



The Visitor

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Being Gracious

Next week, the nation will hold its collective breath as polls close and we watch the results of the Presidential Election. For some of us the results will be exactly what we hoped for, for others it will be disappointment. For all of us it will be a time to figure out where we go next.

I have been thinking a lot about this election cycle. I have been watching and listening, paying attention to not only what is said by the candidates and their allies, but also what I read and hear from the “general” public. I have paid attention to things that are said and shared within my own family. And I have concluded that we have lost our sense of unity, we have lost our sense of community, and most of all we have lost our sense of grace.

As I think back to elections prior to about 2010, in most cases the cycle was fraught with name calling, demeaning statements, accusations across the aisle, but when it was all said and done, for the most part there was a sense of graciousness – from the candidates, from those on either side of the political spectrum, especially with the public. We were able to talk about politics within our homes without people slamming each other about “How could you support...”. The side that “lost” graciously accepted the results and vowed to work with the newly elected President (or Senate or House) for the good of the whole. That didn’t mean that they agreed with the other side or that they didn’t stand against opposing ideas or legislation, but they worked for the

good of the whole. But it seems to me that over the last decade that graciousness has been lost. Now it seems that there is a much greater divide, an unwillingness to even consider an opposing opinion, and a sense that one side will continue to try and stymie the other so that nothing gets done. It also seems like the anger, frustration, and hatred that is present in the general public will only get worse.



My prayer is that, as people of faith, we find a way to be gracious to one another regardless of the results. I pray that we open our hearts to the other with a sense of love, mercy, and forgiveness. That we listen with an ear toward understanding and working together. That doesn’t mean that we have to like what is going on with our government. It doesn’t mean that we don’t stand against injustice and hatred. It means we find grace.

Jesus ate with the tax collectors, prostitutes, lepers, and other “sinful” folks. He also ate with the Pharisees and teachers, who he adamantly disagreed with. As followers of Christ, we must be willing to connect with those we don’t agree with, to be at the table with them and see them as a beloved child of God.

As we watch the results of next week’s elections, let us pray together that grace, love, mercy, justice, and peace find a way back into our collective consciousness. May God be with us in the days to come and may God’s grace fill us with hope.

Yours in Christ – Pastor Matt

Special Dates in November:

November 1: Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 13: Drive-thru Community Dinner, 5-6 pm

November 15-17: Salvation Army Thanksgiving Baskets

November 26: Thanksgiving



We are given opportunities to show compassion and love to those in need. 2020 has been and continues to be a very tough year for already struggling families and individuals. Our participation in the following programs, provides a positive and direct impact to those in need. Please help wherever you can. Thank you! Earlene Kilpatrick



We will adopt 4-5 families for Christmas. The Salvation Army will provide family details by Nov. 22. As in the past, the number of adults &

children will vary. During these unusually difficult times the need is greater than ever. We want to provide the family \$100 - \$150 for food, and spend \$15 per adult/\$50 per child.

Here are guidelines for adoption/giving:

- ◇ You can either adopt an entire family or partially support a family.
- ◇ If you are interested, please contact Earlene Kilpatrick. She will review the families with you in order to determine how/what you would like to contribute.
- ◇ Earlene can shop for the family or you can do the shopping.
- ◇ If you wish to purchase a gift card for the family's Food Basket please consider Kroger, Meijer or Walmart. These locations provide a variety of products to choose from.
- ◇ If you are doing the shopping and/or providing a gift card, or other monetary donation, the ***Deadline to have all items purchased or to make your monetary contribution is Wednesday, December 16.***
- ◇ Earlene will make arrangements with you to pick up your donated items/gift cards or you can drop them off at the Church.
- ◇ Checks to be payable to FCC (memo line: Salvation Army Christmas) or donate cash. (Deliver to the Church do not mail cash)
- ◇ Presents do not have to be wrapped. Though you are welcome to supply the wrapping paper, tape, bows and tags.
- ◇ If you are not wrapping, please clearly identify who the gift is for.

Any support to the Adopt a Family program is greatly appreciated. Please contact Earlene Kilpatrick 419.601.1976 or via email at cnekilpatrick@outlook.com to learn how you can help a family in need.

~~ Feed My Sheep ~~ Tend My Sheep ~~

Thanksgiving Baskets

Sunday November 15: Help would be appreciated with setting up tables right after church; food from the Food Pantry will arrive at approximately 1pm.

Monday Nov 16: Bags packed from 9a-Noon.

