



The Visitor

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The Rush of Lent

It seems like just yesterday that we were celebrating Christmas and the New Year. (Ok, for me that might be because I am still working on getting Christmas decorations down) We gathered together to celebrate and praise God for the birth of Jesus, for the one who is God incarnate, and for the coming promise of salvation. It is a great time of praise and thanksgiving, and it seems to fly by almost as quickly as it comes.

What follows is a season that is vastly different from the season of Christmas. On the tails of the season of celebration is a season of reflection and introspection, of atonement and reconciliation. The season of Lent quickly approaches as we march forward out of the season of Christmas and we go from glory and joy to a time of risk, a time of trouble, and a time of soul-wrenching contemplation of what we have done and what we have left undone.

New Testament scholar and professor Amy-Jill Levine tells us in her book *"Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week"* that Lent is a season that asks us to take a risk by reflecting on our lives, our relationships, the things that we have done and the things we have failed to do. Levine suggests that Holy Week offers us a unique snapshot into a risk of Lent, seeing Jesus riding into Jerusalem as a king, smashing the tables in the temple, preaching the Temple and sharing a meal with his followers. But Holy Week also offers an opportunity of to examine those around Jesus, what they did and didn't do, and the risks they took and didn't take. Levine offers that Lent challenges us to

choose to understand what it is that we stand for, what it is we believe in, what is the cross that we are bearing. It is also a time to reflect on what we have denied and betrayed and how we can make it right.

As we enter the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, I invite you to take time during this season to reflect - to reflect on Holy Week, on the risks Jesus took and those that the disciples didn't, on the things we have done that our sister or brother that we need to reconcile, on what we are willing to risk to follow Jesus and take up our cross. Take time in meditation and prayer. To consider how the events of Holy Week impact our lives. Dr. Levine states, "During Lent you have the opportunity to think about your life alongside the life of Jesus, inviting inward transformation and then outward action". What does that mean for us, and how is the life of Jesus, especially the events and choices made during Holy Week, reflected in our lives.


I invite you to spend this season of Lent studying the events of Holy Week. Read the story in each of the Gospels, think about the stories of Jesus and his followers, of the religious leadership, of Pilate and Herod. Think about the choices made, the risks taken, the decisions made and what they mean for us today, both as people of faith and as a community of faith. May the Holy Spirit move in us to allow the stories to transform us and to move us to action, for the good of the Gospel and salvation for all.

Blessings - Pastor Matt



Special Dates in February

- Feb 2: Potato Bake
- Feb 5: Care Compass, for Alzheimer's Caregivers
- Feb 6: Grief Group
- Feb 7: Martha's Kitchen, help needed
- Feb 9: Prayer Circle/Food Pantry Sunday
- Feb 20: Grief Group
- Feb 25: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
- Feb 26: Ash Wednesday Service



Game night will be at the church on February 8th starting at 6:30pm. This event is an easy way to invite someone to church for the first time. Bring a favorite game or play one of the options from the church. Pizza, snacks and drinks will be provided. No RSVP is required, Julie needs some help!

Revising the Church Constitution

Behind the scene, the committees and officers of first Christian Church have been revising the church constitution. The goal is to update our constitution to reflect many changes that have occurred since it was last revised in 1992. Since then, for instance, we have created a worship committee and a technology committee. And we have affirmed a new vision for the church of connecting us to Christ, to each other and to our community.

Disciples of Christ churches put the final decision on the approval of any change in the constitution into the hands of the congregation. As the current moderator of the board, I write now to inform every member of the church that I anticipate that the process of revising the constitution will result in a February vote of the board to recommend the revised constitution to the congregation for its approval.

In accordance with our current constitution that board recommendation will start an official process of setting a date for the vote, making copies of the revised constitution available, indicating how it is revised, then announcing the set date for two weeks, after with the congregational meeting will be held following worship.

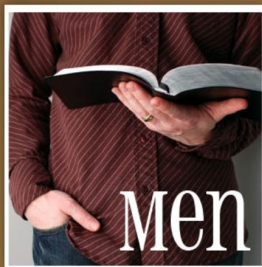
The entire revision process began back in 2016, when my predecessor as moderator, Ron Morlock, created a special committee whose recommendations has now been studied and in some cases modified by affected church officers and committees. I pray that the revisions we approve as a congregation will enable our Christian lives together over the generation to come.

