

## Connecting with God by J. Gottman, Lead Minister



It is less than 2 weeks before I leave to direct Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF) camp with high school students from all over the region of Kentucky at beautiful Camp Kum Ba Ya. The day I return from camp I begin my three month time of sabbatical.

In visiting with our church family, two questions come up consistently. The first is, "Are you excited?" The truth is a mixture of feelings. Yes, I am excited about some time for focused study. Books and DVD's are ordered to expand my mind and knowledge base. And I am looking forward to some down time. With each passing day I am also acutely aware that I am going to miss the regular interactions with each of you in the congregation. When I miss the occasional Sunday I feel disconnected. So to answer this question, yes I am excited but also apprehensive because we as a church have never done this before. Let me say thank you in advance for your words of support as I take this time for renewal.

The second question involves my family - "Will Erin, Bailey and Gage still be involved at church?" This is a fair and heartfelt question. Yes, Erin and the kids will be here most Sundays unless we are out of town. Moreover they will be just as plugged in as they have over the past 6 years. First Christian is our faith home. They have no interest in accompanying me on my various religious journeys to other faith communities.

There is one thing you can be assured of in my time away. Each of you will be in my prayers. Specifically, I pray that the church carry on in a way that allows us to be faithful to what God is calling us to be in this community. Upon my return I am already looking forward to updates on new ministries, new members, and spiritual growth that has occurred.

I also request that you keep me in your prayers. Pray that my areas of study and time of reflection provide me with the tools I need to joyfully and effectively lead First Christian for the next six years.

Blessings and Peace,

*J. Gottman*

### New Bible Study Begins June 5<sup>th</sup>

The Christian Education Committee is excited to announce a wonderful spiritual formation opportunity. In order to help us continue to develop in the area study and fellowship, Ben Peterson will be leading a Sunday evening Bible Study beginning June 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 P.M. (following the 5:30 contemporary worship). Ben will be using materials developed by Donald L. Griggs entitled "*The Bible From Scratch: The New Testament for Beginners*". These study materials will lead learners through an overview of the New Testament in just eight sessions. Come be a part of this wonderful opportunity for study and fellowship. Childcare will be provided. If you have questions contact Ben Peterson or Mariann Lankton. [mlankton@fccpaducah.org](mailto:mlankton@fccpaducah.org)

### Listening to God Small Groups Begin in August

The Christian Education Committee has recommended, in order for us to continue to develop our relationships with one another, that we should form Listening To God small groups. These groups will begin in August. More information will be included in the July Tower.

We are asking that everyone in our congregation participate in one of these small groups. This includes both members and nonmembers alike. Even if you have gone through the *Listening to God* process before, we want and need you to participate. Because we are all continually growing in our faith, each time we go through this process it becomes a different experience for us. *Listening to God* small groups are a wonderful opportunity not only for studying scripture, but for developing relationships that will deepen your Christian journeys. What a awesome chance this is for you to get know someone in our congregation a little better or maybe even get to know someone you don't even know at all.

If you are interested in being a leader of one of these groups or need more information please contact Mariann Lankton. [mlankton@fccpaducah.org](mailto:mlankton@fccpaducah.org)

*(Mariann will be out of the office from June 14th through June 22<sup>nd</sup>. She will be away with family in Kansas.)*

### Best Wishes to Our Grads!

On May 22, our high school grads were recognized in worship. They are **Jamie Hagood**, grandson of Jimmy and Bobbie Allen (attending Transylvania Univ.) and **Madison Berry**, son of Beverly Craig and grandson of Jim & Ruth Craig (vocational training). Also **Jon Shidal**, son of Tina Shidal, graduated May 22, from DePauw University with a degree in computer science.

### Faith and Film @ Maiden Alley June 13 - 6:30 p.m.

Cost is \$5

Optional Discussion After the movie.

