



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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

Chalice Communicator

Volume XXXVXXVIII

July 19, 2016

Number 7

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
07/23-08/08 Pastor Nik on vacation
07/24 Board Mtg. after church
08/15 Elder Mtg. 7PM
08/21 **All Church Picnic 1 PM
@ Smith Park. There will be a sign
up for the covered dish dinner.
Bring swim attire for the Splash
Pad.**

STATISTICS:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
07/17/16	66	\$1,966.00
07/10/16	60	\$3,366.00
07/03/16	60	\$1,808.00
06/26/16	58	\$2,813.00

Nik's Nook, July 2016

This past Sunday, we had a grand celebration of what was called "Hoedown Sunday". There was some great gospel singing. Kaitlin Thompson led the children in some wonderful "kick up your heels" dancing reminiscent of the kinds of dances that our youth experience each week at church camp.

I want to call your attention to what I shared with when Jesus sent his disciples two by two to minister. I reminded you that the focus was now taken off of Jesus and directed to what his disciples could do in serving the needs of others.

That is our challenge for the days and months ahead, to truly discern the ways in which God is calling us to reach out into the wider community of Middletown. Simply because we have a building does not mean that people will flock through our doors and fill our sanctuary.

I love the words of the hymn we sometimes sing, "Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary for you." We often call the worship center of the church the sanctuary. Let us be in our own lives that place where people can meet the God within us.

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

With His Love,
Pastor Nik

Completing Our Congregational Profile

Those of you who have email access have received copies of a survey to complete and send back to the link provided. Your Search Committee hopes to complete all parts of the profile so that it can be submitted to the Regional Office in early August. The Reverend Stephen Bentley, Associate Regional Pastor, will then bring the committee their first set of candidate profiles near the end of August.

Pulpit Guests

The Reverend Stephen Bentley will be our pulpit guest on July 24th, and Cliff Thompson will be the pulpit guest on July 31st and August 6th while Pastor Nik takes some much needed vacation.

PRAYER LIST

Health: Edna Bartlett, Christy Biddle, Leigha Blevins, Ivis Caudill, Amy Cockerham, Chuck Deaton, Tommy Efker, Tom Frebis, Troy French, Pauline Ginter, Barbara Gray, Lois Hafer, Virginia Lorton, Bob Selby, Betty Stacy, Rev. Don Steffy, Laurie Steffy, Guy Stone

Jean Greathouse fell, had surgery and currently is at Sycamore Hospital.

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.



07/20 Zola McClish

07/21 Helen Morgan

07/22 Peggy Burgess

07/24 Myranda Hollan

08/03 Linda Poynter

08/03 Leah May Wideman

08/11 Kathleen Chamberlain

08/16 Travis Fowler

08/17 Guy Stone

FINANCE NEWS

Thanks to all who handed in their pledges last Sunday. We received 24 pledge cards and we are still waiting on approximately 25 more. We will have blank cards available this coming Sunday for those who have not turned in their pledges or you may mail in your card. The search committee will use the amount from the pledge campaign in order to seek our new settled pastor. We will update the congregation on the amount pledged as we receive more estimate of giving cards.

OUTREACH

Christmas in July continues for the remainder of this month as we collect toys for the children residing at Hope House. Your donation will be given to a child as a gift when he/she moves into the temporary residence at the Center of Hope for Women and Children. As we mentioned previously, many times these children enter the shelter without any possessions. A doll or toy to call their own can be extremely meaningful at this critical time in their young lives.

In August, we will again be collecting school supplies for area youth. This Outreach activity has proven to be very successful in helping children get off to a good start at the beginning of a new school year. Some suggestions include: large boxes of tissues, disinfectant wipes, antibacterial hand sanitizer, single subject notebooks, Crayola crayons (24 count), yellow #2 pencils, glue sticks and Expo dry erase markers. All of your donations may be placed in the blue Outreach tub located in the narthex.

OHIO'S SALES TAX HOLIDAY

Please remember the Ohio Free Sales Tax Weekend on August 5, 6 and 7, 2016. This legislation is an effort to help families get a little extra out of their dollars during back to school shopping season.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School was a great success. The children learned about being a fisherman for Jesus. They also learned a new song about all the critters in the band. Of course, they loved the square dancing. Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped

AN ELDER MOMENT

Your Elders continue to serve the congregation. We thank you for the opportunities to visit with you and share those anxious moments at the hospital while you and or a loved one are waiting for surgery. Remember that the hospital or rehab center will not call us when you are admitted. You or a family member needs to let us know so that we can come to visit with you while you are away. If you prefer to not have visitors, we respect your privacy, but still let us know so that we can keep you held in extra prayer during your recovery time.

Pastor Nik is taking some much deserved and overdue time off. We hope that he and his wife enjoy their time away and find that place of physical refreshment and spiritual renewal as he returns for what we hope is the home stretch of our Interim Ministry. The Elders appreciate the leadership and guidance that Pastor Nik has shared with us. During his absence, we will continue to serve you in a pastoral visiting capacity. We have Elders that are on call for hospital visits and emergencies. As I mentioned before, you need to let us know when you need us. We are not mind readers and HIPPA has our hands tied related to care facilities letting us know where you are. A phone call or email to the office will get the ball rolling.

Please keep the Donges' in your prayers for safe travels and good weather during their time away.

In His Service,

Cliff Thompson
Elder Chair

Search Committee Updates

Your search committee has met with Rev. Stephen Bentley from our Columbus office. We had a very good meeting with discussion on the time line of the search committee along with how the process will be administered. Pastor Nik met with as well, but will be one of the only meetings for him with the search committee. He is not to be a factor in determining our next settled minister, nor does he wish to influence that decision. He will be available to help answer any process questions along with Rev. Bentley, but should not be called upon to give opinions of the candidates that we are reviewing.

We have sent out a congregational survey for everyone to give us feedback. Please take these independently. Do not submit one for an entire household. We would like to have everyone's input for this process. If you need that link again you may email the office, Cliff Thompson or Larry Chamberlain and we will get it to you. There are also printed copies that you can fill in and return to the office. A member of the search committee team will get your input added to the results.

Our next meeting will be 8/1 where we will be looking over our congregational profile and collaborating on how we present ourselves to a perspective candidate. There are a few other processes to go through, but in all, we hope to have candidates to begin reviewing before the end of September. This is a very involved and confidential time for the search committee. Please accept that fact that we will not be sharing information on the candidates until we have a settled pastor to enter into negotiations with. We are not trying to be secretive, but a matter of discretion is required to protect the candidates that are searching during their active time of ministry with another congregation.

We look forward to keeping you updated on our progress and ask that as we go through this journey together that you pray for the search team that we will be open to hearing who God is calling as our next settled pastor for First Christian in Middletown. We are working diligently, but not rushing through this process.

Respectfully,

Your Search Committee/Team

HOEDOWN SUNDAY



