



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

February, 2024

The Visitor

875 Haskins Rd. Bowling Green, OH 43402 • Phone: 419-354-3989 • E-mail: fccadmin@bgfcc.org • Website: www.bgfcc.org

WINTER GARDEN

*In winter's cold and sparkling snow,
The garden in my mind does grow.
I look outside to blinding white,
And see my tulips blooming bright.
And over there a sweet carnation,
Softly scents my imagination.*

*On this cold and freezing day,
The Russian sage does gently sway,
And miniature roses perfume the air,
I can see them blooming there.
Though days are short, my vision's clear.
And through the snow, the buds appear.*

*In my mind, clematis climbs,
And morning glories do entwine.
Woodland phlox and scarlet pinks,
Replace the frost, if I just blink.
My inner eye sees past the snow.
And in my mind, my garden grows."*

Cynthia Adams
First published in *Birds and Blooms* magazine,
Dec/Jan 2003

Special Dates in February

Feb 5: Food Pantry Volunteer, 1-3 PM
Feb 7: Food Pantry Volunteer, 10 AM-12 PM
Feb 9: Food Pantry Volunteer, 10 AM-12 PM
Feb 9: FCC Community Meal, 5 PM
Feb 13: Shrove Tuesday Dinner, 6 PM
Feb 14: Ash Wednesday & Valentine's Day
Feb 19: President's Day
Feb 25: Installation of Gene Sugg as Pastor
Feb 29: Leap Day



Operating Fund Information Through December 31, 2023

Contributions & Inflows: \$120,556.17
 Expenses: \$126,476.61
 Difference: (\$ 5,920.44)

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: \$24,000
 Remaining: \$ 6,000



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

Scott Beeker
 Jim Corbett
 Becky Meredith

Tim Bomeli
 Marge Leathem
 Marie Rogers

Peggy Carsey
 Ruth Ann McCray
 Mae Scott

Special Prayer Requests

Boni Reese - Diane Morlock's friend
 Connie & Tami Adams - BG Christian Food Pantry
 Deb Cheshier - 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
 Ruth Maltby - Surgery in February

Ministers & Missionaries

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

The Care Elders have a way for you to reach out to those on the prayer list.

We have developed care notecards. The note cards have been placed in the pews. If, during church, you hear of someone that is in need of prayer, you can take one of these note cards, write who it is to in the space at the top, jot a quick note, and sign your name.

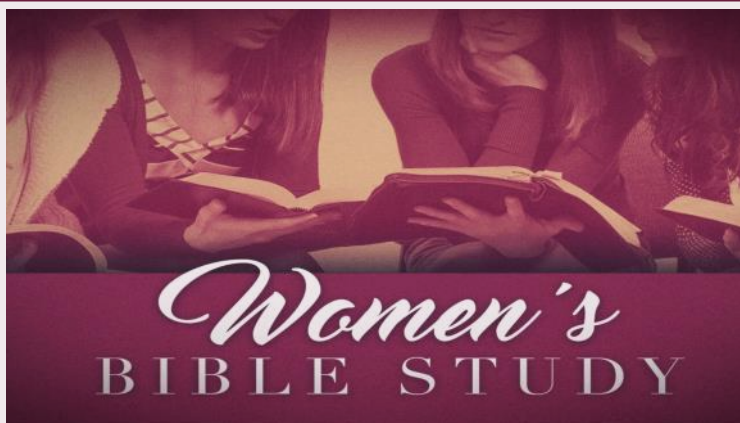
Then just place the card in the offering plate, and the church office will address the envelope and drop your note in the mail.

