



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

**February
2023**

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Month of Compassion

SILENT AUCTION!



Stop in the Gathering Area and check out the baskets that have already been dropped off! The bidding will begin Sun., Feb. 12 and run through Feb. 26. Bid High! Bid Often! Support Month of Compassion.

2022 Annual Report

Hard copies of the 2022 Annual Report are available in the Gathering Area. You may also view it online on the FCC website or on the Weekly Update. Learn more about the life of First Christian Church by reviewing all of the valuable information in this report.

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.

March Caller Deadline

- February 10 -

Month of Compassion

Rise Up Anew

By Gary Barnard

It's February, that means it's Month of Compassion. For the second year in a row it is my pleasure, honor, and privilege to return to this most important world-wide charity. We have several plans for the month, some old, some new. The bake sale has been replaced by a silent auction of gift baskets donated by Sunday School classes, church committees, and individuals. The Covid pandemic has made this change necessary. The Silent Auction begins Sun., Feb. 12, with bidding closing on Sun., Feb. 26. Stop in the Gathering Area and check out all of the baskets.

Our goal remains the same as it has been for the last few years, \$20,000. All funds over and above the goal will be donated to the Circle of Compassion until we reach \$10,000 to establish an endowment in the name of FCC Wadsworth.

The theme for this year is "Rise Up Anew". The presentations will be as follows:

Feb. 5 - Presentation of goal, theme and symbol

Feb. 12 - Serious skit that takes place in Ukraine involving a family in harms way.

Feb. 19 - Humorous skit. We bring back a character introduced years ago. Many of you asked for this so now you get it.

Feb. 26 - The Children's March. The children bring their Compassion banks and deposit them in the Love Bucket.

This is an important commitment in the life of this church, make it happen.

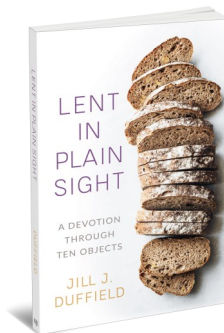
From Isaiah 49:10 - *They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat upon them. He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water.*

Lenten Book Study

Want to deepen your relationship with Jesus this Lent?

Make the most of this spiritual season and join one of our **small group book studies**. This year we will be reading "**Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects**" by Jill J. Duffield.

God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates the deep truths of life. It is through the mundane that we hear God's quiet voice.



In this devotional for the season of Lent, Jill J. Duffield draws readers' attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem: dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones. In each object, readers will find meaning in the biblical account of Jesus' final days. Each week, readers encounter a new object to consider through Scripture, prayer, and reflection. From Ash Wednesday to Easter, Lent in Plain Sight reminds Christians to open ourselves to the kingdom of God.

How do I participate?

Sign up for a small group using this online [form](#) or the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. Please indicate if you would like the church to order you a copy of the book. Orders are due by Feb. 12 and the cost is \$11.

Shalom from Shelby

Over a chilly weekend in January, our CYF group gathered at the church for our annual retreat. We tie-dyed t-shirts, played games, and participated in bible study and worship. We ate yummy food and we stayed up late... and we also had deep conversations about growth and grace. Ephesians 4:15-16 (CEB) says, "...by speaking the truth with love, let's grow in every way into Christ, who is the head. The whole body grows from him, as it is joined and held together by all the supporting ligaments. The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as each one does its part." And so we wondered together, what does it mean to grow as a whole "body," in community with others?

As we embark on our new visioning process, this is a crucial question to ask... how can we grow together as a community? As the scripture says, it starts with Christ and is done in love. We all have our part to play in growing our church, and that growth doesn't just look like more people in the pews and more money in the coffers. It looks like real revitalization. It looks like following God on new journeys! One of the ways we can do this is by stepping up to help. Maybe that means serving on a committee or a task force or maybe it looks like volunteering in the nursery! Doing what we can, when we can to further the vision and mission of this church is so important. Another way to follow God's call in community is by building relationships. Those relationships can be among your peers or intergenerational or both! Mentor a new member or volunteer with the youth or children. Reach out to someone you haven't seen in a while or say hello to someone you've never met! By building relationships, we are helping to build the Kingdom of God. Together, with Christ at the center, we can grow into the church we're called to be! Shalom, Shelby

Board News

Sharon Wright, Board Clerk

Highlights of the December 13 Board Meeting:

There were 20 Board members, 4 staff, and 6 guests present.

