



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

**April
2024**

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Coffee Hour April 7

Join your FCC family in the Gathering Area for fellowship and goodies after worship. Sponsored by the Sisters in Christ Sunday School Class.

Flower Calendar

Interested in purchasing a flower arrangement that will be placed on the Chancel during worship? The Flower Calendar is available at the Welcome Center. Cost per flower is \$20.



Please remember to let the office know of any address change, email change, phone change. Thanks.

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

**May Caller
Deadline**
- April 10 -



Holy Humor Sunday

April 7

10:00 am Combined Worship

Bring your funny bones and happy faces! Laugh in the joy of the Christian faith. Holy Humor Sunday is rooted in a custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity. For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant countries, the week following Easter (including the Sunday after Easter) was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, told jokes, sang, and danced. Thanks to Jerry

Ritzman and Val Baughman for emceeding the service. The Chancel Choir will be providing a "special" anthem and jokes will be provided by the kids during Children's Chat.

Volunteer Appreciation Reception

Sunday, April 14



"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen." 1 Peter 4:10-11

When you volunteer, you are making a commitment to share that most precious of resources; your time. While I know that you choose to volunteer selflessly and without expectation of being recognized or rewarded, the FCC Staff wish to do just that. We want to let you know just how much your dedication is appreciated and that everyone at First Christian Church is forever grateful to each of you.

Whether you are a long-time volunteer or if you got involved fairly recently, and regardless of how many hours you choose to give, it's important for you to know that what you do makes a difference. Join us Sun., April 14, in the Fellowship Hall following worship service. We would love to celebrate you! Lunch and Childcare will be provided, and a few special awards will be presented. If you volunteer in any way at FCC, please join us!

Thank you and God Bless!

Keyshia L. Beverly, Director of Child and Family Ministries



Drop & Drive

Saturday, April 20

9:00 am - Noon

Boyer Street Entrance

The Outreach Committee will be collecting personal toiletries and laundry products to share among Haven of Rest, Marian's Closet, and Francis House Recovery. Drive up to the Boyer Street entrance and the Committee will unload your car.

Shalom from Shelby

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!

Welcome to the season of Easter - it's one of my favorite seasons of the year. When I was volunteering at my church in college, I remember gathering outside the chapel one Sunday before Children's Church, where our kids would go during the sermon time for a Bible story. We always had the children prepare to enter our worship space by giving a little introduction to what we would be talking about and then having the children enter one-by-one when they were ready. When my friend and mentor, Hailey, was preparing the kids to enter the chapel, she told them excitedly, "did you know that Easter isn't over? It's not just one Sunday, it's a whole season!" One boy got wide eyes and said, "I'll have to tell my mom - I don't think she knows!"

The next year, I was babysitting that same boy when he asked to do an activity. He wanted to make an Easter tree. He got out his construction paper, his scissors, and his crayons. He taped pieces of green paper together and cut it out to look like a Christmas tree. He then decorated 7 paper eggs and taped them to the tree. This boy couldn't contain his joy that he got to celebrate Easter for 7 whole weeks (though I think he was a little disappointed when he found out the Easter bunny still only came once a year). His enthusiasm reminded me of what it means to extend the joy of Easter past Easter Sunday.

The resurrection is about more than a single day or act that God performed. It is about more than a stone rolled away and a proclamation made to the disciples. Easter serves as our reminder that Jesus IS risen and is present and active in our world. His ministry didn't end with his death and it didn't end with his resurrection - it transformed. And we have been invited to participate in that ministry in God's world today. Christ is at work in us here and now, so let us live into our calling to be an Easter People and share that Good News with the world!

Shalom, Shelby



Thank you to everyone who purchased Easter Flowers.

Board News

Board Clerk, Felicity Wilson

Highlights of the March 12 Board Meeting:

There were 21 Board members, 5 staff, and 1 guest present.

The Board approved the following:

- Motion from Nominating Committee to accept and install Felicity Wilson as Board Clerk, replacing Katie Boarman who resigned on February 12, 2024.

