



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

4520 Rosedale Road
Middletown, OH 45042
513-422-2853
www.fcc-middletown.org

Chalice Communicator

Volume XXXVXXIII

June 17, 2015

Number 6

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

Music Director: [Rachel Eve Davis](#)

Moderator: Karen Powers

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

SEE YOU SUNDAYS:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 16 CWF Picnic @ 6PM
June 21 Mike Simpson preaching
Otter Camp begins
June 27 Otter Camp ends
June 28 Pastor Roe's last Sunday
June 29 Cabinet Meeting
July 18-22 General Assembly
in Columbus
July 20 Elders' Meeting @ 7PM
July 27 Board Meeting @ 7PM

STATISTICS:

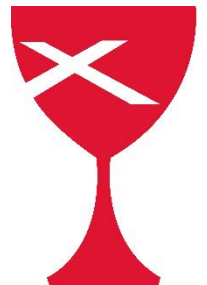
<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
May 17	64	\$1,910.80
May 24		
May 31	70	\$2,544.00
June 7	65	\$2,608.00
June 14	88	\$2,515.00



CELEBRATE MINISTRY!

On 28 June 2015, our pastor, Lauren, will lead us for the last time. Following worship, we will have a reception to celebrate the ministry Lauren and her family have done for the nine plus years they all have been a part of the family here at FCC-Middletown. In addition, the General Board feels it only fitting to show her our appreciation with a monetary gift. If you would like to contribute to this Love Offering, please send your gift to the church or place it in the offering plate by Sunday, June 21. If you write a check, make it out to First Christian Church and note that it is for Lauren's gift. Thank you so very much,
General Board of FCC-Middletown

CHURCH OFFICERS 2015-16



On Sunday, June 14 the Officers below were elected by the congregation to serve for the 2015-16 church year.

Moderator: Larry Steele
lsteel7@cinci.rr.com

Vice-Moderator: Larry Chamberlain
larry47chamberlain@yahoo.com

Secretary: Natalie Byrd
Treasurer: Marilyn Chamberlain
Financial Secretary: Tim Powers

Elders: Roger Byrd
Karen Powers

Deacons: Emily Spears
Ed Farkas
SuAnne Farkas
Brenda Milburn

Trustee: David Lombard
Historian: Don Dixon



New Member

On Sunday, May 17, **Earl Andre** came forward to rededicate his faith and join FCC-Middletown. Please hold Earl in your prayers as he joins us in ministry. Invite him to join you to your next activity. Earl's contact information: 118 Bavarian St., Apt. C Middletown, OH 45044 (513) 393-4328

Sympathy

Please keep **Dave and Linda Lombard** and their family in your prayers. Their brother-in-law, Bill, began his eternal life on Tuesday, June 9. Services were held on Tuesday, June 16 in Youngstown.

Please keep **Marilyn Strong** and her family in your prayers. Marilyn's son, Ed, began his eternal life on Tuesday, June 9. Services were held on Monday, June 15 in Sabina.

Directory Corrections

Please make the following changes in the most recently published Membership Directory: Sharon Sparks: (513) 422-6156 Betty Stacy: 1929bettystacy@gmail.com Also, review your copy for any additional corrections.

Otter Camp

June 21-27 is Otter Camp at Camp Christian. Those attending are: **Angel Dearth, Daria Dearth, and MacKenzie Lovin**. Volunteering his time as counselors are **Ginger Alley, Kelsey Byrd, Allison Byrd, and Mark Roe**. Our Pastor Lauren Roe serves as Otter Camp Director. Please keep these individuals in your prayers throughout their church camp experiences. Mail can be addressed to
Camp Christian
10335 Maple Dell Rd.
Marysville, OH 43040

Wear Yellow

On June 28, please wear yellow. It's Lauren's favorite. Wearing yellow is another way to make the day extra special, and remind us all of the joy we have shared over the years.



BELL CHOIR

Our Music Director, Rachel Eve Davis will be directing a bell choir this summer. Rehearsals will be Sundays beginning in June at 11:15AM following worship. If interested, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on bulletin board above water fountain. Come join the fun, and make a joyful noise unto our Lord.



