



**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

## Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service November 23 at 4:00 p.m.

Join your friends and neighbors of different denominations and faith traditions at The Episcopal Church of the Ascension (2709 Mcgee Ave) for a community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 23 at 4:00 p.m. The Rev. Sara Cutter from Zion Lutheran will be offering the sermon. There will be a combined choir from all churches participating. A collection of socks and underwear (all sizes, kids and adults) will be taken to support the Clothing Depot.

## 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:**

Tuesdays – Invitation to NT @ 1:00p.m.  
 Wednesdays – Chancel Choir @ 6:30p.m.

- Nov. 23** Chi Rho 12PM Be Aware Be Safe  
Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship  
4PM @ The Episcopal Church of the  
Ascension
- Nov. 24/25** Assemble and Pick up of  
Thanksgiving Baskets
- Nov. 27/28** Church Office Closed
- Nov. 30** Hat, Mitten and Sock Tree
- Dec. 3** Hope House Lunch 12 Noon  
Ester/Rebekah Circle 1 PM
- Dec. 6** Discipleship Day Rehearsal 9-11 AM  
Discipleship Day 11-4 PM
- Dec. 7** Children's Christmas Program
- Dec. 15** Elders Meeting 7 PM
- Dec. 18/19** Assemble and Pick up of Christmas  
Baskets

## Have a Very Hippie Christmas

On Sunday, December 7 during our regular worship at 10:00 a.m. our children and youth will be bringing us a very special Christmas message – *Have a Very Hippie Christmas*. Their unique retelling of the Christmas story will take us into a world of tie-dye, cool cats, and royal dudes. Invite your family, friends, and all who need to experience Christ's hope, peace, love and joy this Christmas.



**Rehearsals** All children and youth who want to participate in the Christmas program on December 7 need to attend rehearsals:

Sunday, Nov. 23	11:15AM – 12N	Music
Sunday, Nov. 30	11:15AM – 12N	Music
	12N – 2PM	Full program rehearsal <i>lunch included</i>
Saturday, Dec. 6	9AM – 11AM	Full program rehearsal
Sunday, Dec. 7	9AM	Run thru prior to worship

Questions? Please contact Laureen Roe, Mary Helen Shetter or Lora Schueller.

## BE SAFE – BE AWARE

Do you ever worry about the safety of the children in your life? How to protect our children and youth in our crazy world of predators, drugs, and violence is of great concern. To help our young people navigate through our world safely, we are hosting BE SAFE – BE AWARE. This event scheduled for Sunday, November, 23; 12noon -2:00p.m. will help our youth and adults look at the safety issues facing young people today. Mike Simpson (Preble County Sherriff), Matt Lyons (Law Enforcement Specialist), and Martin Schaefer (Computer/Internet Specialist) will lead this informative afternoon. Everyone is welcome. Lunch will be provided. Please invite your friends and neighbors.



## CHRISTMAS DISCIPLESHIP DAY

On Saturday, December 6, 11:00a.m. – 4:00p.m. our Christian Education Team is hosting a very special Christmas Discipleship Day. This day is for all children and youth. It will begin following the Children's program rehearsal. There will be lunch and lots of fun activities and games. Please note this gives elves (parents/grandparents) the majority of the day to take care of whatever elf duties (shopping) you have. Questions? Contact Mary Helen Shetter or Lora Schueller.

## CWF NEWS

We want to thank Hannah Circle for cleaning the kitchen at their meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Linda Poynter has also been cleaning and organizing the cabinets.

In December our circles will be having Christmas parties. Esther/Rebekah Circle will go to lunch on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Golden Lamb in Lebanon. Hannah Circle will meet December 14<sup>th</sup> for a Christmas luncheon after church at Mary Helen Shetter's house. Please RSVP to Mary Helen regarding a food item to bring. Sarah Circle will have a carry-in dinner at Zola McClish's home on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30. Please bring an item for the auction to be held after the dinner. Also, please call Zola if you plan to attend and haven't already signed up to come.





# THANK YOUs

Dear Church Family,

At this time of Thanksgiving I would be remiss in not taking this time to thank all of you for the many prayers offered up in my name during my recent surgery and recuperation. Thanks also for the many cards. A special thank you goes out to Laureen for being with my family during my surgery and for post-surgery hospital and home visits. Thank you also goes out to **Larry Steele, David and Linda Lombard** for their hospital visits. I know your prayers were heard because several days prior to surgery a calm came over me and I knew I was in the hands of God as were the doctors who would be performing the operation. I thank you again.

with all my love, Don Dixon

Thank you to the Chi Rho Group and their advisers and helpers for raking our leaves. Those who helped were **Sidney Burton, Renee Lyons, Angel and Daria Dearth** along with **Lori Burton, Matt Lyons, and Laureen & Mark Roe**. Not all was work, we had lunch and fun around a camp fire making S'mores and drinking hot chocolate.

