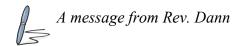


First Christian Church, Russellville, KY May 2016 Church website: www.fccrussellville.com also find us on facebook.



## Decreases

Take a minute to look at the table below. This is from the Evangelical Lutheran Churches, but it's not much different from statistics in our denomination.

Table 11: Retirements, ordinations, and the number of congregations that can afford a full-time, first-call pastor with the number of congregational clergy available to serve those congregations (actual figures through 2015, with projections for 2016 through 2019)

	Retirements	Ordinations	Difference	Congregations	Can Afford a Pastor	Number of Pastors Serving Congregations
2010	315	300	15	10,008	7,638	7,625
2011	335	297	38	9,638	7,411	7,408
2012	388	278	110	9,533	7,385	7,255
2013	447	225	222	9,464	7,365	7,062
2014	432	257	175	9,392	7,383	6,868
2015	455	249	206	9,326	7,278	6,713
2016	449	213	236	9,260	7,173	6,477
2017	436	212	224	9,194	7,069	6,253
2018	422	210	212	9,128	6,966	6,041
2019	404	207	197	9,062	6,864	5,844

In this Lutheran denomination there were decreases in:

The size of congregations

The number of members

The number of congregations

Worship attendance

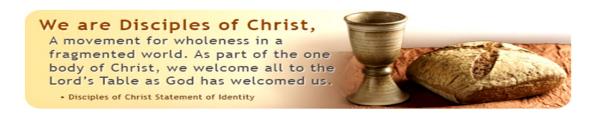
Congregational income

Available clergy (more retirements than ordinations)

Many denominations are sharing the same problems. Most congregations are sharing the same problems. So if you begin to wonder why we are where we are, remember this table and be consoled that we are not alone.

Now let me quickly add we are not without hope. Our Search Committee continues to work diligently. We need to support their work with our prayers and a positive attitude. While we await the arrival of a permanent minister, let's keep the witness and ministry of First Christian Church alive and vibrant.

## Dann



# " Wake Up America" "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet." Isaiah 58:1

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for our nation. Created in 1952, this day has continually united Americans from all socio-economic, political, and ethnic backgrounds in prayer while also encouraging personal repentance and righteousness in the culture.

The National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans and is a day that transcends differences, bringing together citizens to celebrate our most beloved freedom; the freedom to humbly come before God and seek His guidance in prayer

Sunday, May 8th



## **Board Meeting:**

Sunday, May 15th 6:00 pm



Remember - our fallen heros.
They are the reason that we are free.

## IN FLANDER'S FIELD

by John McCrae

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow, Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place; and in the sky, The larks, still bravely singing, fly, Scarce heard amid the guns below. We are the dead.

Short days ago,

We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved and were loved and now we lie, In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you, from failing hands, we throw,
The torch, be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us, who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies
grow,

In Flanders Fields.



First Christian Church

201 West 7th Street Russellville, KY 42276

Phone: 270-726-2586 fccsharon.fuller@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev Dann Masden Interim Minister Email: fccdann@gmail.com

Secretary: Sharon Fuller Moderator: Ray Clark Moderator-Elect: Billy Goley Treasurer: Ellen Nealy Secretary: Vicki Kemp

Accompanist: Martha Foster

**Berea Christian Church** will celebrate their 175th anniversary on Sunday, May 22nd with a worship service at 11 am followed by dinner, entertainment, and special program. They invite everyone to their celebration. Check your church mailbox and upcoming bulletin for more information.

## Serving in May, 2016

Elders: Billy & Gayle Goley

Deacons: Buddy & Frankie Smith, Barbara Wilkins

Greeters: Volunteers

### **Prayer Concerns:**

Danny Anderson Connie Brown David Corbin Sarah Emberger Shirley Hicks Mike Boyles Cheryl Oberhausen Victor Page Lauren Riley Stafford Mae Thompson Claire Wilson Connie Walker Ioe Schafer **David Wilkins** Henryetta Bouldin Keith Hobbs

Maydeen Bailey Tyler Foster James Page Dillon Porter Joyce Chesnut June Robinson Lois Brown

Esther Bishop
Jean Gragg
Rita Baldwin Osborne
Missy Maxwell
Bettie Williamson
Joyce Chesnut
Donna McMichaels