



"Experiencing and sharing Christ through love and service."

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

111 N 5th St
Murray, KY 42071
www.fccmurray.com
Email: fcc@fccmurray.com
Phone: (270) 753-3824

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Ruth Ragovin
Administrative Assistant: Margaret Davis
Minister of Music: Mark Dycus
Organist: Donnie Hendrix
Pianist: Judith Hill
Youth Director: Samuel Underwood
Director of Children's Ministries: Nancy Dycus
Children's Worship Directors:
Ashley Dawson & Elizabeth Dawson
Church Custodian: Aimee Bailey
Nursery Director: Lisa Allen

Sunday School..... 9:45-10:30 am
Worship..... 10:45 am

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US Postage
PAID
First Christian
Church



Church Life

"Experiencing and sharing Christ through love and service."

February 2012

Volume 62, Issue 2

Mark your Calendar!

Wednesday, February 1, 5:30 PM:

"Groundhog Day / Candlemas Celebration of Light and Shadows."

Cast your vote for whether the groundhog will see its shadow the next day and celebrate the ancient Christian festival of Candlemas as we share a meal together.

Wednesday, February 15, 5:30 PM:

"First Corinthians 13 / Valentine's Day."

Come and share the love that Christ has for us as we do an outreach project together.

Wednesday, February 22, 5:30 PM:

"Mardi Gras Festival."

We will celebrate what traditionally is known as "Fat Tuesday" on Wednesday instead. Come and get a taste of carnival as we decorate and wear masks, don beads, eat Cajun food, sample King Cake, and crown our Mardi Gras queen and king!

Wednesday, February 22, 6:30 PM:

"Ash Wednesday Service."

Following the festivities of Mardi Gras, we will lay our masks and beads aside, as we enter into a beautiful candlelit service to begin the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday Service. This family friendly worship service will include making Lenten vows, sharing prayer rocks, and having ashes placed on our foreheads or hands.

Sunday, February 26th, following worship:

Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser for Camp Kum-Ba-Ya

The children and youth will be preparing a spaghetti luncheon to raise funds to support Camp Kum-Ba-Ya, a place we have all grown to love through our own camping experiences there and our church-wide Spring Spiritual Retreats and Fall Fellowship Weekend Camp. Come and enjoy a meal prepared and served with love by the younger members of our congregation (who also are responsible for clean-up)! There will also be a table set up for people to sign up for summer camps.

Sunday, February 16th at 6:00 pm – Congregational Think-Tank to Discuss the First Service

You are invited to a congregational think-tank on Sunday, February 12th, at 6 PM in the fellowship hall. We will gather together as a congregation to explore ideas for the continuation of a worship service on Sundays from 9:00 – 9:45 AM. We welcome everyone's participation as we attend to the voice of God's Spirit moving in our midst as we dream and vision together. Your voice is important and your opinion matters! We hope you will make attending a priority. If you cannot attend, you may either call the pastor or email the church at fcc@fccmurray.com to express your point of view.

Financial Report for December

	2011	2010
Income	\$9,136	\$17,303
Expenses	\$19,785	\$17,050
Balance	\$ (-10,649)	\$ (253)

As shown in the table above, our December 2011 income was around \$9,000 while our expenses for the month were about \$19,000.

Financial Report for Jan. thru Dec.

	2011	2010
Income	\$212,190	\$216,279
Expenses	\$217,689	\$223,367
Balance	\$ (-5,498)	\$ (-7,087)

As shown in this second table, our total income for 2011 was about \$212,000 while our expenses for the year were about \$217,500 resulting in a yearly deficit of about \$5,500. Whereas we had expected a positive year-end balance of \$5,000, the unanticipated precipitous drop in December income resulted in this negative ending balance.

prayer list

for the week beginning January 29, 2012

THE PRAYER LIST is a published list of concerns that have been shared by people seeking prayer by any and all who will gladly pray on behalf of others – even without knowing them or the details of the request.

- Shanna Ballew Liz Lawrence
- Terri Benton Charles Magness
- Sue Campbell Nancy Manning
- Marcus Cavitt Betty Meadows
- Stella Cavitt Anne Marie Montgomery
- Violet Chamberlain Kenny Dale Orr
- Gary Crass Kathy Perkins
- Frank Dibble Rachel Ragovin
- Julie & Linda Drake Nellie Roberts
- Kathy Farris Ron & Sharon Rue
- James Hendrix Anne Schiappa
- Mike Holton Bill Shellely
- Ruth King

february birthdays

- Sam Allen..... 4
- Joyce Clause..... 5
- Laura Shelley..... 5
- Terri Benton..... 7
- Rita Riola..... 7
- Becky Freeze..... 9
- Eli McKeel..... 9
- Rebecca Landolt..... 10
- Lyle Underwood..... 10
- Lisa Allen..... 11
- Gary Darnell..... 11
- Katie Allen..... 14
- Alison Epperson..... 15
- Ben Washam..... 16
- Vayda Grieves..... 16
- Angela Gierhart..... 22
- Roger Dawson..... 28
- Carolyn Reagan..... 28

february anniversaries

- Greg & Lillian Gierhart..... 14
- John & Jan Fuqua..... 23
- Sonny & Julie Warner..... 24

