

January 4, 2024



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
211 South Walnut Street
Crawfordsville IN 47933
fccville.org

January Sermon Series



Since October 2020, I have participated in Bethany Fellows: a ministerial organization designed to mentor and support young clergy who are in the first few years of congregational ministry. For the

last four years, Bethany Fellows has scheduled two retreats a year and I have had the pleasure of participating in every retreat, hosted in different locations across the country. At each retreat, we are invited to enter into a whole day of stillness and silence. As we still our minds, we become more centered on God's presence around us. And the silence helps to quiet the distractions around us, both external and internal. We would even eat our meals in silence and this practice helped me to appreciate the food I would eat with every bite I took. The entire day in silence is a practice of intentionality- to invite the sacred into everything that is happening within the day. On every day of silence on my retreats, I discovered something new about how silence can be holy. I discovered in the silence; I became more open to advice and wisdom that I may have resisted before. In the silence, I embraced going through the motions of the day without setting a plan which allowed me to be grateful for unexpected joys that may have occurred. In the silence, I discovered permission to be at peace mentally and the opportunity to live into rest. Simply, Holy Silence is a spiritual gift, one that I am grateful to continue to experience.

During this month's sermon series, I will invite us to reflect on the multiple dimensions that Holy Silence can bring us: How silence invites us to

listen; how silence invites us toward acts of justice; how silence invites peace to our mental health; and how silence invites us into rest and renewal.

During this time, I will also be sharing many stories from my time in Bethany Fellows and how this organization has benefited my ministry here with you all. And I will be inviting us to create moments of silence in worship, including as we partake at the Lord's Table.

I want to thank everyone, especially Rev. Darla Goodrich, for the opportunity to craft and lead my first sermon series and am looking forward to walking this spiritual journey with you this month!

Blessings,
Kevin



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



YOUTH news from Rev. Kevin Toth



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!



WOW will be back on Wed, January 10th!

MULTI-CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

Next Multi-Church Youth Group hosted at FCC! Sunday, January 21st @ 3pm

We are excited to announce our next multi-church youth group for 4th grade and older youth, hosted here at First Christian Church. We will be making fleece blankets to give out to the local community and have a small meal, games, and time to hang out and check in with one another. Contact Pastor Kevin for further details. We hope you will join us for this fun ecumenical event!

Children's Church Calendar

Date	Bible Lesson	Teacher
Jan 7	Boy Jesus in the Temple	Diane McLaughlin
Jan 14	Jesus is Baptized	Mary Fossnock
Jan 21	Jesus in the Wilderness	Kate Lindsay
Jan 28	No Children's Church	None

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

UPCOMING

Help Us Un-Decorate the Church!

We would love your help taking down and putting away the holiday decorations. Please join us if you can on **Monday, January 8 at 1 pm.**



Congregational Meeting

On **Sunday, January 21, 2024**, the congregation will meet immediately after the service for the purpose of approving the 2024 church budget.

Brad Weaver, Treasurer

Carolyn Snyder, Board Chairperson

MLK Jr Sunday: Wear your Justice or Peace Themed Shirts!

On **Sunday, January 14** we will be speaking on the topic of Justice and explore how Holy Silence can bring hope, new life and new possibility, even and especially, amid hate, injustice and division in our world. We also will be honoring the ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.. We invite everyone who is comfortable to wear a shirt that conveys a message of Christ's love and reconciliation Who empowers us to be living hope, peace and renewal for the world God so loves.



Ladies Lunch Bunch

You're invited to join LADIES LUNCH BUNCH 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!!

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/10C0C48ADAB2BA6FAC16-46943583-continental>

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



It's that time again! On **Tuesday, January 30th** we will do a joint service project with our friends at St. John's Episcopal Church. We need 7-8 volunteers from First Christian to help serve our food insecure neighbors. **The Food Finders truck will be in our (First Christian) lot at 211 S. Walnut that morning. Our St. John's friends will join us at our location.**

Volunteers are needed at 10:30 am to help get organized and receive their assignments. **We will start serving at 11:00 am.**

We hosted at least three times in 2023, and the average distribution was around 90-100 households each time. This is such a worthwhile service and will be an excellent ecumenical activity that helps promote unity among our friends at St. John's. Please text Deb Vaught at 765-376-9207 or email her at tdvaught@mymetronet.net to express your ability to help. 7-8 volunteers are needed from each church. Thank you for your consideration.

