

**Join us for worship
on Sunday!**

- Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
- Traditional Worship & Communion - 10:45 a.m.
- Contemporary Worship & Communion - 5:30 p.m.

• Or listen to our radio
Broadcast on 1560 WPAD
AM and 99.5 FM
Check us out on Facebook &
our Website
fccpaducah.org

Support the PCM Pantry

We are collecting **peanut butter** for the PCM Pantry during December.

Recurring Monthly Fellowship and Outreach Opportunities

- 1st Monday (December 5) - *Blood Drive* from noon to 6PM - Fellowship Hall
- 1st Tuesday, (December 6) - *Cancer Support Group*, 7 PM in church parlor.
- 1st Wednesday, (December 7) - *Super Senior Group* (55+) Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m.
- 2nd Saturday, (December 10) - *2nd Saturday Breakfast* from 8 AM to 10 AM in Fellowship Hall. *Bring your friends and enjoy a great breakfast for a donation.*
- 4th Sunday, (December 25) - *Jackson Oaks Service* 2 PM. *Everyone is welcome to worship with the residents of Jackson Oaks.*
- 4th Wednesday, (December 28) Potluck followed by monthly Prayer Service

Check the calendar insert for more information and dates.



Pack 470 Flag Project

Our pack is collecting worn US flags as a service project. If you have a flag that is faded or torn, please drop it off at the church office and the pack will add it to their collection and respectfully retire the flags at a ceremony at one of their meetings. For more information please contact **Jason McHaney** at 442-3426.

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The Tower is a publication of
First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
415 Audubon Dr., Paducah, KY 42001
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



December 2011

*"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart."
-Helen Keller-*

The Tower



First Christian Church - Paducah, KY

Christmas Special Offering

Christian Care Communities

Christian Care Communities (formerly Christian Church Homes of KY) was founded in 1884, and is the largest faith-based, not for profit provider of affordable senior retirement living and long term care for older adults in Kentucky, serving the physical and emotional needs of older adults. Headquartered in Louisville, it is also the oldest outreach ministry of the Disciples of Christ and the Christian Church. First Christian Paducah is among 230 Christian churches in the region which generously support the Communities through organized giving and individual donations. Please consider a generous Christmas gift to the **Christian Care Communities**.
(Make your check to FCC with Christmas Offering on the memo line.)

**"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."
-Luke 2:11 (NIV)**

McNabb Christmas Break Food Bags

As the holidays approach children look forward to their Christmas break. Yet, some children do not have enough food in their homes to nourish them over the 2 week break. As one of our mission outreach projects, we will be packing Christmas Break food bags on December 14th at 4 p.m. for McNabb Elementary students. You may help by coming to the church to pack bags with our children's group; donate money to help purchase food; donate food. Needed items are individually wrapped foods such as peanut butter or cheese and crackers, fruit snacks, breakfast bars, small individual boxes of cereal, juice boxes, microwavable mac and cheese, nuts, microwave popcorn, or fruit cups. **Donations can be left at the church anytime before 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13th.** Thank you for your help.

Join us for the 2nd Wednesday Dinner

Plan now to join us for a **"European Holiday Dinner"** on **December 14**, at 5:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The WKCTC Culinary Arts students and instructor, Patrick Fletcher, are planning a delicious meal to share with all your FCC friends. The menu is Mosaic Pork (pork loin stuffed with celery root, carrots, and pickles), potatoes and kale, red cabbage, bread and assorted layer cakes (All for just \$5.) . The last day to sign up for the dinner is **Thursday, December 8th**. Call (443-8251) or e-mail scopeland@fccpaducah.org the office today to sign up!

Last Day in 2011 to make a donation in support of the ministries of First Christian Church is **December 29th.**



BE A GOOD *Steward*

Come, See, Discover. Discover the Disciples!

