



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

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

Chalice Communicator

March 3, 2020

Number 2

Senior Minister:

Rev. Dr. Willie Barnes-Jackson

1st Lady/ Associate Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Pamela Barnes-Jackson

Assoc. Pastor: Rev. Connor Thompson

Stu. Assoc. Pastor: Minister Jeff Wilder

Music Director: Michael Hefner

Moderator: Roger Byrd

Elders: Sharon Amburgey

Natalie Byrd

Beth Heinkel

John Heinkel

Dave Lombard

Lora Schueller

Guy Stone

Marilyn Strong

Cliff Thompson

Karen Thompson

WELCOME TO LENT!

Can you believe that Lent is upon us? I know that I am excited for the arrival of Easter in a few weeks. As we journey through Lent together, we must remember, this is a time of reflection on our own sin and the forgiveness offered through Christ, this is a time of repentance of our Sin, this is also a time of preparation to prepare for the return of Christ as we remember his resurrection from the tomb.

We have exciting energy in the church right now! We have new people visiting regularly, both from the immediate neighborhood as well as from around the area. We have a youth program that is doing exciting things, we have Scouts in our new Venturing Crew that are meeting each week. All of these are all exciting things. This is just the beginning!

As we get closer to Easter, Easter weekend will be busy!

-Join us on Good Friday April 10th at 6:30 p.m. as we host the Community Good Friday Service for the Middletown Area Ministerial Alliance. This will be a Seven Last Words service with preaching, music, scripture and prayer. We will have other congregations joining us such as First Baptist Church, Second Baptist Church, Mt. Union Missionary Baptist Church, First United Methodist Church, and Bethlehem Temple Just to name a few.

-On Saturday April 11th at Time to be determined, we will have our Community Easter Eggstravaganza! We will have an Easter Egg hunt for kids in the community. We will have food and an Easter Basket Raffle. We encourage you to bring your friends, neighbors, children, and grandchildren!

-On Easter Sunday we will have a wonderful worship service as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Bring your friends and family for church! We will have programs for the kids lead by Pastor Jeff, and a wonderful worship service with Music by our fabulous Music Director Michael Hefner!

Get excited about the season!

Pastor Connor

SEE YOU SUNDAYS:

Adult Sunday School Class—9:30 a.m.

Worship – 10:30 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Bible Study every Tues @ 1:00 & 6:00

Choir Practice every Wed @6:30

03/04 Esther/Rebekah 1 PM

03/05 Sarah Circle 7 PM

03/06 World Day of Prayer

03/09 Church Women United Noon

03/16 Elders Mtg. 7:00 PM

03/22 Board Mtg. 11:45 AM

STATISTICS: Attendance Offering

03/01/2020 60 \$2,017.00

02/23/2020 58 \$1,140.00

02/16/2020 45 \$1,034.00

02/09/2020 58 \$ 2025.00

02/02/2020 49 \$1,854.00

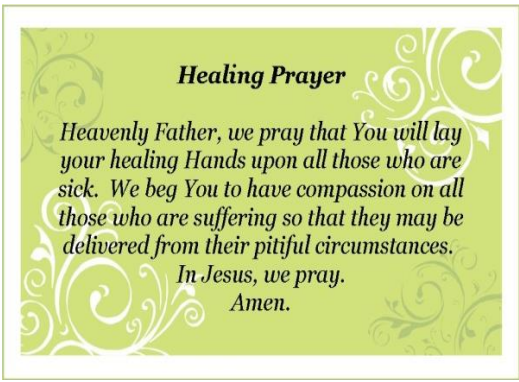
Week of Compassion- \$295.00

Youth Cupcake fundraiser- \$140.83

Youth Chili Bowl- \$341.50



LENT



Prayer List:

Health: Becky Brodt, Nik Donges Coni Finrock, Emma Palmer, Esther Saxbury, Allen Stone, Guy Stone

Special Needs: Barbara Cessna, Jean Greathouse, Lois Murphy, Janet O'Neal

Other: All those affected by disasters. Caregivers, children and teachers, first responders, the homeless, SHALOM, heroin epidemic, racism and all human rights, our Country, war, violence, our church, congregation and church leaders

THANK YOU

Following is a note received regarding an Outreach donation to WHIIMS (Women's Health Issues in Miami-Valley Sisterhood):

Dear First Christian Congregation, Thank you for your recent generous donation to WHIIMS. Your monies will be put to use assisting needy women in our community that have unmet health care needs.

