



*First
Christian
Church
(Disciples of Christ)*

The Visitor

April 2025

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"SUGG"estions!

I have always enjoyed the challenge of word games and word puzzles, well really puzzles of any type. Crossword puzzles, word searches, logic problems, etc. More modern word games like the daily Wordle and Connections keep my brain active. For those unfamiliar with the daily Wordle, you get six chances to guess a five letter word. When you guess a word the puzzle will highlight the letters you get correct and if they are in the right place in the word, they will highlight in green. Another fun word challenge is called Connections. This one isn't as easy as it first seems. You are presented with 16 words, and you need to make four sets of four words that are connected to each other and you only get four chances.

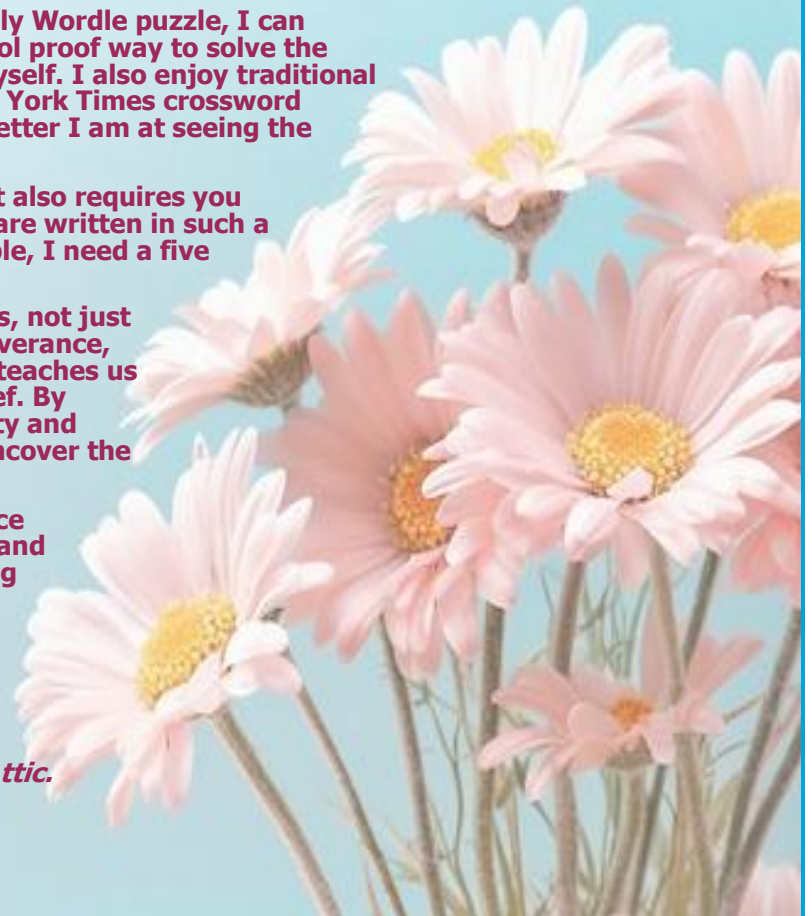
Because I have discovered a secret to solving the daily Wordle puzzle, I can usually solve it in four attempts. I haven't found a fool proof way to solve the Connections puzzle. It causes me to second guess myself. I also enjoy traditional crossword puzzles and try to complete the daily New York Times crossword puzzle. I find the more crossword puzzles I do, the better I am at seeing the clue in a different way.

Solving the crossword puzzle requires a bit of luck. It also requires you to think about the clues in different ways. The clues are written in such a way that the answer isn't always obvious. For example, I need a five letter word for the clue, "A spooky story?"

Each word puzzle I solve teaches me valuable lessons, not just about words and patterns, but about patience, perseverance, and the joy of discovery. Similarly, our faith journey teaches us about love, grace, and the unwavering power of belief. By approaching our spiritual lives with the same curiosity and determination we bring to solving puzzles, we can uncover the profound truths that God has placed before us.

