

# CALLER

116 E. Boyer St. Wadsworth, OH 44281 (330) 336-6697 fccwadsworth.org

compassion · community Pastors

#### **Revealing Christ by building lives of compassionate faith.** Pastor Sarah West, Senior Pastor

Pastor Shelby Baxter-Andrews, Associate Pastor/Director of Youth Ministries

September 2023

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All Church Back to School BBQ!!! Sunday, September 24 12:30 pm Please join us for hot dogs, games and fellowship on the lawn as we celebrate another school year!!!



Join us on October 1 for World Communion Sunday, day when Christians а 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.

> October Caller Deadline - September 10 -



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



## **Disaster Clean Up Buckets**

It's September again, the month we fill five gallon buckets with cleaning supplies. These are sent to help with recovery after disasters such as floods, fires, tornadoes, and hurricanes.

We're doing something a little different this year. Half our items can be ordered off Amazon and shipped directly to the church. No more going from store to store trying to find the right size listed on the tag you took from the display in the Gathering Area. To place your order just go <u>Amazon Bucket Brigade List</u>.

The other half of the items will still have tags for you to take like before, but the items can all be purchased at the Dollar Tree here in Wadsworth by Home Depot. Since the shopping will be easier this year, our goal is to fill 40 buckets.

We need to include \$3.00 to ship each bucket to where it is needed, so if you would like to make a donation to help cover that, please put it in the offering or bring it into the office. Checks can be made out to First Christian Church with "Bucket Shipping" on the memo line.

On behalf of the grateful people you will be helping with these buckets, thank you for your generosity, and thank you for your thoughtfulness of others in need.



The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is received each year in congregations on the last Sunday in September and the first Sunday in October (in solidarity with World Communion Sunday). Funds generated by this special emphasis are used throughout the year to provide grants to ministries and congregations actively developing and implementing programs that promote our Church's Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist identity. These programs and efforts seek to reveal, re-educate, and remove systemic and structural barriers in our communities that serve to deny the image of God and human thriving based on race.

Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry strengthens our Church's witness to God's unending love for all of humanity. With your generosity, leaders, communities, and our congregations are being equipped to witness to God's love and justice in all times and in every season. The time is always ripe to stand up for

justice to ensure that all of God's children are treated equitably. Thank you for joining us on this journey through your generosity.

Reconciliation 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 Sundays **September 24th and October 1st.** 

Musings From the Minister

#### Fall Book Study "Making Sense of the Bible" October 8 - November 19

One of my favorite workshops at this year's General Assembly was led by the preeminent Disciples historian, D. Duane Cummins, who has just released an updated edition of his seminal history of our denomination, "The Disciples: A Struggle for Reformation". His lecture reminded me once again of what I consider the best and most challenging aspect of being a Disciple - the freedom to read and interpret the scriptures for ourselves. While most of us cherish the freedom our church espouses to read the Bible and employ our God given gift of reason to study and interpret it for ourselves, the hard truth is that all of us have fallen short of the responsibility that goes along with this freedom. To educate ourselves about the book we say we base our beliefs indeed our very lives on.

This fall all of us will have the opportunity to learn more about this sacred text that guides our understanding of God, ourselves and our world in our fall book study "Making Sense of the Bible" by Adam Hamilton.

In "Making Sense of the Bible", Adam Hamilton invites us into an honest conversation about the Bible. The book begins with foundational questions such as; How and when was the Bible written? Who decided which books made it into the scriptures and why? How literally must we read it? and, Is the Bible ever wrong?

From there, Hamilton considers the real questions people frequently ask that continue to divide Christians and denominations alike, including:

- Were Adam and Eve real people?
- Why is God so violent in the Old Testament?
- Why would Paul command women to "keep silent in the church"?
- Is Jesus the only way to salvation?
- How does God view homosexual people?
- Is the Book of Revelation a guide to the End Times?