The Board approved the following motions:

- Personnel Committee's request that Bridget Tomblin be hired for part time secretary position for up to 15 hours per week at an hourly rate of \$15.
- Nominating Committee's request that Matt Gruver be elected to serve the remaining 2 years of Rich Weiss's Trustee position.
- Pastor Shelby's request that \$197 received from the Search for the Christ Child be donated to the Wadsworth Salvation Army.
- Cindy Farver's request that FCC participate in the Month of Compassion 2023 offering with a fundraising goal of \$20,000 with any amount collected over that go directly to our Circle of Compassion fund as we work toward our goal of \$10,000.
- Cindy Farver's request that FCC hold a Month of Compassion Silent Auction with proceeds being donated to Month of Compassion.
- Lisa Jones' request to approve the 2023 Operating Budget.

Next Official Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 14, 7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall & Zoom
Everyone is welcome to attend!

Chairman's Minute

"Thanks for a job well done as Chairman of The Board in the service of The Church of Christ". This was a thank you note Rev. Phil Gould gave my grandfather, Glenn Kaufman, at the end of his term as Board Chairman in 1957. I don't know how Grandpa did the job, but I pray for the same wisdom, patience, energy and love that I think he humbly desired as I embark on this journey with which you've entrusted me.

Obviously, FCC is much different than it was in 1957 so, I ask for your support through fervent, unceasing prayers for me and all of this church's leadership. There is power in prayer and the Lord blesses a prayerful congregation. The Lord has entrusted all of us, you and me, with the wise and compassionate operation of this church in His mission to go and make disciples. Please recognize and fulfill that responsibility.

Personally, my goal is to serve you by guiding and supporting our pastors while assuring that everyone on the Board and in the congregation is heard. We are in interesting times my friends, but I believe the glory of God will always be evident if we each stay in the arena and continue to fight the good fight.

Going forward, I intend to use this forum to share my thoughts and 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.

If you have stopped by the church office in the last few weeks, it is likely that you have seen a new face at the front desk. We are pleased to welcome Bridget Tomblin to our staff as our new Church Secretary. Prior to coming to FCC, Bridget worked as an Administrative Assistant at Habitat for Humanity's Restore in Medina. She is warm and friendly and enjoys working with people. Her background includes not only administrative work but also media and graphic design. She will be in the office Tues., Wed., and Thurs. from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Next time you come by, be sure to introduce yourself and make her feel welcome.



Our Call to Mission

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

Thank you to everyone for your generous and consistent giving. Financial details for 2022 year end can be found in the Annual Report. Lisa Jones, Treasurer



All Church Forum "How to Create Communities of Belonging"

Sunday, March 26 at 12:30 pm

As part of our recent visioning process, our congregation defined "Community" as one of our core values (along with Faith and Compassion) using the following statement:

Community

We embrace all, across differences, to seek God together and cultivate loving connections that bear witness to the radical welcome of Christ's table.

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee has been discussing how we can live out this core value in the very practical ways that we go about being church together: welcoming visitors, worshipping, studying, fellowshiping, and serving. In an effort to help our congregation reach across our differences to embrace one another, we have put together a speaker series and forum on the topic of "How to Create Communities of Belonging". We have invited people from outside of our congregation to share with us the insights they have gained through their work, research and personal life as it relates to this topic. We hope their knowledge will help us in our context learn ways to "cultivate loving connections" and be a community that bears witness to the radical hospitality of Christ.

Please plan to attend the Forum on **Sun., March 26** following the second service. Light refreshments will be provided. The forum panel participants will also be serving as guest speakers during worship on the following Sundays:

February 5 - Vince Suber, Principal of Wadsworth High School

March 26 - Jenna Savago, Licensed Counselor and Art Therapist with experience in substance abuse, LGBTQ+, trauma, anxiety, and mood disorders. Jenna is married to Denise Hachat's daughter Sarah.

What does Christ centered community look like to you? When have you felt like you belonged or didn't belong somewhere? Come be part of the conversation. Your experiences and ideas matter!



All-Church Euchre Tournament Winners!

Despite a little snow, we had 30 avid Euchre players gather on Fri., Jan. 20. It was an evening of great fellowship and friendly competition. When the dust settled and scores added up, Randy and Emily Kerstetter took home the honors and the trophies for high scores. Thank you to all who came out to play!



Golden Ager News

80+ Birthdays

Donna Beal	2/01/32	Marilyn Oplinger	2/13/41
Mary Catharine Lowe	2/01/27	Chett Workman	2/16/29
Betty Smith	2/02/30	Dona Maxon	2/18/33
Gary Barnard	2/05/38	Lynn Sandrock	2/25/42
Marcia Stubbendieck	2/20/43	Frances Wiedey	2/25/42
Carolyn Kiser	2/12/41		

YOUTH GROUP

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



MLK DAY OF SERVICE WAS A HIT!

Thanks to everyone who came to our MLK Day of Service event at Soprema Senior Center! It was so good to see our youth making intergenerational connections and doing some good on their day off of school.



