

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

Chalice Communicator

April 28, 2020 Number 4

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:	<u>Attendance</u>	Offering
Livestream 4/5	51	\$3,330.00
Livestream 4/12	54	\$1,708.43
Livestream 4/19	53	\$1,300.00
Livestream 4/26	55	NA

Important numbers/emails:

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

Assoc. Pastor Jeff Wilder (513) 594-5431 mastermasonjeff@gmail.com

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

REMAINING THE CHURCH OF TODAY

Rev. Connor L. Thompson, Associate Pastor

What a long year these last 6+ weeks have been! There was a meme floating around the internet that stated, "I did not intend to give up quite this much for Lent!" We gave up more for Lent than many of us probably ever have. We gave up public gatherings, we gave up large family gatherings, some gave up work, others gave up their health to perform their jobs. But in a time when the church is "Closed" physically, it is finding new ways to provide the ministry of Jesus Christ to our community. Volunteers came out and started our mowing schedule! A community member tilled our garden! The garden committee continued with the preparation of seedlings for planting, as well as ensuring our water line was installed. Baked goods were delivered to local healthcare facilities as a thank you to frontline medical workers. Canned food was delivered to those who were in need.

When I think back to our New Beginnings home meetings, this was exactly the starting point we were looking for to transition to a missional oriented congregation. When we can close the building, and the ministry continues, that is a missional church. We are still striving to live into our future story that we developed.

As we look to a new normal in a world fighting COVID-19, we will have to adapt to continue to be the body of Christ, while we will eventually have in person worship again, it may be a little different. We will have new procedures to align with the concepts of social distancing. As those guidelines are developed, you will receive communication on what our plan at FCC is.

In the meantime, I would like to give you a new acronym that I have picked up over the years: DFTBA!, Don't Forget To Be Awesome!



Prayer List:

Palmer, Esther Saxbury,
Allen Stone, Guy Stone

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

Other: All those affected by
disasters and pandemic.
Caregivers, first responders, the
homeless, heroin epidemic,
racism and all human rights, our
Country & World, war, violence,
our church, congregation and

Health: Becky Brodt, Sandra Cassidy, Coni Finfrock, Emma

In Remembrance:

church leaders

Laurie Schmidt informed us that her mother, Helen Neal, began her eternal journey on April 2, 2020. Helen was a longtime member of our congregation and the widow of Larry Neal. Our condolences are with their family.

THANK YOU

I would like to say how much I appreciate the Sunday services by our outstanding staff.

The services could only be better if we were there with them.

God is listening to our prayers that include the entire staff. I am talking about everyone that is working and keeping our Church Family together.

With Love and Prayers, Guy

ELDER MOMENT

It has been a difficult transition period. I am really missing the smiles, firm handshakes and warm hugs. We really do miss gathering as a community of like-minded believers. It will not be long till we can gather together for worship in our sanctuary and be together. In the interim, I hope that you are able to take advantage of all the technology that God has allowed us to come up with to stay in touch. The elders are making phone calls to several of our more at-risk members to check in and help with overcoming the isolation. One of the good changes that will come from this are those strengthened relationships from having more communication. If you are feeling more alone or isolated, let us know. We will be happy to reach out and talk you to you regularly in order to help provide some stimulation and "outside contact". It is important to know that you have church family and friends who want to hear your smile over the phone. We will have a celebration when we can gather in person. We also will have some grieving to share in with lost loved ones during this time that we are not able to grieve in a more traditional and familiar way. This will be a strong part of us getting back together as well. While we don't have crystal balls to tell the future, we know that our future is ok, because of our faith. We will come out of this time with a new appreciation for communal worship, a new understanding of how we can worship with those who are not able to join us physically and the knowledge that we can deliver Christs' message a variety of ways. Be on the look out for when we can gather again. Stay anxious with excitement for that and be willing to invite your friends for a special to of gathering, praising and worshiping our risen Savior.

Blessings,

Dave Lombard & Cliff Thompson, Elder Co-Chairs

THANK YOU

Thank you for bringing church into our homes! It really makes us feel connected until we can meet again!

The services, messages and talks are so important as we journey through this.

We appreciate hearing God's word.

Through Christ's amazing grace, Carl and Sue Tarbox

Congratulations to Nik

Donges on his celebration of 50 years since his ordination into the Christian ministry on April 19th

OUTREACH

As we continue to limit activities due to the Corona virus, we have postponed our spring planning meeting until we are comfortable meeting as a group. We have encouraged personal telephone calls throughout the congregation and this has really taken off. Not only are Elders and Pastors making contact with members, but since our isolation began for our own safety, the majority of our members have been calling each other. Emails and text messages have also increased. Please continue to stay in contact with each other and do everything you can to stay healthy.

This month, we were able to deliver to the Salvation Army, the remaining large cans of fruit we received from Central Academy. As lunches continue to be handed out, the donation was very much appreciated.

Due to having to cancel our annual Community Easter Egg Hunt, Outreach was able to assist Membership with expenses to make sure our youth each received an Easter basket/bucket this year. We appreciate the volunteers for making the deliveries while keeping safe distances.

