



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

**March
2024**

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Palm Sunday - Baptism Sunday

March 24 ~ 10:00 am

Our annual Palm Sunday celebration will begin with the palm processional by the children. During the service you will witness the baptism of our youth who completed the Baptism Class.

Maundy Thursday Service

March 28 ~ 7:00 pm

Experience this reverent service as part of your observance of Passion Week.

Easter Sunday Service

March 31 ~ 10:00 am

Come celebrate the most joyous day of the year as we worship together in a combined service.

D.E.I is now "W.E."

D.E.I. Committee has a new name, it is now the "W.E." Committee. "W.E." is an acronym for "Without Exception", which is defined in the dictionary as, "no one excluded."

Co-Chairs are Val Baughman and Michelle Moore.

Pastor Sarah West offered the following reasoning for making the change, "Recently the term D.E.I. has been co-opted by the culture wars. In our congregation the term has become a stumbling block in the pursuit of bringing people together. In the best interest of this congregation and in the best interest of this committee's long term sustainability the name will change. The mission of the committee has not changed. The good work that has been accomplished over the last few years will continue just under a new name. The new name describes the core mission to welcome ALL people without exceptions and signifies a posture of Unity - "WE" are one body in Christ.

From our visioning standpoint, it also helps to fulfill the part of our FCC Mission Statement to, "build a Community of belonging for all."

Currently the committee is working on hearing accessibility, (hearing loop, closed caption), and other aging friendly options for our church.

Thank you to all that purchased candy at our February candy sale. We made \$546 and donated 100% of the proceeds to support Month of Compassion.

The "W.E. Committee meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. ALL are welcome to join in our discussions or volunteer to help with any of our projects.

If you have questions please reach out to Val Baughman, Michelle Moore, or Pastor Shelby Baxter-Andrews.

Your fellow servants in Christ, Val Baughman and Michelle Moore

**April Caller
Deadline**
- March 10 -



(A big Thank You to all who participated in the Casa Del Rio Fundraiser. You helped raise \$230 to be used for future "W.E." initiatives.)

Shalom from Shelby

In her book An Altar in the World, Barbara Brown Taylor writes about the importance and difficulty of prayer. She writes of her struggles with prayer practices and all the ways she has tried to embody a life of prayer. I'm hesitant to admit that I identify with her in her struggles! When life gets busy, it can be hard to make time for a prayer practice. When I pray when I get in bed, I inevitably fall asleep before I'm finished. You would think that a pastor would have the whole prayer thing nailed down (don't they teach that in seminary?!) but alas, I find it difficult. Barbara Brown Taylor's book helped me reframe a life of prayer in a way that made sense for my life.

She writes about her discovery of an Austrian Benedictine named Brother David Steindl-Rast and the way one of his books changed her perspective on prayer. "Brother David," she writes, "was the first person to tell me that prayer is not the same thing as prayers. Prayers are important, he said. Saying psalms in the morning is a good way to head into the day more prayerfully. So is going to church, where I can add my voice to those of a whole congregation aiming to woo God's ears with their ancient, beautiful cadences. Still, prayer is more than saying set prayers at set times. Prayer, according to Brother David, is waking up to the presence of God no matter where I am or what I am doing. When I am fully alert to whatever or whoever is right in front of me; when I am electrically aware of the tremendous gift of being alive; when I am able to give myself wholly to the moment I am in, then I am in prayer. Prayer is happening and it is not necessarily something that I am doing. God is happening, and I am lucky enough to know that I am in The Midst" (178).

Now, I'm not saying that more traditional prayer practices aren't valuable - I have found so much value in various practices throughout my life. We even did an instagram series on prayer practices a couple of years ago that I encourage you to revisit on our church instagram page (it's under our "LENT" highlight)! What I am saying is that a life of prayer doesn't have to entail a perfect ritual. God is present with us whether or not we begin with "Dear God" and end with "Amen." If you are in a season of life where thinking about prayer brings more shame than peace, I encourage you to rethink your approach. Your practice of prayer is between you and God, and it can manifest in so many different ways.

Shalom, Shelby



The Salvation Army Learning Center held in our building is in need of volunteers to assist one-on-one or in a small group to help students with homework and enrichment work. The students are in Grades 1-6. The specific need is on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 pm. The program will continue into the middle of May for this school year. Contact Lindsey Kercher (330-335-2327), Director of Operations.

