



First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)

4520 Rosedale Rd.  
Middletown, Ohio 45042  
513-422-2853  
www.fcc-middletown.org

# The Chalice Communicator

Volume XXXVXXII

August 20, 2014

Number 12

**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  
 Marilyn Strong  
 Sue Tarbox  
 Cliff Thompson

## Welcome Katherine Garringer

We welcome **Katherine Garringer** as our new Worship Accompanist. Katherine recently graduated from College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati with her Master's degree in Oboe Performance. She also has 7 years experience as a worship accompanist and worship leader having led in both contemporary and traditional worship styles. We are excited to welcome Katherine into our midst. Her first Sunday in worship is August 24. Please hold Katherine in your prayers as she begins her ministry with us.



## 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. (begins Sept. 7)
- August 25 Cabinet Meeting @ 7:00PM
  - August 27 Chancel Choir Begins @ 6:30PM
  - Sept. 1 Labor Day – Office Closed
  - Sept. 3 Esther-Rebekah Circle 1PM
  - Sept. 7 Youth Choir Begins @ 11:15AM
  - Sept. 8 Sarah Circle @ 7PM
  - Sept. 9 Invitation to the NT @ 7PM
  - Sept. 11 CWF Hosts Retired Teachers' Dinner @ 5:30PM
  - Sept. 14 Chi Rho Youth Group @ 12:00N
  - Sept. 15 Elders' Meeting @ 7PM
  - Sept. 22 Gen. Board Meeting @ 7PM
  - Sept. 28 Chi Rho Youth Group @ 12:00N
  - Oct. 1 Esther-Rebekah Circle 1PM
  - Oct. 5 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
  - Oct. 12 Chi Rho Youth Group @ 12:00N
  - Oct. 13 Sarah Circle @ 7PM

## Camp Christian Revisited



On Sunday, September 7 our youth who spent time at Camp Christian this summer will bring our morning message. They will share experiences and stories about their time away in this holy place. We will sing some camp songs and enjoy pictures from their camp adventures.

## Commissioning

After our youth share about Camp Christian, we will introduce and commission our Elders, Deacons, Board Members and new staff for the church year. They have answered God's call to serve, and to do so they need empowered by the Holy Spirit. Our time of prayer and rededication invites the Holy Spirit to work through their lives. Come, lift up those who have dedicated themselves to serving God & Jesus Christ, our congregation and the world.

serve.



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

## Thank You Notes

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the support you gave me during my recent illness. I truly appreciate the prayers, cards, phone calls and visits. What a blessing they were! I am grateful to have such a thoughtful, loving church family.

In Christian Love,  
Helen Dennis

*My Dear Church Family,*

*Thank you for taking such good care of me during this difficult time in my life. I know you have prepared food, moved furniture, and things I don't know about. Most of all, you have given me your prayers. Much love from me and our family. ~Helen Morgan*

To CWF,

Our family and I thank you so very much for the beautiful reception you prepared and served after our service.  
Helen Morgan

*First Christian Congregation,*

*I would like to express my thanks on behalf of the Rosa Parks staff and families for the wonderful donation of school supplies. We really couldn't do it without the help of generous people like you. ~Joy Carothers*

Dear FCC-CWF Rebekah/Esther Circle,  
The Board of Trustees of MANY acknowledges your generous gift of \$74 with our sincere thanks. This gift, along with those of others, will be used to help us meet the emergency needs of school-age children in the Middletown area.

Thank you!  
Patti Hackett, Treasurer

*Dear First Christian Church,*

*Thank you for the wonderful support you have shown the Center of Hope for Women & Children, as evidenced by providing lunch & services. Because of your generosity we are able to further our mission in bettering the lives of our women and children.*

*Sincerely,  
Melissa Schwarber, Women's Dir.*

## Outreach Notes

We would like to thank everyone who recently brought in school supplies and helped make our contribution to Rosa Parks students an overwhelming success! To continue on the theme of school starting, we are asking for **cereal, peanut butter and jelly** this month and all donations will be given to the Family Services Food Pantry in Middletown. Thank you for we appreciate your continued support.



Blessings from the Outreach Team,  
Sharon Amburgey and Judy Andrews (Co-chairs)

## Regional Church Announcement



It is with great joy that we proudly share with the Ohio Regional Church family that **The Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum** has been called to serve as the Regional Minister of the Christian Churches of Northern California-Nevada. Dr. Bynum has served with excellence as Regional Associate Pastor of the Christian Church in Ohio since June 2007. She has offered great pastoral leadership to Disciple clergy and congregations in Ohio and in very important roles to the whole church. Please hold her in prayer as she embarks on this new ministry opportunity.

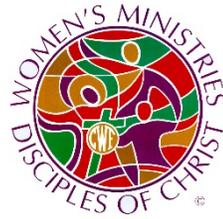
## Cleaning Service Hired

The General Board is pleased to announce that the church has hired a cleaning service to serve our janitorial needs. **Q and R Cleaning Service** began on August 1, 2014. The Q stands for "Quality" and the R stands for "Reliability". The personnel committee was very impressed with the two young owners of the business. They have offered us a reasonable price to do the job, and have been very accommodating to our needs. We are in a six month trial period with each other, and hope all will go well. The service will be under the supervision of the Property Team led by Tim Powers.