Listening to God. . . By J. Gottman

My guess is that you will soon be decorating your home for the Christmas holiday, if you haven't already done so. What I find amazing each year is that there is enough room to add Christmas decorations. Eleven months out of the year I look around our house and think every square inch of space is occupied or occupied just right with furniture and accessories. Additionally, we have our share of places that tend to be magnets for clutter, junk mail, and reams of returned elementary school homework.

And yet, when it comes time to put up the Christmas tree and other decorations we somehow find room. We move a chair from one side of the room to the other for the tree. We trade out everyday knick-knacks for nativity scenes and snowmen. We hang up wreaths and bows of holly shroud our fireplace mantle.

We make room. We make it work. We make the space. We do it because it is important and special.

Most of us are able make space for those things in our lives that we deem priorities. Even those who have every minute of their lives scheduled and planned find a way to make room for the people and things that are important them. There are so many activities and ways of filling up our lives with the unnecessary or the trivial that we often fail to make room for what is essential.

God is always near. Christmas is about remembering the essentials of peace, hope, joy, and love. During this season of Advent, we remember that God chose to be near to us in flesh and blood. Jesus came into this world to help us prioritize and de-clutter our lives. God's priority is to be in relationship with God's creations – you and me. God makes space for a relationship to develop. We can do the same.

Blessings and Peace,
J. Gottman



Christmas Eve
Refreshments
at 6 p.m.
Service at 7 p.m.



Call Him God's Son – An Advent Sermon Series

The four weeks leading up to Christmas, known as Advent, is a time spent living in a world caught between what is and what is promised to be. Christians have wrestled with how best to live in this tension between despair and hope. God chooses to break the tension by providing hope in the most unexpected of ways. Join us for this sermon series that will explore what it means that Jesus is God's son.

- November 27** – Hanging of the Greens Service (Combined Worship at 10:45 a.m.)
- December 4** – A Different Reality (Isaiah 40:1-11)
- December 11** – Pointing the Way (John 1:6-8,19-28)
- December 18** – Making Space for God (Luke 1:26-38)
- December 24** - The Appearance of God's Grace (Titus 2:11-14)
- December 25** – From Creation to Birth (John 1:1-14) (Combined Worship at 10:45 a.m.)
- January 1** – The Next Step (Luke 2:22-35, 39-40) (Combined Worship at 10:45 a.m.)

Why I Volunteer

My name is Norma Hartle. I am a volunteer for the Red Cross Blood Drive at First Christian Church. Pam Wells asked if I could give 2 hours a month. Pam was the coordinator for the blood drive for several years. Our son-in-law had just been told he had cancer during this time. He was in his forties with two children, Trisha 12, and Jacob 4. A brave surgeon took a chance and operated on him when others gave up. The Red Cross supplied the vast amount of blood he needed. This gave him eight years longer to live--something many doctors were amazed at. With the extra years he shared many good times with his family and they can look back on many wonderful memories. This could not have happened without a loving God who was not ready for him yet.

The FCC Red Cross Blood Drive is in need of volunteers on the first Monday of each month. The shifts are two hours (12-2 pm, 2-4 pm, 4-6 pm). Please consider volunteering. Contact Norma Hartle at (270) 442-8007.



Poinsettias for decoration of the sanctuary during the last week of Advent may be ordered by calling the church office. They are \$10 per plant. Last day to order is Dec. 11th

Women's Retreat Being Planned for Feb. 2012

A FCC Women's Retreat is being planned for February 24-26. The retreat will be a time devoted to fellowship, study, rejuvenation and relaxation. As faithful women, it is important for us to develop relationships with our sisters in Christ. We share many common bonds as women, and when we study and fellowship together our bonds as women grow stronger individuals.

