

Cake Decorating Class Update

The second in our line of training classes went well. We had six decorators with one thirteen-year old and one eight-year old, and both did very well. The others were more "mature." LOL We had a good time; and you can see by the looks of their work, they all have talent.

We may have a teacher for our next class: crocheting. We will know in a few weeks if and when we can schedule a class. If you have some talent you would like to share, please let me know. We would love to continue this "sharing of talents." Not only can we learn new skills, but it is a fun time to spend with our church family and anyone else who would like to learn. More information will be made available. Take care.

Ruth Lang



In all things, love.
In non-essentials, liberty;
In essentials, unity;



Dated Material: Please Deliver By Saturday, March 4, 2023

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Permit # 225

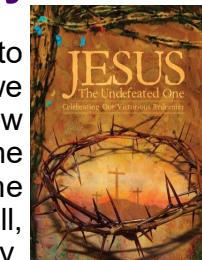
The Bell Tower

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.



Palm Sunday Cantata

Greetings! I am very excited to announce that we have some new members in the Choir! We welcome Jane Maxwell, Susan Mowbray, Lori Horton, Steve Horton, and Cloe McPike to our ranks!

In addition, we have Jim Pysh and Evan Roberts joining us for the cantata. So thanks to all of these singers!

It is still not too late to join us. Rehearsals for the upcoming cantata, *Jesus, the Undefeated One*, have already begun. The music tells the whole Easter story and will be presented on Palm Sunday.

It is also time to start thinking about summer music. If there is anyone who would like to perform a solo or sing in a group for a worship service during the months of June, July, or August, you can let me know anytime.

Have a blessed Lent and Easter!

Sincerely,
Dan Pritchett

Boots on the Ground

It's been several weeks since the warm boots we collected here at FCC were sent off to the people of Ukraine. It's a complicated process to get things delivered there; but, as you can

see, they have arrived and are on the feet of Ukrainian children and families.

Many thanks to Dr. Paul Sommer who championed this cause. It was such a pleasure to work with him on this effort. A special thanks to Steve Boles with Mission to Ukraine who is the one that managed their transport and delivery and is there now helping the people of Ukraine.

Thank you all for your donations of boots and warm clothing for Ukrainian families.



(219) 462-5615

MARCH 2023

Vol. 32 No. 3

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

Servers for March

March 5

Deacons: Jeff Newcomb, Carol Kuznicki
Greeters: Tom & Barb Wheele
Scripture Readers: Jim & Penny Pysh
Sound Technician: Chris Clifford
Building Monitor: Tom Wheele
Elders: John Springsteen, Dave Yeager

March 12

Deacons: Jill Silhavy, Diane Yeager
Greeters: Sal Oestreich, TBA
Scripture Readers: Tom Clark, Mickey Koehler
Sound Technician: John Springsteen
Building Monitor: Al LeBio
Elders: Martha Schweizer, Dave Gow

March 19

Deacons: Karen Malone, Tom Clark
Greeters: Donna Koehler, Darcy Scully
Scripture Readers: Reagan Weitzel, Jeff Weitzel
Sound Technician: Chris Clifford
Building Monitor: Allen Hamilton
Elders: Ruth Lang, Cheryl Girman

March 26

Deacons: Penny Pysh, Linda Farris
Greeters: Penny Pysh, Cynthia Roberts
Scripture Readers: Tom & Barb Wheele
Sound Technician: Jim Pysh
Building Monitor: Chris Clifford
Elders: Dave Yeager, John Springsteen



Worship Attendance

1/29/23:	69 at	9:30 Worship
2/05/23:	110 at	9:30 Worship
2/12/23:	77 at	9:30 Worship
2/19/23:	68 at	9:30 Worship
2/22/23:	44 at	Ash Wednesday
2/26/23:	75 at	9:30 Worship

Prayer Concerns

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



Arlene Beldon; John Doyle; Roy Moutaw;

Terry Pickering; Carol Steinbach;
Chuck & Marian Worden;

Amayah (Diane Yeager's great-niece);

6-year-old Corbin (family of Lori Timm);

John Illig (Marcia & Joe Illig's nephew);

Judie Lang (Ruth Lang's daughter);

Richard Morris (Martha Schweizer's brother);
Steve & Pat Nickles

(Sal Oestreich's brother and sister-in-law);

