



A few words from Marcus...

I've always enjoyed meeting fellow pastors, regardless of their faith tradition. Put a bunch of us in a room and we immediately hit it off because we've all faced similar experiences regarding parishioners, boards, elders, deacons, visitors, funerals, weddings, etc. We might come from different styles of churches in terms of worship, governance, or socio-economic location. We might have beliefs about particular doctrines or strong preferences that are quite contrary from each other, but yet, we can look in each other's eyes and share a common spirit of collegiality. Give me an hour with a group of pastors (known or unknown previously), and I can guarantee that if we're open with each other (which is quite common) then there will be plenty of laughter and tears.

Going to Kroger in our small town is a lot like going to a class reunion. It's not a question that you will see someone you know, but how many. When my kids were young, we'd create an over/under betting game each time we went. I think three was about as low as it got.

Several years ago, I ran into an older, well-known and loved local pastor at Kroger. We knew each other on a first name basis, and I've enjoyed having lunch with him at the monthly ministerial association because he brought so much wisdom and experience to the table. Like me, he was also wise to avoid as many people as possible on an off day by coming late at night when the Kroger crowd was at a minimum.

There we were in the toilet paper aisle at 10pm on a Thursday night ALONE chatting like long lost friends comparing the comfort, cost, and consistency of various TP brands. While my friend and I were literally squeezing some packaged toilet paper, another cart silently approached us. It was a well-known woman in our larger community who happened to be a part of my friend's congregation. She faithfully attended community services as well and knew by my name. She took one look at her pastor (holding Charmin) and another at me (holding Angel Soft, which is my preferred brand) and said, "Hmmm...I guess you all need to buy toilet paper too." [Translation: "I hadn't thought about it before, but pastors have to poop too."] Before we could even respond or answer, she was long gone. I'll never forget the look on my colleague's face! We proceeded to laugh until the tears flowed.

That older, wiser pastor has since retired and moved. But there's hardly a time I don't pass the toilet paper aisle in Kroger without grinning from ear to ear.

From Our Director of Discipleship and Evangelism

Bob Tankersley

Practicing the Way of Jesus Together as Family

Once again, it's that time of year when our cars' cleanliness (or lack thereof) clearly shows the signs of the season. It will be evident which cars were blessed to stay in their warm garages during this last round of snow, but mostly you see cars everywhere covered from one end to the other with the dried remains of Winter's sludge and road salt.

This reminds me of an old Jewish proverb, one that predates the time of Jesus' ministry: "May you be covered in the dust of your rabbi." When Jewish kids reached a certain age, they were dismissed from the schools and sent home to learn the trade of their father and mother. However, some children were sought out by the local rabbis, and invited to - you guessed it - "come and follow them." These students didn't spend their days sitting at desks in a schoolroom, they spent their days being with their rabbi - following them in whatever daily rhythms the rabbi held. Hoping to hear and experience everything the rabbi had to give, those students followed so closely behind that they became, quite literally, covered in the dust of their rabbi.

As followers of Jesus, we too are invited daily to "come and follow Him." We too are called to become His apprentices - watching, listening and becoming saturated in His presence. Only by living that closely with Jesus can others begin to see the evidence of Jesus' life within us, much like that road salt on our cars.

I pray that 2024 finds you "covered in the dust of your rabbi."

The January **Meeting God in the Dark** has been postponed! We will meet Sunday, February 4th, to watch and discuss "Life is Beautiful". Set during World War II, the film tells the story of a Jewish waiter and his son who become victims of the Holocaust. Using humor and imagination, the man shields his son from the horrors that are transpiring around them. Join us from 2-5pm that Sunday afternoon and feel free to bring popcorn!

The "**FCC Book Club**" will meet on Thursday, February 22nd at 7pm to discuss the book **Blue Like Jazz**. Join author Donald Miller in this "intimate, non-judgemental, and soul-searching journey to building a relationship with the infinitely loving God." Part memoir, part satire this book will help you see those around through the eyes of Jesus.

SAVE THE DATE: Our **Spring FCC Greenhouse** will be Saturday, March 2nd from 8:30-11:30am. Join us that morning as we take time to review, plan and dream about what God has in store for our family here at First Christian. This gathering is open to anyone who would like to be a part of growing and leading our FCC family. The event is free to attend, and we will be providing childcare. Please let us know you are coming by contacting the FCC office, or by emailing Bob at btankersleyjr@gmail.com.