We are still working out the details for curriculum, lodging and cost. This of course depend on how many women are interested in attending. General plans include lodging at KY Dam Village Executive Cottages with arrival on Friday night and departure on Sunday morning, and evening meal Saturday night at Patti's, and in addition to general fellowship, programming throughout the weekend relating to spiritual development, prayer, self-care, etc. **Contact Mariann or Whitney Cassity-Caywood by December 5, if you are interested in attending.**

Memorial Gifts

In memory of Ruth Craig

Frank & Sue Fletcher, Bill Wood, Glenda Montgomery, William & Susie Foreman, Cathy Warmack, The 2nd Saturday Cooks, Betty & WR Sanders, Ivan Doane, Willadene Myers, Stephanie Copeland, The Lankton family, Carlyle Phillips, Ed & Barbara Hough, The FCC Choir, Renee & Steve Tilley, Barbara Penix, Paul & Betty Feldsien, Imogene Williams, Brad & Pat Gray, Rupert & Dottie Stivers, Jeffrey & Karen Willis, Jerry Beyer, Sue Ann & Kim Morris, Toni Monroe, Ben & Kay Henry, Dorothy Shelley, Katherine Bertram, Jo James.

In memory of Herb Kays

Betty & WR Sanders, Stephanie Copeland

Dear FCC Family,

The Craig family is so appreciative for the many ways you showed God's love to us during mother's illness. The hospital visits, cards, food, phone calls and kind comforting words helped us know mother was valued by so many people. Thank you for helping us know that we too are cared about by the FCC family. It was a great comfort to have your help throughout mother's illness and death. We are blessed to be part of such a church family.

*Jim, Allen, Beverly & Eugene Craig
James & Madison Berry*



Habitat for Humanity



Workshop Rotation – "Christmas Around the World" Continues

Workshop Rotation is for all children K- 5th Grade – we meet on the lower level starting at 9:30 a.m.

Bible Verse

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. (Matthew 2:11)

Bible Story Reference

Matthew 2:1-11

Main Idea

God sent Jesus into the world to bring peace to all people and all nations. Today Christians from around the world prepare for and celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus.

Objectives

By the end of this unit children will:

- * hear and experience the story of the magi visiting the Christ child;
- * experience Christmas customs from around the world;
- * study the stars and connect to the magi as astrologers of their time;
- * create gifts to be given to children around the world;
- * create gifts to be given to the homebound or to a neighborhood food cupboard.

Rotation Leaders for December 11, 18, & 25

Art - Glenda Distler
Story – Sunni Mauk
Games – Pat Gray



Wednesday Night Children's Group

Children ages K-5th Grade meet each Wednesday afternoon from 4-5:30 p.m. for a snack, games, fellowship, and a Bible lesson. Here are upcoming events:

December 7 – Advent Workshop

Kids will make Christmas crafts to take home. In addition to crafts there will be hot chocolate and cookies.

December 14 – Packing McNabb Elementary Food Bags

Teachers Needed

Additional volunteers are needed to teach the middle school and high school Sunday school class on a rotation basis of 6 weeks. The curriculum is easy and fun to teach. If you are interested please contact Mariann Lankton for details. And a big THANK YOU to Brenda Murphy, Cathy Warmack and Pat Gray for their wonderful leadership teaching this class the past 18 weeks.

FCC Preschool

Thank you to all the FCC members who helped with the preschool Fall Festival on October 25. We served approximately 150 parents, grandparents and children in Fellowship Hall a family-friendly meal, played games run by preschool alums and older siblings, and vied for silent auction items resulting in a fun fall evening for the entire family. We appreciate all the help that ranged from serving food and drinks to helping with games and applying temporary tattoos! What a great way to be involved with our preschool families! Thank you!

Patty Fejes, FCC Preschool Director

Habitat for Humanity

FCC members are helping with the current Habitat for Humanity build in Paducah. Plans are for the home to be finished by Christmas. Pictured top left, Perry Mann, Travis Kahre, Jason McHaney. Not pictured Bruce Shulman and Jae Gottman.

Thank you to everyone who prayed for Fred and I during our recent health problems. The cards, food, telephone calls and visits were appreciated so much.

Fred & Norma Hartle