### The Straight Story

STARRING 2 TIME ACADEMY AWARD  
NOMINEE RICHARD FARNSWORTH &  
OSCAR WINNER SISSY SPACEK

Alvin Straight is a very old man with a quiet life in a small country town. When his brother gets seriously sick, he decides to put away their differences and visit him after many, many years. So, alone, he begins a long journey through hundreds of miles, just to see his brother again, even if it's the last thing he will ever do... Based on a true story.

"Director David Lynch's American odyssey is a masterwork of quiet poetry."  
-James Rocchi, *Netflix*

### Monthly Prayer Service

You are invited to join us for the monthly prayer service **Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:45 P.M.** in Fellowship Hall (following our monthly all church potluck). During this time, we unite together as the body of Christ lifting our prayers of concern and joy to God. In this joining of our hearts in prayer, we seek the opportunity to feel God's comforting presence and love encompass us as we pray for God to also encompass those we lift up in prayer.

Each person that is included in our prayers receives a letter letting them know that they were and will continue to be in our prayers. If you have someone you would like to add to the prayer list contact Mariann Lankton. Please provide her with the person's name, address, and prayer concern or joy. Mariann's phone number is 575-9810  
[mlankton@fccpaducah.org](mailto:mlankton@fccpaducah.org)

### Jackson Oaks Communion Service

Our monthly communion service will be held at the Jackson Oaks Community on **June 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M.** This service is open to all Jackson Oaks Residents and their friends. It is led by elders Don Pepper and Carlyle Phillips, who reside at Jackson Oaks. If anyone would like to attend or assist with the service see **Mariann Lankton** for details.

### Memorial Gifts

In memory of Jane Chapman

Fannie Jones Group

In memory of Jackie Souders

Patti Turok Group, Fannie Jones Group

In memory of Edith Gooch

Fannie Jones CWF Group, Glenda

Montgomery, Barbara Penix, Bette

Whitlow, Villas of Rolling Hills Assoc.

In memory of William Deaton Sr.

W. R. Sanders & the Saturday

Breakfast Cooks.

### Financial Report

January 1 -- May 25

Income -- \$158,737

Expense -- \$159,433\*\*

*\*\*If we were paying the budgeted building loan payment each month, at this point we would be behind \$696.*

**Help us get out of the RED by keeping your pledged giving up to date.**



We still have a few openings in the FCC Preschool for the fall term. Go to [fccpaducah.org](http://fccpaducah.org) for information and registration forms.

### Outreach News

The FCC Outreach Committee is compiling a list of volunteers who would like to help restore flooded homes in our area in the coming weeks and also for other emergencies as they arise. Please contact **Kathy McHaney** or the church office if you are interested in helping in any way.

\*\*\*\*\*

A tornado hit Joplin, MO on Sunday, May 22, killing over 120 people and damaging or destroying 2000 buildings including St. John's Regional Medical Center.

**Week of Compassion** has been in contact with First Christian Church of Joplin and South Joplin Christian Church. South Joplin was damaged but FCC was not. Members from both congregations have had damage to their homes. Volunteers are not needed at this time, but WOC has been told that prayers are needed for all affected.

Your donations to **Week of Compassion** will help the people of Joplin in the weeks to come. Make your check payable to FCC with **Week of Compassion** on the memo line.

### Hugs for Soldiers

Hugs sends hundreds of care boxes to our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq each month. Donations of individual powdered drink mixes are especially needed at this time (leave at the church office) along with monetary gifts to mail the boxes. Contact **Gayron Ferguson** (898-4464) for more information.

### Buy Local!

Buying local produce is healthy, tasty and an enjoyable way to promote sustainable agriculture and support family farms. Join **Kentucky Appalachian Ministry** in celebrating family farms and healthy cuisine!



### CWF Notes

The CWF is moving its programs to a calendar year along with the church. All officers and leaders will continue to serve in their current positions until the end of the year. Group leaders will notify their members of dates and times of meetings. **Groups please check work on a monthly basis.** A new yearbook will be prepared in January.

