



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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

Chalice Communicator

Volume XXXVXXIII

December 15, 2015

Number 12

Interim Minister: Pastor Nik Donges

Music Director: Rachel Eve Davis

Moderator: Larry Steele

Elders: Roger Byrd
Mike Cockerham
Linda Lombard
Dorice Perkins
Karen Powers
Martin Schaefer
Betty Stacy
Marilyn Strong
Cliff Thompson

SEE YOU SUNDAYS:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesdays -Choir Practice 6:30 PM

Dec. 20	Christmas Program
Dec. 21	Elders Mtg. 7 PM
Dec. 24	Candlelight Service 7PM
Dec. 28	Cabinet Mtg. 7 PM
Jan. 3	Celebration of Epiphany

STATISTICS:

Date	Attendance	Offering
12/13/15	79	\$ NA
12/06/15	68	\$3,068.00
11/29/15	62	\$2,679.00
11/22/15	52	\$1,171.00
Thanksgiving		\$ 90.00
Coins 4 Camp		\$ 70.02

NIK'S NOOK—DECEMBER, 2015

It seems hard to believe that Christmas and the celebration of one of the most significant moments in history is upon us. Over the last three Sundays, we have explored the promise offered by the prophets, making room for Him in our hearts and lives as we recalled the inhospitality that greeted Mary and Joseph. At least they were provided with a stable where the savior of the world could be born in the lowliest of places. This past Sunday, we were reminded of that stunning announcement that came to the shepherds and their reaction of sheer joy and wonder.

This coming Sunday, we will celebrate as the children and youth share their special program with us.

All of this will come to a close when you are invited to join us for a special service of Candlelight and Communion on Christmas Eve at 7:00 p.m.

Yet it does not end there as we gather the Sunday following Christmas to continue the celebration of that sacred gift, God's Son and our Savior.

On another note, I marvel at all of your outreach efforts to serve those in need and to help make this special holiday take on a deeper meaning for those less fortunate.

Again, my deep gratitude to all of you for your love, support, and acceptance as we work together to realize God's mission for First Christian Church.

I wish all of you the most blessed and wonderful Christmas.

With His Love,
Pastor Nik

OUTREACH NEWS

True to the meaning of the Christmas season, our congregation continues to share many blessings, friendship, food, gifts, and most of all, our love. We continue to reach out by providing boxes of food to families for the holidays. We are decorating our Hats and Mitten Tree which was designed with love many years ago by John Newby. Under the tree, you will see a collection of gifts for children who reside at the Center of Hope for Women and Children (Hope House).

We continue our partnership with Christ United Methodist Church for two weeks by hosting area homeless men and women participating in SHALOM. If you can give of your time or help prepare a meal anytime between December 27 through January 2 or February 14 through February 20, please add your name to the sign up sheet in the narthex or contact each individual in the SHALOM program.

Thank you for your generosity and support of our Outreach programs! Sharon Amburgey and Linda Poynter

PRAYER LIST

Health: Leigha Blevins, Mike Blevins, Ivis Caudill, Barbara Cessna, Chuck Deaton, Tom Frebis, Lois Hafer, Phyllis Heinkel. Virginia Lorton, Bob Selby, and Rev. Don Steffy, Guy Stone

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

Others: Children and teachers, the homeless, heroin epidemic, racism, and all human rights, war, violence, S.H.A.L.O.M, our church, our congregation and our church leaders.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

12/22 Cameron Fowler
12/22 Rick Treadway
12/24 Dave Lombard
12/29 Judy Dixon
01/01 Chuck Smith
01/03 Adrienne Padich
01/10 Sharon Amburgey
01/10 Sue Whitt
01/11 Betty Stacy
01/15 Mac Burggraf
01/16 John Andrews
01/17 Mary Emery
01/19 Amy Cockerham

I'm working on keeping the birthday list updated. If I miss yours or a family member's birthday, please send me the information. Send to judylemmert@gmail.com or place note in offering plate.

DECEMBER 20th - CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On December 20th, we will have a Special Christmas Program during Worship Service. The program will showcase not only the youth of our church but the Bell Choir as well. They will tell the story of Christmas through the eyes of the donkey that carried Mary to Bethlehem and the sheep that were grazing on the hillside when the angels appeared. It should be a wonderful morning that is sure to put us all in the Christmas Spirit. Hope to see you there!

