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## A few words from Marcus...

How many Lutherans does it take to change a lightbulb? At least 15, 1 to change the bulb and 3 committees to approve the change and decide who brings the potato salad.

How many Episcopalians does it take the change a lightbulb? 8, 1 to call the electrician and 7 to say how much they like the old 1 better.

How many Methodists does it take to change a lightbulb? It's undetermined. Whether your light is bright, dull, or completely out, you're loved. You can be a lightbulb, turnip bulb or tulip bulb. Church-wide lighting service is planned for [Sunday, July 25](#). Bring a bulb of your choice and a covered dish.

How many Baptists does it take to change a lightbulb? Change?

How many "Disciples of Christ" folks does it take to change a lightbulb? Answer #1: It doesn't matter as long as we have communion Answer #2: I'll have you know my grandmother gave that light bulb. If you change it, I'm leaving!

But the truth of the matter is that there is really only ONE Church in Woodford County and the world. Yes, it's made up of many parts with different names but all people who are under the salvation and lordship of Jesus are part of the One Universal Church. There is much that divides us but all churches that hold that Jesus is the Son of the Living God and really died for our sins and rose on the third day are ultimately connected and enjoined as a larger family of faith. Other congregations are not our competitors but our teammates. Think of it like a football team. We've got the offense, defense, and special teams. Some churches function and look different and have different skills and strengths but together we're proclaiming and demonstrating the Good News of Jesus

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child Collection Week will be [November 13](#) - 20. The boxes will be collected at the Kitchen Door of the Life Center. Boxes will be available the month of October in the Narthex. There will not be a church wide packing party this year. Please be aware you will need to pack your own box at home and not at the church. Thank you to those that are already doing that. A \$10 shipping fee is recommended for each box but it is not a requirement in order to drop off the boxes. Thank you for all the support you give to this important ministry as we spread the word throughout the world. Sandi Baker



# From Our Director of Discipleship and Evangelism

## Bob Tankersley

### Practicing the Way of Jesus Together as Family

We believe there is more to the Christian life than what most people are experiencing. And that's because there really is more to the Christian life than just attending a Sunday gathering, catching an online service, or even participating in a Bible study. In fact, if you were to look in the scriptures and you were to study the life of Jesus, you would see that how He chose to make disciples was in a context of life on life, life in community, and life on mission. With that being said, if you are interested in becoming a disciple of Jesus that isn't just trying to survive this world - but one that lives the flourishing life that Jesus has for you right here in his Kingdom, we want you to consider experiencing a Missional Community.

On Wednesday evenings during September and October, we are offering an 8-week look at the why, what, and how of Missional Communities here at FCC. We believe that MCs are the best vehicle to developing into flourishing disciples and that they are also the best chance for us to "Find Our People." (hint, hint...) The MC Experience begins on Wednesday, August 30th at 6:30pm - and we hope you will join us for dinner in the Life Center at 6pm.

This month, we are adding a new discipleship environment for our FCC family - the **EQUIP Courses**. They are a series of short-term classes designed to encourage and equip missional disciples as they travel along their discipleship pathway. Each free Equip Course is a self-contained, four-week opportunity with no pre-requisites and can be taken in any order.

The first Equip Course being offered is **The Spiritual Formation Course**. This course is a 4-week opportunity to help root you in your spiritual formation journey. Designed to walk you through four key components of building your relationship with Jesus every day, this course will help you to grow closer with God and set practical rhythms. Each session lasts one hour on Thursdays at 7pm, starting on September 7th. (This course will repeat every year in the fall.)

#### **The four weeks include:**

- Week 1 - How to Read the Bible
- Week 2 - How to have a Life of Prayer
- Week 3 - Practicing the Presence of God
- Week 4 - Following the Rhythms of Jesus

To register for **The Spiritual Formation Course** and to find more information about the rest of the EQUIP Courses, you can visit the FCC website here: <https://www.fccversailles.com/equip-courses>

Our film series, "**Meeting God in the Dark**," returns on Sunday, September 17th, when we will view "The Trip to Bountiful". 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. Feel free to bring popcorn!

