



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

**January
2024**

WHAT'S INSIDE

Minister Musings	2
Board News	2
Stewardship	3
Chairman's Minute	3
Visioning	3
Child/Fam. Mnstry	4
FCC News Brief	4
Youth News	5
Women's Ministry	6
First Men	7
J.O.Y. Fellowship	7
Outreach	8
Search Pictures	9
Calendar	10

2023 Financial Contributions Statement

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2023 tax return until you have received written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church.

2024 Flower Calendar Available!

Stop at the Welcome Center to sign-up for flowers. The cost of each arrangement will be determined in January.

Drivers Needed

If you would be willing to drive church members to various appointments on an as needed basis, sign up at the Welcome Center or contact the church office.



Due in the
office!

Fri., Jan. 5!

**February Caller
Deadline**
- January 10 -

ANNUAL MEETING

Join us on Sunday, January 21, for our combined worship service at 10:00 am followed by the Annual Meeting and a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. The service and meeting will be livestreamed.



CHILI COOK-OFF

Specialty Chili/Soup Challenge

Saturday, January 6

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

Free-will offerings accepted to benefit The Garage, teen ministry (located at 126 N Pardee). You can be one of the 12 Chili/Soup offerings, or come enjoy a bowl or two and vote for the best of show.



All-Church Euchre Tournament!

Friday, January 19

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!

Watch for signups. Snacks will be provided. Donation: \$5



All Church Bowling Night!

Sunday, January 28

5:00-7:00 pm

Kolony Bowl ~ 456 College Street

A time for All Church Fellowship!

Bowling, snacks, and dinner will be provided! All Are Welcome!

Month of
Compassion

SILENT AUCTION!

February

Watch for details

Musings From the Minister

Keeping the Christmas Spirit Alive

This year's Christmas celebrations at our house were different than in years past. Usually we would watch all of our favorite holiday movies over the course of a few weeks. However, this year Cecilia did not arrive home until midnight on December 22nd and asked if we wouldn't mind waiting to watch some of them until then. Amos was not a fan, stating that as soon as Christmas morning came and went the festivities were over. Clark and I tried to remind him of the tradition of the 12 days of Christmas and how people for centuries didn't start their celebrations until Christmas Eve but then kept them going over the next twelve days. (I don't think this argument had much of an impact.)

To be fair, I understand where Amos is coming from. A big part of the joy of the Advent/Christmas season is the anticipation of what is to come. As a new advent candle is lit each week, as special concerts take place, as traditions unfold over the course of the month each one carries its own set of preparations and excitement. So after the Christmas Eve candles are extinguished, the gifts have been opened and the Christmas roast is consumed, what else is there to get excited about?

My goal for this year is to try to find ways to keep that Christmas spirit alive. That spirit of hopeful anticipation about what is to come. One of my favorite verses from Luke's gospel recounting the birth of Christ is Luke 2:19,

*"But Mary treasured all these words
and pondered them in her heart."*

Mary received the joyous account of the shepherds, their amazing encounter with the angels, and their hasty search for the Messiah and she "treasured" and "pondered" them. She had no idea of what would come to pass for this child, this Messiah, nor what would come to pass for her. But deep within her she held fast to that hopeful vision and meditated on what it could mean.

Perhaps the best way we can keep the anticipation and hope of Christmas alive is by holding fast to the Messiah's promises for us and for our world. And by devoting ourselves to figuring out what it means to call ourselves disciples of this Messiah. May we continue to ponder the mysteries of this greatest of treasures not just at Christmas but throughout the year.

Pastor Sarah

Board News

Sharon Wright, Board Clerk

Highlights of the November 14 Board Meeting:

There were 19 Board members, 4 staff, and 2 guests present.

