



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

**October  
2023**

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Shalom From Shelby	2
Board News	2
FCC News Brief	2
Stewardship	3
Visioning	3
Children/Fam. Mnstry	4
Youth News	5
First Men	6
J.O.Y. Fellowship	7
Outreach	7
Calendar	8

The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering celebrates our journey toward wholeness and imagining a world where racism is dismantled and all of God's children can flourish. The offering is received on Sunday, **October 1st**.

## Third Grade Bible Presentation

All 3rd Graders and their Parents are invited to attend worship on Sun., Oct. 1, at 10:00 am, for the Third Grade Bible Presentations! Students and their parents will be called forward to receive their own bibles!

More information will be coming soon regarding ordering FCC T-Shirts!

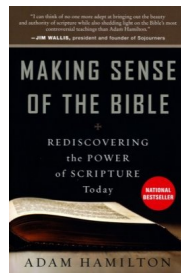


**November Caller  
Deadline**  
- October 10 -



## October 1 Combined Worship 10:00 am

Join us on October 1 for World Communion Sunday, a day when Christians gather across the globe to celebrate Communion together. The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, we remember that we are part of the whole body of believers.



## Fall Book Study

**"Making Sense of the Bible" by Adam Hamilton**

Sunday Mornings, Oct. 8 - Nov. 19

By Pastor Sarah

Join us this Fall during the Sunday School hour as we dive deeper into the Bible, its sacred stories and how to make sense of them. We all know that the Bible is the basis of what we believe about God, ourselves and our world; yet so much of it can be difficult to understand. While this class can't answer EVERY question you have about the Bible (that would take a lifetime!) it will give you some essential tools to help you continue your own faithful discernment. The classes will include short video presentations by the author followed by facilitated discussions. While the classes will be informative, for a fuller exploration I encourage you to purchase the book.

"Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path"  
Psalm 119:105

## Baby Shower

Sat., 21, 2:00 pm ~ Fellowship Hall



It's a Baby Shower!

Come help us shower Pastor Shelby and Patrick with presents for their very first baby! Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sat., Oct. 21, at 2:00 pm. EVERYONE is invited. Light refreshments will be served. To access their gift registries go online to Amazon or Target using the following links: [\[Amazon Link\]](#) [\[Target Link\]](#)

To RSVP to the shower, please use following links or sign up in the Gathering Area. [RSVP Link](#)

*"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me,  
and whoever receives me, receives not me  
but the one who sent me."*  
(Mark 9:37)

## 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! Watch for signups starting late October. Snacks will be provided. Donation: \$5

# Shalom from Shelby

"Belonging" is a buzzword right now. If you google the term, you find articles from Cornell University, Harvard Business Review, and Psychology Today about what it takes to build a culture of belonging and what it truly means to belong. Maslow even prioritized belonging in his hierarchy of needs.

In her book "Braving the Wilderness," researcher and storyteller Brené Brown writes, "The special courage it takes to experience true belonging is... about breaking down the walls, abandoning our ideological bunkers, and living from our wild heart rather than our weary heart... It's a practice that requires us to be vulnerable, get uncomfortable, and learn how to be present with people without sacrificing who we are. We want true belonging, but it takes tremendous courage to knowingly walk into hard moments" (37). Brown is right, true belonging takes courage. Courage to show up and lean in even when we disagree. Courage to remain authentic to ourselves and not compromise our deeply held beliefs while also remaining open and curious.

In the Disciples of Christ, the motto we follow is "In essentials, unity. In non-essentials, liberty. In all things, love." This means that we try to live in community with those with whom we disagree and to love one another the way Christ loved us. This is what it means to be the body of Christ. And churches should strive to make their congregations places of true belonging. Our congregation has worked hard at this since long before I became a pastor here. But what does it mean to embody a space of true belonging in our current climate? For sure, it has gotten harder to be in community with each other as our world has become increasingly divisive. But as Brené Brown says, "People are hard to hate close up. Move in."

Colossians 3:12-17 also gives us guidance on how to live in a community that fosters belonging: "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."

Being a community that fosters true belonging may not be easy, but wow is it worth it. Our church, a place where we can disagree and still be in community together, is a rare and beautiful thing. I thank God every day to be able to pastor such a unique church. Thank you for being a part of this special community and for embracing one another with love.

