



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

4520 Rosedale Rd.
Middletown, Ohio 45042
513.422.2853
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The Chalice Communicator

Volume XXXVXXIII

January 14, 2015

Number 1

Pastor: [Rev. Laureen A. Roe](#)

Music Director: [Rachel Eve Davis](#)

Worship Accompanist:
[Katherine Garringer](#)

Moderator: Karen Powers

Elders: Mike Cockerham
Jerry Hall
Dave Lombard
Linda Lombard
Dorice Perkins
Mike Simpson
Betty Stacy
Marilyn Strong
Sue Tarbox
Cliff Thompson

Week of Compassion

February 15 and 22 we will be collecting offerings for the Disciples strongest mission arm – Week of Compassion. For 70 years, Week of Compassion has made a difference in the lives of people and communities around the world by pooling resources, leveraging funds and serving through partnerships. Gifts given through this special offering empower people in poverty to learn a trade, raise their own food, and grow in faith. United in Christ, we help to provide access to healthy food, good education, excellent health care, and shelter after devastating storms. Each time a gift is given a connection is made that builds a bridge or tears down walls. Each resource shared answers God’s call to love our neighbor, because in Christ Jesus, we are one family. Please give generously.



Upcoming Events:

Each Sunday:

Prayer Group – 9:30 a.m.
Worship – 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study – 11:15 a.m.
Youth Choir – 11:15 a.m.

Weekly:

Wednesdays – Chancel Choir @ 6:30p.m.

Jan. 17 **Movie-“Heaven is For Real” 2PM**

Jan. 25 **Blanket Sunday**

Feb. 1 **Chili Bowl**

Feb. 4 **Ester/Rebekah Circle 1PM**

Feb. 9 **Sarah Circle @church 7PM**

Feb. 14 **Discipleship Day 3-8 PM**

Feb. 15 **“Undie” Sunday**

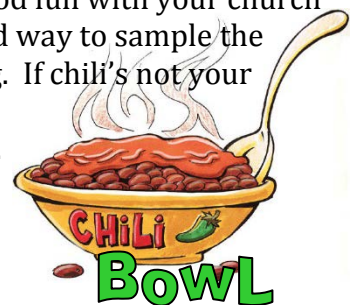
Feb. 15-16 **Chi Rho Lock In**

Feb. 16 **Elders Meeting 7PM**

Feb. 20-28 **Ohio CYF UN Seminar**

Chili Bowl

Our Annual Chili Bowl is Sunday, Feb. 1. Time to get your game on! Be ready to compete, ready to put your best pot forward. Bring your chili, bring your appetite and enjoy good fun with your church family. Muffin tins have proven to be a good way to sample the many, many pots of chili that are competing. If chili’s not your forte, bring a dessert to share. Desserts will not be judged, simply enjoyed. Donations will be received to support our CYF mission projects.



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a church dedicated to loving relationships with God & Jesus Christ, each other and the world.

Outreach Notes

Outreach giving was extremely successful during the holiday season and we are fortunate to have a congregation who believes in sharing. Thank you! We are looking forward to February 15 when we will have our annual **Undie Sunday** drive. February is the month when we will be collecting new underwear and socks for the children attending Rosa Parks Elementary School as well as the youth who reside at the Center of Hope for Women and Children (Hope House). A majority of children within our community have many ongoing needs and we look forward to taking this opportunity to help. Our goal is to overflow our blue giving tub in the narthex.

School Supply Collection

Now through February 1, we are collecting school supplies for Central Academy. Mid-way through the year many of the supplies needed are running out. Many teachers use their own money to purchase the necessary supplies. Let's help them out. Bring in any of the items below and we will deliver to Central Academy.

Items Needed:

pencils
pens
crayons
erasers
glue sticks
highlighters
spiral notebooks
loose leaf wide-ruled paper
ruled index cards
kleenex
antibacterial hand gel/soap



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Join us for a Lenten Bible Study on Wednesday mornings 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon beginning February 18. Pastor Roe will guide us through the Gospel John. Only book you need is your Bible. If you would like to participate in an evening session, please contact Pastor Roe.



SHALOM

Our second week of partnership with Christ United Methodist Church is February 15 through February 21st. During the week, we will again be hosting area homeless men and women participating in SHALOM. If you can give of your time or help prepare a meal anytime that week, please add your name to the sign up sheet in the narthex or contact Jerry Hall for more information. Thank you for your positive response and support at this very cold and critical time of the year.

On Sunday, February 22, those who have served SHALOM this year will share their experiences with the congregation. We will also take up a special offering for SHALOM.

2015 SPRING MISSION TRIP

FCC has been invited to partner with Tylersville Road Christian Church for an adult Spring Mission Trip.

Dates: March 8th - March 14th

Destination: Real Faith Christian Church, Clarksdale, Mississippi. Clarksdale is the birthplace of Sam Cooke, John Lee Hooker, Ike Turner and a host of other musicians.

Cost: \$100 for Homeland Ministries. ~\$250 for food, transportation. This could be less if we borrow a van. Additional money for food enroute.

Work projects: assisting in completion of their "new" church building.

