



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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

Chalice Communicator

Volume XXXVXXVIII

December 20, 2016

Number 12

Interim Minister: Pastor Nik Donges

Music Director: Rachel Eve Davis

Moderator: Larry Steele

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

SEE YOU SUNDAYS:

Adult Sunday School – 9:15
Young Adult and Children’s
Sunday School – 9:30
Worship – 10:30 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesdays -Choir Practice 6:00 PM
12/24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM
12/25 Christmas Service 10:30 AM
01/04 Esther/Rebekah 1 PM
01/09 Sarah Circle 7 PM
01/16 Elder’s Mtg. 7 PM
01/29 Blanket Sunday

STATISTICS:

Date	Attendance	Offering
12/18/16	56	\$1105.00
12/11/16	63	\$3,776.00
12/04/16	52	\$3,080.00
11/27/16	65	\$1,964.00
11/20/16	60	\$1,506.00
Thanksgiving		\$135.00
Advent Booklets		\$63.00
Christmas		\$145.00

Nik’s Nook, December 2016

We celebrated a Country Christmas in our Fellowship Hall on December 18th with a variety of special music. The stage was adorned with the beautiful poinsettias and the offering and communion were observed in the usual worship format. The service ended with a special rendition of “The Twelve Days of Christmas”. Those recruited to represent each of the days did a noble job of fulfilling their role. Then all enjoyed a sumptuous carry-in dinner and the fellowship that goes along with it.

Christmas Day will be upon us by the end of this week. To that end, we will have our traditional Candlelight Communion Service on Christmas Eve at 7:00 p.m. Plan to join us for this special time of worship.

On Christmas Day, we will gather for a special time of worship and celebration at 10:30 a.m. I will be sharing with the children and all a retelling of the Christmas story in my own words. Sometimes we forget that long before there were books, computers, e-readers, and the like; the ancient stories were passed from generation to generation by word of mouth. I remember when my grandmother first shared the Christmas story with me. She did not read it. She simply told me the story and later I discovered that the scriptural records in Luke and Matthew matched her story.

I pray that all of you will have a most blessed Christmas.

I again want to reaffirm what a pleasure it is to serve as your interim pastor.

With His Love,
Pastor Nik

Prayer Concerns

Russell Lawson recently fractured bones in one of his feet as a result of diabetic neuropathy. Pauline Ginter recently spent an evening in the emergency room and is now home. Jackie Padich will be facing some additional back or neck surgery.

Take a moment to send a card to one of our special needs members: Sue Whitt, Janet O’Neal, Lea Mae Wideman, Jean Greathouse, Elizabeth Lemmert, Edna Bartlett, Kathleen Chamberlain.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Pastoral Committee has been working diligently in their search for whom God is sending us to be our next Settled Pastor. They have reviewed resumes, prioritized, and had telephone interviews. They recently had an in-person interview. On Sunday, November 27th, the General Board of First Christian Church authorized our Search Committee to begin negotiations with the candidate that they recommended. These negotiations will commence immediately following the holidays. Please continue to pray for this group of dedicated individuals and for the candidate, with whom they will negotiate.



PRAYER LIST

Health: Edna Bartlett, Leigha Blevins, Alayne Caudill, Ivis Caudill, Bill Cockerham, Chuck Deaton, Wanda Deaton, Tommy Efker, Elliott Feltner, Pauline Ginter, Barbara Gray, Jean Greathouse, Tyler Hendricks, Russ Lawson, Harry Little, Bob Selby, Betty Stacy, Rev. Don Steffy, Laurie Steffy, Guy Stone, Betty Vaughn

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

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



Dear Friends,

Tim and I wish to express our deep gratitude for all the cards, prayers, and warm hugs from all of you during my mother's illness and subsequent death. It was a difficult time, and we could not have made it through without our church family, friends Hospice of Middletown and of course, our dear Pastor Nik and Our Lord and Savior.