Donald Scherer
Moderator



It was only a few weeks ago that a wonderful group of First Christian friends took down the Christmas tree and put away the holiday decorations. Thank you to all who assisted; it's true that many hands make the job much easier!

Now here we are at the beginning of February looking forward to another important season in our church life as we start to plan the worship services for Lent and Easter. Pastor Matt brings many new and creative ideas for meaningful worship during this important season in our Christian faith and First Christian will be holding an Ash Wednesday service on February 26 to begin Lent. Holy Week will include a special Maundy Thursday service again this year and a Good Friday service is being planned by the BG Ministerial Association. Look for more details in the March newsletter as plans for these significant services during Holy Week are made, and plan to be a part!



It's Rally Time!

The District 1 Men's Rally will be held on March 1st at Lyons Christian Church. The ladies at the church

will provide dinners for participants at a cost of \$8 each. Registration is at 2:30pm and the event will end by 6:00pm. A great program is planned for the day as well as worship, food, and fellowship. Please be sure to attend, your very own Pastor Matt will be preaching. **You MUST sign up by February 23rd so they have a count for the church.**

Martha's Kitchen

FCC dates for 2020 include 2/7, 5/1, 8/14 and 11/20. Donations as well as helping out in the kitchen and clean up are all needed. Please plan to serve with us.



BLOOD DRIVE

Donate blood. Save lives.

We will be hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on March 7th. Please watch for signs on how you can help

with the drive or call the Red Cross to schedule and appointment to donate.

Nationwide, an average of 44,000 donations are needed EACH and EVERY day to meet the needs of accident victims, cancer patients and children with blood disorders. When disaster strikes, the need may be greater.

January 2020 Statistics

Date	Here	YTD Income	YTD Expenses	Income/ Loss
1/5	67	\$3,241.00	\$2,554.58	\$686.42
1/12	56	\$5,599.79	\$4,357.75	\$1,242.04
1/19	49	\$7,617.99	\$7,899.52	\$281.53
1/26	53	\$9,182.79	\$12,386.20	\$3,203.41



BG Christian Food Pantry

Please bring in feminine hygiene items for the **BG Christian Food Pantry**.

These items are not covered by government programs. Thank you for loving your neighbors. Any food or money donations are also needed.



The Results Are In

Thank you to all the participants who brought in Chili for our annual event and those who

helped, stayed and voted. After much tasting, we have declared our winners for 2020:

Best Taste - DeAnna Beeker

Spiciest - Scott Gillespie

Best Eye Appeal - Marilyn Riewaldt

Need Prayer?

Our Prayer Circle continues to meet the 1st Sunday of each month right after the morning service. (In February it will be the 2nd week) This is an important privilege to gather together with others to pray for needs. Please join us after service on those Sundays. We would love to have you!!!



Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6

Warm the Children

We will continue to collect new hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and coats through the early Spring to take advantage of sales. Donations can be placed in the designated bin in Fellowship Hall.



Women's Bible Study

We have resumed meetings and have begun our new study, *Life Lessons from James* by Max Lucado. Since each lesson is short, we have decided to cover the twelve lessons in six weeks so that we can be ready to start our Lenten study.

For **Lent**, which begins on **Feb. 26, 2020**, we'll be **studying** *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of Christian Life* by Adam Hamilton. In six sessions, Hamilton helps us "discover five essential spiritual practices rooted in Jesus' own walk with God." Books will be available from Char in late January or early February.

Come join us anytime we are scheduled to meet.

February 2020

Thank You!	February 2 Food Pantry Offering Potato Bake	February 9 Prayer Circle	February 16 Week of Compassion	February 23 Week of Compassion
Liturgist	Char Scherer	Patty Hollabaugh	Sharon Shaffer	Betsy Solley
Preparing Deacon	Mary Gillespie	Mary Gillespie	Mary Gillespie	Ruth Maltby
Children's Message	Rev. Matt Every	Rev. Matt Every	Rev. Matt Every	Rev. Matt Every
Serving Deacons	Amy Kirkbride/Sid Sink: Lynn Bateson, Mary Gillespie, Todd Jimison, Jackson, Logan, & Mike Krueger	Ron Morlock: DeAnna Beeker, Claude Kilpatrick, Betsy Solley, Gary Spencer, Kim Thomas	Amy Kirkbride/Sid Sink: Lynn Bateson, Mary Gillespie, Todd Jimison, Jackson, Logan, & Mike Krueger	Ron Morlock: DeAnna Beeker, Claude Kilpatrick, Betsy Solley, Gary Spencer, Kim Thomas
Technology Team	Luke Leathem	Sid Sink	Julie Every	Jackson Krueger
Financial Trustees	Mary Gillespie Joanne Tennison	Kathy Foster Diane Morlock	Earlene Kilpatrick Sid Sink	Mary Gillespie Diane Morlock
Scripture Prayer	Rev. Matt Every Don Bateson	Rev. Matt Every Elizabeth Wick	Rev. Matt Every Earlene Kilpatrick	Rev. Matt Every Mike Solley
Jr. Church	Karen Krueger	Brenda Kirkbride	Carla Meredith	Pat Koehler
Coffee Hour	POTATO BAKE	Claude & Earlene Kilpatrick	Wil & Chris Roudebush	Steve & Carla Meredith