CWF NEWS

Esther/Rebekah Circle will meet on January 6, 2016 at 1:00 pm at the church. Sarah Circle will meet on January 11th at Marilyn Chamberlain's home. Hannah Circle will not meet in January, but will meet in February. Details will be announced later. Also, the CWF Executive Board will meet on Saturday, January 23rd at 10:00 am.

CWF wishes to thank our members and our church family for all of their support for our various projects throughout this past year. Our projects have included: Blanket Sunday, Blessing Boxes, the Soup and Salad Luncheon, the shower for the Middletown Community Pregnancy Center, making up Hospitality Bags for hospital patients' families, giving gifts to homeless families at Christmas, and making centerpieces for our fellowship dinners.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank Pastor Nik for his visit while I recuperated from my latest surgery. Also thanks for the cards and most for the prayers from my church family. Thank You! I am now using only a cane. I hope to not need that soon.

Thanks you again,
Guy Stone

TRANSITION TEAM

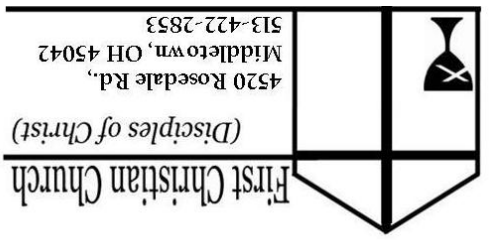
Your Transition Team met and reviewed the survey responses from the congregational meeting. As a result, the following were decided:

- Evaluate having coffee time following worship. There will be no greeting during regular worship. Membership is asked to coordinate any coffees.
- Nancy Schaefer will coordinate a sign-up sheet for members to meet for lunch following worship.
- SuAnne Farkas will coordinate a "reunion" for younger members who have graduated high school in the last 10-15 years to encourage our youth to participate.
- There will be a carry-in lunch following worship on 10 January 2016. Purpose is to begin the "Prayer Triads". More will be coming on this in the future. Transition Team will coordinate.
- We will have a "Souper Bowl" following worship on 7 February 2016. This will give members an opportunity to share a favorite soup or a chili. Prizes will be awarded.

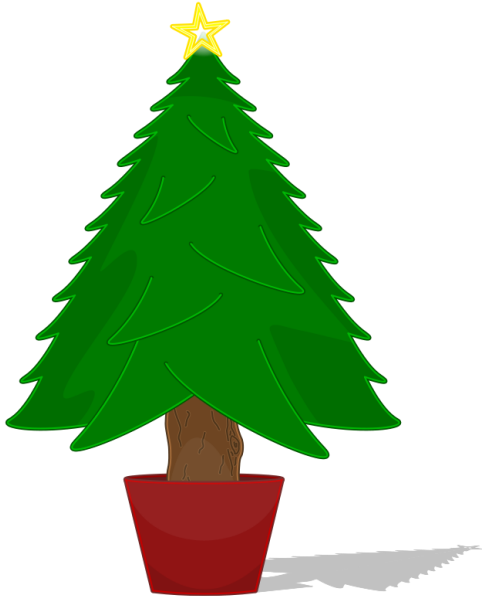
In addition to the obvious, one concern expressed in the surveys was a general lack of commitment on the part of our overall membership. Where do you fall in that thought??



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE- JANUARY 19th



MATCH THE OLD TESTAMENT MOTHERS AND BABIES



- | | |
|--------------|---------|
| 1. Rebekah | Gershom |
| 2. Ruth | Ishmael |
| 3. Eve | Joseph |
| 4. Hannah | Reuben |
| 5. Hagar | Solomon |
| 6. Rachel | Isaac |
| 7. Zipporah | Samuel |
| 8. Bathsheba | Esau |
| 9. Leah | Obed |
| 10. Sarah | Cain |

Answers in the scripture.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. Rebekah | -Genesis 25:25 |
| 2. Ruth | -Ruth 4:13-17 |
| 3. Eve | -Genesis 4:1 |
| 4. Hannah | -1 Samuel 1:19 & 20 |
| 5. Hagar | -Genesis 16:15 |
| 6. Rachel | -Genesis 30:23 & 24 |
| 7. Zipporah | - Exodus 2:21 & 22 |
| 8. Bathsheba | - 2 Samuel 12:24 |
| 9. Leah | - Genesis 29:32 |
| 10. Sarah | - Genesis 21: 2 & 3 |