



**First  
Christian  
Church**  
(Disciples of Christ)

April 2024

# The Visitor

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## "SUGG"estions

As many of you know I had surgery on March 11<sup>th</sup> to repair an umbilical hernia. When I first discovered it, I had no idea what it was. Just a small squishy spot just inside my belly button. I didn't really think much about it, I figured it was a sign that I should begin to lose some weight! The doctor assured me that while I still might want to consider losing a few pounds, the spot in my belly button was unrelated. The good news was it could be repaired with surgery.

It didn't need to be a high priority, but it did need to get fixed before it became a bigger issue or an emergency. So a consultation was scheduled with the surgeon and a date was set for surgery. As the day drew closer I could feel my anxiety increase. In my thirty plus years in ministry I have been there with countless people as they were prepped for surgery. But I have not been the person BEING prepped for surgery. This would be the first surgery I would be intubated and deeply anesthetized and someone I just met a few weeks ago would be cutting me open.

There were so many moments that touched my heart and soul leading up to and even after surgery. My co-worker and friend, Chad picked me up and prayer with me on the way to the hospital. What a calming moment for me. The text messages, phone calls, meal deliveries and cards from my church family meant so much to me. What a difference it makes to know there are people who care about you.

I was reminded in very real ways of the power of prayer to bring peace when the mind is racing. I was reminded in very real ways of the power of a simple phone call, a gesture as easy as sending a card or a text message to assure you someone cares. I was reminded in very real ways that the ministry of caring for one another, loving one another as Christ first loved us doesn't have to be complicated. It just needs to be real. Thank you all for the caring so much and sharing the love of Christ in so many real ways.

You Are Loved,

Gene

### Special Dates in April

Apr 8: Food Pantry Volunteer, 1-3 PM

Apr 10: Food Pantry Volunteer, 10 AM-12 PM

Apr 12: Food Pantry Volunteer, 10 AM-12 PM

Apr 12: FCC Community Meal, 5 PM

Apr 22: Earth Day



# Operating Fund Information Through February 29, 2024

Contributions & Inflows:	\$23,310
Expenses:	\$21,258
Difference:	\$ 2,052

To contribute to FCC using Tithe.ly, Please scan this QR code using the camera on your mobile phone!



## Window to the World Capital Campaign:

Goal:	\$30,000
Raised as of 12/31/23:	\$23,272
Remaining:	\$ 6,728

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Do you need someone added to this list? Please write your request on the sheet in the foyer or email the church office.

[fccadmin@bgfcc.org](mailto:fccadmin@bgfcc.org)

Scott & DeAnna Beeker  
Jim Corbett  
Ruth Ann McCray

Tim Bomeli  
Marge Leathem  
Becky Meredith  
Mae Scott

Peggy Carsey  
Ruth Maltby  
Marie Rogers

### Special Prayer Requests

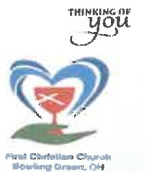
- Boni Reese - Diane Morlock's friend
- Brittani - Lee Starks' friend (new mom with brain cancer diagnosis)
- Connie & Tami Adams - BG Christian Food Pantry
- Deb Chesher - Ron Morlock's sister
- Emily Rupp
- Jennie Stoddard - Bernard, Regional Administrator
- Jon & Jeanette McDermott - Spencer's & Meredith's friends
- Linda Brown - Sharon Bronsink's family member
- Noah Smith - Naugle family friend
- Pat Huling - Scott Beeker's step-mother
- Randy Jones - Ann Jones' son

### Ministers & Missionaries

- Paul Bomeli
- Audrey Connor
- Joseph Hara
- Allen Harris
- Erin McCreight Proie
- Gene Sugg
- Ernie Unholz

Would you like to reach out to those on the prayer list.

Please use the note cards in the pews to write who it is to in the space at the top, jot a quick note, and sign your name. Then place the card in the offering plate, and the church office will address the envelope and drop your note in the mail.



The FCC Transportation Ministry connects seniors in need of transportation for non-emergency medical appointments with volunteer drivers from the church.

