

First Christian Church Newsletter

Published 4/17/2026

Contents:

- Upcoming Events
- Congregational Meeting
- Leadership Council Meeting Notes from April
- New Book Club Selection!
- Dances and Celebrations
- Prayer Requests

Welcome wholly.

Love authentically.

Share God's grace abundantly.

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Upcoming Events

- **Tues, Apr. 21—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](mailto:email_the_church_office).
- **Sun, Apr. 26—Elders' Meeting** at 10:00 am
Meeting in the sanctuary prior to worship. Please let an Elder Co-Chair know if you cannot attend.
—**Worship Service** at 10:45 am
Join us each Sunday, in person or online, via Facebook and YouTube!
- **Tues, Apr. 28—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](mailto:email_the_church_office).
- **Sun, May 3—Worship Service** at 10:45 am
Join us each Sunday, in person or online, via Facebook and YouTube!
—**Congregational Meeting** following worship
Please see the article regarding this event for more details.

Congregational Meeting

Good News! After much diligence, the Pulpit Search Committee recommends we call Rev. Dan Kovaly as our pastor. Rev. Kovaly has been the full-time pastor at Bullitsville Christian Church for the past several years, but due to changed circumstances will become part-time there and can also serve as part-time pastor (20 hours per week) for us. In order to make this work on Sunday

mornings, we will need to adjust the time of our worship service. Our Sunday morning service will start at 10:00 AM rather than 10:45 AM. (Bullitsville has agreed to postpone their service until 11:30 AM.) Assuming the congregation approves, Rev. Kovaly will start on May 4, 2026.

A congregational meeting will take place following the morning worship service on Sunday, May 3, for the purpose of calling Rev. Dan Kovaly as our pastor.

April Leadership Council Meeting Notes

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

Attendees

Leadership Council: Doug Baldrige, Patrick Hunt, Jeff Nipper, Tom Norwood, Lettie Van Hemert, Arretta Ketron

Other Attendees: Sterling and Brenda Staggs, Larry and Marilyn Smith, Sheri Jackson

Financial Update

Sheri provided an update on the finances for the church. Expenses and income were even for March. With no changes, we will have to borrow against savings when we hire the interim pastor.

Expenses - \$4,000 including staff raises and the quarterly insurance payment

Income - \$4,000

10% Tithe and Budget

Sheri brought up the question of tithing 10% of the quarterly income and where to donate it. We discussed supporting local ministries of the food insecure, housing insecure, the elderly, the LGBTQ+ community and Welcome House or using it to support the national denomination and the Disciples Mission Fund. Pastor Larry mentioned that he regularly receives 15-20 requests for support from charitable organizations that could also be worthy of support. Sheri asked that if anyone knew of an organization that they were passionate about to speak to her and the Leadership Council for further consideration. Lettie thought that we should bring the vote of what and where to tithe to the congregation. Doug and Tom mentioned that since the congregation hasn't yet voted on a budget, we could combine the two in a congregational vote at a later date. We agreed to table the discussion for now.

Scanning of Business Records

Arretta discussed the findings from discussions that she, Hildy and Pastor Larry had separately with the Covington Branch of the Kenton County Library about the digitization, categorization and archiving of church records. Hildy met with Elaine Kuhn and Cierra Earl from the History and Genealogy department of the library to discuss how they can assist us. Doug and Hildy are temporarily storing eight boxes of materials that were moved from the church office after the sale of the building. These materials include business records, Memorial and Endowment Fund donor information, historical records that include member registries, member family pictures and various wall hangings. The library was very happy to offer three options for these materials:

- Option 1 - The library borrows all materials from the church, scans the records and returns the original to the church upon completion.
- Option 2 - The library permanently stores and archives the records in a climate-controlled environment while they remain church property.
- Option 3 - The church gifts the items to the library's permanent collection. No individual giving records would be disclosed and after 7 years the records would be destroyed. Church directories and pictures would be held for 25 years and then made public. Images of the church building and church artifacts would be made available at once.

The library is able to scan the wall hangings if we choose. **Note: Any digitized materials would become public record on the library's website, though they have stressed that no sensitive information would be digitized.**

We need to provide the library with final permission before they begin. We will begin to inform the congregation during this Sunday's ministry updates.