A million thanks to all of our members who FAITHFULLY cleaned our church partially or totally for up to three plus years! The church owes you all a deep debt of gratitude!

## CWF News



On August 4<sup>th</sup>, CWF Executive Board met at the church to plan next year's schedule. Our first activity will be to prepare and serve a dinner to the Middletown Retired Teachers' group at 5:30 on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Circle leaders will be contacting people to help with preparation, serving, and clean-up for the meal.

Our second activity will be a Baby Shower for the Middletown Crisis Pregnancy Center which will be a joint project with our Outreach Commission. This event will be held in October and a date will be finalized at the Cabinet meeting next week.

Our three circles will start their meetings in September. Betty Stacy and Dorice Perkins lead the Esther/Rebekah Circle, which meets at the church on the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm. Sarah Circle, led by Mary Back and Linda Poynter, meets at the church or at various members' homes on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. Hannah Circle will be led by Mary Helen Shetter and a meeting time will be announced soon. Please consider joining us for Bible study, fellowship, and opportunities to serve our church and our community.

## Sympathy

We extend our love and sympathy to the family of **John Newby** who began his eternal life on August 7. John was an Elder Emeritus and beloved member of our congregation. Per John's request no funeral service will be held. However, during worship on Sunday, September 14 we will take time to remember and celebrate this dear man. Please consider making a donation to the FCC-Memorial Fund in John's memory.

## New Member

On Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> **Darla Wiley** came forward and made her confession of faith. Please keep Darla in your prayers as she prepares for baptism. Darla's address is 1316 Pershing, Middletown, OH 45044, (513) 594-5643.

## In Your Prayers...

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

Grieving: *The family of John Newby, The family of George Morgan*

Health: *Edna Bartlett, Howard Bartlett, Caleb Blair, Leigha Blevins, Barbara Cessna, Wanda Deaton, Helen Dennis, Ralph French, Lois Hafer, John Holm, Lisa Johnson, Bob Lester.*

Other: *Heroin Epidemic, Racism, Iraq, Ebola Outbreak, school children, school teachers, Hope House, SHALOM, Camp Christian, our church, our church leaders, regional church, general church*

## Statistics

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
July 20	66	\$2,792.00
July 27	84	\$-----
August 3	104	\$2,643.00
August 10	105	\$2,981.00
August 17	72	\$-----
Coins 4 Camp	June:	\$ 84.89
	July:	\$ 72.13
	August:	\$ 75.90



## Chancel Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays @ 6:30p.m.  
Beginning August 27<sup>th</sup>

## youth CHOIR

Rehearsals begin September 7  
following worship

## Regional Assembly

Ohio Disciples are encouraged to attend the [Regional Assembly, October 16-18, 2014](#) at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel, 175 Hutchinson Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43235. This year's theme, "**Called to Go,**" is based on Mathew 28:18-19.

Our Assembly this year will be starting with a worship service on Thursday evening, October 16<sup>th</sup>, with General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins as our preacher. If you are a lay-leader or clergy, Friday's Congregational Transformation Conference will offer presentations and workshops to strengthen your leadership. Along with the many opportunities for growth, Regional Assembly offers an exciting time to renew old friendships and meet fellow Disciples of all ages.

This will be a time of sharing and celebrating the transforming work God is doing in the mission and ministry of our congregations and in our lives as people of faith. Please make your plans to be a part of this gathering of the Regional Church.

Called to Go   
Mathew 28:18-19   
2014 Regional Assembly

## Laureen's Light Lines...

The violence in our world, country and community weighs heavy on my heart. God created us so love could increase. Each bomb that is dropped, each life that is lost, each hateful word that is spoken destroys love. God's heart aches. Jesus died so that we could live.

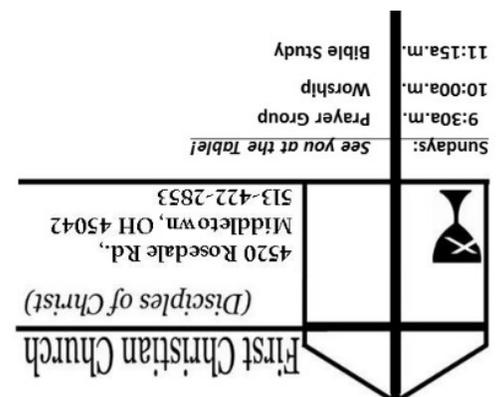
When I hear of racism destroying a community, Iraqi people terrorized, heroin taking lives in our city, and disease spreading rapidly and killing many; my heart aches. This is not living. This is not the world God envisioned when it was created. I pray, I weep, and I work to sow seeds of love. But, I wonder is that enough? Probably not.

