



A few words from Marcus

Psalm 126 brings such hope. One word struck me as I read it recently in the English Standard Version. Read it:

*When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” The Lord has done great things for us; we are **glad**. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the Negeb! Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.*

Glad. It’s not a word that the Scriptures use often. It almost seems too trivial a term for something as profound as the Creator’s redemption. But there it is: “The Lord has done great things for us; we are **glad**.”

It’s not the only biblical “glad” though or even the most well-known. That title belongs to “Do not be afraid. I bring you **glad** tidings that will cause great joy for all the people.” While “Good news” may be the most literal translation there, it’s “glad tidings” that has made a home in many of our memories. God arrives in an even better way than the priests and prophets dared imagine. And all of human history cracks a smile we find hard to wipe off our faces. God responds to our deepest longings in the most personal way. And we are **glad**.

“The Lord has done great things for us.” It’s in the past tense. And this is how I often wait for God’s next work within me. I remember where he has brought me thus far. I recall the miles I’ve walked with Jesus, the gorgeous peaks I’ve summited and dark valleys I’ve waded through, the people who have been my companions along the way, walking beside me as friend or before me as guide, the seasons of my spiritual life that have turned slowly like the leaves turn color in nature’s seasons. I am so **glad** that today I can say, “The Lord has done great things for me.”

From Our Director of Discipleship and Evangelism

Bob Tankersley

Practicing the Way of Jesus Together as Family

Over the past few weeks, Marcus has done a fantastic job of leading us through what it means to follow Jesus - not just to be a casual believer but someone who is actively pursuing a lifestyle of apprenticeship to our King.

A message I hope you've heard, in the words of one author, is that "following Jesus is an entire life's pursuit. It is not just an event on a Sunday but a "way" of life in community around the teachings of Jesus. " In other words, it's not just being a member of a local congregation but daily reorienting your life around the way of Jesus.

Often when we talk about discipleship we use terms such as **pathway** or **journey**. I tend to talk about "Practicing the Way of Jesus", but whatever term you use know that there isn't some "one-size-fits-all" way of following him. That's one reason why we offer a wide variety of what I call "Discipleship Environments" - spaces in which transformation can occur. Not every environment speaks to everyone, and that's just fine. I hope you'll find spaces (or create them!) that will help you as you practice the way of Jesus together with your family here at FCC.

One new Discipleship Environment coming soon to our FCC Discipleship Pathway is **The Practicing the Way Course**. This opportunity is designed to be "an onramp to spiritual formation, exploring what it means to follow Jesus and laying the foundation for life of apprenticeship to him." Over eight sessions of teaching, guided conversation, and spiritual exercises we'll learn how to lay a foundation for lifelong apprenticeship to Jesus and explore how to follow Jesus in our busy, distracted, and increasingly secular culture. Be watching for more information.

SCHEDULING NOTE: The April "FCC Book Club" will meet on Thursday, **May 2nd** at 7pm to discuss the book **Amazing Grace: The Life of John Newton and the Surprising Story Behind His Song**. This book is the "surprising true story of John Newton, author of the song that has touched millions. A biography that reads like a novel, it reveals Newton's dramatic story of sin and salvation as a slave trader before his ultimate transformation to speaking out against the horror of slavery. His story speaks to the brokenness within us all and our need for God's amazing grace—and reveals the truth behind his song."

Coming in August: Make sure that you and your family plan to be with us on Wednesday evenings this Fall as our entire FCC family will study "**The Story-Formed Way**." Each Wednesday, all of our age groups will be studying the Story of God and how we are all formed by it. I know this multi-generational offering will create a lot of family discussions as we journey through the story together.

Be WITH Jesus - Become LIKE Jesus - DO what Jesus did

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 12:10pm

We will have an all-church potluck lunch after the second service. The theme of the lunch will be soup, salad, and dessert. Hot dogs will be provided for kids! Sign-ups for food have begun. You can also text, email or call the office with what you are bringing. See you there!

NEEDED

We need 6 men to help move pews in the Sanctuary at 2:00pm on April 14th. Please call or text John Thompson or the church office to let us if you are available to help.

HELP NEEDED

The Children's Ministry needs your help. We need helpers on Wednesday night and teachers and helpers on Sunday mornings. If you can help on Wednesday please contact Shannon Nally snnally@gmail.com. If you are available to help on Sunday mornings please contact Stefanie Wiley stefaniejowiley@gmail.com.

From our Youth Director

NOAH DURBIN

It's blooming season, aka allergy season. If you are like me, then that means watering eyes, running nose, and scratchy throat. But it's warmer outside, so I will sacrifice a little bit. The most important thing about spring is baseball season starts. Hopefully, my Cardinals can rebound and make a run for the World Series. What I love about baseball is how simple it seems, yet how complex it can be. You would think all baseball is throw the ball, hit the ball, and catch the ball. But are you throwing a 4-seam fastball, 2 seam fastball, cutter, sinker, slider, curveball, 12-6 curveball, changeup, circle change, etc? Did the batter hit the ball square, what was the exit velocity, to what side of the field did they hit it, etc? Believe me when I say these are still minor things about baseball. Just look on Baseball Reference for all the statistics baseball measures. It's so easy to make baseball more complicated. But through umpiring middle and high school baseball, I have found that just understanding and executing the basics will get them far. I wonder if that's the same for us in our faith. If we could just execute the basics and not get into the complex until we master the basics. I always suggest working through the Sermon on the Mount and trying to apply that to our lives. Although we can easily see that the Sermon on the Mount is anything but "basic," it is the base of moral living according to the Bible. So, this month read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:7) and look for ways to apply it.

