

first christian Highlights



Making disciples who make a difference!

June 14, 2017

Gadgets & Gizmos

VBS June 18-22

(Kick-off this Saturday)

VBS Kick-off is this Saturday from 4-6 pm at FCC . Kids can enjoy inflatables and other games while pre-registration is going on. **Volunteers are needed to meet and greet children and families and help with games and food.** This will be held on the front lawn and parking lot of FCC. VBS officially begins this Sunday night from 5:30-8:30 pm at The Presbyterian Church. Your help for any of these times would be greatly appreciated.

Soups on Us This Saturday

Join us for this outreach ministry. Volunteers are always needed. The process begins 8:00 am box folding; 9:00 am sandwich making; 10:00 am meal assembly; 11:00 meal delivery. Cookie makers are needed. Please do not use nuts or peanut butter. Bring cookies to the church by early Saturday morning packaged 2/bag.

Fundraiser for KRM (Making Kentucky Home for Refugees)

Passport to Flavor will be held June 23 from 6-10 pm at Distillery Square located at 903 Manchester St. in Lexington. This event will offer foods from Bosnia, Congo, Cuba, and Syria, live entertainment, silent auction, and more. Advance tickets are \$30/\$15 kids (6-12); \$10 more at the door. All proceeds support refugee resettlement in Central KY. For more information go to kyrm.org/passport

A. Jack May Art Display

A long time member of FCC, A. Jack May was a veteran, attorney, judge, instructor but was notably known for achievements in the art world. Although he passed away in 2012, his legacy continues today. A collection of his artwork is displayed on the 2nd floor of FCC. A. Jack May painted a mural on the wall of the church nursery located on the 1st floor. Take this opportunity to view some of his beautiful artwork.

4 Cans 4 Others

Our total can count has now reached 26,059 cans. Keep the cans coming! The Salvation Army helps many families with children out of school for the summer. Your donations are very much appreciated. Bring in your cans each Sunday or purchase from Soups on Us. Your contributions to this community outreach truly makes a difference.

Inside...

Koinonia

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Weeks Ahead



Κoinōnía (Koinonia)

koinā 'nēā, noun: Christian fellowship

“Learning to Lament”

Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer. (Psalm 4:1, NIV)

There is a spiritual practice that is demonstrated throughout the Bible that goes almost completely unused. This practice is called “lament.”

To lament is to cry out to God. It is to express emotion. It is to complain, to rage, to accuse, to ask, to demand answers. It is to be human. Lament is how we direct our dissatisfaction, our heartbreak, our anger towards God. Yes, you read that correctly: anger towards even God! There is an entire book of the Bible called *Lamentations*. Most of the book called *Psalms* in the Bible is lament. Often, the prophets are lamenting. And yes, even Jesus laments.

But despite the fact that lamentation is one of the most pervasive spiritual practices in the Bible, we do not do it often or well, particularly in our culture. People tell me that they feel afraid or ashamed to express “negative” emotions towards God. Who am I to question God? Who am I to tell God I am angry or sad? People think that it is a sign of weak faith to be angry or sad at or to question God. I would argue the exact opposite. Only in a strong relationship can one feel welcome to bring strong emotions. Furthermore, we live in a culture that has formidable obstacles to lament. Among them are avoidance and denial. When we feel an uncomfortable emotion, we are encouraged to make lemonade out of lemons, to look on the bright side, to run as fast as we can from things that make us sad. Oftentimes when I visit terminally ill people in the hospital, the denial and avoidance of impending death is heartbreaking because it causes so much more pain than acceptance of death. And even when the patient has come to grips with her or his mortality, many loving family members claw at anything they can in order to deny or avoid the truth. I have had people who are dying tell me how alone they feel because no one is willing to talk with them about the fact that they are dying.

And besides, we *need* to lament. This world is lamentable! How long, O God, will the people of this nation be divided along the lines of race, ethnicity and politics? How long, O God, will children die of hunger and thirst, of violence and war in a world that has the power but not the courage to defeat these evils? How long, O God, must we pretend that everything is okay when we are struggling with depression, disease and addiction?

Here’s how I’ve heard lamentation described, which I think gives us all the reason we need to use this spiritual practice: *Lament is naming what is wrong or out of place in our lives, so that space can be made for God to provide a remedy.* You see, God invites and honors our lament. Just read the Bible and you will see how God responds faithfully to our needs when we name them. And please remember that we never ever need to feel like we have to protect God from our emotions. It’s okay to be mad at God. I know that sounds wrong, but the Bible clearly says otherwise. God does not require and does not desire us to get ourselves straightened out and under control before we approach God. God honors our tears and our snot and our angry exasperation on our knees when we are broken down and desperate.