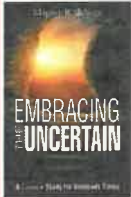
The volunteers are called as needed on a rotating basis. If you would like to help with this ministry, we would love to put you on our list of drivers.

Also, if you are in need of assistance yourself, please call Pat Koehler at 419-494-3231.





# Women's Spiritual Studies Group



We completed our Lenten book, *Embracing the Uncertain* by Magrey R. deVega during Holy Week. .

After Easter, we'll start *Untangling Faith: Reclaiming Hope in the Questions Jesus Asked* by Amberly Neese. The author "...leads us through scripture so that we can wrestle through our questions and come out on the other side with a deeper faith." This is a six week study, after which we'll be thinking about our summer meeting plans.



**Join us anytime.  
We'd love to welcome  
some new members!**

**Happy Birthday to those born in April!**  
*Birthstone: Diamond  
Strength, Resilience, Courage*

- |                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| Ruth Van Wormer | 4/4  |
| Debra Downey    | 4/7  |
| Logan Krueger   | 4/12 |
| Jacob Tennison  | 4/16 |
| Kelly Roudebush | 4/22 |

## FEEDING OUR MISSION

The BG Christian Food Pantry needs:

**ANY  
FOOD  
ITEMS!**



**ANY  
TOILETRY  
ITEMS!**



Save the Date  
**FCC's Week to Volunteer**  
April 8, 10, 12

***Interested in Resuming  
Women's Fellowship?***

*If So, Please Join Us  
Tuesday, April 23, 6:30p, FCC  
Discussion will include determining  
interest and any plans for the future.  
Thank You!*

**Contact Earlene 419.601.0976**



# Warm the Family

Looking for a way to support the Warm the Family mission and save money?

Now is the time to shop!  
 Winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, etc., are on clearance at local stores.

Drop off donations on table near the Salvation Army bulletin board. **Thank You!**



## FCC's Mission Project with the Bowling Green City Schools!

Thank you for being so generous with the School Mission Project during the last school year.

Below is the list of needed items for the months of February & March.

Month	Due Date	Food Items	Personal Care Items	School Supply Items
April	4/28/24	oatmeal packets hot chocolate packs	toothpaste toothbrushes	blue/black/red ink pens
May	5/26/24	ramen noodles multigrain bars	razors shave gel/cream	notebook paper



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, BG, OH**  
**DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY DINNER**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024**  
 5:00 - 6:00 pm (or until food runs out)

FCC continues to host our monthly "DRIVE-THRU DINNERS."

In March we served 180 meals and distributed many bags of grocery items!  
 Thank you to the DONLEY's and WOOD's and their crew!

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST THE KILPATRICKS WITH COOKING and SERVING ON FRIDAY, APRIL 12! DONATIONS OF COOKIES and SUPPLIES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

If you are interested in helping Elizabeth Wick and Betsy Solley with this monthly Outreach Project, please contact Elizabeth Wick at 419-575-7867 or DEZSLL6@gmail.com.

Thank you to everyone who has already helped out with time, food, and monetary donations!  
**WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US IN THIS VALUABLE COMMUNITY OUTREACH!**



## First Christian Church of Bowling Green, OH - Board Meeting, February 8, 2024

The February 8, 2024 board meeting of First Christian Church was held at the church and via Zoom. Present: Earlene Kilpatrick, presiding; Pastor Gene Sugg and members, Jim and Karen Adams, Nancy Andrade, Sharon Daniels, Jay Kirkbride, Ruth Ann McCray, Steve Riewaldt, Char Scherer; Kim Thomas, Rae Thomson, Elizabeth Wick and Pat Koehler.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by Moderator Earlene Kilpatrick who opened with prayer.

The devotion was given by Sharon Daniels from *A Gift of Angels*. Angels are referred to 294 times in the Bible and serve humans as guardians, messengers, instruments of praise and worship to God, created by God for his service. The March devotion will be given by Earlene.

