

OFFERING HOPE AND WELCOME TO ALL THROUGH JESUS CHRIST



All Are Welcome!

As an open and affirming church, ALL are welcome into our family. The Good News of God's grace is for everyone regardless of age, abilities, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, income, physical and mental health, education, or strength of faith. There is nothing we do, have done, or will do that can separate us from God's love. And since God makes no exceptions, neither do we.

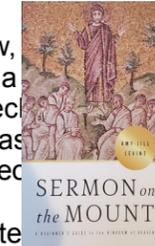
Our Newly Elected 2023 Elders, Deacons, and Council Officers

Sunday, October 23rd, during our Congregational Meeting, the members elected the new Elders, Deacons, and Council officers for 2023. The elders and deacons will serve a three-year term; the council officers will serve a one-year term.

We welcome new elders: Dave Gow, Carol McCreery, Susan Mowbray, and Martha S. elected deacons are Tom Clark, Linda ce Knauff, Mickey Koehler, and Penny Pysh. Council officers for 2023 are Ruth Lang, president; Bec... vice-president; Susan Mowbray will continue as Secretary; Mickey Koehler continues as... and Kae Howell, as assistant treasurer.

With the passing of our beloved George... who served as our third trustee, Joyce Kna... his third year as trustee.

Thank you to all of our newly elected... and their willingness to serve our church congregational positions.



New Adult Sunday School Bible Study

The Adult Sunday School Class, led by John Springsteen, will begin a new Bible study Sunday, October 31st. The class will be a six-week program on the book Sermon on the Mount by Amy-Jill Levine. The series will be completed on December 11th, (excluding November 20th when the class will not meet). Following the 9:30 Sunday worship service each week, we will meet from 11:00 to 11:45 AM in the church library. Everyone is welcome to attend this class.

All-Church Fall Bazaar

Time is quickly approaching for our annual All-Church Fall Bazaar. Saturday, November 5th, from 9:00-2:00, stop by the church to do a little shopping and support the women in their fundraising for both outreach work and their pledge to the church.

Check the sign-up sheets in the narthex to provide ingredients for the hearty beef stew. Bring them to the church Thursday and put them in the refrigerator. Offer to help cook on Friday and/or work a shift at the bazaar selling quilt tickets, working the cashier's table, or helping in the kitchen. We'll also need help with setup on Friday.

Be sure to buy your quilt raffle tickets! Get them Sunday at church or before 1:00 PM at the bazaar. The quilt will be hanging in the sanctuary until bazaar day.

Get those craft items finished. They can be brought to the office the week of the bazaar or on Friday, set-up day. Come check out other surprise items on Saturday - possibly jewelry, plants, popcorn, mason jar kits, fresh pecans, and other goodies.

A wide variety of baked goods are needed. Cookies of any kind and other baked breads may be brought in Thursday or Friday. A big push for homemade pies this year should prove delicious. If you need Diane Yeager's recipe for pie crust or want to get a ready-made crust to fill and bake, please call her or Sue Mowbray.

Check out a Re-gifting Table, new this year. Donate any NEW item you have that hasn't been used to this table. This is not for "rummage sale" items.

(219) 492-5615

November 2022

Vol. 91 No. 11

Any questions should be directed to Norma Armstrong, (219) 508-8797.

In essential, liberty; Requested community; Address Service

1507 Glendale Blvd. Valparaiso, IN 46383



Dated Material: Please Deliver By Saturday, October 29, 2022

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October 29, 2022



The 9:30 in-person services will continue to be live-streamed at 9:30 and will be available for viewing later from our website.