In the end, both puzzles and faith invite us to embrace the mystery. Not every answer is immediately clear, and some solutions require time and reflection. Embracing the mystery allows us to appreciate the journey and the growth that comes with it. Just as a puzzle is solved one word at a time, our faith journey is walked one step at a time. With each step, we draw closer to the ultimate solution; a fulfilling and purposeful life in God's presence.

Oh, and the five letter word for "A spooky story?" - *Attic*.
You are Loved, Gene



Special Dates in April

Apr 1: April Fool's Day
Apr 7: Food Pantry Volunteer - 1 PM
Apr 9: Food Pantry Volunteer - 10 AM
Apr 11: Food Pantry Volunteer - 10 AM
Apr 11: Community Meal - 5 PM
Apr 13: Palm Sunday
Apr 15: Tax Day
Apr 17: Maundy Thursday Service - 7 PM
Apr 18: Good Friday
Apr 20: Easter Sunday Services - 8:30 A & 10:30 A
Apr 20: Continental Breakfast - 9:15 A
Apr 22: Earth Day
Apr 25: Arbor Day

Operating Fund Information Through February 28, 2025

Contributions & Inflows:	\$18,071
Expenses:	\$31,531
Difference:	(\$13,460)



Please consider donating the following items for The Cocoon:

Bars of Soap
Toothpaste (small) & Toothbrushes
Shampoo & Conditioner (small)
Contact Steve Riewaldt for details
@ 419-308-4649



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

Tim Bomeli
Marge Leathem
Ed Reiter

Peggy Carsey
Ruth Maltby
Steve & Marilyn Riewaldt

Jim Corbett
Ruth Ann McCray
Marie Rogers

Sharon Daniels
Becky Meredith
Mae Scott

Special Prayer Requests

Cleve & Irene Patton
Connie & Tami Adams - BG Christian Food Pantry
Emily Rupp
Jennie Stoddard-Bernard, Regional Administrator
Linda Brown - Sharon Bronsink's family member
Randy Jones - Ann Jones' son
Sam Murphy - Lee Starks' Nephew
Savannah Zimmerman & twins - (high risk pregnancy)
Todd Spencer - Gary & Barb Spencer's son

Ministers & Missionaries

Paul Bomeli
Audrey Connor
Margot Connor
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.



TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY



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 have started our Lenten Book, *The Final Days* by Matt Rawle. This six week study will help us better understand the ways the different New Testament Gospels treat Jesus' last week.

"Each Gospel offers a different lens through which we understand Jesus' passion. One portrait reveals Jesus to be in control, while another emphasizes his suffering. In one story, Jesus offers hope to the thief on the cross, and in another Jesus only receives derision."

We are finding it is a great opportunity to rethink the Passion once more as we approach Palm Sunday and Easter in 2025.

Since we are halfway through this study, we'll soon be finding another study to finish out the spring before we go on a summer plan that considers our various vacation schedules. Stay Tuned!

Join us anytime!
We'd love to have some new members!

Happy Birthday to those born in April

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 and Toiletry Items!



Monetary Donations needed too!



Save the Date
FCC's Week to Volunteer
April 7, 9, 11

April is spring's way of saying, "Let's Bloom!"

Easter Alter Lilies

20 Available

Order form is near offering plate.

Drop off at the church office.

Or call the office to obtain form.

\$13.50 per plant



Order Yours Today...Please note if your order is in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

Save the Date!

SAT. July 19, 2025 ~ 8a - 3p

RUMMAGE

SALE

Accepting donations starting March 9th

Gently Used Baby-Youth Clothing; Jeans & Graphic T's of any size, M/F; HH, accent furniture, kitchen items, lamps, books, albums, sporting goods, purses, clothing accessories, jewelry and so much more!

It would be greatly appreciated if donations are placed in boxes
~ This makes for easier storage.

No large appliances or furniture. *Thank you!*

Please contact Earlene K. for details: 419.601.0976

**Proceeds support Women's Fellowship
missions and local nonprofits.**





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

Thank you to everyone who recently donated to the school mission project. In August, we took a large amount of supplies to the middle school for distribution to the students. The school was very appreciative of our donations.

