

The Communicator



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



A message from Rev. Dann

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

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.

• Disciples of Christ Statement of Identity



**“ 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

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Pastor: Rev Dann Masden
Interim Minister
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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	Maydeen Bailey	Esther Bishop
David Corbin	Sarah Emberger	Tyler Foster	Jean Gragg
Shirley Hicks	Mike Boyles	James Page	Rita Baldwin Osborne
Victor Page	Cheryl Oberhausen	Dillon Porter	Missy Maxwell
Lauren Riley Stafford	Mae Thompson	Joyce Chesnut	Bettie Williamson
Claire Wilson	Connie Walker	June Robinson	Joyce Chesnut
Joe Schafer	David Wilkins	Lois Brown	Donna McMichaels
Henryetta Bouldin	Keith Hobbs		