Board News

Highlights of the January 9 Board Meeting as reported by Sharon Wright, Board Clerk:

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

The Board approved the following:

- Motion from Terry Tucker, Trustee Chair: Wilhite Painting Solutions be retained to prep, paint, and clean the Colonnade including all columns, fascia, ceiling, entrance doors, High Street door frame and fascia, Boyer St. entrance ceiling, and wrought iron railings at a cost of \$14,950 with funding from the General Fund. Motion passed.

Highlights of the February 13 Board Meeting as reported by Donna Kronander, Office Manager:

There were 20 Board members, 3 staff, and 3 guests present.

The Board approved the following:

- Motion from Pastor Shelby Baxter-Andrews to donate \$1,200 from the General Fund to offset transportation costs for the Ohio Region's Youth International Affairs Seminar in 2024. Bob Mooney second. Motion passed.
- Motion from Outreach for 4th qtr 2023 Outreach Disbursement: Camp Christian - \$1,200; Children's Center of Medina Cnty - \$212; Cleveland Christian Home - \$400; Feeding Medina Cnty - \$1,500; FISH - \$750; Francis House Recovery - \$200; Free Clinic of Medina Cnty - \$500; Habitat for Humanity of Medina Cnty - \$500; Helping Haitians In Need - \$750; Marian's Closet - \$400; The Garage - \$400; Wadsworth Salvation Army - \$500 for a total disbursement of \$7,312. Motion passed.

Next Official Board Meeting

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

FCC News Brief

New Member

Rachel Trease Feb. 4
Rachel and her husband Michael live at 333 N Lyman.

Dear Church Family

A big thank you for our blessings bag, and to Jean Sullivan for delivering it. We appreciate and will use all the items. We are very grateful for the thoughtfulness of our church family. Al and Amy Mavity

Secret Place Devotional

The Secret Place daily devotional for March, April and May is now available for pick up in the church office!

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, 2024

Submitted by Lisa Jones

GENERAL FUND CASH BALANCE		\$267,515.42		
	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
CONTRIBUTIONS				
Offerings	\$62,409.09	\$62,409.09	\$36,749.48	\$477,743.00
EXPENSES				
Personnel	\$31,392.32	\$31,392.32	\$28,037.58	\$336,451.00
Admin/Programs	11,179.64	11,179.64	8,024.33	96,292.00
Outreach	5,982.00	5,982.00	3,750.00	45,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$48,553.96	\$48,553.96	\$39,811.91	\$477,743.00

Chairman’s Minute

The week of February 11, 2024, (the first week after Pastor Sarah’s medical leave started), began with a wonderful worship service. Mike Gromofsky offered an inspiring message, I bought some Valentine’s candy and had plans to settle in for a friendly Super Bowl. Yes, all was right with the world! But before I could get out of the church...”The World” jumped up and said, “Hey Kevin, not so fast. Here’s some BAD news. Have a nice day Mr. Chairman.”

Did you ever have something like that happen to you? Part of me said, well...things like this happen...buck up, make a plan and get on with it. But part of me was just devastated.

Next day, begrudgingly, I dragged myself out of bed, put my head down and got to work. But here’s the thing...later that morning, I got a text from a friend from FCC-Medina saying, “Hey Kevin, we’re thinking about you and the folks at Wadsworth and I’m wondering if you want to get together and talk”. I can’t tell you how much that meant to me. It inspired me to remind you that God is looking out for us, but it also made me wonder who might need a kind word from me!

Because the seeds we sow will produce a harvest, I’d like to encourage each of you to think about YOUR neighbors and ask yourself who YOU can reach out to with a kind word. Everyone has times that challenge them and life is better when someone tells us they care. So today I ask to send a text, send a card or pick up a phone and call someone just to say hello and tell them you’re thinking about them. God will work through you and make someone’s day better...maybe even yours!

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.



Easter Flower Cross

On Easter Sunday you’re invited to bring a fresh cut flower to the service. It can be one from your garden or one you purchased that has sentimental value for you. The cross will be in the Sanctuary and as each of us adds a flower, the cross will become more and more beautiful! After the service the cross will be placed in front of the church. Don’t worry if you forget a fresh flower, we will have extra for you to place on the cross.



Easter Flowers

Lilies, hyacinths, and tulips, given in honor or memory of a loved one on Easter Sunday, can be ordered at a cost of \$12.50. Fill out the form and return it with payment to the office. Deadline is Mar. 18. Forms are available in the Gathering Area.