For the month of **March**, we are collecting the items shown below. Also - if you see school supplies on sale, pick some up. They won't go to waste!

If you have questions, please contact Elizabeth Wick @ DEZSLL6@GMAIL.com

- ✧ Laundry Detergent
- ✧ Cleaning Products
- ✧ Hand Sanitizer
- ✧ Kids Rain Boots (Size 5-12)
- ✧ Adult Shoes
- ✧ Individually Wrapped Snacks

Items Due By:
April 27

FCC's NEXT DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY DINNER IS FRIDAY, APRIL 11th

5:00 - 6:00 pm (or until food runs out)

Our FREE Community Dinners
continue to be a huge success!

In November we served over 160 meals and
distributed groceries to many families!

Thank you to the *Dave Donley &
Karen Wood* for hosting in March!



**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH
COOKING and SERVING ON FRIDAY, APRIL 11th.
DONATIONS OF COOKIES and SUPPLIES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

Elizabeth Wick and Betsy Solley are looking for volunteers to help with cooking for this growing monthly Outreach Project. Please contact Elizabeth Wick at 419-575-7867 or DEZSLL6@gmail.com to offer your support.

Thank you to everyone who has already helped out with time, food, and monetary donations!

**WE HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US
IN THIS VERY VALUABLE COMMUNITY OUTREACH!**

First Christian Church of Bowling Green, OH ~ Board Meeting, February 13, 2025

The February 13, 2025, board meeting of First Christian Church was held via Zoom. Present: Pastor Gene Sugg, Mike Solley, presiding, and members, Earlene Kilpatrick, Pat Koehler, Ruth Ann McCray, Diane Morlock, Steve Riewaldt, Barb and Gary Spencer, Rae Thomson. and Elizabeth Wick.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Moderator Mike Solley, who opened with prayer.

The devotion was given by Mike who spoke about holding onto trust when facing health issues as he is having to do with a recently diagnosis of a-fib. Pat will offer the March devotion.

Administration:

Approval: The December 12 board minutes were approved on a motion by Rae, second by Barb.

Clerk: no report

Treasurer's Report: The Balance Sheet and Profit Loss documents were sent to board members; there was no report and no action taken.

Finance Committee Report: Earlene reported on meeting of February 11. Jim Adams has been removed as a check signer and from access to all financial accounts. The board appointed DeAnna Beeker as Treasurer and Gary Spencer as a co-check writer. Due to low transactions and a cost of \$60-80 a month, the Financial Trustees approved Lee Field-Starks recommendation to discontinue use of the Electronic Payment/Direct Deposit program effective March 1. DeAnna will check with Jim to see what program he used to generate reports and if it's possible to utilize the same program.

Property: Steve reported that a water mitigation process was initiated after the recent issue of a broken water pipeline in the church offices. The Downey bill for repairing the line was \$329 and the estimate of \$1,905 will include having the carpet cleaned, painting, replacing ceiling tiles and other repairs.

Technology: No report.

Personnel: Earlene reported she will be completing the contract with Pastor Gene.

Pastor: Gene compared the loss of his cancer doctor, Dr. Letzer, to another hospital and the close relationship he had under his care, to the blessing of church relationships. The church can be a Dr. Letzer in the world. People come and go. We never know what brings someone to the church but we are called to welcome all who seek, offer healing, grace, forgiveness and love them as Christ first loved us.

The Pastoral Care Committee has been delayed but is still on the agenda. Lent will begin with an Ash Wednesday service on March 5. He will provide a sign-up sheet to see how many are interested in a Lenten Study and possibilities for an agreeable time.

Moderator - Old Business:

FCC Constitution and Bylaws: Diane stated that the committee has finished the updates and the documents have been printed and are available on the entry table. The board will review them at the March meeting and they will be presented to the congregation at a special announced meeting. Mike thanked Diane and her committee for their work on this project.

