

First Christian Church Newsletter

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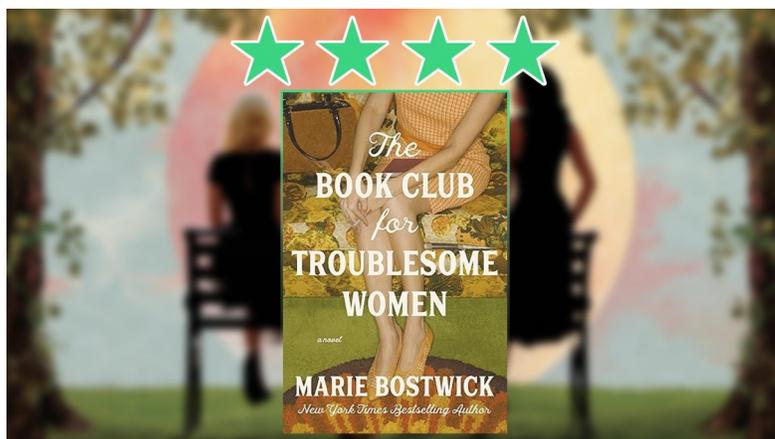
Upcoming Events

- **Sun, Mar. 22—Worship Service** at 10:45 am
Join us in person or online via Facebook and YouTube! Recurring every Sunday.
- **Tues, Mar. 24—Women's Bible Study** at 2:00 pm
Open to anyone non-binary or fem-identifying who is looking for a safe, feminine space for Bible study. A link for the Zoom meeting will be sent to everyone on the Bible Study list serv prior to the call. To be added to the Bible Study list serv, [email the church office](#).
- **Wed, Mar. 25—Lenten Study** at 7:00 pm
All members are welcomed and encouraged to join us via Zoom for the monthly Leadership Council meeting. A link will be sent to all members prior to the call. If you are a member and are not receiving member emails, please [email the church office](#).
- **Sun, Mar. 29—Worship Service** at 10:45 am
This week is Palm Sunday! Join us in person or online via Facebook and YouTube! Recurring every Sunday.
- **Tues, Mar. 31—Women's Bible Study** at 2:00 pm
Open to anyone non-binary or fem-identifying who is looking for a safe, feminine space for Bible study. A link for the Zoom meeting will be sent to everyone on the Bible Study list serv prior to the call. To be added to the Bible Study list serv, [email the church office](#).

April Book Club Details

The next meeting of the First Christian Church Book Club is on Sunday, April 12th at 2:00 PM via Zoom. This month's selection is "The Book Club for Troublesome Women" by Marie Bostwick.

We hope you will read along this month and join during the April meeting to chat over the details!



Spotlight: Tom Norwood

Welcome to the Spot-light, Patrick!

As you read you may recognize some of these questions... we are using the Proust Questionnaire as used in Vanity Fair. It is said that in answering these questions, an individual will reveal their true self! Read along and decide for yourself.)

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

Heaven. I don't believe in perfect happiness on earth.

What is your greatest fear?

I have always had a fear of losing my mind. I hope that when my time comes I still have my faculties.

What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?

Impatience. I'm not as forgiving of other's faults as I should be.

What is the trait you most deplore in others?

Inconsideration. Society works best when we look out for each other.

Which living person do you most admire?

These days, I'd have to say Barack Obama.

What is your greatest extravagance?

My car. It's the nicest car I've ever owned, and I'm really enjoying it.

What is your current state of mind?

A little frustrated about some management issues at work.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Personability. Honestly, it's often an act. But then I think that's the case with most folks.

On what occasion do you lie?

Most often when I'm simplifying something for someone.

What do you most dislike about your appearance?

I could use to lose about 60 pounds or so.

Which living person do you most despise?

Not who you'd think. Probably Mitch McConnell, who laid the groundwork for where we are.

What is the quality you most like in a person?

Intelligence. I like brains in a person.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"Well, actually..."

What or who is the greatest love of your life?

Lots of regrets there. But in reality, me and relationships work best in theory than in practice.

When and where were you happiest?

It sounds cheesy, but it's true: Here and Now.

Which talent would you most like to have?

If we include "skills" with "talents", then I wish I could play the piano.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I'd like to be 40 years younger, but still knowing what I know now.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

I think that's still to come.

If you were to die and come back as a person or a thing, what would it be?

I always thought that it would be cool to be a bear.

Where would you most like to live?

Dyer, Indiana, circa 1975. My childhood home, although it has changed a lot since then.

What is your most treasured possession?

A coffee cup. I'll tell you about it one day...

What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?

Uncertainty. Not knowing how you're going to survive is horrible.

What is your favorite occupation?