FINANCE INFORMATION

As of June 14th, we had a total of \$96,152 in pledges for the coming fiscal year. If you have not made a pledge and wish to do so, there will be additional pledge cards available on Sunday, June 21st. Pledges may be dropped in the offering plate or put into the Treasurer's mailbox at church. Thank you to all who have made a pledge for this coming year. Offering envelopes will be available the next two Sundays in the narthex.

CWF NEWS FOR JUNE

CWF is having an end of year picnic on June 16th at Marilyn Chamberlain's home. Sarah Circle had dinner at Olive Garden on June 8th. They will again have dinner out on August 10th at a time and place to be determined.

We will be giving out our community funds this month to a local charitable organization. This will be voted on by our Executive Board.



MESSAGE FROM MODERATOR-ELECT

FCC-Middletown Congregation,

Karen Powers and I have met with Rev. Steve Bentley, Regional Associate Minister. At that meeting, we discussed how best to proceed with ministerial support after Lauren's departure. We agreed that the best approach would be to bring in an interim minister to guide us, to assist us and to lead us once we begin the search for our full-time pastor. Steve presented us with resumes of potential candidates for the position of interim minister. I met with the 2015-2016 elders (this group included Karen) and we discussed the potential candidates strengths and weaknesses as we saw them as a fit for FCC-Middletown. The Elders selected one individual that they felt might be a good fit. I have called him to discuss setting up an online interview. He informed me another church had scheduled an interview with him this weekend. I will follow-up on the results of this interview and report to the elders. Should this individual not be available, Steve Bentley informed Karen and me that he would provide additional resumes. As this is a very important stage in the future of

FCC-Middletown, we will proceed carefully to find the best individual to lead us into our next phase. I will keep you updated as we move forward.

Larry Steele
Moderator Elect

Closing a Ministry

The guidelines below come from Disciples Home Missions handbook "Closing a Ministry".

It is vitally important during the time of transition from the outgoing minister to the interim to the incoming minister that the need for closure by the congregation and minister be addressed. A healthy departure allows for evaluation, celebration, grief work, forgiveness, and preparation for the continuing pastoral care of the congregation, the departing minister and his/her family.

The close relationships that develop during one's ministry with a congregation make the process of professional separation and establishing a new relationship challenging. Clergy who have practiced the pattern of giving careful pastoral attention to the well-being of the congregation sometimes makes it difficult for clergy/congregation to let go. Thus the outgoing minister does not seek to influence the search and call process, makes a clean break with the congregation, and does not attempt to continue participating in pastoral functions such as celebrating weddings and funerals, or making pastoral hospital visits and calls unless asked to do so by the current minister. For their part, the interim minister and incoming minister commit to honoring the ministries of those who previously served the congregation.

Disciples' ethical guideline is for the outgoing minister to separate from the congregation for a period of at least one year after the arrival of the new minister.

LAUREEN'S LAST LIGHT LINES

How do I share the love that fills my heart within the limited space of this newsletter? Answer is... I simply cannot. We didn't just do ministry together. We shared our lives. Innumerable memories have been flooding my mind over the past few weeks. I think of engaging discussions in Bible studies; energizing play during Vacation Bible Schools; visiting you in hospital rooms; sharing in spirit-filled worship services; sweating alongside you on mission trips and at Camp Christian; holding hands with you in prayer; laughing with you in pure silliness and joy; and breaking bread at Christ's Table & in the Fellowship Hall. I remember Chili Bowls – *my shelf of trophies will always pay tribute*. I also think of all the baby dedications, baptisms – *Sarah Byrd was my first at FCC*; weddings – *Emily and Aaron Spears being the most recent*; and the funerals of the saints – *Geneva Whitley, George Morgan, and John Newby being the last three – what an incredible trio of saints!*

Thank you for each and every moment! I have grown not only as a pastor, but also as a person. The lessons learned and the seeds of love planted will continue to influence my life and ministry for many years to come.

Over the years, I have heard many visitors comment on how beautiful the sanctuary window is. I always agree, but then tell them that the people within the congregation are even more beautiful. In the days ahead, remember this beauty, remember the love of God, and trust the Holy Spirit will continue to guide all that you do in the name of Christ.

It has been my JOY to serve God as your pastor. Thank you! You will remain in my heart forever.

with love always,

Laureen ☺

