



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

**March  
2023**

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SPRING FORWARD



**growth  
& GRACE**

Join us for a combined service at 10:00 am on March 5 for our 2023 Youth Sunday! Our theme is Growth & Grace and our youth have prepared and will lead a great service. Come support our youth and worship God with our wonderful congregation!



Easter flower order forms will be available soon. \$12.50 per plant.

**April Caller  
Deadline  
- March 10 -**



*"These forty days beckon people of faith to a nearer following of Jesus and an awakening to the work of the Spirit in their lives and in the world."*

- From "Lent in Plain Sight" by Jill J. Duffield

Join us as we seek a deeper awareness of God's presence this Lent through worship, daily devotions, and small groups.

### Worship

March 12: Sunday Worship - COINS

March 19: Sunday Worship - SHOES

March 26: Combined Worship - DEI Rountable

April 6: Maundy Thursday - TOWELS

April 7: Good Friday - THORNS

April 9: Easter Sunday - STONES

April 16: Holy Humor Sunday - Combined

### Daily Devotions

Daily readings to go along with the sermon series can be found in "Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects" by Jill J. Duffield. You may order the book on Amazon at this link: [\[link to Amazon\]](#)

### Small Groups

**Monday evenings at 7:00 pm** in the Courtyard Room or by zoom [\[zoom link\]](#)

**Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am** in the Courtyard Room or by zoom [\[zoom link\]](#)

*(small groups will begin the week of Feb. 27 and run through Holy Week for a total of 6 weeks)*

Simply show up to either of our weekly small groups to share in a deeper exploration of that week's theme. **You don't have to have signed up in advance.** It's OK if you can't attend every week, come when you can!

### All Church Forum

"How to Create A Community of Belonging"

Sunday, March 26 following 10:00 am Combined Worship

Have you ever felt like you belonged or didn't belong somewhere? What does Christ centered community look like to you? Join us for a conversation about how to foster a sense of belonging.

Your experiences and ideas matter!

### Panelists

**Dr. Vince Suber**, Principal of Wadsworth High School, Ph.D. dissertation on "microaggressions".

**Jenna Savago**, Licensed Counselor and Art Therapist with experience in substance abuse, LGBTQ+, trauma, anxiety, and mood disorders.

**Erika Harris**, Seminarian under care with the Ohio Commission on Ministry, leader at Bethany Christian Church in Cleveland.

In the Fellowship Hall, light refreshments will be provided. Hosted by the DEI Committee.

## *Musings From the Minister*

### Lent and the Spiritual Practice of Awareness

"It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Gal. 2:20). These words from Paul capture a simple but profound yearning. How to live our lives so that they conform more and more to the life of Christ. This Lent we will explore one of the most important spiritual practices that can help us fulfill this calling. The practice of **awareness**. Developing a greater awareness of God's presence in our everyday lives helps us in two important ways.

Recognizing God at work in and through the ordinary objects and moments of our days enables us to engage the world around us with the eyes and mind of Christ. The cold rain is a reminder that God is the one who gives and sustains all life. These showers will bring forth new life and new growth in a bright array of flowers in the Spring. That card or phone call from a friend came just when you needed an encouraging word from God.

Once we become more attuned to the Spirit's presence we can more easily respond to the Spirit's nudging throughout the moments of our day. How we occupy our mind and our time, how we view others, how we engage with the world around us are all opportunities to love as Christ loves and to serve as Christ serves.

There are many ways to participate in deepening your relationship with Jesus through our Lenten program this year "**Lent in Plain Sight**" based on a book of the same title by Jill J. Duffield. Set aside time to participate in our **weekly worship** and **sermon series**, weekly **small groups** (in person and virtual) and/or **daily devotionals** (the deadline to order a book through the church has passed, but you can still order them online).

As the author Jill J. Duffield says in the introduction to her book:

*"Perhaps contemplating these ten objects will enable us to see God everywhere, in all things, all creation, not just during these forty days of Lent but every single day of the year, honing our sense of the holy to the point we feel God's presence every single moment and act accordingly."*

*Pastor Sarah*

## Board News

Sharon Wright, Board Clerk

### Highlights of the January 10 Board Meeting:

There were 23 Board members, 5 staff, and 2 guests present.

The Board approved the following motions:

- To remove Felicity Wilson from the list of approved signers at Huntington National Bank effective January 10, 2023.
- To add Pastor Sarah West as an authorized signer on all accounts at Huntington National Bank effective January 10, 2023.
- To transfer funds from the special COVID Compassion fund to the Good Samaritan fund as was indicated by the original motion when the COVID Compassion Fund was established.
- To hold a Chili Cook Off Fundraiser to be approved at a date to be determined with proceeds going to Helping Haitians in Need.

