



Our mission is "To Glorify God as Disciples of Jesus Christ by reaching up, reaching in, reaching out."

Prayers Are Being Sent To:

First Christian Church (*Disciples of Christ*)
 270 Main Street, Irvine, KY 40336
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
 Matt Higle - Pastor
 PASTOR'S CELL: (865) 207-7258
 CHURCH OFFICE: (606) 723-2924
 OFFICE HOURS: Tues-Wed-Thurs - 9a - 3p
 Church E-Mail: fcirvine@irvineonline.net
 Church website: fcirvine.com



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WORKERS FOR JANUARY

SOUND
 Tracy Snowden
 Jesse Likens

COMMUNION
Deacons are taking care of this

ORGAN/PIANO
 1/05—Praise Tm.
 1/12 - Ann S.
 1/19—Becky S.
 1/26 - Praise Tm

DEACONS
 Jackie Adams
 Pat Garrett
 John Duvall
 Marty York

ELDERS
 1/05—Phyllis R.
 1/12- Phillip W.
 1/19 - Elmer A.
 1/26 - Steve G.

NURSERY
 1/05 - Carolee R.
 1/12 - Donna W.
 1/19 - Jayne C.
 1/26 - Sue C.



1st Tennyeh Ohr
 2nd Rebecca Reece
 9th Peggy Kayse
 10th Sherri Humpert
 17th Barsha Honchell
 21st Larry Honchell
 Amber Thompson
 24th Savanna Wallace
 25th Rhonda Hardy
 30th Todd Williams
 31st Margaret Lisle
 Mike Wilson



None that we know of

this can be changed if it needs to

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

AVAILABLE WHEN NEEDED/REQUESTED

1/05 - Janie O.
 1/12 - Carolee R..
 1/19 - Bee/Andrea W.
 1/26 - Marty/Staci Y.

SCHEDULE FOR WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
 5:00p - Meal in Fellowship Hall
 6:00p - Bible Study in Fellowship Hall
 7:00p - Choir



Steps Forward in 2025

What a grand entrance 2025 made with ice and snow-you never know what the new year holds. Whatever happens this year may it lead us to grow in the faith. Maturity and growth is expected in our families. We expect children to grow to take first steps to learn to read, and ultimately graduate from High School and live independent lives. And it is also true in our spiritual lives, there is danger in becoming stunted in our growth. The writer of Hebrews admonished Christians for the lack of progress saying,

"Although by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the basic principles..." (Heb. 4:12). I believe it's a constant battle to keep

moving forward and growing in the faith.

This month our new series is out of Jude, a half-brother of our Lord. And Jude addresses a problem in his letter that is still an ongoing struggle for us today. Jude writes to "urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people" (v. 3). And he goes on to explain the problem with false teachers infiltrating the church. He was asking them to do a challenging task the word "contend" is the English word for agony. "Faith" is the body of Christian truth that we call the Bible that's been given to us once and for all. The idea was to make a legal defense for the beliefs taught in God's word not only to those in the world but especially in the church. Jude said this was necessary for the life and preservation of the church. The battle continues today, even in our own congregation.

As we begin the new year we are firming up the foundation of faith with a new sermon series called "Recapturing the Faith.". Won't you read and study ahead in preparation for the series?

1/26 Jude 8-16
 2/2 Jude 17-25
 2/9 Colossians 1:1-14

Sunday School Classes:

"Answers to Questions About Spiritual Warfare" (David Jeremiah) taught by Philip Waite.

"Anxious For Nothing" (Max Lucado) taught by Phyllis Rucker.

Standard Sunday School Lesson taught by Steve Garrett

Our goal is to have every member involved in a Sunday school class, this is an important step toward shoring up our biblical foundation. Won't you start the new year by joining a Bible study class? The only way we can move forward is by deepening growing and living in God's Word. May 2025 be a year where we continue to take steps forward as we grow together in the faith.