Shalom,  
Shelby

## Board News

Sharon Wright, Board Clerk

### Next Official Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 10, 7:00 pm

Fellowship Hall & Zoom

Everyone is welcome to attend!

## Chairman's Minute

Legendary football coach John Madden once said, *"When the going gets tough, I'm not always sure what you do. I'm not saying that I know how to fix everything when the going gets tough, but I do know this: when the going goes tough, you don't quit. And you don't fold up. And you don't go in the other direction."* After eight months as your Board Chair, I can certainly empathize with Coach.

Scripturally, I lean on James 1:12, "Blessed is the man that endures temptation." James 5:11, "Behold, we count them happy which endure." and Matthew 24:13, "But he that endures unto the end, the same shall be saved."

See, the Bible doesn't teach quitting. The Bible teaches endurance. It teaches us to endure hard times, difficulties, or temptations to quit. It teaches us to walk THROUGH the valleys. Seems like every day there is a new challenge. Some small, but some big. But as I've worked beside so many of you who have been helpful and even courageous in your efforts...I thank you, because it is a rare instance that all is well in River City and as Christians we need to put our faith into action by staying together, locking arms and showing up in the arena.

When the going gets tough...and it will...Christians don't quit. We don't fold up and we don't go in a different direction. We pick up our cross and follow Jesus.

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.

## FCC News Brief

### Death

Mary Catharine Lowe

Sept. 6

### Funeral

Mary Catharine Lowe

Sept. 23

## Notes About Folks

Sympathies to Joe Arpad on the death of his sister, Agnes Marie Arpad Harris, May 21.

# Our Call to Mission

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

## Treasurer's Report

General Fund as of August 31, 2023

Submitted by Lisa Jones

### GENERAL FUND CASH BALANCE

**\$237,632.53**

	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b>				
Offerings	\$26,055.15	\$302,132.31	\$321,774.60	\$478,065.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Personnel	\$25,324.75	\$189,042.14	\$223,142.00	\$334,713.00
Admin/Programs	3,962.70	59,204.75	65,567.92	98,352.00
Outreach	-	36,894.75	26,250.00	45,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$29,287.45	\$285,141.64	\$314,959.92	\$478,065.00



This month I want to highlight the Visioning Relationship Building and Spiritual Formation for Young Families and Young Adults objective. All of you, (our congregation), made it very clear from our visioning survey that we needed to attract young families and young adults in order for FCC to continue to thrive and survive in the future. As a result, the Visioning Committee created a new position titled, "Director of Child and Family Ministries," and hired Keyshia Beverly in July for this position.

Task Force member and Visioning Committee member Jenny Brothers carried the ball with this objective until Keyshia was hired and Jenny helped complete the Short Term portion of this objective.

Keyshia's main goal is to provide oversight of faith formation and fellowship programs for current young families and outreach initiatives to attract new families. This is a Short, Intermediate, and Long Term objective and Keyshia, Jenny, and I met the first week of August to go over all three phases.

Keyshia shared many creative and wonderful ideas with us and here are just two of them she has already accomplished: 1. Designed, created, and had printed FCC God's Kid Club T-shirts; 2. October 1st will be "Bring a friend/stranger to church Sunday." Flyers for this were created and will be handed out.

We are so grateful to have this dedicated, organized, creative, woman of faith joining our FCC staff and Visioning Team.

"I have no greater joy than this, to hear that my children are walking in the truth." (3 John 4)

In Christ's love,

Val Baughman, Visioning Chair



The month of October is set aside each year to celebrate and express our gratitude to our pastors of First Christian Church - Pastor Sarah West, Senior Pastor, and Pastor Shelby Baxter-Andrews, Associate Pastor/Director of Youth Ministries.

We thank Pastor Sarah and Pastor Shelby for their ministry, guidance, and care. We humbly pray that God bestows great blessings on them and their families.

The blessings we receive from both of our Pastors is beyond compare. Please take time this month to bless and ask God's favor on our Pastors. The list of things you can do to show appreciation is endless - a hand written note or card, a verbal recognition of thanks, a prayer - will go a long way to encourage and thank our Pastors.

