



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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THE BEACON

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Sr. Min. Bill Platt; **Assoc. Min.** David Rorabaugh; **Youth Min.** Gage Addington

Elder Emeritus: Ron Greenway, John McKinley and Glen Noble

Elders: Don Andersen, Greg Barneburg, Scott Buerge, Don Cubbage, Doug Gammon, Wayne Jeans and Rick Jones

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Issue 2

From the Pulpit

One Sunday years ago we had over 300 people in attendance at our Sunday School. To celebrate we all gathered on the steps under the front columns and took a photo of our moment. Another time, we packed the auditorium after VBS to celebrate an unbelievable offering and, hmmm, I remember a dunking. Oh wait, we have done that every year with VBS. That is, every year we have had an offering that is unbelievable, but not had a dunking. We have so many wonderful memories at FCC.

Sunday the 20th of January is full of memories. The last Sunday of 2018, we accomplished our goal for our mission! We, as a church, believed in the efforts of our church to build relationships with God. Our offering of Miracles, which had a goal of \$20,000, totaled well over \$21,000. Then on Sunday, January 20th we planned a celebration, but God had some fun with us that day.

Just after the early service our electricity went out. That means we had no heat because it has an electric starter. That means we had no lights in the Fellowship Hall which is where we were going to have our potluck following our 10:32 service. That means all our sound, lights and music were off. Did you know that without lights the restrooms are mighty dark?

Quickly thinking, Dave put together hymns from the hymn book for our 10:30 service and Bobby played the piano. Rick and Tina led a team of people to light up candles and lanterns for our 10:32 service and Jefferson played his guitar. Our deaconesses, led by Susan and Martha, rallied to work out the details of a potluck without lighting and working stoves. Meanwhile, Shirley bundled up the babies in the nursery. Communion was served, teachers taught, and we had services.

Then, we were blessed by the Dunn family joining our church and at that moment, God even blessed us with the return of electricity. Suddenly, music played loudly over the speakers, drowning out the piano and hymn singing. Dave went flying up to the sound room to bring it all back together. Meanwhile in the Fellowship Hall, Rick declared, "turn off the lights" so the mood of beautiful worship was preserved. Then, following with flurry and anticipation, we enjoyed a celebration of worship and wonderful potluck food. This service is truly one for the memories.

Thank you all for your part in our family of FCC,
Bill



"But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." (Galatians 6:14)
"For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (I Corinthians 1:18)

YOU ARE WELCOME TO CHOIR: We meet most Sunday evenings in the sanctuary at 5:00 pm for an hour long practice. Watch your Sunday bulletins for variations. We are preparing the dramatic Easter musical titled "THE CROSS, where God's grace meets our need." We will perform for Easter, April 21st and your participation in numerous practices is important. Practice aids are provided and help is available.

If God blessed you with an ability to Sing or play an instrument helpful to worship, please get in touch with me some time so that we can include you in some way in assisting with any of the services. Thank a musician for all of their time and effort they give to help us.

Soul Sisters and **Cord Brothers** meet at 6:30 pm on the first and third Thursdays of the month. The ladies gather in the Fellowship Hall and the men meet in the Youth center. Please call the office if you need child care.

Young Adult Small Group: Monday evenings at 6:00pm with Gage.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASS FOR ADULTS, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in a verse by verse walk through the Old Testament Minor Prophets (Zechariah, then Malachi).

