



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

**April
2023**

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Easter Floral Cross

Flowers will be provided or you may bring your own!



**Watch for the VBS
"Giving Tree" (Rocket)
in the Gathering Area
Beginning April 3.
For supplies for VBS**

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.

**May Caller
Deadline
- April 10 -**

Palm Sunday - Baptism Sunday

April 2 ~ 10:00 am

Our annual Palm Sunday celebration will be a combined service this year. It will include baptisms as well as a palm processional by the children. As Jesus entered Jerusalem to shouts of "Hosanna!", we are invited to enter into Holy Week by gathering to worship the King of Kings and Lord of lords.

Maundy Thursday

April 6 ~ 7:00 pm

This contemplative service will focus on the events of the Upper Room and the **Last Supper**. It will include a dramatic reenactment of Jesus breaking bread with his disciples and washing their feet. Join us for an intimate worship experience with opportunities for reflection, song, and communion.

Good Friday

April 7 ~ 7:00 pm

Join us for a solemn evening service of **Tenebrae**. Take time to sit at the foot of the cross and meditate on the profound love of Jesus.

Easter Sunday

April 9 ~ 8:45 am and 11:15 am

Our joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection will take place during both services. We will once again have the **Easter Floral Cross** in the sanctuary. Flowers will be available on site, or you may bring a favorite of your own. After the services conclude, we will move the cross outdoors to the High Street steps. Come celebrate the most joyous day of the year!

Holy Humor Sunday

April 16 ~ 10:00 am

Join us for a combined service of joy and laughter as we continue our festive celebration of Easter! There will be cascarones and special take home goodies for all ages.

Church Chili Challenge

Saturday, April 15, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Fellowship Hall



Come sample our chili and soup offerings while the kids search the room in our scavenger hunt. All proceeds will go to Helping Haitians in Need.

Drop & Drive

Saturday, April 15, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Boyer Street Entrance



Receiving your donated personal care products and toiletries for families in need. We will share all donations with Marian's Closet (also requesting new or gently used towels and blankets), Francis House Recovery, and Haven of Rest. Drop off your items at the Boyer Street entrance, or come into Fellowship Hall to the Chalice Room. You will receive tokens for a couple tastings of chili/soup of your choice.

The Outreach sewing group made 25 microwave potato zipper pockets and soup bowl cozies, selling them for \$5.

BONUS

Shalom from Shelby

Spring is full of reminders of God's presence. The crocuses popping up in my yard, the cardinal that visits our bird feeder, and of course, the Easter season. It is a time of resurrection and new life, with hymns that remind us of the beauty of God's creation and the joy of our Risen Lord! And yet, it can be difficult to be an 'Easter People' in a world fraught with division and pain.

And so I wish to share with you this Easter blessing by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie in their new book, "The Lives We Actually Have".

"Oh God, I stretch out my hands to you
in this early Easter darkness.
I need you to pull me up
and set me on my feet again,
for I am weak and tired.

God, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Spirit, have mercy.

God, on that first Easter morning
while it was still dark,
one woman went alone to the tomb
to do what could be done to honor you,
though hope had drained away.

Two bright angels met her there, and then—
how is it possible?—
you were there, fully alive, beyond belief.

Blessed are we who stretch out our hands to you
in doubt and grief
in sickness of body and mind and spirit
our prayers not fully realized,
rejoicing...anyway.

For that is what makes us Easter people:
carrying forth the realized hope
of the Resurrected One,
singing our alleluias great and small,
while it is still dark.

Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia."

Shalom, Shelby

Special Thank Yous

On behalf of my entire family, I want to give a heartfelt "thank you" for my Mom's celebration of life. For me it was nice to return to the Church of my youth. Many fond memories of Phil Gould, Jim Singleton, and of course, Martha Everhard! I still read my bible that was presented to me on June 8, 1969! Thank you again for the beautiful service for my Mom. Sincerely, Jim Reynolds

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.