The Board approved the following motions:

- Board Chair: Permission for Julie Sedlovsky to use Sanctuary for a piano recital for her students.
- Outreach Committee 3rd qtr Outreach distribution of \$4,663 as follows: Camp Christian - \$1,063; Cleveland Christian Home - \$200; Feeding Medina County - \$1,000; Wadsworth FISH - \$500; Free Clinic of Medina County - \$500; Helping Haitians in Need - \$400; Marian's Closet - \$200; The Garage Teen Ministry - \$200; Wadsworth Salvation Army - \$500.
- Outreach Committee: Permission to hold a chili/soup challenge to be held on Jan. 6, 2024 with proceeds benefitting The Garage Teen Ministry.
- First Men of FCC: Approval of a sponsorship with Wadsworth Community Radio for one year at the Major Sponsorship Level in the amount of \$3,000. The first year will be paid by Dan and Lucy Sondles.
- Approval of 2024 Budget.

Highlights of the December 12 Board Meeting:

There were 18 Board members, 4 staff members, and 2 guests present.

The Board approved the following motions:

- Patty Thompson: To set 2024 Month of Compassion Goal at \$20,000. Approval to hold a basket auction with proceeds going to Month of Compassion.
- Trustees: To hire Geopfert Co. to install replacement controls on the heating boilers totaling \$4,627.
- Memorials Committee: To hire ACE Security Systems to install improvements to our current system for access to the Ed Building and improved security for dumpster area totaling \$6,117.

Copies of the Board Minutes are available in the office.

Next Official Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 9, 7:00 pm

Fellowship Hall & Zoom

Everyone is welcome to attend!



Happy New Year!! As we head into 2024 our journey and vision as a church continues and I am thankful to be on that journey with all of you. Please read my Visioning Annual Report and listen to my Visioning Presentation at the Annual Meeting to hear and see all that the Visioning Committee accomplished in 2023.

I believe God has big things in store for FCC in 2024. It's an honor to share ministry, vision, and life with you. Thank you for your support and prayers for our Vision Plan, Visioning Committee, and Visioning Task Force Teams, they mean so much.

Let's move forward and continue to, "Own the Vision Together!"

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23)

With New Year Blessings, Val Baughman, Visioning Chair

Our Call to Mission

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

Treasurer's Report

General Fund as of November 31, 2023

Submitted by Lisa Jones

GENERAL FUND CASH BALANCE		\$216,476.89		
	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
CONTRIBUTIONS				
Offerings	\$33,812.65	\$395,529.51	\$441,290.88	\$478,065.00
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$24,848.06	\$266,675.31	\$306,820.25	\$334,713.00
Admin/Programs	6,297.47	82,573.44	90,155.89	98,352.00
Outreach	8,749.00	50,445.75	41,250.00	45,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$39,894.53	\$399,694.50	\$438,226.14	\$478,065.00

Thank You for Responding to the Call to Mission

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



We are indeed grateful to all who returned a Commitment Card. It may seem like a choice of little consequence, since we plan to give . . . throughout the year. . . when we attend. . . but your signature shows commitment, upon which we build our hopes for the new year. Seeing regular and consistent giving encourages our leaders to keep up with regular maintenance to our Worship platform, our church building. It shows our staff the congregation appreciates their dedication and work and wants to provide securely for their efforts.

Your donations reach well beyond our walls. In the past two years, we delivered over \$53,000 to local organizations, which provide life sustaining support to those in need, including: Camp Christian, Children's Center of Medina County, Cleveland Christian Home, Commission to Every Nation, Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance, FCC Kentucky Disaster Relief Fund, Feeding Medina County, FISH, Francis House Recovery, Free Clinic of Medina County, Grace House, Habitat for Humanity of Medina County, Helping Haitians in Need (Pastor Eddie), Marian's Closet, The Garage (Teen Ministry), Ukraine Crises (through Disciple of Christ networks), and Wadsworth Salvation Army.

Your gifts continue to make an impact in the lives of our church family and families we can't see, here and abroad. Thank you.

Generosity Committee: Pastor Sarah, Amy Benson, Joe Sayre, Dan Sondles

Chairman's Minute

Well, it's 2024. The holidays are over. We're getting the decorations and lights back into the attic. We're making resolutions, setting goals, taking a deep breath and looking forward to what the Lord has in store for us in the new year. The same is true for our church.