### Next Official Board Meeting

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

### FCC News Brief

#### New Member

Janis Dye Feb. 19  
Janis lives at 1754 Blackberry Ln, Orrville, 44667.

#### Deaths

Lynn Sandrock Feb. 3  
Betty Gift Feb. 5  
Mary Ann Rothacker Feb. 21

#### Funeral

Mary Ann Rothacker Feb. 24

### Chairman's Minute

As I recently pondered our music ministries, I came to realize two things. First, the bible is rife with scripture that calls each of us to sing to the Lord! Sing praises to our Lord and Savior. Sing to ease our pain and lead us through trials. Sing to encourage others to the faith and to hold tightly to that faith. Singing is integral to our Christian faith.

Secondly, I found that singing is not biblically listed as a spiritual gift that only some of us are called to identify and use in service to the Lord's Earthly ministry. Unlike teaching, preaching, healing, giving, discerning and edifying among others, singing is not a spiritual gift given to a select few.

So, what this tells me is that we are ALL called to sing. In worship, we are all called to be part of the choir. We are called to be part of the praise team. With carefree gusto we are all called to join the angels and lift our voices high in praise to God! God hears and heals our hearts through song.

Friends, if you haven't figured it out yet...this is a not-so-shameless invitation for folks to join our choir and praise team. Worshiping God in song is a biblical expectation and I doubt that God will mind if His children's voices are not perfect. As we strive to enhance our music ministries to the glory of God, please ask how you can be part of the joyful noise!

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.

# 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

<u>GENERAL FUND CASH BALANCE</u>	<b>\$229,076.79</b>			
	<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	\$40,640.01	\$40,640.01	\$45,967.80	\$478,065.00
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>				
Personnel	\$24,990.89	\$24,990.89	\$27,892.75	\$334,713.00
Admin/Programs	4,868.46	4,868.46	8,195.99	98,352.00
Outreach	-	-	3,750.00	45,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$29,859.35</b>	<b>\$29,859.35</b>	<b>\$39,838.74</b>	<b>\$478,065.00</b>



Compassion total so far is \$12,144 toward our goal of \$20,000. There is still time to contribute: via check (made out to FCC with Compassion on the memo line), through our website, or the Givelify app.

On behalf of the Visioning Committee, I would like to thank our congregation for passing the 2023-2026 Visioning Plan at our Annual Meeting in January. We are excited to finally start implementing the plan which took nine months and over 1,000 hours to develop and complete!! Look for *Caller* updates each month as Task Force Teams are being developed, implementation starts, and we move forward to accomplish our objectives. We are grateful for your prayers and support and we ask that you please keep them going as we "Own the Vision Together!" Thank you.

*"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."* (Romans 12:12)

"To God be the Glory",  
Val Baughman, Chair



## Just Older Youth

### No Senior Citizens at FCC!!!

By Jerry Ritzman and Kirt Virgin

There are no longer any Senior Citizens at FCC, there are only **Just Older Youth!** Announcements and articles in the *Caller*, bulletin, etc., will now be headed and addressed with the acronym **J.O.Y.** birthday, **J.O.Y.** fellowship events, **J.O.Y.** activities, **J.O.Y.** announcements, etc. This is in keeping with the Visioning Committee's recommendation.



### J.O.Y. 80+ Birthdays

Pat Rathmell	3/04/38	Joyce Henning	3/12/41
Ann Steward	3/05/41	Kent Stubbendieck	3/15/41
Pauline Thompson	3/06/38	George Garman	3/16/30
Joe Arpad	3/09/37	Ramona Slabaugh	3/24/31

### The Secret Place

The daily devotional booklet, *The Secret Place*, for March, April, and May is now available in the office and at the Welcome Center.

### 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.

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FIRST  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH  
YOUTH

MARCH ALL-YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

All youth (6th-12th grade) are invited to join in our March Fellowship Event visit to an escape room! RSVP by March 1 to participate.



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.

CYF

FCC will be attending CYF camp from July 16-22.  
The alternate dates are June 18-24.

Stay tuned for registration!