In times like these, as Christians we need to hold one another by the hand and be a force that blasts God's love, peace and justice into the darkness. But, instead we see the numbers within churches diminish. Where are the faithful? Where are those who have lived their lives in the church? Are you there?

Lives are falling apart, crumbling, and being lost. As Christians, we have been called to be the hope, to be the light, to be the peace. We are called to sow seeds of love not just where we are comfortable, but also in places where we are uncomfortable. It's time. Let's step it up! Let's do this!

with love,

Laureen ☺





The Office of the General Minister and President  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada

For the better part of a week, the streets of Ferguson, Missouri have echoed with hopelessness, despair, grief and anger in reaction to the shooting death of Michael Brown, an 18-year old black man by white police officers. A fairly unknown suburb of St. Louis, Ferguson will now take its place in the ever lengthening list of cities where black men have died at the hands of police. In the past month alone, the national spotlight has focused on: Eric Garner, who died by asphyxiation while in an illegal choke hold by a New York City police officer; Ezell Ford, a 25-year old who was shot in the back by a Los Angeles police officer while lying on the sidewalk during a traffic stop; and John Crawford of Beaver Creek, Ohio, who was shot in the chest by police in the toy aisle of a Walmart store, while holding a BB gun sold by the store.

In the wake of these horribly repetitive tragedies, we are ever mindful of the deep loss to Michael Brown's family and the pain this incident brings to their community. We are called to pray for the Brown family, for Ferguson, for St. Louis and for our nation as we continue to search for understanding and reconciliation. We also pray for ourselves, as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), to strengthen our resolve to be a pro-reconciling, anti-racist Church, to have the courage to face the demons of our past with sincerity, and to genuinely reflect on the reality of persistent racial inequality.

The shooting death of yet another young African American man reveals the scar that systemic and institutional racism has covered loosely by legal progress, but never healed. The demonstrations as well as the unfortunate violence and looting that have occurred in the aftermath of Brown's death are less reflective of the victim's possible culpability than the reality that has been visited upon the black community as a whole for far too long. The heritage of centuries of racial disparity is fraught with complexities that can lead to hopelessness and despair that manifests in cross-cultural conflict. This is all the more reason for us to remain vigilant in our efforts to understand and seek understanding of the lived reality of our brothers and sisters across racial and cultural backgrounds. Fortified with an openness to affirm the human dignity of the whole family of God, we can effect sustainable change toward racial justice.

So, what are we doing right now? One of our pastors in the St. Louis area speaks about the privilege she has experienced in this difficult week hearing the stories of community members who have very disparate experiences and perspectives. Such sharing has led to much needed dialogue that heretofore has been difficult. Members of the community have stopped by the church to share their testimonies and concerns as well as their contributions to serve the ongoing needs of the food pantry and school supplies. This tragic event has allowed her parish to be a bridge in the community between people of different perspectives and shared desire for reconciliation.

And what can you do? Our pastors and members of the Ferguson community solicit your prayers for both peace and change. They need the courage to listen to each other and the strength to confront the stark inequalities in their community peacefully, with an eye toward justice. As Christ's disciples, we



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**The Office of the General Minister and President**  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada

stand on the foundation of our faith – hope. Without hope, despair invades our hearts. Our witness to the broad and expansive love of Christ in our willingness and witness to each other can help overcome the hopelessness in our communities, especially communities of color. It is our sustained faith and action through our hope in Christ that has brought us thus far on our way and that will lead us on. May we go forward in prayer, in faithful action and in hope.

**Sharon E. Watkins**, General Minister and President

**Timothy M. James**, Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary, National Convocation

**April G. Johnson**, Minister of Reconciliation

## INVITATION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

Explore the writings of the New Testament using the story of Jesus as the starting point. This survey of the testament looks at how the early church took ownership of and was shaped by the story of Jesus and how the church learned how to develop as disciples and create communities of faith.

This is a 10-week course. We will offer two sessions on Tuesdays (1:00p.m. and 6:30p.m.). The classes will begin on September 9. On this day, participants will receive study guides and have a brief orientation. If you would like to participate, please fill out the registration form and return it to the church office by Sunday, August 31.

Yes, I want to participate in *Invitation to the New Testament*.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail

I want to participate:

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday afternoon (1:00p.m.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday evening (6:30p.m.)

Payment of \$14 for study guide:

\_\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed

\_\_\_\_\_ I will bring to first class session

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First Christian Church, Holidays in United States

Aug 2014 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
<b>CHI RHO CAMP #3</b>						
9:30am - PRAYER						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30am - PRAYER			1pm - ESTHER-			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30am - PRAYER	7pm - SARAH CIRCLE	9:30am - JR CAMP	HOPE HOUSE 6:30pm - CHOIR			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Deacon Lunch, 12noon 9:30am - PRAYER	7pm - ELDERS MTG @	6:30pm - Worship	NEWSLETTER			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30am - PRAYER	7pm - CABINET MTG.		6:30pm - CHANCEL			
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30am - PRAYER	Labor Day LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED		1pm - ESTHER- 6:30pm - CHANCEL			