Later this month, we'll hold our Annual Meeting where we'll review 2023, install the leaders who will guide us forward in 2024 and take care of any business that requires a congregational vote. This year, we'll also hold a congregational lunch where we can fellowship and get to know each other a little better.

Friends, I've always believed that being a member of a church provided many opportunities for service and growth, but it also included some responsibilities. Members should attend church regularly, help preserve the Gospel, disciple and support other members, share the Gospel outside the church and attend member meetings. Since I'm sure you don't want you to shirk any spiritual responsibilities, I humbly encourage you to attend this year's Annual Meeting following worship on January 21.

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.



Child and Family

MINISTRIES

Keyshia Beverly, Director
kbeverly@fccwadsworth.org

Welcome to our New Child Care Worker!

"My name is Meredith Acevedo. I have lived in Doylestown my whole life. I live there with my husband and our 3 children. My whole family loves Doylestown and we are all very close. We love doing family dinners and game nights. I worked at a daycare for the past 21 years. I was the lead preschool teacher then in 2018 took a co-administrator role. This summer I took some time off to be a stay at home mom with my kids. I absolutely love working with children. They always make me smile and laugh!"



God's Kids Club Choir (GKCC)

The GKCC meets Sunday mornings in the Sunday school room during the first 15 minutes of the Sunday School hour to rehearse for upcoming performances.

Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF)

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

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!!

Dates to Remember

January 14: GKC
January 21: JYF
January 28: All Church Bowling Night

Ugly Christmas Sweater/Christmas Socks

We loved seeing all of the fun Christmas sweaters and socks on Dec. 10. A big congratulations to our winners!!!

Most Creative - Gladys Barnard
Most Flammable - Oleta Yentz
Ugliest - Anne West

2024 Nominees for Board and Non-Board Positions

Diane Pels, Nominating Committee Chair

Elders:

Michael Fox
Connie Kalina
Dan Sondles

Trustees:

Bill Dague*
Dan Boarman

Deacons:

Heather Errante*
Jan Dye
Carol Sladky
Val Baughman
Anne West

At-Large Reps:

Mary Christ -
Contemporary
Denise Hachat -
Undesignated

Board Treasurer:

Amy Benson*

(1 yr term replacing
Kathy Johnson)
LuAnn Beavers-Willis
(1 yr term replacing
Nancy Cordas)

Board Clerk:

Katie Boarman*

*Denotes Board Position

FCC News Brief

New Member

Christy Davis
Welcome! Christy lives at 366 N. Lyman St.

Dec. 17

Dear Church Family

I want to thank Denise Hachat for dropping off the Blessing Bag, I was very surprised. Thanks to the Outreach Committee for assembling them. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Pat Cline

Thank you to Pastor Sarah for visiting me and bringing the Blessing Bag with all of the goodies. Barb Horner

I want to thank everyone for the Blessing Bag and all of the goodies that were in it. Marilyn Oplinger

Many thanks for the Christmas gifts that I received last week. The table runner is so pretty - I'll enjoy the other gifts. I enjoyed Karen Rule's visit so very much. Thank you again and Merry Christmas. Nancy Noffsinger.

Many thanks for the "goodie bag" and the enjoyable visit with Denise Hachat recently. I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and may 2024 be a good year for all of us. In Christ's name, Dona Maxon

Thank you for the Christmas gift bag. Ramona Slabaugh

Notes About Folks

Congratulations to Mason Birkbeck who graduated from Baldwin Wallace University in December with a degree in Cyber Security.

FCC received the Runner-Up Clapper Award as the best Worship Service programming on WCTV.



MLK Day of Service

It's almost time for our annual MLK Day of Service! All youth (6th-12th grade) are invited to join us on January 15 from 1-4 pm at Marian's Closet. RSVP to Val Baughman at gbaughman1@neo.rr.com



ALL-CHURCH BOWLING NIGHT

A beloved tradition, our all-church bowling night will be a night of fellowship and fun! Join us January 28 from 5-7 pm at Kolony Bowl.



