



*First  
Christian  
Church  
(Disciples of Christ)*

# The Visitor

January, 2025

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## “SUGG”ESTIONS

Another Christmas day has come and gone. They sure seem to come around much quicker than they used to. Christmas day can be a very different experience for everyone. Some gather with extended family, wear matching PJ's, have a big breakfast and then get to the gifts. Others gather around the tree, and start the party early with a flurry of wrapping paper flying in different directions. For some Christmas morning can be a very quiet time. A time to take a breath, embrace the silence and reflect on what Christmas brings year after year. Regardless of how you choose to celebrate Christmas, I pray you found joy in the Good News of a child being born. And I encourage you to continue to celebrate this child as we move into a new year. I think Ruth Maltby for sharing this poem with me. I think it's a good reminder for all of us as we move away from the tinsel and lights of Christmas day and into the mundane of every day. The child born to us is Emmanuel, God with us.

### A Christmas letter from Jesus

*When you look for me at Christmas,  
You won't need a special star.  
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem.  
I'm right here where you are.*

*You may not be aware of me  
Amid the celebrations;  
You'll have to look beyond the stores,  
And all the decorations.*

*But if you take a moment  
From your list of things to do,  
To close your eyes and say a prayer,  
I'm waiting here for you.*

*You're the one I want to be with,  
You're the reason that I came!  
And you'll find me in the stillness  
Where I'm whispering your name.*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
You are loved,  
Gene



### Special Dates in January

- Jan 1: New Year's Day
- Jan 5: Congregational Meeting - 11:30 AM
- Jan 6: Epiphany
- Jan 6: Food Pantry Volunteer - 1 PM
- Jan 8: Food Pantry Volunteer - 10 AM
- Jan 10: Food Pantry Volunteer - 10 AM
- Jan 10: Community Meal - 5 PM
- Jan 11: Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- Jan 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan 20: Inauguration Day

## Operating Fund Information Through November 30, 2024

Contributions & Inflows: \$123,594  
Expenses: \$106,518  
Difference: \$ 17,076

To contribute to FCC using Tithe.ly,  
Please scan this QR code using the  
camera on your mobile phone!



Please consider donating the following  
items for The Cocoon:

Bars of Soap  
Toothpaste (small) & Toothbrushes  
Shampoo & Conditioner (small)  
Contact Steve Riewaldt for details  
@ 419-308-4649

*In Our Thoughts  
& Prayers*



Do you need someone added to this list?  
Please write your request on the sheet in  
the foyer or email the church office.

[fccadmin@bgfcc.org](mailto:fccadmin@bgfcc.org)

Scott & DeAnna Beeker  
Marge Leathem  
Ed Reiter

Tim Bomeli  
Ruth Maltby  
Steve & Marilyn Riewaldt

Peggy Carsey  
Ruth Ann McCray  
Marie Rogers

Jim Corbett  
Becky Meredith  
Mae Scott

### Special Prayer Requests

Cleve & Irene Patton  
Connie & Tami Adams - BG Christian Food Pantry  
Emily Rupp  
Jennie Stoddard-Bernard, Regional Administrator  
Linda Brown - Sharon Bronsink's family member  
Randy Jones - Ann Jones' son  
Todd Spencer - Gary & Barb Spencer's son

### Ministers & Missionaries

Paul Bomeli  
Audrey Connor  
Margot Connor  
Allen Harris  
Erin McCreight Proie  
Gene Sugg  
Ernie Unholz

Would you like to reach out to those on the prayer list.

Please use the note cards in the pews to write who it is to in the space at the top,  
jot a quick note, and sign your name. Then place the card in the offering plate, and  
the church office will address the envelope and drop your note in the mail.



## TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY



The FCC Transportation Ministry connects seniors in need of  
transportation for non-emergency medical appointments with  
volunteer drivers from the church.

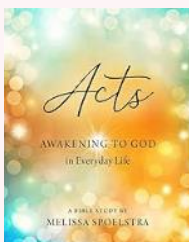
The volunteers are called as needed on a rotating basis. If you would like to  
help with this ministry, we would love to put you on our list of drivers.

Also, if you are in need of assistance yourself, please call  
Pat Koehler at 419-494-3231.



# Happy Birthday to those born in January

<b>Logan Wick</b>	1/18
<b>Todd Jimison</b>	1/20
<b>Kell Shaffer</b>	1/22



On January 8, 2025 we will start our new study, "Acts Women's Bible Study Participant Workbook: Awakening to God in Everyday Life" by Melissa Spoelstra.

This six-week study of the Book of Acts will help us journey with the first followers of Jesus and witness the birth and growth of the early church through spiritual awakening to the power of God's Spirit, message, freedom, grace, mission, and direction.

Join us anytime.  
We'd love to welcome some new members!

## FEEDING OUR MISSION

The BG Christian Food Pantry needs:

Any Food and Toiletry Items!



Monetary Donations needed too!