If you put someone on our prayer list that is not currently attending our church and you want them to get a note, it will be important to write their address on the prayer list by the door or email it to the church office when you get home. (fccadmin@bgfcc.org)

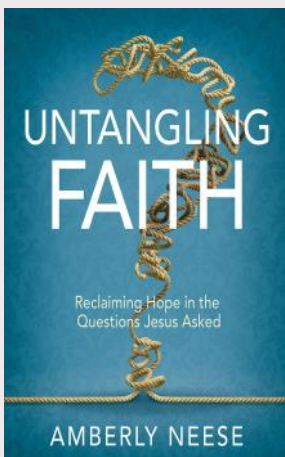
THINKING OF
you



First Christian Church
 Bowling Green, OH



Women's Spiritual Studies Group



We planned a 6 week study, *Untangling Faith* by Amberly Neese to start in early January, but that hasn't worked out. We now plan to have a few meetings, just with conversation, find a Lenten book and start that on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024. We will probably return to *Untangling Faith* after Easter. Char can provide information on the Lenten study in church.

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

The Scherer and Krueger extended family wish to THANK Pastor Gene, the Hospitality Team, the Technology Team, the many members who visited at the funeral home, came to the Memorial Service, sent cards and/or reached out in other ways during our recent bereavement time of Don's passing. All those things mean so much and are so helpful in providing comfort and support. First Christian Church really is Family!



Happy Birthday to those born in February!

*Birthstone: Amethyst
Love, Purenness, Harmony*

Kelsey Tennison	2/1	David Wick	2/20
Amy Kirkbride	2/2	Claude Kilpatrick	2/22
Buz Maltby	2/6	Ernie Naugle	2/26
Elizabeth Wick	2/7	Joanne Tennison	2/26
Hannah Shaffer	2/12	Jackson Krueger	2/26
Karen Dauer	2/15	Pat Stack	2/27
Jim Corbitt	2/15		

FEEDING OUR MISSION

The BG Christian Food Pantry needs:

**ANY
FOOD
ITEMS!**



**ANY
TOILETRY
ITEMS!**



Save the Date
FCC's Week to Volunteer
February 12, 14, 16

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 willing drivers.

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

To Our Church Family,

We are home and recuperating and looking toward the next two surgeries, but at this time we would like to thank our very generous Church Family. To everyone who sent cards, visited, brought food, prayed for us, contributed gifts of any sort, we want to say THANK YOU!!! When Gene visited us at the Cleveland Clinic, he brought with him two full bags of so many things! There were cards, cookies, trail mix, crackers, games, books, magazines, puzzle books, wine bread, gift cards, money, candy, devotional books, lotion, a prayer stone, hot chocolate packets, Chapstick, gum, pens, and one item that made me smile a lot - a McNugget Buddy from McDonalds. I may have missed something, we tried to keep track but to mention everyone and everything individually, we are afraid we might miss someone or something... so we just want to say THANK YOU TO EVERYONE! It was overwhelming to be thought of by so many during this very trying time. We are now on a path to recovery, we have a long way to go yet, but with all of you praying for us and cheering us on, we have no doubt we will cross the finish line stronger than we started. It is comforting to know that we have such a generous and giving Church Family walking with us.



With love to you all, Scott & DeAnna



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
February	2/25/24	juice boxes mac n' cheese cups	shampoo	reusable water bottles WITHOUT straws
March	3/31/24	beef jerky sticks cups of soup	deodorant	pencils



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, BG, OH DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY DINNER

FRIDAY, **FEBRUARY 9, 2024**

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

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

In November we served **180 meals** and distributed many bags of grocery items!
Thank you to the **SOLLEY's and their crew!**

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST THE KILPATRICKS WITH COOKING and SERVING ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9! 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 December 14, 2023

The December 14, 2023 board meeting of First Christian Church was held via Zoom. Present: Earlene Kilpatrick, presiding; Rev. Gene Sugg and members, Jim and Karen Adams, Nancy Andrade, Don and Lynn Bateson, Sharon Daniels, Jay Kirkbride, Ruth Ann McCray, Steve Riewaldt, Mike and Betsy Solley, Rae Thomson, Elizabeth Wick and Pat Koehler.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 by Moderator Earlene Kilpatrick who opened with prayer.