Evelyn Swiney, Christine Fields, Lily Fields
(Sal Oestreich's sisters);

Jason Solomon (friend of Terry Pickering & Rev. Tim);

Unspoken Requests;

Our Homebound Members;

Earthquake Victims and Responders

in Turkey & Syria;

The People of Ukraine

and

Our Church Leaders & Ministries



Staff and Council

Pastor: Rev. Tim Trussell-Smith
Office Administrator: Terry Pickering
Director of Music: Dan Pritchett
Communications Coordinator:
Lani Januchowski
Council President: Ruth Lang
Vice-President: Becky Springsteen
Council Secretary: Susan Mowbray
Treasurer: Mickey Koehler
Assistant Treasurer: Kae Howell
Nursery Coordinator: 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



March 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	
				10:05 Five After Group 4:30 H.R.T. Mtg 6:00 Elders Mtg	3	
				4:30 A.L.T. Mtg 6:00 PM - 6:00 AM Men's Shelter		
5 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	6 11:00 Membership Mtg 5-7 PM Youth Group	7 9:30 Mary Circle 1:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 Hannah Circle at Becky Springsteen's Home	8 5:30 PRC 6:00 Facilities Mtg 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	9 10:05 Five After Group Noon Men's Fellowship Lunch 6:00 Campus Planning 6:00 PM - 6:00 AM Men's Shelter	10 5:30 Saturday Worship	11
12 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 5-7 PM Youth Group	13 1:00 Staff Meeting	14 6:00 Worship Meeting	15 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	16 10:05 Five After Group 6:00 PM - 6:00 AM Men's Shelter	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18
19 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 5-7 PM Youth Group	20 1:00 Staff Meeting	21 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	22 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	23 10:05 Five After Group 6:00 PM - 6:00 AM Men's Shelter	24 Bell Tower Articles Are Due	25
26 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 5-7 PM Youth Group	27 1:00 Staff Meeting	28 7:15 Bookies The Midnight Librarian	29 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	30 10:05 Five After Group 6:00 PM - 6:00 AM Men's Shelter	31 Terry Pickering	

Happy March Birthday

Leslie Maxwell.....	1	Ralph Schweizer	11	Doug Ross	19	Finn Knauff.....	27
Fred Armstrong	2	Genevieve Williamson	13	Rachel Clark.....	21	Randy Ellis.....	28
Peter Steeves.....	2	Truman Maxwell	17	Joyce Knauff	22	Dale Graeber.....	28
Kylie Wertz.....	8	Carol Steinbach	18	Jessica Clark-Alm	25	Ron Herlitz.....	29
Carol McCreery.....	9	Diane Yeager	18	Andy Wheele	25	Terry Pickering.....	29
Mike Graves	11	Lincoln Knauff	19	Cathy Lafever	26		

Children's Worship

During Lent this year, we'll be learning about the people that

Jesus met along the way as he traveled and taught. The first Sunday of Lent we talked about Zacchaeus, the tax collector in the tree. Using monopoly money, we pretended to pay our taxes to the government and learned how Zacchaeus would usually ask for more than was owed to keep for himself. And yet, Jesus, who had come to seek and to save those who were lost, went to Zacchaeus' house; and, lo and behold, Zacchaeus changed his ways.

We made trees for our pretend plastic-egg Zacchaeus to sit in by using uncooked spaghetti and marshmallows. We also

learned a different version of the song *Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man*. I've subscribed to a wonderful online source of materials for a mere \$25 a year that gives me all kinds of ideas and fun lesson plans. It's going to be a lot of fun teaching these lessons.

We will begin our Flat Stanley project the Sunday following Easter. If you would like to welcome a Flat Stanley to your home, please let me know. If you have questions about Stanley coming for a visit, just let me know. I promise he won't eat much, he stays where you tell him to, and he doesn't snore.

It is my continued pleasure to teach our FCC children about Jesus. I'm very hopeful that I'll be able to continue teaching them for a long, long time.

Feeling Blessed!
Mrs. P.



2023 Regional Camps FruitFULL Faith

The schedule for our regional camps is out. Spending a few days to a full week (depending on the age group) with other young people and fun adults who love God and want us to grow in faith, all in a beautiful natural setting, is a profound experience.

