



First
Christian
Church
(Disciples of Christ)

January, 2022

The Visitor

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



"SUGG"estions...

Welcome to the New Year – 2022! The turn of the calendar to a new year always brings excitement. We host or attend parties to celebrate the clock striking midnight for the 365th time. Or would that be the 366th time? Either way it's something that occurs every single day of the year, over and over and over again. And yet on this one day we celebrate it and give it special significance. Why? For many it's the opportunity to start over – a time to forget the past and begin with a clean slate. For others it's the time to take on a personal challenge thru New Year's resolutions. The most common resolutions include: Exercising more, losing weight, getting organized, saving money, quitting smoking, travelling more, reading more, spending more time with family and friends. That is quite a list. Truth be told, I am pretty sure I have tried nearly all of them! Years ago I came up with this New Year's resolution: my New Year's resolution is not to make a New Year's resolution. I think it works for me, as soon as I make it, I have already broken it!

The New Year brings with it the feeling of starting over, there's a newness in our outlook. I think we also need to remember the words of Christ from Revelation 21:5 – "Behold, I make all things new." The possibility to move past our mistakes, our failures, our woundedness and our regrets is ours every day. In Christ, we are made new, not just at the change of a calendar date. Have a safe and joyous New Year.

Gene

Special Dates in January:

- January 10: Food Pantry Volunteer (1p-3p)
- January 12: Food Pantry Volunteer (10a-12p)
- January 14: Food Pantry Volunteer (10a-12p)
- January 14: Drive-in Dinner (5p-6p)
- January 17: Martin Luther King Day



Financial Information				
Date	Offering	YTD Income	YTD Expenses	Difference
11/28	\$1,121.19	\$96,722.73	\$91,647.30	\$4,075.43
12/5	\$2,822.00	\$98,604.73	\$92,381.05	\$6,223.68
12/12	\$2,005.00	\$100,654.73	\$96,002.95	\$4,651.78
12/19	\$3,215.00	\$103,869.73	\$96,544.40	\$7,324.91
12/26	\$1,065.00	\$104,934.73	\$101,440.24	\$3,494.49

FEEDING OUR MISSION

The BG Christian Food Pantry needs:

Boxed Meals
Jam/Jelly
Instant Pudding
Jell-O

Soup
Condiments
Personal Care Items
Paper Products



Save the Date
FCC's Week to Volunteer
Jan: 10, 12, 14



Please Pray For...

Tim Bomeli
The Keesbury Family
Ruth Maltby
Becky Meredith
Kell Shaffer

Seldon & Peggy Carsey
Marge Leathem
Ruth Ann McCray
Mae Scott
Jill Witham

Adriana - Lee Starks' friend
Laynee - Sharon Daniels' great-niece (heart transplant)
Linda Brown - Sharon Bronsink's family member (COPD)
Kim Sebert - Sharon Bronsink's family member (cancer)
Rob Slone - Rae Thomson's son-in-law (motorcycle accident)

Ministers & Missionaries

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

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



BG DRIVE-IN COMMUNITY DINNER

FRIDAY, January 14, 2022
5:00 - 6:00 pm (or until food runs out)

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

In December we served 97 meals and distributed several bags of food!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO COOK AND SERVE ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 14!
DONATIONS OF COOKIES ARE NEEDED TOO!

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!



Jill Witham	1/5
Lynda Dean	1/14
James Cole	1/18
Logan Wick	1/18
Todd Jimison	1/20
Rowan Wicks	1/21
Kell Shaffer	1/22



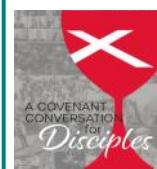
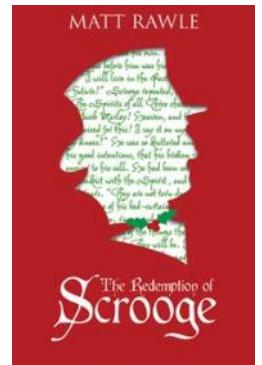
Women's Spiritual Studies Group

We continue to meet weekly on Wednesdays at 11:00 am via Zoom and would love to have more people join us. Contact Char Scherer (cschere@bgsu.edu) if you need the link. Zoom allows up to include two members who are not in Bowling Green, saves us traveling across town as weather worsens, and is currently a safer way to connect because of Covid.

"One kind word can warm three winter months."