Pulpit Fill Search Committee

Doug updated us on the progress of hiring an interim pastor. Reverend Gillette provided the committee with 5 names of candidates. Three names were eliminated and the committee had discussions with the two remaining candidates. Discussions will continue.

Leadership Council - Constitution

Prior to the meeting, Doug emailed the members of the Leadership Council an earlier version of the constitution, which didn't include the last amendment made of the constitution, which was to create the leadership council for a trial of one year. On Thursday, Doug also emailed additional information that included a description and comparison of the original church board versus the proposed Leadership Council, minutes of the board meeting where the Leadership Council was adopted and the congregational vote by the board supporting the creation of the Leadership Council.

The Leadership Council will review this material and discuss next steps during the next Leadership Council meeting.

Johnson Control Systems

Doug provided background information about the church's relationship with Johnson Control. The church signed an initial contract with Johnson Control in 2018. The relationship has been very expensive and contentious. Several years ago during a Saturday night dinner, one of the attendees pulled the fire alarm and Johnson Control was called. The employee at Johnson Control said that the church should have been given a key for the alarm which would eliminate the need for Johnson to come out, but the church was never given a key. Instead, the church received a very high bill for the call and after many attempts to discuss the charge, no agreement to lower the bill was made. (continued -->)

...Meeting Notes continued

(...continued) Johnson Control later came to the church in good faith and said they could cut the annual cost of their services. Without broad knowledge, Pastor Tracy signed a 5 year contract which increased the rates after the first year and had a pay-out clause in the contract. After the year was up, Johnson Control has continuously raised the rates to what is now nearly \$3,000 (\$2,897/year). After the church was sold, the church contacted Johnson Control to notify them that the building was sold and the new owner would not use their services. There are 19 months left on the contract and Johnson Control has stated that they would not release the church from the contract. They informed the church that they would send the remaining debt to in-house collections. Doug will keep us informed as to how this progresses.

Pride 2026 Update

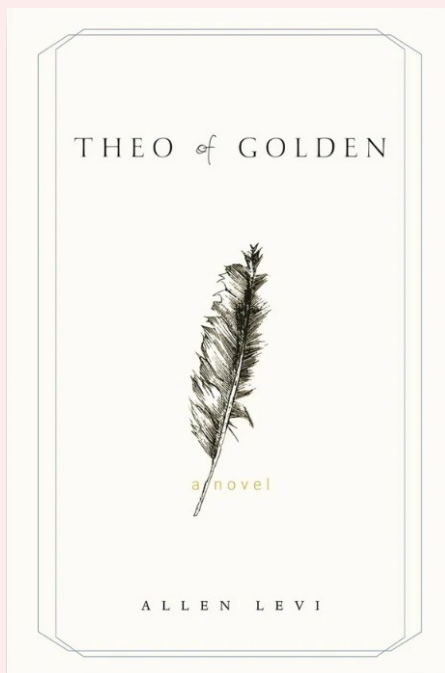
Lettie updated us on her communications with the Covington Pride committee. She reached out to secure a booth and sign the church up for the Pride parade but hasn't heard back from them to know if the application has been accepted. When she does, she will purchase a tent for the booth and let us know what is needed for next steps.

Next Leadership Council meeting will be May 13 at 7:00 p.m.

New Book Club Selection

Thank you to everyone who attended the March session of our First Christian Church Book Club! Your attendance and participation always make it a special time.

The next book voted to be our focus is "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi.



The next meeting will be via Zoom on Sunday, May 3rd at 2:00 pm. The Book Club is open to all and we would love to see you join us! If you have not attended before and would like to be added to our Book Club Email List, please contact the church office via email at firstonfifthcc@gmail.com and let me know!

Dances and Celebrations

The Westside Community Band presents "Dances & Celebrations", a spring concert that celebrates the band's 40th season at Mt. St. Joseph University! It's an exciting program of celebratory music with patriotic tributes to America's 250th birthday and dance music from around the world.

The performance will be held at Mt. St. Joseph University Theater at 5701 Delhi Road at 2:00 pm.

Make a spot on your calendar for this event you won't want to miss!



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.

- Christel
- Jeff
- Sarah
- Scott