Housing: Participants will need to bring bedding (air mattress, sheets etc.) as sleeping space is the floor of the church. There will be a shower trailer at the church.

More info: <https://www.disciplehomemissions.org/>

Trip organizer: Leroy G. Owens Jr., Tylersville Road Christian Church, owens.lg@pg.com

Please contact Pastor Roe if you Want to participate in this mission opportunity.



WORSHIP THEME TEAM

We are currently planning for Lent. If you would like to be a part of the Lent theme team or a theme team in the future, please contact Ginger Alley or Tina Yarber (Worship Ministry Co-Chairpersons). Our next Theme Team meeting will be Wednesday, January 28 at 4PM.

CWF NEWS

CWF invites the congregation to a showing of the movie **"Heaven Is For Real"** on January 17th at 2:00 pm at the church. CWF Executive Board will meet at 1:00 pm prior to the film showing. After the film, all are invited to the fellowship hall for light refreshments and discussion of the movie.

On January 25th we will have **Blanket Sunday** during our morning worship service. This fund helps families in need in our country and abroad during a crisis. We will have special envelopes available for your contributions.

On January 11th, **Hannah Circle** met for lunch in fellowship hall and put together care kits for the women at the Women's and Children's Center. We thank them for their continuing care for our community.

Sarah Circle did not meet in January, but will resume our regular meetings on February 9th. **Esther-Rebekah Circle** is continuing with their regularly scheduled meetings, and meet next on February 4th. If anyone has transportation problems getting to a circle meeting, please call your circle leaders and we will do our best to arrange transportation for you.

VALENTINE DISCIPLESHIP DAY

Come join us for another Discipleship Day full of "LOVE" on Saturday, February 14, 2015 from 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for all our children and youth, hosted by the Christian Education Team. We will have an afternoon full of fun activities and crafts. Dinner and snacks will be provided, so this gives all our "LOVE BIRD" parents a chance to go out for dinner and a movie for Valentine's Day. If you have any questions, please contact Lora Schueller or Mary Helen Shetter. Hope to see all of our youth there!!

CHI RHO LOCK-IN

February 15-16 (President's Day), our Chi Rho youth (grades 4-8) will have a lock-in 7PM – 8AM. The night will be filled with mission projects, Bible study, room decorating, games and fun.

Sympathy

Please keep the family and friends of *Pheba Bair* in your prayers. Pheba began her eternal life December 30, 2014. Services were held January 5, 2015.

We also extend our love and prayers to Natalie Byrd and her family upon the passing of her beloved step-father, *Phillip Sterling*, who began his eternal life on December 26, 2014.

Men's Rally

Men, mark your calendars. The District 8 Men's Rally is Sunday, March 1, 3:00p.m. at Central Christian Church in Kettering. Tickets are \$5. See Matt Lyons to purchase your ticket.

Newsletter Publication

The Chalice Communicator will be published once a month. February's issue will be published on February 11 with articles due to the office by Friday, Feb. 6.

In Your Prayers...

Our Home-Bound: *Kathleen Chamberlain, Mildred McEvoy, Jean Greathouse, Elisabeth Lemmert, Janet O'Neal, Sue Whitt, Leah May Wideman*

Health: *Leigha Blevins, Barbara Cessna, Tom Frebis, Lois Hafer, Vern Hicks, John Holm, Barbara Ingram, Bob Lester, Mary Bob Powers, Don Steffy, Marilyn Strong.*

Other: *Louanne Aponte, heroin epidemic, racism, war, violence, school children, school teachers, Hope House, SHALOM, The Gathering, our church, our church leaders, regional church, general church*

Statistics

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Dec. 14	53	\$2,157.00
Dec. 21	68	\$2,510.00
Dec. 24	102	\$ 367.00
Dec. 28	64	\$2,135.00
Christmas Offering		\$ 145.00
Coins4Camp		\$ 81.27

Sharing the CrossLight...

It's the season for flu, colds, pneumonia, or whatever illness is going around. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is encouraging people to wash their hands more frequently and limit physical contact with other people.

I recently received an email that listed ways the church can help keep viruses like the flu from spreading. One way is to have hand sanitizer readily available (we do). It also suggested that churches no longer shake hands, share hugs with one another, or hold hands when praying. In other words, don't express God's love to one another – refrain from extending the comfort and joy that we are called to do. *Just air hug.*

It strikes me as odd that on the day when we gather celebrating our connectedness we are being encouraged to stay away from one another. Break our connections, become isolated. In other words, don't know if someone is clean... stay far, far away! Don't get me wrong. We need to be concerned about the influenza and other illnesses, but we have to be careful we do not cut ourselves off from others. It is often those who are ill or hurting that most need to be connected. Throughout the Gospels we see many examples of Jesus reaching out to those infected with this or that.

In the very beginning of the Gospel of Mark, Jesus reaches out and touches one who no one would touch. He touched him and healed him. Chapter 1:40-42 reads, *40A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." 41 Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" 42 Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.*

You may be thinking, "Well, the flu is not leprosy." And, you are right it is not. But think about how everyone reacted a few months ago to Ebola. Very few wanted to go to the African countries where Ebola was epidemic. And many people wanted to stop those infected with Ebola from entering our country. It was not too terribly long ago that in reaction to AIDS, people were shunning others, running them out of their neighborhoods, kicking children out of school.

