

# The Somerset Christian

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FCC



Love God  
Love Others  
Make Disciples

## September 2020

**First Christian Church**

139 E. Main St., Somerset, PA. 15501

Phone: 814-445-8112

Office email: [fccsomerset@comcast.net](mailto:fccsomerset@comcast.net)

Pastor Brent's email: [Brent@somersetfirstchristian.org](mailto:Brent@somersetfirstchristian.org)

Website: [www.somersetfirstchristian.org](http://www.somersetfirstchristian.org)

Instagram: [fcc\\_somerset](https://www.instagram.com/fcc_somerset)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00AM**

**WORSHIP 10:00AM**

# The Shepherd's View

I trust that you are having a great summer even with all of the restrictions caused by COVID-19. Our summer has been blessed by the birth of a new grandson and beautiful weather all around. How about your summer?

Now starts a brand-new season and for the parents in the congregation I am sure you are having concerns of shipping your student age children off to school this year. You should be concerned. This is a dangerous time with the ease of spreading COVID-19. Yes, you need to be concerned but not fearful. Remember 2 Timothy 1:7, "For God did not give us the spirit of fear, but the Spirit of power, of love and a sound mind". Please rest in this message from your heavenly Father. You can be concerned, but not fearful.

Every morning before you send your children off to school, gather them all together and pray. Pray that God, through Christ protects them from COVID-19 and have each one memorize 2 Timothy 1:7. Remind them to follow the rules, wash their hands often, wear their face masks, but do not be afraid. Tell them that each and every one of them has the power of the Holy Spirit, the power of God's love and the power of a sound mind to deal with any problem or condition that occurs at school.

Parents and members of FCC need to grasp the full truth of 2 Timothy 1:7. You are not to be fearful. You do need to be concerned, but not fearful. Fear causes us to do unnatural things. You are certainly not going to wrap your child in a plastic bubble. No, don't fear, but be concerned and remember 2 Timothy 1:7. You are equipped with the power of the Holy Spirit. You know the third person of the Trinity. The same person that hovered over all creation, the wind that blew all night to make dry land for Moses and the Israelites at the Red Sea, the promise of Jesus that the Holy Spirit would be with us always. What a blessing to know that we have the power of God behind, around and through us. God's love casts out all fear. Rest in God's love. But there is still more, God has provided us with a sound mind. A mind that is not bashed around by the waves of fear, but a mind that is laser focused on our needs and concerns for today.

The prayer for parents and the rest of us is simple. Of course that is what makes the prayer so difficult. You need to just focus on the fact that God is for each and every one of us who believe in Christ and His saving power. Cast all of your fears on Jesus Christ, rest in the love of God and trust God to protect His children. God loves each of us. God's light drives out the darkness caused by the prince of darkness. Trust in Christ Jesus who died on a cross, was buried and three days later rose from the dead. Christ Jesus sits on the throne in heaven. "If God is for us, who can stand against us?" (Romans 8:31). The answer is no one.

May God the Father, Jesus the Son and God the Holy Spirit watch over you and your children as school begins this year.

Elder, Dave Ferris

**FOR GOD**  
HAS NOT GIVEN ME  
**A SPIRIT OF FEAR**  
**BUT OF** <sup>POWER</sup> **AND**  
**OF LOVE AND OF**  
**A SOUND MIND**  
2 TIMOTHY 1:7

# The Pastor's Page

I'd like to share with you my philosophy of Christian Pastoral Leadership. I have five principles to share with you. These are the five things that I'm attempting to do as your pastor.

1) A good Pastor Leader is a servant. In Christianity the way up to greatness is down to servanthood. Jesus taught it in Matthew 20:25-28, "...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve..." Think of servanthood as humble caring.

2) A good Pastor Leader spends time seeking God. In John 15:5 Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." When we spend time alone with God, we will have more wisdom and better direction to do God's work in God's way. A good pastor has a close walk with God.

3) A good Pastor Leader is continually learning. Leaders are readers. A good pastor will grow in knowledge and in skill through books, asking questions, going places, having new experiences, connecting with other pastors, and going to conferences. A good pastor is constantly trying to get to know the people in his church.

4) A good Pastor Leader sees the potential in other people. The world says, "If it is broken, I can't use it." God says, "Unless it is broken, I can't use it." God uses cracked pots. He likes humble people. He uses the rejects of the world to do his greatest work. (1 Cor. 1:27-28) Good leaders bring out the best in people. They encourage their church members to use their gifts and talents for God.

5) A good Pastor Leader is life-giving. Nehemiah was a fantastic leader. He saw the burden that was on the people in Judah and tried to make things easier for them. Listen to Nehemiah 5:14-15 (NIV): "Moreover, from the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, until his thirty-second year—twelve years—neither I nor my brothers ate the food allotted to the governor. But the earlier governors—those preceding me—placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that."