Tuesday Nov 17: From 6-8p - recipients pick up bags and "Warm the Family" items.

Wednesday Nov 18: From 9a-Noon - recipients pick up bags and "Warm the Family" items.

For details, **contact Earlene Kilpatrick at 419.601.1976 or cnekilpatrick@outlook.com.**

Warm the Family

Collecting items now for the Thanksgiving Food Basket program as well as the entire winter season.

*We are currently collecting new and gently used coats for all ages and sizes. We are also collecting **new hats, gloves and scarves** for all ages and sizes.*

If you are a knitter, please consider making and donating hats, mittens, and scarves.

Your donation can be dropped off at the Church or the Kilpatrick's front porch - 223 Buttonwood Ave.

For details, **contact Earlene Kilpatrick 419.601.1976 or cnekilpatrick@outlook.com**



Kettle Campaign

Details will be provided by the Salvation Army as soon as possible. We traditionally volunteer on Wednesdays, for two hour shifts. We will once again be

ringing indoors at the grocery entrance of Kroger. If you are interested in ringing, **Contact**

Earlene Kilpatrick 419.601.1976 or

cnekilpatrick@outlook.com.





First Christian Church
Bowling Green, OH

BOWLING GREEN DRIVE THRU COMMUNITY DINNER

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER, 13, 2020

5:00 - 6:00 pm
(or until food runs out)

FCC BG - 875 Haskins Road

Sunday, November 1 at 2:00am



1: Jim Adams
1. Marilyn Riewaldt
3. Sid Sink
3. Rebecca Steinmiller
4. Mike Solley
8. Paul Bomeli
12. Mike Krueger
13. Karen Adams
15. Susan Bowen
17. Gary Carpenter
20. Tim Bomeli
20. Ed Reiter
25. Declan Wicks
26. Karen Krueger
29. Betsy Solley



Martha's Kitchen:

The next date we are scheduled to serve Martha's Kitchen is November 20. However, to date, First United Methodist Church (FUM) is still closed to outside groups. Therefore, we will probably not be serving this month. Once an update from FUM is received, information will be sent out. Watch for information on other opportunities to serve the hungry in our area.

Do you love me? Feed my sheep.

Financial Information

Date	Offering	YTD Income	YTD Expenses	Difference
9/20	\$1,000	\$81,706.41	\$79,591.40	\$3,115.01
9/27	\$445	\$82,151.41	\$79,816.87	\$2,334.54
10/1/4	\$2,255	\$84,406.41	\$81,407.09	\$2,999.32
10/11	\$1,480	\$86,819.60	\$83,142.48	\$3,677.12

Prayer

Please Pray for
Victims of recent natural disasters
Becky Meredith
Ann Jones
Seldon & Peggy Carsey
Health Care Workers
Diane Morlock
Larry Ballard
Communities with COVID spikes

Continued Prayer for
Karen Adams
Patty Bienkowski
Paul Bomeli
David Ridgway
Sharon Shaffer
Tim Bomeli
Ruth Ann McCray

Shut ins
Carol Steiner

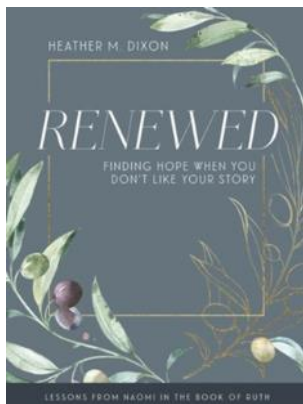
Missionaries & Ministers
Audrey Connor
Erin Mc Creight
Ernie Unholz

Need someone added to this list? Please write your request on the sheet in the foyer or e-mail the church office.

Women's Spiritual Study

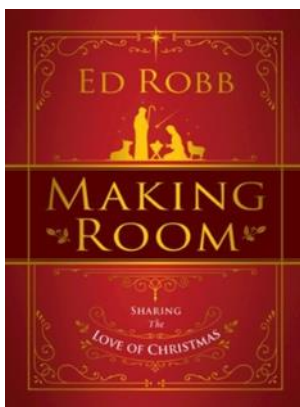
We continue to meet weekly at 11:00am via Zoom and would love to have more people join us.