My hope is that by the end of this study you will have gained important tools to help you read the Bible and explore what YOU think and believe. The goal is not to walk away believing what Adam Hamilton believes, the goal is to gain a deeper understanding of this sacred text so that you might hear God speak through it and find it to be a well of living water that will sustain you all the days of your life.

#### To participate:

The following Sunday School classes will be participating in this fall book study: Gateway Class, Pathways Class, Sisters-in-Christ. If you are interested in this study but are not currently enrolled in one of these Sunday School classes, please fill out this form [LINK TO FORM] or sign up in the Gathering Area <u>no later than Sun., Sept. 17</u>. If there is enough interest, Pastor Sarah will offer an additional class on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour.

Pastor Sarah

## **Board News**

Sharon Wright, Board Clerk

#### Next Official Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 12, 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall & Zoom Everyone is welcome to attend!

#### FCC News Brief

<u>Reaffirmation</u> Val Baughman

Aug. 20



Helping Haitians in Need invites all FCC members, family, and friends to a fruit dessert open house on Thursday evening Sept. 14, from 6:30-8:30 pm. This event will be held at Jerry and Susan

Ritzman's home at 2670 Stewart Dr., Rittman. In addition to thanking FCC for their loving support, HHN will introduce you to their latest initiatives. RSVP's welcome but not necessary. Call or text Paul Huber - 440-6782.



#### Michael Fox

"I was born in the old Wadsworth Hospital to Roy and Connie (Chabin) Fox, and, (for the first 3 years), with my brothers, Jerry and Rick, I attended Sunday School and services at FCC starting as an infant, and was Baptized here in 1971. My First Christian Church "Family" (truly my second family) included "Aunt" Mary and "Uncle" Merle Frase, "Grandma" Mildred Core, "Aunt" Linda and "Uncle" Chet Straub and cousins Kenny and Kevin, and "Aunt" Margie Miller. My influential leaders, teachers, and musicians were Rev. Phil Gould, Ray and Lana Landis, John and Brenda Grom, Martha Everhard, piano teachers/choir director Melba Powers and Barb Kleckner. Current members who I grew up around are Jerry and Viv Lash, Karen and Randy Leatherman, Jim and Gwen Rivers, and Karen and Rick Rule. I have participated in Children's and Young Adult choirs, Search for the Christ Child, Carols and home repair/painting projects for Seniors, Chi Rho and CYF - including 4 years at Camp Christian."

Returning to Ohio from Virginia (by way of Massachusetts, Florida, and Texas), Michael is grateful to be "back home", and to share in FCC's ministries and music in praise of God's love, power, and Grace!

## **Our Call to Mission**

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

<b>Treasurer's Report</b> General Fund as of July 31, 2023 Submitted by Lisa Jones						
GENERAL FUND CASH BALANCE		\$240,544.85				
	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET		
CONTRIBUTIONS Offerings	\$34,752.65	\$275,757.16	\$285,000.36	\$478,065.00		
<u>EXPENSES</u> Personnel Admin/Programs Outreach	\$24,532.02 6,696.48 6,605.75	\$163,717.39 55,242.05 36,894.75	\$195,249.25 57,371.93 26,250.00	\$334,713.00 98,352.00 45,000.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$37,834.25	\$255,854.19	\$278,871.18	\$478,065.00		

July 31st was the deadline for completion of the Short Term Visioning objectives, (0-6 months), and here is an update of progress.



1. Children's Programming - 100% complete

2. Youth Programming - 100% complete

3. Short Term Music Enhancement objectives - 100% complete

4. Short Term Relationship Building and Spiritual Formation for Young Families and Young Adults - 100% complete

5. Community Visibility and Media Marketing - 66% complete

6. Welcome and Integration of Visitors and New and Current Members - 66% complete

The dedicated Task Force members are striving for 100% completion and are actively working on finishing their objectives as I write this.

I will provide a more in depth update at one of our Sunday Services in September and I believe you will be pleasantly surprised at the progress in just six short months!

In the meantime, please continue to check out the Visioning Board in the Library and keep our Task Force members and Visioning Committee in your prayers.

