

# The Communicator



First Christian Church, Russellville, KY March 2020

website: [www.fcrussellville.com](http://www.fcrussellville.com) find us on facebook.

I want to draw your attention to March 17th, **Saint** Patrick's Day.

So, who is St. Patrick anyway? What is interesting is that St. Patrick actually wasn't Irish! He was actually born in Britain but ended up in Ireland because he was captured as a slave. He escaped after six years and decided to study in France to become a priest. He later ended up in Ireland, but this time, as a missionary. St. Patrick went on to become a bishop in Ireland and is credited with bringing Christianity to the Irish people.

Why March 17th? March 17th was the day that St. Patrick died in the year 461. It is amazing that his example continues to affect us over 1500 years later! By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established Roman Catholic monasteries, churches, and schools. St. Patrick was actually not his real name it was Maewyn, but Pope Celestine I named him Patricius (Patrick), which means "noble" in Latin

Why the Shamrock? St. Patrick used the Shamrock as a means to teach the Christian faith. He used it as a wonderful symbol to explain the Holy Trinity, in which each petal represents each Person of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—yet at the same time, they are still One, represented by the unity of the one plant.

The History of the Day St. Patrick's Day became a feast in 1903, but their celebrations looked a lot different than they do today. In Ireland, drinking was banned on St. Patrick's Day until the 1970s. The feast day focused on attending church and having feasts together. Sadly, much of the focus today is not centered on commemorating St. Patrick himself. It was emigrants to the United States, who transformed St. Patrick's Day into a largely secular holiday of revelry and celebration. Cities with large numbers of Irish immigrants, staged the most extensive celebrations, which included elaborate parades. Boston held its first St. Patrick's Day parade in 1737, followed by New York City in 1762. Since 1962 Chicago has colored its river green to mark the holiday. (Although blue was the color traditionally associated with St. Patrick, green is now commonly connected with the day.) Irish and non-Irish alike commonly participate in the "wearing of the green"—sporting an item of green clothing or a shamrock, the Irish national plant, in the lapel. Corned beef and cabbage are associated with the holiday, and even beer is sometimes dyed green to celebrate the day. Although some of these practices eventually were adopted by the Irish themselves, they did so largely for the benefit of tourists.

So, the obvious question is why did the meaning of St Patrick's Day so drastically change? What use is there in celebrating if we have lost sight of the reason why we are celebrating? St. Patrick is honored on this day because of the impact that he had in sharing his Faith. He is an example to all Christians of someone who trusts in God and is unafraid to stand up against opposition. In a time of many differing views, we need to once again turn to St. Patrick as a man who can teach us how to speak with others about the Faith. Let us remember, as we take down the shamrock decorations, what that shamrock stands for and what is truly at the heart of this celebration. Let us remember the message it has for us. We must continue to be unafraid, to always trust in God no matter what the circumstance, and trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our daily opportunities of sharing our Faith.

*Pastor Bill*





**West Area Workshops**  
**FCC Hopkinsville**  
**March 7th 10:00 am**  
**Pastor Bill will lead**  
**Session 1**

**Board Meeting**  
**March 15th**  
**After services**



**Veterans Program**  
**at First Presbyterian**  
**Tuesday, March 31st -6pm**



**First Christian Church**  
 201 West 7th Street  
 Russellville, KY 42276  
 Phone: 270-726-2586  
 Pastor: Bill Clement

Email:  
 billclement99@yahoo.com  
 Secretary: Sharon Fuller  
 fccsharon.fuller@gmail.com

Moderator: Shannon Gorrell  
 Moderator-Elect: Gayle Goley  
 Treasurer: Ellen Nealy  
 Secretary: Vicki Kemp  
 Accompanist: Shannon Gorrell  
 Sunday School: 9:30 am  
 Worship Service: 10:45 am

*Serving in March 2020*

**Elders: Billy & Gayle Goley**  
**Deacons: Paige & Peyton Vanzant**  
**Greeters: Volunteers**

<b>Prayer Concerns:</b>			
Danny Anderson	Jean Gragg	Micky Hicks	Lana & Bud Lawson
Bob & Patricia Hedges	Donna Riley	Jean Kirkpatrick	Lauren Riley Stafford
Connie Brown	Ken Mercer	Sara Grayson	Donna Greer
Cindy & Paul	John Blandford	Lori McClure	Hunter Holloway
Charlie Cornelius	Charles Browning	George Whitson	Louise Colston
Neil Webb	Patricia Y. Bailey	Maggie Johnson	Roberta Northern
Evelyn Driver	Marshall Taylor	Jeanne Coursey	