Sincerely,
DeeDee Mosko
Volunteer Counselor & Board Member



ELDER MOMENT

As we have begun the new year of 2020, our Elders remain active in serving our church. The Elders continue their service at the Table, through visits to our special needs members and to others when illness or other difficulties may arise. It may also be helpful to recognize that Elders also chair or serve on almost every committee or ministry of our church. We hope our efforts on behalf of the congregation not only serve as an appropriate model, but may inspire others to join in service. June ends our fiscal year and it is not too soon to consider how you might participate in the activities of our church. If you have entertained such thoughts, but are not sure you could fulfill the responsibilities involved, do not hesitate to speak with a committee chair or join an upcoming meeting. The rewards of service await you.

CWF NEWS

Esther/Rebekah Circle met on February 5th at the church. They are studying various passages of scripture as their study topic. One of their beloved members, Helen Hall, passed away this month and her funeral was held on February 15th at the church. We send our condolences to her family and friends.

Esther/Rebekah Circle will plan to meet again on March 4th at 1:00 pm at the church.

Sarah Circle was not able to meet in February due to icy roads. Their next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on March 5th at the church. They will be planning another visit to the Close to Home Assisted Living Center in the near future to play bingo and sing songs with the residents there.

Any ladies in the church are invited to our circle meetings to share fellowship and Bible study with us.

ALARM CODES



Part of our spring cleaning includes our security system. Please contact Cliff Thompson to confirm your security code. Any codes not confirmed by 3/31/20 will be removed from the system. False alarm fines from the City of Middletown are \$25 each.

OUTREACH

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the volunteers who helped with our second week of hosting SHALOM guests. Many volunteers were repeats from our first week. Being able to serve others is an experience we never forget because it touches our souls. Seeing how volunteers interact with others, whether from our congregation or another, is really special and to be a part of the program is what giving is all about. It would not be possible without support of our congregation and friends. Here is a recent quote from Bill, our program director: "SHALOM volunteers give of their time and resources so that a group of people, who others choose not to acknowledge, have a safe and warm place to sleep and rest during our winter months." Those who served or contributed to the meals in February include: Sharon Amburgey, Peggy Cain, Angel and Daria Dearth, Brenda Gulley, Jerry Hall, Monica and Travis Hendricks, Willie Barnes-Jackson, Janice Kash, Dave and Linda Lombard, Matt Lyons, Zola McClish, Mandi and Aidan McMonigle, Tim and Karen Powers, Linda Poynter, Betty Stacy, Charlotte and Larry Steele, Marilyn Strong, and Cliff and Karen Thompson. As we continue working through the Salvation Army, we hope to continue listing our suggested food items on the back of our bulletins, as well as providing the same information on slides for our Tech Team.

LENTEN LUNCH SERIES

As in recent years, The First Presbyterian Church, 2910 Central Avenue in Middletown will be hosting this community-wide program during Lent. Beginning March 4th, a light lunch will be provided every Wednesday at noon, followed by a short message from local clergy. The theme for this year will be "Learning from Prayer." The lunch is provided at no cost with the opportunity for a freewill offering.

HOSPICE CARE OF MIDDLETOWN

Hospice Care of Middletown will be hosting a Volunteer Training Program on March 20, 2020. If you are 18 years of age or older and have a heart to serve others, please contact Judy Vincent, LSW, Volunteer Coordinator at 513 424-2273 (Ext. 104). The training will be held from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM at the Hospice Care of Middletown office, 4418 Lewis Street, Suite B, Middletown, Ohio 45044

HOSPICE "HEALING A HEART"

A 6 week Grief Support Group For People That have Lost A Loved One.

