

First Christian Church



February 2021 Courier

Miller in the Middle

It's not entirely accidental that my sermon series from African American spirituals overlaps with African American History Month. I had only remote and indirect exposure to African American preaching and worship while I was growing up in New Mexico. I learned that Black churches and their leaders played a key role in movement for civil rights and voting rights. Occasionally I heard part of a speech by one of these leaders on the news. Starting in college and continuing in seminary, I began to learn more about the splendid spiritual energy and oratorical wonders of Black preaching. I also have learned about its history through the years of slavery, Jim Crow, discrimination, and the push for freedom.

While my exposure to African American preaching was limited, however, I knew and loved and sang many of the spirituals that are the basis of this sermon series. Not all of them; some I only learned when they were published in our hymnal. But thanks to my brothers, who learned these at church camp and came home and taught them to me, and a family that loved to sing in multi-part harmony when washing dishes or riding in the car, my spiritual life was saturated in many of these songs.

I chose to make this series—11 Sundays plus Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday—starting before and continuing through the season of Lent—because I think we all need to dip deep into the well of our spiritual relationship with God as we seek to envision the next era of this church's story. I'm enjoying it so far, and I hope you are, too.

An Ash Wednesday Order of Worship is included in this edition of the *Courier*. Please keep it where you can find it on February 17 when we "broadcast" our livestream Ash Wednesday service on Facebook or when you tune in later on our website. I hope the service will be meaningful to you during this time of remote worship.

It's a pleasure to share ministry with you in Richmond and beyond.

-Phil Miller



Splinters from the Board

The Church Board met via Zoom on January 20. Reid Singleton presided over his first meeting as the new Chair. He reported on behalf of Edwin Luxon that the light bulbs in the Banquet Hall will be replaced. Also, Edwin is investigating ceiling access via the portico.

Martha Cobb, Chair of the Elders, said the Elders are making calls on the members assigned to them.

Joe Rice presented the financial reports and discussed how the surplus of over \$59K will be distributed for long-term use. Betsy Grise brought the need for organ maintenance into the discussion. We have some catching-up to do, but we must wait for the Schaedle Organ Company from Cincinnati to evaluate the condition of our organ before we know exactly how much it will cost. Its value is \$500,000.

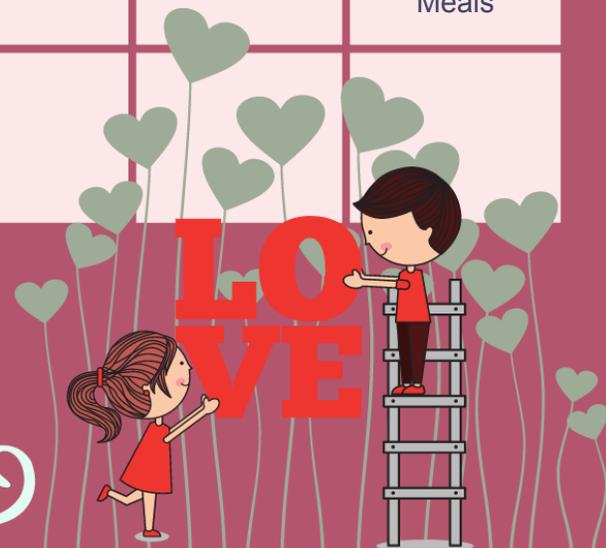
Philip Miller reported on his "meet and greet" Zoom conversations with members, on his work with the church staff, on worship plans through Lent, and on getting introduced to the assessment and future story as part of the consultation with Hope Partnership.

Reid Singleton is working with Joe Rice and Philip Miller to organize the ministry teams for the year, and he appealed for support from the Board. He has called for another meeting on Wednesday, February 27, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
10:40 Virtual Worship	1 6-8 Craft Fellowship	2 10:00 Staff Meeting	3	4	5	6 FCC Serving MadisonHome Meals
7 10:40 Virtual Worship	8 6-8 Craft Fellowship	9 10:00 Staff Meeting	10 7:00 Elders' Meeting	11	12	13 FCC Serving MadisonHome Meals
14 Valentine's Day 10:40 Virtual Worship	15 6-8 Craft Fellowship	16 10:00 Staff Meeting	17 7:00 Ash Wednesday (Livestream)	18	19	20 FCC Serving MadisonHome Meals
21 10:40 Virtual Worship	22 6-8 Craft Fellowship	23 10:00 Staff Meeting	24 7:00 Board Meeting	25	26	27 FCC Serving MadisonHome Meals
28 10:40 Virtual Worship						

*They Will Know
We are Christians
by our Love*



In Loving Memory...