CHI RHO LOCK-IN

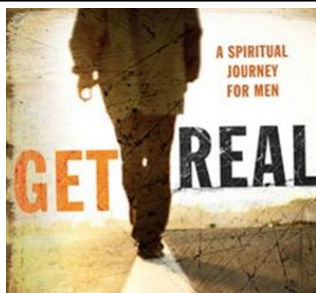
All 6th-8th grade youth are invited to stay at the church overnight from 7 pm - 8 am for a lock-in! We'll tie dye tshirts, have group discussion, eat yummy food, play games, and have a great time! Bring your Bible, sleeping bag & pillow, and anything else needed for a sleepover!



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)

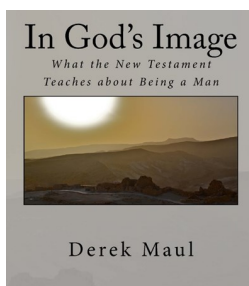


At this year's retreat, we will focus on the conclusion of Derek Maul's final chapters of his Spiritual Journey for Men that we used in our Fall Men's Forum sessions. Derek challenges us to be daring with our Faith.

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?

Sign up online or in the Gathering Area. Lunch will be provided. Donation: \$10.



Men's Forum - In God's Image

Mondays, February 20 thru April 3, 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. We will continue to study materials by the same author, Derek Maul, whose book, GET REAL, we used last fall and are finishing up at our retreat on Feb. 18.

Derek has a great formula to get us out of our shells and dig a bit deeper. We guys like to think we can do life on our own, but when one or more are gathered, God is with us...and good stuff just happens! In his study, *In God's Image*, Derek invites us to reimagine what it means to live as

a Christian man, to seek the fellowship of other disciples and to live beyond the cultural stereotypes that too often confine our walk and stifle our witness.

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

Join the guys of FCC Wadsworth and Medina.



All Ohio Disciples Men

Save The Dates for Two Upcoming Men's Retreats!

Ourselves in Changing Seasons, in Light and Dark **at Camp Christian**

The retreat will feature **Rev. Dr. Paul Koch**, Minister for the Christian Church Mid-America Region (Disciples of Christ). Paul is a seasoned teacher and retreat leader who brings his warm, loving presence and significant ongoing work in the area of men's ministry.

The retreat will explore the nature of our relationship with God in the changing conditions and seasons of our lives. Men need to pay as little as \$50 to attend. The estimated actual cost is \$100, and men (or their congregations) can make additional contributions to support the retreat.

Registration opened in early January. For now, please Save the Dates - March 17-19.

Retreat and Camp Christian All-Regional Church Workday

Friday Night, May 5 (7:00 pm) - Saturday, May 6

Camp Christian

On Friday, we will have an opening worship and then hear our speaker, **Rev. Michael Doerr**. Michael is presently the Pastor at First Christian Church in Wauseon. He has a heart for God and for men's ministry.

Saturday will begin with breakfast and worship followed by work around Camp Christian to get the camp ready for the camping season.

More details will be coming. We look forward to seeing all of Ohio's men.



Red Bag Item Pancake Mix and Syrup

Thurs., Mar. 23, is our next opportunity to assist Feeding Medina County with their Wadsworth Food Distribution. Feeding Medina County wants many groups to have the opportunity to help. They distribute on consecutive Thursdays in Lodi, Brunswick, Medina as you can see on their 2023 schedule. <https://feedingmedinacounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-Food-Distribution-Calendar.pdf>. We will help again on June 29, moved to the 5th Thursday, due to the Blue Tip Festival.

First Christian Church's Outreach Ministry Committee reorganizes each January and looks for personal service opportunities that will be of broad interest to our congregation. Matthew 25:35-36 is our guide. Everyone in our congregation is welcome to join us and bring friends. The majority of us, who take a regular and active role in Outreach activities, are retired from the workplace, but not from sacrificial service. Zechariah prophesied "we may serve Him (Jesus) without fear, in holiness and righteousness, in His sight for as long as we live." Luke 1:75

The satisfaction that comes from serving others should be open to all. One 2023 Vision objective is to identify Outreach opportunities on weekends that interest families and young adults. We welcome your suggestions for local organizations, in keeping with Matthew 25, in which younger members and families would like to invest time and resources.

Here's a suggestion: Salvation Army's Spring luncheon is March 4, so we are moving the date of our Chili-Soup Cook-off to **Sat., April 15, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**. We will combine this with our already scheduled Drop & Drive for personal items, toiletries, and laundry products, which we will take to Marian's Closet and Francis House Recovery. As an incentive, we will offer buy one/get one tickets to those who drop-off any of the items we are collecting. We invite your family to make a favorite chili or soup recipe and bring it to the Fellowship Hall to offer it to our congregation, friends and neighbors, and share a meal of someone else's chili/soup. We will invite Marian's Closet staff and Francis House Recovery to join us, so you can meet them and share a meal. Any proceeds from the Chili-Soup Cook-off will go to Helping Haitians in Need.