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

# From our Youth Director

## NOAH DURBIN

This month we are starting up with our Wednesday Night program. As I reflect on the summer and look forward to this upcoming year, I rejoice over the opportunity that God has laid before me. The next generation of believers is longing for a dynamic and active faith. There is plenty of challenges that come alongside this, like keeping focus, yet there are so many joys. Heading into this school year, God has laid the word “renewal” upon my heart. I am hoping our youth ministry is experiencing a renewal as this new school year develops. I have been reviewing some changes to our room (like the paint color), how we conduct discussions, what we spend our time doing/talking about, etc. These changes are holding onto a hope that when students come on Sunday, Wednesday, or special events that they experience the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. May God renew you and your family.

To start the school year, I am excited to have the new class of 2030, or the new 6<sup>th</sup> graders (doesn't class of 2030 look weird!) join us and for returning students as they grow a year older. Sunday School has been incredible seeing more students attend and looking how Sunday mornings will shape our students. We are continuing our Wednesday night study of Mark that we started last semester. I am interested about where God will take us with our study of His Word.

Please continue to support our youth ministry as we launch into this next season. I have been appreciative of all the financial and prayer support that our church family has given to the youth ministry. Let me know when you are praying for the youth group because I would love for the youth group to pray for you and your family. And do not be afraid to volunteer with the youth group. As we talk about in the last sermon series, instilling godly values in youth with peers doing the same thing guided by adults is so important throughout that student's life. It is never too late to join our team of servant leaders and you will always be appreciated by me.

### In the “Bazaar World”

We had a wonderful turn out and lots of laughs at our “Christmas in July” workshop! We laughed, organized, priced items and crafted some cute items for our November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> bazaar.

We will be back working on Wednesday nights beginning August 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30 if you would like to join us in the Bazaar room.

Put November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> on your calendar to work the kitchen, the floor, the cashier table and of course SHOP!

#### 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.

#### HANDBELLS

The bells being used by our handbell choir are being refurbished on November 5<sup>th</sup>. We have been saving up for this...cost about \$5,000, but are still a few hundred dollars short. If anyone would like to donate to this please note bells on your check. Thank you.

# Mentors & Meals for the Head, Heart, and Hands (submitted by Lisa Johnson)

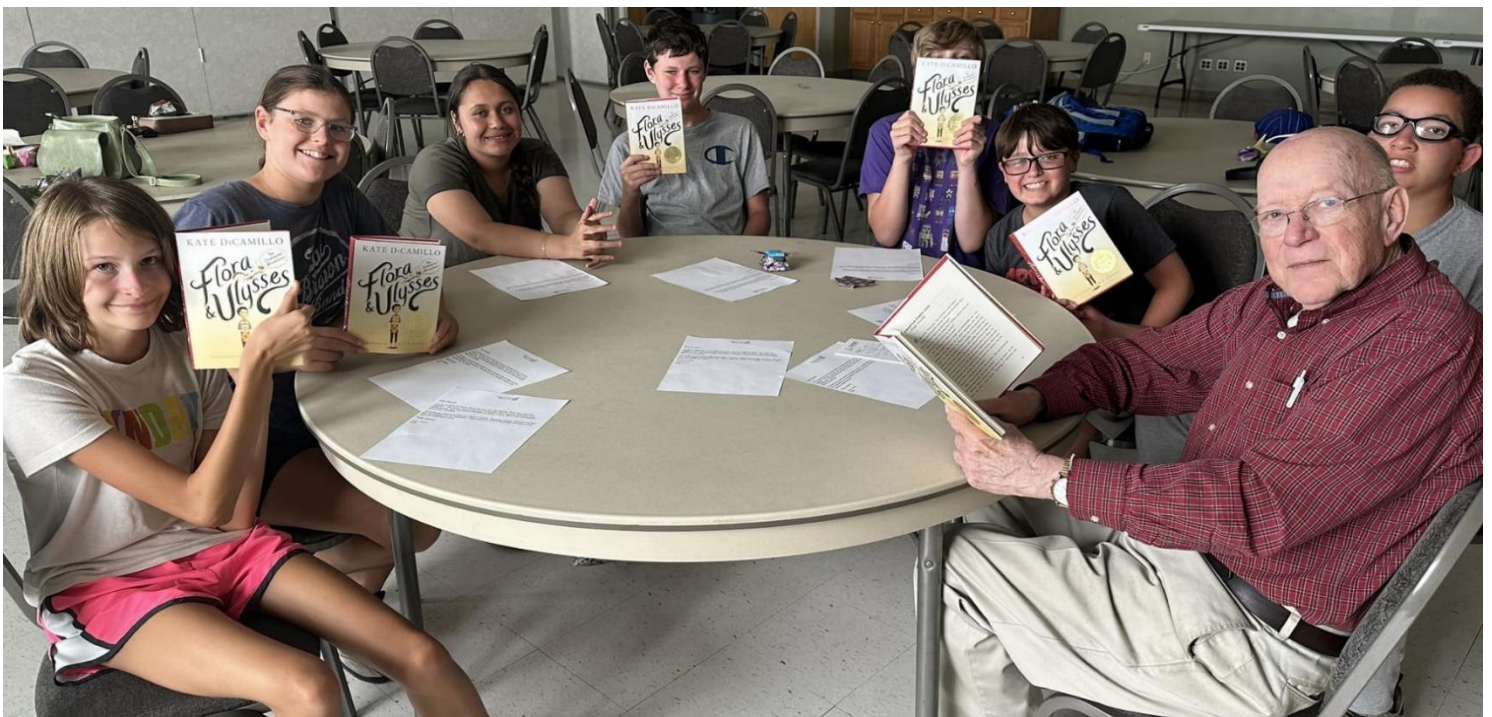
If you are an **analytical person** you might be interested in these stats:

