



A few words from Marcus...

My 2024 resolution: engage more with my neighbors on my cul-de-sac.

Research last summer done by the Pew Research Center revealed that **a majority of Americans don't know most of their neighbors — and they barely talk to the ones they do know**. 57% of Americans say they know only some or none of their neighbors. That share climbs up to 72% among 30- to 49-year-olds and 78% among 18- to 29-year-olds. 58% say they know their neighbors but don't spend time chatting or hanging out with them. As a result, most of the people living around us are strangers.

We're leaving our homes with our screens in our hands. The pandemic made us even less likely than we were before to stop and chat with new folks.

The benefits of knowing thy neighbor abound:

1. **Lives saved:** In well-connected neighborhoods, fewer lives are lost in tragedies, including [natural disasters](#) and [mass shootings](#).
2. **Happier aging:** Older adults who know their neighbors [report](#) a far higher sense of psychological wellbeing.
3. **Safer streets:** Tight-knit neighborhoods have [lower rates](#) of gun violence.
4. **Boosted wellbeing:** People who know their neighbors are generally cheerier, healthier, and spend more time outside.

And as Christians, we've been SENT by Jesus to befriend and love our neighbors. How can we do that if we don't get to know them? I'll be the first to admit that I don't know ALL my neighbors. Of those I have met I've tried to be intentional about going more in depth with them. Some are challenging because of their unusual work schedules. I'll also admit there's one near-by that I haven't reached out to. I don't have any excuses for that one. But 2024 will be better in that regard and I challenge you to do the same.

Start by walking your neighborhood and praying for those in each home or apartment. Make a map or list of the 5-10 closest geographical neighbors. Find a way to get to know their name (besides being creepy and looking in their mailbox). Look for them to take the garbage out or get home from work and jump out to greet them (without looking like you're doing that!). If that doesn't ever seem to happen, drop off some home-made brownies and see if you can meet them. If they're not home, leave them in something protective from bugs and the elements with a note so they at least know who you are. Over time you'll get to know their names, what they do, the names of their pets. Look for opportunities to serve them, especially if they have any limitations. Snow removal, raking leaves, helping grab a runaway dog are all ways we can show love to our neighbors. Why? We are commanded to love everyone made in God's image. And well, that's everyone you ever look at. Sure, it would be great if this opens doors for talking about Jesus. That's what we should pray for. But even if they refuse to talk, our goal is still love.

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 2024, 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 10th!

Adult Connect Groups

“God Never Gives Up On You” - Mary Ann Moss will be leading a group through the book **God Never Gives Up On You** by Max Lucado. This book takes a refreshing new look at the life of Jacob and will serve as a refresher course on God’s perfect plan to use imperfect people to do great things.

“Life Without Lack” - I will lead a study through the book **Life Without Lack** by Dallas Willard. “In **Life Without Lack**, Dallas Willard revolutionizes our understanding of Psalm 23 by taking this comfortably familiar passage and revealing its extraordinary promises.”

Both groups will meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 and are open to anyone. Contact Bob or the FCC Office to register to participate in a Connect Group. The price for either book is \$10, although the cost should never be a barrier to anyone participating.

Our popular Wednesday dinners will also be back beginning on the 10th. 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 21st with the movie “Life is Beautiful.” 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 on Thursday, February 22nd.

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

From our Youth Director

NOAH DURBIN

We have had an amazing semester of youth ministry. We finished our Mark study and have new insights on the life of Christ. We ended the semester with a Christmas party where we decorated gingerbread houses and cookies while watching *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. I will put some pictures at the bottom of this newsletter.

Next semester we are starting a new study called *Tough Questions*. Students prepared some questions for us to study and find biblical answers. I cannot wait to show students the church is not afraid to answer the questions which are prominent in their lives. To start the semester off, we are doing our yearly Lock-In on January 5th from 9:00 p.m. until 8:00 a.m. As always, if you have a student interested in coming, please let me know. On January 17th, we are having our camp meeting after youth group. Camp will be at the same location with TEAMeffort. We are going from June 23rd to June 29th. I have a few male adults which expressed interest. I am, still, in need of some female adults. Please find me if you have any interest. I can give you information about my expectations as adult leaders, but I still want you to attend the camp meeting for the general information.



From our Director of Children's Ministry

Ronda Roethle

I love this time of year, where we get to celebrate the holidays (holy days). Starting with Thanksgiving, we recount the many blessings the LORD has given us. Then we move right into Christmas, a time to celebrate God coming to earth as a man to be our Savior. And we end with the anticipation of the New Year to come, and all the hope it has to offer. We all always have reason to rejoice and celebrate because of our amazing God.

This Christmas season in both Sunday School and Worship, the kids learned about the birth of Christ and why it was, and is, so important. We have our own Advent wreath in our worship room and each week we learned about what each candle symbolized. We drew names to see who would be able to light the candles, something all the children looked forward to!