Writer. If I were starting back in my teens, I might have pursued that.

What is your most marked characteristic?

Solitude. I like and need my time alone.

What do you most value in your friends?

Low maintenance. They need to understand that I don't want to spend every moment in their company.

Who are your favorite writers?

Ray Bradbury. Harlan Ellison. Carl Sagan for non-fiction.

Who is your hero of fiction?

I love me some Sherlock Holmes.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Benjamin Franklin

Who are your heroes in real life?

Jon Stewart. Steve Martin. Neil deGrasse Tyson.

What are your favorite names?

I like "Peter", "Alex" in its various forms, and "Shannon".

What is it that you most dislike?

Early bedtimes.

What is your greatest regret?

Not leaving eastern Kentucky earlier than I did.

What is your motto?

"Wherever you go in life, there you are."



Please find the meeting notes and agenda updates from our recent Leadership Council meeting below.

Attendees

Leadership Council: Doug Baldrige, Arretta Ketron, Patrick Hunt, Jeff Nipper, and Tom Norwood.

Other Attendees: Char Bowling, Sterling and Brenda Staggs, and Larry Smith.

Financial Update

Sheri was unable to attend due to illness but provided a written report. February expenses totaled \$5,110, while income for the month was lower at \$1,500. The account balance through the end of February stands at \$13,000.

Saturday Night Dinner Update

Sheri also provided updates regarding our community meal partnerships. The other Saturday night church partners have decided to go their separate ways. Additionally, we will not be participating in the Latonia dinner opportunity as it did not meet expectations. A decision has not yet been made regarding whether to commit to feeding those at the Emergency Shelter on a quarterly basis.

Disciples Mission Fund (DMF)

First Christian Church has historically gifted 10% or more of offerings to support local ministries and our denomination through the DMF. While we gave \$8,000 in 2023, this was reduced to \$0 in 2024. However, members continue to personally allocate between \$300-\$500 per month to the fund.

Per the DMF website (<https://disciplesmissionfund.org/what-is-dmf/>), funds are distributed as follows:

- 49% – Regional Ministries
- 29% – General Ministries
- 12% – Office of General Minister and President (OGMP)
- 9% – Higher Education Institutions
- 1% – Other Ministries

Our giving estimates for 2026 are

\$50,000, though we are currently on track for approximately \$36,000. As we consider returning to a 10% tithe of our regular offerings, we need to decide whether to support the DMF exclusively or include local ministries such as the Welcome House and the Emergency Shelter. Historically, we have also supported Cane Ridge, Christian Care Communities, and the Panorama Food ministry.

Pulpit Search Committee

The Pastoral search is on-going. The committee submitted a congregational profile to Don Gillette and are awaiting next steps. All discussions that the committee has will remain confidential within the committee members.

Music Update

The Leadership Council (LC) agreed that Joanna has been a great gift to us as our musician and it was decided by the LC to extend her employment indefinitely.

Trustee Report

Doug discussed that he was added as an additional signatory to the Huntington Bank account. A decision has been made to keep no more than the FDIC limit in any of the three bank accounts (Huntington, 5/3 and US Bank). Short term CDs were purchased at Huntington, 5th/3rd, and US Bank to invest the monies from the sale of the church building. The trustees granted a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to Leticia Overton to further her studies.

Digitizing and Categorizing Church Records Update

Arretta gave a brief overview on plans to create a digital/categorical record of church records, which include membership logs, Memorial and Endowment Fund records, pictures and other church documents. Calls were placed to the Kenton County libraries in both downtown Covington and Erlanger branches with no return phone calls. Arretta discussed potentially working with Alex on capturing the records on our own. Doug will reach out to Alex to talk about this further and Arretta will

work with Alex or potentially on her own or with other members to begin this project.

Church Events and Church Service

After reaching out to Lettie, Pastor Larry recommended her to take the lead on how or if at all we should be a presence at the Northern Kentucky Pride Festival in June. We have until April 15 to sign up for either a vendor or parade participant before prices go up. A motion was put to the committee and seconded for Lettie, if she accepts, to lead this effort. Additionally, we'd like to discuss other opportunities to help those who need it in Covington and ask committee members to bring additional ideas to the next LC meeting in April.

Also, Pastor Larry felt that when viewing the service online, it was distracting to see others sitting in front behind the pastor when preaching, and it would be better to remove the front row of seats so that Alex/Richard can get the Pastor/Elder at the pulpit in view only. We will do this on Sunday to see how it looks online.

While the format of Sunday service has changed, the LC discussed that with time the service will run more fluidly and we would continue with this format. Elders and Deacons will feel more comfortable with time.