# ***First Men***

## **Men of First Christian Church**

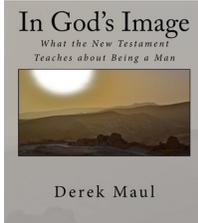
Facebook Page: FCC First Men-First Christian Church, Wadsworth, Men's Ministry

### **Men's Forum - In God's Image**

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

Join us as we get back together as guys over a cup of coffee to form REAL bonds with each other and God.

Derek Maul has a great formula to get us out of our shells and dig a bit deeper. We guys like to think we can do life on our own, but when one or more are gathered, God is with us...and good stuff just happens!



The schedule for March - April is:

March 6 @ Wads - Purpose (Chapter 3)

March 13 @ Medina - Integrity (Chapter 4)

March 20 @ Wads - Vulnerability (Chapter 5)

March 25 (Sat - Men's Breakfast) @ Wads - Honesty/Authenticity (Chapters 6)

March 27 @ Wads - Love (Chapter 7)

April 3 @ Wads - Courage (Chapter 8)

Join the guys of FCC Wadsworth and Medina.



### **Men's Pancake Breakfast**

Saturday, March 25 ~ 7:00-9:00 am ~Fellowship Hall  
(Breakfast service 7 to 7:30)

Join us for a hot cup of coffee and awesome pancakes.

We'll share our faith & build connections over a meaningful meal. Invite a friend or two to come with you!

After Breakfast we will grab another cup of coffee and reflect and explore 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. Please join us even if you have not been attending the Forum...come and be part of what we've been doing.

### **Men's Retreat**

**GET REAL: What Do We Dare?**

What an awesome day!

On Sat., Feb. 18, a great group of FCC guys from Wadsworth and Medina gathered at Letha House Park West Lodge in Spencer, Ohio to complete the study we started during our Forum sessions this past fall based on Derek Maul's book, GET REAL, A Spiritual Journey for Men.

We had a day of authentic connection, sharing and reflection on just how we can support each other to really live, step out of our comfort zone and let our God lead us where He wants us...to have the courage to be willing to let God change us. We left with a commitment to share our passion for this group and invite others to join us on the next phase of our journey as we meet over the next 7 weeks in our Men's Forum and Breakfast to consider how we live up to being created "In God's Image."

Many thanks to leaders, Donn Taylor, Dan Sondles, Kevin Kaufman, Dave Baker (Medina), and Chris Jones who made this special gathering possible.



### **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.



### Red Bag Item Soup and Crackers



Thurs., **March 23, 9:40 am to 12:15 pm**, is our next opportunity to assist Feeding Medina County with its Wadsworth Food Distribution. If you can join us, park in the lot on the corner of Grandview and Memorial Park Drive and walk 100 yards to the south side of Art Wright stadium where the Feeding Medina County's truck is parked. With 30 volunteers, we'll help unload food items, set up distribution stations and put up to 5 lb. bags into the trunks of the recipient's cars/trucks. We'll be working outside, (but inside restrooms will be open) so dress for the weather.

Ever want to help, just one time, picking up Feeding Medina County Weekender bags? It takes thirty minutes to drive to Feeding Medina County's warehouse at 620 West Smith Road in Medina from Wadsworth. On Wednesdays, three FCC families each pick up 40-60, 3-5 lb bags for students at Wadsworth's Head Start, Soprema's Windfall workshop, Lincoln, Valley View, Isham, Intermediate, Middle and High School. Round trip loading and unloading takes about 1.5 hours. Also, each month two of our families drive to Feeding Medina County to pick up bulk food items for MENWA and White Oaks. All of our drivers are away or ill from time to time and could use a one-time substitute. If you would like to learn more call or text Dan Sondles at (330) 715-7751.



Calling all Chili aficionados! Our Chili/Soup Cook-Off is Sat. **April 15, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall, benefitting Helping Haitians in Need. Hand-crafted chili and soups will be offered to our FCC community and friends and neighbors. Add your magical ingredients at home and bring your slow-cooker or Instant-Pot in and offer cups of your creation to our community of taste-testers, who will award the Best Chili/Soup title, which Lenora Taylor was awarded in our two previous cook-offs.



Drop & Drive is also happening on Sat., **April 15, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**. Drive up to our Boyer Street entrance and we'll pick up your donated personal care items, toiletries, and laundry products to be divided among Haven of Rest, Marian's Closet (also wants lightly used towels and blankets) and Francis House Recovery. As an incentive, we'll hand out two tickets to each car at Drop & Drive to enjoy a cup or two of Chili or Soup inside the Fellowship Hall.

Save your Spring Cleaning discards for our **June 2 & 3** Garage Sale!



