

SOUTH ELKHORN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
4343 Harrodsburg Road
Lexington, KY 40513
southelkhorncc.org
859.223.1433

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Our Staff

Michael Swartzentuber
Senior Minister

Holly Fuqua
Associate Minister

Amanda DeWitt
Student Minister

Sara Don Bailey
Ministry Intern

Chris Weiss
Music Minister

Diana Vetter
Music Intern

Stephen Daming
Pianist

Kim Skidmore
Little Elks Director

Stasia Kruse
Administrator

Jason Newton
Custodian

A family of faith united in service

Join us

Find out more inside:

Lent Schedule

Easter

Vacation Bible School

Summer Camps

Café Faith

Spring Consignment Sale

Meet Tiny Tot Coordinators

Cabinet Highlights

Financial Overview



Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM



BREATHE
Lent with the
Psalms
March 5-29

LET LOVE IN
Easter, April 17
9:00 & 10:30



SOUTH ELKHORN Quarterly Current

LENT 2017

Compromised

Michael Swartzentuber, Senior Minister

"This site may be hacked."

A Google search for South Elkhorn earlier this year turned up an ominous warning about our website. Thanks to a concerned text from Aly Partain, one of our children's coordinators, I quickly messaged Dave Johnson, our volunteer tech guru and all-around amiable guy.

Yes, he confirmed, there were "suspicious files" that had to be rooted out and cleaned up. His gentle confirmation of the truth was a strange relief. Yes, the code deflected visitors to other websites, some peddling silly vacation promotions. But now that we recognized something was wrong, we could turn over the daunting task to professionals and address it head on. I'm happy to report we are all clear now.

In our digital age, everything is susceptible to covert codes and sneaky software: from data

harvested about us as we browse the internet to help target advertising (how did you know I wanted those shoes?) to hackers cracking open credit card information from retailers. Indeed, even refrigerators and thermostats equipped with wifi (the "internet of things") were compromised to launch an intricate internet attack last October--it took down my beloved Netflix among other sites. Most people had no clue their otherwise compliant appliance was a secret breeding ground for cyber chaos.

Ash Wednesday (March 1) begins the season of Lent. This is a sacred and important season when we as individuals and as church turn to the unavoidable and disquieting truth that we are each and all compromised. If I were to look up my name on a spiritual search engine, it would read: "This soul might be hacked." There are forces and covert codes deep in our own hearts and at work in our culture



--sometimes they operate beneath our consciousness, sometimes we know they are there and feel shamefully powerless over them.

The invitation of Lent is to stand before the shocking reality that we are at once "compromised" and not destroyed--but we have to face the truth head on. We can turn over our souls to the One who roots out and cleans up, to the One who has power to dispel the shame and rework our hearts, to the One who loves us into new life with the strength to resist the "dark web." But only if we are willing to type in our name... and search.



At A Glance

Making Disciples
February 12

Week of Compassion
February 19

Ash Wednesday
March 1

Palm Sunday
April 9

Maundy Thursday
April 13

Easter Sunday
April 16

Youth Sunday
April 30

Graduation Sunday
May 7

Baby Dedications
May 14

Pentecost Sunday
June 4

This Lent

ASH WEDNESDAY
Wednesday, March 1
Lafayette Christian Church
7:00 PM

Welcome this holy season of soul preparation with song, scripture, a sermon, and the imposition of ashes.

A shared worship service with Nicholasville, Providence, and Lafayette Christian Churches. Our choir will be singing and Lon Oliver, Senior Minister at Nicholasville Christian Church preaching.



MAUNDY THURSDAY
Thursday, April 13
Historic Sanctuary
7:00 PM

A contemplative and prayerful worship service with song, scripture, and communion. Prepare your heart for the death and resurrection of Jesus through the Last Supper. Child care provided.

