



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

**November  
2023**

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November 5

10:00 am ~ Combined Worship

Please plan to join us for this special worship service in which we remember the saints who have gone on to glory over the past year. It is our opportunity to give thanks for the lives of so many who have touched us and inspired us by their love and service. The service will include special music from our children and a candle lighting ceremony. Come bear witness to the light of Christ that dwells within each of us!



Make sure to set your clocks back on Sat., Nov. 4, so you are on time for worship on Nov. 5!



*Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35)*

November is the month we offer up our thanksgivings to God as we break bread around the table. It is also the time of year when we reflect on the gifts God has given us and dedicate a portion back to accomplish God's good work in the world. We invite you again this year to make a commitment to sharing your gifts of time, talent and treasure to further the work of God's kingdom by completing a **Commitment Card** and dropping it off to the church by **Thanksgiving Sunday November 19th**. An online option is

available here [\[Link to Form\]](#) or you can pick up a hard copy at the Welcome Center throughout the month of November. No dollar amounts are requested, just the faithful expression of gratitude towards our abundant Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer. **Through your gifts we can spread a table of compassion where all are fed.**

**God Widens the Narrow Door** (Luke 13: 22-30)

Rev. James D. Ross II, Southern New England Conference UCC

The frequent human inclination to operate as though resources and opportunities are scarce presents itself in the question of someone Jesus encountered during his journey to the Passover in Jerusalem. "Lord, will only a few be saved," the man asked.

Many scholars agree the man was someone who felt certain of his own salvation – whether because he was following the rules, because of his connection to the lineage of Abraham, or for other reasons. But how many would be saved along with him? Jesus responded with a parable about people arriving at a house for a party and being denied entry by the owners, who said they did not know the visitors, despite the visitors' claims of a friendship with them. The message, perhaps, is that none of us should assume that our connection to God is stronger or that our relationship with God is more special than that of anyone else.

Jesus follows the parable with the promise that far from "a few" being saved, "people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God."

Our God is one of abundance. Just as God welcomes people from all directions to the kingdom (and kindom) of God, so has God created the earth with enough resources for us all. We need only remember that everyone is deserving of them.

How is your stewardship reflected in this parable? Do you operate as though there is only enough for you, or do you model generosity and gratitude for God's provision?



**Sunday, November 19**

Christmas is such a special time of year - a time of celebration, family, and the birth of our Lord. With this in mind, you are invited to join us immediately after the Traditional Worship Service as we prepare the house of the Lord to celebrate His birth. There are jobs for every skill level, so everyone can help. A light lunch will be served as well. Sign up in the Gathering Area.

**December Caller  
Deadline  
- November 10 -**

## Musings From the Minister

### The Secret of Contentment

I read an interesting article recently which interviewed people living out the final decades of their lives. They were asked what advice they would give their younger selves. Many people responded by saying they wished they had spent less time worrying about achieving financial success and acquiring things and more quality time with the people in their lives. As a pastor, I have learned a tremendous amount from spending time with people at the end of their lives. Their perspective and wisdom has been an invaluable reminder to prioritize people over possessions, gratitude over regrets and love over everything else.

This Thanksgiving season, I invite all of us to take to heart this wisdom and ask ourselves, "What is the secret to contentment?" The apostle Paul, who endured great hardship and suffering, wrote the following in his letter to the people in Philippi,

*I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.* - Philippians 4:11-13

True contentment is rooted not in our external circumstances, but by abiding in Jesus Christ and learning to depend on his strength in times of abundance and in times of scarcity.

As I come to terms with my cancer diagnosis and upcoming treatments, I am having to face the reality of not being able to control my circumstances. This prospect is frankly maddening because I am a planner and a doer. But I am going to try my best to follow the wise teachings of my spiritual elders and turn to Christ as my source of strength, solace and joy. What a gift to find in Jesus, the Living Water, a never failing stream of life.

*Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' - John 4:14*

May we not wait until the end of our days to learn true contentment in the life-giving love of Jesus.

*Pastor Sarah*

### Abide With Us: An Advent Devotional

A daily devotional spanning the four weeks of Advent that helps us remember that our God is always with us every time, even in the most unlikely of places. Written by regional ministers of the CC (DOC) US and Canada. Sign up for the devotional in the Gathering Area, cost \$5. Additional resources are an Adult Coloring Book [\[link to book\]](#) and Faithful Families for Advent and Christmas: 100 ways to Make the Season Sacred [\[link to order\]](#).