Family Movie Night February 3, 6:30 pm

Mark your calendar and join us for a free family movie night! No RSVP needed. We'll be watching a Disney movie (TBD). Feel free to wear pajamas and bring your pillows, blankets, anything you and kids want to get cozy with. Families come in all shapes and sizes and we welcome all to join us!



Looking for a volunteer for March 5!

Looking for a low-pressure, low commitment way to get involved? I'd love to find someone else to lead the March discussion on the book **Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths** by Bruce Feiler on March 5. If you're interested, please contact Kelly Stanley (765-366-6709 or kellyostanley@me.com). I'd be glad to help you prepare, but know this: you do not need to know the book inside and out in order to lead... simply read it and possibly look online for discussion questions or throw out a question to the group and let the discussion go from there!

Upcoming meetings:

- 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
- Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 6-7:30 pm: **Unclobber** by Colby Martin - discussion led by Kevin Toth

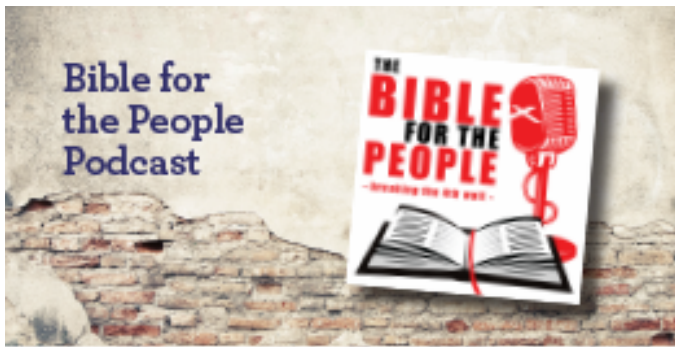


Gospel Of Mark Class Resumes!

Pastor Darla will resume her class on the Gospel of Mark on Wednesday evenings in January, beginning **Wednesday, January 13 from 5:00 – 6:00 pm in the Parlor**. We will briefly review chapter 13, "the little apocalypse", then move through chapters 14 – 16 where we explore the earliest version of Jesus passion narrative! This will be a great way to prepare ourselves for the season of Lent (which begins in February). This study will conclude on Wednesday, January 27. If you have not attended the previous sessions feel free to join us! We look into the background of every chapter and have rich discussion about each chapter's application for our life of faith. Hope you will join us!

Men's Pool Fellowship

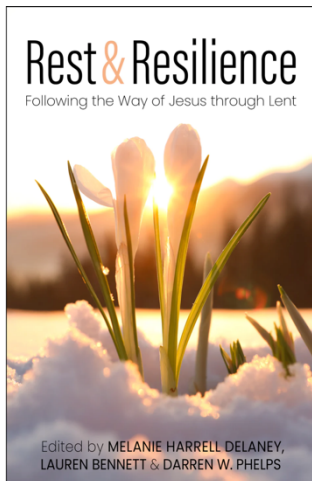
Pairings for games have been set and the Men's Pool Fellowship will begin in January, February & March of the new year. Another session will be scheduled to begin after Easter for an April - May period. Men who are interested in joining the April/May session (or just curious about) this fun fellowship are invited to visit and observe the play on Tuesdays and Thursdays every other week starting the first week of January.



Pastors Darla & Kevin and Chuck Ranspach have completed examining the book of Amos and are continuing onto a new minor prophet, Hosea. All episodes will be shared on the church Facebook page and you can find the podcast on Apple, Spotify, and Google. Send your questions to us at bibleforthepeople@gmail.com.

New Lenten Devotional: “Rest & Resilience: Following the Way of Jesus through Lent”

Please order by Jan 14th!



When Jesus was preparing for a new phrase of his ministry—or experiencing the final week—he went to Bethany, his holy retreat. Following that tradition, the Bethany Fellowship (a ministry of support for young clergy and congregations) have cultivated an intentional rhythm of life and

ministry that empowers community, creativity, prayer, and resilience. This six-week long Lenten daily devotional follows practices and relationships Jesus models for us throughout his ministry, bringing us to the biblical town of Bethany to encourage retreat, prayer, honesty, compassion, creativity, and community. Rest & Resilience was written and edited by Bethany

Fellows, a mentoring and spiritual leadership ministry for young clergy in their first four years of congregational service. Each devotion is written by ordained clergy who are both alumni and currently participating in Bethany Fellows, including our own Pastor Kevin Toth who has two devotions in this book.

If you are interested in having your own copy, please inform Kay Nannet by January 14th so we can pre-order enough copies on time for the Lent season. Books are \$6 spiece.

