



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

**August  
2023**

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## Outdoor Worship

Aug. 6 - 10:00 am



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

## Blessing of the Backpack!

**"God's Got Your Back!"**

Sunday, August 27

During Worship

All students and teachers bring your backpack in and please extend an invitation to your friends, teachers, and neighbors! We look forward to a safe, educational and inspirational school year!



## September Caller Deadline

- August 10 -



## Joint Worship with Trinity UCC

**August 6 ~ 10:00 am ~ FCC Lawn**

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!



## All Church Softball Game & 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-up on-line or in the Gathering Area.



# WELCOME



Welcome to Our New Director of Children and Family Ministries, Keyshia Beverly. Here is a little information that she would like to share: "Born and raised in Akron, Ohio, I grew up attending New Life Missionary Baptist Church with my late grandmother. I joined the U.S. Army in 2006 and finished my time in 2015 after two deployments to Iraq and many travels including a tour in Germany. In 2021, I moved back to Ohio from South Carolina with my daughters, McKenzie and Jade to be closer to family. I have worked as a Children's Ministry Leader and recently graduated with my Master's Degree in Divinity with a concentration in Spiritual Formation. I felt called to First Christian Church when I sat down with Pastor Sarah and the Church Committee. Everyone was so welcoming and the positive energy was amazing! I knew we found our Church Family. I am beyond excited and blessed to direct the Children's Ministry and to help bring and welcome new families to the church."

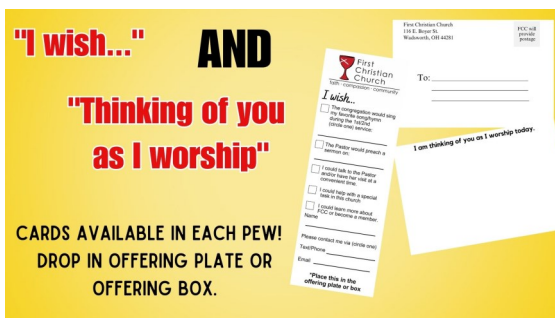
# Shalom from Shelby

This year at CYF (High School) Camp at Camp Christian, we talked about what it means to be a Christian, to be the church, and to be the Beloved Community. We, adults, got to hear the perspectives of our young people as they talked about what being a Christian meant to them and what they wanted for their churches.

It was no surprise to hear that they want our churches to be welcoming and inclusive of all people. They truly modeled the scripture **Colossians 3:12-17**: *Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

What an inspiration for the adults in the room! The good news is this: we are already a welcoming church. So how can we continue this good work? I am excited to see what this church has in store for the future. How can we grow and learn to be an even better version of ourselves? One way is to follow this scripture diligently. To be the Beloved Community is to love one another no matter what differences we may have. To love each other through the hard times and conversations. So let us love the way that our youth demonstrate... by clothing ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Shalom, Shelby



## "I Wish" and "Thinking of You" Cards

The cards are available in all of the pews. Fill out the cards, place them in the Offering Plate or Offering Box and the office will handle the distribution. This is the first of several recommendations the Welcome and Integration Task Force is implementing as part of the Visioning Process. Feedback to any of the task force members would be appreciated: Amy Benson, Michael Fox, Tanya Keaton, Vivian Lash, Diane Pels, Karol Tucker, Karen Wilson, and Lucy and Dan Sondles.

## Board News

Sharon Wright, Board Clerk

### Official Board is on Summer Recess

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

### FCC News Brief

#### New Member

Confession of Faith and Baptism  
Kayla Bowles

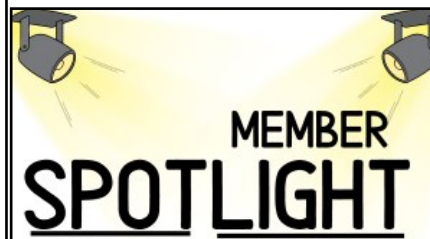
July 23

#### Death

Linda Woodward

June 26

**Sympathies to** John Woodward and family on the death of his wife, Linda.



Hi FCC members! We are the Sedlovsky Family: Andrew, Julie, Sebastian (6 yrs. old) and Cecilia (4 yrs. old). Andrew is a software engineer and Julie is a music teacher. Our family loves attending concerts and playing board games. We moved to Wadsworth around 3 years ago from the D.C. area. Our families live in Ohio so we decided to make the move back home. When looking for our church family, we knew right away FCC was the place for us. Everyone is so welcoming and the kids felt right at home! We appreciate the sense of community and how giving the church is. We are so grateful to be members here!

### Notes About Folks

Congratulations to Bradley Virgin for being selected as a member of Leadership Akron's Signature Class 40. Bradley is the Chief Financial Officer at United Way of Summit & Medina Counties.



