

The Columns



A few words from Marcus...

As I prepare for each new year at FCC I think about our purpose, our mission, and I try to think about what we might want to focus on particularly in the coming year. Of course, we have to continue in all things that make disciples: growing in our UP/IN/OUT relationships but what might God want us to focus on as we begin a new year? I've been led to start the new year with a new series on the gospel. I want us to grow in our gospel fluency and understanding of what that means for us as disciples of Jesus.

Yes, we still have all kinds of other things to focus on and do. Here's my "to-do" or even a "wish" list so you can help pray for your pastor and church leadership:

1. Identify and bring on staff a new Director of Children's ministry: We've been working on this already but we have to wait for God's timing.
2. At our December Board meeting we have decided to explore what makes a deacon a deacon and what role that office should place in the life of FCC.
3. If you haven't noticed, we have a lot of new guests at both services. How can we help them become more enmeshed in the life of our church? What are some "on ramps" to help them get more involved but also not overwhelming? We want our newest people to feel loved and comfortable in our church family. There is also a place to challenge (lovingly) each other on ways we can grow.
4. More of a housekeeping issue but do we want to begin "passing trays" again in worship or are we just content with new found ways to do things we learned during the pandemic? Or maybe it just depends on the "health climate" we find ourselves in each season? Look for a survey to come out in the new year to give your input on some of these issues.

One more thing, I really want to be there for you and your family as much as I can! Please text, email or call me anytime you have a faith issue or just need to talk. Let me know what's going on in the lives of your children, especially if they have an event or something I can encourage them by attending. I love to see you all at places and doing things besides in the church building.

Thank you!

From your First Christian Church Staff

Thank you Very Much for your generosity, kindness and thoughtfulness demonstrated through your 2022 Love Gift! It is a privilege to serve you and we look forward to a great upcoming 2023.

Marcus Lynn

Teresa Varble

Bob Tankersley

Noah Durbin

Melissa Gregory

Candice Jenkins

Barbara Hartsell

Lois Birdwell

Melody Hamilton

Greg Marsee

Maddie Gregory

From Our Director of Discipleship and Evangelism Bob Tankersley

Practicing the Way of Jesus Together as Family

Over the past few weeks, we have celebrated once again the fact God sent Jesus to restore His peace and His wholeness to all of Creation. And, once again, we have gathered around the manger and been filled with joy that our God is a sending God. We know that this sending was not only for Jesus, but God sends us as well. As Jesus told his disciples in John 20, "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."

The fact is that the majority of us are already where we've been sent: our neighborhood, our workplace, a college campus, our kid's elementary school, etc. As we head into the New Year, I challenge you to listen to the Holy Spirit and where He has sent you. As you think about these spaces, ask yourself, "Where am I rubbing shoulders with people who aren't yet believers?" That's where the Father is already at work and invites you to join Him. As we head into 2023, I pray you will find your place in God's plan and become the tangible kingdom of God for those around you.

Winter/Spring Wednesday evening programs begin again on January 4th!

Adult Connect Groups

"Discovering Joy in Philippians" - Mary Ann Moss will be leading a group through a creative study of the book of Philippians.

"Never Alone: the Holy Spirit in our Lives" - Sandi Baker will lead this group examining the role of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.

"How to Hear God" - I will lead this group through this book written by Pete Grieg, leader of the international 24-7 Prayer Movement. Using the story of Jesus on the road to Emmaus as a backdrop, we will look at the various ways that God speaks into our lives.

Contact Bob or the church office to register for these Connect Groups!

Our popular Wednesday dinners will also be back beginning on the 4th. Each week we offer a different menu that is perfect for families on the go. We begin serving at 5:30 each week, so come early and enjoy gathering together before heading off to one of our great Connect Groups!

"**Meeting God in the Dark**" returns on January 22nd with the movie "Babette's Feast." Gather with us to watch this film and discuss themes of faith and life found within. This is open to ages in High School and older. Contact the church office if you need childcare.

The bi-monthly "**FCC Book Club**" will continue in the new year! Beginning in February, we'll have the opportunity to read a book together and then gather to discuss it. Our book schedule is still being finalized, but our first book discussion of the year will be **Love Over Fear: Facing Monsters, Befriending Enemies, and Healing Our Polarized World** by Dan White Jr on Thursday, February 9th.

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

From our Youth Director Noah Durbin

This month we did a study on how to talk to friends and family about God. On December 14, we had our Christmas party where we did some Oreo and Pringles taste testing and some trivia. Once we start back up, we will be doing a study over the Gospel of Mark.

Our events in the upcoming months will be going to Winter Jam and doing a lock in on January 27 (the entire church is invited to join us, just let me know), a high school conference in February, and a middle school event in March (specific date and activities TBD after the middle schoolers help plan). A camp meeting is scheduled for January 11 after youth group at 7:30, which is required for all students to attend with parents (if parents can't make it then students must). We will be talking about cost, fundraising, and expectations for the trip. After this meeting, I will be sharing how the church can partner with us for our mission camp.

FIFTH SUNDAY **BREAKFAST**

No Sunday School. We will gather in the Life Center for breakfast after the 9:00am service. More details to come.