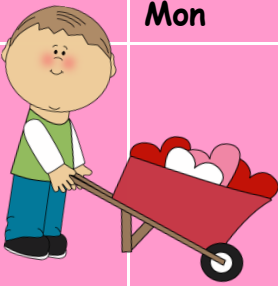



February

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please be good to me. ♥



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Food Pantry Offering 8:00am Elder's Mtg. 9:00am S. School 10:30am Worship 11:45am POTATO BAKE	3 9:00am Weight Watchers	4 Noon: BGMA Mtg. 7:00pm Personnel Committee Mtg.	5 10:00am Women's Bible Study 11:00am Caregivers Care Compass Mtg. 7:00pm Choir	6 10:00am Pastor's Study @ GFT 7:00pm Grief Group	7 5:00pm Martha's Kitchen	8 6:30pm Game Night!
9 9:00am S. School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Coffee Hour & PRAYER CIRCLE	10 9:00am Weight Watchers	11 7:00pm Hospitality Committee Mtg.	12 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Practice	13 10:00am Pastor's Study @ GFT 6:00pm Property 7:30pm Board Mtg.	14 Happy Valentine's Day! 	15
16 Week of Compassion 8:00am Elder's Mtg. 9:00am S. School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Coffee Hr.	17 9:00am Weight Watchers	18	19 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	20 10:00am Pastor's Study @ GFT 6:30pm Financial Committee Mtg. 7:00pm Grief	21	22 Dining Out Group @ Gualjillo's
23 Week of Compassion 9:00am S. School 10:30am Worship 11:45am Coffee Hr.	24 9:00am Weight Watchers	25 6:00pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner	26 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	27 10:00am Pastor's Study @ GFT	28	29



SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday is on **February 25th**

The Men's Group will be serving up some delicious, hot pancakes, sausage and more. Bring a friend and enjoy a great time of food and fellowship. The event starts at 6:00pm and all money collected will be put into the Men's account to fund their numerous outreach projects. Sign up if you are coming so we can plan accordingly.

Dear Church:

Thank you for your continued generosity to First Christian Church of Bowling Green. In the past year, we have continued to discern God's mission for our congregation, with some ups and downs. And while our income was down over the year and our expenses a bit up, we have been able to maintain a positive financial position. One of the most important things about this year is that we have been able to continue our outreach, with a total of almost \$18,000. This represents almost 13% of our income. Without your financial support, we would be unable to do this type of work with our community and world. Your gifts allow us to continue to extend the love of God into our community through continued support of various organizations including the Food Pantry, Salvation Army, and Martha's Kitchen and allows us to be the location for groups like Weight Watchers, the Salvation Army Thanksgiving Project, as well as various other groups.

In 2020, we will continue to strive to live into God's calling as we enter new ministries, with the beginning of a grief sharing/study group, pastor's study group at Grounds for Thought, and spiritual growth workshops. We will continue to listen for God's call and to discern God's direction for our congregation. Thank you again for your generosity and may God continue to bless us throughout this year.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Matt Every
Pastor



FEBRUARY



- 2/1: Cassie Wallace
- 2/1: Kelsey Tennison
- 2/2: Amy Kirkbride
- 2/4: James Wallace
- 2/6: Buz Maltby
- 2/7: Elizabeth Wick
- 2/12: Hannah Shaffer
- 2/14: Louise Carrol
- 2/15: Karen Dauer
- 2/15: Jim Corbitt
- 2/18: Matt Every
- 2/20: David Wick
- 2/22: Claude Kilpatrick
- 2/26: Jackson Krueger
- 2/26: Ernnie Naugle
- 2/26: Joanne Tennison
- 2/27: Pat Stack