Ultimately, when we react in this manner we are reacting out of fear. Isolation is never the answer to fear. Reaching out with love is what Jesus did, and as followers we are called to do the same.

Our world is being stretched and pulled by fear. And, it's not only illnesses that are causing fear. Differences in race and religion have caused the extremes to flare up and react with fear, anger and violence. Last week in Paris bombs went off, bullets were fired and lives were lost. This is happening within our cities and communities as well. People are being persecuted, beaten, falsely accused, and killed. All because people are reacting in fear instead of love.

Do you remember segregated hospitals, schools, water fountains, restrooms, bus seats, schools, restaurants? In the 1960's many white Christian ministers taught that whites were the Chosen people, blacks were cursed to be servants, and God supported racial segregation. The Jim Crow laws supported their claims and churches shunned people based upon their race.

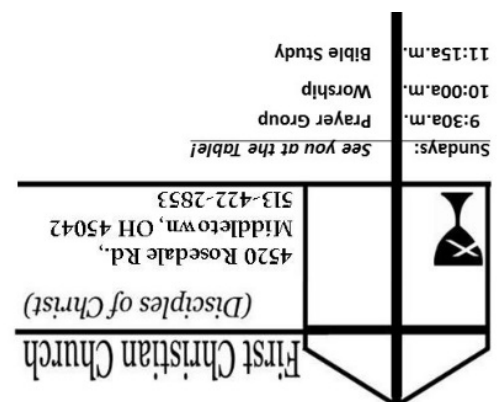
We've come a long way since the 1960s, no more are there Negro schools or hospitals. But as we look around Christ's table today, ask have we come far enough – do Martin Luther King, Jr.'s words, *"11 a.m. Sunday is the most segregated hour in America"* do these words still ring true? This is a question we need to ask ourselves... and I don't think we really like the answer. Look around... we are not diverse, we are all very similar. As we come to Christ's table each week, we are celebrating our connectedness to all other Christians. We need to acknowledge that we are isolated. This isolation points to the fear and brokenness in our world.

As Disciples of Christ, we are called to extend Christ's table to the world. We do not need to go to Africa, Paris, or even go out of state. We do not need to go very far at all. Hurting, isolated souls are all around us. Day in and day out we pass them on the roads, in the grocery store, in the senior center, at school, and at work. Ohhhh if only there were a bottle of gel that we could pass around and cause openness to occur, cause fear to subside, cause doors to open. We don't have a bottle of gel, but we do have a loaf of bread and the cup of salvation.

The flu is raising our awareness of keeping things sanitized. My prayer is that as you strive to stay healthy during this season, that you also raise your awareness of opening yourself to new connections – connections that cross racial and socio-economic lines. Connections that help to extend Christ's table to all people. And as you reach out and make those vital connections, hear the words of Jesus when he said, "Do this in remembrance of me."

with love,

Laureen ☺





Dear Church,

Thank you for your kind and generous donations to the Clothing Depot. They were much appreciated.

In Christ, Lisa Walls
Director, CWU

Dear Lauren & Church,

Tom and I appreciate so much all of the prayers which have been offered up for us. He had his 16th radiation treatment at West Chester today, and I am so proud of the way he has taken all of this these last 2 months.

I truly believe that when his total 30 treatments are completed that God will heal him. We have avoided crowds as much as possible to, hopefully, keep him well to not miss any treatments. But my thoughts and prayers are with you each day and I look forward to collecting that great hug!

with love, Janice Kash

Dear Members of Outreach Ministry and all of First Christian Church,

Thank you for your kind and generous donation of \$200.00 to SHALOM at Christ United Methodist Church. On behalf of the future SHALOM guests at Christ UMC, many thanks. Also, thanks to all members who help on hosting weeks.

~ Walker Williamson

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your generosity at Christmas. Your monetary gift and other gifts received are deeply appreciated.

I continue to be thankful for our church leadership that faithfully serve. Our Christmas and Advent Season were filled with much joy and light! Thank you for participating, celebrating and extending the love of Christ.

Following Christmas I enjoyed two weeks of vacation. These weeks were filled with much needed time with family and rest. I extend a special thank you to **Nik Donges** and **Rebecca Bowman-Woods** who filled the pulpit in my absence. Also, thanks to **Cliff Thompson** and **Dave Lombard** who served as worship leaders and hosts on these Sundays. My heart and thanks are extended to our Elders who cared for the pastoral care needs in my absence. They are a blessing to our congregation. Taking care of the business end of things were **Karen Powers** and **Larry Steele** – thank you for your leadership.

As we move into a new calendar year, I am praying for God's wisdom and vision in our midst as we faithfully move forward in ministry.

with love,

Laureen ☺

BASED ON THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY

Heaven is for Real

FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES #1 BESTSELLER
UNLOCK THE MYSTERY



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Movie Matinee
Saturday, January 17 @ 2PM
Followed by snacks and discussion