Save the Date  
FCC's Week to Volunteer  
January 6, 8, 10



**Congregational Meeting**  
Sunday, January 5, 2025  
Following 10:30 am Service

The purpose of this meeting is to approve the 2025 Proposed Budget!



**LAST CALL!** Please send updates to your contact information to the FCC office @ [firstoffice875@gmail.com](mailto:firstoffice875@gmail.com).

An updated directory will be emailed to everyone in Jan. 2025!



*To all those who assisted during services by serving as  
Advent Candle-lighters during the month of December...*

*Scott & DeAnna Beeker  
Pat Koehler & Family  
Dave & Aurora Bigelow  
Joanne Tennison & Family  
Jay, Amy, & Doug Kirkbride and Carol Ballard*



*Thank you*

*To everyone who donated **Poinsettias** to decorate  
our Sanctuary for Christmas...*

*Nancy Andrade ~ in Thanksgiving for Family & Friends  
Sharon Bronsink ~ in Thanksgiving for Mae Scott  
Sharon Daniels ~ in Memory of Bob Daniels  
Ann Jones ~ in Thanksgiving for trust in the Lord & for Family  
Jay, Amy, & Doug Kirkbride ~ in Memory of Brenda Kirkbride  
Pat Koehler ~ in Thanksgiving for Family & Friends  
Diane & Ron Morlock ~ in Memory of Fred & Doris Morlock  
and Lee & Bill Jones  
Gary & Barb Spencer ~ in Memory of Ryan Matthew Spencer  
Joanne Tennison ~ in Thanksgiving for Family & Friends  
Rae Thomson ~ in Memory of Jim Thomson*

## FCC's NEXT DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY DINNER IS FRIDAY, ***January 10th.***

5:00 - 6:00 pm (or until food runs out)

Our FREE Community Dinners  
continue to be a huge success!

In December we served over lots of meals and  
distributed groceries to many families!

Thank you to the **KILPATRICK's**  
and their crew!



**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH  
COOKING and SERVING ON FRIDAY, ***January 10th.***  
DONATIONS OF COOKIES and SUPPLIES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

Elizabeth Wick and Betsy Solley are looking for volunteers to help with cooking for  
this growing monthly Outreach Project. Please contact Elizabeth Wick at  
419-575-7867 or DEZSSL6@gmail.com to offer your support.

Thank you to everyone who has already helped out with time, food, and monetary donations!

**WE HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US  
IN THIS VERY VALUABLE COMMUNITY OUTREACH!**

## *Women's Fellowship*

*Please Join Us*

*Our next meeting is January 22, 1:30p at the Church.*

*With the ongoing success of the rummage sale, during 2024 the Women's  
Fellowship was able to support Adopt a Family, Camp Christian,*

*The Cocoon, and the BG Christian Food Pantry.*

*Also, WF financed the deep cleaning of the church  
by KB Cleaning Services LLC (Emily Meredith's business)  
and sponsored the Hanging of the Green's potluck.*

*We look forward to 2025, and hope to see you at the January meeting!*

## FCC's Mission Project with the Bowling Green City Schools!



Thank you to everyone who recently donated to the school mission project. In August, we took a large amount of supplies to the middle school for distribution to the students.

The school was very appreciative of our donations.

For the month of **December**, we are collecting the items shown below.

**Remember - if you see school supplies on sale, pick some up. They won't go to waste!**

If you have questions, please contact Elizabeth Wick @ DEZSLL6@GMAIL.com

Items Due By:  
January  
26th

Laundry Detergent / Cleaning Products  
Junior Sized Black Leggings  
Teen Sized Plain Shirts  
Blankets  
Beef Jerky Sticks / Microwave Popcorn  
Gloves, Mittens, Hats / Boxes of Tissues

RUMMAGE SALE



### START SAVING YOUR STUFF

for the

## 2025 WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP RUMMAGE SALE!

Thank you from Women's Fellowship!



RUMMAGE SALE

### First Christian Church of Bowling Green, OH ~ Board Meeting, November 14, 2024

The November 14, 2024, board meeting of First Christian Church was held at the church and via Zoom. Present: Pastor Gene Sugg, Mike Solley, presiding, and members, Nancy Andrade, Sharon Daniels, Jay Kirkbride, Pat Koehler, Ruth Maltby, Steve Riewaldt, Char Scherer, Kim Thomas, Rae Thomson and Elizabeth Wick.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Moderator Mike Solley, who opened with prayer. The devotion was given by Sharon Daniels who read a devotion entitled 'Don't Forget Thanksgiving' from a book entitled Thankful Heart. 'Be thankful for God's gifts' Pat will offer the December devotion.

#### Administration:

**Approval:** The October 10 board minutes were approved on a motion by Kim Thomas, second by Rae Thomson.

**Clerk:** Sharon and Lee Field-Starks will prepare an updated membership list.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mike read the report prepared by Jim Adams. November contributions were weaker than the past few months at \$6,700. Expenses were higher due to the asphalt maintenance of \$6,300. The Men's group provided \$3,150 to assist in offsetting the expense. For the month we had a deficit of \$3,500, however, year-to-date we are still positive by over \$23,000....