Bro. Matt

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 No Services 	2	3	4
5 9:00-9:40a - Donuts in FH 9:30a - Bible Study 10:45a - Worship - Sam Sears Guest Speaker	6 6:30p - Lions	7	8 5:00p - Meal - brown bag 6:00p - Bible Study chp 46 7:00p - Choir ??	9	10	11 8a-1p - Blood Drive 9:30a - CWF in Sanctuary
12 9:45a - Bible Study 10:45a - Worship Board Meeting	13	14	15 5:00p - Meal - potluck 6:00p - Bible Study chp 47 7:00p - Choir ??	16 6:30p - Ladies Bible Study	17	18
19 9:45a - Bible Study 10:45a - Worship	20 6:30p - Lions 	21	22 5:00p - Meal - brown bag 6:00p - Bible Study chp 48 7:00p - Choir ??	23	24	25
26 9:45a - Bible Study 10:45a - Worship	27	28	29 5:00p - Meal - brown bag 6:00p - Bible Study chp 49 7:00p - Choir ??	30	31	
						



The [Estill County Community Food Bank](#) is an on-going project and is always grateful for donations. Demand continues to grow. **January collection will be anything and everything, as long as it is in cans for the time being. Monetary contributions are also accepted. Please make checks to the Estill County Community Food Bank.** You can give the contributions to Steve Garrett.

CWF HAPPENINGS

The Christmas season was very busy BUT full of blessings as has been the entire year of 2024. It is with much gratitude that we all can reflect on this past year and see how God has blessed and enriched our lives as individuals, families and a church family. God's love and blessings are unconditional and limitless; we only have to take time to recognize and appreciate all that He provides for us and sees us through challenges in our daily lives.

Our CWF Ladies Christmas Dinner was a special evening of fun, fellowship and laughter. Forty-seven ladies attended the dinner; we missed those who had to cancel or were unable to attend. It is always wonderful to see and visit with friends we haven't seen in a while. Special guests this year: Pat Jones, Sherri Humpert, Pat Short, Amanda Asher, Amanda Rucker, Robin Powell and friends from Ravenna Christian Church: Shirley Floyd, Janice Bush, Connie Coffell, Patty Reese, Millie Horn and Nelle Williams. Pam Ingram and Heather (McClure) Ingram invited Sharon Bray and Hannah Zanet.

It is refreshing to take a few hours to slow down to focus on the true meaning of Christmas and why we celebrate it. The birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, is the greatest gift we will ever receive and share with others. We are all "blessed beyond measure".

All of the tables were beautifully decorated again with creative personal touches. It is always exciting to see how the decorated tables bring our Fellowship Hall to life. The entire church looked especially beautiful this Christmas season.

Our caterer, Thyme Savor Catering, not only provided a delicious meal but also chose the winning table. **Phyllis Rucker had the winning table this year!** Beautiful as always!!

Thanks to our "Christmas Elve's", Andrea Williams and Brenda Honchell for making the gift exchange fun. Robin Powell provided music for the evening. She sang "Noel"; such a beautiful and powerful song. The lyrics to the song take us on a journey of Jesus' birth, the incredible love of God and the sacrifice made for each of us. What an incredible gift of Love!!

Our Christmas devotional focused on "**Season of Giving**". It gave us an opportunity to reflect on and share about the many projects, outreach events and ministries CWF is involved in throughout the year. The joy and blessings we receive when visiting our shut-ins, filling shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, filling backpacks for Back to School Fair, doing Blessing Bags for the homeless and many other activities, gives everyone an opportunity to get involved and share in the joy.

I came across a few quotes that speaks to our "Season of Giving":
"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving" by Mother Teresa
"Kindness is like snow- It beautifies everything it covers" by Kahlil Gibran

Thanks to the chauffeur's for door-to-door service again this year and all the men in our church who helped to make our dinner evening possible. Thanks to Tracy Snowden for setting up the sound system and John Duvall for the beautiful poinsettias!!

CWF is grateful to ALL of our church family for supporting and participating in the many outreach projects, activities and ministries we do throughout the year. Our purpose is to bless others in the things we do in our community and beyond. Please join us in the new year as we continue to bless and minister to our community.

Please join us in our CWF get togethers in the New Year. Our next meeting will be January 11th at 9:30am in the sanctuary.

Ladies Bible Study will resume on Thursday, January 16th, at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Phyllis Rucker will be leading our study. Please join us for study, interesting discussion and fellowship.

Thanks,
Pat

Pictures will be shared in the February newsletter, due to space.