Because of Jesus,
David Rorabaugh

A Persecuting World

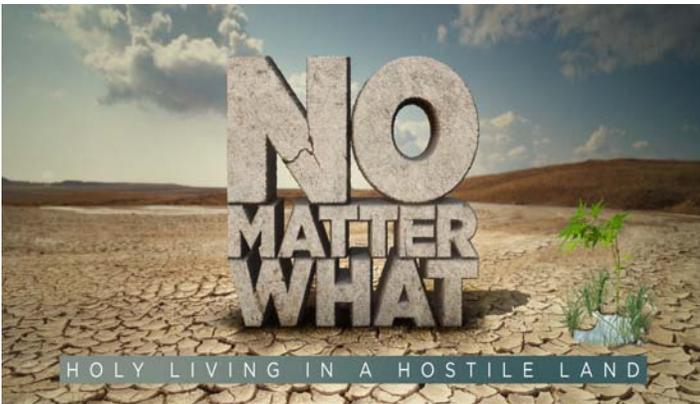
One of the reasons I stopped paying much attention to Facebook is because of all the ill-informed arguing. A few years ago, I was scrolling through my news feed when I saw a status discussing the persecuted church. The status was well-informed and very eye-opening, but there was a comment thread of people arguing that Christians aren't persecuted. Being well ingrained in the church at that point, it had never crossed my mind that people who aren't in the church have no clue that there are thousands of Christians killed every year on the basis of their faith.

According to Open Doors USA, every month there are 255 Christians killed, 104 abducted, 160 are imprisoned without trial, and 66 churches are attacked. 1 in 12 Christians in the world lives under intense persecution, and there are at least 50 countries where it is either illegal to follow Jesus, or where those in power will treat Christians poorly. Now, this is not a new concept, in fact, this is something that has been happening since the literal beginning of Christianity. The book of Acts is filled with different acts of persecution against those who follow Christ. Church history, for the majority of it, details different organizations, governments, and people groups who detest, and sometimes even kill, Christians.

Jesus, on a few occasions, warns His disciples of the coming persecution. He warns that He will be killed and that the very same fate lies in store for many of them. So what does Jesus tell them to do? Does He tell them to fight back? To stand up for themselves? Not quite. Jesus tells them, in Matthew 10:26-28, "have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell." The disciples even live this out, as we find in Acts 4:29 when they share this prayer: "And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness."

Now, I don't believe we should ask for or seek out persecution. But I do think we should stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted, and pray that they would be able to stand up under the weight of the persecution they live with. So I would like to challenge you to think and pray outward this month. Pray for those who are persecuted, and speak light into the dark world we live in with boldness.

Until He Returns,
Gage Addington



The Preaching - Teaching Convention is scheduled for February 18-20, 2019 at Ozark Christian College. Speakers include Mark Scott, Jeff Walling, Isaac Schade and Jose Heredia. Sessions include such topics as Changing Church Culture, Eldership & Staff Relationships, Discipling Grandchildren, Outlast, Leading Church & Families in a Techy World and Reaching the Next Generation. If you are interested in attending all or part of the convention please sign up on a sign up list at the Welcome Centers located in the Parlor and the Fellowship Hall. More information is available at <https://occ.edu/events-resources/preaching-teaching-convention>.

Save the date: Easter Banquet on Sunday, April 7. Instead of a Valentines Banquet, the youth will host an Easter Banquet on Sunday, April 7. So, make plans now to attend what promises to be a lovely event!

Anyone needing a ride to Sunday School/ Church in our vans, please let us know by calling the church office at 667-3540 **BEFORE NOON on FRIDAY.**



We welcome **Richard and Ashley Dunn** as new members of First Christian Church. They are transferring from Pleasanton, Kansas.



VBS 2018 will be July 28 through August 2 from 5:30 to 8:30 each evening. The first VBS meeting will be Sunday, February 17 at 1:30 pm in the Church Parlor. If you would like to participate in the planning of VBS you are invited to attend this meeting.



Sunday, February 10, we welcome representatives from ShowMe Homes. They will be here to share the message and give an update about their ministry during all three services and the Sunday School hour.

To help support our local **Community Outreach Food Pantry** we are collecting non-perishable food and dry goods. A box is in the parlor for collection.

Suggested February products: Canned tuna, canned veggies, canned fruit, jelly, pancake mix, pancake syrup, and peanut butter.

