

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

Chalice Communicator

March 30, 2020 Number 3

Assoc. Pastor: Rev. Connor Thompson
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

HOPEFULLY SOON! WE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE YOU ON 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

STATISTICS: Attendance Offering

03/08/2020 38 \$1,965.00

Live-stream 3/15 40 0

Live-stream 3/22 42

Deposit \$2,020.00

Live-stream $3/29 ext{ } 50 ext{ } 0$

Be sure to place your offering in the mail, as we still have operating expenses to meet even though we're not meeting communally. Thank you!



Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Rev. Connor L. Thompson, Associate Pastor

My, oh, my, how so much can change in a month. 4 weeks ago, we were starting our Lenten journey, and planning for Holy Week. We had our community Easter egg hunt, our Good Friday Seven Last Words Service, our Easter morning celebrations. We were continuing both of our weekly Bible studies, and all our regular groups were looking forward to spring! Little did we know, what laid a head.

Rapidly we have had a health pandemic with the COVID-19 outbreak spreading across the globe. The world has been advised to stop assembling in groups for any reason. Many see this as a threat to the church at large to not continue to hold worship in person, and allow for God's people to worship.

I read an article this last week entitled <u>You Don't Need to</u> <u>Open the Church by Easter</u> by John Pavlovitz. In this article, Pavlovitz shares many points of how the church does not need to be assembled in a building to celebrate Easter, as we should be a church who celebrates Easter every day!

"...that's the beautiful truth of these dark days: even in the middle of a terrifying pandemic, even when schedules are interrupted, even when chaos is ever-present, even when people are scattered, even when buildings filled with chairs and pews and class rooms are closed—the Church is still the Church and love is still love.

Every day is Easter for those who are willing to see it. There is always life breaking through, always restoration happening, always resurrection taking place, always glorious rebirth happening, always miracles in our midst."

Miracles happen every day! In our Doctors, Nurses, and First Responders who are caring for the ill. In the teachers who are still working 80 hours a week to teach their students, even when the computers are not

working exactly the way that they should. In the volunteers who distribute lunches each day so that those students are guaranteed at least one meal that day. Finally, in the congregants who make sure that they are taking care of each other and any needs that arise. We celebrate Easter everyday as we remember the greatest commandment of our Risen Christ, to love our neighbor as ourselves!

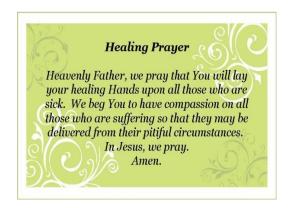
So, be my neighbor, be everyone's neighbor, while the church building is physically closed, we still are the church. Remember to love your neighbor! To quote one of the great hymns: "Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom's goal"

So, continue to join us for live stream worship as we continue to be the church called to the world! Easter Sunday will be very special as Disciples of Christ Churches from across the United States and Canada will hear a message brought by The Rev. Dr. Terri Hord Owens, General minister and President of our denomination. The service is being titled *Imagining A New World*.

Be a neighbor, be the church, follow God!

Psalm 30:5 (MSG)

4-5 All you saints! Sing your hearts out to God! Thank him to his face! He gets angry once in a while, but across a lifetime there is only love. The nights of crying your eyes out give way to days of laughter.



Prayer List:

Health: Becky Brodt, Sandra Cassidy, Coni Finfrock, 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, the World, war, violence, our church, congregation and church leaders

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thank you goes out to First Christian for the care we received during Walter's illness and passing. Our family truly appreciates all of the prayers, visits, and support we have been given. It is comforting to have such a kind church family at a time like this. We are truly blessed.

Love,

Lois Strohm, Matt, Heather, Renee and Owen Lyons

We want to thank Pastor Connor, Pastor Jeff, and Michael for live

streaming First Christian Church service. Also thank you to those

behind the scenes Larry S. and Cliff plus Sharon for the email updates.

Everyone's work is appreciated and keeps us in touch with God.

Sincerely, Mary and Larry Back



CORONAVIRUS UPDATES AS OF MARCH 30th.

Elders will be following recommended health guidelines and will not be making first of the month visits to our special needs members at this time. We will make contact via telephone and are available for any emergency that may arise.

Important numbers/emails:

Assoc. Pastor Connor Thompson (513) 594-0070 pastorconnorlthompson@g mail.com

Assoc. Pastor Jeff Wilder (513) 594-5421 mastermasonjeff@gmail.co m

Elder Co-chair David Lombard (937) 361-6452

OUTREACH

Prior to our activities coming to a halt due to the coronavirus, and when school was in session, we were able to participate in a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) event at Central Academy. As students and parents/guardians took part in the event, we were able to provide plenty of refreshments for those in attendance. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the staff and students even though it may be months away.

