

The Wheeling Disciple

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 1343 National Road, Wheeling WV 304 242-1520
Senior Pastor: Rev. Kenneth M. Hardway

FEBRUARY 2023
Volume 84, Issue 2

PASTOR'S PAGE



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
(disciples of christ)

Sunday Service Times

10:45 am Doors open at
10:20

If you'd like to make an appointment with Kenny, Jennifer or Mary Jo, please call the church office (304 242-1520) and leave a message, or email pastor@wheelingdisciples.org or office@wheelingdisciples.org.

ABOUT THE DISCIPLES:

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.

Newsletter information:

Please submit your news, events, notes, committee information and other information as soon as possible so it appears in the newsletter in a timely manner!

Church Secretary:
Jennifer Fedczak

Newsletter editor:
Ann Koegler

Generosity abounds! This congregation has always been a giving congregation. The evidence is all around. Allow me to point to some of it.

As of this writing, I'm actually overwhelmed by a huge pile of new and used baby clothes and toys, along with large packs of diapers and wipes that we've collected during our Epiphany "Baby Shower for Jesus."

I will load up my truck and take those down to the Gabriel Project for their distribution. Those items will go a long way to meet the needs of young babies and their families.

I am overwhelmed by the pile of bags filled to the brim with clothing, shoes, belts and the like for women. The local YWCA houses women who are fleeing domestic violence, unemployment, mental health, and other issues that lead to their being unhoused. The YWCA also has a thrift store that provides clothing free of charge, yet presented in a way that allows women to "shop" with dignity. These items piled up in our Narthex will clothe God's precious children when they need it most.

We had a pile of food stacked up in the office from our Sunday Gleaning collection. I'm so grateful that our secretary, Jennifer, delivered those to Catholic Charities for us last week. As you read this, because of our generosity someone's belly is being filled and their table has more joy.

We have a very generous Outreach Giving Policy. After a year of your financial gifts to the congregation, we have finished our accounting and have just issued the checks for signatures. There are 20 checks representing around \$42,000 worth of gifts that support agencies in our valley meeting the needs of God's children, as well as denominational efforts meeting the spiritual needs of God's children throughout WV and around the globe. Add to that, around \$3,200 in benevolence funds spent on helping individuals within the church and its circle of influence. We also collected and shared



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SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Kenneth M.
Hardway
304 242-1520 (office)
304 780-1989 (cell)

PASTORAL CARE

If you or someone you know needs a visit or is in the hospital, please contact Rev. Kenny at 304 780-1989 or email k.hardway@yahoo.com. You can also contact one of the Elders who are serving. We want to keep in touch with our church family! Help us do that!

COME!

We are created by God, but not created to be alone.

God has given us Christ, a Lord who calls us friend.

God has given us a world, to live in and to serve.

God has given us a church - a family to live with and share together in the joys and demands of discipleship.

We are created by God, but not created to be alone.

Thanks be to God!

HELPING OUTSIDE OUR CHURCH WALLS

Local organizations are addressing the many needs of our community.

The Winter Freeze Shelter in Wheeling, homelessness, food insecurity, substance abuse programs, rent assistance, mortgage assistance, utility assistance, and kinship programs headline the agendas of many community service meetings.

This month's newsletter is going to focus on one of those programs: The Winter Freeze Shelter. Joyce Wolen is part of the team that is working on the Shelter.



WHEELING WINTER FREEZE SHELTER

The ballroom of Catholic Charities was converted to the Winter Freeze Shelter when last year's site (the former Hillcrest at the former Ohio Valley Medical Center) was unavailable for winter 2022-2023. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is providing the space at Catholic Charities on Main Street in Wheeling and has donated to the shelter operations.

The low-barrier shelter will run through mid-March or longer depending on weather. The shelter will be open from 8:00 pm to 8:00 am.

John Moses is temporarily overseeing the daily operations with the assistance of the team pictured above on the left (L to R): Joyce Wolen, John Moses, George Smoulder, Mark Phillips, and Beth Zarate. On the right, John and Joyce prepare linens for the shelter guests.

Donations are needed. Monetary donations can be sent to Life Hub, PO Box 2089, Wheeling WV 26003. Make checks payable to Life Hub. Questions? Contact Joyce at 304 639-8429 or joyce@wheelingwv-pha.org.

Donations can also be dropped off at 11 Community Street (Elm Grove), Wheeling on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00 am – 12 noon and 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm. The shelter needs blankets, twin bed sheets (fitted/flat), pillow cases, handwarmers, boots, boxer briefs (all sizes), gloves, hats, scarves, coats, sweatpants, sweatshirts.

The Winter Freeze Shelter does not provide meals and many of the shelter guests eat and get food from the [Soup Kitchen of Wheeling](#) (304 233-2992) and [Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center](#) (304 232-7157). Please contact either agency to see how you can help.

Read more about the Winter Freeze Shelter [here](#) and [here](#).

The Bellaire and Wheeling Salvation Army units also offer shelter services.



I set My bow in the cloud,
and it shall be for a sign of
a covenant between Me
and the earth.