Easter

EASTER SUNDAY
Sunday, April 16

Two Services:
9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Nursery and Worship & Wonder for both services
No Sunday School



It can disarm guilt, shatter shame, and put the past in its place. All you have to do is make the choice to let it in. It won't be easy. It won't be quick. But it is possible and we serve a God who promises over and over again that anything is possible.

What is "it"? It is a love like no other: the very fabric of the universe, the plot of the divine drama, the hope of all that is.

Celebrate with wonder and welcome the mystery of the Risen Christ.

Children & Youth

Sunday Night Schedule

Weekly Tiny Tots, Children & Youth Programming

4:40 PM, Children's Choir
5:00 PM, Meal (Ages 2-12 grade)

5:00 PM, Activities
6:30 PM, Dismissal



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
May 30-June 2
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Discover your strength in God at Hero Central! All children ages 3-Grade 5 are invited to connect with friends old and new, grow in faith, and experience God's love! We will transform the church into super heroes as we explore the Bible through singing, crafts, science projects, recreation and more!

Registration will begin in April.

Adult volunteers are needed for a host of activities and responsibilities. Share your creativity, energy, and love with young people!

Contact Holly Fuqua at
holly@southelkhorncc.org

MISSION TRIPS 2017

Middle School
June 25-June 28
Cost \$150
Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church, Lexington, Kentucky

High School
July 16-July 21
Cost \$150
Housing Development Alliance Hazard, Kentucky

Save the Dates

| | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| March 5 | Skating Party |
| April 15 | Easter Egg Hunt |
| April 30 | Youth Sunday |
| May 7 | Graduation Sun. |
| May 14 | Baby Dedications |
| May 30 | Vacation Bible School |
| -June 2 | |

SUMMER CAMP

See dates to the right

Children and youth are invited to unplug, experience the beauty of God's creation, the wonder of forming new friendships, and grow closer to God. Camp Wakon'Da-Ho is in Casey County Kentucky.

Registration forms will be available in hard copy on the nursery counter or online at southelkhorncc.org/children. **Please return forms and checks to church office.**

At A Glance

Making Disciples Orientation
Sunday, February 12

Roller Skating Party
Sunday, March 5
5:00 PM

Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 15
9:00 AM

Youth Sunday
Sunday, April 30
10:30 AM

Vacation Bible School
May 30-June 2
6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Mission Trips 2017
Middle School
June 25-June 28

High School
July 16-July 21

Program guides with detailed information are available online at:

southelkhorncc.org/children
southelkhorncc.org/youth

Camp WaKon'Da-Ho Dates:

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| June 2-4 | Mini Camp |
| June 5-10 | CYF Camp 1 |
| June 11-17 | Eighter's Camp |
| June 19-23 | Junior Camp 1 |
| June 23-25 | Camp 101a |
| June 26-July 1 | CYF Camp 2 |
| July 3-8 | Chi Rho Camp 1 |
| July 10-14 | Junior Camp |
| July 14-16 | Camp 101b |
| July 17-22 | Chi Rho Camp 2 |

Disciples.org



Children & Youth

Holly Fuqua, Associate Minister

Mind Full or Mindful?

Think about it for a moment. Are you mind full or mindful? Are you preoccupied with worries, concerns, deadlines, or what ifs? Or are you living fully in the moment? I must admit, I am pretty mind full. I am living for tomorrow, and as I do, I am absent from the present moment. I am missing out on the here and now. It is a challenge for me to live a mindful life, but I have been working on this for a while. It is a Spiritual Practice that I will continue to nurture and nourish.

As part of this practice, every week for the past several months, I have met with a clergy group to participate in Lectio Divina. After a year in this weekly process, I was so inspired by my growth, that I decided to try this practice at South Elkhorn.