Group Dates and Locations

The afternoon group meets Thursday from 1:00-2:30 pm

The evening group meets Thursday from 6:30-8:00 pm

The groups will begin on March 19th and end April 23rd.

All groups meet at 4418 Lewis St. STE B. This is the Hospice office building located adjacent to the Middletown Performing Arts Academy.

There is no charge to attend the grief support groups.

Pre-registration is required.

Call-(513) 424-2273/care

Out reach 

THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW

We are still seeing the youth ministry and our church start to expand and grow in and outside the walls of the church. I was asked to attend the meeting with Middletown Safety Council and The Coalition for Healthy Middletown this past week. In that meeting I was given great praise about our church. They're very excited about our game night and very excited about the movement and relationships that our Church's youth ministry is developing inside and outside of our walls. So much so that they have asked that myself, as the youth minister of this church to head a Coalition for the Youth in Middletown. This Middletown Youth Coalition intends to find safe spaces for the Youth in our town to be able to come fellowship with other youth and have the leaders of our community there to listen to their concerns about the direction of our community, and our community leaders. The coalition was so grateful that our church was able to host the first Middletown Youth Coalition game night. So much so that next month's game night, they have asked if the Middletown police chief can come and be a part of the activities, and spend time getting to know the youth that we are working with. In addition, he would offer some one-on-one time with each of the kids to discuss anything that the kids may want to address with our Police Chief. I have been blessed to be able to start working with the Boys & Girls Club of Butler County. We are hoping to open our church through our youth ministry to this awesome organization. Currently there are 250 kids on the waitlist for mentors for the Big Brother and

Big Sister program, 90% of these kids are from right here in Middletown. By opening up First Christian Church, we will give a safe space and an opportunity, for the Boys & Girls Club to help 90% of the 250 kids on the waitlist. It may also give some of our congregation the opportunity to spend an hour or 2 with some hurting youth from our community and make a huge impact in the transformation of our city. This is great news for our church as we're developing community ties that are not easily broken. Our desire is to show the community youth that setting priorities to draw closer to God shows dividends in the form of spiritual growth. This is not a short process nor is it easy. But as we grow as a church and as a youth ministry, we will see these changes come to fruition. With all this movement and growth in the youth ministry some may wonder if there is an impact that can be defined specifically for our church. Is there a benefit to having the chaos and the noise echoing through the halls of our church? Is there a contribution that the youth are making to the growth of First Christian Church? The answer is a resounding yes for many reasons! Let me share with you a few things God has done and said about building our youth. God used Timothy to pastor and lead the Ephesian church when he was a teenager. 1 Timothy 4:12 says, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." In addition, there is much to be learned from the faith of a child. Matthew 18:2-4 says, "He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'" Because of God's heart for young people, it is important to recognize their value in today's church. As we switch our mindset of survival for the church to setting up the church for longevity and the next 100 years of service to our city. The youth will be a pivotal point in this process, teaching young people in the church to grow in their relationship with the Lord prepares them to serve Christ in all they do. As a result, this nurtures the congregation and allows the church to flourish. Will you help me Grow this "New Thing" God has blessed us with? If so please reach out to me and see where you can connect in our churches new and exciting and growing ministry!

Yours in Christ.

Pastor Jeff Wilder

March, 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 1 Visiting Special Needs Members	2	3  Paul Campbell Bible Study 1 & 6:00 PM	4 Esther Rebekah Circle 1PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM	5 Sarah Circle 7PM	6  World Day of Prayer	7
8  Girl Scouts® Sunday	9  Janet O'Neal Church Women United Noon	10 Bible Study 1 & 6:00 PM	11  Larry Chamberlain Choir Practice 6:30 PM	12	13	14
15	16  Mike Cockerham Elder Mtg. @7 PM	17 Bible Study 1 & 6:00 PM	18 Choir Practice 6:30 PM	19	20	21
22 General Board Mtg.	23	24 Bible Study 1 & 6:00 PM	25  Roger Byrd Choir Practice 6:30 PM	26	27	28  Linda Lombard
29	30	31 Bible Study 1 & 6:00 PM				