Japanese Proverb

We have completed our Advent study, *The Redemption of Scrooge* by Matt Rawle on December 15, 2021. This book was based on Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, and explored the main characters of the book "with an eye to Christian faith." As we reviewed Scrooge's visits with Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future, we saw how earlier experiences made Scrooge the "Bah Humbug" self that he had become. We saw how Christmas Present helped him rethink how he might be a different person. Then we saw how a look into a future he didn't want to come to pass helped him see the possibility of redemption. With this vision, we were able to remember that through our "faith in Christ our present, our past, and our future are held together in grace. God loves us, has forgiven us and has given us purpose for the future ...as servants to God and for each other."



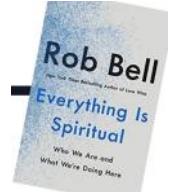
After a short break at Christmas, December 29, we'll complete the last two Covenant video lessons on January 5 and 12.

COFFEE HOUR

Please join us in this Fellowship opportunity after Sunday Services!

Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve. Please sign up at Coffee Hour!

On January 19, 2022, we'll begin a new 6 week study, *Everything is Spiritual*, by Rob Bell.



When Lent begins on March 2, we'll be doing a Lenten study, yet to be chosen.

Come join us on Zoom anytime!

It is hard to relay on paper, the true Joy, Love, Hope, and Peace, our church family extended to those in need during the recent holiday season. **Thank you** to all who supported the various Salvation Army programs during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons!



Throughout the Thanksgiving season you donated hats, gloves, scarves, coats, and even blankets and shoes! All the gently used coats and blankets were dry cleaned by Longs

Cleaners, who by the way has donated their cleaning service for the past 40+ years. Additionally, they donated their time in order to deliver these items to the church. That act alone saved a lot of time for the FCC volunteers! After sorting the donations by age and gender, the items were distributed during the Thanksgiving food basket give-a-way sponsored by FCC, the BG Christian Food Pantry, and the Salvation Army of Wood County. Any leftover winter clothing and shoes were then donated to the Salvation Army and the Fringe (located in the Woodland Mall). The Fringe was so excited to receive these items, as they constantly support the underserved population of our community and county.

Some of you donated cash to the Food Pantry to help cover the cost of food or donated your time during set-up, or during the organizing and distribution of the food. Please know that the gratitude of the organizers and recipients was sincerely expressed.

The Adopt a Family program helped 5 families totaling 13 children (age 14 or younger), 3 teenagers, and 5 adults. The generous donations from our FCC family, the Men's and Women's Fellowship groups, and friends of members of our church reflected the true meaning of Christmas...Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace! The adopted families recognized the Love you shared by giving; I once again was blessed to experience the Joy of the families, (especially the adults) knowing they were now going to have a Christmas for their children/grandchildren; and the Peace of knowing they no longer had to struggle to figure out where they could afford even one gift. Hope was apparent way before delivering the Christmas gifts. These families hope they will be adopted by a loving church family such as FCC. When I contact our adopted families, all the emotions of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace were radiated by the head of household. Such a beautiful experience!

Once again I was blessed to meet these families and to hear their stories of unexpected unemployment, COVID impact, raising grandchildren, etc. Through your generosity, I was able to purchase Christmas cut-out cookies, frosting, and colored sugars...long story short, one of the mothers was so excited to be able to have her family participate in decorating cookies...a Christmas tradition many of us take for granted. Once more, one mother broke out in tears, when she was also given wrapping paper, tape, bows, tags...she said these luxuries were simply not affordable for her to purchase.

Your generosity also enabled a minimum of \$125 to a maximum of \$250 per family to be used on groceries. Again, the heartfelt and sincere gratitude was expressed by these family members!

The 2021 Bell Ringing program required volunteers to be outdoors. This requirement understandably limited those who could help. For the second year in a row, the Salvation Army's Executive Director Nichole McKnight, noted that numerous organizations were unable to fill outdoor ringing slots. Thanks to your generosity, FCC will be able to support the Bell Ringing campaign by making a special Salvation Army donation of at least \$700.

As I got caught up in the busyness of volunteer work and life in general, my 2021 experience of participating in the Salvation Army Adopt A Family program was a soulful reminder (I call it a gentle 'God Smack') of how incredible our church family is! I am not speaking of just those who financially supported these programs, but also those who offered to share their time or resources or talent or words of encouragement, to ensure God's love, care and compassion are radiated throughout our community.

Thank you! May everyone have a Blessed, Healthy, and Prosperous 2022!

(If you have any questions, please call me: 419.601.0976 or email me: cnekilpatrick@outlook.com)

DOING THE MOST GOOD®

Thank You!