



A few words from Marcus...

We are now entering that time of year where the rhythms are more predictable and straightforward. Summer is a time for a vacations and rest from school. Fall is a "going back" to things. But as November arrives the church calendar tells us to be thankful and prepare for the coming of the incarnate Christ--our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

November begins with All Saints' Day, a special [Sunday](#) worship gathering where we remember all the saints that went before us and thank God for the difference they made in our lives. We continue that gratitude as we move through our annual giving campaign--this year's theme is "Blessed Beyond Measure"--to Thanksgiving itself. By the end of the month, we're "Hanging the Greens" in the sanctuary and Advent is upon us.

As I look back even just over the past three years, all of us individually and especially as a church family have so much to be grateful for. I never want to take worship or the relationships I have here for granted. I think 2020 reminded us of that...don't just go through the routine but enjoy each moment because we never know what [tomorrow](#) brings.

Dear FCC church family,

As many of you know, our family will return to Asia at the end of this year to be based in Thailand, serve as long-term missionaries there, and pour into India as well. We recently found out that FCC will be partnering with us on this journey. We want to say a HUGE thank you from our family to each of you. Having FCC behind us as we venture into this new season and return overseas means SO much to us. We need people behind us to pray and help make it possible for us to go. Having FCC behind us is an incredible blessing, and we know that you all are a huge part of the ministry that will happen in the nations. Thank you. Thank you for everything. Please continue to pray for our family in this season of many transitions!

God bless you.

Sincerely,
The Rai Family

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Shoeboxes and labels have been placed in the Narthex for Operation Christmas Child. The shoeboxes will be in the Narthex each week in October. Please take some and return them to the kitchen door the week of [November 13 - 20](#). Please remember that a \$10 shipping fee is recommended per box. You will need to fill them at home as there will not be a church-wide opportunity to do that this year. Thank you. Sandi Baker

NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE **STUDY ON THE BOOK OF** **PHILIPPIANS**

Dive deep into powerful teachings on contentment, gratitude, and the transformative power of Christ's love with a new 6 week Bible study on the book of Philippians on Wednesday nights at 630pm, starting [November 1st](#).

From Our Director of Discipleship and Evangelism Bob Tankersley Practicing the Way of Jesus Together as Family

Discipling the Next Generation

The following comes from our friends in the missional network called The Kansas City Underground:

“When people ask what disciple-making looks like with children or how we can lead our kids into an ongoing relationship with Jesus, we often forget that the missionary tools we use to engage our neighborhoods or workplaces are just as important with the next generation in our homes.

Spend a few minutes with these questions, “What would it look like if I was a missionary in my own home, to my own kids? How would my posture be different?”

Consider:

Begin in Prayer – How am I praying for my children? Am I praying for the outcomes I desire for them, or am I praying they have a meaningful encounter with Jesus? How can my prayer life reflect my desire for my children to engage Jesus?

Listen and Engage – Do I only tell my children things and give them directions? Do I cultivate conversation and ask questions about what brings them joy or what they are interested in? Do I engage their interests and join them in those spaces or activities?

Eat – How often do we eat together? When we share meals, are we oriented toward each other or watching something else? Are our meals unhurried and a place to learn about each other? How many meals can we commit to sharing each week?

Serve – How can I serve my kids in meaningful ways? What are the questions I can ask to discern this? (Think about Jesus and Blind Bartimaeus. The Bartimaeus cried out, “Son of David, have mercy on me.” Jesus’s response was not, “I’ll heal your blindness.” Rather, he asked a question, “What do you want me to do for you?” This does not mean we’ll do anything our kids ask. This is to say that we don’t always have to show up with an assumed solution.)

Story – How am I being Good News? How am I demonstrating Good News? How am I proclaiming Good News? Do my kids experience how my life is different because I follow Jesus? Do they see me demonstrating a better story? Do they hear me telling how my life is more peaceful, more joyful, and full of love because of my relationship with Jesus? Do they hear stories of continued transformation?”

Spend time this week considering these questions and how these rhythms might lead you to engage your children in meaningful ways.

New Wednesday Adult Connect Group! Dive deep into powerful teachings on contentment, gratitude, and the transformative power of Christ’s love with a new 6-week Bible study on the book of Philippians on Wednesday nights at 630pm, starting November 1st.

Our last **Meeting God in the Dark** of 2023 will be on Sunday, November 19th at 2pm. We’ll be watching the film, “Tender Mercies.” As always, this is open to those in High School and older. Please contact the FCC Office to register and let us know if you need childcare.

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

From our Youth Director

NOAH DURBIN

This month has a lot of exciting things coming up. We are still studying the book of Mark for our Wednesday night. We have learned many aspects of the Gospel that many students have not seen prior to this study. We will be wrapping up this study in a few weeks with each student doing a deep dive on different parts of the Passion storyline. After we finish that, we will be moving into a study I am calling Tough Questions. Students have been writing down tough questions about faith on to cards and I will be doing research to find different answers. It is my personal philosophy with youth ministry that the youth should not be clones of the youth leader with the same views. Instead, students should learn to bring the hard questions up, do research, think critically, and come with their view on the question. I do not want to answer all their questions; I will if I feel like I need to. Through this study, which will run through into 2024, I hope to accomplish the goal I set before them.