ALL-YOUTH RETREAT

Our all-youth retreat at Camp Christian is coming up in February and it's time to register! We'll carpool from the church parking lot, leaving Saturday morning the 24th and returning in the afternoon on the 25th. During our retreat we'll worship, play, study the Bible, have discussions about faith and life, enjoy meals together, and admire the beauty of camp in the winter! Friends are welcome and the retreat is entirely FREE! Sign up to attend here:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COD49AFAE2FA4FCC25-44520325-fccyouth_

Youth Christmas Party





Painting Party



To the Wonderful Ladies of the Women's Ministry... I just wanted to extend a thank you to your wonderful group, and to First Christian Church of Wadsworth for having me back as a guest painting instructor.

I always enjoy working with your group and seeing such beautiful creativity bloom and grow with all participants.

I'd love to come back again for another event, if you'll have me. Many thanks, Kat Skoff

Parents Day Out



God's Kids Club Choir



First Men

Men of First Christian Church

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



Upping Our Game With Derek Maul!

(as Christians, as church members, as human beings)

February 16-18th

Christian Author and Journalist, Derek Maul is coming to spend the weekend of February 16-18 with FCC Wadsworth and FCC Medina. Derek has inspired our Men's Forum study group over the past couple of years with his contagious and very genuine faith as we have used his men's ministry study materials and we are excited to bring him in. We are planning a mix of activities to give all a chance to meet and engage with Derek and each other



All-Church Supper & Conversation with Derek

Friday, February 16 from 5:30 – 8:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

Families of FCC Wadsworth and Medina are invited to meet and welcome Derek for a reception and supper. After our meal together, Derek will lead us in a conversation focused on the importance of our Christian faith as church family.

Men's Gathering

Saturday, February 17 from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm
@ The Lodge at Allardale
(Allardale Park – 141 Remsen Rd, Medina, OH)

On Saturday morning, we will hold a half day Men's Gathering/Retreat where Derek will lead us in a program designed to explore the question of "How does church fit into our most fundamental and essential needs/aspirations as human beings?" This event will be a mix of large and small group activities and we are extending an invitation to guys from the Christian Church of Ohio as well other faith communities in the area. Lunch will be provided.

Sunday Worship with Derek

Sunday, February 18

Derek is also looking forward to worshipping with us and will deliver the message at our worship service on Sunday morning.

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 www.derekmaul.blog)

Watch for more information and the opportunity to sign up in the coming weeks.



80+ Birthdays

Barb Horner	1/08/32	Freda Kramer	1/22/35
Jerry Lash	1/09/41	Eunice Oehlenschlager	1/23/39
Noah Bentley	1/11/41	Ken Dilworth	1/25/39
Gene Rue	1/12/41	Jean Johnson	1/31/39
Dennis Joachim	1/22/42		



Red Bag Item Boxed Meals

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

Save these January-June dates on your 2024 calendar to participate in First Christian Church Outreach Projects!

Opportunities exist for all FCC members. You've been meaning to take part in more service projects. Plan now to join some of these personal service and Outreach efforts:

Every Sunday we receive items in Red Bags, which go into the Wadsworth Salvation Army's emergency food pantry. January's suggestion, printed on the bag, is boxed meals, but all items are appreciated. Pick up a Red Bag near the coat rack in the Gathering Area.

Wednesdays, throughout the school year, our members drive to Feeding Medina County's warehouse to pick up Weekenders bags and deliver them to all schools and Head Start locations in Wadsworth. Weekender bags are filled with 5-7 pounds of shelf-stable food items to help food insecure students through the weekend. Bags are packed on Tuesdays. Want to pack? To volunteer, register at <https://feedingmedinacounty.org/create-your-profile/> Questions? contact Kelly Smith at 330-421-4816 or kelly@feedingmedinacounty.org We also deliver Staples to Seniors, monthly on Mondays. Want to help one time? We are happy to include you. Each of our drivers are away occasionally or unavailable to deliver. Are you interested in stepping in one time?