### Worship Service Times Update!

Nov. 5 through Dec. 31  
Sunday School - 8:45 am  
Combined Worship Service - 10:00 am

## Board News

Sharon Wright, Board Clerk

### Highlights of the September 12, Board Meeting:

There were 21 Board members, 5 staff, and 1 guest present.

The Board approved the following motions:

- Outreach Committee : Camp Christian - \$572; Cleveland Christian Home - \$200; Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance - \$200; Feeding Medina County - \$1,000; FISH - \$500; Francis House Recovery - \$200; Free Clinic of Medina County - \$500; Helping Haitians in Need - \$800; Marian's Closet - \$400; The Garage - \$200; Wadsworth Salvation Army - \$500; \$2,000 donated by Betty Sandrock in memory of Lynn Sandrock be donated to Cleveland Christian Home.
- Jerry Ritzman: The "Golden Agers" special fund be retitled "Joy Fellowship" Fund.

Copies of the Board Minutes are available in the office.

### Next Official Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 7:00 pm  
Fellowship Hall & Zoom  
Everyone is welcome to attend!

### FCC News Brief

#### Death

Jim Rivers	Sept. 6
Ken Zorn	Oct. 19
Barb Jocoy	Oct. 20

#### Funeral

Jim Rivers	Oct. 14
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### Dear Church Family

Dear FCC family, I want to thank you for all of your lovely cards and gifts for pastor appreciation month as well as in response to my cancer diagnosis. The expressions of encouragement, sincere prayers and loving support have been a daily source of strength for me. I am incredibly grateful to be a member of this faith community that takes such good care of one another. With heartfelt appreciation, Pastor Sarah

Thank you so much to everyone who attended our baby shower or sent gifts or cards. We are so lucky to be loved and care for by such a wonderful and generous church family. Please keep us in your prayers as we embark on this new journey with Baby Baxter-Andrews!. With love and gratitude, Shelby and Patrick.

Heartfelt thanks to the congregation for their prayers, support, cards, and food during my recent hospital stay and recuperation. We are especially grateful for Pastor Sarah's visits and phone call. Blessings ... Dean and Nanci Sullivan

### Notes About Folks

Congratulations to Dominic Boarman who was named Student of the Month at Central Intermediate School.

# Our Call to Mission

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

## Treasurer's Report

General Fund as of September 30, 2023

Submitted by Lisa Jones

### GENERAL FUND CASH BALANCE

**\$224,305.22**

	<b>CURRENT MONTH</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE BUDGET</b>	<b>ANNUAL BUDGET</b>
<b><u>CONTRIBUTIONS</u></b>				
Offerings	\$23,985.40	\$326,117.71	\$358,548.84	\$478,065.00
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>				
Personnel	\$28,152.59	\$217,194.76	\$251,034.75	\$334,713.00
Admin/Programs	4,088.12	63,292.87	73,763.91	98,352.00
Outreach	5,072.00	42,966.75	33,750.00	45,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$37,312.71</b>	<b>\$323,454.38</b>	<b>\$358,548.66</b>	<b>\$478,065.00</b>



I want to share some completed Visibility accomplishments and some projects that are in the works for the near future.

A First Christian Church engraved paver was purchased to support the construction of a 9/11 Memorial and a Safety Town Village behind the new Fire Station on College Street. What a great way to support the long standing community Safety Town and to honor and remember those lost on 9/11.

Also, FCC will be one of the stops in the Grizzly Pedal Company bike tour as they visit all the churches in downtown Wadsworth to learn more about the church history, our beliefs, architecture, and what is unique about our church.

Be on the lookout for new church banners and seasonal banners to grace the front of our church soon.

And "YES!", what we have all been waiting for, new FCC t-shirts and polo shirts are in the works with the help of Bridget Tomblin, Claire Wilson, Pastor Sarah, and the Visibility and Media Marketing leaders Kirt Virgin and Roger Wright. And making a comeback, the popular quarter zip FCC embroidered blue sweatshirts will be available to purchase soon for those colder Ohio days. What a great way to show support for our church and look stylish!

Please continue to keep all the Visioning Objective Task Force teams in your prayers. Great things are happening at FCC!!

"I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."