On October 28 we will start our new study entitled "Renewed: Finding Hope When You Don't Like Your Story" by Heather M. Dixon. The author uses the book of Ruth and the character of Naomi in particular to help us understand how we can "flourish through a willingness to trust that God can transform [us] and trade [our] heartache[s] for hope"



at a time we want to rewrite our story. I've looked at the book in an E version and it involves some reading and writing each of the 4 weeks. The E book version is available on Amazon for \$10.66 and the book itself is \$14.99. The book version is also available from Cokesbury for about the same price with shipping.

We will not meet Nov. 25, the day before Thanksgiving. We will also take a break on December 30. and maybe Jan 6, 2021.



On December 2 we will start our Advent Book, Making Room: Sharing the Love of Christmas by Ed Robb. It is also available as an E book and from Cokesbury (\$11.99) or Amazon (16.99) or Kindle (\$9.99). "Dr. Ed Robb, author of *Making Room*, says if we look at the Advent story we'll quickly learn that the focus of the coming of the

newborn king is outward. This four-week study explores the warmth of welcome at Christmas following interactions with the Holy Family, the shepherds, and the magi. The story of Christ's birth encourages us to widen our borders and increase our sense of community—and make room for others." **This study will conclude on December 23, 2020.**

Come join us anytime!

Help Wanted

WORSHIP

We hope that you have been enjoying worship, whether in-person or online these past few months. While we have been working with a "skeleton" crew, those who have been helping are in need of a break. We are looking for a few folks to help with sound and the presentation/video. If you would like to help out, please email Pastor Matt at fccpastor@bgfcc.org.

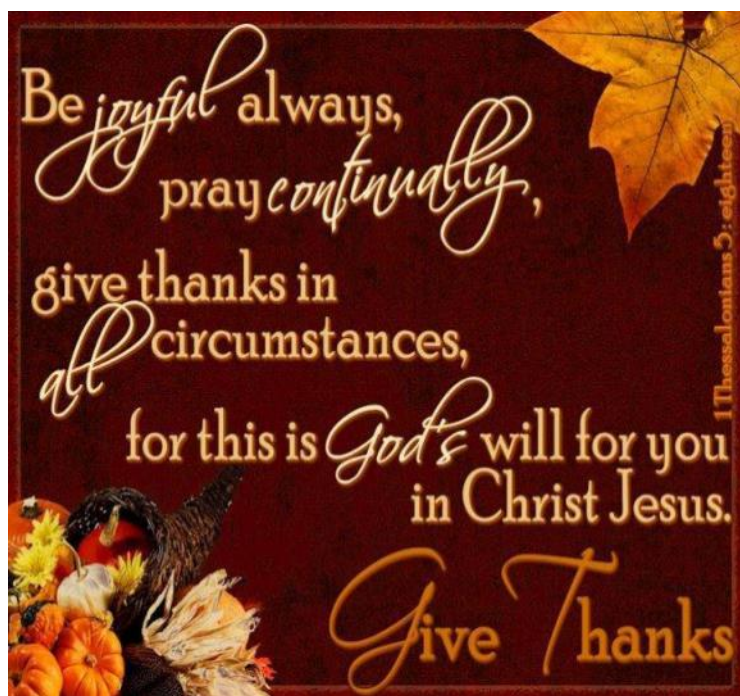
ADVENT READERS

As Advent approaches, the worship planning team has put together a wonderful worship experience with the help of BRIM, a worship planning team co-founded by two Disciples ministers. To help with our Advent worship, we are looking for people who would be willing to record readings for the lighting of the Advent candles. Readers can either record their readings themselves, preferable on video, or at the church in planned sessions. If you would like to participate, please email Pastor Matt at fccpastor@bgfcc.org or Pat Koehler at prkoehler730@gmail.com.



Thank you to the church family for their cards, thoughts, and well wishes for the recovery from my extensive surgery on August 7 and August 13. It has been a rough ordeal and we appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Ron & Diane Morlock



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN, OH

BOARD MEETING, October 8, 2020

The October 8, 2020 church board meeting of First Christian Church was held as a virtual meeting and was called to order by Moderator, Don Scherer at 7:30 pm. Present were Pastor Matt Every, and members Don and Char Scherer, Ruth Maltby, Steve Riewaldt and Pat Koehler.

Moderator Don Scherer opened the meeting at 7:30 with prayer. Pastor Matt presented a devotional from a book called *Liberating Love* based on Daniel 9:18-19.

Church Business

Minutes: The Minutes of May 14, suspended to May 18 and suspended to June 1 were approved on a motion by Char Scherer, second by Pat Koehler. All yes. This meeting was given to completing the updates for the Constitution and By-Laws of the church. The minutes of August 13 were approved on a motion by Char Scherer, second by Pat Koehler. All yes. The minutes of September 10 will be amended to include Personnel Report and presented at the November board meeting.

