



First
Christian
Church
(Disciples of Christ)

The Visitor

May 2025

875 Haskins Rd. Bowling Green, OH 43402 • Phone: 419-354-3989 • E-mail: firstoffice875@gmail.com • Website: www.bgfcc.org

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed.

That call and response is my favorite part of the Easter Sunday celebration. Ever since I was a young kid it's been a part of my Easter Sunday worship traditions and I love keeping that tradition alive. Doing so not only keeps me connected to my past and the people who helped formed me but also brings that connection to the present. It isn't always easy to stay connected to others, not as much as we would like.

In today's fast-paced, digital world, it is easier to feel connected and at the same time still feel deeply alone. We spend so much time on social media. According to recent studies, on average, people spend about 2 hours and 24 minutes daily on social media platforms. This translates to roughly 143 minutes per day. However, this average can vary based on factors like age, gender, and location. We spend time scrolling, posting, sharing, liking, but do we truly connect?

As followers of Christ, we are called not just to know about one another, but to know one another—to bear each other's burdens, rejoice together, and walk hand in hand through life's joys and trials.

Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 states: *"Two are better than one... If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."* God designed us for community. Jesus Himself modeled intimate connection with His disciples, sharing meals, praying together, and engaging in honest conversation.

Personal connections are the heartbeat of a healthy church. When we share our lives with one another - beyond Sunday greetings - we create space for healing, encouragement, and transformation. Whether it's a kind word in the hallway, a meal delivered during hard times, or a small group that meets regularly for prayer, every act of intentional connection builds up the body of Christ.

Sharing our joys and triumphs with people who care solidifies the connections. Our brains are wired for connection. Studies have actually shown that strong social ties are linked to better mental and physical health. Feeling connected can boost your mood, reduce stress, and even make you live longer!

So, how do we keep those connections strong when life gets crazy? It doesn't have to be anything extravagant. A quick text, a phone call while you're waiting in line, meeting up for coffee, or even just a heartfelt comment on a social media post can make a difference. It's about showing people you're thinking of them and making a little effort to stay in touch.

Here are a few thoughts to consider when trying to make time for connecting.

It's easy to let quality time with loved ones slip away. Even small, intentional moments – a shared meal, a walk together, a heartfelt conversation – can make a big difference.

- ♦ Practice active listening: Truly hearing and understanding the hearts of those we love strengthens our connection and fosters empathy.
- ♦ Offer grace and forgiveness: We are all imperfect, and misunderstandings are inevitable. Extending grace and practicing forgiveness allows love to flourish.
- ♦ Celebrate the small victories: Acknowledge and appreciate the everyday moments of joy and support within the family. These celebrations reinforce positive connections. We are here to support one another, offering encouragement, prayer, and a sense of belonging.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!

You are loved, Gene



Special Dates in May

May 1: May Day & National Day of Prayer
May 5: Cinco de Mayo
May 5: Food Pantry Volunteer - 1 PM
May 7: Food Pantry Volunteer - 10 AM
May 9: Food Pantry Volunteer - 10 AM
May 9: Community Meal - 5 PM
May 11: Mother's Day
May 16: Bike to Work Day
May 17: Armed Services Day
May 18: Mental Health Sunday
May 26: Memorial Day
May 31: Red Cross Blood Drive with Latter Day Saints - 9 AM-2:30 PM at 1033 Conneaut St.

Operating Fund Information Through March 31, 2025

Contributions & Inflows:	\$33,241
Expenses:	\$49,862
Difference:	(\$16,621)



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?

PRAYER REQUEST

Write your request on
the sheet in the foyer
or email the office:
firstoffice875
@gmail.com

Tim Bomeli
Marge Leathem
Steve & Marilyn Riewaldt

Peggy Carsey
Ruth Maltby

Jim Corbett
Ruth Ann McCray
Marie Rogers

Sharon Daniels
Becky Meredith
Mae Scott

Claude Kilpatrick
Ed Reiter

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
Regan Starks - Lee Starks' daughter
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.

