



# THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

316 Ann Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 223-2346

*"At First Christian church our mission is to be and share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving 'from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.' To be a faithful church demonstrating true community, deep spirituality and a passion for justice."*



Rev. Dr. John T. Opsata  
Senior Pastor



Rev. Meredith Siler  
Associate Pastor

Issue 2  
January 11, 2018

## DR OPSATA'S OPUS

I am excited about the upcoming Kentucky Regional Men's Chorus retreat coming up February 2-4. As you know, just as Dr. Smith is the director of the Kentucky Regional Women's Chorus, I am the director for the men. This will be the twenty-fifth year the group has come together for a weekend of fun, fellowship, music making and spiritual formation. It is my twenty-first year directing.

I was there when it started (as was former Associate Minister Rev. Larry Sivis). No one in the room considering ways to engage men in a fresh way in the life of the church ever thought the idea, if it worked at all, would be going strong twenty-five years later. I mean, a weekend retreat focused on men making music! Men like to work with their hands, fixing this and repairing that. Who knew men were so interested in singing.

Over the years, well over 300 men have attended the retreats. Three CD's have been produced. New music has been commissioned. Friends have been made. Lives have been changed. Prayer concerns are shared via email. Some have come but once, perhaps finding the one time experience to be enough. Some have attended all twenty-four and I feel certain they will be present for number twenty-five.

I wish I could explain to you how special this weekend has become for so many of our Disciple men. (Men from other denominations join us, but we are primarily a Disciple ministry.) I wish I could tell you just exactly how it works. But the truth is, I can't - I haven't figured it out yet. We rehearse for a couple of hours Friday night. We rehearse all morning on Saturday. There is more rehearsing in the afternoon and evening. (Of course, we always take a break in observance of UK basketball. Sometimes we plan a concert so the men can sit back and enjoy. We always end out time together on Saturday with a Communion Service. And then we find a nearby Disciple church and integrate our music into their service.

I always say to the men that the Sunday singing is the frosting on the cake, but it is not the cake. The cake is the hard work of learning notes, practicing rhythms, balancing voices, working on enunciation and digging deeply into the marriage between the music and the words. We don't sing nice words from our heads, we sing the Good News from our hearts. Perhaps it is the emphasis on understanding and claiming the music's message as our own that makes the experience rich.

The good news this year, is that after spending couple of nights at General Butler State Resort Park, we will be bringing the Chorus to Frankfort on **Sunday, February 4**. The last time we sang here, Larry Sivis was your Associate Minister and I was still the minister at Lakewood Christian Church. This will be first time that we have sung at a church where I am concurrently serving. That thought makes me very, very happy.

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary. That's pretty big. So we are going to have it be a **"one-worship-service"** day. As always when we get the whole of FCC together for worship, **we will begin at 10:30**. The extra time will give the Chorus more time to sing. It will be beamed out into the community on cable channels 10 and 510, but we hope the Sanctuary will be filled to overflowing. It isn't every day that you get to hear more than 100 men lifting their voices in song. So you don't want to miss it! I know I won't!

## SAVE THE DATES

- Jan 14 Martin Luther King Community Service at the Grand Theatre (5:00 p.m.)  
(No 5 pm Coffeehouse)
- Jan 15 Office Closed  
Finance Meeting (5 pm)
- Jan 17 Ministry Fair (Dinner 5:30 pm  
Program 6:15 pm)
- Jan 22 Elder's Dinner (6 pm)
- Jan 27 Work Day (8:30 am)
- Jan 28 DWM Luncheon (12:00 pm)

## 01/0718 ATTENDANCE

- 8:30 SERVICE: 24
- 9:30 FAITH FORMATION: 79
- 10:45 SERVICE: 119
- 5:00 COFFEEHOUSE: 12
- ASHWOOD: 16

## WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

01/14/18

### "Is God Still Speaking?"

1 Samuel 3:1-10  
John 1:43-51

- 8:30 am **Chapel Worship**  
Elder: Jim True
- 9:30 am **Faith Formation**
- 10:15 am **Family Faith Fellowship**
- 10:45 am **Sanctuary Worship**  
Elders: Nancy Walton & Donna Perkins
- 5:00 pm **NO Coffeehouse**  
MLK Service @ the Grand (5 pm)