This past month, 20 church members attended our initial Lectio Divina Sunday School class. This class not only invited us to be mindful, but it invited us to open our hearts to hearing the scriptures in new ways. We listened, we shared, and we were mindful of God, each other, and the moment. Here are some of the testimonies from members of the class:



Lectio Class. I enjoyed my time to really breathe and "Be" in the class.
—Tara Cox

I found it to be quite spiritual and helpful in terms of finding inner truths about myself and also being inspired to act on certain revelations from the text that we studied. I hope that we continue to develop more spiritual studies and classes like this.
—Dale Warren

Lectio was a wonderful opportunity to pause and listen to scripture in a reflective way. Taking a reflective and focused approach allowed me the chance to dive deeply in what God might be saying in that very moment.
—Zach Fuqua

As you have read, lives were changed and transformed from this experience together. We will offer this class again in October. I hope you will consider joining this spiritual journey as we grow closer to God and to each other.

May we recognize mindfulness starts within. Each day we can practice slowing down, utilizing all of our senses, and taking time to catch our breath. May we cultivate a deep awareness of the present moment and feel more focused, energized, and grateful.

Lectio class had a very positive spiritual effect on me. Not only did it bring me a greater understanding of scripture, but it gave me time to mull things over at my own speed, which led to a greater realization of what the scripture was asking me to do in my own life.
—Teri Dickey

I learned ways to practice self-compassion and exercise curiosity about my emotions. I enjoyed the preview of our passage for Michael's sermon. I appreciated the connection to the others in our group and the intimacy that we gained from sharing.
—Jane Estep

I appreciated the time to really hear the scripture before the church service as the sermon meant more to me after attending the



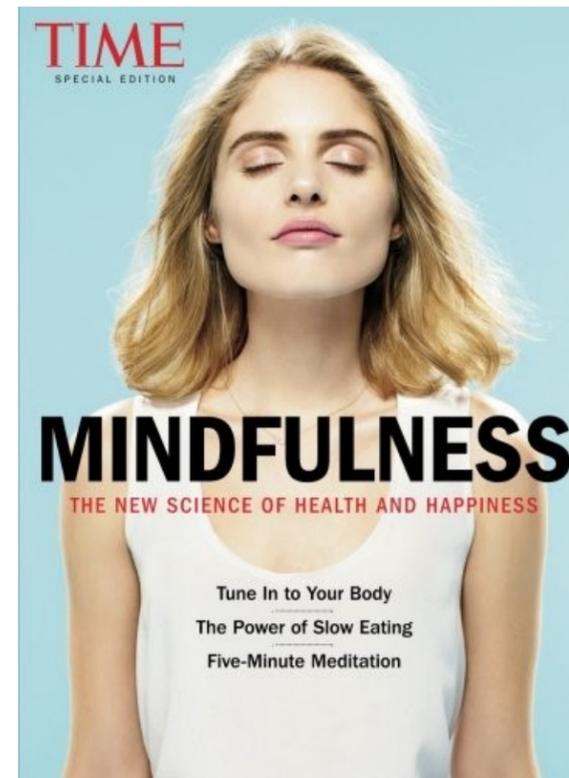
BABY DEDICATIONS Sunday, May 14, 10:30 AM

Welcome new additions to our church family as God's beautiful gift of life! If you have a baby or small child who you would like dedicated, please call the church office at 223-1433 or email admin@southelkhorncc.org.



Lent Sermon Series: March 5 - 29

Breathe In Hope, Breathe Out Fear



Café Faith: Mindfulness

Sunday, March 19
Christian Ministry Center
5:00 PM-6:30 PM

*Trapped in your own head?
Stuck struggling against yourself?
Wrestling with feelings that never seem to go away?*



Join in an experiential learning workshop to explore the spiritual power and faith-filled practice of mindfulness.

The workshop is led by Gregory Koprowski, Licensed Counselor. Learn more about Gregory and his work:

peaceinsimpleterms.com

Life Together

Kentucky Disciples Women's Spring Conference Saturday, April 29, 9:30 AM South Elkhorn Christian Church

Rev. Julie Richardson of Louisville will deliver the opening worship message. Music with Andra Moran and Sara Williams of Nashville and Deborah Garr from Paris, Kentucky. Registration forms are at Welcome Center or available online at <http://bit.ly/2jDTGfy>.

