



A few words from Marcus

“Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.” Psalm 126:5-6

Scripture tells us that God collects two things, that at least two aspects of my life are eternal. **1) God collects my tears.** And **2) God collects my prayers**, storing up every word I’ve ever whispered in conversation with him.

Psalm 56:8 says, “You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle.” God’s not merely bottling up my tears though. He also promises that when they touch the earth, they bring renewal. Every tear of mine that falls to the ground will grow the fruit of redemption. God bends history so that the moments of greatest pain become the moments of greatest redemption, twisting the story to be sure that the pain that I feel releases the power of new life and that the tears that I cry will become the foundation of a better world. I’m promised that a day is coming when the Father Himself will wipe every tear from my eyes. But until then I live on in an “in between” promise that **my Father won’t let a single one of my tears be wasted.**

God also collects our prayers. In Revelation 5:8 we’re offered a glimpse of the receiving end of our prayers. “The twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people.” This means that every prayer we’ve ever whispered, from the simplest throw-away request to the most heart-felt cry, God’s collected it, like a parent collects artwork on the refrigerator. God has treasured up every prayer we’ve ever uttered, even the ones we’ve forgotten. And **he’s still weaving their fulfillment, bending history in the direction of a great “Yes!” to me and to you.**

From the last Board meeting:

- *The parking lot will be resealed and re-striped after school is out.
- *Simpson & Co. will be re-painting water damaged portions of the sanctuary ceiling. The cost is \$6600.
- *There have been a few leaks in the Life Center roof. 5 Star Roofing has since come out and repaired those leaks for \$500.
- *After paying more than \$3000 in van repairs recently a task force has been named to look at the next steps with our van to determine short-term rentals vs. buying, etc. Our Ford van was bought back in 2001 thanks to the hard work of the Christian Men's Fellowship.
- *We are still searching for the right person to become our next Director of Children's Ministry.

From Our Director of Discipleship and Evangelism

Bob Tankersley

Practicing the Way of Jesus Together as Family

Save the Date! Make sure that you and your family plan to be with us on Wednesday evenings this Fall as our entire FCC family will be studying “**The Story-Formed Way.**” Our Fall Kick-off will be **August 21st.** Each Wednesday, all of our age groups will be studying the Story of God and how we are all formed by it. I know this multi-generational offering will create a lot of family discussions as we journey through the story together.

SCHEDULING NOTE: The April “**FCC Book Club**” will meet on Thursday, **May 2nd** at 7pm to discuss the book **Amazing Grace: The Life of John Newton and the Surprising Story Behind His Song.** This book is the “surprising true story of John Newton, author of the song that has touched millions. A biography that reads like a novel, it reveals Newton’s dramatic story of sin and salvation as a slave trader before his ultimate transformation to speaking out against the horror of slavery. His story speaks to the brokenness within us all and our need for God’s amazing grace—and reveals the truth behind his song.”

Also: our ongoing film series, **Meeting God in the Dark**, will not gather during May. We will be back together in the early Summer.

Looking for a good Summer Read? Here are a couple of recommendations that will complement your current journey with Jesus:

Teach Your Children Well by Sarah Cowan Johnson - Sometimes we mistakenly give the impression that discipleship is more of an “adult” concern, but I firmly believe that God’s design has always been that the primary arena of our discipleship is in the home. This resource “unpacks how parents can have an active discipleship role in forming their children's faith, with age-appropriate insights and strategies for different developmental stages. She shows how we can identify God moments, facilitate spiritual encounters, clarify emerging beliefs, and encourage new faith habits in our children. Filled with exercises and activities for families to do together, this handbook is an essential resource for discipling children with confidence and creativity.”

Practicing the Way by John Mark Comer - This book was one of my most anticipated reads of this year. I think Comer has done an incredible job of distilling the journey of discipleship - which he terms as “practicing the way of Jesus” - from a variety of leading spiritual authors and leaders. An easy read that will challenge you and change your walk with Jesus!

Based on this book, one new Discipleship Environment coming soon to our FCC Discipleship Pathway is **The Practicing the Way Course.** This opportunity is designed to be “an onramp to spiritual formation, exploring what it means to follow Jesus and laying the foundation for life of apprenticeship to him.” Over eight sessions of teaching, guided conversation, and spiritual exercises we’ll learn how to lay a foundation for lifelong apprenticeship to Jesus and explore how to follow Jesus in our busy, distracted, and increasingly secular culture. Be watching for more information.

