



# FIRST CHRISTIAN disciples of christ HIGHLIGHTS

*Making disciples who make a difference!*

November 2024

## MEETING GOD

The law of biblical Israel can be viewed as a legalistic monstrosity by a flat, unnuanced reading of the Old Testament. Exodus 22:21-27 is a case in point:

21 “Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt. 22 “Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless. 23 If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry. 24 My anger will be aroused, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives will become widows and your children fatherless. 25 “If you lend money to one of my people among you who is needy, do not treat it like a business deal; charge no interest. 26 If you take your neighbor’s cloak as a pledge, return it by sunset, 27 because that cloak is the only covering your neighbor has. What else can they sleep in? When they cry out to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.

This scripture, found within the section call the Covenant Code, is demonstrative of how Israel’s belief in God and their law was inextricably connected. The attentive reading of this material shows how the observance of the law was considered to be both an ethical (how to act) and a religious (how to believe) combined response to the divine presence.

Because God’s self-disclosure to humanity is marked by compassion for the unfortunate and concern for their well-being, only similar care for the poor, in particular the alien & widow & orphan, on the part of Israel constitutes a worthy response to God. In Israel’s male dominated society these three categories were especially vulnerable and in need of protection. This passage from Exodus contains a yearning for the weak in order to establish a system that doesn’t take predatory advantage of the less fortunate. Both the OT & NT are filled with warnings of God’s wrath flaring against such exploitation.

In his book, *God’s Politics*, Jim Wallis contends the

best contribution of religion in our nation’s life is when the voice of the OT prophets is heard, challenging both major political parties from a consistent biblical ground. The prophets deal with moral values when they speak to rulers, employers, property owners, the wealthy calling them to greater accountability before God. The prophets speak for those with no voice - the vulnerable, the dispossessed, widows and orphans, the hungry, the helpless, the least, last and lost. God’s “politics” is diminished when religious groups seek to acquire power for themselves rather than use the power of God’s Word and ways to change hearts. One day a biblical lawyer, a scribe, asked Jesus which of the 613 prohibitions and prescriptions of the Mosaic Law is the greatest (Mt 22:34ff). Rabbinic practice classified the 613 laws as “heavy” and “light.” Jesus astounded the lawyer by pairing a “heavy” with a “light” law – linking the love of God (Deut. 6:5) with the love of neighbor (Lev. 19:18) – and made them equal and independent. Our love for God, who is easy to love, is inextricably bound with our love of neighbor, who is not easy to love. A letter with the Roman Emperor Hadrian in the early 2nd century by a well educated pagan named Aristides shows how early Christians accepted Jesus’ challenge very seriously. The letter tells how Christians loved one another by expressing it in concrete action: helping widows, rescuing orphans, showing hospitality to strangers. Aristides tells Hadrian that the Christians are really a new kind of human being. There is something divine in them. Many other thoughtful pagans recognized the same “godly power” at work within Christians. While living this tent existence on earth, the only concrete way we can love the God we cannot see is by loving the neighbor we can see. Loving our neighbor is loving God. Only loving can we discover our true self.: only in being loved we appreciate our true value.

If love is the center of our essential self, if love is our most radical and profound act, if love is the way we express self outside of our self, then love is where we meet God.

*Inside...November Birthdays, Events, News and Announcements, Prayer Requests and more!*

*Rev Colby Smith*

# FCC KIDS CORNER

## November Calendar of Events

**Nov 3rd-** Amazing Animals and How God Used Them: **Lions**

**Nov 10-** Amazing Animals and How God Used Them: **Camels**

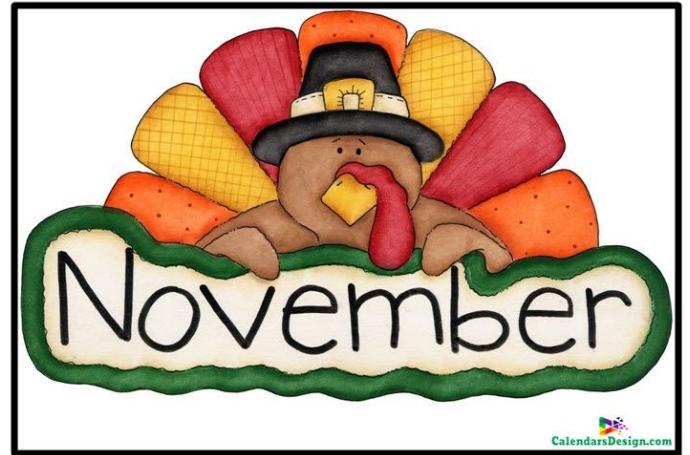
**Nov 17-** Amazing Animals and How God Used Them: **Sheep**

**Nov 24-** NO Kid's Club-Thanksgiving Luncheon

### Looking Ahead

**Dec 1st-** Angel Tree Shopping!

**Dec 8th-** Christmas Program Practice



### Kid's Club Sign-In

Please don't forget to pick up your child from Worship & Wonder or Children's Church and take them to the gym for Kid's Club. Our FCC Safe Sanctuary Policy requires that all children be signed in for Kid's Club by a parent or guardian. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe AND for helping us get started with lunch on time!