Mail your registration form and \$30 registration fee (includes lunch) no later than April 14, 2017, to the regional office at 1125 Red Mile Road, Lexington, KY 40504. Child care is available. See registration form.



Rev. Julie Richardson

Choir

Join us Sunday Nights 5:15-6:30 PM Choir Room (204)

The adult choir is an open group of singers that loves music and loves being together! This year our group is growing by leaps and bounds. We meet each Sunday evening to share Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs as well as our joys and concerns with each other. Sunday mornings we help to lead the congregation in worship and offer our gifts of praise. Come this Sunday and find out what it's all about! Child care available.



Chris Weiss
Minister of Music



DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Join a circle or group beginning the first week of the month. Find authentic community, grow in faith, and serve the world.

Martha Circle, Meet first Monday of each month
Becky Burklow, 859-494-7577

HOPE Group, Meet every Thursday
Holly Fuqua, 859-223-1433

Marys' Circle, Meet first Tuesday of each month
Phyllis Rohlf, 859-223-8989

Asher Group, Meet various dates
Laura Walsh, 859-537-4211

Priscilla Circle, Meet first Wednesday of each month,
Nancye Smith, 859-223-7246

Well Group, Meet first and third Sunday of each month,
Angie Kerrick, 859-338-5234

Children's Choir

Join us Sunday afternoons 4:40 PM, Choir Room (204) Practices: February 19, 26 March 12, 19, and 26

Children ages 5 and older are welcome! Performances will be during worship on March 5 and April 9 (Palm Sunday).



Diana Vetter
Music Intern

Life Groups

Young Adult Life Group Wednesdays, 7:00 PM

Small group experience for college age and 20 somethings. Contact Rebecca Swartzentruber at raswartzentruber@gmail.com.

Embrace Life Group Every other Thursday, 6:30 PM

A small group experience for adults who share in life together. Contact Angie Ingmire at angie.ingmire@gmail.com.

Stay Connected



TEXT MESSAGING

Do you want to receive text alerts, information, birthday wishes, and encouragements?

Using your phone text "SECC" to 40650 and follow the prompts.

Serve

SPRING CONSIGNMENT SALE March 3, 9:00 AM-8:00 PM March 4, 8:00 AM-Noon Christian Ministry Center

- If you would like to be a seller, email kidsconsignmentsale@gmail.com
- The spring sale will have spring and summer clothes. Sizes range from newborn to junior. Toys, strollers, high chairs, books, etc. are also sold at the sale.
- As a seller, you price your items, drop them off, and then pick up your unsold items along with your check on March 4.
- Proceeds help church and Little Elks.
- If you have any questions, please call Debbie Parrett at 859-533-2015 or email her at jdklafarm@aol.com.



GOD'S PANTRY

Help with God's Pantry by donating canned items. The blue barrel is located by the Christian Ministry Center kitchen.

Please do not bring products that have been opened or expired. Read more at www.godspantry.org.

SALVATION ARMY

South Elkhorn raised the second highest amount of money of all individuals and groups in this year's Red Kettle Campaign: 108 members and friends rang for 54 hours and raised \$3,110.57. This year's overall campaign raised \$550,243.96. Thank you for your support of the Kettle Campaign as it impacts the real material needs of God's people.



New Tiny Tots Leaders



Ashleigh Freda

Ashleigh grew up in Pennsylvania, then later worked for the Girl Scouts, March of Dimes, and then Retail Manager of Woodford Reserve Distillery. In 2015, she left the corporate world to focus on raising her two children, Max and

Charlotte, while also pursuing her passion in photography (fredaphotos.com).

How long have you been connected to South Elkhorn and what brought you here?

Little Elks was our first step into South Elkhorn Christian Church. Maxwell attended the 5 day Pre-K Enrichment class and we saw him soar in academics, socially, and in faith.

Did you grow up in a faith tradition?