Servers for November

November 6

Deacon Team: Team #2
 Greeters: Beth Ingram, John Doyle
 Scripture Readers: Dan Pritchett, Karen Simerlein
 Sound Technician: TBA
 Building Monitor: Allen Hamilton
 Elders: John Springsteen, Beth Ingram

November 13

Deacon Team: Team #1
 Greeters: Bob & Michele Hurst
 Scripture Readers: Sal Oestreich, Carol Kuznicki
 Sound Technician: Jim Pysh
 Building Monitor: Chris Clifford
 Elders: Dave Yeager, Kae Howell

November 20

Deacon Team: Team #2
 Greeters: Sal Oestreich, Carol McCreery
 Scripture Readers: Beth Ingram, Cynthia Roberts
 Sound Technician: Chris Clifford
 Building Monitor: John Springsteen
 Elders: Doug Ross, Janet Biggs

November 27

Deacon Team: Team #1
 Greeters: Sharon Wiegand, Linda Farris
 Scripture Readers: Becky Springsteen, Joyce Knauff
 Sound Technician: John Springsteen
 Building Monitor: Larry Biggs
 Elders: Peter Steeves, Cheryl Girman



Worship Attendance

9/25/22: 64 at 9:30 Worship
 10/02/22: 85 at 9:30 Worship
 10/09/22: 94 at 9:30 Worship
 10/16/22: 97 at 9:30 Worship
 10/23/22: 86 at 9:30 Worship

Prayer Concerns

Members and extended church family who are dealing with illness, recovery, or other prayer-worthy matters:



**John Doyle; Dick Massom;
 Roy Moutaw; George Mowbray;
 Carol Steinbach;
 Chuck & Marian Worden;
 5-year-old Corbin
 (family of Lori Timm);
 6-year-old Felix
 (Natalie Girman's fiancé's nephew);
 Kathy (Carol Kuznicki's friend);
 Steve Nickles (Sal Oestreich's brother)
 Leonard & Marjorie Clark
 (Jessica Clark Alm, Rachel Clark &
 Luke Clark's grandparents);
 Unspoken Requests;
 Our Homebound Members;
 Our Church Ministries; and
 The People of Ukraine**



Staff and Council

**Pastor: Rev. Tim Trussell-Smith
 Office Administrator: Terry Pickering
 Director of Music: Dan Pritchett
 Council President: Doug Ross
 Vice-President: Ruth Lang
 Council Secretary: Susan Mowbray
 Treasurer: Mickey Koehler
 Assistant Treasurer: Allen Hamilton
 Nursery Attendant: Nikki Lawrence**

Office Information

Monday-Friday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 Church Phone: (219) 462-5615
 Office email: sec@fccvalpo.org
 Website: valpo.church

Here in the Stable

December 18th



think of children...little eyes full of innocence and wonder, anxiously waiting to see eyes that sparkle with glee as they experience the many joys of the season. I am also drawn to the image of a tiny baby lying in a bed of straw, a Child who is the direction of man's existence on earth.

Our Children's Worship kids will be presenting to the congregation during worship

our play this year so the choir and congregation will be joining in with us on most nights and warm and so is the message.

There will be cute kids in cute costumes telling the story from the stable of our Savior's birth; so as the play progresses, we're thinking, "How could it go wrong?"

There will be little memorization for the kids, and Dan will help me get recorded music sent to all of you parents via phone so the kids can listen to the music at home or in the car.

There will be some special practices scheduled along with the play. Thursday, November 17th, 6-7 PM. A special practice will be at the church

Our set will be kept simple but we do need help with having a manger. If any of our creative folks have an idea and are talented enough to create that, we would be happy to have the help.

I am fortunate to again have Sharon Wiegand and Reagyn as co-directors this year. Together with the kids, we will all do our best to take you from your seat to Bethlehem where you will find a manger with a Savior swaddled and sleeping.



**Blessings
 Terry Pickering**

Advent Devotionals

As the Advent season quickly draws near, we look forward to a bright season and to things yet to come. The theme of this year's free Devotional booklet is *Prepare the Way of the Lord*.

As the Advent season arrives, we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. Despite the ups and downs of the year, we acknowledge the greatest gift the world has received.

This year's theme encourages you to look forward and prepare for the things promised, yet to come. It's a timely reminder to not let the struggles of the present prevent us from hoping in the promises of the future.

These Advent Devotional Booklets are free to us through Society of St. Andrew and they have already been ordered. As soon as they arrive, you will find them in the sanctuary narthex and the education wing narthex.

