



First
Christian
Church

faith · compassion · community

CALLER

116 E. Boyer St.
Wadsworth, OH 44281
(330) 336-6697
fccwadsworth.org

Revealing Christ by building lives of compassionate faith.

Pastor Sarah West, Senior Pastor

Pastor Shelby Baxter-Andrews, Associate Pastor/Director of Youth Ministries

**July
2023**

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Outdoor Worship

July 2, Aug. 6
10:00 am



Join your FCC family on the church lawn for fellowship and goodies each Sunday after worship.



Joint Worship with Trinity UCC August 6

Come worship with us outdoors on Sun., Aug. 6, in a joint worship service with our next door neighbors, Trinity UCC. Pastor Adam Marquette will be our preacher. What a joy it is to bear public witness to the Unity of the Body of Christ. This is a great service to invite friends to attend!

**August Caller
Deadline
- July 10 -**



Free Concert! Live Band! Great American Music!!!

Mon., July 3, 7:00 pm, on our front lawn! Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and enjoy a concert of blues, jazz, soul, and R&B led by Michael Fox. Our very own Julie Sedlovsky and Amos West will be on saxophone. Mark Gonder will be playing percussion. He is on the faculty at the University of Akron, a member of the Akron Faculty Jazz Group, has toured with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, and served as principal drummer for the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, and many other jazz groups, and has participated in many recording sessions. Billy Joe Wiseman will be on guitar. Billy Joe is an award-winning independent performer, session guitarist, and Guitar Chair for the Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra and Hilton Hotels. He has accompanied countless artists across the globe including Paula Abdul, Maynard Ferguson, Gladys Knight, Madonna and Tina Turner. He teaches privately in the Akron and surrounding area. Jake Darida will be on bass. Jake plays for the University of Akron's Jazz Band and the Blue and Gold Brass basketball band. He is studying computer science at the University of Akron and will be graduating in spring 2024.

Then stay and watch the Wadsworth City's fireworks! Invite your friends! Bring a lawn chair or a blanket. Free popcorn!



School Supply Collection for Salvation Army

Our Backpack and Back to School Supplies frame is set up in the Gathering Area in the month of July. We will take your donations to the Salvation Army, where they will be packaged for distribution to students in need, in early August.



All Church Softball Game and Pot Luck Picnic

Sunday, August 6 ~ Valley View Park
Picnic 1:00-2:00 pm
Ball game 2:00-4:00 pm

Join us for an afternoon of food, fun and fellowship.

We will start this year's game day with a pot luck picnic in the pavilion at Valley View Park...all are welcome!!

Following lunch, it will be time to play ball!! **ALL** church family members of all ages will head over to the ball field for some good competition. Spectators can cheer on their favorite team and players.

Sign-ups begin mid-July and all you will need to bring for the softball game is your mitt and your competitive spirit.

Mark your calendars and watch for more details!

General Assembly July 28 - August 1

Pastor Sarah and Pastor Shelby will be attending the General Assembly of the CC(DOC) in Louisville, KY. To learn more about the business items that will come before the Assembly go to: <https://ga.disciples.org/business/>

For a schedule of events to go: <https://cdn.ga.disciples.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/02131349/GA2023-Order-of-Business.pdf>

Musings From the Minister

Summer Sermon Series The Kindom of God Among Us, Within Us

Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, "The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed, nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you." - Luke 17:20-21

The theme for the 2023 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is "Kindom of God: Within Us, Among Us." As Rev. Yvonne Gilmore, Associate General Minister wrote: 'Kindom' is not a spelling error or a replacement for the word kingdom. It's a way of connecting the "kin" that God makes and expanding our imagination about Jesus."

Origin of the term "kin-dom"

As the story goes, theologian Ada María Isasi-Díaz was visiting her friend, a Franciscan nun named Georgene Wilson, when she first heard the phrase "kin-dom of God". Isasi-Díaz, herself a former Ursuline, would go on to use the phrase in her scholarly work, and from there it disseminated into public theological discussions.

In her article for The Way written in 2001, Isasi-Díaz reflected on how love of God and love of neighbor drove her ministry and her scholarship.

"The love God has for me expresses itself passionately in the way it demands me to love others, and to love in a very special way those who are poor and oppressed." This love took her to a men's prison in New York, where some of the men had read her work and wanted to meet with her. One of the men told her "in coming here, you have made a reality what you say in this article about kindom of God."

True love, God's love, taught her that the prisoner was her brother, her kin. True love, God's love, taught her that God's presence amongst us broke down barriers rather than erected them. True love, God's love, is the root of the idea of Kin-dom.

In the six weeks leading up to this year's General Assembly we will be exploring this theme of the "Kindom of God: Within Us, Among Us".

"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1)

Pastor Sarah

Dear Church Family

Our family thanks you so much for all the cards and kind words sent after the death of our father, Robert Mooney. We can't thank all who set up the luncheon, helped to serve, and then cleaned up! It was such a tremendous help! We also want to thank Pastor Sarah for her visit to Coalridge and the beautiful scripture, prayers, and blessings during his last hours. The comfort she gave was beyond measure. Bob and Pat Mooney, Jess and Dom Accordino, and the girls, and Beth, Tom, Jackson, and Madeline Kovacevich.