I grew up going to a Christian and Missionary Alliance church. My parents didn't always attend church. After their divorce, I was glued to my youth minister who would pick me up for Sunday school and youth group meetings. I attended many Christian summer camps, conferences and just grew in my own faith.

What are some of your favorites?

My favorite color is pink. I am dairy-free but I love cashew milk ice cream! I enjoy blogging as *The Running Wife*. I am a runner and it's the best way to start my day (at 4:30am!). I usually run about 40 miles per week. I have a goal to run a race in every state. And, I love to cook! I am passionate about building a better community for my children and for all children. I want to make children feel safe, invited and connected to the world. I want to teach kindness.

What do you love about our church?

I love that you are invited. You can walk into our church and feel welcomed and appreciated. You can be involved even as a new member and the children's programs are the biggest reasons we became members of this church. Our kids feel safe and loved and they want to go to church. That is a blessing.

Anything else you want to share?

Our family loves adventure and having fun. There's nothing we wouldn't do to make our kids smile, like wearing matching Christmas jammies (picture above)!

Stacie Marksby

Stacie is an elementary and preschool teacher, currently a stay-at-home mom, substitute teacher, and helper with local non-profits. When not spending time with her husband (Davis), watching their growing son (Harrison) experience any and everything, or de-stressing on a walk with her two dogs, Stacie is traveling or trying new foods.



How long have you been connected to South Elkhorn and what brought you here?

We live close by and often bring our dogs to play in the field behind the church. Last year, we decided we wanted to raise our son in church and having spent so much time outside South Elkhorn we figured we should go and see what was on the inside. We visited for the first time on Easter Sunday and quickly felt that it was a place we could make ourselves at home.

Did you grow up in a religious tradition?

I grew up attending St. Luke's United Methodist Church here in Lexington with my family.

What are some of your favorites?

My favorite color is blue and my favorite team is the UK Wildcats, followed closely by the Florida Gators. I am also passionate about children and animals: I enjoy seeing the unique personalities of kids as they grow, and I would take in as many animals as I could if we had room for it.

What do you love about our church?

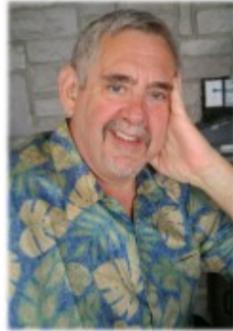
I love that everyone is welcome! It's rare to find a place that lacks judgment of one kind or another but I truly feel South Elkhorn puts all that aside and simply accepts its members for who they are. I love that it's growing, but it's not too big and it allows for more personal relationships with everyone.

Anything else you'd like to share about yourself?

My husband and I were surprised at how easy it was to connect with the church in such a short time. It's hard to believe it's been less than a year since our first Sunday. We feel very blessed to call South Elkhorn our church.

From the Cabinet

Cabinet Highlights



By John Johnson, Cabinet Moderator

It's hard to believe that we are already a month into the new year. For most of us, the wrappings and trappings of Christmas are just a memory. The manger scene has been lovingly packed away and stored for another year and the decorations and yuletide trimmings returned to their

cubbies and closets.

The new year beckons us to take inventory of our lives; to reflect and evaluate. As a church, we are challenged to do likewise; to continually reassess our purpose and vision; to prayerfully discern who and what we are as church. Scott Brown said it best at our recent Cabinet Retreat – What continues to make South Elkhorn unique? What is it that sets us apart from other churches? What makes us, us?

Our identity is integral to our vision. The Cabinet lifted up so many of the wonderful things that have shaped and continue to shape our uniqueness; Drive Thru Bethlehem, Fall Festival, Men's Breakfast, Keenagers, Music Ministry, Women's Circles, Young Adults, and Little Elks, just to name a few. One thing that was echoed over and over again was tremendous growth and energy we

are experiencing in our youth and children's ministry. However, with growth come new challenges in providing programming, space and volunteers, both on Sunday mornings and evenings. To that end, the Cabinet is working with staff to develop a vision team to identify and implement strategies to support both the short and long term needs of this expanding and energetic ministry that is shaping the lives of so many young people.