Next Official Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 9, 7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall & Zoom
Everyone is welcome to attend!

FCC News Brief

New Members:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| 2024 Baptism Class | |
| Baptism and Confession of Faith | March 24 |
| Elaina Brothers | |
| Jackson Kovacevich | |
| Gus Obendorf | |
| Nora Sullivan | |
| Ivy Taylor | |
| Kadin Williams | |

New Baby:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Bexley Olivia Oddo | March 21 |
| Parents are Eliza and Michael Oddo, big sister is Zayley, and grandmother is Kathy Peace. | |

Dear Church Family

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the FCC members who helped in their special way with Ken Liechty's celebration of life meal and time of fellowship. Your labor of His love eased a most difficult time. May God's richest blessings be yours. In His love - Jodi Liechty, Haley & Mitch Haugh, and Nanci & Dean Sullivan

We wish to extend heartfelt appreciation to our church family for the countless gestures of kindness received at the loss of Ken Liechty. Your prayers, cards, calls, food and offers of help truly eased our aching hearts. May God richly bless each of you for spreading His love so freely. Lov in Him - Jodi Liechty, Haley & Mitch Haugh, and Nanci & Dean Sullivan

Homebound Members Listing

An information sheet is located by the Registration Table in the Gathering Area for those interested in sending a card or a note to our homebound members.

Our Call to Mission

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

Treasurer's Report

General Fund as of February 29, 2024

Submitted by Lisa Jones

GENERAL FUND CASH BALANCE

\$256,556.72

| | CURRENT MONTH | YEAR TO DATE | YEAR TO DATE BUDGET | ANNUAL BUDGET |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>CONTRIBUTIONS</u> | | | | |
| Offerings | \$30,072.51 | \$92,501.60 | \$73,498.96 | \$477,743.00 |
| <u>EXPENSES</u> | | | | |
| Personnel | \$23,347.59 | \$54,739.91 | \$56,075.16 | \$336,451.00 |
| Admin/Programs | 10,391.60 | 21,571.24 | 16,048.66 | 96,292.00 |
| Outreach | 7,312.00 | 13,294.00 | 7,500.00 | 45,000.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$41,051.19 | \$89,605.15 | \$79,623.82 | \$477,743.00 |

Our month to date Compassion Offerings are \$23,448. This includes \$3,409 from the Basket Raffle and \$68.49 from the Children's March. As always, thanks to all who support Month of Compassion.

Chairman's Minute

There has been some talk at FCC about upgrading the sanctuary sound system to improve the worship experience for our congregants with hearing impairments. The W.E. Committee, (formerly DEI Committee), is actively discussing hearing loops and other technologies as potential solutions. However, because sound engineering is a very complex science with many variables that are usually very expensive to implement, I felt it prudent to get a professional opinion before investing any further time or money in the process.

So, in March, at no charge, I had our sanctuary sound system audited by a professional audio engineer who focuses on church sound systems. His basic report was that our existing sound equipment is excellent and still very contemporary. He noted that the sound system is aligned very well and provides excellent sound reproduction throughout the entire sanctuary. His only negative comment was that the video screens in the front of the main sanctuary were blocking the main sanctuary speakers, which could cause problems for some people with hearing impairments.

Now, there are several solutions to this problem, but before we consider options, we need to collect more data from the congregation. To that end, here is my request: If you are having trouble hearing during worship or you know someone who is, contact me and tell me where you are sitting and what parts of the service you cannot hear well. For example, are you sitting in the main sanctuary or in one of the side wings? Which wing? Are you sitting in the front rows, or somewhere in the back? Have you tried sitting in different areas, (especially the wings), to see if the sound is better or worse depending where you sit? Do you have trouble hearing the music or someone who is speaking? Are you hearing the praise band, the choir or the organ? Are you having trouble hearing the preacher at the pulpit or when standing at the communion table? Do you use hearing aids or not? If you use hearing aids, are there any other situations where you have trouble hearing with them? Any specific information you can provide will help us identify the correct solution and be good stewards of our resources.