Lenten Devotionals

Why is there an article in the November newsletter about Lent, which doesn't arrive until February 26, 2023? There's actually a very GOOD reason. We'd like you all to be thinking of a devotion that is in your heart that you could write for Lent that we'll publish in booklet form for our congregation to enjoy each day of Lent

We've done this in the past and those devotions were all so meaningful because we knew the hearts, minds, and lives of those contributors.

It is our goal this upcoming Easter season to once again, as we've done in the past, put together all of your thoughts about Easter into a booklet that we can publish and make available to anyone that would like one.

Be in prayer about it in the meantime, and sort through your personal experiences as a Christian following Jesus and share with all of your church family your words on the meaning, joy, struggle, or blessing that Easter brings to you.

You can begin sending your submissions beginning November 1st. Just email them to Terry at fccvalpo.org and they will be kept safe until the time the booklets are put together and published. Please do not send your entry as

a pdf file. cutting and pasting is so



A Quick Note on Music

Greetings from the Music Department!

I would like to take this time to thank Michael DeGan for all he has done for FCC. When the pandemic struck, Mike gave countless hours to the church in preparing the online services. He has also done a tremendous amount of work on our new audio/visual system and, of course, on the live-streaming of our services. We already miss his presence at the staff meetings. Michael's sharp wit and superb knowledge have been a blessing to us all. Best wishes to Michael as he continues his education!

The choir would like to extend an invitation to anyone who likes to sing to join us for the Christmas season. We have actually already begun preparing music for Advent. This would entail coming to Wednesday night rehearsals from 7:00-8:30 PM and, of course, singing on Sundays.

We also will have a day devoted to rehearsing our Christmas music on Saturday, December 3rd (9:30 AM - 3:00 PM with lunch provided).

You do not have to commit to every Sunday, as we are very flexible. I send out recordings of the music for you to listen to and practice with, plus I send out recordings of just your part played on the piano.

If you are interested and you let me know ahead of time, I will have a folder all ready for you. A good time to start would be mid-November. If interested, let me know by texting or calling me at (219) 516-3810 (a new number since the last printing of the church directory.) You can also email me at drp8487@msn.com.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Dan Pritchett

Christian Women's Ministry

We are scheduled for our last two meetings of 2022. November 7th we will meet at Darcy's at 7:00 PM. We will discuss the Bent-Over Woman found in Luke 13:10-

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FCC's Mailbox

We would like to thank From Susan's cancer surgery to George's fall on remarked, "You must break he has usually paralyzed and he has no deficits!"

for all the prayers, visits, c Thanksgiving Baskets e have felt loved. We share that with ful prayer circle because the type of



We continue to feel the prayers and well wishes from our c John Springsteen of the God Squad built a fantastic ramp for George who now feels safe coming and going from his medical appointments. The multiple visits from Rev. Tim at the hospital, rehab, and home have helped both of us.

As we continue to recover we want everyone to know how much FCC means to us. We are blessed.

George & Sue Mowbray



Dear First Christian Church,

Thank you so much for allowing the VNA to hold our memorial service in your lovely church. It was more than I could have hoped for, and I believe the families were touched and grateful as well.

We especially are grateful to Terry for all of the help and guidance she provided leading up to and including the day of the service. She went above and beyond for us, and the VNA Team and I are all so appreciative. Everything turned out wonderfully.

Many Thanks!
Sarah Kingsbury
VNA Hospice Service Coordinator

News From the Food Pantry

September numbers closed out showing 162 families were served, providing food for 421 folks.

Macaroni Salad kits and Tomato Tortellini Soup kits were prepared and offered during the month, and both kits were well received.

Tradition: ing dinner items are being requested along with canned fruit, Jell-O, stuffing, and gravy as well as green beans, mushroom soup, and French fried onions for Green Bean Casseroles. Those foods are being requested now so that there is enough time for them to be donated that pantry volunteers will know if some things need to be purchased in time for the offering of the Thanksgiving dinner menu foods.