Jim Rivers  
Story Point  
122 Medina Rd  
Room 34  
Medina, OH 44256

# Our Call to Mission

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

## Treasurer's Report

General Fund as of June 30, 2023

Submitted by Lisa Jones

<b>GENERAL FUND CASH BALANCE</b>		<b>\$243,626.45</b>		
	<b>CURRENT MONTH</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE BUDGET</b>	<b>ANNUAL BUDGET</b>
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b>				
Offerings	\$28,367.15	\$214,004.51	\$239,032.56	\$478,065.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Personnel	\$23,931.41	\$139,185.37	\$167,356.50	\$334,713.00
Admin/Programs	6,660.95	48,545.57	49,175.94	98,352.00
Outreach	-	30,289.00	22,500	45,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$30,592.36</b>	<b>\$218,019.94</b>	<b>\$239,032.44</b>	<b>\$478,065.00</b>



This month I am highlighting our Visioning Youth Programming objective. This objective is led by Pastor Shelby Baxter-Andrews with Task Force Team members Val Baughman, Chris Jones, and Amy Tuck.

This objective has Short, Intermediate, and Long Term goals. The Short Term goals completed are: 1. Enhance Youth Group (include 6th-8th graders in addition to 9th-12th graders, dinner every week, and extend Youth Group from 1 1/2 hours to 2 hours). 2. Increase Youth Fellowship Event Participation (invite 5th grade youth is completed, and bring a friend incentives and welcome/swag bags to newcomers are in the works as I write this). 3. Provide Youth Outreach Opportunities (Urban Plunge extended to a full week this past June and MLK Day of Service was done in January 2023).

This dedicated Task Force Team will continue to strategize and implement new ideas to increase youth participation and grow our youth ministries while also providing our youth with fun activities, meaningful worship, and compassionate outreach opportunities.

"O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds."

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,  
Val Baughman, Visioning Chair

## FCC Yard Signs and T-shirts for Sale!

by Pastor Sarah

I have been told on more than one occasion that FCC is one of Wadsworth's best kept secrets. Let's work together to get the word out so it isn't a secret any longer! People are hurting and need to know that there is a faith community who will welcome them. A group of Jesus followers that encourage people to come together across differences to spread compassion.

Starting in August you will be able to order an FCC yard sign to let people know that you are excited to be a part of FCC and building Faith, Compassion, and Community. You will also be able to order t-shirts with the same image and wording. Stay tuned for more information about how to place your order!



Rehearsals for Chancel Choir will be starting soon! Everyone is welcome to join in the fun. Wednesday evenings 5:30-6:45 pm in the Sanctuary. We will begin singing in worship in September. Watch for more details!



## Pastoral Sabbatical August 2023

What is a sabbatical?

An opportunity for pastors to step away from the persistent obligations of daily ministry and engage in a period of renewal and reflection. Renewal periods are not vacations but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for drinking again from God's life-giving waters, for regaining enthusiasm and creativity for ministry.

Why is it important?

Jesus modeled taking time for solitude, rest and prayer:

*The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. - Mark 6:30-31*

*But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray. - Luke 5:15-16*

What will the sabbatical consist of?

Intentional reflection and exploration of:

**Leadership Skills** development

- Meet with a Spiritual Director
- Explore Clifton Strengths Finder resources
- Read books on leadership (see list below)

**Preaching** development

- Reflect on what I learned at the Festival of Homiletics and work on developing my preaching skills
- Visit other worshipping communities in person and online to gain new ideas and spark creativity

**Rest and Spiritual Renewal**

- Extended time for prayer and scripture study
- Spend time in solitude
- Meet with a Spiritual Director

**Reinvest in the Relationships** that Sustain Me

- Spend intentional time with family
- Spend intentional time with friends

Who will cover responsibilities while I am away?

- Preaching - Pastor Shelby and guest preachers
- Pastoral Care - Pastor Shelby and Elders
- Oversight - Pastor Shelby, Elder Co-Chairs and Board Chair

<https://lillyendowment.org/for-grantseekers/renewal-programs/pastors/>





## Children and Family Ministries

Keyshia Beverly  
Director  
kbeverly@fccwadsworth.org



### Children's Christian Education Sunday School Teacher Meeting

Sunday, September 3  
11:30 am -1:00 pm

Children's Sunday School Teachers!! Mark your calendars for Sunday afternoon, Sept. 3, from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm. A light snack will be provided! This is an informational meeting to share the vision for the 2023-2024 Sunday School year, its goals and objectives. Following the meeting, we will walk through the classrooms and make sure we have all the supplies and Curriculum resources needed!

### 2023-2024 Sunday School Kick Off

Sunday School resumes on Sept. 10, at 10:00 am. Watch the September *Caller* for important information and highlights!

