 2nd, we will meet as a congregation to approve the budget for 2022. At this same meeting we will consider several revisions to the Constitution of the church. Copies of both of these documents will be sent electronically in the next few days. Please call Pastor Darla if you need a copy mailed to you. I encourage you to consider the revisions carefully so that you can see how your resources and pledges support the work of our church.

Grace and Peace,
Dave Maharry
Chair of the Congregation



Bible for the People— On Break!

We are currently on break until next year. Be sure to check out all our episodes on the books of Genesis, Exodus, and Leviticus as we will be starting the book of Numbers in January!

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

DATE	JANUARY SERMON SERIES	
Jan 9	Hope Amid Sadness	Psalm 13
Jan 16	Hope Amid Anger	Psalm 22
Jan 23	Hope Amid Guilt	Psalm 51
Jan 30	Hope Amid Fear	Psalm 137

GEORGE & KAREN VENIS JOIN FCC



HATS and GLOVES donations for Kids, Women and Men are being collected by BSA Scout Troops 247 & 365. The collection box is in the vestibule of the parking lot entrance. Donations go to Youth Service Bureau, Pam's Promise and Trinity Mission house for men.

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We need greeters!

Ever wondered how you can get involved here at First Christian Church? We are always in need of greeters on Sunday mornings from about 9:45 to 10:15 in the Narthex to welcome people. See Leannah Brown if you're interested in helping occasionally.

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It is with great thanksgiving that we celebrate that George & Karen Venis joined the First Christian Church family on December 9 by transfer of membership from St. Bernard's Catholic Church! George and Karen have been married since September of 1972 and have lived in Crawfordsville for almost 30 years having moved here from Lebanon to be near their Son, Ryan Venis and daughter-in-law, Andrea Venis. George and Karen enjoy spending time with family and especially helping with their 3 amazing and precious grandchildren, Emerie, Liam and Kenan. George and Karen are so excited to become part of, in their words, "such a loving church family"! We couldn't be more excited to welcome them both into this church family and what a blessing they both are to all of us at First Christian Church!! Cards of welcome may be sent to George and Karen at 1206 Homewood Avenue, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

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FCC APPAREL ENHANCES THE AGAPE FUND

Thank you to all who ordered FCC apparel, stickers, and/or coffee mugs displaying our new logo to support the Agape Fund, an outreach fund of FCC that cares for families in need in our community and in our own congregation. This fund helps families who find themselves struggling to make ends meet due to such things as a job loss, medical bills, or sudden change in a family's financial stability. Proceeds from your purchases have thus far contributed over \$130 to the Agape fund. Shirts, mugs and stickers can continue to be ordered in support of the Agape fund for 2022.

You can still order shirts and mugs at kellyostanley.com/fcc or pick up an order form in the church office!



YOUTH news

from Rev. Kevin Toth

Follow us on Instagram
@fccyouthcrawfordsville



WOW Would Love Your Support!

Emily, Sharon, and I give so much thanks for all the wonderful ways everyone has supported our wonderful WOW kids each Wednesday, either through teaching, food donations, or transportation. As we prepare for the upcoming Spring, the WOW kids and leadership team would love for your additional support in the following ways:

- **Welcome Team** - Help supervise children as they arrive to WOW from 4:30-5:15pm.
- **Meal Prep** - Help get food ready for the kids before 6pm.
- **Table Parent** - Enjoy some fellowship with the kids as they eat dinner from 6-6:20pm.

WOW is dependent on your support so we hope you will help if you are able and free. You do not have to commit to every Wednesday. The sign-up link below allows you to sign up for any Wednesday in the spring that works best for your schedule. Our WOW kids are so thankful for your **support** and I thank you for taking the time to help the WOW program become such a successful gathering for each of our amazing youth!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45a9ab2cabfec34-wowvolunteers>

-Pastor Kevin



WOW is on break until
January 12, 2022. Enjoy the
Holiday Break!



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.

- THE FAMILY OF DORIS BRANSTETTER** on her passing
- THE PETRIE FAMILY** on the passing of Dale's mother, **MARILYN PETRIE**
- DAVID KLINE**—recovering from a stroke he suffered this spring after having a brain tumor removed.
- LISA WOLLENBERG** (Jaci and Mark Wollenberg's daughter) and her fiancé **DOUG READ** and Jaci's cousin **BRUCE VAN HAL**—all have breakthrough Covid.
- ALAN & JANENE PLUNKETT**—recovering from illnesses
- CAROLYN TUNIN**—recovering from a third surgery on her right hip
- BEN MCCORMICK**—at home but still recovering
- BETTY CEDARS**—recovering from pneumonia and Covid 19
- LIAM VENIS** and family—Liam is recovering from surgery
- RANDAL TURNER**—recovering from hip surgery
- 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
- MATT RYKER** (son of Ron Yund's friend)— victim of a beating
- ALEX** (and his parents, Beth and Chris, friends of Sarah Jay)—Alex has a tumor on his spine
- 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**
- ST. ANTHONY'S, LAFAYETTE: **MARILYN MOFFETT**
- THE LANE HOUSE: **BETTY CEDARS**

Oh come
LET US
adore
HIM

Thank you!
Connie Klingbeil loves the cards she's received and wants to say thank you as well as wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

The church office will be closed Christmas Eve and the week between Christmas and New Years, but Pastor Darla is available.

Pastor Kevin will be gone Dec. 27-30 but is otherwise available as well.



HOW CAN WE HELP?

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

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

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

Gwen Carlson, 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



CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 18 Jennifer Hankins

Dec. 24 Nancy Beach

Dec. 25 John Horner (85)

Don Lindsay

Dec. 29 Judy Michal

Jan. 1 Sheila Clark

Emma Pack

Jan. 3 Steve McLaughlin

Jan. 8 Simon Carlson

Caitlin Jeffries

Jan. 9 Olive Scott

Jan. 11 LaDawn Priebe

Ken Brown

Jan. 12 Samson Stewart

Jan. 13 Sona Hartman (87)

Ray Cedars

Jan. 14 Lucee Melevage

Rebecca Priebe

Jan. 19 Larry Fields

Jan. 20 John Hooper

Carol Lamb

ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 27

Howard and Darlene Goodrich

Dec. 30

Tom and Sharon Keedy

Jan. 13

Warren and Sona Hartman

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



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.