*"And I will give you Pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding"*

Jeremiah 3:15



## Children and Family Ministries

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

### 2023-2024 Sunday School Kick Off

Sunday School Kick-Off was very successful. Thank you to all of our Sunday School Teacher Volunteers.

### Child Care During Worship

Hurray!!! We have hired a Child Care Worker for the Child Care Room! If you have children ages 0-5, you can sign them into the Child Care Room during both worship services and Sunday School.

### 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.

### Dates to Remember

October 1: 3rd Grade Bible Presentations  
Bring a Stranger/Friend to Worship Sunday  
World Communion

October 15: GKC

October 29: JYF – Pumpkin Painting



Youth Kick-Off Event

September 10



## HALLOWEEN PARTY

Wear your best costume and bring a friend to our annual halloween party on October 29 from 6-8 pm. We will be joined by the youth at Wadsworth United Methodist for a night of food, fun, and games! Dinner will be served.



## 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**

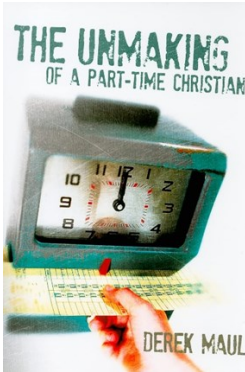
Facebook Page: FCC First Men-First Christian Church, Wadsworth, Men's Ministry

### **Men's Forum**

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

Mondays 7:00-8:00 pm

Chalice Room & 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 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 October is:

Oct. 2 @ Medina – Christianity Is a Team Sport (Chapter 3)

Oct. 9 @ Wads – Judge or Redeemer? (Chapter 4)

Oct. 16 @ Wads – Life Is Hard: Follow Jesus (Chapter 5)

Oct. 23 @ Wads - Check the Manufacturer's Label (Chapters 6)

Oct. 30 @ Wads - Subversive for Jesus (Chapter 7)

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

If you still need a book, contact Chris Jones (csjones268@gmail.com / 330-697-3770). Suggested book donation is \$10

### **Men's Kickoff BBQ – An Awesome Gathering**



It was a perfect fall afternoon for a gathering of the guys with fresh smoked pulled pork, chicken drumsticks, and awesome sides. Unfortunately, our program for the day had to make some adjustments as God had other, far more important plans for our featured speaker, Derek Maul. Derek contacted us earlier in the week to let us know that his aging mother had suffered a major setback following hip surgery several weeks before. He was where he was needed most...with her.

Our Men's kickoff and barbeque went on and we adjusted. We were blessed to draw 25 guys from FCC Wadsworth, FCC Medina and even had a couple of special guests from Francis House (recovery facility). We were even able to take in \$300 at the event which will be split between addiction recovery

programs, Francis House in Wadsworth and Cathy's House in Medina.

The afternoon started with a corn hole tournament...the team, James Kreuscher and Rolando Monterroso fought off challengers, Bob Henderson and Michael Fox to bring home bragging rights for the year.

We then settled in for a smoked meat feast prepared by Bill and Noah Bentley. Corn on the cobb, Dan's smashed potatoes and rice and Jerry's popular green bean dish provided a perfect complement. Following dinner, Chris Jones shared a message from Derek Maul's Saturday morning blog post where he shared the challenging journey he had experienced during that past week. Chris then went on to review the plans for this coming year's Men's ministry program and introduced the group to the Men's Forum material from Derek's book, The Unmaking of a Part Time Christian.

Many thanks to our dedicated chefs, Bill, Noah, Dan and Jerry; sound system guru, Kevin Kaufman; and planning team, Michael Fox, Donn Taylor, Dave Baker, Dan Sondles, and Chris Jones who made this day possible.

It was an awesome day, and God was with us sharing in the fun, fellowship and spirit of Christian men gathering in His name.





### Red Bag Item Personal Care Items

August was Overdose Awareness Month and the 31st was International Overdose Awareness Day. It was recognized by the Medina County Health Department. MCHD Health Promotions Supervisor Mike Metcalf said that the goal is to educate and inform the public to help reduce the stigma because an overdose could happen anywhere, and it only takes an individual with naloxone to save a life. Individuals interested in learning more about naloxone or if they want to receive a naloxone kit, head to: <https://medinahealth.org/naloxone/>

Salvation Army packs and distributes food bags the second Friday each month. October 13, 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 Lauri 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.