There is always a continuing need for the basic foods that are offered to families at each visit: spaghetti sauce (canned for safety), tuna in water, canned pastas, cereal, toilet paper, etc. Extras like laundry detergent, dish detergent, paper towels, juices, jelly, cooking oil, coffee, teas, and facial tissue are also needed. In other words, **any** donation is helpful to the pantry.

Thank you to **ALL** who contribute in any way to the pantry project serving those in our "neighborhood" in need of pantry assistance.

Nan, Founder (219) 4
Sharon (219) 4



FCC Boo

The FCC Bookies meet on the fourth Tuesday of each m 4 at the church. Anyone that likes to read is invited and encouraged to join our group.

Even if you haven't read the book, you are welcome to come and find out if it's one you'd like to read in the future.

Our book for November is:



While We're of Books Again

As I mentioned in last month's newsle d at that time to invest the library shelves. I have investigated i cupboards in our library

Here is what I DID find: 23 copies of magazines; 18 hardcover from 1939; 15 hardcover "Christian Wo ls" from 1942; 12 pap from 1936; 50 paper pamphlets full of Christmas carols of various kinds (they

I don't know if folks are interest d in these or not, but I will put representatives of these in the narthex in November. Please let me know if you can put any of these to use.

A Season of Traditions



French writer Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr wrote, "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose" or "the more things change, the more they stay the same."

...n used to say this phrase all the time, though, not in French. She had several other pearls of wisdom that she would impart to us kids as well. And, of course, I find that I repeated them to my kids, and still do.

There's something cathartic to me about a child being old enough to regurgitate a phrase you have said for years...and one you repeated from your parent. Thus, the circle remains unbroken. Like another phrase my friend's mom used to say about pigs, which I struggled to understand what it was all about. Yet, repeat it, I do. But, that's a story for another time. Or the phrase I say to my granddaughter, Emma, when I need her to not dawdle: "Chop chop, chippie," a phrase meaning to hurry, first noted between Cantonese and English people in British-occupied South China. (Thank you Wikipedia.) My mother said it to me all the time and I to Nikki and now to Emma. She repeats it in her cute tiny voice and I find it very humorous. Again, the circle remains unbroken.

But, this particular quote I noted presents that even the most difficult of changes do not affect reality on a deeper level, other than to cement the status quo. Civilizations rise and fall and orange, but human personalities, feelings and motives remain the same. Looking at history or mythology, you might be surprised to find many parallels with modern existence.

I'm a big fan of the show "Family Dinner" with Andrew Zimmern. In it, he travels to various family homes for traditional Sunday supper and is warmly welcomed. The show provides a wonderful window into how families carry on rituals and habits with each other, teaching their

children those traditions to sustain a way of life central to that family.

These backgrounds and ethnicities come from all walks of life. There are farmers, immigrants, single parents, and nuclear families, etc. But, the message is the same: traditions and customs are sustaining because of the family, and they are moved on in one form or fashion, sometimes with other incorporations as peoples intermix.

With my granddaughter getting older, this show has given me pause to establish a weekly family dinner. Usually, it is on Saturday but sometimes Sunday. Teaching her behaviors so to interact with others in a positive manner, she is now in charge of table-settings and does a pretty good job for three years' old. Thus, I expect that she will carry on our traditions with her children.

We are entering a season for deep-rooted traditions of Thanksgiving and Advent...leading to Christmas traditions of historical depth, both within our own families and our church community, and these are most often intertwined.

Writing this gave me pause to remember a particular "tradition" when my daughter was in grade school. It was during Advent. Having a number of Jewish friends, I was very fond of Chanukah and its meaning. I had celebrated the Festival of Lights since I was in college; so, I brought out my menorah, as English people in British-occupied South Asia asked if we were Jewish. She came home and inquired if we were. I said, No, why? She said her classmate said the menorah lit in the front window. So I explained the method to my madness and that I had been doing it for over 30 years.

The next day she came home and informed me that I was doing it all wrong. She turned on the TV and now she came to that conclusion. She told me that her friends said I was also supposed to give presents and chocolate coins to her. AND she wanted a dreidel.....not one, but FIVE!