Happy Birthday to those born in May

Nancy Otley	5/15
Diane Carpenter	5/24
Earlene Kilpatrick	5/27
Lee Field-Starks	5/28
Marcia Naugle	5/29

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
May 5, 7, 9**

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.**





**American
Red Cross**

**Please
note
location
change**

BE AWESOME. GIVE BLOOD.



Donate blood at the LIFESAVER blood drives!

**Please
note
location
change**

Blood Drive

**FCC in conjunction with
The Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter Day Saints**

1033 Conneaut Street; BG

Saturday, May 31, 2025

To make an appointment, please call

1-800-RED-CROSS

or visit

www.RedCrossBlood.org

**Please
note
location
change**



**Come to give blood May 19 to 31 for a limited edition
Red Cross solar lantern, while supplies last!**

**Be on the lookout for ways you can help FCC
with the upcoming Blood Drive with the Latter Day Saints.
Call DeAnna Beeker at 419-308-5567 with questions or for details.**

Download the Blood Donor App | redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767



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 **MAY**, 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

Items Due By:
May 25

- ✧ Trapper Keepers
- ✧ Expo Markers, Sticky Notes, Notecards
- ✧ Deodorant, Body Lotion, Hair Care Accessories, Hand Sanitizer
- ✧ Kids and Adult Underwear

FCC's NEXT DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY DINNER IS FRIDAY, MAY 9th

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



Our FREE Community Dinners
continue to be a huge success!

In April we served 144 meals and
distributed groceries to LOTS of families!

Thank you to the *Kim Thomas and her
sorority friends* for hosting in April!



**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST THE BEEKERS WITH
COOKING and SERVING ON FRIDAY, MAY 9th.
DONATIONS OF COOKIES and SUPPLIES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

Elizabeth Wick and Betsy Solley are always 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, March 13, 2025

The March 13, 2025, board meeting of First Christian Church was held at the church and via Zoom. Present: Pastor Gene Sugg, Vice Moderator Earlene Kilpatrick, presiding, and members, Sharon Daniels, Jay Kirkbride, Pat Koehler, Ruth Maltby, Diane and Ron Morlock, Steve Riewaldt, Barb and Gary Spencer, and Elizabeth Wick.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Earlene Kilpatrick, who opened with prayer.

Pat's devotion was read by Diane about the joy of living intentionally. April's devotion will be given by Ruth.

Administration:

Approval: The February 13 board minutes were approved on a motion by Gary, second by Ron.

Clerk: There was a question as to the membership status of Marge George, who recently died, Diane suggested that it would be helpful to have an updated church membership list. Sharon will work with Lee to add a field in the Excel Database that would identify those listed as active, inactive and participating members.

Treasurer's Report: Earlene pointed to the high expenditures in February on the Profit and Loss report including building maintenance, snow and ice removal and parsonage real estate taxes. The reports were accepted into the minutes.

Finance Committee Report: Committee has recommended that the church switch to the Servant Keeper software program in early April to reduce expenses. The next meeting is April 8 at 5 pm.

Property: Steve reported that a water mitigation process after the broken water pipeline in the church offices is completed including work by Guarantee Carpet. The committee agreed to eliminate the stripping and waxing project to apply money to payments incurred. Steve is exploring the possibility of FCC hosting a Boy Scout and/or Cub Scout group next year. Options will be explored and more discussion will be held.

Technology: Jay reported that the hard drive on the office computer is being expanded and will give Lee the ability to assist with the power point for worship.

Personnel: No report.

Pastor: Gene discussed the Pastoral Relations Committee that he is establishing. This committee would function as a liaison, providing open and positive dialogue with the congregation and would include 4-5 church members. Diane Morlock and Ruth Maltby have offered to serve. He led the Ash Wednesday service and has started a Lenten study group that is meeting on Wednesday evenings at the church and via zoom, and is entitled 'Living the Questions'. He will be officiating at Marge George's funeral service on March 22; Diane will assist with music. He reported on recent activities, attending the Care Elder meeting and the Wauseon Rally, announcing that it will be held in BG next year. Lilly Dowd and Geoff Roberts will be baptized on Palm Sunday.