*In loving
memory of
those who
have passed.*



Andrew Travis - given by Peggy Coy

Katheryn Adams - given by Peggy Coy

In Honor of...

Peggy Coy - given by Jennifer DeCoste-Lopez

Prayer List

Recent: Austin Osman & Kaylei Waldroup, Aaron Stidham, Laura Weitkamp, Patricia Hicks (Joe Rice's mother), Martha Witt, Kimberly Stephens (Gina Dixon's sister), John Baker, Mike Morgan (Heather Shepherd's cousin), Carol Kinzer (Scott Browder's mother), Laura Cruse, Lacey Luxon, Jeffery King

Ongoing: Patricia Beck, Pearl Biggin, David Elizabeth Duerson, Ed Ford, Ronnie Ginter, David, Kay & Josh Jones, Jean Metcalf, Kim & Jerry Owens, Kathryn Power, Julia Ramey, Angie Rhodus, Norma Robinson, Tonya Singleton

Family: Wanda Dixon (Gina Dixon's mother-in-law), Margaret Grindstaff, Matti Houndshell (Karen Tillie's sister), Kenny Jones (Kevin Jones' brother), Butch Lane (Jackie Goucher's brother-in-law), Betty McLocklin Morris (sister to Martha Craft and Peggy Coy), Charleen Powers (Anna Land's sister), Leona Stark (Frank Abraham's mother)

Friends: Angela Blair (friend of Lisa Gamble), Susan Long (friend of Jennifer Brandenburg)



Our prayers are with those recovering at home or in the hospital with the Covid-19 virus, as well as those on the front-lines in healthcare and other essential workers. Our prayers are also lifted up for our educators and students who are facing so many new challenges as well.

February Special Offering

Week Of Compassion

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

A Testimonial from a Beneficiary of Our Week of Compassion Offering:

“When Hurricane Michael made landfall in October 2018 and devastated our area, you answered our call... to provide disaster recovery assistance for residents who do not have adequate resources to rebuild and restore their lives in the aftermath of the strongest storm to hit Bay County... and today, we are postured to assist the many residents still recovering from Hurricane Michael, and those impacted by COVID-19, and now Hurricane Sally.” -Donna Pilson, Rebuild Bay County, Inc. Executive Director

Rebuilding communities and lives after a disaster takes time; often, it takes years. Media coverage wanes after the immediate impact, so many never witness the later stages of recovery. But needs continue to evolve long after the initial crisis. And sometimes, new needs emerge as well. Week of Compassion is committed to supporting local partners through every stage of disaster recovery as they meet rapidly changing needs in their local communities--and even face the challenges of compound disasters.

Hurricane Michael devastated communities along the Florida panhandle in September 2018. Rebuild Bay County, Inc., emerged in the aftermath to meet critical needs and evolved into an organization with a mission: to support community-led recovery and provide critical resources for the Bay County community during the extensive recovery process. In responding to the needs of Hurricane Michael, the Rebuilding Bay County team learned a great deal about how to distribute resources throughout the community to help residents recover. Week of Compassion provided a grant in the summer of 2019 to help the organization become more efficient.

Because RBC had become so effective in the work of disaster response, the County Emergency Management division asked them to assist with feeding programs. They transferred what they knew about moving money, man power, and materials to a different environment. Over the summer, they helped distribute 80k pounds of food to seniors. “We utilized all of our influence and partnerships to make that happen,” says Pilson. RBC also played a role in distributing PPE supplies to the community, including large shipments of masks.

As the challenges of long-term rebuilding continue, Week of Compassion is grateful for the ways in which our partners model resilience and flexibility. Your support helps groups like Rebuild Bay County meet immediate needs in their community, while also continuing the long-range process of rebuilding after a disaster, even when other disasters compound the challenges. Week of Compassion is committed to walking alongside churches, partners and communities every step of the way. As one of RBC’s clients says: “It means a lot to finally have help when you’ve been trying for so long. A little bit of help goes a long way. I appreciate it from the bottom of my heart.”