There are people at FCC, (especially the W.E. Committee), who really want to improve the worship quality for those of us with hearing challenges, but we need your help to clearly understand the problem and evaluate solutions. I sincerely thank you and look forward to your input. Connect with me at 330-416-1232 or kkaufman@fccwadsworth.org. Yours in Christ, Kevin Kaufman, Board Chair.



Pop Tab Collection for Ronald McDonald House

Did you know that you can help Ronald McDonald House turn pop tabs into cash? By simply saving your pop tabs (or any other aluminum pull tab) you can help purchase items for the House that families can enjoy during their stay. Simply collect your pop tabs and drop them off in the container located on the Outreach Cabinet in the Gathering Area. This is an ongoing project.



Child and Family
MINISTRIES

Keyshia Beverly, Director
kbeverly@fccwadsworth.org

Superheroes and Princesses Brunch and Crafts - February 25

A time for intentional fellowship with young families, while kids created crafts.



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

April 14 - Volunteer Appreciation Reception
April 21 - Brunch and Crafts for Young Families and Children
May 5 - Family Field Day
June 25-28 - VBS

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.



Lenten Lunch held at Grace Lutheran Church, March 20.



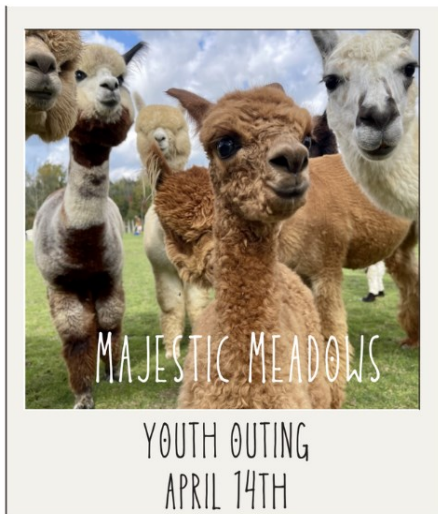
Pastor Morgan Walker, Grace Lutheran Church and Pastor Shelby





APRIL FELLOWSHIP EVENT

On April 14, we're going to Majestic Meadows! Carpool meets in the parking lot at 3 pm and arrives back by 6 pm. RSVP to Pastor Shelby by April 7.



SUNDAY MAY 5TH

All youth & their families are invited to join us for a special worship service and brunch banquet immediately following! We'll celebrate our seniors, volunteers, & our year together. RSVP by April 21.



SAVE THE DATES FOR CAMP!

Chi Rho/CYF Concurrent:

June 16-22

Chi Rho: July 7-13

CYF: July 14-20





Red Bag Item Canned Meat

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

Looking for an after-school volunteer activity? Salvation Army's Learning Center meets in the FCC's Ed wing. They need a volunteer or two on Mondays and Thursdays 3:30-5:30 pm. Volunteers work one on one or in a small group to help students (grades 1-6) with homework and enrichment work. The program will continue into the middle of May. Lindsey Kercher is Director of Operations, Wadsworth. Salvation Army, 527 College Street, Wadsworth Ohio 44281 Office: (330) 335-2327.

Looking for family friendly/weekend volunteer opportunities? First Fridays: FCC is a member of Main Street Wadsworth and they need volunteers for set-up and clean-up each first Friday, April 5, 5:00-9:00 pm. FCC is also a member of Wadsworth Chamber and they look for volunteers as well.

Fri., April 12 help Salvation Army with their monthly food distribution, as cars drive through the 527 College Street parking lot. 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Thank you to our five painters who put a finish coat on the interior of the 52nd Habitat home in Medina County, located at 671 Silver Crest Road, in Wadsworth last month.

Delivering several 4th quarter local outreach donations approved by our Board in February:

Karen & Keith Longfield present a check to Marian's Closet's executive director Teresa Berrey and Envoy Ashley Smith at Wadsworth Salvation Army.



Jerry Lash delivered checks to Ashley Krause at Children's Center of Medina County and Habitat for Humanity of Medina County. Tom O'Connell Executive Director spoke to our congregation on Palm Sunday.





