

The Communicator

First Christian Church, Russellville, KY January 2017

Church website: www.fccrussellville.com also find us on facebook



Onward Christian Changes:

August of 2017 will mark my 48th year in ministry. I've seen a lot of changes in those years! My first church out of seminary was rather formal in worship. We did processions and recessions with an old pipe organ. In one of my interim ministries, I led worship in a "sancta-na-sium." The congregation constructed a gymnasium before they built their sanctuary. So the communion table sat on the out of bounds line of the basketball court. But it was still worship.

Another congregation I served was the oldest congregation in the Disciples denomination. They had worship with a choir and a pipe organ AND they added a praise service with drums, guitars and tambourines!!

A few churches I have served used to have more people in attendance for the Sunday School hour than for the worship hour. Now churches are struggling to find alternative ways to engage in Christian Education. Many congregations offer mid-week classes on a variety of nights and on topics as varied as Christian finances and stewardship, marriage enrichment, grief support and cancer support.

All of this to say, we can stand and wish for the "good old days." Or we can dip our toes into the flowing waters of 2017 and see where God will lead us. In this new year, join us as we travel some old and tried pathways and as we explore some new and exciting adventures.

"Onward then ye people,
Join the happy throng;
Blend your voices in the triumph song.
Glory, laud and honor
Unto Christ the King
This through countless ages
Men and angels sing."

(from the hymn Onward Christian Soldiers)

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