Child and Family
MINISTRIES

Keyshia Beverly, Director
kbeverly@fccwadsorth.org

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.

All Church Bowling Night

The All Church Bowling Night January 28 went great! There were 41 in attendance. We used the glow lighting as we bowled and had glow sticks, necklaces, and bracelets for the kids, which was so much fun!



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.

Dates to Remember

- March 3 - GKC
- March 24 - GKC
- March 31 - Easter Sunday/Easter Egg Hunt/
GKCC Perform
- April 14 - Volunteer Appreciation Reception
- April 21 - Brunch and Crafts for
Young Families and Children
- May 5 - Family Field Day
- June 25-28 - VBS

"Sonny and Friends"

(With Gary McCubbin, Christian Ventriloquist)

The God's Kids Club (GKC) joined Gateway for a Children's message and balloon animals.





MARCH FELLOWSHIP EVENT

All 6th-12th graders are invited to join us on March 17 from 3-5:30 pm for a rousing round of glow mini-golf! RSVP to Pastor Shelby.



APRIL FELLOWSHIP EVENT

Save the date for our April Fellowship Event: April 14!



SAVE THE DATES FOR CAMP!

Chi Rho/CYF Concurrent:

June 16-22

Chi Rho: July 7-13

CYF: July 14-20



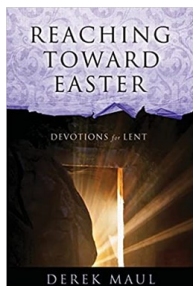
Youth Retreat



First Men

Men of First Christian Church

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



Men's Forum – Reaching Toward Easter

Mondays, thru April 1, 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.

In preparation for Easter, we will study the book of John. Our friend, Derek Maul's Lenten devotional book, Reaching Toward Easter, will guide us.

Derek's daily devotions are filled with hope and provide us with a great mix of personal stories and in-depth exploration of the scriptures. We will use this material guide us a step closer to the risen Christ.

Join the guys of FCC Wadsworth and Medina.

March 4	<i>John 14:25-31, John 15:1-27, John 16:1-15,</i>	FCC Medina Library
March 11	<i>John 16:13-33,</i>	Chalice Room
March 18	<i>John 12:1-11, John 18:15-40 John 19:1-18</i>	Chalice Room
March 25	<i>Luke 20:9-26 John 12:12-19, John 19:13-42</i>	Chalice Room
April 1	<i>John 12:1-11, John 18:15-40 John 19:1-18</i>	Chalice Room



MEN's Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 16

7:00–9:00 am (Breakfast service 7:00-7:30 am)

Fellowship Hall

Join us for a hot cup of coffee and awesome pancakes. We'll share our faith & build connections over a meaningful meal. After Breakfast we will grab another cup of coffee and prepare for Easter through Jesus and the disciples in the garden and that fateful Maundy

Thursday and into Good Friday as depicted in John 17 and 18. We will supplement with reflections from Derek Maul's book, Reaching toward Easter. Please join us for faith, fellowship and awesome food!

We Upped our Game with Derek Maul!

Christian Author and Journalist, Derek Maul spent the weekend of Feb. 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 very contagious and genuine faith study materials. He did not disappoint.

On Friday evening, 35 people from FCC Wadsworth and Medina welcomed Derek at a reception in our Fellowship Hall. After sharing awesome appetizers and mocktails provided by Mary Christ and her team, Derek spoke to us about family, community and what really does the abundant life that Jesus promises mean.

On Saturday, 30 men forged their way through snowy conditions to meet with Derek in the Lodge at Allardale. We spent the morning in large and small groups exploring the question of "How does church fit into our most fundamental and essential needs/aspirations as human beings?" God's presence was felt amidst the buzz and energy of this group of guys, which also included a team from Francis House in Wadsworth, who was being sponsored by the event.

Derek did not stop there, he met with our Sunday School classes on Sunday morning, then delivered a powerful message at our worship service.

If you get a chance, check out his blogs posted each day from Feb. 17 thru 20 at www.derekmaul.blog. I think we made as positive an impression on him as he made on us.

Many thanks to our First Men's planning team of Donn Taylor, Michael Fox, Dan Sondles, Dave Baker (Medina) and Chris Jones for making this weekend possible.





**Red Bag Item
Soup & Crackers**

All items are appreciated. Pick up a Red Bag near the coat rack in the Gathering Area.

March 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.

"Faithful service in a lowly place is true spiritual greatness". Lent is a good time to volunteer and find your path to service.