The kids who went to camp from FCC last summer raved about it. Rev. Tim is a co-director of the High School camp and has years of experience in camping ministry. He will happily answer any questions you might have concerning any of the camps.

If the cost of camp is an issue for your family, please let Rev. Tim or Terry know. We have received a generous donation by a church member to help with the cost of camp. We are determined that anyone who wants to attend will be able to.



FruitFULL Faith A Spirit-filled Life!

2023 CAMPS

Geneva

- June 12-14 You & Me 1 (age 5+ and an adult)
- June 12-17 Explorers (completed grades 4-5)
- June 15-17 New Beginnings (completed grades 1-3)
- June 19-21 You & Me 2 (age 5+ and an adult)
- June 19-24 M.A.D. (Music Art & Drama - completed grades 6-12)
- June 26-July 1 High School Traditional (completed grades 9-12)
- July 1 Middle School Traditional (completed grades 6-8)
- June 26-July 1 C.R.O.S.S. (Christian Recreation and Outdoor Sports Skills - completed grades 6-12)

Christmas Every Day

Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace, and gratitude.

~ Denis Waitley

Forget Christmas in July. I discover Christmas every day thanks to my granddaughter, Emma.

Coming home from church one Sunday in January, she asked me



to turn on Christmas music. I told her that it wasn't Christmas anymore and Christmas music wasn't playing on the radio.

She responded, "Yes, Nana, it's still Christmas." And I thought, Why not? It CAN be Christmas every day. So I turned on my Bluetooth and connected to iHeart Radio, bringing up the Christmas music channel. BOOM! There you have it! Christmas EVERY day!

That said, I have discovered a newfound joy in streaming Christmas music: At home when I am by myself, in my car, etc. Doing this has made my heart sing and that good holiday feeling has stuck with me. Mostly. I will admit that I can be sideways sometimes...but when the music is playing, that curmudgeon peering back at me in the mirror is relegated to the dark recesses of my mind's closet. And a big glass of eggnog doesn't hurt either!

As we journey into March, with springtime sounds and sights beginning to emerge, the birds singing their spring symphonies...be happy. No matter how downturned your day or life might be, love yourself. Alone. Every. Day. For a minimum of 30 minutes.

Is it easy on the bad days? NOPE. But you are nobody's best friend unless you're a friend to yourself. Check in with your body and your thoughts, accepting whatever state you're in. Don't stress to change it; watch it change on its own. Always try to reach out with courtesy and kindness to strangers and familiar alike. Your open-heartedness will be returned in ways you never could have imagined or anticipated.

Double BOOM!
Submitted by
Annie MacDonald

**Next Blood Drive:
April 12
12:30 - 6:30 PM**

FCC's Mailbox

My thanks to First Christian Church for giving Dick Massom the funeral he wanted. He fought long and hard for the reward he knew was coming.

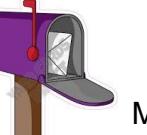
**Blessings to All,
Janet Stowers**

Dear Church Family,
I've often wondered what people without a church family do when they have a crisis. My crisis came recently with a diagnosis of chronic myeloid leukemia (Ph+CML) after a hospital admission. A severe cramp in my right chest is what got me to the ER, which had nothing to do with my final diagnosis. I am so very grateful to that cramp! If you have to have leukemia, my doctor said mine is the best kind to have. She explained that I will take a pill a day and have frequent blood tests for the rest of my many years.

I am so grateful for all of your prayers, visits, cards, emails, calls, texts, and beautiful flowers. (My living room looks like a florist's shop.) I also appreciate all of the folks who helped cover the church office and other duties in my absence, as well as leading Children's Worship. (Thank you, Leslie Maxwell!!)

As I'm trying to get used to this strange once-a-day pill (that I must wash my hands immediately after touching), please keep me in your prayers for a bit longer. This has been a lot to wrap my head around. I'm so grateful to have you as my church family and I'm also glad that God doesn't seem to be done with me quite yet. After all, I still have children to love and to teach.

**Much love and appreciation,
Terry Pickering**



Dear First Christian Church,

It was a joy to be with you in worship on Sunday, February 19th. Thank you for your partnership in ending hunger and reducing food waste in Indiana!

