



First
Christian
Church

faith · compassion · community

CALLER

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

Revealing Christ by building lives of compassionate faith.

Pastor Sarah West, Senior Pastor

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

**January
2023**

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Happy New Year and Happy New Day in the Life of FCC starting January 22, 2023!

I am excited to share that in December the Visioning Committee finalized the vision plan and the 2023 Vision Book was created with the help of the amazing Claire Wilson.

On January 8th after the Traditional Service and livestream, our facilitator, Pat Berry, and Pastor Sarah West will present an overview of the plan. That same day in the afternoon our entire congregation will get an email with the vision plan.

A Vision Book with the plan will also be available in the office for viewing.

We hope you take the time to read over the plan and we are even more excited to begin implementation of the plan.

Then on January 22nd the congregation will get the opportunity to vote on the plan at our Annual Meeting.

I cannot tell you how much the Visioning Committee appreciates our congregation! You have been involved in every step of the 2023 FCC Vision Plan. Thank you!!

Now, "Let's own the Vision, Together!"

*"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God,
who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)*

With Gratitude and Blessings, Val Baughman, Chair



All are welcome to join our All-Church Bowling Night at Kolony Bowl, Sun., Jan. 29, 4:00-6:00 pm. Bring a friend and some money for snacks! Sign up in the Gathering Area Jan. 8-22.

2022 Financial Contributions Statement

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2022 tax return until you have received written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church.

2023 Offering Envelopes can be found on the Registration Table in the Gathering Area.

Annual Reports

Due in the office Fri., Jan. 6!

**February Caller
Deadline
- January 10 -**

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 22



Join us on Sun., Jan. 22, for a combined worship service at 10:00 am followed by the Annual Meeting and a catered luncheon. In addition to voting on our slate of candidates for 2023, we will be voting on our Vision Plan. Electronic copies of the Vision Plan will be emailed to the congregation on Sun., Jan. 8. If you do not have email, a hard copy will be available in the office for your review. Please RSVP for the luncheon no later than Tues., Jan. 15. You can sign up using this link ([viewform](#)) or on the sign up sheets in the Gathering Area. This is an important event in the life of our church. Your input and vote matter! The service and meeting will be livestreamed.



All-Church Euchre Tournament!

Friday, January 20

7:00 to 9:30 pm ~ Fellowship Hall

All members and friends of FCC are invited to join us for an evening of strategy and fun as we compete for fabulous prizes in our All-Church Euchre Tournament! Watch for signups. Snacks will be provided. Donation: \$5

Musings From the Minister

As we usher in a new year, many of us use this opportunity to reflect on the year that has passed and contemplate what changes we want to make for the year to come. "The world is constantly changing", we are told. And while it is true that change is inevitable, we also know it is equally true that change is not always easy. It matters not whether we are 8 or 88. Eight year olds still insist on their bedtime routines of books and kisses and eighty-eight year olds are not inclined to deviate from their scheduled meal times.

Routines and familiar things or places breed comfort and security. When one or several of these familiar routines or places change, we can feel off balance, unsure, anxious and sad. Even if we welcome the change as a positive one, we can still find ourselves mourning the loss of what used to be. At times like this it is important to acknowledge the grief of letting go of the past even as we trust God to guide us into the future.

After Jesus was born, Joseph and Mary were forced to flee to Egypt to avoid the wrath of King Herod who sought to kill the "newborn king". They had to leave behind the comfort and support of their families, their hometown, their faith community, their country. We would be heartless to think that they didn't mourn these losses. Yet God watched over them and guided their steps through the changes and upheaval into the future God had planned for them.

Our congregation has been prayerfully seeking God's guidance as we make plans for our future. This month our Visioning Committee will present our plan that has been nine months in the making. Your prayers and input have been essential in the shaping of this plan. I am truly grateful for your commitment and engagement throughout this process!

Now we are asking for your prayers and participation to implement these initiatives that will enable us to serve God and our community as we move into the future. Some of these initiatives will require us to reallocate our precious resources (time, talent and money) to prioritize our core mission. This may mean letting some long standing programs, events, and practices go so that we can make room for new ones that will meet the needs of our changing community.

Like Mary and Joseph, we will mourn the loss of the familiar even as we trust God to guide us onward to accomplish the plans God has for us. As the angel Gabriel assured Mary when he appeared to tell her of God's plan; let us also rest in the confidence that "Nothing is impossible with God"!

Pastor Sarah

Inclement Weather Policy

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

Board News

Sharon Wright, Board Clerk

Highlights of the November 8 Board Meeting:

There were 22 Board members, 5 staff, and 1 guest present.