You can watch the morning worship service on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianChurchIrvine>
The service begins at 10:45 a.m.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Elmer Adams, Kathy Duvall, Ann Hardy, Barsha Honchell, Mark Honchell, Debby Jones, Phyllis and W. J. Noland, Lois and Verlon Prewitt, Grace Sheffer, Jackie Staton, Bill Ball, Brandon Boling, Becky Riley Brode, Scotty Durbin, Tommy Harrison, Rheta Klump, Jessica Mays, Ronald Mays, Whitney Mays, Dale Perry, Cindy Rice, Wade Slusher, Matt Vaught, Gene Whorley, Aniah Wilson, Karen Wilson, Unspoken Requests, All Covid patients, Ukraine situation



FAMILIES OF: Jane Witt Bryant, Mary Alva Wise Fox, Peggy Kayse, Keith McGuire, Joetta Palmer, Kathleen Richardson, Larry Rose, Will Sparks, Sam Watson

The Willows at Hamburg: Wanda Wilson
Legacy Retirement Community: Letitia King

MILITARY: Landon Carroll, Blake Dobbs, Austin Hayes, Austin Isaacs, Koda Boone Jones, Michael Tudor, Joey Warren

MISSIONARIES: Brian & Wendy Kiser



Electronic Giving Through SQUARE

The Board approved the use of Square as an electronic option to accept tithes and offerings. The system has been operational for a few weeks now. We've had a few volunteers to test the site with great success! You will be able to donate on the website which was free to the church or via the app. We also plan to make the QR code available for quick access. You will receive an email confirmation once your donation has been received. Here

are some basic Q & A to provide more information.

How much does it cost?

2.9% + \$0.30 per transaction

What credit cards can be accepted?

Visa, MC, Discover, American Express, Apple Pay and Google Pay

How does FCC get the money?

Directly deposited into the church's bank account, into the general fund

Does it track who donated?

Transactions are tracked by card number and transaction date

Electronic giving is a great option if you are going to miss a Sunday, be on vacation, or just forgot the checkbook! The site gives you the option of selecting a fixed dollar amount or entering in a specific amount. Here is a look at the website and the link to our FCC account. We want to thank Jesse Likens and Kay for creating our site and getting things up and running. Watch the Sunday program for information on how to donate and use the QR code.

<https://irvine-first-christian-church.square.site/> When you go to this web site you will see the below picture. There will be a block where you can select the amount you want to send. The block says Tithe/Offerings



Irvine First Christian Church



Cookie Exchange at the Anthony's Farm

Gathering for a cookie exchange is not a new activity to experience at Christmas time. But it was our first experience opening our home to our church family! They came in like a caravan on a mission one car-full at a time. What is so special about a cookie exchange? Well, this is where the guests (and host) bring 3 dozen freshly baked or purchased cookies to exchange. Before leaving, each guest will take a cookie or two from each platter. Imagine taking home a platter of all different types of cookies- Now you're talking! Typically, this is an event that is largely attended by women- not so much the men, unless you're planning on having the football game on and there's heavy amounts of meat being served, or bacon- This time the men came, and you should have seen them circling around the cookie table and free-range feeding on the cookies. Who could blame them, right?

Annette Anthony

Here's the ultimate cookie recipe:

A Recipe for Friendship: *Serves a lifetime, with endless leftovers for joy.*

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of kindness
- 1½ cups of trust
- 1 cup of shared laughter
- ¾ cup of patience
- ½ cup of forgiveness
- 3 tablespoons of understanding
- 2 teaspoons of thoughtful gestures
- 1 teaspoon of honest advice
- A dash of spontaneity
- A sprinkle of creativity
- A pinch of healthy boundaries

Optional garnish: Shared dreams and memorable adventures

Instructions:

1. **Begin with kindness:** In a large bowl, pour in kindness as the base to set the tone for all interactions.
2. **Blend in trust and laughter:** Slowly fold in trust, ensuring it's evenly distributed. Stir in laughter until the mixture feels light and joyful.
3. **Add patience and forgiveness:** These balance the recipe perfectly. Use forgiveness liberally whenever needed—it enhances every flavor.
4. **Mix in understanding and thoughtful gestures:** Understanding brings depth, while thoughtful gestures add unexpected delight.
5. **Season with honest advice:** Be careful not to overdo it—just enough to taste.
6. **Spice it up with spontaneity and creativity:** These ingredients make the friendship vibrant and exciting.
7. **Finish with healthy boundaries:** A small pinch ensures the friendship stays strong and mutually respectful.

Let it simmer: Time is the secret ingredient. Stir frequently with care, and let it grow into something truly special.

To serve:

Serve with shared dreams and a side of memorable adventures. Best enjoyed during celebrations, challenges, and quiet moments alike. Refills are always encouraged!