These are exciting times in the life of our church. We recently ordained eleven new elders. Our Diaconate includes many new members who have responded to the call of servant leadership. As Aden Randles, our treasurer reported, we have retired the debt on the CMC. Susan Springer is the new Personnel Committee Chairperson and is working to develop a team to guide and support the employees of our church. There are new faces in our congregation nearly every Sunday. We are a growing and vibrant congregation and a seriously friendly church.

This year we celebrate two hundred-fifty years as a continuous congregation, formed in Spottsylvania, Virginia in 1767. We plan to commemorate this milestone with a celebration, and more details will be forthcoming, but it promises to be a great day in the life of South Elkhorn.

Explore South Elkhorn

You are invited to a gathering of newcomers and curious souls. Meet ministry leaders and staff, engage in conversation, enjoy a dinner, and find your place in spiritual community. For more information or to RSVP, fill out a connection card in church or contact the church office at admin@southelkhorncc.org.

Next gathering: March 12
Meet at 5:00 PM in Room 108

Additional 2017 Dates

April 30 August 20 November 5
June 4 September 24 December 10



Financial Overview: Debt Free!

By Aden Randles, Treasurer



The turning of the calendar has led to some exciting changes in the financial life of the church. We have made several changes - implemented new church management software and church accounting software, outsourced payroll, and contracted with a new bookkeeper. Not only do these improvements allow Finance and Staff to have better user-friendly tools, but they also provide cost savings to the church. You may have noticed that we have been unable to provide weekly giving figures in the Current, and this is because we are working through some kinks associated with the systems changes that should be finalized soon.

One of the enhancements with the systems change is a more user-friendly online giving system. In addition to accepting credit/debit cards, we now have the ability to handle contributions from checking/savings accounts. Information about our new online giving system was included with the 2016 contribution statements mailed out at the end of January. For our family, online giving is a great option. We don't have to worry about remembering to bring a check with us to church, and by setting up recurring contributions, we ensure that our gifts are regular and match what we

pledged. We even get to earn rewards points on our credit card! If you are interested in setting up online giving, simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit <http://www.southelkhorncc.org/give/>
- 2) Click on the Give Online Now button,
- 3) Click on the Create Profile button, then
- 4) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

The financials for the entire year are shown in the chart below. As you can see, we were challenged by the shortfall on our pledged giving which led to us to a significant operating deficit.

Finally, I am excited to report that our 3-year capital campaign concluded at the end of 2016 and we were able to meet our goal of raising enough funds to pay off our mortgage. **We made our last payment in January and are now debt free!!** We saved thousands in interest by paying the mortgage off 5 years early. We are planning a "mortgage burning celebration" for later in the year, so be on the lookout for further details.

South Elkhorn is, and always has been, a very generous church. Thank you for your gifts, and I will continue to inform you on our finances on a regular basis.

For more information or questions please feel free to contact me: arandles@commerceprop.com or call at 859-536-4241.

2016 Financial Results

| | Actual | Expected |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Pledged Ministry | \$281,476 | \$328,938 |
| All Other Revenues | \$ 78,308 | \$ 74,472 |
| Total Revenues | \$359,784 | \$403,408 |
| Operating Expenses | \$391,898 | \$403,408 |
| Total Over/(Under) | (\$ 32,114) | \$0 |
| Mortgage Balance | \$ 4,365 | |

Little Elks Preschool

We are now gearing up for the next school year. If you have a 2, 3, or 4 year old, we would be happy to enroll your child. If you would like to know more about the school that is a ministry of South Elkhorn, I would enjoy showing you around what some have described as "a little hidden treasure." For more information contact me: kim@southelkhorncc.org or call at 223-3557.



Kim Skidmore, Little Elks Director

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