Board News

Sharon Wright, Board Clerk

Highlights of the February 14 Board Meeting:

There were 21 Board members, 2 staff, and 5 guests present.

The Board approved the following motions:

- Attendance of our pastors at the Festival of Homiletics Preaching Conference in Minneapolis, MN, May 15-18, 2023, as part of their professional growth and participation in the Visioning Continuing Education for Pastors Objective at an approximate cost of \$4,000 allocated from the Visioning Committee funds.
- Outreach Committee recommendations for 2022 4th qtr distributions as follows: Camp Christian - \$1,000; Cleveland Christian Home - \$500; Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance - \$417; Feeding Medina County - \$2,000; Free Clinic of Medina County - \$500; The Garage - \$200; Habitat for Humanity Medina County - \$500; Helping Haitians in Need - \$1,000; Marian's Closet - \$416; Wadsworth Salvation Army - \$750.

Next Official Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 11, 7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall & Zoom
Everyone is welcome to attend!

FCC News Brief

Deaths

Ray Landis	Mar. 1
Cathy Cramblett	Mar. 9
Billie Hilton	Mar. 23

Funeral

Ray Landis	Mar. 10
Cathy Cramblett	Mar. 16
Billie Hilton	Mar. 30

Sympathies to the family and friends of Ray Landis who passed away Mar. 1.

Sympathies to Bob and Nancy Heller, Jessica and Jaaron Alba, Justin, Lauren and Cameron Heller, Julia and Collin McCurry, and Josh Heller on the death of their mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Cathy Cramblett, Mar. 9.

Sympathies to Felicity, Ted, Claire, and Colin Wilson on the death of their mother and grandmother, Billie Hilton, Mar. 23

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.

Our Call to Mission

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

Treasurer's Report

General Fund as of January 31, 2023
Submitted by Lisa Jones

GENERAL FUND CASH BALANCE

\$232,557.41

	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
<u>CONTRIBUTIONS</u>				
Offerings	\$52,636.55	\$92,901.56	\$79,667.50	\$478,065.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Personnel	\$22,616.81	\$47,607.70	\$55,785.50	\$334,713.00
Admin/Programs	12,011.03	16,401.59	16,391.98	98,352.00
Outreach	14,606.00	14,606.00	7,500.00	45,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$49,233.84	\$78,615.29	\$79,677.48	\$478,065.00

Compassion total to date is \$25,835. Thank you!

Chairman's Minute

98 years of service to the community, the Firestone Park Christian Church in Akron held it's last worship service on October 22, 2022. The building and property will be sold and the proceeds designated to start a new church in Akron. You heard right...the proceeds will be used to start a new church in Akron. The obvious question I asked when I heard this was, why would a church close its doors and turn around and use the money to open a new church next door? The answer; it's easier to start a new church than revitalize an old church. My next question, why is that? Well, the reason it's easier to start a new church is that the founding members are excited! They're clear in their mission; they understand that everyone must be involved; they talk about their church among their friends and neighbors; their enthusiasm breeds enthusiasm and people want to come see what's going on! Older, established churches on the other hand, have history, traditions, programs and ways of thinking that often become obstacles to their founding mission to "go and make disciples". Does that mean that older churches can't survive? Absolutely not! FCC-Wadsworth is quickly approaching it's 200th anniversary and its success through the years has been tied to a willingness to embrace our history; celebrate God's lordship in our lives; and stay focused on loving our neighbors more than we love ourselves. Throughout our history, we've remained relevant because we've never been afraid to adjust our approach to meet the needs of a hurting world.

A passion for individual reflection and sincere sharing of the love of Jesus Christ is the tradition that sustains us. Your role as part of this congregation is to find something you're excited about that supports God's vision and mission for this church; get involved and; go tell it on the mountain so your enthusiasm leads people to Christ through this church. If you need help finding that passion, come see me or Pastor Sarah or Pastor Shelby. We'll see if we can't light a fire!

I invite you to connect with me as you are so called at 330-416-1232 or 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.



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.