Be WITH Jesus - Become LIKE Jesus - DO what Jesus did

GRADUATES

Do you have a high school or college graduate this year? If so, let us know by May 1st so that we can recognize them. Call, text or email the church office or Noah.

HELP NEEDED

The Children’s Ministry needs your help. We need helpers on Wednesday night and teachers and helpers on Sunday mornings. If you can help on Wednesday please contact Shannon Nally snnally@gmail.com. If you are available to help on Sunday mornings please contact Stefanie Wiley stefaniejowiley@gmail.com.

From our Youth Director

NOAH DURBIN

This school year is wrapping up, Wednesday Nights are finishing up, students are preparing for finals, and seniors are getting ready to walk. It was another successful school year for the youth ministry. We had many laughs and moments that will last forever. I rejoice over our studies in God's word and the wisdom we were able to apply to our lives. During this school year, I have been pondering on Jesus' bold claim in John 14:6. There Jesus says, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." In a world that says there is no definite truth, Jesus proclaims a definite truth. We have been walking with students on how we affirm this verse and the implications for us. I want to encourage you with two implications. 1. God's wisdom is good because it's the only true wisdom for anyone and everyone. 2. We can rest knowing we, as followers of Jesus, have been found by Jesus and been given the truth of our salvation.

Speaking of the end of the school year, we would love to honor our graduates. Please send information to me or the church office about the school they are graduating from, their degree, and future plans by May 1st. Once I have all the information, I will send out how we will honor them. Take some time during this graduation season to send gratitude to God for the ways His blessing is manifesting in your life.

Our first event will be King's Island on June 5th. I will be sending out more information to parents and students in the upcoming weeks. Current 5th graders are invited to join us at the event. Then, our major event for the summer will be our mission camp. We will be going June 23rd-29th to Athens, TN with TEAMEffort again. 5th graders cannot go to our camp because students must complete 6th grade. Students should be signed up at the point of this newsletter. But I will be asking adults to join us throughout May. Once I know if you are interested. I look forward to the transformation we will experience in the upcoming months. I look forward to the transformation we will experience in the upcoming months.



FCC MINISTRIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

FCC is a part of or partner with many ministry and social aid organizations locally and around the world.

As a church we host the **Community Dinner** in our kitchen each week and volunteers from FCC prepare and deliver that food once/month. Weekly the Community Dinner serves over 150 meals each week. We've been active for many years with **Operation Christmas Child** both in putting boxes together for kids around the globe and also serving as a center to receive boxes from other churches before they are sent on to a bigger center. FCC provides over half the backpacks in the community-wide **Backpacks** food program that delivers Kroger bags full of healthy snacks for kids in Woodford County weekly during the school year. Part of that ministry is purchasing that food, bagging them, and delivering them to local schools. Most years FCC does short-term mission trips to areas in the United States that need help after severe storms and/or international trips to Haiti. Our church facility also hosts **Mentors and Meals (M&Ms)**, a non-profit whose primary goal is to enhance academic achievement in middle school students utilizing high school mentors, college interns, and adult volunteers. They also provide a meal M-TH for students attending & the Wednesday meal is cooked by FCC volunteers. FCC and many of its members also support the Benevolence arm of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) **Week of Compassion**. You can learn a lot about WOC at weekofcompassion.org.

FCC also has a variety of ministry partners who we help primarily financial. We financially support:

- ***Mike and Breanna Reynolds** and their ministry with **China Outreach Ministries** on the campus of the University of Tennessee.
- ***Assurance for Life**, a Lexington non-profit that offers no-cost medical services, emotional support, and practical help to individuals facing unplanned and often crisis pregnancies.
- ***Natalie's Sisters**, a Christian ministry that extends hope, support, and God's unconditional love to sexually exploited/sex trafficked women.
- ***Autumn Marshall** and her ministry with **5 Star Global Ministry** in Haiti where their vision is to empower families, caretakers, and locals to provide Christ-centered disability care while training and educating nationals to provide disability advocacy in under-developed countries.
- ***Stephanie Mosier** and her ministry with the **Miriam Center in Northwest Haiti Christian Mission**. The Miriam Center is a special-needs orphanage and community center for Haitian children with severe disabilities.
- ***Alex Kelley** and his ministry with **InterVarsity Christian Fellowship** on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University. IVCF is a vibrant campus ministry that establishes and advances witnessing communities of students and faculty.
- ***Anup and Darcy Rai** and their ministry with **World Gospel Mission** in Bangkok, Thailand.
- *Through a partnership with **Northwest Haiti Christian Mission** and the **Christian Church in Mayette, Haiti**, we sponsor the local primary school there paying for supplies and teacher salaries.