The Board approved the following motions:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee's requests to hold fundraisers on Nov. 21 at Casa Del Rio and Nov. 28 through Dec. 4 at Five Below store with proceeds to support the efforts of the Committee.
- Outreach Committee's third quarter local outreach of \$5,052 as follows: Camp Christian - \$852; Cleveland Christian Home - \$200; Commission to Every Nation (Monterroso) - \$500; Feeding Medina County - \$900; FISH - \$500; Free Clinic of Medina County - \$500; The Garage (Wadsworth) - \$200; Habitat for Humanity - \$400; Pastor Eddy (Helping Haitians in Need) - \$500; Wadsworth Salvation Army - \$500.
- Outreach Committee's request to hold a Giving Tree fundraiser to benefit the Salvation Army.
- Nominating Committee's request that LuAnn Beavers -Willis serve the remaining one year of Nanci Sullivan's term as Deacon.
- Pastor Shelby Baxter-Andrews' request to purchase new bibles for Youth Ministries with funds from the Memorial Fund.
- Risk Management Committee's request to update sections of the Risk Management Policy and Procedure Manual dealing with transportation of youth, reporting suspected child abuse or neglect applicable to volunteers and staff, selection of volunteers working with youth applicable to staff members and volunteers, and staff and volunteer background checks.

Next Official Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 10, 7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall & Zoom
Everyone is welcome to attend!

2023 Nominees for Board and Non-Board Positions

Karen Rule, Nominating Committee Chair

Elders:

Chris Jones*
Mike Gromofsky*
Jerry Lash
Roger Wright

Trustees:

Dominic Accordino
Bob Mooney*
John Hoover*
John Wise (1 yr term replacing Mike Gromofsky)

Deacons:

Michael Fox (new 3 yr term)
Rick Rule* (new 3 yr term)
Judy Baker*
(serves 2 extra yrs)
Milissa Bachtel
(serves 2 extra yrs)
Becky Steele
(serves 1 extra yr)
Joan Acuff/Marilyn Slaby
(serves 1 extra yr)

At-Large Reps:

Patty Thompson -
Contemporary
Kelley Steigerwald -
Undesignated

Board Chair:

Kevin Kaufman*

Kay Lyn Brown will be on the Board and Deacon Co-Chair in 2023 to replace Judy Baker.

*Denotes Board Position

Our Call to Mission

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

2023 GENERAL FUND BUDGET Passed December 13, 2022

Contributions	\$478,065.00
General Fund Expenses	
Salaries and Wages	\$334,713.00
Auto Expense (Mileage)	1,000.00
Insurance	15,717.00
Equipment/Copier	4,450.00
Supplies - Church & Building	8,635.00
Maintenance - Building & Music	20,600.00
Church Programming	5,450.00
Youth/Young Adult Programming	5,150.00
Utilities	26,150.00
Property Taxes	200.00
Continuing Education	1,000.00
Advertising	1,000.00
Technology/Social Media	3,500.00
Banking/Credit Card/Payroll Fees	5,500.00
Outreach	45,000.00
Total	<u>\$478,065.00</u>

Thank you to everyone for your consistent and generous giving! We wouldn't be able to accomplish the great things that we do without your continued support!

If you would like further details on the breakdown of the budget, please contact Lisa Jones at ljones@fccwadsworth.org.

Generosity Committee

Dan Sondles

Thanks to all who completed and returned a 2023 Commitment Card. Fifteen of the 64 cards returned offered these recommendations for local outreach donations:

The quarterly donation to DMF should be discontinued and that amount given directly to the CCIO Renewal initiative; The split between Camp or where needed most or other would be an Outreach Committee recommendation; I support what our church chooses; I like the variety we have given to - and as new needs come up we consider those; Camp Christian, many of the same we already support; Any area shelter for victims of domestic violence; Concentrate on LOCAL outreach, if possible; Camp Christian, FISH, The Garage; Disciples LGBTQ + Alliance; We trust your judgement!; Wadsworth Salvation Army; FISH, Salvation Army; As we've been doing; Salvation Army; Pastor Eddy; No new ones.

At the end of each quarter, our Treasurer Lisa Jones, advises the Outreach Committee of the figure representing ten percent of the total donations received from the congregation. Of that amount, 4.5% is designated to go to the Disciples Mission Fund which supports ministries at the regional and national levels of our denomination (including Camp Christian). More information about the DMF can be found at this website: <https://disciplesmissionfund.org/what-is-dmf/>

The Outreach Committee makes a recommendation to the FCC Board for sharing 5.5% with local and international non-profit organizations, which we have vetted and considered worthy of your support. FCC's Board has the opportunity to question and approve those funds. Once disbursed, we invite the leadership of recipient organizations to speak to our congregation, sharing their stories and impact on our community, sharing the gospel, even to the ends of the earth. 2021-2022, we have shared \$50,000 of your donations with: Camp Christian, Children's Center of Medina County, Cleveland Christian Home, Commission to Every Nation (Monterrosos), Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance, Feeding Medina County, FCC Kentucky Disaster Relief Fund, FISH, Francis House Wadsworth (addiction recovery), Free Clinic of Medina County, The Garage, Habitat for Humanity of Medina Co., Helping Haitians In Need, supporting Pastor Eddy, Kathy's House Medina, (addiction recovery), Marian's Closet, Ukraine Crisis, and Wadsworth Salvation Army.