- Since 2011, M&Ms has served over 1,103 middle school youth
- This year, 75% (or more) of the students who attended M&Ms achieved a “C” or better in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies, which met our academic goal.
- M&Ms runs a 4 day/week program through the school year and a 3 day/week program during the summer on a **\$262,300 budget** with **\$100,624** of earned income (through donations and grants) and the other **\$161,668** of in-kind (un-paid) donations (ie: transportation, facility, food donations, and volunteer/staff contributions).

If you are a **Heart** person, you will be happy to learn that students at M&Ms receive homework help, snacks, meals, and some really amazing inter-generational mentorship. This summer we had an adult volunteer, Ed Bowen, who read the book “*Flora & Ulysses*” by Kate DiCamillo with our kids. For some of our students, this was the first time they have EVER read a book cover-to-cover. Ed also reached out to the author of the book and she emailed a personal note to the students and sent us 20 copies of another of her books, “*Because of Winn-Dixie*” to read for our Fall Book Club/Reading Camp.

And finally, if you are a **Hands** person, you will be interested to know over **1,456 volunteers** have dedicated **59,373 hours** toward mentoring or meal preparation at M&Ms.

Mentors & Meals is so very grateful for ALL the Head, Heart, and Hands people at **First Christian Church** who serve in the kitchen, allow us to use your facility, encourage us, and pray for our students. The M&Ms program will be starting its 13<sup>th</sup> year and welcoming our new, incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders on **September 11** and the returning 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders on **September 18**. Keep your prayers coming!



# From our Director of Children's Ministry

## Ronda Roethle

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The end of summer is coming to a close, the kids are already back in school, and we are now gearing up for the fall season. I love the change of seasons, they always makes me think of new beginnings. New beginnings mean hope – hope of something better to come! Praise God for new beginnings!

### **Kingdom Kids**

I am really looking forward to our Wednesday night classes starting up again. I love getting to spend time with the kids during the week. Although our Wednesday night classes are still packed with Bible, it's a more casual atmosphere and we have a bit more time to get to know each other.

From now until the end of the calendar year, we will be learning about the Ten Commandments. We will have stories, crafts, and songs – lots of songs! All of this will help to teach us that there is a loving, caring God who gave us rules and guidelines for our protection.

### **Sunday School**

We have new curriculum this year. It is broken down into units which are 4 – 6 weeks in length and each unit has a different theme. They teach plenty of Bible and include practical application for the kids to understand and live out in their daily lives.

### **Worship**

I will continue teaching on the same topic that Marcus is preaching on each Sunday. However, in August we did something different. I taught the kids Psalm 34:8, “Taste and see that the Lord is good.” We discussed what it means to “taste” and “see” God and how we could do that in our daily lives. We explored how we could do this through worship, prayer, Bible reading, tithing, and fellowship.

The kids are also learning the Doxology. They are singing and “playing” instruments as they praise and worship God. We truly make a joyful noise unto the LORD!

### **Nursery**

Taylor Gilpin is off to college and we wish her all the best! God graciously and quickly answered our prayer for her replacement. Lily Gourley will now be serving the children in the nursery. Lily is such a sweetheart, and I know she will do well as she teaches the children about Jesus and His great love for them.