(Psalm 9:1)

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Val Baughman, Visioning Chair

## Chairman's Minute

A few weeks ago, I was invited to attend a Saturday Night worship service at a growing church in Mansfield, OH. Since I'm always up for an adventure, I made the one-hour drive, shared a cup of coffee with one of their pastors and settled in with my notepad for a rousing sermon. What stuck with me was the preacher's statement, "Embrace the Opportunity instead of Cursing the Change". What he was saying is that this world is changing...and we can either complain about it, or we can look for the new doors of opportunity that are opening every day.

When it comes to the Word of God, I am not one who is willing to let today's fluctuating culture influence my belief and understanding. However, I'm humble enough to know that I may need to adjust my approach to reach people who need to hear the gospel message.

So, as we enter this season of Thanksgiving, let's embrace the opportunity to share our faith, tell our stories and let people know how we came to our faith. Let people know that it is through our personal relationship with Jesus Christ that we experience a joy that allows us to face the challenges and endure the change that sometimes seem insurmountable.

I invite you to connect with me as you are so called at 330-416-1232 or [kkaufman@fccwadsworth.org](mailto:kkaufman@fccwadsworth.org). Yours in Christ, Kevin Kaufman, Board Chair. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.



## Child and Family

MINISTRIES

**Keyshia Beverly**, Director  
kbeverly@fccwadsworth.org

### Dates to Remember

November 5

All Saints' Sunday - Children's  
Choir singing during Worship!

November 19

Hanging of the Greens

## Welcome to Our New Child Care Worker

Welcome to Our New Child Care Worker, Kala Perry. Kala will provide care for our children ages 0-Preschool during Contemporary Worship, Sunday School, and Traditional worship services in Room 100.

### God's Kids Club (GKC)

If you are in **K- 5th grade** you will want to be part of God's Kids Club! We meet in Room 102 during the Sunday School hour four times this school year (see church calendar). What do we do?? Well, we meet to talk, do craft projects, and write letters to all the Homebound members of our church. We make sure that every month they receive a letter and a small handmade gift. It's a very important ministry and so we need every K-5th grader to join this very important group. If you are interested in joining GKC, please come!!

### Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF)

During this time of fellowship, kids participate in games or other fun activities to build relationships between their church peers.



### Make a Kid Smile!

It's that time of year again when purchasing a toy will brighten a child's Christmas. Our church family will be helping the Salvation Army's Angel Tree (Giving Tree) project collect gifts from children's Christmas wish lists. Our Angel Tree (Giving Tree) will be in the Library during November. It will be filled with gift tags with children's most wished for items. Pick one or more, be sure to sign the registry, enjoy shopping for the item and return it, UNWRAPPED, by the due date. It's a great way to share the holiday spirit with our Wadsworth neighbors.



### 50+ Anniversaries

Amy & Al Mavity 11/23/62

### 80+ Birthdays

Lynn Slaby	11/04/38
Digger Thompson	11/05/33
Marilyn Slaby	11/19/39
Donna Moutes	11/20/41
Karen Wilson	11/30/43



New FCC shirt sales will start Nov. 1! Check out the shirt choices, sizing, and pricing in the Gathering Area. The shirt sales will run from Nov. 1 - 26. Starting Nov. 1, go to [The Grizzly Shop](#) website and scroll down to the FCC link. Tap on the link and you will see all the shirts available, sizes, designs, and pricing.

Place your order and pay on their website. Not tech savvy like me?? You may visit Custom Sports Imprints in person to place your order starting Nov. 1. They are located at 238 High St., (just a stones throw from FCC). Hours are Mon., Wed., and Fri. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. All shirts will be delivered to FCC and distributed in mid December, just in time to give as a Christmas gift!! Questions can be answered at the Gathering Area display or contact Roger Wright (grillmaster57@gmail.com) or Val Baughman (gbaughman1@neo.rr.com).



### Salvation Army Bell Ringing Giant Eagle - inside

Sat., Dec. 2, 9:00 am - 8:00 pm

Contact Cathy Hall if you would like to volunteer.



### Babies Needed for Search

Contact Viv Lash if you know of a family that would be willing to let their baby participate in the 2023 Search for the Christ Child to be held on Fri., Dec. 1.

### Shelby's Maternity Leave

Shelby will be out on maternity leave until early January. In her absence, our wonderful volunteers will be taking over! Elevate, the Hangout, and fellowship events will still be going on as usual.