February 21-28 is the time of the Week of Compassion Special Offering. The ministry is year-round, and designated offerings can be shared with the program at any time.

Madison Home, Inc

Room In The Inn Richmond KY

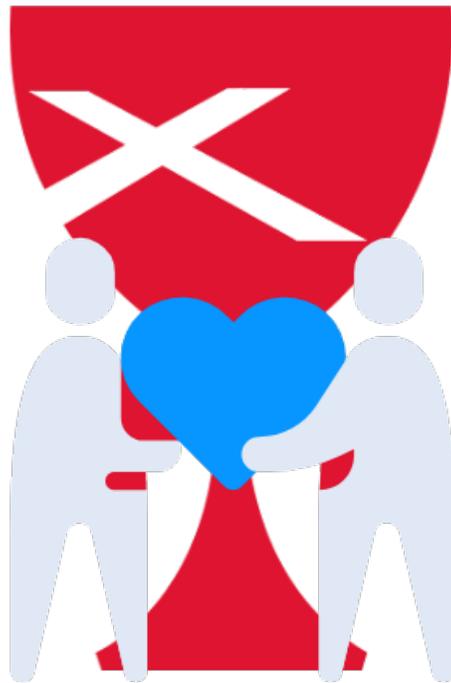
As temperatures drop, the needs rise. The need for warmth, shelter, and food grow each day for those most vulnerable in our community. We have been running an Emergency Motel Voucher Program this season (in lieu of housing individuals at churches), housing 12 individuals each night while providing three meals. However, more than 12 people have been requesting assistance, and we have had to adapt our plan. Other churches have been stepping in and making up the difference. Currently we are averaging 24 guests and 72 meals a night. First Christian Church has been doing a fantastic job on Saturdays (with the guidance of Kathy Congleton) of providing meals. And we have used discretionary funds, provided by donations, to assist with acquiring toiletries, hats, gloves, clothing, and the like as needed. But there is still a great need to help provide the monetary resources for food and rooms.

The Room In The Inn is changing our name to MadisonHome. The MadisonHome board is meeting February 5th to discuss future steps and outline collaborations with ECU, KY River Foothills, and other individuals and organizations to broaden the long-term assistance needs for those in need within our community. Please find ways to engage and assist in this ministry. There are plenty of ways to help, whether it be time, talent, or treasure. Thank you and God Bless.

Reid Singleton

Meal Prep & Serving Schedule for February-

- Feb. 6 - John & Robin Tudor
- Feb. 13 - Andy & Marsha Colley
Kyle & Jenna Congleton
- Feb. 20 - Madison Hills Christian
Church
- Feb. 27 - Edwin & Janice Luxon
Billy Glenn & Mimi Turpin





Good News!

I have been given a green light to start in person youth group again! We will be continuing to follow the social distancing and Covid safety guidelines to make sure everyone stays safe. This month will be the start of the Lenten season with Ash Wednesday being the 17th of this month. We will start this month focusing on loving thy neighbor and then move our focus to the Lenten Season and finding different ways to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus by highlighting different times of His life and how He treated others. There will be content uploaded to the Youth Zone on our Church website for those of you who may not feel comfortable enough to join us in person.

- Kelsey



Young Disciples
Children's Fellowship

Check out our website and INSTAGRAM for additional resources, info, and fun! You can download this handy Worship @ Home guide, pictured above, to use while watching our Livestream!

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
CHILDREN & YOUTH PRESENT:

FEBRUARY 14TH, 2021
4-7PM

BE MY
CHEEZY
VALENTINE

Wear your cheesiest Valentine accessories [I'm looking at you, heart-shaped glasses], & come indulge [social distancing & masks, please!] in a fun evening of cheezy games, jokes, movies, and foods. We'll make some cheezy valentines, hear about some of the cheezy love poems in the bible, and more!