CWF NEWS

I hope that everyone is doing well. We miss seeing each other at church and I hope that we are all able to attend services soon. Our circles are scheduled to meet the first week of May, but we will have to wait and see if churches are allowed to have group meetings by then. We will let our members know by next Sunday if it is OK to meet.

A few of us ladies are making some fabric face masks. If you are in need of one, please call the church office and let us know. We will also have some available by the time our regular church services resume.

This month I'd like to share with you some thoughts on the scripture found in Matthew 5:14 through 16. It reads as follows: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Jesus is telling us that we are important to Him and to our father God. Our good deeds will reflect the light of God in this world that is so in need of his presence. You can be a light for God to your friends and neighbors.

FINANCE NEWS

We want to thank all who have remembered to send in their pledges while we are having online church services. We still must pay utilities, insurance, and salaries, etc. even though we are not meeting as a congregation in our church building.

If anyone is in need of a first quarter statement of giving, just call the church and leave a message to that effect. We will mail one out to you soon.



Matthew Stevens, Director of Congregational Giving at Church World Services, recently sent us the following words which are worth sharing.

"Dear Friends,

This is a Holy Week unlike any for me...and maybe for you, too. We are hunkered down in an unexpected quiet. We're hoping and living and grieving all at the same time. We're holding onto faith in our homes. We're afraid, and we are so ready for a light at the end of this dark tunnel.

But in the words of Rev. Allison
Lanza (Associate Pastor at Ridgela
Christian Church, Fort Worth),
'The very first Easter was not in a
crowded worship space with
singing and praising. On the very
first Easter, the disciples were
locked in their house...Alone in
their homes, they dared to believe
that hope was possible, that the
long night was over and morning
had broken.'

This daring belief unites us over time and distance today. May your congregation experience it as we commune together as one from our homes and shelters. As we share Rev. Lanza's sacred words in our hope that 'after a while, when it is safe for all people, when it is the most loving choice, we will come out, gathering together, singing and shouting the good news that God brings life even out of death, that love always has the final say.'



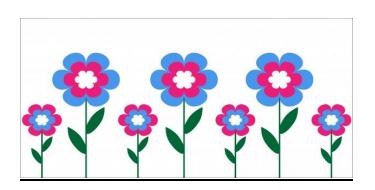
Greetings. Christ has risen and Spring has sprung! We have begun the task of mowing our yards, both at home and at church. Thanks to our mowing teams this year, John and Beth Heinkel, Brian Tarbox, Larry Back, Tim Powers, Crystal Watson and Cliff Thompson. There are room for others if you enjoy yard work. In addition to mowing, the flower beds are coming to life as well. This also means those pesky weeds. If you enjoy seeing a well maintained flower bed, then come and help with ours. Watering will become a concern before we know it, we can use help there as well. Windows need washing on the outside, screens need repair, and so on. Any assistance you want to lend a hand with is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to our technology fund from Wills and Gifts, we recently updated our phone system. We have been swapping phones and parts to try to keep at least 2 of the phones in building working. They are now all new including the head end. Several new features that we did not have before. Ready for growth and expansion! Thank you to Pastor Connor and Cliff Thompson for providing the labor so the only expense was hardware.

While in our "hibernation" mode, many of the interior doors are propped open. We have the entire building on the same thermostat schedule. This will eliminate some of the need for using door handles while in the building. As the Corona Virus slows and we move back into the building, we will reset our zones and go back to having certain doors closed.

Blessings from the Property Brothers!

Larry Steele and Cliff Thompson



"FEED MY SHEEP" GARDEN PROJECT UPDATE Update

As you heard during our live stream, we have gotten our waterline run to the garden. There is a hydrant visible with its bright red handle. Thanks to Blashock Plumbing for the garden water. We were able to get the plot tilled on 04/22. Thanks to Debbie Simpkins, Sleepy Hollow Farm, for tilling. We hope to have Simpson Fence enclose the entire garden area with a 6' fence in the very near future. Be sure to drive out to the south end of our parking lot (this will get you out of the house for a short drive and some fresh air) and check it out. Also, we have a few seed starts getting ready for transplant. As of now, we have cucumber, yellow squash, zucchini, and green pepper plants started. We will, also, be planting some bush beans and some sweet corn.

Dave and Larry are going to attempt a 'Three Sister's' plot in a 10' x 10' section on the NW corner of the garden plot.

(Maybe we should wish them

luck. Ha! Ha! Ha!



If you don't know what this is, it's a method of planting corn, beans, & squash all in the same area that originated with Native Americans. Look it up for more information.







May,	2020
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Birthdays

Birmadys								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
					"A friend is one who walks in when others walk out" water Michael "Agpy Friendship Day www.webpagecollection.com	2		
CHRISTIAN FAMILY WEEK	4	5	6	7	8	9		
Happy Mother's	Sarah Andress	12	13	14	Jake Padich Peggy Byrd BIKE TO WORK DAY IS MAY 15.	16		
"It's no coincidence that four of the six letters in health are "heal." Ped Northerrors health MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY	Elder Mtg. @7 PM ?	19	20	Marilyn Chamberlain Marilyn Strong	22	23		
Board Mtg. @noon ?	25 Happy Memorial Day	26 Allison Byrd	27	28	29	30		
PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING								

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