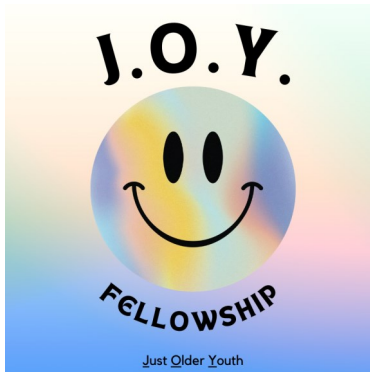
### 2023-2024 Sunday School

The Children's Christian Education Committee is so thankful for the dedication of the Children's Sunday School Teachers who will be teaching this coming school year!

**\*\*We are still in need of volunteers for Child Care!**

### Dates to Remember

August 27: Blessing of the Backpacks  
September 3: Sunday School Teacher Meeting  
September 10: Sunday School starts  
September 24: All Church Back to School BBQ  
October 1: 3rd Grade Bible Presentation



### 80+ Birthdays

Margie Morris	8/01/41
Esther Gruver	8/02/29
Oleta Yentz	8/10/32
Nancy Noe	8/15/43
Chuck Keach	8/16/40
Bev Barkley	8/21/40
Carol Sladky	8/23/41
Pat Andre	8/25/37
Ruth Darling	8/25/29
Sue Henderson	8/28/42

### 50+ Anniversaries

Lucy & Dan Sondles	8/04/73
Karen & Rick Rule	8/14/71
Karol & Terry Tucker	8/17/68
Eunice & Bill Oehlenschlager	8/19/61
Karen & Keith Longfield	8/23/69
Marcia & Keith Stubbendick	8/26/62
Karen & Bill Wilson	8/29/64



**Picnic at the Kaufman Farm!**

### URBAN PLUNGE

Urban Plunge was a blast! We worked at Haven of Rest, Marian's Closet, The Akron Canton Food Bank, and did VBS Setup! Thanks to all the youth and volunteers who joined us.



### ICE CREAM FRIDAYS

Join Pastor Shelby this summer on Fridays for a sweet, cool treat at Bidingers from 4:30-5:30pm. August 4, 11, 18, & 25.

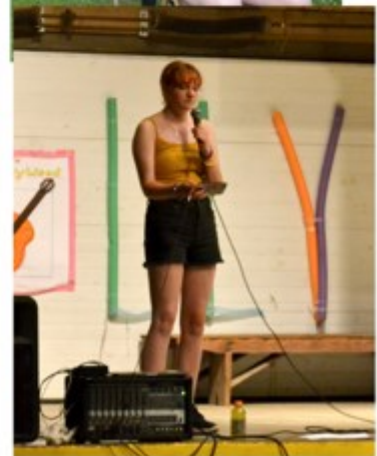


### FCC LOVES CAMP!

Our Chi Rho and CYF groups went to Camp Christian this June and July (and we had 1 Otter camper!) to experience the living God in new and exciting ways. Check out some pics from our various camps!







# ***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 guys of the church and friends 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-up on-line or in the Gathering Area.

### **Kick-Off BBQ**

Featuring Guest Speaker, Derek Maul

*What Do Men Need? (...and what has church got to do with it?)*

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 as well as others from the community!

We are excited to bring in a special guest speaker, **Derek Maul**, to talk with us about:

***"What Do Men Need? (...and what has church got to do with it?) – an honest conversation"***



Derek is a Men's Ministry Author and Journalist, who wrote the study materials we used during last year's Men's Forums: Get Real - A Spiritual Journey for Men and In God's Image - What the New Testament Teaches About Being a Man.

**Why bring Derek to Wadsworth?** Our guys who participated in the forum sessions last year were especially inspired by Derek's honest and authentic approach to his faith...especially as conveyed in his short YouTube videos which accompanied some of our sessions. As we were planning our events for the coming year, we thought, why not see if he would come to meet us. Several days later, he was fully on board and heading to Ohio to see us!

**Who is Derek Maul?** Derek was raised in England, then became a naturalized American after graduating from Stetson University in Florida (where he studied psychology, played soccer, and met his wife, Rebekah). Derek added a degree in education and became known for his innovative work with emotional disturbed and autistic children. As a Presbyterian pastor's spouse, Derek helped redefine and reinvigorate ministry to men. Eight books, countless articles, and a widely read blog have created a national platform to share his passion for life and for following Jesus. Derek also enjoys photography, cooking, travel with Rebekah, golf, and walking his 105-pound Retriever, Max. (You can follow him at [derekmaul.blog](http://derekmaul.blog).)

**Event Plan and Signup details:** Mark your calendars for this special event which will include awesome smoked meats & fixings prepared by Bill and Noah Bentley as well as our traditional corn hole challenge.

As we will be extending an invitation to other churches and our community to this event, please invite your friends and others who you think would like to join us. Be sure to sign up early as we will have limited space. Watch for information for sign-ups starting early August.