Treasurer's Report: A phone report was given by Sid Sink who provided an update of income to date of \$84,406 and expenses to date of \$81,407. The 2021 budget is due to be reviewed and presented at the November board meeting. With the continuing pandemic Sid and the finance committee are recommending that the budget remain at the level of 2020 with evaluation and changes made as needed.

Don suggested that we incorporate a stewardship budget into planning for next year which includes use of the building and use of volunteers as well as financial. Matt will meet with Sid to discuss a "Stewardship Narrative Budget". Sid will relay the concept to the Finance Committee and it will be discussed at the Elder's meeting on October 18 as well.

Property Committee: Steve Riewaldt reported that property has completed several projects within the church and will have a tree removed.

Men's Group: Due to the pandemic, the men's group did not have the major parking fundraiser for the year. With \$4,400 estimated that remains in their fund, they still expect to be able to continue the Christmas giving to support two families, the Salvation Army, Food Pantry, Cherry Street Mission and Camp Christian, estimated to be \$1,500.

Worship Committee: Pastor Matt wrote an article for the October newsletter and will follow-up with an email to the congregation reminding them of the October 18 deadline to provide information for the Service of Remembrance on November 1. The service will be videotaped. Pat will contact the four members who passed last year for photos to include in the service. The committee reviewed the *Brim Project* designed by two DOC women for Advent during the pandemic. Entitled "An Unexpected Gift", the package includes many resources for worship needs with provision for in person, online or hybrid service models. Church decorating will be minimal this year.

Care Team Ministry: Matt has updated the church database that will be used to provide lists to callers. At a meeting this week, attendees reviewed the list which include all contacts currently being made by others and added their intent to call. Other callers and a card ministry will be added as this care team evolves. Char Scherer offered to provide cards and postage stamps when this card ministry is ready to begin.

Moderator: Don's report as delivered is attached "In the past month, I have tried to support both the "Food" ministry and the Building and Grounds Trustees' plan to focus their ongoing grounds work on the land west of the outdoor sign over to

the driveway east of the nursing home. In each of these efforts I have endeavored to be supportive of the efforts of others while developing means of making those efforts more ecologically sound.

1. Steve has contacted Marie Rogers about the development of the grounds. In her professional work, Marie has relied successfully on the expertise of the now-retired former head of the grounds department at BGSU. She has contacted him, which I think an excellent move. I told her that I have tables of perennial flowers arranged by height and blooming schedule that I can supply. She was also happy to know that funding may be available in support of the seed. I also told her that folks in Environmental Studies at BGSU have viewed student labor in support of such a planting to be a good learning opportunity. I can proceed with either or both of those whenever needed. Time to plan for a Spring 2021 start of that project is now short, and the channels for support for seeding are dissipating due to Corona and to the forest fires in the western U.S.

2. I organized a meeting with Mike and Betsy Solley to help me size up what share of the work of Martha's Kitchen it might be feasible for FCC to undertake. Given that the food would be packaged for carry-out, I organized the meeting around food supply and organization, labor supply and organization and prospects for using reusable materials. At the meeting we decided that our immediate focus should be on successfully hosting a drive-through Martha's Kitchen on November 13 and December 11, and leaving until then to tackle the question of how to incorporate reusable dinnerware into our planning.

3. Everywhere I go I hear people talk about the malaise in which they feel caught. In what I take to be a Christian approach, I look for paths out of our current fortune and unhappiness that bring us out ahead, rather than ones that acquiesce in minimizing our losses. How are we to be of good cheer? What does it mean to act in the joy Jesus has given us to steward? In pursuit of answering these questions constructively, I envision appointing a team to examine how our focus on local hunger presages a lay-mission-focused future for First Christian Church in a post-Covid world." Donald Scherer, Moderator of the Board, 8 October 2020

Personnel Committee: Claude phoned in a report. The committee has met and will be conducting an evaluation of staff which they expect to complete by November 3.

Prayer concerns: Larry Ballard is in the hospital for tests. Peggy and Seldon Carsey as they endure the frustration of not being able to visit in the nursing home. Diane Morlock, Don Scherer, Becky Meredith, Ed Reiter and Ruth Maltby as they all deal with various health issues.

Pastor Matt closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes by Pat Koehler, secretary pro-tem