

**First
Christian
Church
(Disciples of Christ)**

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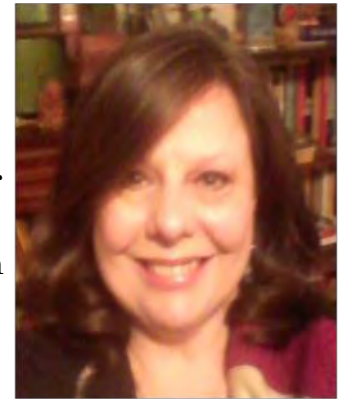
The Echo

Volume 17 Issue 2



REVEREND LISA KAY SMITH CALLED BY FCC

Exciting News! The Reverend Lisa K. Smith has accepted the call to be our new minister, effective March 1st. Her first Sunday in the pulpit will be March 5th and we will have our service of installation on March 12th. Lisa has degrees from Centre College and Lexington Theological Seminary. After working for several years in the mission field in Germany, she and her husband and son returned the U.S. She has most recently been Senior Pastor of a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in eastern Maryland. Thank you all for the prayers as we rejoice together and prepare for a new chapter in the life of our church.



Rev. Lisa K. Smith

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First Sunday Lunch Soup-er Bowl February 5 12-2pm



The church will have its annual Soup-er Bowl lunch on February 5 following church service. The deacons will provide soup and sandwiches. The deacons should sign up with Leeann Akers (cell 606-207-5095 or email lele.akers@gmail.com). Congregation members are encouraged to bring sides and desserts. The cost is free but please consider making a donation in the amount you would spend eating at a restaurant.

We hope everyone will come!



Many Hands – One Spirit

First Christian Church Member Jack Whidden



Have you ever wondered about how the sanctuary lights are maintained? The man in charge is Jack Whidden, a longtime member of the church. The chandeliers are beautiful and illuminate the sanctuary so well. But, what goes into maintaining them? Whoever designed the lights realized that getting up to the lights with a ladder would be difficult, so a small motor in the ceiling for each chandelier can be lowered with a key. The only problem with that is when a bulb burns out, it's difficult to tell after you have lowered it because there is no electrical connection. Answer? A long pole with a hook on the end is used to mark each light which is not burning, so that it can be identified.



The system is manufactured by Feit Electric Company. The name is pronounced with a long “i” so it sounds like “fight.” The system has been in place for over 40 years. Jack has been maintaining the system for last 6-8 years.

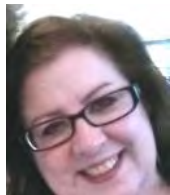


Lamp replacements are 25W bulbs which have a 5,600 hour lifetime. There are 144 bulbs in the chandeliers plus 40 bulbs in the back rooms, balcony, and foyer.

Jack’s ministry in maintaining the sanctuary lighting system helps the church in many ways.....he helps with purchasing and storing the bulbs, troubleshooting the system, and it brightens our services. Thank you, Jack, for your wisdom, knowledge, and dedication to the motorized lighting system and for modeling Christian service. He is now contemplating polishing the brass chandeliers.....!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Alana Scott

Some of you already know that this Southern girl struggles this time of year. Not so much with the cold, but with the gray, gray, gray. However, a recent conversation with one of my students has me pondering. He said that he pretends the views outside of his windows are like daguerreotypes—black and white with hints of color. Maybe I need to change my perspective. But the gray also seems to fit the season as we head into Lent. Even though Ash Wednesday is not until March 1st, let’s be in prayerful consideration of what Lent will mean this year as March 1st is also the first official day of our new pastor. We have some gray, with some hints of color!

On the Journey Together,

Alana

Firewood Ministry



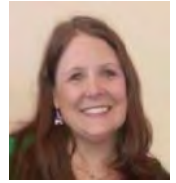
Bob Pryor will be leading a new Outreach project to help get firewood to those who need a little extra help. If you would like to have firewood delivered or are interested in helping with the woodcutting, please contact Bob (cell 804-779-2239 or email bobpryor46@gmail.com) or anyone on the Outreach Committee. We will have a date for the first woodcutting soon.

YOUTH GROUP



Chris Prichard

Greetings FCC family! The youth had a great time at our monthly meeting on January 29th. We would like to extend a special thanks to Darlene and David Perkins for providing lunch for our youth meeting.