"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:28 (NLT)

I believe a Christian church should be a positive, cheerful, pleasant, and happy place. People should be excited to come into the building. There should always be something new to look forward to. The staff should think: "This is the best place in the world to work." Let's be optimistic and joyful. The people should be loving one another, loving God and having fun. I don't want to be leading a church that puts heavy burdens on people. I've worked under pastors that made the staff miserable. Growing up

in church, I heard many sermons that were dull, boring and gloomy. I believe that laughter and an upbeat attitude is the kind of atmosphere that honors Jesus. What kind of a bride do you think he wants? There's too much misery already in the world. Many worldly leaders are constantly putting pressure on their workers to get more out of them. That's not us. Kingdom leaders have an optimistic joy that flows out of their words. They don't put extra loads on people. They serve God not out of duty but out of love. Psalm 40:8 says, "I delight to do thy will, O my God." I hope that you will feel built up when you come to any event at the church. I hope you will feel loved. I hope that you will feel the joyful Spirit of God filling you and leading you into an abundant life! (John 10:10) I want us to be life-giving.

Pastor Brent Williams

# Backpack Sponsorships

As school begins, please consider supporting the Backpack Program by providing a sponsorship. In the past seven years of programs existence, we have served 403 students. The Backpack Program provides weekend food to needy students in grades Pre-K to 5 in the Somerset Area School District. Every Friday, students in the program receive a bag of food that contains items for two breakfasts, two lunches, and three dinners. Bags are distributed at Maple Ridge and Eagle View Elementary Schools.

The Backpack Program is funded by sponsorships from the congregation, teachers, and donations from community businesses and churches. All of these generous donations allowed us to provide food for 69 needy children during the 2019-2020 school years.

The cost to sponsor a child is \$25 per month or \$300 a year. We have reduced the cost of sponsorship because we are no longer providing brown bags to Mobile Ministry kids in the summer months.

The impact of the program has been significant. Students, who receive the weekly backpack of food, greatly appreciate and look forward to it. I personally experienced the gratitude of the families who received backpacks, during the "Stay at Home" order when schools were shut down, many volunteers, hand delivered the back packs to the families. I am proud to say that our ministry did not shut down!

You can make a difference in a child's life by simply providing food for the weekend when school breakfasts and lunches are not available with your sponsorship. If you would like to sponsor a child, please complete the form below and turn it into the church office with your pledge. Be sure to make your check out to FCC Backpack Program.

*"For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." Matthew 25:35 (ESV)*

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## FCC Backpack Program

\_\_\_\_ I would like to provide a full year of sponsorship for \$300. Sponsorship can be made in one lump sum or spread out over the year at \$25 a month.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to provide a one-time donation of \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to FCC Backpack Program and can be placed in the offering plate.



### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

for grades K – 5 meets in the new Children's Complex (behind the baptistry). The children are dismissed for Children's Church before offering/communion time on Sundays.

### CHILDREN'S FALL KICK OFF EVENT

Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00pm at Jake's Putt Putt in Somerset. Ice cream to follow. FCC will pay for the cost of the children. Adults will be responsible to pay your costs.



It's hard to believe that summer is over, the kids are going back to school, and we had no summer trips this year! 2020 has been filled with so many unknowns, but one thing that has stayed the same is God's provision over us. The student ministry here at FCC is in full swing with youth group every week, and the occasional pool day or day trip. This week on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> we will be taking a trip to the Que to go

swimming for the day. Students need to let me know if they will be attending so that I can adjust travel plans there! This will be from 11-3. If you haven't got a chance to check out the third-floor youth room I would encourage you to check it out in a couple weeks when we are meeting back in the building. To the students, parents, and teachers of FCC I am praying for you as you embark on a school year like no other. May God continually pour out His provisions upon your life in the midst of the unknown as you head back to school. God Bless!

## Member News

- Mary Meekins was called home on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Seth Misak, grandson of Pete & Jean Kelly was called home on August 15<sup>th</sup>.



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|----------------------------|---|
| September 6 <sup>th</sup>  | In memory of Norm Knepper's birthday.<br>In memory of Marion Picking.               |
| September 13 <sup>th</sup> | In memory of Jim Walker's birthday.<br>In memory of Rowena Pyle.                    |
| September 20 <sup>th</sup> | In memory of Harry & Marian Pyle.<br>In memory of John Bitkowski.                   |
| September 27 <sup>th</sup> | In memory of Forest & Olive Hall.<br>In memory of Mary Meekins by the congregation. |



Eleanor "Ellie" Grace Lambert. Born August 9<sup>th</sup> weighing 7 lbs. 15 oz. She was 20 inches long to Brandon & Allyn Lambert. Grandparents are Dave & Cindy Lambert.