## Harvest Fun at Devine Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch



For questions about Children's programs, contact Patti Wright

Email [patti@firstchristiandanville.com](mailto:patti@firstchristiandanville.com) or text (812) 483-9004

**Please Keep the following in your Prayers**

John Caywood	Mary Sebring
Lesa Cooper	Ellie Pennington
Gary Gibson	Mike Swain
John Taylor Ross	Mary Lou Withers
Jan Sheffield	Jenny Wilson
Bill Morgan	Steve Cline
Trevor & Lucy Graham	Darrell Ensor
Darell Rickmers	Jim Routin
Rodger Morris	Janet Henson
Lavern Stephens	Donna Vanhook
Lauren Newman	
Wanda Huffman	

**Remember our Shut-ins**

Martha Akin	Lucille Lemon
Pat & Steve	Margaret Milburn
Bruce	Bonnie Wilson
Mindy Carter	
Hugh & Mary Jo	
Coomer	



**November Worship Roster**

**November 3**

Worship Leader– Jane Boyd

Elder– Julie Jones

Elder & Counter– Larry Scott

Children’s Chat– Kendra Funkhouser

Worship/Wonder - Patricia Calvert/Sherri Horn

Children’s Church– Kendra Funkhouser

Nursery Volunteer– Jessica Maynard/Mary McKitric

Kids club Assist-Martha Bryant

Lunch-Patti Wright

Elder For Morning Pointe– The Scotts

**November 10**

Worship Leader– Mary Ann McGlothlin

Elder– Joey Kirk

Elder & Counter– Nancy McMurry

Children’s Chat– Patti Wright

Worship & Wonder– Connie McVicker and Debbie Baker

Children’s Church– Patti Wright and Sueann Rice

Nursery Volunteer– Jessica Maynard/Edna Prall

Kid’s Club Assist– Kendra Funkhouser

Lunch-Kris Hamlin

**November 17**

Worship Leader– Jan Scott

Elder– Debbie Baker

Elder & Counter– Brian Calvert

Children’s Chat– Debbie Baker

W&W– Connie McVicker Sue Ann Rice

Children’s Church– Patti Wright

Nursery Volunteer– Jessica Maynard/Kris Hamlin

Kid’s Club Assist– Penny Vaught

Lunch-Nancy McMurray

**November 24**

Worship Leader– Elmer Jackson

Elder– John Funkhouser

Elder & Counter– Kendra Funkhouser

Children’s Chat– Youth

Worship & Wonder– Children in worship

Children’s Church– Children in worship

Nursery Volunteer– Jessica Maynard/Trista Hinkle

Cook– Debbie Baker & Joey Kirk

**Four Cans for Others**

**198** cans were donated during September bringing our total for 2024 to **1217** cans. Keep bringing in those cans so we can beat our total for 2023 of **1,421** cans!



## News & Announcements

**November 24th**

### Thanksgiving Luncheon and “Youth Takeover”

The youth will be leading in worship and “taking over” many of the pieces that make up our order of worship that day. We hope you will plan to support them that morning!

Following worship, there will be a Thanksgiving Fellowship meal and all are invited.

Turkey, ham, and drinks will be provided and the congregation is asked to bring a side or desert to share



**December 15th**

### Christmas Music Programs

The Choir will be presenting a special program of Christmas music during morning worship.

After worship, we hope everyone will stay for the Christmas Luncheon and Children and Youth Christmas Program. Pasta, salad and bread will be provided and the congregation will be ask to provide desserts.



After the meal we will celebrate the birth of Jesus with our talented children an youth!

M ark Your Calendar for this special day!

### Soul Squad

This group of 20/30 year olds led by Kellie Jones and Molly Cooper meets monthly for dinner and twice a month for Bible Study

The November Dinner will be Tuesday, Nov 12th

Bible Study of John will be Thursday Nov 7th and 21st.



### Office & Walking Track Hours

Monday— Thursday

8:00 a.m.— Noon & 1:00 p.m.— 3:00p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m.— Noon

### Book Connection Meets November 5th

Smalll Groups—Book Connection—The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese.

The last 3 Sections (7/8/9) will be discussed on Sunday, November, 3rd immediately after Worship Service.

Thanks to Jan Bradshaw and Judy Morgan for their leadership of the Book Connection.