Constitution and Leadership Council Function

Doug talked about First Christian Church's constitution and the initial creation of the Leadership Council. The congregation has been severely reduced from earlier times and felt that we need to discuss whether the Leadership Council is functioning optimally as a committee. Doug will provide a copy of the constitution for the committee members so that we can provide a timeline or a framework of adhering to the constitution. This will require further discussion in upcoming LC meetings.

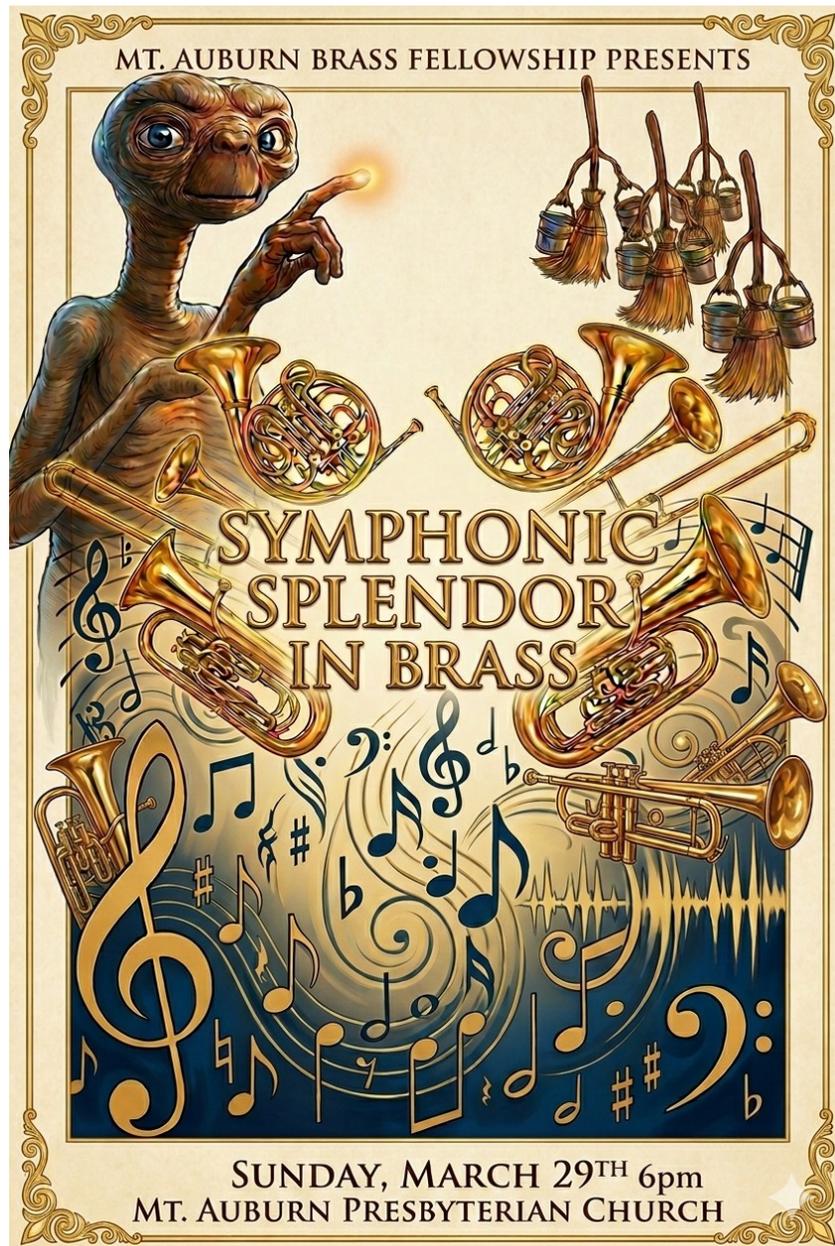
Next Leadership Council Meeting - April 8

Symphonic Splendor in Brass

As many of you know our very own Patrick Hunt plays frequently in brass bands and we have been blessed in the past to enjoy their performances in our own worship service.

If you are looking for another wonderful listening experience, check out Patrick and his fellow musicians from the Mt. Auburn Brass Fellowship on Sunday, March 29th at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church at 6:00 pm. Their performance is titled "Symphonic Splendor in Brass" and is FREE to the public.

We highly suggest adding this event to your calendar!



Prayer Requests

If there is a name that needs to be removed or added to the prayer list, please contact the church office via email at firstonfifthcc@gmail.com. Prayer request details are kept private and only first names will be published publicly for prayer. Prayer Requests will remain on the list for one month, and then will automatically be removed unless we have been asked to keep it on.

- Interim Pastor Search Committee
- Melinda
- Richard
- Ruth Ann
- Scott

Welcome wholly.
Love authentically.
Share God's grace
abundantly.



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

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