Board News

Sharon Wright, Board Clerk

Highlights of the May 9 Board Meeting:

There were 17 Board members, 3 staff, and 1 guest present.

The Board approved the following motions:

- Outreach Committee: \$200 from Legacy Foundation current ministry outreach funds to Habitat for Humanity; permission to hold a garage sale May 30, 31, and June 1 with proceeds to be split three ways for youth programming, Helping Haitians in Need, and the general fund for undesignated distribution; permission to hold a Back to School fundraiser in July for the Wadsworth Salvation Army; permission to hold a Bucket Brigade fundraiser in September to benefit Church World Service/Month of Compassion; permission to hold the Nancy Hachat Memorial Pancake Breakfast fundraiser with free-will donations going to the Salvation Army; to allocate the first quarter outreach funds of \$8,626 to: Camp Christian - \$1,726; Children's Center of Medina County - \$200; Cleveland Christian Home - \$300; Commission Minister Network (formally CTEN) - \$500; Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance - \$200; Feeding Medina County - \$2,000; FISH - \$500; Free Clinic of Medina County - \$500; Grace House - \$300; Habitat for Humanity of Medina County - \$400; Helping Haitians in Need - \$800; Marian's Closet - \$400; Wadsworth Salvation Army - \$800.
- Nominating Committee: to nominate Kevin Kalina to fill the remainder of John Wise's term as Trustee, ending January 2024.
- Garden Group: Contract with McComas Landscaping, Inc., to install much and edge beds for the sum of \$3,075.

Copies of the Board Minutes are available in the office.

Official Board is on Summer Recess

Next official Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 12, 7:00 pm

FCC News Brief

Death

Greg Stricklen
Bill DeHart

June 4
June 9

Funeral

Greg Stricklen

June 12

Sympathies to Cathy Stricklen, Brittany Stricklen-Hillyard, David Hillyard, Benjamin Stricklen, Bethany Stricklen and Scott Hager, Harrison and Elsie Hillyard, and Betty Sweet on the death of their husband, father, grandfather, and son-in-law, Greg Stricklen, June 4.

Sympathies to the family and friends of Bill DeHart who passed away June 9.

Our Call to Mission

"The only thing that counts is faith working through love." - Galatians 5:6

Treasurer's Report

General Fund as of May31, 2023
Submitted by Lisa Jones

GENERAL FUND CASH BALANCE

\$245,376.91

	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
CONTRIBUTIONS				
Offerings	\$28,072.65	\$214,533.36	\$199,193.75	\$478,065.00
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$22,778.93	\$115,253.96	\$139,463.75	\$334,713.00
Admin/Programs	9,468.00	41,884.62	40,979.95	98,352.00
Outreach	8,626.00	30,289.00	18,750.00	45,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$40,782.93	\$187,427.58	\$199,193.70	\$478,065.00

Thank You For Your Generosity

There are three ways you may continue to support the work of the church. You may submit your Offering by mailing it in, signing up for online giving on our webpage, or using the Givelify App. Contact the office for more information.



This month I am highlighting the Continuing Education for Pastors objective. This objective is lead by Roger Wright with Task Force members Karen Rule and Val Baughman.

In May, Pastor Sarah and Pastor Shelby attended the Festival of Homiletics in Minneapolis, MN. The conference was marketed as a "Summer Camp" for preachers and the in person attendance was capped at 1,200!

The theme was, "Preaching Hope for a Weary World" and covered topics from the pandemic, to protests, to gun violence, to politics, to wars, and climate change catastrophes. Our Pastors heard from preachers from diverse backgrounds, traditions, and ministry settings. They attended worship, master classes, and had fellowship with preaching colleagues from around the world.

Both Pastors submitted FCC Professional Development forms after returning which included reflection on what they took away from the conference and how it might impact their own preaching. These forms were shared with the Official Board, Elders, and the Visioning Committee and a hard copy is on file in the office for any congregation member to review upon request.

May we continue to love, support, and pray for our Pastors as they continue God's work and to grow in their preaching skills.

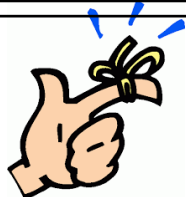
"I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."
(Jeremiah 3:15)

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,
Val Baughman, Visioning Committee Chair

Pop Tab Collection for Ronald McDonald House



Did you know that you can help Ronald McDonald House turn pop tabs into cash? By simply saving your pop tabs (or any other aluminum pull tab) you can help purchase items for the House that families can enjoy during their stay. Simply collect your pop tabs and drop them off in the container located on the Outreach Cabinet in the Gathering Area. This is an ongoing project.



Don't forget your offering
during the summer months.

Homebound Members Listing

An information sheet is located by the Registration Table in the Gathering Area for those interested in sending a card or a note to our homebound members.

First Men

Men of First Christian Church

Facebook Page: FCC First Men-First Christian Church, Wadsworth, Men's Ministry



Golf Outing

Sunday, August 20, 2:00 pm
Pine Valley Golf Course & Kaufman Farm

It's time for our annual golf scramble!