Annual Meeting

The Code of Regulations of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Wadsworth, Ohio, requires that an Annual Meeting of the Congregation be held each year during January. This meeting will be held immediately following the 10:00 am combined worship service on Sun., Jan. 22, 2023. During the Annual Meeting the past year's highlights will be shared along with goals for the coming year. Nominees are presented for vote to fill the upcoming year's Board positions, the nominees for Board officers are presented, and other business matters are handled. Please take the time to attend this important yearly event.

SEARCH FOR THE CHRIST CHILD

Search was a great success! Thank you to all our youth and families who participated. We had 34 youth and adults acting in roles and 38 volunteers helping out.

ALL-CHURCH BOWLING NIGHT

All youth, families, and adults are invited to a fun night of bowling on January 29 from 4-6 pm at Kolony Bowl in Wadsworth. Bring a friend and some money for snacks!

YOUTH GROUP

All youth (6th-12th grade) are now invited to participate in our weekly youth group and dinner on Sunday nights from 6:30-8 pm.



MLK DAY OF SERVICE

All youth are invited to participate in a day of service with Soprema Senior Center on Monday, Jan 16 from 1:15pm - 3pm. We'll be running a trivia and games event for the seniors!



CYF REGIONAL WINTER RETREAT

All high school youth are invited to the CCIO Mid-Winter Retreat for CYF Youth on February 17-19 as we discover what the Bible tells us about who God says we are. Do you ever wonder about how we fit into God's purpose or how our God given identity can and should impact the way we live. Come to camp for a fun filled weekend with your friends. Bible study, keynote speakers, games, singing and of course s'mores by the lodge fireplace. Registration is open! <https://www.ccinoh.com/ministries/children-youth/youth-fellowship/cyf-retreat.aspx>

Special Thank Yous

Many thanks to everyone who participated in Search for the Christ child this year! We had 170 people come through, more than 38 volunteers who set up, cleaned up, baked cookies, passed out cocoa, and more, and 34 folks in costume acting out different roles! We also had three babies who played Baby Jesus. We also had donations of \$197 and non-perishable goods to go to the Salvation Army and our own food pantry! The Search was a great success and we are grateful for everyone who came to support! Pastor Shelby

On behalf of the Worship/Advent Committee, we would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all those who helped with Hanging of the Greens in decorating our church for the Advent/Christmas season. We appreciated your time and talent in creating a warm and inviting place for our church family, visitors, and community that may have visited during the Advent/Christ season.

Notes About Folks

Congratulations to Mason Birkbeck who was named to the Baldwin Wallace University Honor Society. He is a junior majoring in Cyber Security.

Sympathies to John and Amy Wise on the death of his mother, Evelyn Wise, Dec. 5.

Sympathies to Mary Alice Mantz and family on the death of her husband, Walter, Dec. 22.



Golden Ager News

80+ Birthdays

Jean Johnson	1/01/39	Mary Ann Rothacker	1/23/39
Ron Hontert	1/03/38	Gene Rue	1/12/41
Valerie McKenzie	1/04/43	Dennis Joachim	1/22/42
Barb Horner	1/08/32	Freda Kramer	1/22/35
Jerry Lash	1/09/41	Eunice Oehlenschlager	1/23/39
Noah Bentley	1/11/32	Ken Dilworth	1/25/39



Red Bag Item Boxed Meals

Mark Your Calendar for these Outreach Projects!

- Sat., March 4, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm - Chili-Soup Cook-off in Fellowship Hall.
- Thurs., March 23, 9:40 am - 12:15 pm - Feeding Medina County Wadsworth Food distribution on the south side of Art Wright Stadium.
- Sat., April 15, 9:00 am - noon - Drop & Drive at our Boyer Street entrance, receiving personal toiletries and laundry products to share among Haven of Rest, Marian's Closet, and Francis House Recovery.
- Mon. - Thurs., May 15-18 - All painters are encouraged to join us at Camp Christian.
- Tues., Wed., Thurs., May 30 - June 1 - Receiving garage sale items.
- Fri., June 2 and Sat., June 3, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm - FCC Garage Sale (save your sale items!).
- Thurs., June 23, 9:40 am - 12:15 pm - Feeding Medina County Wadsworth Food distribution.

