



A few words from Marcus...

A month doesn't go by without a new research study or poll that shows Americans are less religious and less "Christian" than ever before. The most recent one came out in October and was just further proof of the rise of the "Nones." According to the Associated Press's latest research project called "The Nones: United States" 30% of Americans don't have any religious affiliation. The number of 18-to 29-year-olds is much higher at 43%. The research demonstrates that the trend is gaining momentum, even outside the United States.

None of this really surprises me. **The Church has abdicated its responsibilities over the last century of intentionally discipling people into the ways of Jesus for a host of reasons.** Some Christians took the path of least resistance and taught a salvation that was about the individual's freedom from hell but didn't teach them next steps in their journey to become more like Jesus. Some churches chose an "attractional" mindset to reach new people which I applaud but then left new believers to be still born in their faith, or they simply "sheep stole" from churches whose worship seemed less "relevant." Some churches leveraged their political values in the world to bludgeon other citizens to follow their simplistic course of justice and righteousness. I could go on and on.

I'm not shifting blame. **I was part of the problem for most of the years of my ministry.** I plead the fifth! I was part of the problem because I didn't understand how Jesus discipled others. I thought it was "give them enough information and they'll follow Jesus." It is not that. Sure, Jesus preached; He presented information at times. But his closest followers who made the biggest difference in the world after the resurrection were those who apprenticed to him. He was their rabbi; they were the student. They spent time around the clock with him, not just an hour on Sunday morning and Wednesday night.

That's what we need to get back to. Instead of feeding our culture's consumer mindset, even in the Church, we must harken back to the early church where discipleship was relationship-centered, not event-centered. It doesn't happen in an hour or two on the schedule but in those organic moments at the table, in the backyard, or on the porch.

This isn't easy to do. I've been on this journey for 5-10 years and am still learning how this works in my own life, let alone teaching it to others. I will continue to practice this and teach what I know as best as I can. In the meantime, I won't fret or stress the decline of the Church in America; it was self-inflicted. I know that God has a purpose and plan in all this and will do my part to play in the faithful remnant as it seeks to love and bless the world around it.

From Our Director of Discipleship and Evangelism

Bob Tankersley

Practicing the Way of Jesus Together as Family

It's not too late to RSVP for the **Spring FCC Greenhouse** event! This spring, we will explore the theme of "**How to Build a Better Food Truck.**" Join us on Saturday, Mar. 2nd from 8:30-11:30am as we plan and dream about what God has in store for our family here at FCC. This Gathering is open to anyone who would like to be a part of growing and leading our FCC family. Whether you're a long-time member or someone curious about getting involved, we welcome your participation. The event is free to attend, and we will be providing childcare. To help us plan accordingly, please RSVP by contacting the FCC office or emailing Bob at btankersleyjr@gmail.com.

The March **Meeting God in the Dark** will be Sunday, March 24th. We will gather to watch and discuss "Julie & Julia". Join us from 2-5pm that Sunday afternoon and feel free to bring popcorn!

Due to a variety of scheduling conflicts, the April "FCC Book Club" will instead 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."

Also coming soon to our FCC Discipleship Pathway: **The Practicing the Way Course**

Later this Spring we will be introducing a new discipleship opportunity here at FCC entitled The Practicing the Way Course. This time 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 WITH Jesus - Become LIKE Jesus - DO what Jesus did

MAUNDY THURSDAY

We are doing something different this year for Maundy Thursday, March 28th. We need men to play the crowd in a skit we are doing for the service. If you are interested, please contact Freda Demarest or Joe Wiley.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Friday March 22nd

The Men's Fellowship will be eating pizza and watching NCAA Basketball starting at 6 PM. Please rsvp with Joe Wiley at [859-537-0538](tel:859-537-0538) by Wednesday March 20th. See you there!