Young Disciples & Children's Ministries

I know many of you are feeling 'tech fatigue' and are anxious for things to return to some form of new normal. We are right there with you- but as the days go by, I believe this is a very important time for our children and tweens- think about it this way... The last time we really joined together as a congregation for fellowship was probably Ash Wednesday of last year. We had a service and meal together, and I think that as we approach the Lenten season this year, the weight of how much we have all missed out on really sets in. I wanted to provide our families an opportunity for some spiritual growth and guided learning during this season, so after meeting with our national D.O.C. children's leaders, I have searched our resources and found a delightful daily activity for our families. The packets are being assembled today (2/4/21) and will be available for mail, delivery, or pickup. I have also been posting our Young Disciples weekly lessons, videos, and resources that we use from the GROW program, on our website. You can find this by going to the Children's link. Many blessings to you all, I am working on some great ideas for this coming year- with the hope that we will be able to join to gether soon!

- Emily

February Birthdays

February 1 Steve Cosby
 February 2 Bill Hendren
 February 2 Maggie Sizemore
 February 3 Andrew Jones
 February 5 Frank Brown
 February 5 Bob Herbst
 February 5 Fanny Rice
 February 6 Danny Noland
 February 7 Sara Cornelison
 February 8 Ken Tunnell
 February 9 Joe Roberts
 February 10 Pat Dawson
 February 10 Katie Stallons
 February 10 Melanie Stearns
 February 11 Becky Carr
 February 11 Sarah Beth Dickey
 February 12 Anna Sizemore
 February 12 Carol Vickers
 February 13 Roger McKinney
 February 14 Daniel DeCoste
 February 14 Lolly Harris
 February 15 Andrew Gamble
 February 15 Clint Wimberly
 February 16 Joyce Davis
 February 17 Jayne Birkett
 February 17 Craig Combs
 February 18 Deacon Mahoney
 February 18 Marlowe Stallons
 February 19 Robert Luxon, Jr.
 February 19 Misha Owens
 February 20 Gannon Stearns
 February 20 Ella Enrico
 February 20 Joe Fichetola
 February 20 Bizzy Robards
 February 20 Wilson Wiley
 February 21 Glenn Birkett
 February 21 Janet Whitlock
 February 22 Wesley Byers
 February 22 Laura Steidle
 February 22 Linda Wimberly
 February 23 Debbie Jones
 February 24 Carol Leyes
 February 24 Karen Tillie
 February 25 Tommy Goucher
 February 25 Brooks Wiley
 February 26 Janet Walters
 February 27 Jane Sallee
 February 28 Pearl Biggin

Elders Serving in February

February 7 Mike Gordon
Nancy Cotton

February 14 Betsy Grise
Joes Rice

February 21 Martha Cobb
Marc Robbins

February 28 Bill Shaffer
Sheila Miller

FCC is providing meals for the guests of Madison Home (known previously as Room In The Inn) on Saturdays. Kathy Congleton is asking for volunteers to help with this ministry by providing food, serving food, or making donations. Please call Kathy at 859-200-4092 to let her know how you will be able to help.

Sunday Worship Services

The COVID-19 positivity rate average in Kentucky has continued to be higher than 5%, which according to church policy is the determining factor for in-person Worship services. We will continue to monitor the situation, and announce when we are safely able to join together once again in the Sanctuary. We will continue to live-stream our services each Sunday morning at 10:40AM EST on our Facebook page and the video will be available to view on our website and Youtube around 1PM. Our Health Safety Assesment Team are continuing to monitor the situation and will update the congregation as things change.

February FCC Finance Update

January 2021 FCC Courier Info			
2021	Attendance	Weekly Giving	YTD Giving
1/4/21	Online	\$ 4,630.00	\$ 489,429.97
1/11/21	Online	\$ 18,750.00	\$ 508,179.97
1/18/21	Online	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 511,429.97
1/25/21	Online	\$ 730.00	\$ 512,159.97
Total Giving		\$ 27,360.00	

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See our latest announcements on our Facebook page & Groups
We are now on Instagram!
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For behind the scenes photos & more!
Visit us on the web at
www.fccrichmond.com
Visit us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/fccrichmondky

Keep up-to-date with the latest FCC news- make sure we have your current e-mail address!
Livestream Worship: Sundays @10:40 on our Facebook Page
Available for viewing on Youtube by 1pm



First Christian Church
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Return Service Requested



First Christian Church
RICHMOND KENTUCKY DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love