Much love and thanks,
Karen and Tim Powers

Dear First Christian Church,

On behalf of the Middletown Civic Chorus, I would like to thank all of you for generously allowing us to practice weekly at your church, and your generously hosting the 2016 presentation and reception of G.F. Handel's "The Messiah." All of you were so flexible and accommodating in helping us to prepare "The Messiah." I thank you from the bottom of my heart, for all of the help you extended to us.

Sincerely,
Helen E. Stevens-Gleason



Once again our congregation is showing the true spirit of Christmas through their generosity and support of Outreach programs. The Hat and Mitten Tree is being filled with colorful gloves and hats for school children. Many new toys and clothing items have been donated for Santa to provide to children in families we've adopted this holiday season. Food items have overflowed our giving baskets and will grace the dinner tables of six families on Christmas Day.

SHALOM

The word SHALOM is an acronym for "Serving the Homeless with Alternate Lodging network of Middletown," and local churches are currently providing for our area's homeless during the winter months.

We again will be partnering with Christ United Methodist Church for two weeks by hosting area homeless men and women participating in SHALOM. If you can help prepare a meal or give of your time anytime on Dec. 26th, 28th, or 30th, please add your name to the signup sheet in the narthex or contact Linda Poynter for more information. Dates for our February week will be listed in our next newsletter.

If you are unable to participate, your prayers for all those we are helping, as well as the volunteers, are very much appreciated.

CWF NEWS

CWF wishes to thank all who helped with the reception following the Messiah performance by providing food items, serving, or cleaning up. There were 206 people who attended the performance and a total of 46 choir members and musicians. Our church received several nice compliments that day.

Esther/Rebekah Circle will meet January 4th at 1:00 pm at the church. (weather permitting). Sarah Circle will meet at the church on January 9th at 7 pm.

Blanket Sunday will be held on January 29th. We will have envelopes ready a few weeks before then.

Central Academy Students

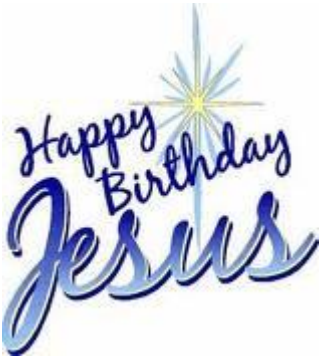
A class from Central Academy joined us on Tuesday, December 20th to help assemble luminaries, color the candle holding disks, sharpen and replace some sanctuary pencils, and fold bulletins and the newsletter. We are grateful for this continuing partnership.

FINANCE

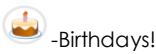
Thank you for your generous giving this past year. There will be an opportunity to give your year-end offerings on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. If you are unable to be here on either of those days, you may send your offering through the mail. Please mark on the envelope- Attention- Financial Secretary.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Guy and Jackie Stone for the donation of a wheelchair and walker.



December 2016/January 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Don't forget the Hat and Mitten tree! 		20	21 Winter Begins  Choir practice	22  Rick Treadway, Cameron Fowler	23	24  Dave Lombard Christmas Eve Service
25 Christmas 10:30 AM 	26 Serving Shalom	27	28 Choir Practice Serving Shalom	29  Judy Dixon	30 Serving Shalom	31 New Year's Eve
January 1 	2	3	4 Esther/Rebekah Circle 1 PM Choir Practice	5	6 Season of Epiphany Begins	7
8 Help needed to take decorations down in church	9 Sarah Circle @ church 7 PM	10  Sue Whitt, Sharon Amburgey	11  Betty Stacy Choir Practice	12	13	14
15	16  John Andrews Martin Luther King Day Elder's Mtg. 7 PM	17	18  Choir Practice	19	20	21
22 Reminder next Sunday is Blanket Sunday! 	23  Peggy Byrd, SuAnne Farkas	24	25  Choir Practice	26	27  Mackenzie Lovin	28