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

March is always a transition month. We are moving from miserable cold in the winter to the warmer but damp. Spring sports begin, which means baseball returns into my daily routine. Yet, we can have two separate seasons in one week and sometimes in the same day. Students often come to me struggling with a transition, whether going from one grade to the next, or a new relationship, or an extracurricular activity, etc. They do not know what to do with awkwardness. I remind them the awkward transition is only for a short time. March always leads to the warmth of the Spring/Summer. God is present in our transitions and is teaching us all types of new things. So, if you find yourself in a transition, take comfort that the warmth of a new season will come. And do not forget to dwell in the lessons God is teaching you in the transition.

As for the youth ministry, we are moving through this spring semester. Students have been in a lesson series called Hard Questions. Students gave me questions they wanted answers to. The middle and high school students came up with separate questions and have been analyzing an answer in those groups. Students are seeing the Bible has more than enough answers to their questions. I cannot wait to hear more conversations surrounding our lesson series.

We do have a special event upcoming. On March 24th after the 11:00 service, we will go bowling. The church will provide the cost for the lanes and rental on the shoes. Students will be responsible for the cost of food. If a student is interested in going, please send me an email with their shoe size by March 20th. I look forward to sharing in some fellowship this month.

From Rebecca Smith – **WEEK OF COMPASSION BOARD MEMBER**

Dear Pastor Marcus,

As I Was reading your mission statement this morning, I was immediately struck by the words, "...the family of God sent into the world on a daily basis." Fitting words for one of the most generous Disciple congregations to the work of Week of Compassion..

Please express our profound gratitude to your church family for their faithful stewardship, giving us the ability to change lives and alleviate suffering.

Thanks and blessings,

Rebeca Smith

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.

SYMPATHY

*Family of Bill Barker, Mandy Smith's father – passed away
Family of Peggy Slugantz – 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
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
Eliot, son of Anna Nucklos – 5 month old with cancer
Pete Pettyjohn - battling cancer
Melody Phelps – health concerns
*Jenny Ralston, neighbor of Sally Boutcher -upcoming back
surgery
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
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

Vital Statistics

2024 Budget	\$440,770
Needed Each Month	\$36,730
Expenses thru February 26	\$54,371
Received thru February 26	\$67,445
In Person Worship Attendance 2/4	178
No Sunday School	
In Person Worship Attendance 2/11	162
Sunday School	60
In Person Worship Attendance 2/18	175
Sunday School	64
In Person Worship Attendance 2/25	156
Sunday School	57

March Birthdays

- 1 - Ivy Hughes
- 2 - Joy Soper
- 5 - Larry Wheeler
- 7 - Ruth Anne Boyd
- 8 - Melissa Gregory
Jane Jones
- 17 - Bill Beverly
Mike Sunseri
- 21 - Garrett Lewis
Teresa Varble
Todd Rose
- 22 - Brogan Webber
- 28 - Jennifer Lynn
Cathy Noel
- 29 - Kay Hall

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!

THE MIRIAM CENTER

Here's an update from Stephanie Mosier, the director of one of our ministry partners, the Miriam Center of Northwest Haiti Christian Mission. Thanks to your generosity we are able to help the Miriam Center accomplish its mission to love and support children with special needs and their families.



The Miriam Center is a hard place to describe other than home. The MC is home to those who otherwise would not have a home. But unlike other homes, everyone who lives at the MC has some sort of disability. The disabilities range from the severe to the less severe, but we also have some very special needs who are very fragile, and their disability can cause them to be sick most of the time.

Yes, one of our main priorities is keeping them as healthy and comfortable as possible. It is also a priority that the MC is a place where they are loved and accepted



for who they are. That they know they are created in the image of our loving God and Savior. We strive to keep the MC a place of growth and learning. Yes, we have bad days, but I cannot even start to explain what God has taught me about

Himself through these precious one. Please continue to pray for us as we have a loving staff of 32 that work around the clock to provide care for everyone but pray that we have wisdom. Also pray for the country situation. The political instability and the gangs make things hard and more than difficult. I guess more than anything just pray for wisdom and for God to continue to make the MC a light in the middle of a religiously dark area.



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.