I enjoyed the Fall Gathering this year. I did not pay a penny for any food, so thanks to everyone that gave me some of your food. And I will always take free food. I have the rest of the events planned for the youth ministry through July 2024. I will not take you through every single one, just the ones that are upcoming. November 1st, we are doing an All Saints Day celebration where we will celebrate the Christians we have lost and who have entered into the fulfillment of the Kingdom. There will be many activities and discounted candy (day after Halloween=cheap candy). December 6th /13th, we will be having our Christmas celebration. We will be watching How the Grinch Stole Christmas both weeks, looking how this movie describes a redemption story. We will be decorating cookies and gingerbread houses as well. January 10th is our camp meeting. If you are interested in going, then I will encourage you to join us after youth on that day. Do not force it if it's going to be difficult to make it; I can meet with you one on one another time. Student and/or parents with students going are required to be there. Finally, January 5th we are doing our Lock-In, which has volunteer opportunities even just for a couple hours so I can take a nap. I will send out reminders and talk more about these events as they get closer. But for now, mark your calendars!

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.

BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Backpack Program needs your help...FCC packs on average 90+ bags for students who have been identified as needing extra nutritional help over the weekends **each week of the school year**. The cost of each **bag is appx. \$4.87** which **totals up to over \$400 a week and over \$10,000 for the school year**. Your financial help and prayers are greatly appreciated. Please note "Backpack" on your gift.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Mark your calendars! Our Hanging of the Greens Service will take place on Sunday, [November 26th](#) at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. If you are interested in sharing your musical gift during the service, please let either Mandy Smith or the church office know as soon as possible! There are also opportunities to read provided passages/scriptures during the service so please consider sharing your gifts in that area as well!

SAVE THE DATE

[Dec 16th](#), Jingle Bell Tour. For those who cannot comfortably drive at night, come enjoy a warm, safe tour of local [Christmas](#) lights in the church van. Mark your calendar and watch for details coming soon.

SYMPATHY

*Family of Ann Craig – Memorial Service 11/6/23 at 4:00pm, meal to follow

Wright Family – unexpected passing of Paul Wright, Jr.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Mark, cousin of Connie Boyce – health concerns

Parker, nephew of Mary Beth Gaines Linder - cancer

Roberta, Dedre VanHoose's mother, health concerns

*John Adkins, Jr., family of Ordways – serious lung condition

*Bridgett Adkins, niece of Ordways – caregiver who needs strength

Hunter Armstrong – health concerns, recovering from kidney transplant

Janet Arrowwood, neighbor of Ordways - battling breast cancer

Caroline Boldizar – 11 yr old serious health concerns

Nancy Cressman, Becky Warren's Mother - health concerns

*Madelynn Eaton - 4 year old with leukemia

*Brook Holdaway, family member of Jason Webb - battling cancer

Susan & Richard Jones – health concerns

Carolyn Leet - health concerns

Sheree McGraw, mother of Ruth Anne Boyd - health concerns

Jeremy Norris, friend of Ordways – cancer

Eliot, son of Anna Nucklos – 5 month old with cancer

*Allen O'Neal, freshman at WCHS - health concerns

*Al Owens, family member of Jackie Davis- hip replacement the 12th

Pete Pettyjohn – battling cancer

Melody Phelps – health concerns

Cathy Ritter, Missy Mix's mom - health concerns

Karen S, friend of Debbie Slatten - battling breast 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

Kelly Trent – health concerns

Mike 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

Vital Statistics

2023 Budget	\$404,454
Needed Each Week	\$7,778

Expenses thru October 18	\$297,746
Received thru October 18	\$348,597

In Person Worship Attendance 10/1	119
Sunday School	39
In Person Worship Attendance 10/8	129
Sunday School	44
In Person Worship Attendance 10/15	141
Sunday School	39
In Person Worship Attendance 10/22	140
Sunday School	61

November Birthdays

2 - Serena Ordway
Hadley Hird

5 - John Thompson

8 - Heather Webber

9 - Debbie Slatten
Hannah Gourley
Lily Gourley

10 - Micah Lynn
Addison Lariscy
Casey Watts

12 - Greg Marsee

14 - Leslie Curtis

15 - Dru Thompson

16 - Evie Hamilton

17 - Rob Thompson

21 - Sally Boutcher

22 - Connie Boyce
Bob Tankersley

25 - Holly Jennings

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!

HANDBELLS

The bells being used by our handbell choir are being refurbished on November 5th. We would just like to say "Thank you" to everyone that donated toward this project.

From our Director of Children's Ministry

Ronda Roethle

Yay! It is officially fall! It is a wonderful time of the year – a time for change. A time we trade in our flip flops for our boots, our T-shirts for fluffy, cozy sweaters, and our iced coffees for hot lattes. Even nature takes part in the change. Look at the trees; they are replacing their beautiful green leaves for reds, yellows, oranges, and browns. Change can be good; it has a way of shaking us out of any ruts we may have fallen into so that we can move on to the next thing God has for us.