Ladies, we have several activities coming up. So, grab your calendars and block out some time to spend in fellowship with us.

Our book study kicked off on Fri., March 27, but it's not too late to join us. Keyshia is leading us through her devotional, Still Standing: "She Will Not Fall" during the month of April. Her book is available for purchase on Amazon. Then, join us on Fri., April 12 and Fri., April 26, 7:00-8:00 pm in the Chalice Room as we discuss and share how our faith in God keeps us strong when we should fall.

Tues., April 23 is our first dinner together. Please join us at Great Oaks Tavern at 6:00 pm to share a meal and enjoy being together. Sat., May 11 we will meet at The Mill inside Buehler's for brunch. Then, we'll head over to FCC to prep flowers for Mother's Day. Our June event is still in the planning stages. Stay tuned!

And, Oct. 26, we are heading to Canton for a day full of speakers, worship, praise, music, fellowship, fun, and all the things at Extraordinary Women Ministries. We need to grab our tickets now before they sell out!

Sign ups for all events are in the Gathering Area and on our Facebook Page, FCC Women's Ministry.

Have questions or suggestions? See Heather Humes (Errante) or Tanya Keaton.

enJ.O.Y. Lunch

Thursday, April 18

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

Everyone is welcome to join in the Just Older Youth Lunch that will be held Thurs., April 18, 11:30 am, in the Fellowship Hall. The menu for this month is Sloppy Joes, veggies, fruit, chips, dessert, and beverages.

Sign up in the Gathering Area or call the office. If you need a ride, contact Jerry Ritzman (330-760-4598).

J.O.Y.
Fellowship

Just Older Youth

80+ Birthdays

Sally Porter
Bob Gerberich
Lois Garman
Amy Mavity

4/10/42
4/11/37
4/27/31
4/28/41

50+ Anniversaries

Pat & Ken Channell
Nancy & Jim Noe

4/06/74
4/07/61



March 21 event.
Lunch and Games



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

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

April 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

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|----------|
| April 1 | Men's Forum | 7:00 pm |
| April 7 | Holy Humor Sunday | |
| " | Red Bag Sunday | |
| April 9 | Official Board Meeting | 7:00 pm |
| April 12 | Wmn's Mnstry Book Study | 7:00 pm |
| April 14 | Volunteer Appreciation | 11:00 am |
| April 14 | Youth Fellowship Event | 3:00 pm |
| April 16 | Outreach Comm Mtg | 7:00 pm |
| April 18 | J.O.Y. Event | 11:30 am |
| " | W.E. Comm Mtg | 7:00 pm |
| April 20 | Outreach Drop & Drive | 9:00 am |
| April 21 | God's Kids Club | 8:45 am |
| April 23 | Wmn's Mnstry Dinner Night Out | 6:00 pm |
| April 26 | Wmn's Mnstry Book Study | 7:00 pm |

Tech Booth Volunteers Needed

NOW and for the fall. You would be on a rotating schedule and youth are welcome to serve. We will provide the training needed. Also, we need musicians and singers for the Contemporary Service when we go back to two services in September. You could serve once a month or more if you like. Please consider using your gifts to enhance our Contemporary Service. Please contact Kevin Kaufman, Gary Oliver, or Val Baughman if interested.



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 you need, take what you need.

Community News

Sonnenberg Station Concert - Sat., April 13, 3:00 pm, Grace Lutheran Church, Wadsworth. Sonnenberg Station is a 19 member men's ensemble that has given over 160 programs in more than 80 venues over the course of 17 years. Deriving their name from a local landmark in the Sonnenberg Valley northeast of Kidron, they strive to weave a thread of local culture to an area where many of their ancestors lived. Audience members can expect to hear songs from all singing traditions; from high church traditions to mountain spirituals, sea chanteys, to big city gospel, folk songs, and much more.

Trinity UCC Concert Series - Sun., April 14, 4:00 pm. Kayla Bryan and Philippe Gagne in a violin and piano concert. Free admission.

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.