The school donated a large quantity of industrial size canned fruit to us as they are required to only have it on the premises for 90 days. We were able to distribute many of the cans to those in need in addition to the Salvation Army food bank.

CWF NEWS

With the current situation of the Coronavirus shut downs, we do not have much news from CWF. However, we would like to encourage our congregation to reach out to each other by telephone, e-mail, text, etc. to keep in contact. Please also say a prayer for each other and for our church leaders.

I would also like to ask that you read Matthew 8:23 – 27. In these verses Jesus was in a boat with his disciples when a great storm arose. The disciples were afraid and woke Jesus by saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" Jesus answered them with the question "Why are you fearful, O ye of little faith?" Then he got up and calmed the winds and the sea. The disciples marveled at this and said, "Who can this be that even the winds and the sea obey Him?" In these current times of much uncertainty, let us keep our faith strong and encourage each other to do the same.

FEED MY SHEEP GARDEN

The Garden is progressing. We have received acceptable estimates for installing both waterline and fencing. As you have seen, it has been plowed. We hope to very soon get it tilled and ready for the first phase of planting. As you can see by the attached photo, we have seed starts in process. Hopefully, very soon, we will be able to show you sprouts of Cucumber, Zucchini, Yellow Squash, and Green Pepper. Dave and Larry are going to attempt a "Three Sisters" garden 10'x10' plot that will have sweet corn, pole beans and acorn squash. We intend to do sequential plantings of sweet corn so that we may extend our harvest.



HOLY SPIRIT WEEK GAME

Here is fun game we as a church are going to play during holy week!

Anyone can play and the person with the most points at the end of the week will receive a \$10 gift certificate to dairy Queen!

Here are the rules!

Each day you are to do the activity and post a picture or a video to First Christian church's Facebook page using the hashtag below!
Each day that you do an activity points will be rewarded to each individual posting to the Facebook site!

Points! - You must post to First Christian Church facebook page and use the hashtag #HolySPIRITholyWEEK for points!
5 points for an image!
10 point for video!.

PALM SUNDAY: WAVE YOUR
PALMS SUNDAY!
#HOLYSPIRITHOLYWEEK
Video or photo your fun ways
of sharing, waving, and
celebrating Jesus' ride into
Jerusalem.

MONDAY: SHARE SOME JESUS MONDAY! #HOLYSPIRITHOLYW EEK

Video or photo your pictures with Jesus. Everyone needs some Jesus... so share Jesus! Need Jesus?

TUESDAY: PLAYFULLY PRAY
THROUGH
TUESDAY! #HOLYSPIRITHOLY
WEEK
Prove me wrong! So many
people are afraid to pray, or

they feel that there is a "right" way to pray. Video or photo some amazing ways to pray.

WEDNESDAY: WASH YOUR FEET OR HANDS WEDNESDAY! #HOLYSPIRITHOLYWEEK Ewww? OR AWESOME!

This is not a need for a pedicure, but for a way playfully learn about the sacred time Jesus washed the disciples' feet.

Don't like touching feet? Wash your dog's feet or sing a church camp song that helps wash your hands.

Video or photo some amazing ways to celebrate Jesus and not germs!

THURSDAY: CREATIVE

COMMUNION! #HOLYSPIRITHOLYWEEK

You may have run out of bread a long time ago. Jesus used what was around to create something special.

What food do you have to help celebrate communion? Video or photo.

FRIDAY: DO GOOD

FRIDAY! #HOLYSPIRITHOLYWEEK

Do just that! Do something good for someone in your home! Or a neighbor Video or photo some of the "do good" activities.

SATURDAY: IN THE MEANTIME, IN BETWEEN TIME: OPPOSITE DAY #HOLYSPIRITHOLYWEEK

Can you think of a way to share a photo or video that shows opposites.

Fast/Slow, Still/Walk, and other "in between" one place and another.

SUNDAY: HUG-A-CROSS AND HALLELUJAH! #HOLYSPIRITHOLYWEEK

It's Easter! Find or make a cross and jump for joy! Video or photo some ways you are so glad that Jesus is alive, that you want to hug him!

The church cannot wait to see the wonderful posts, videos, and pictures that you will be displaying over holy week playing this wonderful game with us!

Pastor Jeff.

April, 2020 Birthdays						
Consider a					P. Jan.	C - b - and an a
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday April 1	Thursday 2	Friday 3	Saturday 4
5	6 Barbara Cessna	7	8	9 Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11
12 EASTER	Daria Dearth	14	15	16	Dave Schueller	18
19	Elder Mtg. @7 PM	21	Earth Day	23	24	25
26 Board Mtg. @noon	27	28	29	30		

(Disciples of Christian Church 4520 Rosedale Rd., Middletown, OH 45042 513-422-2853