Genesis 9:13

The Lord himself goes
before you and will be with
you; he will never leave
you nor forsake you. Do
not be afraid; do not be
discouraged.

Deuteronomy 31: 8

Come to me all you who
are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

I have told you these
things, so that in me you
may have peace. In this
world you will have
trouble. But take heart! I
have overcome the world.

John 16: 33

May the God who gives
endurance and
encouragement give you
the same attitude of mind
toward each other that
Christ Jesus had.

Romans 15: 5

Now faith is confidence in
what we hope for and
assurance about what we
do not see.

Hebrews 11: 1

I lift up my eyes to the
mountains – where does
my help come from? My
help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and
earth.

Psalms 121: 1-2

Prayer concerns

Prayer List

Please pray for our Elders, Minister, and the Church Leadership; The Rev. Terri Hord Owens and the General Church; The Rev. Thad Allen and the Regional Church; the Ecumenical Church; Rev. Dr. Victor Makari & the Church in the Middle East; the Church facing persecution around the globe, unity of the church.

We pray for our Nation and its leaders; our country and our world as we go through the pandemic; our government; doctors, nurses, first responders, medical, grocery, and our service men and women; those suffering from disasters, both natural and of our own making; Children of Saint Jude Hospital; Refugees; Ukraine and victims of war; those struggling with addiction and/or mental illness; broken and hurting families; those healing during the pandemic, for victims of the disease, and all those who give care; peace; world unity.

We lift up in prayer Judy Casto; Paula Klimas; Jan Kinser; Howard Nelson; baby Harper Scott and Family; Bruce Koegler; Barbara Cole Estep; the Rawe-Polosky family, Courtney & Baby, Larry Young; Wayne Snyder; Rose Riggs & family; Johnna Ethan; JD Sloop; Pat Jeffers; Joan Cox; Miller Niksic; Chuck & Jennifer Kilmer; Susie Yeager; Joyce Scott; Delores Shelton; Jeanne; Patty; Justin Husk.

We offer prayers for the friends and family of all who grieve.

We lift up those held in our hearts and those whose names we
bring before you.

You know who we are. You know our needs.

GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME

ALL THE TIME...GOD IS GOOD

MEMBERS IN CARE FACILITIES & OUT OF TOWN

Out of Town Church Family

***Paula Klimas, 1435 Christian Blvd, Room 103, Franklin IN 46131**

***Patsy Terry, Dickensonville Rest Home, 63 Yahweh Road, Room 7, Castlewood VA 24224 276-794-7868**

***Joan Cox, Maplewood Cuyahoga Falls, 190 West Bath Road, Room 147, Cuyahoga Falls OH 44223**

I am weak but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong.

I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea

Daily walking close to thee. Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Just a Closer Walk With Thee, Anonymous



FEBRUARY 2023

February 2
Karen Ashbrook
Christina Prezzia
Dominic Prezzia

February 3
Natalie McCready

February 5
Jill Prezzia

February 7
Geneva Cole

February 8
Robert Hauch

February 9
Jason Goodrich
Mark Wilson

February 15
Lisa Scott

February 24
Gavin Harrington
Charles Polley

February 26
Martha Nelson



BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, CELEBRATIONS, & MORE



FEBRUARY 2023

February 23
Charles & Carol Shoaf

Giving thanks for our church family
who are celebrating birthdays and
anniversaries!

May God bless you with years of
happiness!

February Observances

Black History Month

Celebrating the achievements of
African Americans and the roles
played in American history.
www.blackhistorymonth.gov

American Heart Month

Understand the risk factors for
heart disease and how you can live
a heart-healthy lifestyle.
www.nhlbi.nih.gov.

Groundhog Day – February 2

If Punxatawny Phil sees his
shadow, it means 6 more weeks of
winter.



More Observances

Valentine's Day – February 14

Don't forget your honey on
Valentine's Day. The Greeting Card
Association estimates that
about 145 million cards are
exchanged.

National (Organ) Donor Day – February 14

There are over 14,000 people on wait
lists for organ transplants. Would you
like to be an organ donor?

Random Acts of Kindness Day – February 17

Do something nice for someone and
celebrate a pay-it-forward mentality.
"No act of kindness, no matter how
small, is ever wasted." Aesop

Presidents Day – February 20

Originally observing Washington's
birthday, many recognize the day to
honor all presidents.



Ash Wednesday – February 22

Observed 46 days before Easter, it
signals the start of Lent (40 days) and
the time Jesus spent in the desert. It
is a time of reflection and purification.
We remember our sins and
remember that Christ lived, died, and
was resurrected for us.



Our Church & Church Community

Pastor's Page – continued from page 1

over \$7,000 in special offerings for Disciples related ministries like Week of Compassion, Higher Education, New Church Starts, Anti-Racism/Pro-reconciliation ministries, and support for Regional and General Church ministries. With economic issues facing us all, coupled with the rising costs associated with ministry, I'm afraid the coming year will be a challenge to remain this generous. For now, I encourage us to tarry awhile in the joy of what we've been able to share this year.