Communion Leader: Larry Ellis  
Offertory Leader: John Scott

# CHILDREN



MS. ELLE TRAVIS  
DIRECTOR-CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES  
email: elletravis0@gmail.com

# YOUTH



MS. TRINA KOONTZ  
DIRECTOR-YOUTH MINISTRIES  
email: trinakoontz@gmail.com

Welcome new Children's Ministry Staff Members: Sarah & Rachel Blevins!



Friday, Feb. 2nd - 5 - 8 pm

Parents & Guardians: Need a night out or even just night to stay home and relax or get caught up on chores? Ms. Elle and her staff at First Christian Church invite you to bring your kids (birth - 5th grade) to the church for an evening of seasonal fun - snack supper, crafts, recreation, & a movie! Youth (6th-12th grade) are also invited to join as Youth Helpers.

All Children and Youth must RSVP so we can provide appropriate staffing & food. Please contact Elle Travis at [502-229-4686](tel:502-229-4686) to make a reservation for your family no later than **January 31st!**

**Attention Youth!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Sunday, Jan 14 from 3:30-6:00

**MLK Day Celebration**

Beginning in CCLC then heading to The Grand

**Attention Youth Parents and Church Family!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

FCC and Highland Christian Youth Groups are co-hosting a MLK Day Celebration. We have invited other Down-town Youth Groups.

We will begin at our church with food and fun then walk over together to the Community MLK Service at The Grand.

If you'd be willing to donate finger foods, sweets or 2 liters, please bring them to the CCLC when you come to church on **Sunday, Jan 14**

## FEBRUARY FOLLIES



**FEBRUARY FOLLIES** Save the date....February 11, 2018. Follies Gone Hollywood: Lights! Camera! Action! It's that time of the year again to think about February Follies and gathering your talents. No talent is too great or too small. Contact Karen Howard at [502-229-3061](tel:502-229-3061).

**IN OUR PRAYERS** Those serving in the Military and as Law Enforcement Officers, May Lou Alexander (Ashwood), Jerry Allen (Mariane Braden), Hazel Arnold, Ann & Joshua Banta (Judy Richards), Jackie Barney, Maria Bartholomew, Julia Blackburn (Tom & Eleanor Penn's granddaughter), Ron Burgess, Katie Hecker Carney (Sun Spirit Fallis), Chet Care, Walter Chism (Judy Richards), Phyllis DiCapua (Priscilla Barnes), Bill Eggin (Sue Tutt), Teri Elliot (Sun Spirit Fallis), Davey Fallis, Eulane Fortune, Beth Blackburn Fraley (Eva Ellis), Cheryl Gayhart, Bill Grugin (Dixie Grugin), Jill Hayes (Janice Clark), Ann Hester, Richard Hite (Nancy Miracle), Tyler Howard (Ann Howard), Lynda Jalbert, Elizabeth & Addison Judy, Ethan Lewis (Eva Ellis), Alex Jensen (Ann Winn Vansant) Bob & Patricia Lippert, Reva Sherman-Matthews (Whittney Sherman), Jerry Mayes (Fred Lee), Jim McWilliams, Chuck Mitchell (Fred Lee), Don Mitchell (Valerie Ramsey's Father), Sally Monroe, Michael Perniciaro (Linda Davis), Bob Pullen, Sue Ramsey (Larry Cox), Mary Rhodes (Jerry & Sandy Rhodes), Dwight Richards (Kent Richards), Judy Richards, Jacob Roberts (Lynda Jalbert), Anne Robbins (Judy Richards), Ilse Rogers, James Tandy (Judy Richards), Kathy & Rebecca Ryan (Jayne Arnold), Chester & Ann Snelling, Casey Sparrow (Valerie Ramsey), Angel Dugger Subbert (Misty Judy), Betty Thurman, Susan Tileston (Sue Care), Stephen Tutt (Sue Tutt), Riviera Ueltschi (Sun Spirit Fallis), Doris Versey (Fred Lee), Tony Versey III (Fred Lee), Judy Walden (Donna Fiero), Glenn Webster (Dixie Grugin), Phyllis Yocum (Larry Cox), all victims of disaster and violence in our world.