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

From our Youth Director

NOAH DURBIN

The new year has brought some amazing God moments for the youth ministry. The Lock-In during the first week back was a huge hit. We had almost 20 students attend the Lock-In. A few students brought some guests. The night entailed a lot of fellowship through games and food. We had a time where we talked about the focus this semester by fixing our eyes on Christ. Most of the students stayed up the whole night, which led to a very tired youth leader. I am thankful for the adults who helped me manage the Lock-In. I look forward to another Lock-In next year (I need time to recover).

Our lessons have been filled with many adventures for us. Sunday School started a new series focused on the major prophets of the Old Testament. We started with Isaiah and will move through each prophet about once a month. On Wednesday, we started our Hard Questions lesson plan. We are still in the infancy of these lessons, but I await some great discussions and fruits from the lessons.

As I mentioned in my sermon on January 28th, preparations for camp are starting. Thanks to the generosity of our



church, I do not have to make a push for funds. I understand some of you still feel like giving towards our mission trip. I will not stop you, however it would be overkill at this point. I am looking for volunteers willing to give their time and effort towards the mission trip. I need a few adults to tag along with us. Camp is June 23rd-29th in Athens, TN. We can discuss more details later, please set up an appointment, email me, or make sure I give you paperwork and dates to remember. And finally, you give your prayers in the upcoming months. We will potentially have students going for the first time. While other students want to go but are not sure for many reasons. And for the adults providing spiritual leadership. Thank you again for the investment you make in our students spiritual lives



From our Director of Children's Ministry

Ronda Roethle

Do you love sunshine? I do! Oh sure, I also love the *occasional* cloudy, rainy days to cuddle up with a good book and enjoy the coziness the dreariness can bring. But, too many cloudy days in a row can cause me to become crabby and grumble and complain. It was just one of those mornings for me when I heard a wonderful sermon about being your best for Jesus no matter the circumstances because He has ordained the circumstances for you. One comment the pastor made really hit me, “*Too much sunshine can cause a desert.*” God brings the sun and rain, the good times and bad, all for my good and His glory. He knows what He is doing!

As parents we sometimes want only “sunny days” and “good things” for our children. But, sometimes what we may think is best for them isn't what God says is best. There are so many opportunities for our children today; there is every sport imaginable, academic groups, band, dance, volunteer groups, etc. And, although these are all good and have their place, they are not the best and they do not ultimately satisfy the soul. God is the only thing that can fill the void we all have in our heart. We were made for Him. This is what the children have been learning in Sunday school. Our hearts, our lives need to be filled with God. He alone satisfies!

Our Wednesday night Kingdom Kids continue learning the Ten Commandments. They are not just learning the *what* of the Commandments, but the *why*. They are learning that God gave us laws for our good and for our safety because He loves us and cares for us. The kids are always so full of questions, which it seems we never have enough time to address. It is exciting to see them get excited learning about God and the Bible. I continue to encourage them to read the Bible themselves so that they can learn more about our great big amazing God.

I continue to pray for all of us as we “Train up our children in the way they should go.” They are all so very precious. May God use them all mightily for His Kingdom!



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17th at 7 AM

The FCC men's group is hosting a prayer breakfast on Saturday **February 17th** at 7 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Come out for a time of good breakfast foods, good fellowship with the men of FCC, and a time to pray to seek God's direction for 2024. Please rsvp with Joe Wiley at [859-537-0538](tel:859-537-0538) by Wednesday **February 14th**. See you there!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Nick & Abigail Shaver
305 Highland Ave.
Versailles, Ky 40383

Chase & Amy Azevedo
750 Seth Drive
Versailles, KY 40383

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

There will be a Fellowship breakfast during the Sunday School hour on February 4th. There will be no Sunday school that day. Please bring something to share Church will provide sausage and bacon.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

A Caring Place is a faith-based organization that reaches out to the socially isolated and the lonely through a telephone comfort care program. Another program called Head On! matches a senior citizen with a grade school child to read together once a week via zoom. Both programs could use your help.

For more information please contact Sue Dozier by phone 859-361-9151 or by email ellasue615@gmail.com. Thanks for considering these opportunities!

A Caring Place - Direct contact Roxanne Chaney 775-230-2225 or info@a-caring-place.com.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Ash Wednesday service will be February 14th immediately following Wednesday night classes at 7:30 (classes will dismiss a little early). Service will last about 30 minutes. We hope you can attend.

2024 MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

Would you be interested in helping work on rebuilding homes right here in Kentucky. If so, we are hoping to have a team of 10 to possible 14 people partner with Samaritan's Purse to do just that. If you're interested and would like more details, please contact John Thompson at 859-753-8283 or jrt1230@live.com by February 15th.