"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will succeed." (Proverbs 16:3)

Yours 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.

In September 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!

#### Worship Team Ministry Opportunity

Do you feel you have a good singing voice or play an instrument and would like to use it to help others worship on Sunday? We are looking for those who would like to be part of the Contemporary Worship Team rotation on Sundays. It requires one rehearsal the week you are scheduled on Thursday evening from 6:30-7:30 pm. The Sunday you are scheduled you would also need to be at the church for warmups at 7:45 am. We usually schedule you 1-2 times a month. If you would like more information, please talk with Gary Oliver after church or email him at goliver@fccwadsworth.org.

## **Children and Family Ministries**

Keyshia Beverly Director kbeverly@fccwadsworth.org



#### 2023-2024 Sunday School Kick Off

It's time to get back into the swing of things! Sunday School resumes on Sept. 10, at 10:00 am. Dust off those Bibles and join us back in the classrooms to learn and grow with God! Sunday school brochures are available in the Gathering Area and in the Ed Wing display case.

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!

#### Child Care During Worship

Just a reminder that staffed child care is available during both worship services each Sunday morning, for children ages birth through 4 years old. During both services your child will be cared for in Room 100.

\*\*We are still in need of volunteers for the Nursery!

#### **Dates to Remember**

September 3: Sunday School Teacher Meeting September 10: Sunday School Starts!!! September 24: All Church Back to School BBQ October 1: 3rd Grade Bible Presentations

#### Children's Sunday School Illness Policy

We want all our children to remain healthy this winter season, and so we ask that you follow these guidelines as set forth by the Children's Christian Education Committee. Please keep your child at home if he/she exhibits any of the following symptoms: Runny Nose (Yellow or green in color/consistency); Fever (Until 24 hours after it has broken); Questionable rashes; Coughing/Croupy coughs; Diarrhea (Until 24 hours after last occurrence). If your child has a continually clear runny nose or rash due to non-contagious allergies, please let the CCED volunteers know.

Please contact the Church office within 24 hours if your child should come down with a communicable disease such as: Chicken Pox, Strep Throat/Scarlet Fever, or Pink Eye after they have been in Sunday school or Extended Session. Upon receiving the information that a child in a classroom has a communicable disease, we will send out a postcard to inform families in that classroom and will post a note outside the classroom. Thank you for your cooperation.

#### 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.

#### Sunday School Teacher Meeting

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

Children's Sunday School Teachers!! Mark your calendars for Sunday afternoon, Sept. 3, from 11:30 am - 1:00pm. 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!

#### **The Secret Place**

The daily devotional booklet, The Secret Place, for September, October, and November is now available in the office and at the Welcome Center.

YOUTH GROUP IS NOW ELEVATE! Youth Group is getting a re-brand! Let us introduce you to Elevate. Each week from 6-8 pm on Sunday evenings, our youth will have a chance to "elevate" their faith through fellowship, fun, and bible study. We'll start with dinner together, then a time of worship, then we'll dive into the Bible, and finally we'll end with a game! This is a crucial part of our youth ministry and helps our youth grow closer to Christ. You won't want to miss it! <u>Begins Sept. 17.</u>



HANGOUT YOUTH SPACE

## SUNDAY SCHOOL IS NOW THE HANGOUT!

Every Sunday during the Sunday School hour, from 10 - 11 am, our youth will have the chance to just hang out together in the youth room! Come play games, talk, and just spend time in fellowship together. <u>Begins Sept. 10.</u>

## YOUTH KICKOFF EVENT

On <u>September 10, from 6-8 pm</u>, all 6th-12th graders are invited to Pastor Sarah's house for a night of fun and games! Join us as we kick off the program year together.

## **First Men** Men of First Christian Church

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

## Picnic and Softball Dodged the Rain!

We got in our picnic and ballgame between downpours...so it was a great day!

The pavilion at Valley View Park was the perfect place to gather and share some good time together over burgers and dogs.