MEN'S RETREAT

The Men's Retreat deadline of **Sunday January 8th** is quickly approaching! The cost is \$95 which includes 3 meals plus an overnight stay at Blue Licks State Park. Please sign up [today](#) to ensure your spot at the retreat! Scholarships are available if needed.
Sign up sheets available in Narthex

January Birthdays

- 2 - Sherry Williams
Missy Mix
- 6 - Joan Ethington
- 8 - Paul Edwards
Jerry Hyatt
- 10 - Carley Duncan
- 17 - Reagan Lewis
- 18 - Reagan Lynn
- 20 - Chris Ordway
- 22 - Charlotte Wiley
- 25 - Sue Gaines
- 26 - Bob Foster
Chuck Mix
- 31 - Kim Boyd

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!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pray for guidance as Personnel searches for a new Children's Director

Parker, nephew of Mary Beth Gaines Linder - cancer

*KP, friend of Amy Parker – Praise, cancer treatment was successful

Roberta, Dedre VanHoose's mother, health concerns

Hunter Armstrong – health concerns

Wayne Ball, uncle of Melissa Gregory - lymphoma

Peggy Cains-Gillette – cancer, home doing well

Gill Clifton - cancer

Jessica Coleman - battling cancer

Nicole Conrades – health concerns

Nancy Cressman, Becky Warren's Mother - health concerns

Harold Duckworth, Mike's Dad – health concerns

Jane Frye – recovering from heart surgery

Kay Hall – health concerns

Wilbert Hoffman, Melody Hamilton's father, -health concerns

David Hudson, friend of Sally Boutcher – battling cancer

Sandy Hyatt – health concerns

Jonathan Jones, friend of Mike VanHoose – Prostate cancer

Chip Lafoe, Debbie Slatten's brother – health concerns

Priscilla Landreth

Jeremy Norris, friend of Ordway's- cancer

Anna Bell Phillips - health concerns

Cathy Ritter, Missy Mix's mom - health concerns

Gary Sacra - battling cancer

Eddie Starcher - fell and injured knee

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

Uncle of Heather Webber - kidney cancer

Jamie Williams, aunt of Ruth Ann Boyd - battling cancer

Jim Witheril and family – health concerns for Jim

Remember Those Who Cannot Worship with Us on a Regular Basis

Ann Craig, Joan Ethington, Doris Green,
Patty Olson, Clifford Young

DRIVE A NEIGHBOR TO AN APPOINTMENT

Woodford Wheels is new organization in town and looking for your help.

Call them at (859)753-8091 to see how you can help.

HELP NEEDED!

We are looking for 1-2 people to learn the ropes on running the video projector at our 11:05am worship service. We also need a sound person at our 9:00am service. If you are interested or need more information, contact Marcus, Ben Smith, or Dedre VanHoose.

2023 DIRECTORY INFORMATION

If you have had any changes to your information in the directory or are new to the church, please let the church office know. Also, if you have not submitted a picture or want to update your picture you can do so at this time. You can do this by email, hard copy or digital.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

WELCOME 2023

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.

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.

Vital Statistics

2022 Budget	\$375,571
Needed Each Week	\$7,223
Expenses thru December 28	\$340,590
Received thru December 28	\$357,041
In Person Worship Attendance 12/4	144
Sunday School	50
In Person Worship Attendance 12/11	170
Sunday School	52
In Person Worship Attendance 12/18	160
Sunday School	31
In Person Worship Attendance 12/25	82
Sunday School	no Sunday School

Wednesday Night

Every week: Shannon Nally, Leader

Every week Helpers:

Karen Marsee

Cindy Meholovitch

The group will be studying "Seeing God All Around Us".

Serving In January

Elders

Sandi Baker

Joe Wiley

Audio & Video Engineers – 9:00am

Darra Shipp	-January 8 th
John Thompson	-January 15 th
Steve Menshouse	-January 22 nd
Darra Shipp	-January 29 th

Audio & Video Engineers – 11:05am

Ben Smith	January 4 th & January 8 th
Neil Smith	-January 11 th & January 15 th
Mike Sunseri	January 18 th & January 22 nd
Ben Smith	-January 25 th & January 29 th

Pre-K Sunday School

All Pre-schoolers transitioned to Elementary
No Preschool needed at this time.
Please let us know if you have a preschooler, so that we can plan for them

Elementary Sunday School

January 1	-no Sunday School
January 8	-, Leading , Helping
January 15	-, Leading , Helping
January 18	-, Leading , Helping
January 29	-no Sunday School

*No schedule at time of printing. Check with Stefanie Wiley if you can help

Childrens Worship

11:005am

January 1	no Children's worship
January 8	-Jessica Kendall, Leading Mark Kendall, Helping
January 15	-Abby Webb, Leading Helper needed
January 22	-Ruth Ann Boyd, Leading Jackson Boyd, helping
January 29	-Allison Lewis, Leading Helper needed

Sunday Morning 11:00 Nursery Workers Taylor Gilpin

& Cindy Meholovitch are always here

Lesley Gilpin and Connie Boyce
are Helpers