Prayer and Praise

Family & friends of Jim Thomson on his passing.
Ron Foreman, heart procedures 1/28
Ann Jones 1/15

Continuing Prayers

Karen Adams, Patty Bienkowski, Paul Bomeli, David Ridgway, Sharon Shaffer, Tim Bomeli

Pray for Our Shut-Ins

Phyllis Sweeney Carol Steiner

Pray for Our Missionaries & Ministers

Paul Bomeli, Audrey Connor, Erin McCreight, and Ernie Unholz

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN

BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 12, 2019

The December 12, 2019 church board meeting of Christian Church was held at the church and called to order by Vice-Moderator, Claude Kilpatrick at 7:30pm. Members present were Claude Kilpatrick, Pastor Matt Every, Sid Sink, Steve Riewaldt, Ruth Maltby, Ron and Diane Morlock, Don and Char Scherer, and Patty Hollabaugh.

Opening prayer and devotion was given by Pastor Matt Every. The January 9, 2020 devotion will be given by Ruth Maltby.

Church Business

There were no additional agenda ideas to be added.

The November 14, 2019 minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sid Sink and seconded by Claude Kilpatrick. Motion carried.

Moderator Don Scherer arrived and assumed the position of conducting the meeting.

The Financial report was given by Sid Sink. The 2020 Budget was approved by the congregation following the worship service on Sunday December 8, 2019. The report was accepted as presented.

Clerks report showed one addition, Patty Hollabaugh.

The property committee met this evening to discuss the following:

- Trees and shrubbery on the property
- Rental fees for use of the church and form completion for use of church for non-church related activities
- Purchase of a new desk for Administrative Assistant Laura
- Controls for church boilers
- Outreach program for elderly members

The Men's Group report was given by Steve Riewaldt. \$200 was donated by the Men's Group towards Camp Christian cabin renovation and repair, with additional donations of monies being sent to various organizations. The group will sponsor a family for Christmas. Work is being done on the cabins at Camp Christian. There is about \$300,000 of work that needs to be completed prior to next summer camp dates.

The Personnel Committee met last week. Jon Steingas has been hired as the musician for the December 15 church service. The committee is working on hiring a musician to play for the choir and Sunday worship. Ruth Maltby has signed a contract for the coming year.

Technology purchased two computers and received one donated computer that is able to handle the needs of the church including videos, etc. One of the computers will be for Pastor Matt, one for the Administrative Assistant Laura, and one for the church technology. New software needs to

be evaluated for the church financial needs.

The Worship committee met on December 2 to discuss Advent and Christmas Eve services, as well as services for Epiphany and Lent.

The pastor's class on Thursdays at Grounds for Thought began December 5, 2019 with good attendance.

The Women's group is meeting regularly to continue their study.

The Hospitality Committee met to discuss snacks to follow the Christmas Eve service. They will be sponsoring a bake-potato bar on February 2, 2020. The chili cook-off will be January 19, 2020.

Ministry of the Church

The Pastor's report is on file. The Interfaith Breakfast committee met to plan a breakfast for April 21, 2020 to be held at the new building at City Park. Brenda Kirkbride was visited by Pastor Matt awhile she was in the hospital. Pastor Matt also visited Brian Tucker and talked with Carla Meredith.

Old Business

Don Scherer will send out the revised bylaws that will be reviewed at the January 9, 2020 board meeting. The Constitution and Bylaws will then be approved at a future board meeting.

New Business

Pastor Matt was contacted by a group from the BG Chamber of Commerce regarding the possibility of doing a professional video which will be put on the commerce website for 4 years. A 60 second video would cost \$4500, a 30 second video would \$2500, and the organization's logo would cost \$2,000. Diane Morlock moved that we move forward to investigate this opportunity, Ruth Maltby seconded, motion passed. Pastor Matt will put together a committee for the investigation and will report back at the next board meeting.

Steve Riewaldt reported that Safety and Security has contacted Wood County Hospital to have updated defibrillator training for members of the church.

Prayer Concerns:

Brenda Kirkbride, Carla, Steve, and Becky Meredith, Pastor Matt's cousin's family, Miriam Martin, Hunter Luallen, Larry Ballard, Brian Tucker, Denise Eckle, Patty Hollabaugh, Ken and Linda Wallace, and Bob Tracy.

Closing prayer was given by Pastor Matt.
Meeting adjourned at 9:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Morlock, Board Secretary