Thanks, Don & Judy Dixon



First Christian Church CHI RHO Group,

We would like to thank you for the wonderful support you have shown the Center of Hope For Women & Children, as evidence by the donation of beautiful and wonderful coats for the children and because of your generosity we are able to further our mission in bettering the lives of our women and children here at COH. Thank you so much for being a friend to our residents.

Sincerely, Melissa Schwarber,

Women's Director, Center of Hope  
for Women & Children

Dear Church,

I want to extend my appreciation and thanks to all who helped with special Regional Assembly projects. During the weekend, I led a workshop on creative worship. I was also asked to set the worship space for the Assembly in creative ways. After creating a vision in my head, I enlisted some of you to help make it reality. Thanks to **Lora Schueller** for her creating a wall with a mountain scene that transformed into a cross. You never cease to amaze me with what you can do. Thanks to **Dave Schueller** for being Lora's right-hand man and helping to build the wall-to-cross. Thanks to **Mary Bob Powers** and **Tim Powers** for cutting out hundreds of green arrows. Thanks to **Dave and Linda Lombard** for traveling to Regional Assembly in Columbus with me to get everything set up: from putting banners together and hanging them to assembling Lora's wall-to-cross. You did it. Thanks to **Larry Steele** and his truck for picking up the foam board used for the wall-to-cross. Finally, thanks to **Mark Roe** for helping with lots of crazy stuff needed to make the workshop and creative worship stuff work. It was a very spirit-filled weekend, and I greatly appreciate all those from FCC-Middletown who gave of themselves to make it happen.

with love, Laureen ☺

## GENERAL BOARD MEETING Monday, November 24, 2014

The General Board of FCC will have its regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m., on Monday, November 24. HOWEVER, in keeping with our desire to support each other in ministry, those who are available will meet at 5 p.m. or so to assist the Worship Team with decoration of the sanctuary for Christmas. We will work, then break for pizza. Then the meeting will convene at 7 p.m., followed by some finishing up of decorating if needed. Please make every effort to attend and assist if possible.



We will once again decorate our sanctuary with poinsettias for Advent and Christmas. If you would like to purchase one in memory or in honor of a loved one, all orders must be received by Sunday, November 30. All poinsettias will be red with the following sizes:

5-7 blooms: \$10.00

12-15 blooms: \$20.00

15-20 blooms: \$30.00

Order forms will be available on Sunday morning or you can contact the church office.

### A NOTE FROM THE PROPERTY FOLKS

In 1996, our congregation dedicated the property at 4520 Rosedale Road, Middletown, Ohio to God. To that end, we are to care for it as sacred and holy. Just as we care for one another in times of great need, we are to look at the physical needs of the property.

Currently, our parking lot is in dire need of repair, and our insurance company has asked for an estimated date of repair. The parking lot needs repairs, paving with 2" of compacted asphalt, and new curbing. The Property Commission has obtained a bid for this repair. The first bid we received is \$52,500. The repairs are needed relatively soon as our parking lot may begin to crumble during another harsh winter. Crumbling would increase the costs dramatically. Money to cover this cost is not in our current budget.

Property will be discussing parking lot repairs along with other major property expenses (i.e. furnaces/AC units replacement) on the horizon with the General Board. It is likely that we will need to have a capital campaign in order to finance these major needs. Assuming the General Board votes to move forward with a capital campaign, we are going to be asking for you – our members – to commit money over and above your current pledge.

Please begin to pray as we discern how to move forward faithfully. Pray for the leaders of our church, pray for guidance in increasing your giving so we can cover these costs, and pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to dwell among us during these challenging days.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Tim Powers or Larry Steele.



## HELP OUR NEIGHBORS

Middletown schools have so many children that qualify for food assistance that all students receive free breakfast and lunch on school days. The children in our city need their neighbors to reach out. Central Academy is our church yard neighbor and they need our help. Did you know that Central Academy serves children from all over the Middletown area? They have students from more affluent neighborhoods and students from poverty stricken areas.

Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as we would love ourselves. Jesus calls us to reach out and care for the Central Academy children we have as neighbors. There are many ways you can reach out and help our neighbor – Central Academy. Volunteers are in high demand. Below is a list of ways you can plug in and help the students of Central Academy:

- Reading to and with students
- Practicing sight words through games
- Practicing math facts
- Helping students write
- Making copies in the school office
- Cutting and assembling kits for student use  
*can be done at home and returned to school*
- Helping with Day of Giving  
*at FCC during Dec. 15-19*
- Beautifying front entrance of Central Academy

If you would like to know more about being a Christ-like neighbor to Central Academy, please contact Pastor Roe. She will get you connected to the school. Pastor Roe, our Elders and Outreach Ministry Team are planning to help with a couple special events. We'll have more information on these as it becomes available.



Our snow policy for cancellation of worship is as follows: If Butler County declares a Level 2 or 3 snow emergency we will not have worship. Otherwise, we will have worship. Please use your best judgment when deciding whether you should attend. We do not want anyone risking accident or injury. If you have any concerns, it is better you stay home and be safe. Please note: we do not put a message on local television or radio. We will update our website and Facebook page. If you know someone within our congregation who does not have internet, please give them a call and share this information.

### Deacon Emeritus

On Sunday, November 16, **Lois Hafer** was ordained as a Deacon Emeritus of FCC-Middletown. Lois is the first to hold this position with our congregation. Thank you, Lois, for all the loving, Christian service you have given throughout the years.

### Wedding Bells

We celebrate with **Emily (Farkas) & Aaron Spears** who exchanged marriage vows with friends and family gathered around in our sanctuary on Saturday, November 1. Please hold Emily and Aaron in your prayers as they begin their life journey together.

### Newsletter Publication

The Chalice Communicator will be published once a month. The next publication will be on December 10. Articles are due to the office by Friday, December 5. January's issue will be published on January 14 with articles due to the office by Friday, January 9.

### In Your Prayers...

Our Home-Bound: *Pheba Bair, 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, Russ Lawson, Bob Lester, Mary Bob Powers, Don Steffy, Tina Yarber.*

Other: *Louanne Aponte, Heroin Epidemic, Racism, Ukraine, Syria, Iraq, Ebola Outbreak, school children, school teachers, Hope House, SHALOM, The Gathering, our church, our church leaders, regional church, general church*

### Statistics

	Attendance	Offering
Nov. 2	85	\$3,953.01
Nov. 9	84	\$1,342.72
Nov. 16	86	\$3,217.00
Thanksgiving		\$ 235.00

## Laureen's Light Lines...

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7, NRSV)

Thanksgiving is upon us. In Philippians, Paul tells us that we should have an attitude full of thankfulness and joy. And, through this we will receive God's peace.

This "peace" Paul promises does not come about through the absence of strife or hardship. Paul's own difficult life clearly points that out. The peace which Paul speaks about is a peace that comes from within. When you are truly connected to God through prayer, an inner peace, an inner calm washes over you. No words can explain it, but when you experience it you know that in all things you can give thanks, because God's loving peace has entered your life.

God's joy and peace cannot be seen, touched, purchased or possessed – like food, clothing, cars, boats or homes. And yet, they are the very greatest gifts we ever receive. To give thanks for the intangibles is what Paul is calling all of us to do. We are called to give thanks for everything – especially the things that are intangible. It is in thanksgiving that you can recognize that it is all about God and not about you.

In Antoine de Saint-Exupery's classic book *The Little Prince*, the fox character is saying goodbye to the little prince, and as he leaves he says, "And now here's my secret, a very simple secret: It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

"What is essential is invisible to the eye," the little prince repeats, so that he will be sure to remember. This fox's insight is right in line with what the apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

*We look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal* (2 Cor. 4:18). It is the unseen that is eternal. What is essential is invisible to the eye.

This approach to Thanksgiving runs counter to conventional wisdom, and it refuses to fall into step with the swarm of shoppers that will surge into shopping malls on Black Friday to begin the Christmas buying binge.


Paul doesn't give thanks for gold jewelry, PlayStations, leather jackets, computer tablets, or trendy toys. Throughout the scriptures, he refuses to focus on the things that can be seen, because he knows that these things are temporary.

Instead, he looks only at the essential and eternal things that are invisible to the eye. When he counts his blessings, he lists absolutely nothing you can buy, and nothing you can own - only faith, love, a spirit of wisdom, a spirit of revelation, God's inheritance, God's power.

Paul reminds us to appreciate is the immeasurable greatness of God's gifts in our lives – and give thanks for them! Whether we are rich or poor, homeowners or homeless, working or unemployed, we have access to an amazing set of essential, eternal, unseen treasures – God's love, joy and peace – all of which pass all our human understanding! When we remember these, we can honestly say to God, "Thanks for everything!"

with love,

Laureen ☺

Sundays: See you at the Table!	
9:30a.m. Prayer Group	
10:00a.m. Worship	
11:15a.m. Bible Study	
	
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