The devotion was given by Mike Solley who referred to John 21:15 and Jesus' mandate to "Feed My Sheep. FCC's food mission has grown from an average of feeding 40 to the recent 200. We need to continue to take on the mantle of this mission. The January devotion will be given by Pat Koehler.

The November 9, 2023, board minutes were unanimously approved on a motion made by Elizabeth Wick, second by Mike Solley.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Jim Adams' who noted that November contributions were \$9,600, putting us ahead for the year. Expenses are expected to break even for the year. The report was accepted into the minutes.

2024 Proposed Budget: The financial trustees presented the proposed budget for 2024 and requested that it be made available to the congregation at the December 17 worship service and also be sent to church members for consideration. With board support, it will be presented for approval at a congregational meeting on January 7.

Administrative:

Clerk: Sharon Daniels reported no change. The list of updated addresses of members has been sent to members but not received by some. Earlene will ask Lee to send the list to the congregation on her own email as the computer problem has not been resolved.

Financial Trustees: The committee is discussing tithing and ways to present to the congregation.

Personnel: No report.

Property: Steve Riewaldt reported that the outside solar lights were installed and security lights are operative at night. The boiler has been repaired but is overheating in some areas. Don Bateson will attempt to regulate the temperature. Gene will replace batteries in music area to protect surge for the organ.

Technology: Jay Kirkbride reported they are looking at procuring a new camera and removing the location from the center doorway.

FCC Constitution and By-laws: Chair Diane Morlock notified the board that there will be a meeting on January 4 at 7 pm at the church for anyone wishing to serve on the committee

Moderator: Earlene had no report but thanked those assisting with mission projects.

Pastor's Report: Gene commented on the Christmas Concert performed by pianists Nano Beraia and Malik Halce on Dec. 13 that was a well attended joyful event. He spoke to the strong sense of family at FCC as Nano had expressed her appreciation for the support of the church family. There may be a later concert as the couple prepares for their doctoral auditions. Gene continues to prepare for the Christmas Eve service,

Old Business: Earlene will be addressing the Worship Planning Committee and Leadership Succession in the New Year.

New Business: None

Ministry: Elder's Reports

Care Elders: Elizabeth Wick reported that the group met on Dec. 11 via zoom and prayer concerns will be listed below,

Worship Elders: Mike Solley reported that Worship is planning for Christmas services.

Missions:

Community Meal: The Jan.12 meal will be hosted by the Solley's. A meeting of interested volunteers will be held to discuss the future of the mission.

School Mission: Karen Adams reported that she delivered \$500 worth of supplies to the schools.

BG Christian Food Pantry: No report

Green Chalice: Steve Riewaldt reported that he delivered 10 sets of toiletry packages to the Cocoon.

Fellowship:

Hospitality: Betsy thanked those who assisted in the social event following the Christmas Concert.

The Christmas Eve event will also require assistance. Cookies will be provided by the Care Elders and Worship Elders.

Men's Group: Steve Riewaldt reported that the group will be hosting the Men's Rally on March 3, 2024. They are supporting two families with Christmas gifts and sending contributions to Cleveland Christian Home, Cocoon,, Salvation Army, Cherry Street Mission and the Christian Food Pantry.

Women's Group: Earlene reported that they are adopting a Salvation Army family and providing funds for the stained glass window repair fund.

Prayer Concerns: Continuing prayers for Scott and DeAnna Beeker, Marie Rogers and Jim Corbitt, Jim and Marge George, Sharon Bronsink and Pat Stack. Also, Kim Thomas following gall bladder surgery, Don Scherer in WCH for testing, Rae Thomson's niece in loss of husband and friend Rodney in hospice; Jackson Daniels with dental issues, Conner Kilpatrick with breathing problems, Beatrice and Christina Gunther whose mother is ill, Elizabeth Wick's mom with macular degeneration and safe travels home for Elizabeth and Dave Wick.

Closing Prayer was given by Pastor Gene

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Next Meeting will be January 11, 2024: zoom or in-person at the church

Respectfully submitted, Pat Koehler, Secretary