# Church News

- **DUE TO HEALTH CONCERNS OF MEMBERS/ATTENDEES**
  - During Church service (not Sunday school) we have set aside the Golden Achievers classroom in the back of the café area for anyone with health concerns. MASKS ARE REQUIRED TO SIT IN THIS AREA DURING CHURCH SERVICE. Masks are recommended but optional for the rest of the building.
- **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES – 9:00am Sunday**
  - The 99 & Under class will meet in fellowship hall.
  - The Golden Achievers class will meet in the class in the front of the café area.
- **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**
  - Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> for Labor Day.
- **THURSDAY SMALL GROUP**
  - Meets at 7:00pm at Mike & Karen Costea's, 165 Oak Hill Dr., Friedens.
- **FRIDAY SUMMER MOVIE NIGHT AT FCC**
  - Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm, fellowship hall. Movie: The Greg Laurie Story
- **NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>**
  - The 99 & Under class will begin a series based on the book "A Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren.
  - The Women's Sunday school class will resume meeting in the classroom at the top of the stairs above the information station. We will be sharing a Lysa Terkeurst study of 1 & 2 Kings entitled "Trustworthy". Please feel free to order a copy of the book on your own if you'd like to have one, however you do not need to have a book to participate. Teachers will be Karen Costea, Tammy Minnick, Molly Meekins, & Anne Williams.
- **MONTHLY LEADERSHIP MEETING**
  - Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.
- **WOMENS HAPPENING EVENT CHANGE**
  - Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> we will meet at Jake's Putt Putt at 7:00pm for a round of mini golf followed by ice cream. Cost for putt putt is \$4.75 for adults/ seniors \$4.50.
- **T. N. T. (The FCC Dynamite Seniors)**
  - Meet Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am at King's Restaurant for a Dutch treat lunch.
- **MEN'S SKEET SHOOT**
  - The men are going to have a skeet shoot on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30am at Stonycreek Shooting Center same as last year. Please contact Bill Kaufman at 814-279-4705 to attend.

## MUSIC NEWS

Due to the current pandemic, the choir and bell choir will be delayed in their usual fall start-up. Our music director is monitoring the situation closely, reaching out to other music directors in the area to see when and how other choirs and music groups are starting back up. We are eager to get back to our usual worship in music, but we must be able to do so safely, knowing that we are not endangering others or ourselves in how we worship. Please keep an eye out in the loop and in the newsletter for any and all future updates. And as always, If you have any questions about our music programs at FCC, please contact our music director, Brandon Lambert.



**AUGUST 23, 2020 OUTDOOR SERVICE AT THE  
SHERBINE BARN**



# Called to Serve

## **SERVING AT THE TABLE**

### **Offering**

### **Communion**

9/6	Mike Costea	Dave Ferris
9/13	John Schrock	Mike Costea
9/20	Rick Marker	John Schrock
9/27	Dave Barndt	Rick Marker

## **CHILDREN'S CHURCH TEAM**

9/6	Rick Marker & Tim Baker
9/13	Christy Hay & Erin Baker
9/20	Jesse & John Landis
9/27	Matt & Sarah Rouch

## **COMMUNION PREPARATION**

9/6	Joan Graber
9/13	Peggy Wilkins
9/20	Jeff Hay
9/27	April Morocco

## **VAN MINISTRY**

9/6	Brandon Lambert
9/13	George Perras
9/20	Rick Marker
9/27	Mike Costea



# Women's Events

## **September 12, 2020, 7:00pm (EVENT CHANGE)**

- Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> we will meet at Jake's Putt Putt at 7:00pm for a round of mini golf followed by ice cream. Cost for golf: Adults/\$4.75, Seniors/\$4.50.

## **October 16, 2020, 6:30pm**

- Craft Night in the church Fellowship Hall

## **November 14, 2020, meet at church at 4:45.**

- Progressive Dinner in Berlin.

## **December 6, 2020, 5:00pm**

- Ladies Christmas Dinner Party in the Fellowship Hall

## **January 22 - 24, 2021**

- Ladies Retreat at Camp Christian (Details available in the fall)

## **February 12, 2021, 6:30pm**

- Ladies Game Night in Fellowship Hall

## **March 12, 2021, 6:30pm**

- Service Project in church Fellowship Hall

## **April 11, 2021** leave after church

- Phipps Conservatory (Details available closer to the event)

## **May 14, 2021, 6:30pm**

- Mexican Fiesta at Jesse Landis's home, 359 White Horse Rd., Berlin