Mary Claire Williams

During the month of February, the youth will be helping with an outreach need that the church Outreach Committee has helped identify in our community. Many of the elderly families in our community are in need of personal hygiene items (soap, shampoo, lotion, etc) and the youth will be collecting those things throughout the month to send items to several families. Youth members will be making announcements about this drive in the coming week during our Sunday morning services to provide the congregation with more detailed information.

Please keep in mind that there is still a need for children's church leaders in the coming months. If you (or you and a friend) would like to volunteer to work with our youth in this capacity, please let us know! It is the responsibility of the entire church family to help provide education to our youth and share our talents with them.

Our next youth meeting will take place on Sunday, February 26th. If you would like to volunteer to provide a meal for the youth, please let us know.

Peace & Love,

Chris Prichard & Mary Claire Williams, FCC Youth Co-Directors

CHOIR AND BELLS

I am very excited to tell you about an upcoming event that the music department is working on. The Taize community, located in France, is made up of over a hundred brothers, Catholics and from various Protestant backgrounds, coming from around thirty nations. By its very existence, the community is a "parable of community" that wants its life to be a sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and between separated peoples. When I was in high school, the brothers of Taize came to Dayton, Ohio and shared a week of services and prayer. My sister and I were fortunate enough to be able to attend this symposium and it left a lasting impression on us both.




Genny Jenkins

The Taize style of prayer is deeply intertwined with music and chant as meditation. Simple, but lovely, short refrains are sung in a repetitive manner with cantors and/or instrumental accompaniments. From Taize: "Singing is one of the most essential elements of worship. Short songs, repeated again and again, give it a meditative character. Using just a few words they express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God. It allows everyone to take part in a time of prayer together and to remain together in attentive waiting on God, without having to fix the length of time too exactly."

The choir and I, with help from Reverend Chase, have been preparing a Taize style prayer service for our congregation for anyone wishing to attend. This service will be an opportunity to come together for a time of prayer and reflection in a meditative and thoughtful way. Those attending may participate in the singing as much or as little as they wish and the ceremony will include prayers, scripture, and a Litany of Healing as well. The service will be held at 7:00pm on February 26 (the Sunday before Ash Wednesday) and will offer an opportunity for a centering of peace through prayer as we enter into the Lenten season. Genny Jenkins, Choir Director

We Hope It Won't Be Necessary....

If closing of the church is necessary due to inclement weather, we will contact WKYT (Channel 27—Lexington) to post the closing. Check the ticker scrolling across the bottom of the television screen  on WKYT and the CW Lexington.

~Thank You~

~To Mary Claire Williams for teaching Children's Church in January. FCC

~To the Congregation from Christian Care communities for partnering with them to enhance the journey of life for Older Adults and for our gift of \$181.41. James Patton Vice President

~To Brent Rogers for repairing the sign out front with rivets, a pop gun, and lots of force in a very cold environment. FCC

~To The Worship Committee for the s beautifully decorated sanctuary during Advent. (and the enormous task of putting it all away!!) Pictures on p. 6. FCC

~To David Perkins for providing a new computer system for the Treasurer and our financial needs and to David and Darlene for providing the youth lunch on January 29. FCC

St. Claire Regional Home Health Helps Spread Christmas Spirit

SCR home health staff run a "general store" that sells soft drinks, snacks, and T-shirts throughout the year. Profits from the store, along with staff donations, were used to purchase gifts and food for home health patients in need. SCR also **received some help from the members of the First Christian Church**, who donated 10 baskets of food and non-perishable items, providing Christmas dinner for many families. A typical example expressed from a patient and his family was "we weren't expecting much for Christmas this year, but thanks to your generosity, my two children were pleasantly surprised to wake up to the sight of their tree piled high with presents. I know two very happy kids," the patient said of his children. "They had no idea they would receive anything this year." "I wish all of you could have been there to witness the effect your love and thoughtfulness had on patients and their families," one of the field staff said.

Camp Wakon' Da-Ho!!!

Registration forms and info for this season of church camp, retreats, and work weekends have arrived in the office. (606-784-4836)

Thank You From the Outreach Committee

Outreach will Expand To Help to Others During the Year



Thanks to all for a successful Advent Season—gifts, food, clothes were delivered to 10 families (36 children) and 10 elderly households served by St. Claire Regional Home Health.