As for youth ministry, we went bowling on March 24th and had a blast. Please see the pictures below. Just a reminder to all students going to camp, camp money is due by April 24th. Wednesday nights and Sunday School lessons are going strong. Ask a student what question they are wrestling through on Wednesday. Then on Sunday, ask them which prophet they are learning about. Youth ministry is having a strong and fruitful first couple of months of 2024 and I look forward to how God will move this upcoming month.



SYMPATHY

Family of Darrell Friend, Diana Weaver brother-in-law - passed away

PRAYER CONCERNS

Karl Busby, father of Melissa Gregory – health concerns
Bill Cobb, Jennifer Lynn's uncle, health concerns
David Collier, friend of Amy Parker – health concerns
Nancy Cressman, Becky Warren's mother - health concerns
Al Creque, friend of Jerry Landreth - health concerns
Lourie Joest Dove, aunt of Heather Webber – stage IV pancreatic cancer
Madelynn Eaton - 4 year old with leukemia
Genille Ellis - health concerns
*Michelle Gahafer, Jason Webb's step-sister – health concerns
Mike Gentry – recovering from surgery at Cardinal Hill
Amy Guess – health concerns
Christy Hawkins, friend of Debbie Slatten - battling cancer
Brook Holdaway, family member of Jason Webb - battling cancer
Roberta Horsewood, Dedre VanHoose's mother, health concerns
Beverly Hughes, friend of Bonita Hill – health concerns
Carolyn Leet - health concerns
Beth Manley – health concerns
Sheree McGraw, mother of Ruth Anne Boyd - health concerns
Kathleen Most - battling cancer
Pete Pettyjohn - battling cancer
Melody Phelps – health concerns
Jenny Ralston, neighbor of Sally Boutcher -upcoming back surgery
*Teha Redeker, friend of Jerry Landreth – health concerns
Robin Reed – health concerns
Cathy Ritter, Missy Mix's mom - health concerns
Yolanda Smith - health concerns
Karen Starcher, mother of Jeff Starcher - health concerns
Laveda Taylor, Ken Taylor's mom - health concerns
James Traugott, father of Bonita Hill - health concerns
*Kelly Trent – health concerns
Mike VanHoose – health concerns
Patricia VanHoose - health concerns
Steve Watts - battling cancer
Larry Wheeler – health concerns
Jamie Williams, aunt of Ruth Ann Boyd - battling cancer
Anaiah Wilson - 15 year old battling leukemia
Remember Those Who Cannot Worship with Us on a Regular Basis
Joan Ethington, Kay Hall, Patty Olson, Clifford Young

Vital Statistics

2024 Budget	\$440,770
Needed Each Month	\$36,730
Expenses thru March 26	\$ 83,803
Received thru March 26	\$114,806
In Person Worship Attendance 3/3	156
Sunday School	60
In Person Worship Attendance 3/0	143
Sunday School	51
In Person Worship Attendance 3/17	161
Sunday School	55
In Person Worship Attendance 3/24	170
Sunday School	67

April Birthdays

- 1 - Mike Kelly
- 2 - Lisa Lemons
Dean Akin
- 3 - Eloise Wiley
- 4 - Tressie Hird
- 5 - Mike VanHoose
- 6 - Layne Boyd
Lucas Nichols
Sharon Tankersley
- 13 - Mary Sue Mitchell
- 18 - Becky Warren
- 19 - Abby Webb
- 24 - Peggy Henry
- 27 - Teresa Kelly
- 28 - Ava Taylor
Sarah Simandle

If you know someone who should be added to our birthday list, please let the church office know so that we can celebrate their special day with them!

ATTENTION FCC FAMILY

We are searching for a new Children's Director. If you know someone who might be qualified and interested in joining our staff please refer them to our website FCCVersailles.com for more information.

The Top Bible Verses About Gratitude

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Colossians 3:15

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”

Psalms 107:1

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”

James 1:17

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

Psalms 95:2-3

“Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.”

Daniel 2:23

“I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king.”

Leviticus 22:29

“When you sacrifice a thank offering to the Lord, sacrifice it in such a way that it will be accepted on your behalf.”

Philippians 4:6

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Jeremiah 30:19

“From them will come songs of thanksgiving and the sound of rejoicing. I will add to their numbers, and they will not be decreased; I will bring them honor, and they will not be disdained.”

Ephesians 5:20

“Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

First Christian Church
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GIVING BY CHECK

If you would rather mail a check that is good too.
Just send to FCC Versailles, 160 Lexington Street,
Versailles, KY 40383.

ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is available on our website
www.fccversailles.com. Just go to our website and
click on giving. From there just follow the prompts.

TEXT GIVING

Want to text your contribution? Just send a text to
859-214-6164. If you don't have an account set
up, you will be prompted to set up an account the
first time. After that it is easy...just type your
giving option and amount...i.e. Regular 5.00...in
the message. You will receive a confirmation text.