## CONDOLENCES

Our sincere condolences to the family of Sue Care with her passing last week. Please keep Chet and her family in your prayers. Arrangements are being made for her Memorial Service.

Also, our condolences to the family of Jessie Gatewood with her passing last week. Please keep her family in your prayers.



*Thank you for the generous bonus and for all the lovely*

*Christmas gifts. It is a pleasure to be in ministry with you.*

*Dr. Opsata, Rev. Meredith and Staff*

## FIRST CHRISTIAN

Because of your generosity, we are able to help so many in our community. Thank you for your donation and continued support. God Bless!

- Access Board of Directors

## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE - SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 AT 5:00 PM AT THE GRAND THEATRE

Please plan to attend this Frankfort Ministerial Association sponsored event to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

There will be no 5:00 Coffeehouse Service on January 14, so that everyone can attend this important event in the life of our community.



## **WORK DAY!!**

The FCC Property Committee is looking for volunteers for a workday on **Saturday, January 27th**. We will have donuts and drinks @ 8:30 a.m. We will then discuss any concerns or events coming up for 2018. Then we will break into smaller groups and tackle some simple repairs/fixes for items around the church. Please RSVP Kevin Blackburn @ [502-229-4948](tel:502-229-4948) or [blackburn4948@gmail.com](mailto:blackburn4948@gmail.com)

**DWM LUNCHEON, January 28th** following the 10:45 am service. RSVP to Leslie Stamper at [Istamper2015@gmail.com](mailto:Istamper2015@gmail.com) or the church office.

## MINISTRY FAIR

**Wednesday Evening Fellowship - January 17.** Join us to find out all the ways to get involved at First Christian Church. Dinner 5:30 pm. Program 6:15 pm



**KEENAGERS** - Due to all the colds and flu viruses going around, and the unpredictability of the weather, Keenagers will **not** meet this month. We'll get back together Thursday, February 15 to celebrate Valentine's Day! Details to come.



**First Christian Church**  
*Disciples of Christ*  
 316 Ann Street  
 Frankfort, KY 40601  
 (502) 223-2346

**Non-Profit Organization**  
 U. S. Postage  
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 Frankfort, KY  
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 Email: [firstchristianfranfort@gmail.com](mailto:firstchristianfranfort@gmail.com)  
 Facebook: [1stchristianfrankfort](https://www.facebook.com/1stchristianfrankfort)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**JANUARY WEF SCHEDULE - 5:30 PM**

January Mission Project: Men's Sweatpants, Briefs and Socks for the Men's Shelter (all sizes)

January 17	FCC Ministry Fair
January 24	Wednesday Worship - Chapel
January 31	Intergenerational Game Night

<b><u>2018 KROGER REWARDS</u></b>	<b><u>2018 CAN RECYCLING</u></b>
	\$70.00

**THE DEADLINE  
 TO SUBMIT  
 ARTICLES  
 AND/OR  
 INFORMATION  
 FOR THE  
 CHRISTIAN  
 MESSENGER  
 IS TUESDAY  
 AT NOON.**

<b><u>CHURCH STAFF</u></b>		
<b>Rev. Dr. John T. Opsata</b>	Senior Minister	<a href="mailto:johntopsata@gmail.com">johntopsata@gmail.com</a>
<b>Rev. Meredith Siler</b>	Associate Minister	<a href="mailto:meredithbsiler@gmail.com">meredithbsiler@gmail.com</a>
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