The Christian Church in Ohio publishes a Buckeye Disciple Newsletter in electronic format. You can read or download a copy at <http://www.ccinoh.com> and use the drop-down menu ABOUT US and click on publications.



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.

First Men

Men of First Christian Church

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

In God's Image

*What the New Testament
Teaches about Being a Man*



Derek Maul

Men's Forum - In God's Image

Monday, April 3, 7:00-8:00 pm ~ Chalice Room

We will meet one more time on April 3 to wrap up our 8-week study by Derek Maul. We will talk about Chapter 8, Courage, and what we may want to do next as a group. All are welcome...even if you have not been able to be part of the prior weeks.



Men's Breakfast Gathering a Success!

We had a nice group of 15 guys gather on Sat., Mar. 25, for the traditional Lenten Pancake breakfast. We enjoyed good food and fellowship and then spent a little time exploring the topic of Honesty and Integrity from the perspective of author Derek Maul (Chapter 6 of In God's Image) who we are following in our Men's Forum meetings. Thanks to Dan Sondles, Rolando Monterroso, Michael Fox, Ken Dye, and Chris Jones for preparing the food.



All Ohio Disciples Men Retreat and Camp Christian All-Regional Church Workday

**Friday Night, May 5 (7:00 pm) - Saturday, May 6
Camp Christian**

On Friday, we will have an opening worship and then hear our speaker, **Rev. Michael Doerr**. Michael is presently the Pastor at First Christian Church in Wauseon. He has a heart for God and for men's ministry.

Saturday will begin with breakfast and worship followed by work around Camp Christian to get the camp ready for the camping season.

More details will be coming. We look forward to seeing all of Ohio's men.

Just Older Youth

Each month I am going to highlight one of the objectives from our FCC Vision Plan. This month we are looking at the progress of the J.O.Y. Fellowship objective.

J.O.Y. stands for - **J**-ust **O**-lder **Y**-outh, replacing the names of Golden Agers or anything Senior. After all, "A heart that loves is always young."

The J.O.Y. Fellowship is led by Kirt Virgin and Jerry Ritzman and with Task Force Members - Milissa Bachtel, Cindy Farver, Pat and Rich Hudgins, Pat Neal, Zig Novak, Pat Rathmell, Sandy Ross, Natalie Sydorenko, and Leanne Virgin.

This Task Force Team had a brainstorming session on March 6 and created a list of possible events, activities, and outings for the coming year.

They are starting it off with a "J.O.Y. Fellowship Kick Off Kookout." Yes, you read that right, Kookout! It will be Thurs., April 13, at Jerry and Susan Ritzman's house, (2670 Stewart Dr., Rittman), at Noon.

Please plan on attending and help, "Own the Vision Together."

Yours in Christ, Val Baughman

J.O.Y. 80+ Birthdays

Sally Porter	4/10/42
Bob Gerberich	4/11/37
Martha Everhard	4/26/30
Lois Garman	4/27/31
Amy Mavity	4/28/41

50+ Anniversaries

Nancy & Jim Noe	4/07/61
Judy & Chuck Pfeister	4/10/65



END-OF-YEAR BANQUET

All 6th-12th graders and their families are invited to our end of the year banquet! We will celebrate our seniors, thank our volunteers, and enjoy a meal together. The banquet will take place May 14th after second service. Parent volunteers needed to help prepare and serve lunch!

URBAN PLUNGE

All rising 6th graders through graduated seniors are invited to join us for our second annual Urban Plunge mission week, June 5-9! Save the date and tell your friends!



YOUTH GROUP

All youth (6th-12th grade) are now invited to participate in our weekly youth group and dinner on Sunday nights from 6-8 pm.



CHI RHO

FCC will be attending Chi Rho camp from June 18-24.

The alternate dates are July 9-15.

Registration is open! See your email or the camp website for more information.

CYF

FCC will be attending CYF camp from July 16-22.

The alternate dates are June 18-24.

