

The Tower is a publication of
First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
415 Audubon Dr.,
Paducah, KY 42001

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Celebrating 168 Years of
Ministry in Paducah, KY!

The Tower



First Christian Church -- Paducah, Kentucky

Come. See. Discover. Discover the Disciples



*"Where you go I will go;
where you stay I will stay."*

**Week of
Compassion
Special Offering**

**February
19—26,
2017**

***Please Give
Generously!***

Worship With Us This Sunday

9:30 A.M.—Sunday School for
all ages

10:45 A.M.—Worship in
FCC Sanctuary

Follow us on Facebook

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Check out our website
fccpaducah.org
For more information

E-Mail us:
office@fccpaducah.org

Recurring Monthly Fellowship and Outreach Opportunities

- **1st Wednesday, (Feb. 1) - Super Senior Group @ Bob Evans**
at 11:30 a.m. *Enjoy food and fellowship with our group.*
- **1st Monday (Feb. 6) Blood Drive from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**
Fellowship Hall (lower level)
- **2nd Saturday, (Feb. 11) - 2nd Saturday Breakfast** from 8 - 10 AM in
Fellowship Hall. *Bring your friends and enjoy a great breakfast for a
donation of \$6 or more. Proceeds used for community outreach and building
repairs*
- **2nd Tuesday, (Feb. 14) - Community Kitchen Service Day**
Check the calendar insert for more information and dates.

Support the PCM Pantry

We are collecting **Tuna** for the PCM Pantry during February.

We are Disciples of Christ,

A movement for wholeness in a
fragmented world. As part of the one
body of Christ, we welcome all to the
Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

• Disciples of Christ Statement of Identity



Our faith calls us to respond to people in crisis. Sometimes crises occur from forces of nature and sometimes they are the result of violent acts of persecution. The gospel has much to say about this. It empowers us to respond in our own time, as we reflect upon the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

The current conflict in Syria is the world's single largest refugee crisis in nearly a quarter of a century. The four-year conflict has forced more than 9 million people from their homes. That's more than 40 percent of the country's pre-war population.

Life for Syrian exiles is increasingly difficult. Most live below the poverty line in sub-standard shelters. Hope of returning home diminishes each year the civil war continues. As the rate of poverty increases among refugees, practices such as child labor and child marriage are on the rise amongst families in the deepest crisis. In the already vulnerable surrounding countries, communities are straining to sustain support for refugees as competition for employment, land, housing, water and energy grows.

We can respond to the crisis in Syria and to other tragedies across the globe. Donations to **Week of Compassion** not only sustain a response to issues of global refugee displacement and war, they go to support our efforts to welcome refugees as they arrive in the U. S. and adjust to a new life.

Matthew 25 states: "Come, you that are blessed. . . Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

This passage marks some of Jesus' final words to his disciples before ascending to heaven. The text is more than a call to help—it is a final judgment on whether Christ's people have acted with compassion toward those in need. Here we learn that the "good news" comes first to the ones in crisis. Christ comes to us as the "least"—the hungry, the stranger, the naked, the sick and the prisoner.



Our Christian Education Sub-Committee has been hard at work organizing new Sunday School classes for all ages. The groups are broken down by approximate age. **Classes are:** kindergarten through 4th grade, 5th through 8th grade, high schoolers, young adult (Social Justice) class and the 40 Something class. In a few days you should be receiving a post card with a bit of information about your class.

Ashley Barnett is leading the K-4 class, Linda Creason is leading the 5-8 class, Beverly Craig and Jim Gearhart are leading the young adult class. We are looking for leaders for the high school class and the 40 Something class. If you are interested, please call Brenda Murphy at (270) 210-1707.

Classes begin on Sunday, February 12, at 9:15 in Fellowship Hall with a donut, coffee and juice kick-off. After our meeting in Fellowship Hall, we'll go to our respective class rooms. The **first Sunday** of each month will be an intergenerational Sunday School class. All ages will meet in Fellowship Hall for the intergenerational classes. The plan now is for the classes to run through May 22. Other plans are being made for the summer months and will be announced when finalized.

Plan now to join us for Sunday School beginning February 12th.

Come. See. Discover. FCC Paducah

Camp Kum-Ba-Ya Calendar 2017

Chi Rho Sailing	Gr. 9-12	June 4-9
CYF	Gr. 9-12	June 11-17
CYF Sailing	Gr. 6-8	June 18-23
Young Disciples	Grade 3	June 23-25
Chi Rho	Gr. 6-8	June 26—July 1
Junior	Gr. 4-5	July 3-7
Discovery	Gr. 1-2	July 7-9
All Y'all	all ages	Sept. 15-17

It is NOT too early to register for summer camp!

For Registration forms and Information go to:

www.campkumbaya.org

If you are interested in being a camp counselor, please also check out the website.