### SEARCH FOR THE CHRIST CHILD

Mark your calendars for Dec. 1 for our annual Search! Practices will be Nov. 12, 19, 26. Sign up now to volunteer or donate!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49AFAE2FA4FCC25-search4>



### CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 10, from 6-8 pm, all 6th-12th graders are invited to a night of food and fun for our annual Christmas party! We'll have a gingerbread house contest, prizes, and reindeer games! Join us and bring a friend!

### SAVE THE DATE

12/16 - Parents Day Out (Youth Service Opportunity)  
1/15 - MLK Day of Service  
1/28 - Fellowship Event  
2/24-25 - Retreat @ Camp  
3/3 - Youth Sunday

# **First Men**

## **Men of First Christian Church**

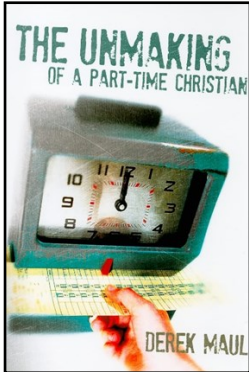
Facebook Page: FCC First Men-First Christian Church, Wadsworth, Men's Ministry

### **Men's Forum**

#### **The Unmaking of a Part-Time Christian**

Mondays 7:00-8:00 pm

Chalice Room



Join us this fall as we get together as guys over a cup of coffee to form some REAL bonds and get to know each other and our God a little better.

We will be working through another great inspirational study by Derek Maul, who speaks to us from the heart about his own journey to become "a true Jesus follower in a post-Christian world."

The schedule for November is:

Nov. 6 - Holding the Ungraspable (Chapter 8)

Nov. 13 - Reversing Columbine (Chapter 9)

After Nov. 13 we will break for winter and pick up the concluding chapters in the Winter. We are also working to bring our author, Derek Maul, to Ohio to meet with us at our Winter Retreat program. Derek was planning to be at our fall kickoff, but was not able to be with us due to the passing of his mother the week of our event.

We want to make our small group grow...to be a place to invite others and build our faith...TOGETHER.

### **Men's Kickoff Supports Local Recovery Houses**

The First Men of FCC Wadsworth and Medina were pleased to be able to share the proceeds from our Men's Fall Kickoff Pig Roast held on Sept. 17, with important local charities. Checks for \$150 each were delivered to Francis House in Wadsworth and Cathy's House in Medina. These two organizations provide key housing and support for those dealing with addiction recovery.



### **All Church Euchre Tournament!**

Friday, November 10

7:00-9:30 pm

Fellowship Hall



All members and friends of FCC are invited to join us for an evening of strategy and fun as we compete for fabulous prizes in our All Church Euchre Tournament!

Our winners last January were Emily and Randy Kerstetter...they will need a good challenge if they are to retain their status as FCC champions!

Sign-up online or in the Gathering Area. Snacks will be provided. Donation: \$5



Salvation Army packs and distributes food bags the second Friday each month. November 10, volunteers may arrive at 10:15 am to help box, load, unload and bag items for the distribution that runs from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The Garage (<https://www.garagezoe.com/>) teen ministry is looking for volunteers to help connect with the teens who drop in at 126 N. Pardee Street. Speak with Laurie Beal (330-472-5063) to see how you can help Garage teens.

Habitat for Humanity is looking for volunteers whom their 'Aging in Place' coordinator might call upon to help elderly homeowners who turn to Habitat for help. Habitat's Medina County executive director Tom O'Connell says they are partnering with Medina County office of Older Adults. If you would like to help, contact Habitat for Humanity at (330) 722-4494, or [toconnell@medinahabitat.org](mailto:toconnell@medinahabitat.org). If you need help, contact (330) 723-9514.

## FCC Fills 40 Emergency Clean Up Buckets

We are a goal achieving congregation! Because of the generosity of FCC, our youth and their adult volunteers were able to pack 40 buckets with 15 different items that are needed for cleaning up after disasters. Cash donations that were received were used to purchase the remaining items on the Amazon wish list, and the last few items on the tags that were left. Even the \$120 shipping was covered by a donation. Thank you First Christian for your generosity!

The buckets were taken to a Disciples church in Massillon where they will be picked up and taken to the Church World Service warehouse in Elkhart, Indiana. From there they will be shipped out to wherever there is a need. Because they may be shipped by air, aerosol cans could not be accepted. Because of space limitations in the buckets, laundry detergent bottles larger than the ounces specified on the tags could not be accepted. When those items came in, they were donated to Wadsworth FISH, who was happy to receive them and distribute them to those in need in our community.