Special Thank Yous

Dear First Christian Church & Pastor Sarah, I wanted to personally thank you for the wonderful Christmas gifts you delivered to our home! That was so kind and thoughtful of all of you! Our first Christmas in our new home was certainly filled with comfort and joy! We are very blessed and thankful! Me, Mason, and Logan wish you a happy and healthy New Year! Love, the McKenzie Family (Habitat for Humanity home recipient FCC helped and Pastor Sarah blessed the house.)

Pastor Sarah, Thank you so much for your support of Youth for Christ of Northern Ohio. We truly appreciate your commitment to the kids we serve. Bob P., YFCNO Board Member. (Donation FCC made to The Garage.)

FCC News Brief

New Members

Andrew and Julie Sedlovsky Jan. 15
Andrew and Julie live at 306 Tiverton Court with their children Sebastian and Cecilia.

Notes About Folks

Sympathies to Amy and John Wise on the death of her father, Roger Humbert, Jan. 29.

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.

Dear Church Family

Many thanks for the Christmas package that I am enjoying—especially the lovely white throw and candies. It was so thoughtful of you. I also enjoyed the visit with Karol and Terry Tucker. Happy New Year! Nancy Noffsinger

Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as the Board Chair for the last three years!

We certainly went through unusual times due to Covid, but God helped us endure every step of the way.

The flowers you presented to me are a reminder of the joy and beauty each of you gives to our church!

The gift cards to D'Agnese's and Playhouse Square will be enjoyed, as I use them very soon!

I wish FCC the best in the New Year and know that Kevin will lead this church with integrity and passion.

Many blessings to you all. Cindy Farver

We are so thankful for FCC! For the last 10 years you have encouraged, prayed for, and gave financially toward our ministry in Guatemala! Thank you for walking and serving with our family - it means so much! We thank God for you! Serving together in Christ, Lisa & Rolando Monterroso & the Boys

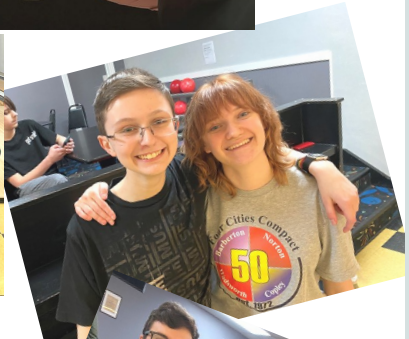


Check out the FCC Facebook page (First Christian Church, Wadsworth, Ohio). You will find pictures of current activities, links to Regional and National Disciple events, and links to WCTV programming of our Sunday and Special Services. Make sure you "share" with others.

MLK DAY
OF SERVICE



CYF
Retreat



ANNUAL MEETING



GAME NIGHT



Sunday Morning Worship

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

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/FCCWadsworthMedia>

Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianChurchWadsworthOhio/)

[FirstChristianChurchWadsworthOhio/](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!
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FCC CALLER

February 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

Feb. 4	Elder Retreat	8:45 am
Feb. 5	Red Bag Sunday	
"	Youth Group	6:00 pm
Feb. 6	Risk Management Comm	6:30 pm
Feb. 9	DEI Comm	7:00 pm
Feb. 11	Baptism Class Retreat	10:00 am
Feb. 12	Youth Group	6:00 pm
Feb. 14	Official Board Meeting	7:00 pm
Feb. 18	FCC Men's Retreat	9:00 am
Feb. 19	Youth Group	6:00 pm
Feb. 20	Men's Forum	7:00 pm
Feb. 21	Outreach Comm	7:00 pm
Feb. 22	Ash Wednesday Service	7:00 pm
Feb. 24/25	Chi Rho Lock In	
Feb. 26	Youth Group	6:00 pm
Feb. 27	Men's Forum	7:00 pm
Feb. 28	Wmn's Mnstry Mtg	7:00 pm

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.

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.

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

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Request in Home By February 6, 2023

Community News

Style Show - "Lucky & Blessed" - Sat., Mar. 4 - The Galaxy Banquet Center. The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary is presenting a style show with a silent auction and ticket auction. Proceeds to benefit the children's programs and services offered by the Salvation Army. Doors open at 9:30 am with lunch at 11:00 am. No tickets sold at the door. Contact Cindy Farver with questions.

2023 Camp Dates!

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

ASH WEDNESDAY Worship

Feb. 22 ~ 7:00 pm
With imposition of Ashes

"In Luke 9, Jesus says go where you are welcomed, move on where you are not. Shake the dust from your feet and keep going. Would that we could let go of rejection, failure, grudges, and anxieties by simply shaking the dust from our feet and trying again. Could I, at least for today?"