Now for our new year plans!! We would like to share with families transitioning from Gateway House Homeless Shelter to their own homes by furnishing a housewarming bundle each month February-November for a total of 10. There will be a sign up sheet for items we want to include. (Check the display and sign up sheet by the stone chalice.) You may choose the same item each month or different ones. Our hope is that these items will help them make their house "feel like home." Again thanks for being such a generous and loving congregation. Outreach Committee

February Birthdays

12- Brent Rogers 18- Alicia Carter
17- Glen Buckner 20- Norm Lytle
17- Betty Hall 24- Susan Thomas
18- Hedy Caldwell



Living Memorial Fund

In memory of

Ruth Seelig McMann
(Mike Seelig's aunt)

Fran Helphinstine

Living Memorial Fund

In memory of

Fyrl Perkins

Kenny & Betty Hall

Taize Prayer Service~February 26—7pm

Please join us for a prayer, scripture, music, and litany of healing service. The music emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from Psalms or other pieces of Scripture, repeated and also sung in canon.

Treasurer's Report

Income for first four Sundays
in January is \$8,474.55.
Expenses for January are \$5,753.15.

February Deacons

Brent Rogers, Connie Kibbey,
Mary Claire Williams, Chris Prichard,
Brenda Combs, Fran Helphinstine

February Elders

Feb. 5—Susan Thomas & Betty Hall
Feb. 12—Yvonne Baldwin & Larry Fannin
Feb. 19—Susan Thomas and Betty Hall
Feb. 26—Paul Semisch and Jami Hornbuckle

Joy

Genny Jenkins has received a two-year appointment to the Kentucky Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education.

COMING UP IN 2017

Sunday, January 29

-5th Sunday Offering.
-12-3:00pm: Youth Meeting

Sunday, February 5. 12-2:00pm: First Sunday Lunch Souper Bowl.

Sunday, February 19-26
Week of Compassion Offering.

Sunday, February 26
12-3:00pm: Youth Meeting
7:00pm: Taize Prayer Service

Monday, February 27—
6:15/6:30/7:00pm Executive/Outreach/Full Board Meetings

Wednesday, March 1—Ash Wednesday

Sunday, April 9—Palm Sunday



Week of Compassion

February 19-26 is a special outreach offering period for the Disciples' world relief, rehabilitation, and development ministries. Christ is present when you feed the hungry, care for the sick, welcome the stranger—you feed, and care for, and welcome Christ. When you give through Week of Compassion to those who suffer from natural disasters, war, or systemic poverty, you let them know: *You are there.*

Undie Sundays in February



We support the Rowan County Family Resource Centers in their need for new underwear for any accidents that may happen. This year the needs are a little different. They are needing men's medium, large, and XL boxer briefs and women's sizes 5 and 6 bikini cut undies. If you would like to help with this ministry, bins will be located at the doors for collection. Thank you! Outreach Committee



Christmas and Advent at FCC

Thank you to the Worship Committee.

IN & AROUND FCC



First Sunday Lunch

January 8

Thank you to Connie Kibbey.

First Christian Church - February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours 8:30-1:00pm Monday-Thursday						
						
5 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service 12-2 First Sunday Lunch	6	7 5:30 Yoga	8 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	9 5:30 Yoga	10 Office closed	11 
12 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service	13	14 Valentine's Day 5:30 Yoga 	15 Flag Day 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	16 5:30 Yoga	17 Office closed	18
19 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service	20 Presidents' Day	21 5:30 Yoga	22 5:30 Bells 7:00 Choir	23 5:30 Yoga	24 Office closed	25
26 9:45 Adult Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service 12-3 Youth Meeting 7:00 Taize Prayer Service	27 6:15/6:30/7:00 Executive/ Outreach/Full Board Meetings	28 Shrove Tuesday 5:30 Yoga	March 1 Ash Wednesday	2	3 	

**Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**

Donald Chase, Supply Minister
Genny Jenkins, Choir
Mary Claire Williams and
Chris Prichard, Youth
Barbara Marsh, Secretary
Sarah Chaney, Bell Choir
Kaitlyn Rhoden, Nursery
Darrin Roe, Custodian

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Lectionary Schedule

(Disciples of Christ Lectionary)

February 5—Matthew 5:13-20
February 12—Matthew 5:21-37
February 19—Matthew 5:38-48
February 26—Matthew 17:1-9



Thank you Jim Fred, for keeping the bird feeder full.



The berries and colorful leaves on this bush perk up the landscape. What is it?



Monarch Construction is in charge of renovation at Adron Doran University Center (ADUC), which will be doubled in size when completed.



Fields Hall (center) and Camden Carroll Library (right) will be obscured from the church view after ADUC is enlarged.



The renovation of the memorial brick portion of the meditation garden will resume in the spring.