Then the traditions kicked in and the Alphas faced the Omegas for yet another epic softball game. The Omegas got out to an early lead on some key base running by Brothers and Boarman, but then the Alphas started to rack up the runs on some big hits by Evan Johnston and they never looked back. When the sky began to rumble, the game was called and Alphas secured the win.

Thank you to all who made it out to share an afternoon of fun and excitement.









## Golf Challenge Met

It was a beautiful afternoon for golf at the Pine Valley Golf Club.

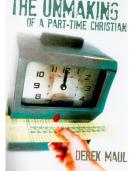
14 of our FCC guys and guests scrambled to secure this year's bragging rights. After several long drives, chips, and putts, the dust settled, and strokes were counted.

It ended in a tie at 1 under par for the teams of Kreuscher, Keaton, Keaton and Barnard, Jones, Guenther.

Afterwards, the guys gathered around the corner from the course for a few dogs, burgers, and fellowship at the Kaufman Farm. Kevin Kaufman got us sharing thoughts about spiritual life parallels to the lessons of golf. Thank you to Kevin for pulling all the logistics together for a great day!

## Men's Forum – The Unmaking of a Part-Time Christian

Mondays, September 18 thru Nov 13, 7:00-8:00 pm Chalice Room & Medina Library



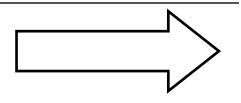
Join us this fall as we get together as guys over a cup of coffee to form some REAL bonds and get to know each other and our God a little better.

We will be 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."

Meet Derek in person at our Fall Kickoff, then join us to reflect further on his words of guidance and inspiration.

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

There's More!!!!



#### 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: <u>Get Real - A Spiritual Journey for Men</u> and <u>In God's Image - What the New Testament Teaches</u> 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. Bebekeb) Derek added a degree in education and became known for his innevative work with wife, Rebekah). Derek added a degree in education and became known for his innovative work with wife, Rebekan). Derek added a degree in education and became known for his innovative work man 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.)



**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.

We are extending an invitation to other churches and our community to this event, so please invite your friends and others who you think would like to join us.

You can sign up online by pointing your phone camera at the QR Code here or by links provided on our church web page, Facebook,

Instagram or email promotions.

Donation will be \$30 collected at the event.

All net proceeds will be given to local drug recovery programs, Cathy's House in Medina and Francis House in Wadsworth.

We look forward to seeing you there!

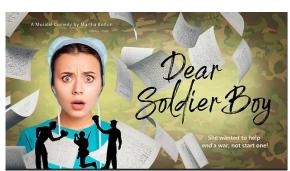


## <u>80+ Bírthdays</u>

Sandy Ross 9/08/37 Loa Gerberich 9/12/36 Dora Kaufman 9/13/40 Nancy Noffsinger 9/16/33 Sandy Hensal 9/22/40 Jack Elliott 9/26/43 Joy Hantzsche 9/28/34 Al Mavity 9/29/41

## <u>50+ Anniversaries</u>

Gladys & Gary Barnard Pat & Rich Hudgins Viv & Jerry Lash Dora & Tom Kaufman Pauline & Digger Thompson 9/05/65 9/06/68 9/06/69 9/10/60 9/28/57



## **October Event**

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

J.O.Y. Fellowship is going on a road trip on Wed., Oct. 18!!!. The day begins with a buffet lunch at 11:30 am at the Dutch Valley Restaurant followed by the musical "Dear Soldier Boy." The cost is \$50.60 which includes lunch with tip and the matinee. Sign up at the Welcome Center by Sept. 27. Make check out to First Christian Church with JOY

Event in the memo line and drop in the offering plate or in the office or drop off your cash payment to the office. If you can provide transportation or are in need of a ride, please indicate that on the sign up sheet. If you have any questions, contact LuAnn Beavers-Willis at 330-407-9534 or elsawillis91@gmail.com.