We look forward to the 2023 season and hope to be gleaning together.

Thanks to the Maxwells for planning to grow sweet corn!!

**Lenten Blessings,
Dawn Barnes**

Society of St. Andrew

Food Pantry News



2022 YEAR-END REPORT "I was hungry and you fed me..." Matthew 25:35

Having been started in 1982 by Charlie and Nan Steeves, this was the 40th year of operation for the Christian Food Pantry! Financial support from the seven sponsoring churches and the community was up greatly from what was given last year. The giving of all kinds continues to be very generous.

The pantry greatly appreciates the generosity of the First United Methodist Church for providing the space in the Asbury Center for the pantry operations. The space and cooperation shared with "The Shop" ladies is also greatly valued!

We are most thankful for the 20+ dedicated volunteers that continued to serve following the pandemic. Volunteers are our greatest asset! Seven volunteers work every Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 to 12:30 or later. Many extra hours are spent shopping, picking up donations, sorting food, stocking shelves, and "housekeeping" as well as compiling reports, keeping records, and paying the bills. Personal notes are sent to

organizations and individuals outside the sponsoring congregations who donate money or food.

During the summer school vacation, 214 Kids' Kits, containing extra food and treats, were given to clients with children ages 5 to 16. These were well received by the families AND the children.

Once again, the Valparaiso community came through with help for the "neighbors" in our area. Food, health, and cleaning items were collected by various groups and organizations responding to the still anticipated needs connected with the pandemic concerns.

Holiday dinner menu items were offered, and 72 families picked up Easter hams and dinner items. The FOP delivered 35 more meals. 97 families chose Thanksgiving turkey and foods. 88 families chose between a ham and a turkey for Christmas.

Total families served in 2022: 2,018, averaging 168 per month. Individuals provided for: 4,512, averaging 376 per month.

The balance at the end of the year is sizable. Numerous individuals, groups, and organizations continue to respond generously in anticipation of more families needing to return to the pantry for help. Due to the continuing donations of food and monies, the pantry is prepared – at this time – for almost anything that comes next.

**Nan (462-6169) Founder
Sharon (464-1764)**

Hannah Circle

Hannah Circle will meet Monday, March 6th, at 7:00 PM at the home of Becky Springsteen, 1108 Illinois Street. The study will be *Mary the Mother*. Informative scriptures include John 11:1-44, 12:1-8, and Luke 24:50-51. All women of the church are invited to join the Hannah Circle or Mary Circle.

FCC Bookies

Bookies meet at 7:15 PM the fourth Tuesday of the month in the church library.



unsheltered, it is nearly impossible to navigate the system on no sleep, with no address or phone - or even friends. That's where WE come in.

Each member gets to choose one or two books each year to be read. Book discussions are always interesting and can offer new perspectives. March is a great time to curl up with a good book.

We will be discussing what books will be added to our reading lists when we meet on March 28. This is the chosen book we will be discussing.



March 28
The Midnight Library
by
Matt Haig

Temporary Emergency Warming Shelter

Winter 2023

Volunteers Needed

Nightshift volunteers are needed to help take care of people in crisis at the Temporary Emergency Warming Shelter (TEWS) in Living Hope Community Church at 1115 Calumet Ave, Valparaiso. The Shelter is open every night 8 PM-7 AM until the spring. All are welcome.

Folks can find access to work-fi, snacks, shower, bathrooms, and safe shelter out of the elements until 7:00 AM. Volunteers have opportunity to serve half the night or all night through mostly quiet evenings.

Due to the lack of services, regional support, and even city zoning and regulations, an unacceptable number of people have found themselves in the snares of homelessness in Valparaiso. Our mothers and sisters, brothers and grandfathers - our neighbors - are facing deadly temperatures and safety issues. It can be a dark place. It seems like a nightmare for some. Once someone finds themselves

Jesus of Nazareth

Every year a cast and crew of over 1000 people come together to present the greatest story ever told to the Northwest Indiana and Chicago land area. While there are many passion plays during the Easter season, there is nothing QUITE like J.O.N. in size or style. From waterfalls and real life horses and camels to cutting edge pyrotechnics and exciting stunts, the action and authenticity will transport your senses to Jerusalem during the days of Jesus. Experience the culture of old Israel and witness the red words come to life before you, as you see firsthand the miracles, the life, and the resurrection of the Son of God.