FIRST FACTS by Dave Eldredge 1938

The budget for the year was \$4000 (that is 1.85% of \$219,769 budget for 2012). The proposed spending included \$2400 for pastor's salary, \$500 for repairs, \$35 for utilities, \$100 for stationary and stamps, \$15 for envelopes, \$115 for insurance, \$135 for interest, \$200 for miscellaneous and \$500 for note repayment.



The youth had a wonderful time participating in the West Area Ski Trip on Friday and Saturday, January 27 and 28. Many thanks to Matt and Brittney Falwell and our youth director, Samuel Underwood, for accompanying the youth!



We rejoice in the baptism of Kaitlyn White on Sunday, January 22, 2012.

Birthday/Anniversary Card Ministry

There is an opportunity to reach out to members of our church family by mailing out birthday/anniversary cards each month. Mrs. Helen Campbell has been doing this for quite some time and believes it's time for her to turn it over to someone else. If you would like to become involved in this ministry, please call the church office at (270) 753-3824.

Warming Shelter

The Warming Shelter opened on January 1, 2012. First Christian Church is scheduled to staff the Shelter February 5-12. We need 2 people for each of the 21 shifts. The government requires that a male and female staff the overnight shift. If you can volunteer, please call the church office at (270) 753-3824. There also is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the church office.

Upcoming Classes With Pastor Ruth

A Class entitled "Discovering Church Membership" to be held for six Sundays during Lent (February 26 to April 1) from 9:45 to 10:30 AM. The goal of this class is (1) to learn the basics of the Christian faith as understood by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), (2) to learn what First Christian Church of Murray, KY, is all about, and (3) to understand the meaning of church membership.

Joys and Thanksgivings...

First Christian Church, You are so thoughtful! Thank you so much for the generous Christmas Gift! – Aimee Bailey

Thank you all so very much for the prayers, cards and food during my chemotherapy and radiation. I am blessed to have that kind of support. – Keena Miller

The Gentry House would like to express our love to your congregation for your support of Murray's homeless families. You have made the decision to help fund our shelter, where families can find a home when they have nothing. We can only function with a commitment of hearts and souls from our neighbors and friends. Thank you for your gift.

Our congratulations to our youth director, Sanuel Underwood, who asked for his girlfriend Claire's hand in marriage following a Campus Lights performance. A number of the members of the church were there to witness Claire saying YES!

OUTREACH MINISTRIES By Teresa Nixon

Back-Pack Bags School Program

The time is here for us to implement our commitment toward the program for the Back-pack food sacks. The number of children participating in this program has increased, so we will be preparing 700 sacks. Donations of food items are coming in, but more is needed. Monetary donations to buy food items are also welcome. Sacks will be assembled following worship by some of the older youth and our Youth Director, Samuel Underwood, on Sunday, February 5. Volunteers are still needed to deliver the sacks to the schools on these revised dates: Wednesday, February 8 and again on Wednesday, February 22. For questions or to volunteer to deliver the sacks, please contact Teresa Nixon. Thank you for reaching out to the children in our community.

Alternative Christmas Gifts Update

Blessings to all of you for choosing to reach out to others during this Christmas Season. Through our Alternative Christmas Gift Catalog a total of \$3136 was collected for the twelve causes we supported. Many of you spread the word and invited others in our community to participate. Your response was generous and we know that all of those receiving gifts from us will be uplifted. The following is a list of the agencies we supported and amounts received:

Kids Against Hunger-Murray project (\$340), Fugees Family, Inc. (\$115), Heifer International Flocks of Chicks (\$300), Church World Service Blankets (\$125), Calloway County Adult and Family Education Test Fees (\$170), Murray Main Street Youth Center (\$141), Church World Service Oral Rehydration Therapy (\$260), Samaritans Purse Mosquito Nets (\$150), Murray Warming Shelter (\$210), Xalted Ministries (\$620), Murray/Calloway County Hospice House (\$500), The Ghana Sustainable Aid Project (\$205). Thank you from the Outreach Committee of FCC.

Week Of Compassion Special Offering

Soon, we will be invited to help people in aching need through the Week Of Compassion (WOC) Special Offering. By sharing from our abundance, combined with offerings from thousands of other congregations across the United States, we unite to

- build homes, schools, medical clinics, and clean water and sewage facilities in villages devastated by earthquakes, floods and poverty;
- bring safety, shelter, and food to refugees after often violent circumstances have made their hometowns uninhabitable;
- nurture self-sufficiency through health care, education, job training, and tools for livelihoods.