Some changes however aren't as good or as wanted. I shared with you in the last newsletter that I attended the Child Discipleship Forum in September, and one of the main points shared was the decrease in church attendance and belief in God especially in young people. There has been a big cultural change over the last few years and it is having its effect on our children. Most of them no longer believe in absolutes. Truth is relative, there is no right or wrong. And the biggest issue is identity. Most young people today are looking for their identity in themselves, in social media, and in those around them. In other words, they are letting the world tell them who they are instead of trusting what God says He created them to be. We are all made in the image of God. He loves us and says we are precious in His sight. Our value is in Whose we are and who God says we are, not what the world tells us we could be.

Since the conference I have been praying, reading books, and listening to podcasts on issues relating to our current culture and how it is affecting the church and most importantly our children. There are many issues and yes, some of them are big, but our God is bigger than any problems we may face. I was reading in Galatians, and 4:4a says, "But when the *fullness of time had come*, God sent forth His Son." Jesus came at the exact time that He was supposed to come. God's timing is always perfect. Each of us, including our children, are here at the exact time that God wanted us to be here to fulfill our purpose. We don't need to fear, God is in control.

As a church, we should work together to teach the next generation about our amazing God and our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ. We can all pray for our children, we can show love to them, and we can teach them the gospel verbally and through our actions. The Bible tells us that we are in a battle. As a church, let's take on the whole armor of God and fight for our children! Jesus saw the little children as precious, let us do the same. Let us all work together to raise up mighty oaks of righteousness for His glory!

BAKING FOR BAZAAR

It is time to be considering what you would like to make for the Bazaar Bake Sale. To ensure having goods for both days (Nov 10 & 11) it is suggested that persons with last names N-Z bring items **Friday** am and those with A-M bring yours on **Saturday** am. Of course, if you can't come during these times we will take them anytime.

Suggest items and tips are as follows:

Quick Breads and Muffins	Rum & Chocolate Cakes
Fruit and Pecan pies	Seasoned Crackers and Chex mixes
Peanut Butter fudge	Chocolate Fudge
Peanut Brittle	Biscuits and Rolls

Cookies in baggies of 2 - 12 (usually sell better than brownies)

If you are going to be short of time that weekend remember most all of these items freeze well and can be made in advance. Your participation is most appreciated.

Dear Friends,

This past week we celebrated at our **Annual Luncheon** — sharing Sister stories and plans for the upcoming year.

If your group or church would like to hear how you can help serve our Sisters, please contact jani@nataliessisters.org to schedule an **Ambassador!**

Many thanks to our **Event Sponsors** and those who donate of their time and financial resources to care for our Sisters.

Davidson Financial Services
Domino's @ 1301 Clays Mill Road
First Christian Church of Versailles
Marilyn Frank
DV8 Kitchen
Signature Club

Southland Christian Church

The holidays are rapidly approaching and we're making plans for both **Thanksgiving and Christmas meals**. If you can help, contact jani@nataliessisters.org. There are lots of ways you and your family can be a part of these two holidays at NS which are so very important to our Sisters — many of whom have nowhere else to go for a meal and community.

We also have a few different **Christmas Sponsorship opportunities** left. Contact melinda@nataliessisters.org if you or your group are interested in helping with that.

Thanks for all you all do to help us serve our Sisters with excellence!

Jani

Prayer Request

Everyday we celebrate changed lives and women making good choices. At the same time, we can't just look at the good and ignore the difficult.

For every woman who makes that courageous step forward there are many others who haven't been able to get past their physical, mental and emotional barriers to make a choice to heal.

Today, we stop to remember women who lost their battle. We pray daily the list won't grow, even as we know it will.

Please pray for all our Sisters — those we know and those we haven't even met yet — that somehow they'll find their way toward a new life, recognizing their value and worth. Their true identity. And that God will give us the wisdom and resources to do what we can do to help.

Since we began our data base a few years ago, we've lost dozens of Sisters that we know of. We know there are more.

Some overdosed, some lost their battle with serious health-related issues, and others lost their lives in senseless acts of violence.

Each was a sister, mother, daughter, friend.

We haven't forgotten.

Current Needs

Clothing Closet—gently-worn leggings and long-sleeve T's, toiletry kits, lightweight jackets, sweatshirts, tennis shoes and blankets; NEW underwear

Kitchen Pantry—snack bags, individual sweet items, individual bottled water/juices

Meals—breakfast/lunch throughout the month at the Center, and dinner items for the Clubs. Contact melinda@nataliessisters.org for specific information and a sign-up link.

Please see **SERVE page** at nataliessisters.org for specific information on items to go in toiletry kits and snack bags.

Natalie's Sisters, PO Box 2074, Lexington, KY 40588 859-533-5946

Follow us on FB, IG and Twitter!

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.