TIES THAT BIND

ALL women of the church are invited to the first "Ties That Bind" fellowship group, **Thursday**, Feb. 15. We will meet in the Life Center at 6:30 pm. Join us for a get acquainted time, fellowship and of course refreshments. We are so excited to get to know all of you better.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Janet Arrowwood, neighbor of Ordways - battling breast cancer
Karl Busby, Melissa Gregory's father – health concerns
Bill Cobb, Jennifer Lynn's uncle, health concerns
Nancy Cressman, Becky Warren's mother - health concerns
Al Creque, friend of Jerry Landreth - health concerns
Madelynn Eaton - 4 year old with leukemia
Genille Ellis - 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
Carolyn Leet - health concerns
Sheree McGraw, mother of Ruth Anne Boyd - health concerns
Kathleen Most - battling cancer
Jeremy Norris, friend of Ordways – cancer
Eliot, son of Anna Nucklos – 5 month old with cancer
Pete Pettyjohn - battling cancer
Melody Phelps – health concerns
Robin Reed – health concerns
Cathy Ritter, Missy Mix's mom - health concerns
Yolanda Smith - health concerns
Peggy Slugantz – battling cancer
Karen Starcher, mother of Jeff Starcher - health concerns
Laveda Taylor, Ken Taylor's mom - health concerns
James Traugott, father of Bonita Hill - health concerns
Mike VanHoose – health concerns
Patricia VanHoose - health concerns
Steve Watts - battling cancer
Uncle of Heather Webber - kidney 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

**Unless additional time is requested, all prayer requests will be removed after four consecutive weeks on the prayer list

If you have a prayer concern you can email it to the office fccdoc@windstream.net, text to 859-459-0443, or call the office 859-873-3901

2024 CHURCH DIRECTORY

If you have had any changes to your information or are new to the church, please let the church office know. Also, if you have not submitted a picture or want to change yours you can do so at this time.

Vital Statistics

2024 Budget	\$440,770
Needed Each Week	\$36,703.83
Expenses thru January 26	\$28,950
Received thru January 26	\$20,189
In Person Worship Attendance 1/1	157
No Sunday School	42
In Person Worship Attendance 1/7	169
Sunday School	45
In Person Worship Attendance 1/14	171
Sunday School	56
In Person Worship Attendance 1/21	139
Sunday School	51
In Person Worship Attendance 1/28	171
Sunday School	63

February Birthdays

- 6 - Gray Morris
Leslie Gilpin
Savannah Faith Ordway
- 7 - Mandy Morris
- 8- Barbara Asher
Kennedy Haynes Clem
- 9 - Joan Mazurek
- 10 - Dylan Nichols
- 11 - Billy Hartsell
- 13 - David Graves
- 17 - Joshua Bunch
- 18 - Susan Simandle
- 20 - Marie Preston
- 23 - Sheila Mobley
- 24 - Nicole Rauch
- 27 - Taylor Gilpin

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!

RAI FAMILY UPDATE



Today marks 1 month since we moved to Thailand, so what better time to give a quick ministry update.

Where shall I begin? Thailand needs to know about our Lord and Savior. Of course, change is difficult (and has been in some ways for us), and with three children, there is definitely a higher degree of challenges. Also, Bangkok is a vast city, and it is easy to feel insignificant here. Walking around the city, the spiritual needs can be clearly seen and felt, and it is easy to be

overwhelmed. Did you know that out of the 71 million people in Thailand, 11 million live in Bangkok, and only around 1 percent are Christians? What adds to the challenge is that the people of Thailand speak very little to No English. It has been difficult to communicate for regular life things- from getting water and gas for the house to getting a taxi. But we know we are where God has us. At the end of my seminary journey in July, I said, "No more language for at least a while." That is not the case today; I feel motivated to learn Thai- many days, I walk past beggars and people in need, and I want to sit down and share the love of Jesus, but I cannot. I am so ready to speak Thai (I just started language class 2 days ago).

Let me end by sharing this story... I hope it touches your heart as it touched ours. We were walking in the street, looking around, and discussing how Thailand needs to know about Jesus. So, we were talking about how Thailand has less than 1% of Christians. Lucca stops us and looks at Darcy and says: "Mommy, did you know that number just increased when we came here."

That's right, Lucca.

Please pray with us that God will open the eyes of the hearts of the people of Thailand. Blessings to you all.



**First Christian Church
160 Lexington Street
Versailles, KY 40383**

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.