We are blessed that God is able to provide when and where help is needed, through us. On this vast planet of God-given resources, there is enough to feed, house and care for everyone. No one should have to live in need.

The Week Of Compassion Offering is one of the more important offerings taken by Disciples of Christ Churches. All that we are and have are gifts of God, and we can find joy by sharing these gifts. We will join with others for this special offering during the week of February 19-26.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

The following classes meet every Sunday morning at 9:45. You are welcome to participate in any of these classes. Following are the topics for the adult classes:

The "Road to Damascus" class meets in the library and will continue on their study of the book of Acts.

Jean Bennett's class meets in the parlor. Class members reflect on their thoughts and personal relationship to Jesus.

The "Christian Builders" class meets in the basement below the sanctuary. The February study is "God's Redemption," taken from the book of Genesis.

"CHARTER FOR COMPASSION" MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

(to be held in the parlor of First Christian Church)

Step Five: Mindfulness—*"Mindfulness is a form of meditation that we perform as we go about our daily lives, and is designed to give us more control over our minds so that we can reverse ingrained tendencies and cultivate new ones."* (Armstrong, p. 106)

- Sunday, February 5th, 1:00-2:30 PM
- Tuesday, February 21st, 7:00-8:30 PM
- Monday, February 27th, 7:00-8:30 PM

CONDOLENCES

Our love and prayers are with the family and friends of John Roos, who passed away in Texas on Thursday, January 12, following a lengthy illness. He was the brother of Rev. David Roos. Military graveside services were held on Saturday, January 20, at Dallas/Ft. Worth National Cemetery.

calendar

Wednesday, February 1 ■
Wednesday Night Live, "Groundhog Day/Candlemas"
Fellowship Meal..... 5:30 PM
Children's Program..... 6:00 PM
Choir Rehearsal..... 7:00 PM

Sunday, February 5 ■
Boys Scout Sunday & Souper Bowl of Caring
Sunday School..... 9:45 AM
Worship Service..... 10:45 AM
Youth to assemble Back Pack items..... 12:00 PM
Charter for Compassion..... 1:00 PM
Warming Shelter Meeting at St. John's..... 2:30 PM

Monday, February 6 ■
Boy Scouts..... 6:30 PM
Home Bible Study..... 7:00 PM

Tuesday, February 7 ■
TOPS #616..... 8:00 AM

Wednesday, February 8 ■
Elders Meeting..... 6:00 PM

Saturday, February 11 ■
Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall Reserved..... 12:00-4:00 PM

Sunday, February 12 ■
Sunday School..... 9:45 AM
Worship Service..... 10:45 AM
Congregational "Think Tank" re: 1st service... 6:00 PM

Monday, February 13 ■
Boy Scouts..... 6:30 PM
Home Bible Study..... 7:00 PM

Tuesday, February 14 ■
TOPS #616..... 8:00 AM
CWF III, Patsy King Home..... 7:00 PM

Wednesday, February 15 ■
Wednesday Night Live, "1 Cor. 13/Valentines Day"
Fellowship Meal..... 5:30 PM
Children's Program..... 6:00 PM
Choir Rehearsal..... 7:00 PM

Thursday, February 16 ■
Far West Men's Group..... 7:00 PM

Saturday, February 18 ■
DMF Breakfast..... 8:00 AM

Sunday, February 19 ■
Sunday School..... 9:45 AM
Worship Service..... 10:45 AM
CWF General Meeting..... 2:00 PM

Monday, February 20 ■
Boy Scouts..... 6:30 PM
Home Bible Study..... 7:00 PM
CWF IV, Library..... 7:00 PM

Tuesday, February 21 ■
TOPS #616..... 8:00 AM
Charter for Compassion..... 7:00 PM

Wednesday, February 22 ■
Mardi Gras Fellowship Meal..... 5:30 PM
Ash Wednesday Service..... 6:30 PM
Choir Rehearsal..... 7:00 PM

Thursday, February 23 ■
"Head and Heart" at First Presbyterian Church... 7:00 PM

Sunday, February 26 ■
Sunday School..... 9:45 AM
Membership Class..... 9:45 AM
Worship Service..... 10:45 AM
Spaghetti lunch fundraiser for Camp KBY..... 12 Noon

Monday, February 27 ■
Boy Scouts..... 6:30 PM
Charter for Compassion..... 7:00 PM

Tuesday, February 28 ■
TOPS #616..... 8:00 AM

Wednesday, February 29 ■
CUBS Meeting at Glendale Road
Church of Christ..... 12 Noon
Choir Rehearsal..... 7:00 PM