Youth Sunday





**Red Bag Item
Canned Meat**

Invite a friend!



Church Chili Challenge and Drop & Drive

Saturday, April 15, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

This is a community event. We are inviting our Regional Elder, Trinity UCC next door, Francis House Recovery, and our immediate neighbors, specifically, and the community through our posting the event in the Medina County Event Calendar, WCTV, Wadsworth Community Radio, Wadsworth Post, and Medina Gazette, in addition to yard signs.

Come join us painting the administration building at Camp Christian May 15-18. Sleep free in the Monroe Lodge and returning painters pay \$60 for food for our four-day stay. If you have never painted with us, all your meals are 'comped', you pay nothing.

Habitat for Humanity of Medina County will host a fund-raiser at Williams on the Lake, 6:00 pm, May 17. More details can be found at: <https://medinahabitat.org/news-events>.

Cleveland Christian Home's Maureen Horton visited Outreach Committee in March and we will find a time for her to update the congregation during Worship this year. Their one annual fundraiser will be held June 26 at Shaker Heights Country Club. Details at: cchome.org/scramble

A BIG thank you to everyone who helped with Feeding Medina County on March 23!



**2023 VBS
Stellar "Shine Jesus' Light"
June 13-16
9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Launch kids on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. Stellar rockets kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's years of faith-building fun. Registration opens April 3. Please go to vbspro.events/p/041ebf to register, use the QR Code, or email jodymlc1@gmail.com for more information.



**It's that time again.....FCC Vacation Bible School
Come use your gifts to help children to "Shine Jesus' Light"
Many ways to help
June 13-16
9:00 am to Noon**

Sign-up on the VBS website: vbspro.events/p/041ebf
or email Jody Meager jodymlc1@gmail.com

Sunday Morning Worship

April 2
Palm Sunday - Baptism Sunday
Combined Worship
10:00 am

April 9
Easter Sunday
Contemporary - 8:45 am
Traditional - 11:15 am

April 16
Holy Humor Sunday
Combined Worship
10:00 am

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

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

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Wadsworth, OH 44281

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March 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

Wednesday		
Chancel Choir		5:30 pm
Bells of FCC		7:00 pm
Thursday		
Worship Team RhS		6:30 pm

Daily

April 1	Sewing Sisters	9:00 am
April 2	Palm Sunday - Baptism Sunday	
"	Combined Worship	10:00 am
"	Baptism Class Reception	11:00 am
"	Youth Group	6:00 pm
April 3	Men's Forum	7:00 pm
"	Lenten Book Study	7:00 pm
April 4	Elders Mtg	7:00 pm
April 5	Lenten Book Study	10:00 am
April 6	Maundy Thursday Service	7:00 pm
April 7	Good Friday Service	7:00 pm
April 9	Easter Sunday	
"	Contemporary Worship	8:45 am
"	Traditional Worship	11:15 am
April 11	Official Board Mtg	7:00 pm
April 15	Chili/Soup Challenge	11:00 am
"	Drop & Drive	11:00 am
April 16	Holy Humor Sunday (Combined Worship)	10:00 am
"	Youth Fellowship	6:30 pm
April 18	Outreach Comm Mtg	7:00 pm
April 20	DEI Comm Mtg	7:00 pm
April 22	Wmn's Mnstry Wildflower Walk	10:00 am
April 23	Youth Group	6:00 pm
April 25	Wmn's Mnstry Mtg	7:00 pm
April 30	Youth Group	6:00 pm

Request in Home By April 1, 2023

Regional News

Lay Preaching Academy - "I Love to Tell the Story!" April 21 & 22 at Camp Christian. Topics to be covered: Public speaking basics, How to do the preparation, Where are the Resources, The modern style of preaching, African American Preaching, Challenges of a Female preacher, Using Multi Media, Learning from great preachers, and much more.

Community News

Cleveland Christian Home 33rd Annual Golf Scramble for Kids - Mon., June 26, Shaker Heights Country Club. For more information: cchome.org/scramble.