Thank you for donating items to fill emergency relief buckets with cleaning supplies. Our youth will be assembling these buckets and they will head off to the closest depot, awaiting a need following a flood, hurricane, or other natural disaster, where families are stressed to recover their lives. Thank you for your loving gifts to the bucket brigade to provide supplies in a time of great need.



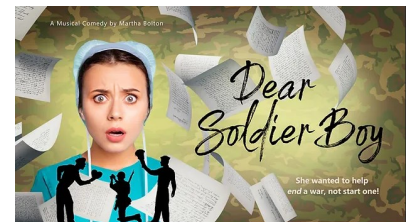
On a return visit to Cleveland Christian Home, program director Rev. DeeDee receives FCC's donation from Betty Sandrock.



### October Event

Ohio Star Theater  
Sugar Creek, Dutch Valley Complex  
Wed., Oct. 18  
Buffet Lunch and Musical

Don't forget that you signed up! Last day for refund is Oct. 4!



### 50+ Anniversaries

Linda & Bob Parmelee 10/30/65

### 80+ Birthdays

Mary Alice Mantz 10/02/37  
Kay Lyn Brown 10/07/42  
Bonnie Rasor 10/18/40  
Spencer Grieco 10/25/43  
Ray Andre 10/31/36

## Sunday Morning Worship

October 1  
World Communion Sunday  
Combined Worship  
10:00 am

Regular Hours  
Contemporary Worship - 8:45 am  
Sunday School - 10:00 am  
Traditional Worship - 11:15 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!**  
**fccwadsworth**

# FCC CALLER

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

Address Service Requested

## October 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
Sun.	Elevate	6:00 pm

### Daily

Oct. 1	<b>World Communion Sunday</b>	
"	<b>Combined Worship</b>	10:00 am
"	Red Bag Sunday	
"	Third Grade Bible Presentation	
"	Baptism Class Kick Off	
Oct. 2	Men's Forum	7:00 pm
Oct. 3	Elders Mtg	7:00 pm
Oct. 7	Sewing Sisters	9:00 am
Oct. 9	Men's Forum	7:00pm
Oct. 10	<b>Official Board Meeting</b>	7:00 pm
Oct. 12	Budget Comm	6:30 pm
Oct. 15	God's Kids Club	10:00 am
Oct. 16	Men's Forum	7:00 pm
Oct. 17	Outreach Comm	7:00 pm
Oct. 21	Baby Shower	2:00 pm
Oct. 22	Baptism Class Field Trip	
Oct. 23	Men's Forum	7:00 pm
Oct. 26	Budget Comm	6:30 pm
Oct. 29	Junior Youth Fellowship	10:00 am
"	Pumpkin Painting/Carving	12:30 pm
"	Youth Halloween Party	6:00 pm
Oct. 30	Men's Forum	7:00 pm



GATEWAY CLASS is a community of believers that is learning and growing our faith by applying scripture to our lives and having a lot of fun in the process. Each Sunday morning, this group gathers for coffee and lively discussion centered on relevant topics to the Christian life.

SCRIPTURE SEEKERS curriculum is Lifeway's Adult Bible Studies for Life. Three of our class members take turns leading, offering different presentation styles. We have a call-in option for Sundays when you cannot attend in-person, but need an hour in conversation around God's Word. We share our joys and concerns and pray for one another's needs. We discuss ways of living our faith. "Knowing what you believe is one thing. Living it is greater." Join us on our journey.

SISTERS IN CHRIST is a community for women of all generations who study the Bible and subjects that pertain specifically to women. We love Jesus and we love each other through life's ups and downs. Our class is low-key and all levels of Bible knowledge are welcome! Join us in Room 104 and leave feeling ready to tackle your week!

Building PATHWAYS toward the ultimate goal of knowing God's love. A dynamic, life-oriented approach to exploring scripture. Live out your faith in all stages of life. A low key relaxed setting where the only thing required is your presence.



If you would like to be on the email Prayer Chain to receive updates on our congregation, please contact the office.