Our CWF continues to save box tops from *General Mills* foods, labels from *Campbell's* food products, *Betty Crocker* coupons and metal tabs from aluminum cans. These items are given to several charitable causes for fund raising. We are also saving *Super Valu* receipts for the FCC Preschool. Please leave your receipt donations in the church office or narthex basket.



### The Men Are Cooking

**2nd Saturday Breakfast  
June 11th 8 -- 10 a.m.**

*Donations will be used for church building projects!*

### Give the Gift of Life!

**Red Cross Blood  
Drive Monday,**

**June 6th -Noon to 6 p.m.**



### Fellowship Groups

**The Cancer Support Group** will not meet during the summer months. However, we are still available to meet if there is a need. If you or someone you know needs help, contact Don Alvey or the church office to set up a meeting.

**The Super Seniors** are meeting for lunch Wednesday, June 1, at Bob Evans restaurant. If you wish to join us please meet there at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to be with us for food, fun, and fellowship!

### Attendance

Date	10:45 a.m.	5:30 p.m.	Total
5/1	98	40	138
5/8	116	45	161
5/15	166	0	166
5/22	120	45	165

**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

**Camp Commissioning June 5**

During Traditional and Contemporary worship we will be offering a blessing to all the children attending camp this summer in a special commissioning service.

<p><b>CYF (High School)</b> Colin Herndon Caylan Torbett Eric Whitaker Haley Boyd McCall Key</p>	<p><b>Discovery (1-2 Grade)</b> Aiden &amp; John Caywood Gage &amp; J. Gottman Ayden &amp; Travis Kahre Devin &amp; Mike Long Jenna &amp; Julie Price Mason &amp; Denise Romanak</p>	<p><b>Mini (3)</b> Quinn Atnip Patrick McHane Caleb Peterson Adam Petitt Lexi Pitchford Olivia Wagner</p>
<p><b>Junior (4-5 Grade)</b> Bailey Gottman Jackson Long Joseph Price</p>	<p><b>Chi Rho (6-8 Grade)</b> Lisa Brown Chris Shoulders Avery Torbett Alex Wadlington Patrick Wadlington Kayla Tuttle Margaret Emmons Lexi Pitchford Anastassia Walker</p>	<p><b>Sailing Camp</b> Avery Torbett</p>

(See the calendar insert for camp dates.)



**Send a letter to our campers**

Camp Kum-Ba-Ya, 4943 Barge Island Rd., Benton, KY 42025

Be sure to send a few days before camp begins so that campers will receive it.

**June 2011**



**First Christian Church \* Paducah, Kentucky**

**Come. See. Discover. Discover the Disciples!**



On June 12, we will celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the church as recorded in the second chapter of Acts. The word Pentecost means "fiftieth day" and is celebrated fifty days following Easter Sunday. As part of the celebration we are encouraging everyone to **wear red** that Sunday. The color symbolizes the tongues of flame in which the Holy Spirit descended on the first Pentecost.

We will also be welcoming **Dr. Cathy Hubbard**, our West Area Minister, to our pulpit on this Sunday for both worship services. We are excited to have Dr. Hubbard here and hope you will come to help us celebrate this exciting church observance.



**The Pentecost Special Offering** will be taken in support of new church ministry. With our prayers and financial support, together we will continue the Disciples mission of sharing the message of Jesus Christ from our doorsteps to the ends of the Earth!



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Shake It Up Café:**

**Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe**

**Kickoff - June 26 at 6:30 p.m.**

**June 27-30 5p.m. to 8 p.m.**

In each of the five days, kids will explore a different Biblical festival and discover the principles for living according to God's plan. By celebrating biblical festivals they will:

- **Be ready for God**
- **Give happily to God**
- **Believe fully in Jesus**
- **Remember Jesus often**
- **Celebrate God forever.**

**All children ages Pre-K through 5th Grade are invited to join the fun!**

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