Looking for family friendly/weekend events? First Fridays: FCC is a member of Main Street Wadsworth and they need volunteers for set-up and clean-up each first Friday, 5:00-9:00 pm. FCC is also member of Wadsworth Chamber and they look for volunteers as well.

- Fri., Jan. 19, Feb. 9, Mar. 8, and April 12 - help Salvation Army with their monthly food distribution, as cars drive through the 527 College Street parking lot. 11:00 am - 1:00 pm.
- Thurs., Jan. 25, 9:40 am - 12:15 pm - Feeding Medina County Wadsworth Food distribution on the south side of Art Wright Stadium.
- Sat., April 20, 9:00 am - noon - Drop & Drive at our Boyer Street entrance, receiving personal toiletries and laundry products to share among Haven of Rest, Marian's Closet, and Francis House Recovery.
- Mon. - Thurs., May 13-16 - We are investigating painting needs at Camp Christian.
- Sun., June 23 - The Nancy Hachat Memorial Breakfast benefitting Salvation Army.
- Thurs., June 27, 9:40 am - 12:15 pm - Feeding Medina County Wadsworth Food distribution.

"Believers are called to follow Jesus' example of coming to serve and not be served".
(Ken Braddy, Lifeway Christian Resources)



Search for the Christ Child

THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered and participated in the "50th Annual Search for the Christ Child." There were 195 in attendance with many food donations and over \$200 donated to Wadsworth FISH and the Salvation Army!



Sunday Morning Worship

Regular Hours
Sunday School - 8:45 am
Combined Worship - 10:00 am

YouTube

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

Facebook

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

WCTV Channel 17
Tuesday - 10:30 am, 4:00 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



Follow Us!
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FCC CALLER

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

Address Service Requested

January 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

Daily

Jan. 1	Office Closed - Holiday	
Jan. 2	Elders Mtg	7:00 pm
Jan. 4	Worship Comm Mtg	2:00 pm
Jan. 6	Chili/Soup Challenge	11:00 am
Jan. 7	Red Bag Sunday - Boxed Meals	
"	Sunday School	8:45 am
"	Combined Worship	10:00 am
Jan. 9	Official Board Mtg	7:00 pm
Jan. 10	DEI Comm Mtg	7:00 pm
Jan. 15	MLK Day of Service	1:00 pm
Jan. 16	Outreach Comm Mtg	7:00 pm
Jan. 19	All Church Euchre Night	7:00 pm
Jan. 21	Annual Meeting	11:00 am

Annual Meeting

The Code of Regulations of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Wadsworth, Ohio, requires that an Annual Meeting of the Congregation be held each year during January. This meeting will be held immediately following the 10:00 am combined worship service on Sun., Jan. 21, 2024. During the Annual Meeting the past year's highlights will be shared along with goals for the coming year. Nominees are presented for vote to fill the upcoming year's Board positions, the nominees for Board officers are presented, and other business matters are handled. Please take the time to attend this important yearly event.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of inclement weather, the Pastor and the Board Chair shall determine whether Sunday School, Worship, and scheduled activities will be held. The FCC Web Page, the FCC Facebook page, and a notification to those who receive the Weekly Update will have the information no later than 7:00 am if the church is to be closed.

Regional News

Advance Ministries Winter Weekend Retreat - Jan. 5-7, Camp Christian. For all adults ages 19 to 30 (at least 1 year out of high school). This year's theme is: What's in your mental health toolbox? Taking a personal inventory of what we have in our "toolboxes" that we can use when presented with a challenge. Join us for a cozy lodge weekend away from the world with other young adults. All are welcome! Scholarships and Financial Aid is available. \$30 off for first-timers or if you bring a new friend! Full attendance is optional. For more information and to register:

https://www.ccinoh.org/events_details.aspx?id=516



"Undecorating" Help Needed!

The Worship Committee is looking for help in taking down all of the Christmas decorations. Stay for a few minutes immediately after worship on Sun., Jan. 7. The more help, the quicker things will be done!