#### About the show:

It's 1990 and Iraq has just invaded Kuwait, Anna King knows that war is contrary to her Amish ways and figures her father might not approve of her getting involved in any way. Yet, wanting to do something to help America's troops, Anna and her feisty friend Sofia volunteer to write letters of encouragement to the men who are deployed into the conflict. Anna just wants to be a blessing ... Sofia just wants to find a husband. What could possibly go wrong with such a pure and noble mission? It turns our plenty! Especially when all these lonely pen pals happen to get a weekend pass to surprise the girls, and end up arriving at Fern's Cheese Shop where the two girls work - on the very same day







Bucket Brigade all September: We are collecting cleaning supplies all month to fill 40 buckets, our youth will pack, so we can take them to the nearest depot awaiting a weather/ flooding disaster when Month of Compassion will distribute cleaning supply-filled buckets to disaster victims. See our Bucket Brigade frame in the Gathering Area for items we can fit into 5-gallon buckets.

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 on Sept. 8, volunteers will bag, box, load, unload, food items for the Salvation Army Pop-Up Food Distributions being held at the Wadsworth Salvation Army. Dates: 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.

Red Bag Item Pasta and Pasta Helper

Thanks to all who donated 869 school supplies and backpacks for Salvation Army's August distribution.

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 your ideas. Contact <u>dansondles@hotmail.com</u> or text (330) 715-7751.

We cancelled the August Outreach meeting, so our next meeting will be September 19.







## **Sunday Morning Worship**

September 3 10:00 am

Return to Regular Hours September 10 Contemporary Worship - 8:45 am Sunday School - 10:00 am Traditional Worship - 11:15 am

YouTube https://www.youtube.com/user/FCCWadsworthMedia

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

WCTV Channel 17 Tuesday - 11:00 am, 5:00 pm, 9:00 pm Wednesday - 8:00 am

## September 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. " Thurs.	Chancel Choir Rhs Bells of FCC Rhs Worship Team Rhs	5:30 pm 7:00 pm 6:30 pm
<u>Daily</u> Sept. 2	Sewing Sisters	9:00 am
Sept. 3 Sept. 4	SS Teacher Mtg Office Closed - Holiday	11:30 am
Sept. 5 Sept. 7	Elders Mtg Personnel Comm	7:00 pm 7:00 pm
Sept. 10	Contemporary Worship	8:45 am
"	Sunday School Traditional Worship	10:00 am 11:15 am
"	Youth Kick Off Event	6:00 pm
Sept. 12 Sept. 13	Official Board Mtg Generosity Comm	7:00 pm 7:30 am
Sept. 17	God's Kids Club Men of FCC BBQ	10:00 am
Sept. 18	Men's Forum	1:00 pm 7:00 pm
Sept. 19 Sept. 24	Outreach Comm All Church Back to School BBQ	7:00 pm 12:30 pm
Sept. 25	Men's Forum	7:00 pm



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 or give us a call.

## **Office Hours**

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





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## **Community News**

**Blessing of the Pets** - Medina FCC - Annual Pet Blessing Service. Sun., Sept. 17, 3:00 pm. Pet blessings will be held in the parking lot. For more information call 330-723-7021.

## **Regional News**

**Disciples Fellowship Retreat** - Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 1-3, Camp Christian. Grandparents bring your grandkids, families bring together the generations, married, single, young or classically aged. This retreat is made for you! Detailed information is available at: LINK

**Ohio Women's Ministries Fall Retreat** - "Glorify God in Your Mind, Body and Spirit." Fri., Sept.8, and Sat., Sept. 9, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm at Camp Christian. More information or register online at: LINK

ALL "Camps" Retreat - Sat., Sept. 16, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. This event is open to anyone who would like to reflect on this past Summer Camp season at Camp Christian, and a time for sharing and imagination for our beloved community as we look ahead to 2024/2025. The cost is \$10.00 per person for lunch and supplies. Additional overnight is optional for Friday night in the Monroe Lodge at \$35.00 per person. Detailed information and to register: LINK