The January 11, 2024 board minutes were amended to note that 'Study' information appeared under the topic of 'Women's Group'. It was corrected to read **Study**: Women's Spiritual Study Group will be on hold due to Don Scherer's illness. The minutes were approved as amended on a motion made by Kim Thomas, second by Rae Thomson.

The **Treasurer's Report** was given by Jim Adams' who provided an amended report for December to reflect year-end changes. He noted that 2023 was a good year. January was flat reflecting expenses. The report was accepted into the minutes. He also provided a Finance Committee report. They are looking to move from check writing to electronic usage and establish a money market deposit account that would earn interest with little risk. It was noted that the Capital Fund has reached \$26,000 of the \$30,000 goal.

### **Administrative:**

**Clerk:** Sharon Daniels reported Don Scherer's passing on January 15.

**Personnel:** Earlene reported that the committee is working on contract renewals for Lee and Pastor Gene. Nano's contract will end the last of April; she has recommended another music student to replace her who is available to begin in August. It will be necessary to make music arrangements for the summer months.

**Property:** Steve Riewaldt reported that alarms have been installed to protect the property by detecting any smoke or water leakage. The committee will be working with Scott Beeker for plans for the summer mowing.

**Technology:** Jay Kirkbride reported they are still working on the email problem, ways to get the video camera out of the aisle, and streaming issues solved. Gene will assist in getting the website back up. Char asked to be kept in the loop.

**FCC Constitution and By-laws:** Chair Diane Morlock is dealing with health issues and will be working on an update as she is able.

**Moderator:** Earlene and Gene will be working on organizing the Pastoral Relations Committee and planning for Gene's Installation Service on February 25. Betsy Solley has Hospitality Committee members working on the event in her absence. Earlene also mentioned that Bosdorff's Greenhouse will no longer be providing poinsettias or Easter lilies so a new source will have to be found.

**Pastor's Comments:** Gene reflected on his past weekend spent with longtime friends in Cincinnati and how important it is to share love with each other. A challenge to the church is to love even those whom we disagree with. He recounted the Fruits of the Spirit from Galatians and spoke to the importance of living by the Spirit in love and joy and avoiding walls and words that hurt.

### **Old Business:**

The Ash Wednesday service will be streamed.

Pastor Gene's Installation will be part of the worship service on February 25 with Rev. Allen Harris preaching. It will be followed by a potluck luncheon.

Karen Adams will be a new member of the Worship Planning Committee

### **New Business:**

Steve Riewaldt made a motion that we close off church property during the Solar Eclipse on April 8 to protect our lawn and property. Jay Kirkbride seconded. The motion passed following discussion with one abstention.

Steve also brought forward the issue of the parsonage rental. Following discussion, the issue was tabled until the March board meeting.

Property Committee will get information from Almar Property Management and present recommendations for consideration.

### **Ministry: Elder's Reports**

**Care Elders:** The names mentioned by Elizabeth will be reflected in Prayer Concerns below. Cards will be available at tables during fellowship hour on Sunday for a card shower for Marie Rogers and Ruth Maltby. Elizabeth has asked Lee to add a prayer list to the Sunday bulletin. She will monitor.

**Worship Elders:** No report

### **Missions:**

**Community Meal:** Thanks to Dave Donley and Karen Woods for hosting dinner on February 9,

**School Mission:** Elizabeth will take supplies but reports that schools are not taking clothes.

**Green Chalice:** Rachel Perez and Will Roudebush will continue working for Don Scherer's legacy.

### **Fellowship:**

**Men's Group:** Steve Riewaldt reported that the group will be hosting a pancake supper on February 13 and the Men's Rally on March 3. Jeff Klein, Director of Wood County EMA will be the speaker and Mark Harris will provide music.

**Prayer Concerns:** Char Scherer, Marie Rogers and Jim Corbitt, Scott and DeAnna Beeker, Sharon Bronsink, Diane Morlock, Deb Downey, Gene's ex-wife Robin,

**Closing Prayer** was given by Pastor Gene

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

**Next Meeting will be March 14, 2024: zoom or in-person at the church.**

Respectfully submitted, Pat Koehler, Secretary