### Women’s Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Thursday morning bible study continues on the book Luke in the Land by Kristie McClelland.

Join the group on Thursday mornings at 10:00.

Contact Mary Emily Gross for details.

### Men’s Dinner and Discussion

The November meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall on November 21st at 6:00 p.m. All men are invited to join the conversation.



### Happy Travelers

Happy Travelers (men and women welcome) will head to Glitz in Nonesuch, Ky on November 22nd.

Look for a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table.



### Looking Ahead!

**December**-All Church Event to see the “Southern Lights” at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington.

**January**-All Church Event to Derby Dinner Theater in Southern Indiana for a Saturday Matinee.

Watch for more info in the FCC Weekly Email

Sign-up at the Welcome Table.

## News & Announcements

**URGENT**

We need Volunteers with vacuum sealer machine/bags to come join us at the church at 11am on Saturday November 16th. We will be carving and dividing our Thanksgiving turkey into vacuum sealed bags for the Thanksgiving meal on the following Sunday November 24th.

Then we will need volunteers with Sous Vides to bring those to the church on the 24th to warm up the sealed bag.

Contact Margaret Clark if you can provide either of these supplies.

FCC Danville Family,

I want to begin with a word of gratitude. Foremost, to our Lord, Jesus Christ, for His mercies to me, which are new every morning. Second, to you, the congregation here at First Christian Danville. Thank you for pouring your love and your trust into me, affording me the opportunity to serve as staff here, to try and give back what I am able.

I address you all as family here, because I believe that church is and should be a tightly-knit community— a place where we look past all the things that make us different, instead focusing on the One in whom all believers live, move, and have being. It is my sincere desire that the community we forge within this congregation would be so strong that all who we come in contact with are drawn towards Jesus by the strength of our love and faith.

I am just one person, whose life was transformed by the finished work of Jesus and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit. I am blessed to be able to join my faith with the faith of this church. While I am looking for opportunities to grow and develop as I pursue what might become a career in ministry, I am also looking for opportunities to grow and develop the ministry of this very church, both among the members and outside the walls. If I may, I ask for you all to join me in seeking these things.

Finally, please know I am here to serve, and am always happy to make time for you. I would love to hear from each of you what opportunities you see for us to join Jesus' ongoing work among and around us.

Yours in Christ,  
Jacob T. Cooper  
Cell: 270-590-6951

### Trunk or Treat 2024

We had a fun and successful Trunk or Treat due to our amazing volunteers and those who provided candy!

The weather was great and we allowed volunteers to choose whether their display worked better in a trunk or in the gym.

We had 151 children and 106 adults join us for a total of 257 participants.



Our youth provided a table display and led games. Thanks to Bari Bowman, George McClure, Abby, Ellie and Henry Pennington, Lillian Russell, and Keagan Walker for their participation! Nancy and David Robertson greeted our guests and got them started on the Halloween path.

The 14 Trunks or Booth displays were provided by the Anderson/Cooper families, Martha Bryant and Jan Bradshaw, Brian and Patricia Calvert, Terry and Linda Dachenhaus, Kendra and John Funkhouser, Julie and Jack Jones, Mary McKitric and Nancy Mahan, Connie McVicker, Sueann Rice, Rachel and Lillian Russell, the Vaught family, the Walker Family and our Youth led by Stephen Hinkle. Stephen also worked hard to make our Not-So-Scary Halloween Maze which was a big hit with children and adults alike!

The coveted Trunk or Treat trophies will be handed out on Sunday, November 3rd.

Thanks to all who helped make this year's Trunk or Treat a fun time for all!

### SOUPS ON US

Over the past several months we have received funding for Soups On Us from the following sources.

AMEN Corner at Saint Peter and Paul Catholic Church.  
\$500

Hudson Ellis Grant \$750

Donation in memory of Tom Hensley \$3,000

Anonymous donation \$5,000

We are very appreciative of all the support we receive for this outreach ministry.

Outreach Ministry Team

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**EMPTY BOWLS EVENT**

Empty Bowls, a fund raiser for Soups On Us, was held on Friday, September 27 th . Despite the weather and lack of power in many parts of Danville, over 130 people filled the Christian Life Center enjoying the fellowship and a Soups On Us like meal. All attendees selected a beautifully crafted pottery bowl made by Centre Art students under the direction of Professor Stephanie Galli. Empty Bowls was hosted by First Christian Church, with contributions of food and volunteers from the Presbyterian Church of Danville, Lexington Avenue Baptist, and Saint Peter and Paul Catholic Church. The profit from ticket sales and donations was \$10,300 which will be divided among the four SOU churches.

Many thanks to Reverend Colby Smith and Professor Stephanie Galli for planning this event, to the Empty Bowls volunteers and everyone else who supported this outreach event.

Mary Ann McGlothlin

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