We also got a new curriculum for the nursery. The children will have a Bible story and a small craft each week. We also added some Bible sing-a-longs for them to listen to.

Prayers are definitely needed and appreciated for all of our children. There is so much in the world that tempts them and tries to draw them away from God. It is my desire that they would know and love God as the best of the best, and that their little hearts would learn to love Him more and more each day, and that He would truly become their All in All!



# WGM

## ANUP and DARCY RAI

### OUR STORY

**Anup's Story:** As a young child, my mom's side of the family became Christians, while my dad's family remained Hindu. I was blessed to know about Jesus growing up. In college I felt God calling me to ministry. I recently attended seminary to prepare myself to give others a firm foundation in the Word of God.

**Darcy's Story:** I was blessed to grow up in a Christian home. I felt a call to the nations in college. I spent many years in Asia where I met my husband and started our amazing family. I have always had a heart for children, longing to see them know Christ and be transformed. I look forward to continuing to see Asia impacted with the love of Christ!



### WHY

Someone must pave the way to bring hope to a lost world. God has consistently used us as pioneers to bring hope. Darcy's deep passion for children has led her to start many children's programs, allowing children to see their value and future through God's Word. God has used Anup to evangelize and empower believers to share the hope and love of Jesus. Together, they desire to see God molding ordinary believers into disciple-makers. Thailand's population is only 1% Christian. The hope of Christ is needed! We pray this new ministry location will bring a multiplication of disciple-makers.

### BECOME A MINISTRY PARTNER:

anup.raai@wgm.org  
darcy.raai@wgm.org  
[www.wgm.org/adra](http://www.wgm.org/adra)

## Join the Team!

**"Prayer and financial support create the fuel that it will take for us to fulfill our calling."**

We are praying for **56** people, churches, or organizations to help us meet the needs and fulfill the vision of this ministry.

## PRAISE

\$1,810.00 was raised from FCC through the Baby Bottle Fund Raiser

\*Emma Nally – Baptized 8/27/23

Mike Kelly – Baptized 7/31/23

Frank & Ellen Gibson joined by transfer of membership 8/13/2023

## SYMPATHY

Gary Sacra – passed away

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Mark, cousin of Connie Boyce – health concerns

Parker, nephew of Mary Beth Gaines Linder - cancer

Roberta, Dedre VanHoose's mother, health concerns

Hunter Armstrong – health concerns

Janet Arrowwood, neighbor of Ordways - battling breast cancer

Bill Beverly – health concerns

Nancy Cressman, Becky Warren's Mother - health concerns

Carolyn Leet - health concerns

Sheree McGraw, mother of Ruth Anne Boyd - health concerns

Shawn Morris – health concerns

Jeremy Norris, friend of Ordways – cancer

Melody Phelps – health concerns

Unborn baby of Kirby & Michael Riley – serious invitro complications

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

Kelly Trent – health concerns

Mike VanHoose – health concerns

Uncle of Heather Webber - kidney cancer

Larry Wheeler – health concerns

Jamie Williams, aunt of Ruth Ann Boyd - battling cancer

### **Remember Those Who Cannot Worship with Us on a Regular Basis**

Ann Craig, 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](mailto: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 August 23	\$235,554
Received thru August 23	\$302,213
In Person Worship Attendance 8/6	158
Sunday School	55
In Person Worship Attendance 8/13	159
Sunday School	60
In Person Worship Attendance 8/20	152
Sunday School	53
In Person Worship Attendance 8/27	183
Sunday School	66

## **September Birthdays**

- 3 - Chad Duncan
- 5 - Darra Shipp
- 6 - Mike Gentry, Jr.
- 9 - Linda Meholovitch  
Jillian Ordway
- 10 - Steve Flairty
- 15 - Joe Wiley  
Jackson Boyd
- 16 - Shelby Smith Hayes  
Karen Marsee
- 18 - Celia Thompson
- 19 - Mark Hoferkamp
- 21 - Mackenzie Gregory
- 23 - Kelly Lariscy  
Alex Trana
- 24 - Mike Gentry
- 25 - Hailee Gordon
- 27 - Mike Duckworth  
Teresa Kelly
- 30 - Jerald Landreth

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!

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**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.

## **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.

## **ONLINE GIVING**

Online giving is available on our website  
[www.fccversailles.com](http://www.fccversailles.com). Just go to our website and  
click on giving. From there just follow the prompts.