If you have any questions or want to get involved with any of these ministries, please contact Marcus.

PRAISE

Avery Thomas - 9 lb baby boy born to William and Jamie Starcher

SYMPATHY

*Family of Bobby Pulliam, Ivy Hughes brother – passed away
4/22/24

*Family of Jim Thompson - passed away 4-19-24

PRAYER CONCERNS

Karl Busby, Melissa Gregory's father – health concerns

Andrea Cinicola – health concerns

Bill Cobb, Jennifer Lynn's uncle, health concerns

David Collier, friend of Amy Parker - health concerns

Nancy Cressman, Becky Warren's mother - health concerns

Al Creque, friend of Jerry Landreth - health concerns

*Don Dobson, uncle of Tressie Hird – battling cancer

Lourie Joest Dove, aunt of Heather Webber – stage IV pancreatic
cancer

Madelynn Eaton - 4 year old with leukemia

Genille Ellis - health concerns

Joan Ethington – health concerns

Michelle Gahafer, Jason Webb's step-sister – health concerns

Mike Gentry – health concerns

Christy Hawkins, friend of Debbie Slatten - battling cancer

Brook Holdaway, family member of Jason Webb - battling cancer

Roberta Horsewood, Dedre VanHoose's mother, health concerns

Beverly Hughes, friend of Bonita Hill – health concerns

Carolyn Leet - health concerns

Sheree McGraw, mother of Ruth Anne Boyd - health concerns

Kathleen Most - battling cancer

Barry Newton – health concerns

Pete Pettyjohn - battling cancer

Melody Phelps – health concerns

Teha Redeker, friend of Jerry Landreth – health concerns

Cathy Ritter, Missy Mix's mom - health concerns

Wendall Shipp – health concerns

Karen Starcher, mother of Jeff Starcher - health concerns

Laveda Taylor, Ken Taylor's mom - health concerns

James Traugott, father of Bonita Hill - health concerns

Kelly Trent – health concerns

Mike VanHoose – health concerns

Patricia VanHoose - health concerns

Steve Watts - battling cancer

Larry Wheeler – health concerns

Jamie Williams, aunt of Ruth Ann Boyd - battling cancer

Anaiah Wilson - 15 year old battling leukemia

**Remember Those Who Cannot Worship with Us on a
Regular Basis**

Joan Ethington, Kay Hall, Patty Olson, Clifford Young

Vital Statistics

2024 Budget	\$440,770
Needed Each Month	\$36,730
Expenses thru April 22	\$113,931
Received thru April 22	\$156,704

In Person Worship Attendance 4/7	108
Sunday School	43
In Person Worship Attendance 4/14	161
Sunday School	56
In Person Worship Attendance 4/21	156
Sunday School	59

May Birthdays

2-	Jane Akin Shannon Gordon
3 -	Jim Thompson
4 -	Madeline Marsee
7 -	Sue Dozier
8 -	Clementine Robinson
10 -	Allison Lewis
15 -	Patty Olson Claire Webb
17 -	Curtis Congleton
21 -	Kody Smith
22 -	Caroline Wells
24 -	Judy Graves
26 -	Cindy Meholovitch
27 -	Lee Ann Rose Natalie Kendall
28 -	Freda Demarest

If you know someone who should be added to our birthday list, please let the church office know so that we can celebrate their special day with them!

ATTENTION FCC FAMILY

We are searching for a new Children's Director. If you know someone who might be qualified and interested in joining our staff please refer them to our website FCCVersailles.com for more information.

First Christian Church
160 Lexington Street
Versailles, KY 40383

GIVING BY CHECK

If you would rather mail a check that is good too.
Just send to FCC Versailles, 160 Lexington Street,
Versailles, KY 40383.

ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is available on our website
www.fccversailles.com. Just go to our website and
click on giving. From there just follow the prompts.

TEXT GIVING

Want to text your contribution? Just send a text to
859-214-6164. If you don't have an account set
up, you will be prompted to set up an account the
first time. After that it is easy...just type your
giving option and amount...i.e. Regular 5.00...in
the message. You will receive a confirmation text.