The CD at Huntington Bank matured and the finance committee invested that total of \$82,379 into a new CD for 5 months at 3.75%.... The budget for 2025 has been prepared and need to call a Congregational meeting in December to approve. The proposed budget is in the board material.... It is recommended that the boiler project be approved and that the Property budget line item for Maintenance be increased by \$8,000 to \$20,000. Suggest 50% of the funding comes from the operating fund and 50% comes out of the designated capital fund (\$22,139 balance). The report was accepted into the minutes.

**Property:** Steve Riewaldt reported that a bid of \$3,500 was the lowest of three bids for stripping, cleaning and applying four coats of wax to Fellowship Hall, two area bathrooms, the kitchen and back hall. The project will be done in January and they suggest having it buffed twice a year.... In January the committee will receive bids for a new natural gas contract. They will also be signing a new contract for snow removal and salting.... A custodian has been hired and will do a deep cleaning of the church at a charge of \$400.

**Technology:** Jay Kirkbride reported that Blue Tooth is being considered to enhance the audio connection to the hearing devices in the church. They are also looking at using a joy stick to improve the camera movement.

**Personnel:** No report

**Pastor:** Gene plans to visit Sharon Bronsink and Marge George this weekend... BGSU students Lily and Cameron are getting more involved in the church and it may be possible to encourage other students to attend... He would like to have an Advent Bible Study and is considering the potential of a Sunday meeting after worship with a lunch prior... The Pastoral Care Committee will be organized after the first of the year.... Gene has a PET scan scheduled followed up by a Doctor's visit next week as a hopefully final end to his cancer treatments.

### **Old Business:**

**FCC Constitution and Bylaws:** The Constitution is going through final corrections and will be presented to the congregation in January or February.

**Strategic Planning:** Moderator, Mike Solley will be forming committee.

**New Business:** Pastor Gene confirmed December 17 as the date for a Concert with Nano Beraia and Malik Halce. Kim Thomas and Mike Solley volunteered to provide transportation for them.

### **Ministries:**

**Worship:** Mike Solley will continue as worship leader.

**Care Elders:** Elizabeth reported that they met Oct.22. Sharon Bronsink is in Wood Haven and Diane Morlock will have a hip replacement on Dec 4. Other people needing prayers will be listed in the prayer concerns listed below.

### **Missions:**

**Hospitality:** No report. Mike noted that the group will be organizing the potluck on November 24

**Men's Group:** Steve Riewaldt reiterated that the group will pay half of the asphalt resurfacing in the amount of \$3,150 as per the treasurer's report.... They will be giving three \$250 Walmart gift cards for Christmas families, an increase from previous two gifts. In addition they will be donating \$200 each to the following charities: Salvation Army, Cherry Street Mission, Cocoon, BG Christian Food Pantry and the Cleveland Christian Home.

**Women's Group:** No report. Rae noted the group will be meeting Wed, Nov. 20 at the church at 1:30.

**FCC Community Meal:** A thanksgiving meal was served to 134 people. The Kilpatrick's will plan and oversee the December meal.

**BG Christian Food Pantry:** No Report

**BG Schools Mission Project:** Elizabeth reported that they are still collecting items.

**Transportation:** Kim Thomas and Mike Solley have offered to transport Nano and Malik for the concert. Sharon Daniels offered to be available to drive for area trips.

**Green Team/Green Chalice:** No report.

### **Christian Education:**

**Women's Spiritual Study Group:** The group will not meet on November 27. They will finish the Just Women book on Dec 11 and resume with a new book in January.

**Prayer Concerns:** Sharon Bronsink, Sharon Shaffer, Marge George, the Beekers, the Riewaldt's, Sharon Daniels, Marie Rogers and Jim Corbitt, Nancy Andrade, Marge Leathem.

**The closing prayer** was given by Pastor Gene.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Koehler, secretary

**The next Board Meeting will be held on December 12.**



# January, 2025



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

*Please note that various committees meet throughout the month. Please check with your committee's chairperson regarding the date and time that your committee will be meeting this month.*

		1 <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY!</b>		2	3	4
5 10:30 Worship 11:30 Congregational Meeting 11:30-Food Pantry Sunday 11:30 Prayer Circle	6 1:00 Food Pantry Volunteer	7	8 10:00 Food Pantry Volunteer 11:00 Women's Bible Study (via ZOOM)	9 7:00 FCC Board Meeting	10 10:00 Food Pantry Volunteer  5:00 Community Meal/Grocery supplies	11
12 10:30 Worship	13 6:00 Property Trustees Meeting	14	15 11:00 Women's Bible Study (via ZOOM)	16	17	18
19 10:30 Worship	20 <b>MLK DAY Inauguration Day</b>	21	22 11:00 Women's Bible Study (via ZOOM)	23	24	25
26 10:30 Worship	27 7:00 Women's Club of BG Board Meeting	28 7:00 Care Elders Meeting via ZOOM	29	30	31	