Thank You Kelly!



It's hard to believe that Kelly O'Dell Stanley is already entering her final two weeks as our staff Communications Administrator! We are going to deeply miss all her creative

energy, incredible organizational skills, her caring spirit and her great devotion to the congregation and staff; but most of all we are going to miss her loving, joy filled, authentic and simply delightful presence on our staff! During Kelly's time on staff, she has revolutionized the church's communication in countless ways! Since she arrived, she created our beautiful new FCC logo, tri-fold brochure, Facebook posts and all the wonderful "FCC" merchandise including sweatshirts, hats, mugs and stickers. She also has taken our worship PowerPoints presentations, Pathfinder newsletter and worship bulletins to the highest level of professionalism and creative excellence! They are simply beautiful! Kelly has also been a wonderful innovator and problem solver on staff, always coming up with new ideas to support the church in the most resourceful and faithful ways. Most of all we have been so blessed by her caring heart which causes her to go the extra mile and beyond the call of duty in everything she does!! All her time helping with the art exhibits and the parlor, church office and Pastor Darla's office remodel, simply scratch the surface of all the many "extras" she does. In short, Kelly has simply been an invaluable and

tremendous gift to us all! Her creative innovations and spirit will continue to be a gift that keeps on giving through the years. Thank you Kelly for everything you have done for us and most of all for who you are :). We have been so blessed!! We look forward to continuing to get to experience your heart, energy and innovative ideas as you continue as our Christian Education leader on the church council and we look forward to you continuing presence as an integral part of the FCC family!



Clergy on the Move



THE REV. SAM VAUGHT

Accepted a Call to Serve as:
**RECTOR AT ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH IN STOCKBRIDGE, MA**



EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE of
INDIANAPOLIS

Rev. Sam Vaught has been serving as the Chaplain at Grace Unlimited, Butler since 2022. Sam has now been called to be a Rector at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Stockbridge, Massachusetts and will begin this month - January 2024! Congratulations Sam on your new call! Your First Christian Church family extends our love and blessings to you during this exciting time in your ministry and through the years!



Christmas Eve Thanks!

What an incredible Christmas Eve Candlelight Service!! Special thanks to all the many children, youth and adults who served, led and read! Special thanks to Randal Turner, our amazing operatic soloist for the evening, our media specialist, Dale Petrie, Organist Tom Lowe, special music from Mary Fossnock & Rev. Sam Vaught, and Holy Family, Elizabeth, Michael and Olivia Nunan!



It is with definite sadness that I step away from my role as Communications Administrator with First Christian Church. It has been a joy to get to work with all of you, but there are so many things I feel called to do, and I just don't have time to do it all. This will free me up for more travel with family, some large upcoming work projects, and my own writing and painting!

You all have welcomed me and treated me with kindness and respect. The best part of my role was getting to know many of you better as we worked on different events and projects. I am relinquishing my staff position but I will still be part of this wonderful community (including my role as adult ed coordinator), so you won't have a chance to miss me 😊.

The Pathfinder newsletter, as well as bulletins and other communication items, will look a little different moving forward. During the upcoming staff transition time, they will be using Microsoft Word instead of the professional program that I've been using with my personal business subscription. Due to this change, there will be some temporary creative and technical limitations to how we assemble these documents, including not as much flexibility with alignment issues. I will do my best to find and create workable solutions before my staff position ends, but in the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, and to Kay moving forward.

It's been a privilege to serve our church in this role! Thank you. ~**Kelly O'Dell Stanley**

Many Thanks – Your Thoughtful Cards!

Darlene and I cherish your kindness and our togetherness as church! At 93 and 95, your cards are very special, and we are so grateful for the love of this congregation!

Howard & Darlene Goodrich



Help us keep this list up to date! Please email 211fccville@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.

AMY WOODALL—her pre- brain surgery symptoms have significantly returned including some new symptoms of concern

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



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**

Rev. Darla Goodrich, Senior Minister
Cell: 314-805-0347 | darla.goodrich@gmail.com

Rev. Kevin Toth, Associate Minister
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.*

Church Office 765.362.4812 | 211fccville@gmail.com

Office Manager: Kay Nannet
Office Volunteer: Arleen Wilhite
765.362.4812 | Email: 211fccville@gmail.com
Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 am – 2 pm

Music Director: Dr. Sarin Williams
Pianist/Organist: Tom Lowe

Learn more about the life of this community at fccville.org

Learn about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at disciples.org