We are looking for an Outreach participant who will learn how to operate the Zoom connection and phone speaker for future meetings (third Tuesday of each month, except June and July). We can train anyone interested in volunteering.

Facebook users, Main Street Wadsworth has requested a Facebook contact succeeding Kate Gray. Volunteers can text Dan Sondles (330) 715-7751, or email at dansondles@hotmail.com

Here's a final update on your purchase of Holiday Table Runners. After selling remaining table runners at Trinity UCC, we sent \$2,135 to Helping Haitians in Need for the benefit of Pastor Eddy's orphanage and school! Thank you.



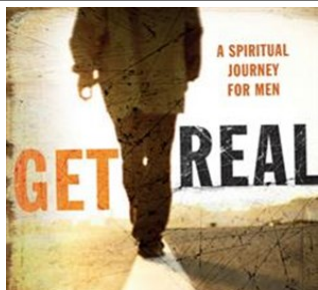
A myriad of thanks to all who made the fabulous table runners toward supporting Pastor Eddy's work in Haiti! This idea generated by Karen and Keith Longfield, not only will provide for the skyrocketing costs of Eddy's foundation, but is a huge emotional boost for him at a time when he needs it most. Eddy continuously tells us how much he loves the people at FCC and feels the love given back to him and his work. This underscores that big-time! What a blessing! With sincere thanks, Pastor Eddy and the Board of Helping Haitians in Need.

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and kindness in the Christmas Bag you delivered to us! It was very nice and useful! Your work is much appreciated by all, I'm sure! God Bless, Richard & Pauline Thompson

First Men

Men of First Christian Church

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



Men's Retreat

GET REAL: What Do We Dare?

Saturday, February 18

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Letha House Park West

5800 Richman Road, Spencer, OH 44275 (near Lodi)



At this year's retreat, we will focus on the conclusion of Derek Maul's final chapters of his Spiritual Journey for Men that we used in our Fall Men's Forum sessions. Derek challenges us to be daring with our Faith.

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10) Derek challenges us to be daring with our faith to put it in action and really Live.

We will take a day to build connections with each other like we did during Forum this Fall and through those connections, we will identify how we can really live this life as if faith actually makes a difference...after all, what is stopping us?

Watch for signups starting in late January. Lunch will be provided. Donation: \$10



Youth Christmas

Party



SEARCH
FOR THE CHRIST CHILD



Sunday Morning Worship

Jan. 1

Worship - 10:00 am
No Sunday School

Jan. 8, 15, 29

Contemporary - 8:45 am
Sunday School - 10:00 am
Traditional - 11:15 am

Jan. 22

Worship - 10:00 am
No Sunday School
Annual Meeting - 11:00 am
Luncheon - 12:00 pm

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

January Dates to Remember

Find updated information regarding church events on the FCC Webpage, Facebook Page, and the Weekly Update sent out every Friday afternoon.

Weekly

Wednesday		
Chancel Choir		5:30 pm
Bells of FCC		7:00 pm
Thursday		
Worship Team RhS		6:30 pm

Daily

Jan. 1	Worship Service	10:00 am
"	Red Bag Sunday	
Jan. 2	Office Closed	
Jan. 7	Sewing Sisters	9:00 am
Jan. 8	Visioning Comm Update	12:15 pm
"	Youth Group	6:30 pm
Jan. 9	Risk Management Comm	6:30 pm
Jan. 10	Official Board Mtg	7:00 pm
Jan. 12	DEI Comm	7:00 pm
Jan. 16	MLK Day of Service	
Jan. 17	Outreach Comm	7:00 pm
Jan. 19	Visioning Comm	7:00 pm
Jan. 20	All Church Euchre Night	7:00 pm
Jan. 22	Combined Worship	10:00 am
"	Annual Mtg	11:00 am
"	Luncheon	12:00 pm
"	Youth Group	6:30 pm
Jan. 24	Wmn's Mnstry Mtg	7:00 pm
"	Worship Comm (Zoom only)	7:00 pm
Jan. 27	Baptism Class Field Trip	6:15 pm
Jan. 29	All Church Bowling	4:00 pm

Office Hours

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



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Request in Home By January 2, 2023

Regional News

Advance Conference Winter Retreat - Jan. 6-8, Camp Christian. For young adults ages 19-30. Find your spiritual gifts and learn how to use them in your life. Click on this link for all of the information and to register:

[LINK to Register](#)

Community News

Picking and Strumming at Wadsworth United Methodist Church! The first Tuesday of every month beginning Jan. 3, 7:00-8:30 pm. Odd months are acoustic guitars, even months are electric guitars with small amps. All skill levels welcomed. All types of music welcomed.

2023 Camp Dates!

For detailed information on 2023 upcoming camps at Camp Christian, check out this link:
<https://www.ccinoh.com/camp-christian.aspx>.

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.



Coming in February!