Those in the 6th grade and above who are interested in learning about baptism are asked to contact Rev. Franz at 270-443-8251.

BAPTISM CLASSES

Christian Ed News

The Christian Ed Sub Committee has prepared a children's activity basket for children that need a little something to work on during our worship service. They are in the basket as you go into the sanctuary.

The committee is also looking for volunteers to help with **Time for Children**. Please contact **Brenda Murphy** for more information. Sign up sheet on hall table.

Youth Groups to Help At PCM

On **Saturday, February 4**, FCC youth will be going to Paducah Cooperative Ministry at 1:30 p.m. to help organize the pantry and any other jobs that need volunteer assistance. We will meet at the church at 1:00 p.m. We will leave PCM at 2:30 and travel back to the church for an ice cream Sunday party. *Parents are invited to join us for ice cream also!*

Feb. 5th.—No Youth Group (Enjoy the game!)

Feb. 12—Youth Group at noon with Morgan Guess

Feb. 19 — No Youth Group (Join us for Snack & Chat after worship)

Feb. 26—Youth to Talon Falls Escape Experience (time to be announced)

For more information, call Machel Tuttle at 270-564-9144

2016 Blanket Special Offering

The Church World Service Blanket program provides warmth, hope, and care during cold and trying times. A gift of **just \$10** provides a study, comforting blanket to children, men and women who are struggling against the cold. **To date we have collected \$765** for blankets. If you have not already made your donation you still have through February 5th to help.

Welcome New Members

On Sunday, January 15, 2017, **Jimmy and Tricia Albright** came forward to transfer their membership to our congregation. We are very happy that they have joined us. If you would like to send them a card, their address is 1255 Allen Lane, Paducah, KY 42001

Ash Wednesday Service

**March 1, 2017
7:00 p.m.**

A service of ashes, scripture, hymns, prayers and communion.

—**Patt Lynch**

Snack 'n Chat

The Membership/Evangelism Sub Committee is planning the first Snack 'n Chat of this year for **Sunday, February 19**, after worship. Charisse Gilbert is our special speaker in worship that day. Everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and getting to know one another a little better. A light lunch will be provided. Make plans now to attend. See **Linda Creason** for more information.

Souper Bowl of Caring is Sunday February 5th

On Sunday, February 5, over 160 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal.

At First Christian Church we have supported **Souper Bowl of Caring** for over a decade. Every Super Bowl Sunday we collect money, and give the donations to the local charity of our choice (last year it was the Community Kitchen). I will put two donation boxes at the church supporting each team playing in the Super Bowl, and you can donate in which team box you want to win the Super Bowl game. We will also be doing a collection on Sunday, February the 5th, where we ask each church member to donate one dollar or more.

**Bailey Gottman,
National Youth Advisory Board Member**



Fight Hunger with Empty Bowls on Feb. 25th

Empty Bowls (www.emptybowls.net) is a grass roots effort to fight hunger. The basic premise is simple: Potters and other craftspeople work with the community to create handcrafted bowls. Guests are invited to a simple meal of soup and bread. In exchange for a cash donation, guests are asked to keep a bowl as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. Money raised is donated to an organization working to end hunger and food insecurity.

Local artist, Michael Terra coordinates the local Bowls project. Proceeds are donated to the **Community Kitchen**. The project will be held **Saturday, Feb. 25** from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Carroll Convention Center near the riverfront in downtown Paducah.

Recycling Note: Thank you to Brenda Murphy for taking items to the recycling center. At the present time FCC is recycling **paper and aluminum cans only** (no plastic). The funds raised by recycling paper and cans is being sent to help support Camp Kum-Ba-Ya. Last month we bought a new chair for the camp with our donation. If you have other items to recycle please consider taking them to the site on N. 8th Street.

Minister Search Committee

Our Minister Search Committee has begun the process of searching for a new Senior Minister for our congregation. **Sue Fletcher** is committee Chairperson. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Sue at 270-559-6074.

Strength in Diversity!

I'm very pleased to be working with the FCC choir in the new year! This is an exciting time for the church as we explore new opportunities of worship. Our recently launched blended service actually allows for more people to be involved in the service by meeting the concerns, hopes and wishes of a larger more diverse group. Strength in diversity!

If you would like to become an active part of this evolution, now is your time. Come join us in the FCC choir! If you are attending services at FCC, you are already an important part of the change. Take another step & join us in the loft! If you enjoy singing, come on, give us a try! Questions? Ask me or another choir member.

Social Media Group Forming

As we all know, more and more information is being shared on Social Media. We are looking for people of all ages to help us spread the word about our church using Social Media. At the present time we are working on updating our website. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact **Chloe Deweese** at 270-217-2061.