## Coffee Collection

The Haven of Rest in Akron needs coffee to serve the poor and homeless who come through their doors. A warm meal and a hot cup of coffee on a cold winter's day are a welcome beginning to the positive changes this ministry brings about in the lives of the destitute people they serve. We at First Christian Church can help the Haven of Rest with their mission by donating bags or cans of any brand of regular ground coffee. We will be collecting the coffee in the big yellow box in the Gathering Area through Sun., Nov. 5. Jesus said "whatever you do for one of these overlooked or ignored brother of mine, you do for me." (Matthew 25:40, The Message) Cash donations are not being collected for this Outreach project.

## Sunday Morning Worship

Regular Hours

Beginning Nov. 5 and continuing through Dec. 31

Sunday School - 8:45 am

Combined Worship - 10:00 am

YouTube

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

Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianChurchWadsworthOhio/)

[FirstChristianChurchWadsworthOhio/](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianChurchWadsworthOhio/)

WCTV Channel 17

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

Wednesday - 8:00 am

## Office Hours

9:00 am - 4:00 pm ~ Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

Closed Wednesday

9:00 am - 1:00 pm ~ Friday



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# FCC CALLER

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

Address Service Requested

## November Dates to Remember

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

### Weekly

Wed.	Chancel Choir Rhs	5:30 pm
"	Bells of FCC Rhs	7:00 pm
Thurs.	Worship Team Rhs	6:30 pm

### Daily

Nov. 4	Sewing Sisters	9:00 am
Nov. 5	<b>All Saints Sunday</b>	
"	<b>Combined Worship</b>	10:00 am
"	Red Bag Sunday	
"	Elevate	6:00 pm
Nov. 6	Men's Forum	7:00 pm
Nov. 7	Elders Mtg	7:00 pm
Nov. 10	All Church Euchre	7:00 pm
Nov. 12	Search Practice	6:00 pm
Nov. 13	Men's Forum	7:00 pm
Nov. 14	<b>Official Board Mtg</b>	7:00 pm
Nov. 19	Thanksgiving Sunday	
"	Hanging of The Greens	11:00 am
"	Search Practice	6:00 pm
Nov. 21	Outreach Comm	7:00 pm
Nov. 23	<b>Office Closed</b>	
Nov. 24	<b>Office Closed</b>	
Nov. 26	Search Practice	6:00 pm
Nov. 27	DEI - Casa Del Rio Fundraiser	

## Community News

**Trinity UCC Concert Series** - Piano Concert - Sun., Nov. 5, 4:00 pm. Featuring Maggie Johns. A free will offering will be collected.

**Veterans Day Breakfast and Program** - All veterans are invited to a program being held in your honor at Wadsworth High School, Fri., Nov. 10. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 am with the program to follow at 9:00 am.

**Community Thanksgiving Dinner** - The Wadsworth United Methodist Church will be sponsoring the 29th Annual Dinner, Nov. 23, 11:30 am. Volunteers are needed to bake a pie, carve, chauffeur, clean, cook, deliver take out, donate, greet, serve. Please call 330-336-6689 if you can volunteer.

## Christmas Services

Lessons and Carols

Dec. 17 ~ 10:00 am

Contemporary Christmas Eve ~ 5:00 pm

Traditional Christmas Eve ~ 7:00 pm

(Dec. 24 - Morning Worship will not be held)

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee Fundraiser

Mon., Nov. 27

Casa Del Rio

Pick up a flyer and join your church family at Casa Del Rio for some Mexican Food - take a break from the Thanksgiving leftovers. 20% of your total bill will go to the DEI Committee. Flyers available in the Gathering Area.

## Regional News

**Quarter Life Retreat** - Nov. 17-19, Camp Christian. "Connect and Grow" - Adults ages 25-45 (ish) are invited to spend the weekend connecting with one another, nurturing spiritual lives and discussing how "living life on your own terms" is important. Feel free to come and go as you please - staying the whole weekend is not required!

**Camp Christian Christmas Market & Celebration** - Sat., Dec. 2, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. Celebrate Christmas at Camp Christian with a fun-filled day of shopping featuring a wide variety of arts & craft vendors, small businesses, and yard sale booths.