William Booth is quoted as saying, "You cannot warm the hearts of people with God's love if they have an empty stomach and cold feet." Somewhere I picked up the saying, "It's hard to hear the gospel over the sound of a rumbling empty stomach." I don't know if the line is that clear between meeting someone's physical needs vs. meeting someone's spiritual needs. Just as a person is both; just as we worship God with our minds, bodies, souls and strength, we choose to live like Jesus who met the needs of people's minds, bodies, souls and strength. A ministry of wholeness is ministry to the whole person in all of life's varied circumstances.

This reflection of generosity in ministry is not a reflection on the whole of our ministry. These pages couldn't begin to describe all the ways our congregation has been present in times of crisis, a comfort in times of sorrow, a companion in times of joy, and a beacon of hope and security in the sunny and stormy days of life. Furthermore, my feeble mind could never recall all of the individual acts of gospel kindness and kingdom sharing that each one of you does, day in and day out.

What this reflection is...is a Thank You. Thank you for being you. Thank you for being salt and light. Thank you for being a part of this congregation and its ministry. Thank you for all the ways you share the gospel, and for all the resources you contribute to our collective sharing of Christ's love to a broken and hurting world.

In humble gratitude, Thank You for letting me be a part of it all.



For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

Matthew 25: 35 - 36

Baby Shower for Jesus
Clothing for the YWCA
Gleaning
Outreach donations
Week of Compassion
And much more....



Deborah's and Jael's story occurred in approximately 1125BC when Deborah was a judge of Israel. A judge, at that time, was a tribal leader and advisor in troubled times, one who had authority to settle disputes and problems, and in times of war acted as a rallying point to organize tribes and resistance.

Jael was a tent-dweller whose family were tinsmiths. They traveled to find work, and were close to the battlefield when the Israelites and Canaanites fought. Jael killed Sisera, the mighty general and military commander of the Canaanites.

Jennifer Allen will be discussing the story of Deborah and Jael from "The Women of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream.

Sources: womeninthebible.net, Judges NRSV

Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. Judges 4: 4

Students at Madison Elementary often need extra nutrition to get them through the weekend. Each weekend House of Carpenter provides:

- ♥ 2 breakfast
- ♥ 2 lunches
- ♥ 2 dinners
- ♥ 2 snacks

First Christian helps with this ministry monthly through the school year. Contact Janet for information.



A Note of Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas card exchange! Bags were found, lists and labels were created, cookies were baked and bagged, and cards were sorted, bagged, and arranged in alphabetical order. Thank you to Barbara Cole for the Cookies and Punch Fellowship Hour. Thank you to everyone who visited our church family and delivered bags to those who couldn't make it for the festivities. Hopefully, everyone enjoyed the extra fellowship experience of shared greetings! Many hands DO make for light work.

We sorted about 1543 cards which, if mailed, would have amounted to roughly \$92.00 in postage.

Recipes from the Congregation – Past and Present

We have experienced many excellent meals through the decades as a church family. Do you have a recipe that you rely on for church dinners, covered dishes, or family meals? Do you have a recipe from the "old days" of FCC? Do you have a picture of the person that shared the recipe? Please send them to me and I will add a recipe to the monthly newsletter. Share your recipes and pictures! Send them to annkglr7@gmail.com

Newsletter Submissions: Please send newsletter submissions to Ann Kogler at annkglr7@gmail.com

ELECTED DEACONS, ELDERS AND CHURCH OFFICERS WERE CALLED TO SERVE



Deacons L – R: Tina Koler, Joe Koler, Charles Polley, Kevin Shepherd, Beverly Wilson, Elaine Cole, Becky Wright, Pat Collelo



Elders at Prayer L – R: Barbara Cole, Jayne Freeman, Pam Leech, Kevin Hensley, John Parr, Alishah Hardway, Ray Kinser, Laura Leshuk

NEW DEACONS, ELDERS, AND OFFICERS

Elder (class of 2024)

Jayne Freeman and Laura Leshuk

Elder (class of 2025)

Barbara Cole, Bryan Ramsey, Kevin Hensley

Deacon (class of 2025)

Chuck Polley, Pat Collelo, Cindy Ickler, Pat Jeffers

Officers

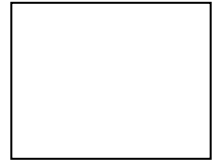
President Elect—John Parr;
Secretary—Pam Leech; Treasurer—
Jayne Freeman



Officers L – R: Jayne Freeman, Pam Leech, Janet Roset, John Parr, Bob Roset, Janet Campeti, Steve Cole



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**
1343 NATIONAL ROAD
WHEELING WV 26003



Return Service Requested

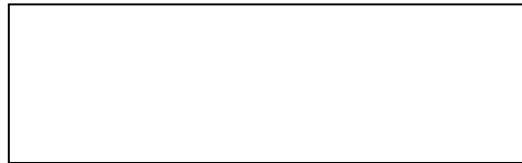
Phone

(304) 242-1520

Visit our website:

www.wheelingdisciples.org

Check in on our Facebook page at:
www.facebook.com/FCCWheeling



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**THIS IS
GOD'S HOUSE
& ALL ARE
WELCOME
HERE**

God is our light and our salvation

We will follow, unafraid, wherever God would lead us.

Let us worship our God of light and promise.