The children performed their Christmas program, *Aaron the Allergic Shepherd*, on Dec. 17th, and they were amazing. They did a great job of sharing the good news of Jesus with their family and friends as they acted, sang, and played piano. I know they were a blessing to many.

The children were all gifted a Bible for Christmas. It is a 365 day Bible for children, so the goal is for them to read a page (and a story,) a day. It is my prayer that they would all grow to love to read their Bible and that they would fall deeply in love with the God of the Bible and desire to serve Him all the days of their lives.

As we head into a New Year it is my prayer that all of us would be drawn closer to the Lord with each day. That God would be our all in all and we would all love, trust, and obey him in all we say and do. God bless us all as we head into 2024!



Dear FCC Church Family,

Thank you to everyone who gave toward the "Love Gift". It is our pleasure and privilege to serve our church and love our church family.

Marcus Lynn

Teresa Varble

Bob Tankersley

Noah Durbin

Ronda Roethle

Ben Smith

Clydena Benson

Barbara Hartsell

Greg Marsee

Melissa Gregory

Lois Birdwell

Melody Hamilton

Maddie Gregory

THANK YOU

During this most blessed season of giving, we are especially grateful to those who gave flowers and plants to praise and glorify God during our morning worship services. The beautiful, cheery sunflowers from Vicky and Ron Scott made all of us smile. Additionally, Ann Estes, Diana Weaver, Dru and John Thompson, Robert McMakin, Curtis Congleton, Billy Gaines, Sherry Williams Bowman, Ted Hill, and Mandy and Shawn Morris enhanced our tribute through sharing their blossoms.

Thanks to all for the prayers, calls, texts, and food during Mark's surgery and recuperation. The contact is greatly appreciated. Our church family means so much to us.

Mark and Lil Hoferkamp

TIES THAT BIND

The ladies of FCC are excited!! Mark your calendar for our first gathering of "Ties That Bind."

January 18th-630pm

Life Center

Let's get to know each other!

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.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 ONE SERVICE

There will be one service (contemporary) at 11am on Sunday, December 31.

Happy New Year!

Looking forward to a blessed 2024!

SYMPATHY

Condolences to the Walton family. Joyce Scott passed away 11/30/23, sister-in-law of Mary Ann Moss' daughter. Condolences to the family of Parker, nephew of Mary Beth Gaines Linder, who passed away

PRAYER CONCERNS

Roberta Horsewood, Dedre VanHoose's mother- health concerns
Janet Arrowwood, neighbor of Ordways - battling breast cancer
Bill Cobb, Jennifer Lynn's uncle, health concerns
Nancy Cressman, Becky Warren's mother - 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
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
Gary Rose, cousin of Todd Rose - health concerns
Yolanda Smith - health concerns
Karen S, friend of Debbie Slatten - battling breast cancer, upcoming surgery
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
*Indicates a new name
**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

Vital Statistics

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 2023 Budget | \$404,454 |
| Needed Each Week | \$7,778 |
| Expenses thru December 26 | \$377,769 |
| Received thru December 26 | \$424,106 |
| In Person Worship Attendance 12/3 | 157 |
| Sunday School | 42 |
| In Person Worship Attendance 12/10 | 169 |
| Sunday School | 45 |
| In Person Worship Attendance 12/17 | 171 |
| Sunday School | 56 |
| In Person Worship Attendance 12/24 | 139 |
| No Sunday School | |

January Birthdays

- 2 - Missy Mix
- 6 - Joan Ethington
- 8 - Paul Edwards
Jerry Hyatt
- 10 - Carley Duncan
- 17 - Reagan Lewis
- 18 - Reagan Lynn
- 20 - Chris Ordway
- 21 - Sam Watts
- 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!

SOUND ENGINEERS NEEDED

We need people to help with the sound board at both the 9:00am and 11:05am services.

If you would like to volunteer please see Marcus.

An update from the Miriam Center, one of our ministry partners in northwest Haiti: Last Friday was the annual Christmas party for the outreach program. There were 250 families invited, which is bigger than any party we have had here for outreach. It has been raining so much we were starting to get concerned that families would not be able to come. But Friday, almost 200 parents with the child with a disability showed up. It is always so beautiful to see the parents and how they treat their kids. The party started with praising God with singing and prayer, then a very clear and simple plan of salvation was preached. For these families, who are often looked down on, for having a child that is different, what a blessing for them to hear about a Savior who loves them enough that He would come and die for them, to pay the penalty for all of our sin. Part of the outreach program is for these families to not feel alone and to know that they have a community and a party like this, shows that they have a community and a Savior that loves them. It was so cute to see some of the kids in the program get up and sing for everyone and be cheered for. Even though there were a lot of people, thank you Jesus, everyone just felt like they were among family and friends.

I just wanted to share this, as Haiti is in the news so much and all sorts of horrific things are happening. But God is still here, He is still moving and His Word is still being preached. Please pray for boldness for those who are continually sharing the Gospel!



First Christian Church
160 Lexington Street
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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.