Moderator:

Old Business:

FCC Constitution and Bylaws: Diane presented a review of the proposed revision of the FCC Constitution with a report of changes and reasoning. Members working on the project for the past few years included Elizabeth Wick, Jim Adams, Claude and Earlene Kilpatrick and committee chair, Diane Morlock. Pastor Sugg served as Ex-officio. She explained that the Constitution needs to be approved and in place before work can begin on the By-Laws. With suggested minor changes to be made, the motion on the table as presented by the committee was approved by the board. The final document will be presented to the congregation for approval by a two-thirds vote at a special meeting after Easter. Notice of the meeting will be sent to the congregation by Lee two weeks prior.

Earlene thanked Diane and her committee for their work on this project.

Strategic Planning: Tabled indefinitely. Diane suggested that we should be making an effort to move this project forward with a plan for one to three years. She volunteered to serve on the committee. Earlene will contact Regional Pastor Allen Harris to schedule a meeting. Pastor Gene recommended a committee of five members including a recent new member.

Ministries:

Worship: No Report

Care Elders: Elizabeth announced that they will be meeting on the first Sunday of the month following the worship service. The Shepherding list has been updated to include new members and those who have been attending and they will be preparing 'final weeks care packages' in April for our three BGSU students.

Missions:

Hospitality: Barb Spencer, Carla Meredith and Karen Dauer will be preparing the luncheon on March 22 following Marge George's funeral service.

Men's Group: Steve reported that the men hosted the Shrove Tuesday meal on March 4 with 26 members attending. They will be serving a family chicken dinner on Mother's Day, May 11. The Morlocks will provide the cake.

Women's Group: Earlene noted that the rummage sale will be on July 19 and the storage room is available for donations. Their meetings will be the second Tuesday of the month at 4 pm.

FCC Community Meal: Dave Donley and Karen Wood will be in charge of the March 14 meal.

BG Christian Food Pantry: No Report. It was noted that they need help with this mission.

BG Schools Mission Project: Elizabeth delivered items today and they are grateful for the gifts.

Transportation: No requests, no report

Green Team/Green Chalice: No report. Rachel Perez is donating containers for Community meal.

Christian Education: Pastor Gene is conducting a Lenten study on Wednesdays at 7 pm

Women's Spiritual Study Group: Char reports that The Final Days study is very impactful.

Prayer Concerns: Prayers for the George family, for Ed Reiter, Earlene's parents and Lilly Dowd's partner, Savannah. Sharon Daniels will be having surgery on April 1

The closing prayer was given by Pastor Gene.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20

Respectfully submitted, Pat Koehler, secretary

The next Board Meeting will be held on April 10, 2025.



MAY, 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 	2 3:30p Women's Club of BG Brunch set up	3 8:30a Women's Club of BG Brunch
4 10:30a Worship 11:30a Food Pantry Sunday 11:30a Prayer Circle 12p Care Elder Meeting @ FCC	5  1p Food Pantry Volunteer	6 5p Financial Trustees Meeting @ FCC	7 10a Food Pantry Volunteer 11a Women's Bible Study-Zoom	8 7p FCC Board Meeting @ FCC & via Zoom	9 10a Food Pantry Volunteer 5p Community Meal/Grocery	10 10a Naugle Baby Shower - All Day
11  10:30a Worship	12	13	14 11a Women's Bible Study-Zoom 12n BG Manor Picnic taking place on grass between FCC and BG Manor	15 	16 	17 
18  10:30a Worship	19 7p Women's Club of BG Board Meeting	20 4p Women's Fellowship Meeting	21 11a Women's Bible Study-Zoom	22	23	24
25 10:30a Worship	26 	27	28 11a Women's Bible Study-Zoom	29	30	31  9a Red Cross Blood Drive with Latter Day Saints. LOCATION: 1033 Conneaut.