Lament in the scriptures almost always ends the same way. After expressing our strong emotions and displeasure towards God, we are opened up to experience something else. Once the strong emotions are out of the way, we are able to *remember* the faithfulness of God. We can remember the times and the places where God showed up, and we can be certain that that God will continue to be faithful. But the path to the sunlit meadow of that assurance goes through the discomfort of the valley of lament. And so I encourage to lament. God will find you there.

In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety. (Psalm 4:8)

Shalom,

-Pastor Joey Pusateri



Children's Summer Worship, Wonder, & Explore

This year's summer trips are starting off with a SPLASH!

June 28 "The Fountain of Life" - Juniper Hills Water Park, Frankfort, KY

July 12 "God Calls Us to Care for His Creatures" Cincinnati Zoo

July 26 "God Provides for Our Needs" Kentucky Kingdom

All children must have permission and medical information forms completed and notarized along with a copy of the medical insurance card. Adult chaperones are needed for each trip according to FCC policies. Contact Darell if you can help.

Week of June 18

Sunday	9:45 am	Sunday School (Father's Day)
	10:45 pm	Worship Service
	5:30 pm	VBS (The Presbyterian Church)
Monday	5:30 pm	VBS (The Presbyterian Church)
	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
Tuesday	5:30 pm	VBS (The Presbyterian Church)
Wednesday	5:30 pm	VBS (The Presbyterian Church)
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	5:30 pm	VBS (The Presbyterian Church)
	9:00 am	Magnet Bible Study

Week of June 25

Sunday	9:45 am	Sunday School
	10:45 am	Worship Service
	12:00 pm	Elders Lunch
Monday	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
Wednesday	10:00 am	Children's Worship, Wonder, & Explore
Thursday	9:00 am	Magnet Bible Study

Prayer Concerns

Steve Bruce
Henrietta Cannon
Louis Ewbank –EMRMC
Con Horn, Jr.
Jack Kaiser
Marianne Kirby

Peggy Mitchell
Judy Morgan
Jo Ann Powell
Jim & Betty Ramey
Jackie Spivey
Dorothy Warren

In Sympathy

To Pastor Joey Pusateri and family upon the death of his grandmother, Evelyn Pusateri, on June 2.

To Richard Cook upon the death of his mother, Ada Jordan, on June 5.

Attendance & Giving

June 11

Attendance 150
Last Year 181

May 31, 2017

Year to Date Contributions

Actual \$138,154.00

Budgeted \$139,298.00

Capital Campaign

Total Pledged \$420,781.00

Total Received \$398,740.00

Always remember that any giving needs to be made by a separate payment or check for each type of giving.

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Service Roster June 18

Deacons Denise Wagner (Team Coordinator), Janice Bohannon, Lynn Dean, Laura Hoffman, Connie McVicker, Alice Reynolds, Jay Reynolds, Claude Wagner, Kandi Williams **Elders at the Table** Debbie Baker, Brian Calvert **Elders Serving Shut-in Communion** John & Martha Caywood **Sound Tech** Doug McMurry **Steward** Martha Bryant **Worship Leader** Gigi Biles **Acolytes** Ella Grace Gover, Henry Pennington **Communion Preparer** Jeanette Barbour **Greeters** Bill & Sue Prete **Ushers** Lucille Lemmon **Welcome Table** Jodell Brown

Service Roster June 25

Deacons Denise Wagner (Team Coordinator), Janice Bohannon, Lynn Dean, Laura Hoffman, Connie McVicker, Alice Reynolds, Jay Reynolds, Claude Wagner, Kandi Williams **Elders at the Table** Jane Boyd, Kathryn Ensor **Elders Serving Shut-in Communion** Jane Boyd, Elmer & Suzi Jackson **Sound Tech** Brian Calvert **Steward** Martha Bryant **Worship Leader** Kandi Williams **Acolytes** Ella Grace Gover, Henry Pennington **Communion Preparer** Julie Hastings **Greeters** Julie Hastings, Nyla Graham **Ushers** Sarah Hempel, Eben Henson, Lauren Newman **Welcome Table** Patty Castle

First Christian Church

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Bi-monthly newsletter publication

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