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, March 1, and April 5, 5:00-9:00 pm. FCC is also member of Wadsworth Chamber and they look for volunteers as well.

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.

enJ.O.Y. Lunch

Thursday, March 21

11:30 am - 2:00 pm ~ Fellowship Hall

Plan to attend the first monthly lunch with the **J.O.Y.** Fellowship on Thurs., Mar. 21, 11:30 am – 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This is the first of this year's **J.O.Y.** (Just Older Youth) Fellowship events/lunches which will be held on the third Thurs. of each month. After a soup and sandwich lunch, stick around to visit, play some games, or work a puzzle. There is **no charge** for the lunch. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the office. If you need a ride, contact Jerry Ritzman (330-760-4598).

The menu for this month includes soup, sub sandwich ring, chips, veggie tray, fruit tray, cookies, brownies, and beverages.

80+ Birthdays

Pat Rathmell	3/04/38	George Garman	3/16/30
Pauline Thompson	3/06/38	Tony Kalina	3/16/41
Joe Arpad	3/09/37	Ramona Slabaugh	3/24/31
Joyce Henning	3/12/41	Betty Sweet	3/29/34



Women's Ministry Game Night

Friday, March 15

6:00-9:00 pm ~ Fellowship Hall

Bring your favorite appetizer, dessert, or snack to share with the group and your favorite game if you would like. Pizza and beverages provided. Sign up in the Gathering Area.



Extraordinary Women Conference 2024

Get ready for the best day of the year! World class speakers, award winning entertainment, and spiritual refreshment! The event will be held on Sat., Oct. 26, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm at First Christian Church, 6900 Market Ave N, Canton, 44721. \$54/person, boxed lunch included. Contact Tanya Keaton (330-962-5395 or tmad17@msn.com) or Heather Humes (330-592-3131 or heatherhumes620@gmail.com) for more information. 50 tickets have been reserved for FCC. Click on this link to sign up: [LINK](#)

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

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

Wed.	Chancel Choir Rhs	5:30 pm
"	Bells of FCC Rhs	7:00 pm

Daily

March 3	Youth Sunday	
March 4	Men's Forum (Medina)	7:00 pm
March 5	Elders Mtg	7:00 pm
March 6	Lenten Service/Luncheon	12:00 pm
March 10	Legacy Foundation Mtg	11:15 am
"	Elevate	6:00 pm
March 11	Men's Forum	7:00 pm
March 12	Official Board Mtg	7:00 pm
March 13	Lenten Service/Luncheon	12:00 pm
March 15	Wmn's Mnstry Game Night	6:00 pm
March 16	Men of FCC Breakfast	7:00 am
"	Gateway Event	4:30 pm
March 17	Youth Fellowship Event	3:00 pm
March 18	Men's Forum	7:00 pm
March 19	Outreach Comm Mtg	7:00 pm
March 20	Lenten Service/Luncheon	12:00 pm
March 21	J.O.Y. Fellowship Event	11:30 am
"	W.E. Comm Mtg	7:00 pm
March 24	Palm Sunday - Baptism Sunday	
"	Baptism Reception	11:30 am
"	Elevate	6:00 pm
March 25	Men's Forum	7:00 pm
March 28	Maundy Thursday Worship	7:00 pm
March 31	Easter Sunday Worship	10:00 am
"	Easter Egg Hunt	11:30 am



Food Drop Off Box

The FCC Food Drop Off Box is located by the Boyer Street entrance. Thank you to everyone who has been donating. Leave what will help, take what you need.

Office Hours

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

Regional News

Totally Eclipsed! At Camp Christian! April 8 - Camp Christian is holding a retreat whose whole purpose is to share this once in a lifetime experience. Come on Sunday night and share in a campfire complete with s'mores and fellowship. Breakfast and lunch will be provided with crafts and activities. A short workshop will be held before the eclipse. Eyeglasses will be provided. For more information and to register, check out this link:

[CCINOH](#)

Community News

Salvation Army Soup Kitchen - Every Tues., 4:00 pm, in the parking lot of Wadsworth Towers, 190 Main St. Stop by for a "Hot Meal to Go!" There is a one meal per person limit.

Salvation Army Food Distribution - Volunteers are needed to help box, load, unload, and bag items for the Salvation Army Pop-Up Food Distributions being held at the Wadsworth Salvation Army on the second Friday of the month. Volunteers please arrive at 10:15 am. Food Distribution runs from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.