We will carpool from the church to Munster to see *Jesus of Nazareth*, Saturday, March 25th. The performance will begin at 2:00 PM. Tickets are \$25. If you would like to attend, please sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

Jesus of Nazareth is an amazing experience you will never forget.



CWF News



CWF News

The CWF is hoping to reinstitute the practice of visiting our homebound friends. We plan to meet at the church Thursday, March 16th, at 10:00 AM. The names of our homebound friends will be distributed between the visiting teams who will go out to the homes of our friends.

Shine a light by volunteering for an overnight shift at the temporary shelter and help combat the misery in a very direct and hands-on way for these unsheltered children of God. You'll feel good knowing you directly cared for your neighbor on their worst days, being the hands and feet of Jesus for those suffering in the margins.

If you are unable to donate time but would still like to support the Temporary Emergency Warming Shelter, snacks, bedding, jobs, connections, prayers, shoes, and winter outerwear can be dropped off in the church office or through Rich at Living Hope Community Church (219) 462-1425.

This is open to all the women of the church. You do not have to be a member of Hannah or Mary Circle to participate.

If you have a visit suggestion,

please call the church office or

Sue Mowbray, (219) 462-4569.

Council Highlights

January 22,
2023



cle on page 4.)

Worship and Witness: John Springsteen said Lent planning is underway, combining a series from Web Design Studio, called *Entering the Passion* and *The Final Week*, a Lenten Series from David Emory. Responsibilities of this servant group were discussed.

Evangelism: Doug Ross reported that a series of videos are planned to be posted on social media. They would like to create humorous and insightful memes to promote our brand and identity.

Treasurer's Report: Mickey Koehler reports that the responsible people on the checking account now are John Springsteen, Kae Howell, and Mickey Koehler. Kae and John are counting the offering and completing the giving report each week for posting to CDM. They will be given training on CDM and Pushpay in the coming weeks. 941 tax forms were filed and the W-3s are in process. Copies of the 2023 budget are available.

Trustees' Report: Cheryl Girman stated the trustees have no report but she voiced concern about pulling money from an account and not replacing it yet.

Elders' Report: Cheryl Girman reported that nine of the twelve elders attended the workshop and training. Monthly meetings will be the first Wednesday of the month.

Deaconate: Six of twelve deacons attended the workshop and training. Mickey has binders for those who missed the event.

Campus Planning: The first meeting of this group will be Monday, January 30th.

Rev. Tim: Tim shared that a choral cantata is planned for Palm Sunday and baptisms on Easter Sunday. The Warming Shelter at Living Hope Church is up and running. John Springsteen and Mickey Koehler have provided coverage but others are needed. Contact Mary Cole if you are able to help. (See arti-

Facilities/Finance: Larry Biggs said current projects include completing Sanctuary audio/video, fixing tables, and

placing safety tape on sanctuary stairs, and upgrading the AV and PC in the Fellowship Hall. Facilities will continue with their usual monthly meeting day.

Stewardship: Dave Yeager provided an overview of the various stewardship opportunities and encourages everyone to give of their time, talent, and finances. The committee will meet several times a year to plan and promote options or activities that all congregants can share.

Communications: Lani Januchowski summarized her activities by saying Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are up and running. She plans to make our social media more engaging by using videos and animated graphics.

Old Business: Christian Nationalism: We have been asked to support as a co-sponsor a resolution that would disapprove Christian Nationalism. The National Disciples of Christ will vote in July 2023 on whether or not Disciples support a resolution denouncing Christian Nationalism. Rev. Tim read the entire resolution.

Becky Springsteen moved to endorse the resolution; Dave Gow seconded.

During discussion, Janet Biggs voiced concern over the various interpretations of Christian Nationalism and wanted to clarify what we opposed. Larry Biggs said that something this serious should be a Congregational vote. Sue Mowbray stated that the Congregation needs to be educated on all aspects before voting. Consensus was to let the Congregation vote on the matter, so the motion died.

New Business: Council Meetings are scheduled for April 23, July 25, and October 22, 2023. A Congregational Meeting is scheduled on October 29, 2023.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

The next Council Meeting will be held April 23.