Strategic Planning: Moderator, Mike Solley will be forming committee.

New Business: Earlene was appointed to serve the remaining term of Vice-Moderator.

Ministries:

Worship: Mike will be meeting with Pastor Gene

Care Elders: The committee met on January 28 and assigned new members and attendees to a care elder. Elizabeth sent a thank you note to a Presbyterian member who made a \$500 contribution to our Community Dinner mission. A request was received for someone to pray with Rita Eckert's mother-in-law who is at the Willows. Sharon had planned to go but is unable to do at this time. Gene will get in touch with her.

Missions:

Hospitality: Mike passed on Betsy's thanks to the 'cookie brigade'.

Men's Group: Steve reported that the men will host a Shrove Tuesday meal on March 4. There will be a District One Rally on March 2; all are welcome.

Women's Group: Earlene noted that the rummage sale will be on July 19. From the 2024 proceeds they donated \$500 each to the Cocoon, BG Christian Food Pantry, Camp Christian and the Salvation Army Adopt a Family program. She announced the 2025 goals including a Hanging of the Green potluck, purchase of two buffet tables and several more.

FCC Community Meal: The Solley's are in charge of the February meal. Elizabeth won \$200 from her employer for her volunteer hours and designated it go to the BG Christian Food Pantry.

BG Christian Food Pantry: No Report

BG Schools Mission Project: Kim Thomas is assisting Elizabeth. Current month's needs listed.

Transportation: Thanks to all who helped the Bigelows during Dave's surgery and recovery.

Green Team/Green Chalice: No report.

Christian Education:

Women's Spiritual Study Group: The group will finish the study on Acts and begin a Lenten study.


Prayer Concerns: Dave Bigelow is doing better and driving again; Jim George is dealing with the uncertainty of Marge's condition; Diane doing well after having sutures and using an IT band; Rae's friend's 56 yr. old son who had a dirt bike accident and is having extreme difficulties; Sharon Daniels; Gene's friend Norma and also Ben and family; Diane's relative Alexandria with thyroid removal; Earlene's step-mother with dementia and her dad. Joys mentioned were Elizabeth's baby Indy and the beautiful music provided by Giorgos.

The closing prayer was given by Pastor Gene.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55

Respectfully submitted, Pat Koehler, secretary

The next Board Meeting will be held on March 13, 2025.



April, 2025

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Please note that various committees meet throughout the month. Please check with your committee's chairperson regarding the date and time that your committee will be meeting this month.

		1 7:00 Personnel Committee Meeting	2 11:00 Women's Bible Study-Zoom 7:00-Women's Club of BG Social Meeting. 7:00 Lent Bible Study @ FCC & via Zoom	3	4	5
6 10:30 Worship Jesus as Comforter 11:30 Food Pantry Sunday 11:30 Prayer Circle 12:00 Care Elder Meeting @ FCC	7 1:00 Food Pantry Volunteer	8 4:00 Women's Fellowship Meeting @ FCC 5:00 Financial Trustees Meeting @ FCC	9 10:00 Food Pantry Volunteer 11:00 Women's Bible Study-Zoom 7:00 Lent Bible Study @ FCC & via Zoom	10 7:00 FCC Board Meeting @ FCC & via Zoom	11 10:00 Food Pantry Volunteer 5:00 Community Meal/Grocery supplies	12
13 Palm Sunday 10:30 Worship	14	15 Tax Day	16 11:00 Women's Bible Study-Zoom 7:00 Lent Bible Study @ FCC & via Zoom	17 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	18 Good Friday	19 Holy Saturday
20 Easter Sunday 8:30 Sunrise Service 9:15 Breakfast 10:30 Traditional Service	21 7:00 Women's Club of BG Board Meeting	22 Earth Day	23 Admin Professional's Day 11:00 Women's Bible Study-Zoom	24	25 Arbor Day	26
27 10:30 Worship	28	29	30 11:00 Women's Bible Study-Zoom	 <h1>April, 2025</h1>		