I'm not sure why that number was significant to her, but it was all I could do to contain the smile spreading across my face for her innocence. However, I bought her FIVE dreidels and gave her the chocolate coins, but no presents. I told her that because it was too close to Christmas, Santa would not bring her any if she got all the presents during Chanukah. She opted to wait for Santa. BUT, to get the dreidels and chocolate coins, I said she had to say the prayers and light the candles with me. She did so and it was a magical time that year, with several important lessons for her, long-forgotten, sure.

It has been many years since I celebrated Chanukah, but it resides in my heart and I pause during the Festival of Lights. I reflect on the bounties I have in my life and say a silent prayer to God. One day, I will again bring out my menorah and celebrate; because, after all, traditions are very big with me. And, even though I am not Jewish, I can impart the meaning behind the tradition and what God meant to the Jewish people. Meanings and traditions that, in essence, hold true for any religion in today's sometimes muddled world.

But in the meantime, I plan to create a new tradition for my family this year: I will set out three candles, lighting the FIRST one and letting it burn for a few minutes to imagine the problems of the past year being consumed in the flame. The SECOND candle, to illuminate the good things in my life right now. The THIRD candle, visualizing it lighting the way to the future.

Lord, be with us in these seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. Help us make the most of the life we are living and to show compassion in all we do. Most importantly, channel us to thank You for all the traditions and changes we encounter and to appreciate the many blessings in our lives.

Submitted by

Annie MacDonald

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The October 9th

The October 9th

opened with a devotion and prayer by Beth Ingram encouraging us to listen and focus on God. The council meeting was opened with a devotion and prayer by Beth Ingram encouraging us to listen and focus on God.

President Doug Ross was absent due to a health concern. Vice President Ruth Lang led the meeting. V Treasurer Mickey Koehler gave his report and explained how earmarking funds for specific purposes does not offset offerings earmarked for that same item. He continues to work on tax forms, quarterly reports, payroll, and more.

V President Doug Ross was absent due to a health concern. V Stewardship discussed the proposed budget and pledges received. At this time there is quite a disparity. Mickey explained that some budget requests had to be reduced. The council was informed there would be no pay raises given at this time. There was a lengthy period of discussion. Beth Ingram moved to approve the 2023 proposed budget, second by Carol Kuznicki, so approved.

V Facilities: The October 1st workday was very successful with 18 workers participating. The AV installation will soon be completed. Comcast and Frontier agreements were changed and will save about \$3,000 annually. The changing of sanctuary light bulbs will soon be completed.

V Worship: Barb Wheele said there is good participation with morning hosts in the narthex. The task board in the narthex needs to be promoted more.

V Elders: No report
V Membership: No report.

V Education: Curriculum has been ordered and Sunday School is staffed but could use helpers. Youth Group has started and they are planning Trunk or Treat for October 30. They are planning to have a trunk or treat on October 30th.

V Outreach: Mary LeBio recommended we participate in Lotus Reach, a monthly new clothes exchange, undergarments, and other necessary items. Budget requests had to be supported the Lotus Reach Program was approved. The October 1st workday was very successful with 18 workers participating. The AV installation will soon be completed. Comcast and Frontier agreements were changed and will save about \$3,000 annually. The changing of sanctuary light bulbs will soon be completed.

V Fall Work Day: The Fall Work Day took place on October 1st. Tom kicked the day off by preparing the coffee and donuts. The attendees took on tasks including cleaning, tree trimming and removal, paint touch up, emergency light bulbs, and more.

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NEW BUSINESS

V Requests: hours be adjusted so she can leave at 3:00 PM if her workload permits. HRT will discuss this.

V Education: Curriculum has been ordered and Sunday School is staffed but could use helpers. Youth Group has started up and it was passed unanimously.

V Outreach: Mary LeBio recommended we participate in Lotus Reach, a nonprofit local clothing store. The Fall Work Day took place on October 1st. Tom kicked the day off by preparing the coffee and donuts. The attendees took on tasks including cleaning, tree trimming and removal, paint touch up, emergency light bulbs, and more.

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Successful Work Day!

Susan Mowbray

Respectfully Submitted,