Donation for the event will be \$30 which we will collect at the event.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### **Men's Forum**

Mondays, September 18 through November 13 ~ 7:00-8:00 pm

Chalice Room & Medina Library

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 selecting our topic in the coming weeks. Watch for further updates.

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





**Red Bag Item  
Tuna & Tuna Helper**

Thank you to all who helped Feeding Medina County distribute food to 192 families at Art Wright Stadium, June 29. Outreach was the lead organization in March & June, but you can show and help on the third Thursday of any month to help Feeding Medina County 9:40 am - noon.



July 3, fireworks on the front lawn was a huge success, measured in popcorn consumed. We made stickers for the popcorn bags given away, reading "Pop-in on Sundays at 10." Thanks to Amy Tuck and Heather Errante for popping 33 packages of popcorn to produce over 600 bags we gave away to anyone passing by on High Street.

Thank you to all who brought school backpacks and supplies for Salvation Army's August distribution.

Trinity UCC next door will hold their annual yard sale August 4 & 5, in their Fellowship Hall.

Francis House Recovery's Color Run fundraiser begins at noon on August 5, at Northside Christian Church.

Would you be interested in helping the Salvation Army with a Pop-up Food Distribution on the second Friday of each month? At 10:15 am volunteers bag, box, load, unload, food items for the Salvation Army Pop-Up Food Distributions being held at the Wadsworth Salvation Army. Dates: Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, and Dec. 8. Volunteers please arrive at 10:15 am. Food Distribution runs from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

We continue to look for Outreach opportunities for family and youth, on weekends. The First Friday committee (sponsored by Main Street Wadsworth) needs volunteers each month to make First Fridays a success. You can participate one hour, one time, or monthly as your time and interest permit. If you learn of opportunities you think our congregation would like to support, please share you ideas. Details? contact dansondles@hotmail.com or text (330) 715-7751.



### August First Friday: Balloons Over Wadsworth featuring the American Legion Pig Roast

**Friday, August 4, 2023 • 5:30-8:00 p.m.**

Join Main Street Wadsworth and the downtown community for a night of family-friendly, summer fun!

- **City/Huntington parking lot:** Re/Max balloon, Radio Control Hot Air Balloons
- **American Legion:** Annual Pig Roast
- **CIS Parking Lot:** Wadsworth Community Band at 6:30 p.m., PNC Mobile Learning Adventure
- **Brush Tips Studio:** Hot Air Balloon Art Show in select businesses - vote for your favorite
- **Library:** Jammin' Jumpers & Kona Ice Truck
- **Trinity UCC:** Yard sale, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- **Great dining & shopping in downtown!**



RAIN OR SHINE: VISIT [FACEBOOK.COM/MAINSTREETWADSWORTH](https://www.facebook.com/mainstreetwadsworth) FOR EVENT UPDATES.



Collection will take place in September. Watch for more information!

Cleveland Christian Home's Maureen Horton joined us again, July 16, to thank First Christian Church for our congregation's continuous support and provide an update. She assured us that CCH is a stronger organization after joining with The Centers last October. CCH has been able to hire additional behavioral counseling staff, pay more to retain counseling staff, as well as update their century-old building.

Speaking with Maureen after Worship, Lynn Slaby shared that in his 13 years on the CCH board, starting in the 1990s, CCH has weathered many financial challenges.

Here are photos from Cleveland Christian Home brochure, Helping Families in Crisis for more than 120 Years, Maureen left for you. Pick up your copy at our Welcome Center.



## Sunday Morning Worship

Summer Worship Hours  
10:00 am

Outdoor Worship  
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

## August 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

Aug. 4	Ice Cream Friday	4:30 pm
Aug. 6	Red Bag Sunday	
"	Joint Worship Outdoors	10:00 am
"	Lemonade on the Lawn	11:00 am
"	All Church Pot Luck Picnic	1:00 pm
"	All Church Softball Game	2:00 pm
Aug. 8	Youth Leaders Mtg	6:30 pm
Aug. 11	Ice Cream Friday	4:30 pm
Aug. 18	Ice Cream Friday	4:30 pm
Aug. 20	FCC Men Golf Outing	2:00 pm
Aug. 25	Ice Cream Friday	4:30 pm

## Return to Regular Worship Hours

Sunday, September 10  
Contemporary Worship - 8:45 am  
Sunday School - 10:00 am  
Traditional Worship - 11:15 am



**All Church Barbecue!**  
**Sunday, September 24**  
**12:30 pm**

**Watch for more information!**

## 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.



Please remember to let the office know of any address change, email change, phone change. Thanks.

## Office Hours

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



**Follow Us!**  
**fccwadsworth**

## 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 August 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](http://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](mailto: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. Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 19, and Dec. 8 at the Wadsworth Salvation Army location.