All men of the church are invited to play! Followed by a cookout at the Kaufman Family Farm. We NEED Golfers and all skill levels are welcome! \$25 per golfer (9 holes riding) paid at the course and a suggested donation of \$5 for food at the cookout after. Sign-ups will begin late-July.

Kick-Off Pig Roast/Barbecue

Sunday, September 17
1:00-4:00 pm
River Styx Park

The smoker will be fired up and ready for tail gating with the guys from FCC Wadsworth and Medina!

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the traditional corn hole battle, awesome food provided by Bill and Noah Bentley and help us prep for this year's schedule of First Men events.

We will be extending our invitation for this event to our community, so please invite your friends and others who would like to join us.



80+ Birthdays

Joan Acuff	7/04/35	Bob Henderson	7/16/42
Hal Saltz	7/05/40	Carol Elliott	7/21/41
Tom Simonds	7/13/43	John Grom	7/28/39
Bob Rasor	7/15/34		



50+ Anniversaries

Leslie & Dave Critchfield	7/08/72
Gayle & Sam Adair	7/26/69

July Event!

Thursday, July 20
12:00-2:00 pm
Pot Luck Picnic at the Kaufman Farm
Watch for more information!



Red Bag Item
Peanut Butter & Jelly



June's Red Bag suggested item was Beef Stew. Thank you to the donor of five large cans of Dinty Moore stew, shipped directly to FCC from Walmart. The carton was addressed to "First Bags", shortened from First Christian Church, Red Bags".

Our June Garage Sale proceeds approached \$4,000. One-third was sent to Helping Haitians in Need, and the remainder was divided between future youth programming, and Outreach. Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers who made the Garage Sale happen.

We are helping transport Weekender food bags to the Charles Parsons Administrative Building on Wednesdays for students' food insecurity. Parents who want their children to participate should call (330) 336-3571.

Come watch the City of Wadsworth fireworks on July 3 from our front yard on High Street. Elsewhere in this month's *Caller* is a story on our members who will share their musical talents producing Jazz, Blues, and R&B on our front steps earlier that evening. You will find food trucks downtown, but we will have popcorn and water out on the lawn.



Sunday Morning Worship

Summer Worship Hours
10:00 am

Outdoor Worship
July 2, August 6

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/FCCWadsworthMedia>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianChurchWadsworthOhio/>

WCTV Channel 17

Tuesday - 11:00 am, 5:00 pm, 9:00 pm
Wednesday - 8:00 am

July Dates to Remember

Find updated information regarding church events on the FCC Webpage, Facebook Page, and the Weekly Update sent out every Friday afternoon.

Daily

July 1	Sewing Sisters	9:00 am
July 3	Outdoor Concert	7:00 am
July 4	Office Closed	
July 7	Ice Cream Friday	4:30 pm
July 9-15	Chi Rho Camp	
July 13	Worship Comm Mtg	6:30 pm
July 16-22	CYF Camp	
July 20	J.O.Y. Fellowship Picnic	12:00 pm
July 28-31	General Assembly	

Food Drop Off Box

The FCC Food Drop Off Box is located by the Boyer Street entrance. Thank you to everyone who has been donating. Leave what will help, take what you need.



Check out the FCC Facebook page (First Christian Church, Wadsworth, Ohio). You will find pictures of current activities, links to Regional and National Disciple events, and links to WCTV programming of our Sunday and Special Services. Make sure you "share" with others.

Campers Love Mail!

Send mail to our kids & youth who will be attending Camp Christian during the month of July. Chi Rho - July 9-15 and CYF - July 16-22. The list of campers and camp address is available in the office.

Flower Calendar

Interested in purchasing a flower arrangement that will be placed on the Chancel during worship? The Flower Calendar is available at the Welcome Center. Cost per flower is \$20.

Office Hours

9:00 am - 4:00 pm ~ Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
Closed Wednesday
9:00 am - 1:00 pm ~ Friday



Follow Us!
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FCC CALLER

First Christian Church
116 E. Boyer Street
Wadsworth, OH 44281

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Wadsworth, OH 44281
Permit No. 5

Request in Home By July 1, 2023

Community News

Color Run Walk - Sat., Aug. 5, 10:00 am Registration, Race begins at Noon. Benefiting Francis House. For registration and more information call 330-472-6031 or: www.francishouserecovery.org



Due to increasing costs regarding postage, we will be discontinuing sending the *Caller* out monthly as a bulk mailing beginning with the October issue. Hard copies will be available in the Gathering Area for pickup. The *Caller* is available online on our webpage, on the weekly update, and is sent monthly as a separate email. Our

homebound members will continue to receive it by mail. If you would like to receive it through the mail, please contact the office at secretary@fccwadsworth.org or give us a call.

Volunteer Help Needed!

Help is needed with boxing, loading, unloading, and bagging of items for the Salvation Army Pop Up Drive-Thru Food Distributions. Volunteers arrive at 10:15 am and the distribution is held 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 19, and Dec. 8 at the Wadsworth Salvation Army location.