A new Camp Christian video shares enhancements to accommodations in Monroe Lodge, which are a part of the plans to expand the outside group rentals. You can stay abreast of developments like these by signing up for the Camp Christian email newsletter at the same page: <https://mycampchristian.com/2023/01/11/a-sneak-peek-at-monroe-lodge/> Camp Christian has an Amazon wish list, if you want to help out, at: <https://a.co/iBAaV1T>

### Notes About Folks

**Congratulations to** Stephanie Novak who was named Medina Athlete of the Week for gymnastics. She won the North East Gymnastics Conference titles in all-around, floor exercise, uneven parallel bars and vault. The wins were her first NEGC Championships. She is in her second varsity season. Way to go, Steph!

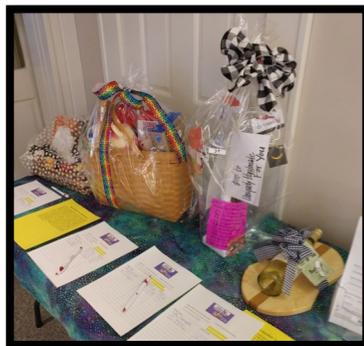
**Sympathies to** Becky and Jason Bender on the death of her brother, William Hilton, Jan. 21.

### Dear Church Family

We both want to thank you all for the Christmas bag filled to the brim with so many things. All the gifts are much appreciated. It was so good to visit with Connie Dague who delivered the bag. We don't get out often and we miss all of you at First Christian. We are blessed to be able to watch the telecast of the services and feel a part of the congregation as we watch. We pray all of you will be well and blessed in the new year. Sending good wishes to all, Bob & Bonnie Rodgers



Month of  
**Compassion**  
SILENT AUCTION!



Thank You!

## Sunday Morning Worship

March 5 - Youth Sunday  
10:00 am

March 12 & 19  
Contemporary - 8:45 am  
Sunday School - 10:00 am  
Traditional - 11:15 am

March 26 - 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



**Follow Us!**  
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## FCC CALLER

First Christian Church  
116 E. Boyer Street  
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

Mar. 1	Lenten Book Study	10:00 am
Mar. 4	Sewing Sisters	9:00 am
Mar. 5	<b>Youth Sunday - Combined</b>	10:00 am
Mar. 6	JOY Fellowship Comm	7:00 pm
"	Lenten Book Study	7:00 pm
"	Men's Forum	7:00 pm
Mar. 7	Elders Mtg	7:00 pm
Mar. 8	Lenten Book Study	10:00 am
Mar. 12	Youth Group	6:00 pm
Mar. 13	Lenten Book Study	7:00 pm
"	Men's Forum - Medina	7:00 pm
Mar. 14	<b>Official Board Mtg</b>	7:00 pm
Mar. 15	Lenten Book Study	10:00 am
Mar. 16	DEI Comm Mtg	7:00 pm
Mar. 19	Youth Fellowship Event	5:30 pm
Mar. 20	Lenten Book Study	7:00 pm
"	Men's Forum	7:00 pm
Mar. 21	Outreach Comm Mtg	7:00 pm
Mar. 22	Lenten Book Study	10:00 am
Mar. 23	Feeding Medina County	9:40 am
Mar. 25	Men's Pancake Breakfast	7:00 am
Mar. 26	<b>Combined Worship</b>	10:00 am
"	<b>DEI Forum</b>	11:00 am
"	Youth Group	6:00 pm
Mar. 27	Lenten Book Study	7:00 pm
"	Men's Forum	7:00 pm
Mar. 28	Wmn's Mnstry Mtg	7:00 pm
Mar. 29	Lenten Book Study	10:00 am
Mar. 29	Lenten Book Study	10:00 am
"	Lenten Luncheon	12:00 pm

Request in Home By March 1, 2023

## Regional News

Our Christian Church in Ohio Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Commission has planned another Awareness Conversation after the fall one was not only very well attended, but received incredibly positive feedback. It is a totally redesigned experience from previous Anti-Racism Trainings and is for both laity and clergy. The next one is scheduled for Sat., March 25 at Camp Christian and you can find out more and register here:  
<https://www.ccinoh.com/regional-calendar.aspx?events=10966&action=details>. I have signed up for this conversation and hope you will join me.

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

**Lenten Luncheons** - Grace Lutheran Church will once again be hosting the Wednesday Lenten Service with Lunch. Beginning March 1 and running through March 29 the service will start at Noon with lunch to follow. On March 29, Pastor Sarah will be leading the service with FCC chefs providing the lunch.