

# The Visitor

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## A Call to Action

Luke 9: 1-6 shares an important story that I think we often do not focus on enough. It is the story of Jesus sending out the twelve disciples into Galilee. Luke writes:

*“Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, <sup>2</sup> and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. <sup>3</sup> He said to them, “Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an extra tunic. <sup>4</sup> Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. <sup>5</sup> Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.” <sup>6</sup> They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.”*

Later in Luke, Jesus commissions seventy followers with essentially the same purpose. What I find in these stories is a call to action. Being a follower of Jesus is not simply about listening to sermons, offering prayers, and showing up on Sunday morning. It is not just about “winning people to Christ”. It is also about acting on our faith. It is about seeing a need and filling it. It is about our call to local mission.

When I think about our church, what we do and how we live out our faith, I feel that we have forgotten our call to mission. It can be easy to do. As we transition through leadership and pastors, there can be an internal focus, where we concentrate more on what happens in the church than what happens for those outside the church. Jesus tells us that how we treat the least of these is how we treat

him. Following Jesus’ sending out the disciples to heal and proclaim the kingdom of God, I believe it is time we refocus ourselves on living out our faith to help – how we will help to heal the least among us.

How does that work? It works by listening to you and hearing where you think we as First Christian Church should focus our missional efforts. To that end we will be hosting a Zoom Townhall Meeting on Wednesday July 8<sup>th</sup> to talk about where we believe we are being led as we reach beyond our doors. This meeting will be the first step is refocusing our vision on helping the least among us.

Our rewritten Constitution offers us three Scriptures to direct who we are as First Christian Church of Bowling Green (Micah 6: 8b, Luke 4: 16-21, and Matthew 25: 34-40). Each is focused on how we treat the least among us. If we believe that we are church that is built on serving the least among us, then let us reimagine what that means to us.

Please join us July 8<sup>th</sup> for the townhall meeting or send your ideas to me or your Elder as we imagine where God is leading us.

Blessings – Pastor Matt



## Prayer and Praise

Ann Jones  
Peggy Carsey  
Sue Greiner  
Health Care Workers  
Sheldon Carsey  
Matt Pinkerton

## Continuing Prayers

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

## Pray for Our Shut-Ins

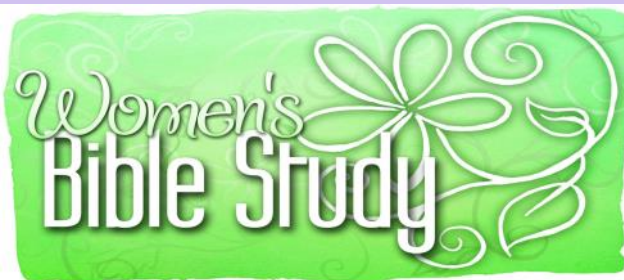
Carol Steiner

## Pray for Our Missionaries and Ministers

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

## Need Someone Added to our List?

Please write your request on the sheet in the foyer or e-mail the office at [fccadmin@bgfcc.org](mailto:fccadmin@bgfcc.org).  
Condolences/Praise reports will be published for 2 Sundays and Prayer Needs for 4 weeks. This time can be extended by request (writing the request again, or contacting the office.) If there is a LONG term prayer request, we can put them in the continuing prayer list. Please let Laura know if someone on any of the lists should be removed.



The Women's Bible Study has been "meeting" via Zoom at 11:00am on Wednesdays. We've also been keeping in touch via a group email. Currently we are close to finishing *Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People* by Mahzarin R. Banaji and Anthony G. Greenwald. This book has helped us realize how many ways we have hidden or unconscious blindspots about various groups and act on those unintentionally. It provides ideas for recognizing and overcoming these blindspots as we work with others. If we are to love and care for others as good Christians, we need to learn to deal with our individual blindspots and it is our hope that we will all be better at this as a result of reading and discussing this book.

By July 14 we should be starting our discussion of *Unbinding: The Grace Beyond Self* by Kathleen Singh. This book draws on the language and teachings of Buddhism.

"Unbinding invites everyday mystics from all traditions—or none—to encounter the sacred and experience grace firsthand. Singh shows how illusions of ego obscure our true, unbounded nature and trap us in suffering—as she helps the reader move ever more deeply into living from gratitude, wisdom, and love."

Zoom is a free app to acquire and if anyone wants to join us, we'd love to have you. Contact Char if you want help with getting Zoom.



## Martha's Kitchen:

— Do you Love me? Feed my sheep.

We are scheduled to serve Martha's Kitchen on August 14 if First United Methodist is open to outside groups. Our last scheduled date was canceled due to Covid and this date is tentative. As soon as we know if we're on, we will put out the request for volunteers. Watch the newsletter and emails for a potential First Christian Church version of Martha's Kitchen that is being considered.

## JULY BIRTHDAYS



Kathy Rupp	7/1
Julie Sink	7/1
Linda Reiter	7/7
David Donley	7/8
Mary Wallace	7/14
Ron Wallace	7/15
Marie Rogers	7/16
Lily Krueger	7/18
Judy Conibear	7/24
Ronald Morlock	7/31

## June 2020 Statistics

Date	Offering	YTD Income	YTD Expenses
5/31	\$2,000.00	\$54,487.86	\$50,321.87
6/7	\$2,185.00	\$57,768.56	\$53,571.32
6/14	\$1,035.00	\$58,793.56	\$55,409.78
6/21	\$900.00	\$59,693.56	\$57,063.20





## We're Back in the Building

We will be returning to worship in the sanctuary effective July 5<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to livestream our services and improve and support our digital ministries as we continue to encourage people to stay home if that is where they are most comfortable. The following precautions are in place for the health and safety of those worshipping:

- The sanctuary will be sanitized before and after each worship service.
- Wearing face masks is highly encouraged. Masks will be available for those who do not bring one.
- Upon entering the building, temperatures will be taken to check for fevers.
- Social distancing will be maintained throughout the service, although families may sit together.
- Worshipers will be seated separate from each other and there will be no contact during the sharing of the peace. Smiling and waving are encouraged substitutes.
- Communion will be prepackaged and handed out when temperatures are taken.
- Offering plates will be available at the exit from the sanctuary for you to place your offerings.
- To improve sanitation, bulletins, hymnals, and pew Bibles will not be available during worship.
- Based on CDC guidelines, there will not be singing during the worship service. Recorded music will be shared, and congregants will be invited to hum along.

There will be no coffee hour following the service. There may be changes to procedures as we continue to learn more about the virus and monitor cases in the state. We encourage you to do what you believe is in your best interest regarding worship. Please do not attend services if you feel sick. In all cases, use your best judgement.

## FCC Custodian to Doctor!



Andrew Slembarski has served as our church custodian for the past seven years, through his high school and college years. The flexibility of this job has been perfect as it allowed him to study, play sports and earn money for his schooling. While he was able to complete BGSU with a 4.0 and zero debt, in part, due to his work here at FCC, that trend will not be able to continue. He will now face a \$45,000 tuition bill annually and, with the intense school schedule, he will no longer have the time to work. He may, however, continue working as an EMT a few nights a month to try to earn a bit of money.

Andrew has officially resigned from FCC effective next week as he will begin his first year of medical school at The University of Toledo Medical School. Thank you to all who have made his employment here enjoyable. He has met many wonderful FCC people who have stopped in while he was working.

Congratulations to Andrew! Please pray for him as he enters this exciting but challenging time of life.

